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A Short History of
The Cameronians
(Scottish Rifles)

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A SHORT HISTORY *of* THE CAMERONIANS (SCOTTISH RIFLES)

By
COLONEL H. C. WYLLY, C.B.
(late Editor, "Royal United Service Institution Journal")

With Foreword by
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR PHILIP R. ROBERTSON, K.C.B., C.M.G.

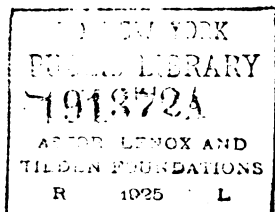
Ten Illustrations in Colour by
R. SIMKIN AND CAPTAIN OAKES-JONES, M.B.E.

One Illustration in Monotone
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The Sphinx, superscribed "Egypt." The Dragon superscribed "China."

"Blenheim," "Ramillies," "Oudenarde," "Malplaquet," "Mandora," "Corunna,"
"Martinique, 1809," "Guadaloupe, 1810," "South Africa, 1846-7," "Sevastopol,"
"Lucknow," "Abyssinia," "South Africa, 1877-8-9," "Relief of Ladysmith,"
"South Africa, 1899-1902."

THE GREAT WAR—27 BATTALIONS.

"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914, '18," "Aisne, 1914,"
"La Bassée," "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Aubers,"
"Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916," "Pozières," "Bazentin," "Flers-
Courcette," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Scarpe,
1917, '18," "Arleux," "Ypres, 1917, '18," "Ploeghem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin
Road," "Polygon Wood," "Passchendaele," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
"Lys," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Solsonnaix-
Oureq," "Drocourt-Queant," "Hindenburg Line," "Épéhy," "Canal du Nord,"
"St. Quentin Canal," "Cambrai, 1918," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Sambre," "France
and Flanders, 1914-18," "Doiran, 1917, '18," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Gallipoli,
1915," "Rumania," "Egypt, 1916-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Nebi Samwil,"
"Jaffa," "Palestine, 1917-18."

FOREWORD

THIS little book supplies what, I think, has always been a much-felt want, namely, a short, readable, and simple History of the Regiment. It provides most interesting reading for all, and yet can be easily understood by the last joined recruit.

It is also hoped that it will find a circulation amongst the ex-soldiers of the Regiment, who would have in it an excellent memento of their days of active soldiering.

The record of our Regiment is a most glorious one, and second to none. Every man should know his Regimental History. It is the duty of the present and future generations of the Regiment to maintain the high standard it has gained, uphold its honour, carry on its great traditions, and strive to emulate the famous deeds of their predecessors.

As an old soldier I would most earnestly impress on the young ones, that to do this they must always remember, whether at work or play, that they must forget "self." The interests of their Regiment, Battalion, Company or Platoon is *the* important thing, and must come first, their personal interests last; by doing thus they will be "playing the game" in the highest sense of the words, and may rest assured that they are not only supporting their comrades, worthily upholding the honour and working for the advantage of their Regiment, but are also "doing their bit" for and serving in the best possible way the great Empire to which they belong.

PHILIP R. ROBERTSON,
Major-General,
Colonel, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

THE Regimental Committee responsible for the production of this booklet desire to thank all those who have helped by supplying information, lending documents and notes, correcting proofs, verifying facts, and also the officers of the 1st Battalion who compiled the index.

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CHAPTER I.

BADGES, COLOURS, MARCHES, CUSTOMS, ETC.

THE complete history of a Regiment which has existed for some two hundred and fifty years could only be done full justice to in a very large volume containing many hundreds of pages, and consequently all that has been attempted here is to provide, within reasonable compass, a record of the principal events in the military history of our country in which the Regiment has been concerned, hoping and believing that those who may in the future read it will be inspired with a pride in the splendid achievements of their corps in the past, and with a determination to uphold the great traditions and the good name handed down to them by the many generations of fine soldiers of all ranks who, in days gone by, have worn the uniform of the Regiment.

The *Badges* borne by the Regiment bear witness both to its origin and to some of the earlier campaigns in which it has taken part. The Douglas five-pointed star, known in the language of Heraldry as a Mullet—from the French word *mollet*, a spur-rowel—dates from about the year 1350, when apparently this device was borne on the shield of the Douglas family, and consequently is one of the most ancient of all the regimental badges of the British Army, while it is also part of the original crest of the Cameronians. The bugle and cord borne by all British light infantry regiments, was part of the badge of the Perthshire Light Infantry, while the Imperial Crown surmounting the crest is of the same design as that borne by the Rifle Brigade, as distinguished from the ordinary four-hooped crown used by the majority of the infantry of the British line.

The two badges of the Sphinx and of the Dragon were granted to the Regiment for the very gallant part which it took in the Egyptian Campaign of 1801, and for the China War of 1841–1842.

Up to rather more than forty years ago the Regiment, like other regiments of the British Army, carried Colours, upon which were displayed the names of the honours awarded for campaigns and battles in which it had served; but on becoming a Rifle Corps, in July, 1881, the Regiment ceased to carry Colours, and all such honours are now borne on the appointments only.

The following is a list of the Colours carried by the 26th and 90th, and of the places where these now rest :—

26th—One set of Colours wrapped round a cannon ball and thrown overboard in the River St. Lawrence in order to avoid capture.

One set of Colours in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.
Deposited 1883.

One set of Colours in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.
Deposited 1888.

One set of Colours in the Cathedral, Glasgow.

90th—One set of Colours in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.
Deposited 1883. Presented 1794, carried till 1817.

One set of Colours in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh.
Deposited 1883. Presented 1817, carried till 1833.

One set of Colours in the East Parish Church, Perth.

One set of Colours in St. Mary's Church, Hamilton.

The Regimental March of the 1st Battalion is "Kenmuir's on and awa'," while that of the 2nd Battalion is "The Gathering of the Grahams" or "The Athol Highlanders"; the 1st Battalion also play in reel time a tune which dates from the seventeenth century, called "The Cameronian Rant."

Then it is a Regimental custom to play "The Black Bear" in the pipe band in marching into quarters, camp or bivouac. In this tune there is a pause after a double beat on the big drum, and at this pause the whole Battalion raises a cheer. Usually only a few bars are played before the Regimental March Past commences, on the opening bar of which all men march to attention at the trail.

The Army is essentially conservative, nowhere is tradition more scrupulously observed and kept up, and it seems therefore fitting here to place on permanent record those Regimental Customs which have been observed from time immemorial, and which will no doubt endure as long as the Regiment itself exists.

Every Presbyterian recruit is given a Bible on joining, and this he always shows at kit inspection.

At church parade in camp the 1st Battalion always take their rifles, and a picquet is sent out and sentries are posted, and not until the officer in command of the picquet reports all clear does the officer commanding the parade inform the minister that the service may be proceeded with. This old custom has come down from the troublous times when the proscribed Covenanters had to take precautions against being surprised by the forces of the Government when attending a hill preaching or conventicle.*

The Presbyterian service is the Commanding Officer's Parade, and it is the custom for all available officers, of whatever denomination, to attend that parade.

The puttees of the officers and other ranks are always wound inwards and so that the end of the puttee finishes on the inside of the knee.

The part played by the two Regular battalions of the Regiment in the earlier campaigns of the British Army, and by all the battalions in the last Great War, is briefly told in the chapters which follow, and it may with truth be said that in the whole splendid history of our Army there is no more glorious record than that which stands to the credit of

* The practice of posting a picquet appears to have been neglected since about 1870, as it has only occasionally been carried out since that time.

the Regiment as it exists to-day. Each of the Regular battalions inherits great honour, of which the whole Regiment is justly proud. During recent years other and younger battalions have added to the honour already gathered, and the records of the deeds of all those composing the Regiment unite in forming a history second to none in its story of loyalty, devotion and sacrifice ; may it inspire all those—

Who fill the places we once filled
And follow in the furrows that we tilled.



CHAPTER II.

THE 26TH CAMERONIAN REGIMENT TO 1881—THE 1ST BATTALION THE CAMERONIANS TO 1918.

WHEN we seek to discover the origin of the Cameronian Regiment we have to go back to the year 1689—the days of the Covenanters. The Scottish Covenanters of those days were the men and women who stood for the principles laid down in the National Covenant drawn up in 1638 and the Solemn League and Covenant of 1641. The first of these historic documents pledged all who signed it to maintain Presbyterian faith and discipline, and to stand by the King in defending the religious liberties and laws of the kingdom. The second of these was an expansion of the first, and was virtually an agreement between the Scottish and English Presbyterians to defend the civil and religious liberties of both kingdoms.

Presbyterianism, however, did not find favour with the Stuart kings, and the crisis came in 1660 when Charles II was on the throne, and he claimed the right to impose the Episcopal form of church government upon the people of Scotland; the Scottish Parliament offered no serious opposition, and the covenants were declared to be unlawful, some 300 Presbyterian ministers were removed from their churches and Episcopal churchmen were put in their places. The Covenanters were driven to worship in the open air, but it was not long before their field-meetings, or "Conventicles" as they were called, were declared to be unlawful and were forbidden under heavy penalties. Then followed persecutions of all kinds, and the story of the years that immediately followed—too long a one to be told here—makes one of the saddest pages of Scottish history.

One of the most notable of the Covenanters was a young man named Richard Cameron, who was born in Falkland, Fifeshire, about the year 1648. The son of a well-to-do man of business, he began to attend the conventicles, and it was not long before he was well known as a Covenanter of the sternest type, and was then licensed as a preacher of the Gospel. For some years Cameron was away from Scotland visiting some of the exiled Presbyterians in Holland, and during his absence the Covenanters took up arms, won one decisive victory against the forces of the Government, and then experienced an overwhelming defeat which seemed likely to seal the fate of the movement. It was then that, in 1680, Richard Cameron came back from Holland, and gathering together a few earnest followers declared war against King Charles. There could be but the one result: Cameron was declared a traitor, a price was set on his head, and he was taken fighting and beheaded, leaving behind him a number of followers who were known as "Cameronians," and were in fact Covenanters of the strictest type, who gradually developed into a distinct and separate religious body known as the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

In 1688 came the Revolution, the Stuarts fled into exile, William of Orange became king, and he decided that north of the Tweed Presbyterianism should be the national form of church government ; this did not wholly satisfy the Covenanters, but it was at least a step in the direction they desired to follow.

In the meantime the followers of the Stuarts were working for their restoration, and Graham of Claverhouse (the "Bonnie Dundee" of Scottish song) had hurried to the Highlands where he raised the standard of revolt ; the reply to his movement was a proposal to enlist the Covenanters to fight for King William. A big meeting was held in the Parish Church of Douglas, the matter was violently debated, and feeling ran very strong, but out of the large party in favour of the motion it was decided "in this juncture of affairs when religion, liberty, country and all were in great danger" to raise a Regiment of 20 companies in two Battalions, with the young Earl of Angus, of the great house of Douglas, a lad of 18, as colonel. The actual commander, however, was the lieutenant-colonel, William Cleland, son of Thomas Cleland, garnet keeper to the Marquis of Douglas. This William Cleland was a remarkable character ; when but little more than a boy, he had led the Covenanters to their first victory at Drumclog, and he had fought at Bothwell Brig where the Covenanters were signally defeated. When he joined the Cameronian Regiment he was still under 30 years of age.

Those in favour of the proposal to raise the Regiment met at Douglas on April 29th, 1689, and on May 16th, following an address by William Cleland, and an exhortation from the chaplain, Alexander Shields, a famous field preacher of that day, the whole Regiment was raised in one day "without beat of drum or expense of levy money."

Naturally enough the Cameronian Regiment was peculiar in its constitution. The men were Puritans in faith and life. They insisted that the most rigorous discipline should be maintained among them, and that their officers should be men "whom in conscience they could submit to." The original idea was that the Regiment should be organized in some degree on the model of a Presbyterian congregation ; that each company should provide an elder ; and that every man should carry a Bible. Among the men who joined the Regiment as a cadet was young James Blackader, who afterwards rose to command the Regiment, and later became Deputy Governor of Stirling Castle.

The Regiment, raised under such unusual circumstances, was early called upon to prove its mettle. Claverhouse had managed to raise an army for the Stuarts among the Highland clans, and General Mackay with the Royalist forces marched north to meet them ; on July 27th, 1689, the two bodies met in the Pass of Killiecrankie, when Claverhouse, with one wild charge, swept Mackay and his men into utter rout, Claverhouse himself falling in the moment of victory. The news of the Government defeat spread alarm through the Lowlands of Scotland, and the Cameronian Regiment was ordered north to occupy Dunkeld—an open town in the midst of a disaffected population, and far away from any base whence support or supplies might be drawn. Indeed, many men believed that the new and untried regiment was doomed to destruction.

Immediately on arrival at Dunkeld, and in preparation for the attack about to be made upon them, the Cameronians put the church and a large mansion in the town in a state of defence. The Regiment was this day some 1,200 strong, and was hourly expecting to be attacked. "The men," writes the historian Macaulay, "intrepid indeed, both from constitution and from enthusiasm, but not yet broken to habits of military submission, expostulated with Cleland. They had, they imagined, been recklessly, if not perfidiously, sent to certain destruction. They were protected by no ramparts ; they had a very scanty stock of ammunition ; they were hemmed in by enemies. An officer might mount and gallop beyond reach of danger in a moment, but the private soldier must stay and be butchered. 'Neither I,' said Cleland, 'nor any of my officers will, in any extremity, abandon you. Bring out my horse—all our horses, they shall be shot dead.' These words produced a complete change of feeling. The men answered that the horses should not be shot, that they wanted no pledge from their brave colonel except his word, and that they would run the level hazard with him. They kept their promise well ; the Puritan blood was now thoroughly up, and what that blood was when it was up had been proved on many fields of battle.

"On the morning of August 21st all the hills round Dunkeld were alive with bonnets and plaids. . . . The whole number of Highlanders was estimated by those who saw them at from 4,000 to 5,000 men. They came furiously on. The outposts of the Cameronians were driven in. The assailants came pouring on every side into the streets. The church, however, held out obstinately, but the greater part of the Regiment made its stand behind a wall which surrounded a house belonging to the Marquis of Athol. This wall, which had two or three days before been hastily repaired with timber and loose stones, the soldiers defended desperately with musket, pike and halbert. Their bullets were soon spent ; but some of the men were employed in cutting lead from the roof of the Marquis's house and shaping it into slugs. Meanwhile, all the neighbouring houses were crowded from top to bottom with Highlanders, who kept up a galling fire from the windows. Cleland, while encouraging his men, was shot dead. The command devolved on Major Henderson. In another moment Henderson fell pierced with three mortal wounds. His place was supplied by Captain Munro, and the contest went on with undiminished fury. . . . Half the town was blazing. . . . The struggle lasted four hours. By that time the Cameronians were reduced nearly to their last flask of powder ; but their spirit never flagged. 'The enemy will soon carry the wall. Be it so, we will retreat into the house ; we will defend it to the last, and if they force their way into it, we will burn it over their heads and our own.'

"But while they were revolving these desperate projects, they observed that the fury of the assault slackened. Soon the Highlanders began to fall back ; disorder visibly spread among them, and whole bands began to march off to the hills. In a short time the whole Gaelic army was in full retreat towards Blair. Then the drums struck up ; the victorious Puritans threw their caps into the air, raised with one voice a psalm of triumph and thanksgiving, and waved their Colours—Colours which



Reproduced from painting by R. Simpson

THE CAMERONIAN REGIMENT AT BLENHEIM, AUGUST 2ND, 1704.

were on that day unfurled for the first time in the face of an enemy, but which have since been proudly borne in every quarter of the world.

"The Cameronians had every reason to be joyful and thankful, for they had finished the war."*

This was the first occasion, though, as we shall see, it was not to be the last, upon which the Cameronian Regiment had saved the reigning house.

In February, 1691, Angus's Regiment embarked for service in Flanders, and was reviewed with nine other Scottish regiments near Brussels by King William III. On August 3rd of this year the Cameronian Regiment took part in the Battle of Steinkirk, where its gallant colonel, the young Earl of Angus, Lieutenant-Colonel John Fullerton, Major Daniel Ker, other officers, and many of the rank and file fell fighting against heavy odds. The colonelcy of the Regiment was given to Colonel Andrew Monro, but the Regiment continued for many years longer to be known as "Angus's."

The Cameronians were present at the Battle of Landen on July 18th, 1693, and again suffered heavily, but worthily upheld the reputation already won for bravery in action; its grenadiers formed part of the storming troops who under Lord Cutts—"Salamander" Cutts—led the famous assault on the fortress of Namur.

The Peace of Ryswick, concluded in 1697, put an end to this campaign, and the Regiment came home in 1700, only to be sent again to Holland when two years later war broke out with France. Joining the Duke of Marlborough's army the Cameronian Regiment shared in all his famous battles and sieges. A detachment of the Regiment, only 140 strong, was present at the Battle of the Schellenberg, losing 2 officers and 79 men of the number in killed and wounded. At Blenheim the Cameronians were one of the regiments that suffered most, having 5 officers killed and 14 wounded. Among these last was Captain John Blackader, whose diary of those days breathes the spirit of the old Covenanters: "Many deliverances I have met with, but this day I have had the greatest ever I experienced. We fought a bloody battle, and by the mercy of God have got one of the greatest and complete victory the age can boast of. In the morning, while marching towards the enemy, I was enabled to exercise faith, relying and encouraging myself in God; by this I was made easy and cheerful. I was looking to God during all the little intervals of action for assistance to keep up my own heart, and to discharge my duty well in my station. My faith was so lively during the action, that I sometimes said within myself, Lord, it were easy to Thee to lay these men flat upon the ground where they stand, or to bring them in all prisoners; and for encouraging our Regiment I spoke it out, that we should either chase them from their post or take them prisoners, and I cannot but observe the event against seven o'clock at night. Twenty-six regiments (some say thirty) laid down their arms and surrendered themselves prisoners at discretion to the Duke of Marlborough, and our Regiment was one of those who guarded them."†

* Macaulay, *History of England*, 1855 edition, Vol. III, pp. 374-377.

† *Select Passages from the Diary and Letters of John Blackader, Esq.*, pp. 20-22.

The Regiment was also present in the great Battles of Oudenarde and Malplaquet, and performed much good and gallant service at the siege and capture of many of the great frontier fortresses of France and Flanders—Dendermonde, Aeth, Lille, Douai, and Bouchain.

Blackader states in his diary that during the course of its service under the Duke of Marlborough, his Grace bestowed upon the Cameronian Regiment his special thanks no fewer than seven times for its distinguished gallantry and good conduct.

In August, 1713, the Regiment embarked at Dunkirk for Ireland, but remained in that country only until the autumn of 1715, being then recalled to England on the outbreak of the rising in Scotland and in the north of England in favour of the Stuarts. The situation was very serious, for there was a strong Jacobite force in Scotland, while an army 25,000 strong had marched across the border into England and was holding the town of Preston, where the commander of the Jacobites at once began to raise barricades and put the place in a state of defence. A General Wiles, who at the time was commanding in Cheshire, hurriedly collected such troops as he could, and which consisted of six regiments of dragoons and but one of infantry, and marched upon Preston. The attack had naturally to be conducted chiefly by the infantry regiment, the Cameronians, supported by dismounted men from the cavalry. The assault made at one point failed, but was successful at another, an historian of the day stating that the men "upon all occasions behaved with a great deal of bravery and order," and more Royal troops having now come up, Preston was completely invested, and the Jacobites surrendered. In this manner the Jacobite rising in England was brought to an end, and thus for the second time in history did the Cameronian Regiment help to save the dynasty. At Preston the Royal troops suffered 148 casualties, of which 92 were sustained by the Regiment.

The Cameronians now went back to Ireland, and remained there until 1727, when they were sent as a reinforcement to Gibraltar, which the Spaniards were then besieging, and took a very creditable part in the defence of the fortress. They remained here in garrison until 1738, and then spent ten peaceful years in Minorca, returning to Ireland in 1748.

In the Museum of the Royal United Service Institution there is a set of coloured prints which give the uniform worn by the Regiment about this period :—

Private, 1742.—Three-cornered hat, with cockade on left. Long red, full-skirted coat with yellow facings and turn-backs ; red breeches, and long white spatterdashes.

Grenadier, 1750.—Mitre-shaped cap, with grenade ; yellow flap in front, with G.R. and the White Horse of Hanover below.

Long red, full-skirted coat with yellow facings and turn-backs ; red breeches and long white spatterdashes.

Now followed a long period of home service, and during this time a change of very considerable importance was made in the manner of designating the regiments of the British Army. Hitherto, regiments had been known by the names of their colonels—thus, the Cameronians had since their creation and up to the present time been called variously Angus's, Borthwick's, Monro's, Ferguson's, or Preston's Regiment ;



[Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.

THE CAMERONIAN REGIMENT AT MALPLAQUET, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1709.

but this system led to inconvenience, while nothing was laid down in regard to the precedence of regiments, the rule generally observed being that English regiments raised in England took rank from the dates of their formation, and that English, Scots and Irish regiments raised for the service of a foreign power should take precedence from the dates of their being placed on the English establishment. In the years from 1694 to 1715 three Boards were convened to decide on the rank and precedence of corps, and in a warrant of King George II, dated July 1st, 1751, these matters were settled for the regiments then in existence, and these were given numerical titles which were to be inscribed upon their Colours and by which all regiments were in future to be known, instead of as heretofore by the names of their colonels. The Cameronians, therefore, should, strictly speaking, be known as the 26th Regiment of Foot from this date.

The order contained in the warrant does not appear, however, to have been generally observed, and for many years afterwards we find regiments described by the names of their colonels instead of by their numerical titles. The matter was then finally settled by a second warrant issued in the time of King George III, dated December 19th, 1768, from which date and up to the reorganization of July, 1881, regiments were known by numbers and not by the names of the officers who for the time being commanded them.

The Cameronian Regiment was quartered again in Scotland, after an absence of 32 years, from 1754 to 1757, then returned to Ireland for a further spell of 10 years, proceeding on its first tour of foreign service in 1767 to Canada, where it was quartered when the American colonies rebelled against the Mother Country and war broke out in 1775. The 26th Regiment was at once called into the field, and, after taking a most creditable part in the successful defence of Quebec, the Regiment joined General Clinton's force, and shared in the brilliant capture of Forts Montgomery and Clinton on the Hudson River. It was called upon to endure much hardship and privation in the course of the campaign carried on over a very wide extent of difficult country against a brave and elusive enemy, bearing all with commendable fortitude and courage, and though the war ended unfortunately for Great Britain, her soldiers emerged from the conflict with undimmed honour.

The Cameronians left New York for Ireland in December, 1779, and on arrival were quartered in Staffordshire, arriving there with only 172 rank and file. For a few months in 1783 the Regiment was again in Scotland, and then went for three years to Ireland.

For some little time prior to this the title of "Cameronian" seems, for some reason which is not clear, to have fallen into disuse, and the then colonel of the Regiment, having noticed this, made a special application to the King, with the result that in a letter dated February 16th, 1786, Royal permission was accorded for the 26th Regiment to assume "the title of the 26th, or Cameronian, Regiment of Foot."

In 1797 the Regiment was again quartered in Canada, but returned home in the autumn of 1800, when hostilities had broken out with the government of republican France, and in consequence one of the transports conveying a company of the Cameronians was captured in the Channel by a French privateer.

The French Revolution had brought to the front a young artillery officer of the name of Napoleon Bonaparte, who had already conducted a very successful campaign in Italy, and who, in 1800, was sent in command of an army to Egypt with the object of seizing that country, cutting British communications with India, and of eventually depriving us of all our possessions in the East. The British Cabinet replied by sending a force commanded by Sir Ralph Abercrombie to Egypt, and in the operations that followed the French were driven back under the walls of Alexandria, that city was besieged and captured, and the French were finally expelled from the country. The losses actually incurred by the 26th in action were comparatively trifling, but all ranks suffered so severely from dysentery and ophthalmia that at last there were hardly enough men left for the performance of the ordinary duties, and disease clung to the Regiment for some considerable time after its return home in October, 1801. It was for this campaign that the 26th was awarded the badge of the Sphinx superscribed "Egypt."

In 1803 a 2nd Battalion was raised, which did good service in garrison duty at home, and during the eleven years it remained in existence in providing drafts to the 1st Battalion.

Napoleon's menace to the peace of the world continuing, the 1st Battalion of the Cameronians was brought up to a strength of 1,000 rank and file, and on December 10th, 1805, the Regiment embarked for Germany in five transports, two of which were wrecked on the voyage, 14 officers and 474 non-commissioned officers and men perishing in this terrible catastrophe. A third transport was driven back by the storm, and the men were landed at Deal, but the remaining two reached their destination in safety, and the 4 companies they carried joined an expedition into northern Germany; the results, however, mainly owing to a great victory gained by the French over our allies, were indecisive, and in February, 1806, the troops were withdrawn, and the 1st Battalion Cameronians was gradually built up to establishment again by drafts of fine soldiers from the 2nd Battalion.

In the autumn of 1808 the Cameronians embarked for Spain with the force under Sir David Baird to form part of the army which Sir John Moore had assembled to attack the French in that country and succour the national party in Spain who were working to free their country from French domination. Madrid was now occupied by French troops, and Napoleon, who had some time before assumed the title of Emperor of the French, was just completing his schemes for the complete subjugation of Spain and Portugal, when Sir John Moore, by a swift advance, struck at his lines of communication, when the sudden advance of the British columns created something like consternation in the enemy councils.

Napoleon then, abandoning all his other plans, turned at once on his daring opponent, and, by a rapid march of all his armies, sought to cut off the British force from the coast and either annihilate it or force its surrender. Sir John Moore, however, had made his plans with great care, and having succeeded in drawing the enemy armies towards himself and so disorganized their arrangements, began a masterly retreat to his base at Corunna, many days' marches distant, over steep mountain passes, through icy streams, and by tracks which the snows of winter



[Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.

26TH CAMERONIANS AT CORUNNA, JANUARY 16TH, 1809.

had made almost impassable. The British soldiers were poorly clad and badly shod, while the commissariat was but indifferently organized ; at their heels followed the French troops, and again and again the British rearguard had to stand at bay to give time for the army to extricate itself from the defiles in which it was entangled. In the midst of the retreat Napoleon was summoned back to France, but the failure to complete the destruction of Moore's army eventually proved his undoing ; as he said himself in later years—"It was the Spanish ulcer that destroyed me."

The retreat to Corunna began on December 24th, 1808, and the coast was reached—the British Army entire and unbroken—on January 12th, 1809. The forced marches, the incessant fighting, the shelterless bivouacs, privations of all kinds, cold and sickness had done their worst, but all failed to quench the dauntless spirit of the British troops, for on reaching the coast and finding that the transports in which they were to embark had not arrived, they turned on their pursuers and fought one of the great battles of our history against one of Napoleon's first tacticians, the French being so signally defeated that when the ships eventually came in, the embarkation of the British force was effected without interference by the enemy.

The Cameronians took a very creditable part in the retreat and final action, and though reduced, on finally landing in England, to 350 effectives, by death, losses in action, and men left in Spain, they maintained their splendid fighting qualities, and by their fortitude and courage had added a bright page to the history of the Regiment.

The 26th was not long permitted to remain inactive, and having received drafts from the 2nd Battalion and from the Lanark Militia, it embarked in July, 1809, at a strength of 767 all ranks, for the ill-fated Walcheren Expedition, the object of which was to obtain possession of the islands at the mouth of the Scheldt and to destroy the French ships in that river with the docks and arsenals at Antwerp. The expedition was badly directed, the naval and military chiefs did not act completely in unison, and the troops were landed on marshy, fever-stricken islands where very many died of disease, and all but a small percentage of the force was incapacitated by sickness. At length the remnants of the battalions employed were withdrawn, and when the Cameronians landed at Portsmouth on December 30th, 1809, only 90 men remained effective of those who had left England less than six months previously, while few of those who served in and survived this expedition were ever fit for further service.

In July, 1811, the Cameronians sailed to join Wellington's army in the Peninsula, arriving in time to take part in the preparations for the blockade of Ciudad Rodrigo ; but the Walcheren fever was still with the Regiment, and it became so greatly wasted from sickness that in May, 1812, it was considered unfit for present service in the field and was sent to garrison Gibraltar, remaining there ten years.

Some six years of Irish service now followed, and then in May, 1828, the Cameronians embarked for their first tour of Indian service, being stationed on arrival in the Madras Presidency.

The Regiment had been some twelve years in India when, in 1840, the first China War broke out, and the Cameronians were ordered to join

the expeditionary force and embarked at Calcutta, 900 strong, in splendid fighting condition. Within six weeks after landing at Chusan, salt provisions of the worst possible description and often quite unfit to be eaten, a bad climate and lack of proper shelter, soon greatly reduced the numbers and efficiency of the Regiment. Those of the men who were able to bear arms "carried on," and with a draft of 262 other ranks from home enabled the Cameronians to take part in the subsequent operations, including the capture of Hong-Kong and the occupation of Ningpo, when the Chinese sued for peace. The Regiment returned to India in 1842, and early in the following year sailed for home, speeded on their way by a very flattering General Order by the President of the Council in India. For their services in China the Cameronians were authorized to bear the word "China" and the device of the Dragon inscribed on their Colours and appointments.

While stationed in Edinburgh, in 1844, new Colours were presented to the Regiment by Lady Douglas, the wife of General Sir Neil Douglas then commanding the troops in Scotland, and a member of the family so closely linked with the Cameronians. Service in England, Ireland, Gibraltar, and Bermuda followed, and in 1855 the Regiment was sent for the second time to India.

In the year 1851 the depot companies were stationed in the island of Jersey, and there being no Presbyterian church they founded one, and to this day the present church has outside it a board on which is printed in letters of gold :—

"Founded by the Cameronian Regiment in 1851."

Thus did the Cameronians of those days hand down the traditions of their ancestors of 1689!

In 1868 the Cameronians were selected to form part of the expeditionary force sent to Abyssinia to enforce the restoration of certain subjects of Great Britain whom the ruler of that country was holding as prisoners. The expedition was in every way successful, and so far as the force was concerned was practically bloodless; the Cameronians were detailed to guard an important centre about Senafé, commanding a long and rocky pass on the lines of communication, thus ensuring the safety of the main column marching on Magdala, the capital. On the return to India at the close of the expedition, the Cameronians were stationed at Fyzabad, and in 1870 won the distinction of being the best-shooting battalion in India.

Returning home in 1875 the Regiment occupied various quarters in England and in Scotland, and it was now, under a scheme which had recently come into operation, linked with the 74th Regiment with a Brigade Depot temporarily at Paisley, but under orders to move to Hamilton.

In 1880 the Cameronians proceeded to Malta, and it was not long after that the trouble which had been brewing with the Transvaal Government came to a head, and in 1881 war broke out. The operations were not altogether successful, and our troops suffered several reverses, so that reinforcements, and among them the 26th, were ordered to South Africa: but hostilities ceased while the Regiment was voyaging out thither, and it was brought home again without having disembarked.

During this year a change of far-reaching importance was made in the organization, titles, and uniform of the Regiments of the Line and of the Militia, under General Order 41 of May 1st, but which was specially issued on the 11th of the previous month. Under this order the Infantry was for the future to be organized in Territorial regiments, each of four battalions for Great Britain and five for Ireland—the first and second of these being Line and the remainder Militia. The old numbers were to be done away with, and the regiments were to bear a territorial designation corresponding to the localities with which they were connected. All honours, etc., hitherto borne by either of the Line battalions of the Territorial regiment were in future to be common to both.

In Paragraph 7 of the above quoted order it was enacted that “in addition to the regiments formed out of the existing Rifle battalions of the Line, the Territorial regiments formed out of the 26th and 90th with their affiliated Militia battalions will become Rifles.”

In an appendix to the order the linking and the new titles, etc., of the regiments of the Army were shown, and under this it appeared that the Regiment was for the future to be styled “The Scotch Rifles,” the 1st Battalion being formed from the 26th Foot, the 2nd from the 90th, and the 3rd and 4th Battalions from the 2nd Royal Lanark Militia; the uniform was to be green, the facings dark green, while the headquarters of the Regimental District was to be at Hamilton and numbered 26.

Then in an appendix to General Order No. 70 of July of the same year a change was made in the title of the Regiment, which was given now as “The Cameronians (Scotch Rifles),” and finally in General Order No. 139 of December, 1881, it is announced that “Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the Regiment now styled ‘The Cameronians (Scotch Rifles)’ being in future designated ‘The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).’”

As a Rifle Corps the 1st Battalion The Cameronians, as the Regiment must henceforth be called, no longer carried Colours, and consequently on June 26th, 1882, at Shorncliffe the old Colours, which had been presented at Edinburgh twenty-one years previously, were brought on parade for the last time, and the Battalion, now uniformed in rifle green, marched past them and then advanced in line and saluted them in farewell, prior to their being taken to Glasgow, there to be placed in the Cathedral.

The Cameronians remained at home until 1894, when they again sailed east for another spell of Indian service, at the close of which the Battalion went, in 1909, to South Africa, returning home three years later. When, in 1913, Field-Marshal Lord Wolseley died, the Battalion mounted a guard of honour at the War Office on the occasion of the funeral. When the opening of the Great War called it forth again to active service in the field, the Battalion was stationed in Glasgow, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. R. Robertson, now Major-General Sir Philip Robertson, K.C.B., C.M.G., Colonel of the Regiment.

On the declaration of war the 1st Battalion The Cameronians was at once mobilized, and, with four other infantry battalions, was detailed for duty on the lines of communication. Landing in France on August 15th, it was at Valenciennes on the 22nd, on which day it was formed,

with the 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, the 1st Middlesex Regiment, and the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, into the 19th Infantry Brigade, the command of which was given to Major-General L. G. Drummond, C.B., M.V.O., and which on August 23rd was pushed up to join the IIInd Army Corps under General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien.

As the 19th Brigade reached a position on the Mons—Condé Canal, just east of Condé, the opposing armies were already at grips, while an enemy force was moving rapidly round the British left flank. To this flank the 19th Brigade was hurried, and the Cameronians became the extreme left battalion, but the force here was withdrawn before the German attack actually developed, and the troops fell steadily back towards Le Cateau, where the British IIInd Corps turned and fought one of the great battles of the war. During the withdrawal, the 19th Brigade was moved to the extreme right of the Army Corps, spent the night of the 24th-25th August at Jenlain, and marched thence by Solesmes to just in rear of the village of Le Cateau.

The German attack here was made by some 170,000 troops, with an overwhelming artillery, while to oppose them General Smith-Dorrien had roughly 68,000 men, who had been marching and fighting the best part of a week with little rest or food. But the British proved equal to the occasion, and although very considerable losses were sustained, the troops fought with such splendid spirit that the enemy was everywhere beaten back with many casualties. It was the story of Corunna over again—an exultant pursuing force of vastly superior strength being so severely hammered, that at the end of the battle it was powerless to molest the foe further.

In the battle the Cameronians and Welch Fusiliers were in support to the 19th Brigade near Le Cateau, and about 11 a.m. were marched some seven miles to the left flank to assist the 4th Division, being in the act of deploying to counter-attack, when directed to take up a position to cover the retirement. A position was held near Marez, unmolested by the enemy, until 10 p.m., when the Cameronians fell back by Estrées and St. Quentin to Ollozy, covering fifty-six miles in thirty-six hours. The retreat was continued to and across the Marne, when the Army came into line with the French and now prepared again to advance.

By September 16th the first German blow had spent itself, and now the Allied armies turned on the enemy and drove him back across the Marne and the Aisne, causing the Germans to take shelter in rear of the strong positions they had prepared against a reverse. The Cameronians in the 19th Brigade shared in all the hard marching and fighting of those days, being engaged at the crossing of the Aisne and in the swift out-flanking movement which followed, whereby the British Army was withdrawn from the line of the Aisne and sent north by train, by motor lorries, and by march route to stop the German rush on the Channel ports.

The 19th Brigade, as a link between the IIInd and IIIrd Corps, saw fighting about Fromelles and near Armentières, and on October 30th repelled a strong German attack, being thanked by the Commander-in-Chief for its good work. Heavy losses were incurred, but the fighting spirit of the Battalion was as high as ever, and it was during this month

that it gained its first Victoria Cross ; the record in the *London Gazette* runs as follows :—

"No. 7504, Pte. Henry May, 1st Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). For most conspicuous bravery near La Boutillerie on October 22nd, 1914, in voluntarily endeavouring to rescue, under very heavy fire, a wounded man, who was killed before he could save him, and subsequently, on the same day, in carrying a wounded officer a distance of 300 yards into safety while exposed to very heavy fire."

On this occasion Private May was one of a platoon commanded by Lieutenant Graham, which was acting as a covering party to the Battalion digging trenches in rear. The Germans attacked in force, and the platoon fell back, one man being wounded as it did so. May at once went to his assistance, but the man was killed as May tried to lift him. At this moment Lieutenant Graham was also wounded and fell, and Private May then went to him and, with the assistance of Corporal Taylor, got the officer to a ditch where he insisted on being left, directing the corporal and private to try to rejoin the Battalion. In doing so the former was killed. Lieutenant Graham was brought in later by a party sent out for the purpose.

The Cameronians spent Christmas Day in billets in Armentières, cheered by the arrival of a very large consignment of gifts of all kinds from friends at home. The hardships of this first winter were borne by all ranks with commendable fortitude, and trench duty was carried out with zeal and cheerfulness, but with very serious casualties, so that by the middle of February, 1915, the Battalion had lost more than half of those who landed with it in France in the previous autumn—over 500 of the 1,011 who had accompanied the Cameronians.

During the spring and summer of this year many daring raids were carried out, and much valuable information was obtained, while many were the congratulations published by the divisional commander ; good work was also done in the instruction of officers and non-commissioned officers of the New Army battalions of the Regiment now arriving in France, and who were sent to the front to gather experience. On July 19th we read in the Battalion Diary : " This is the first time since October that the Battalion has been out of the shelling area." As the war went on the Battalion, while remaining in the 19th Brigade, was first with the 2nd and later with the 33rd Division.

The next occasion on which the Cameronians took part in a general action was at the Battle of Loos, where they had 3 officers and 103 other ranks killed and wounded. The 2nd Division, of which the Battalion then formed part, was ordered to attack Auchy, a place strongly fortified, held in force, and protected by broad belts of uncut barbed-wire ; the attack was consequently of an especially desperate character, and the casualties were many.

The winter of 1915 and the spring of the year that followed were passed in the trenches in the Béthune area. During the summer of 1915 four battalions of the Regiment—the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th—held the line in touch with one another. Then in July the 1st Battalion moved from the trenches near Givenchy to take part in the Battle of the Somme then just commencing, on July 15th, being in Mametz Wood in reserve

to the other two brigades of the division which were engaged in an attack ; and the four days that followed were also passed in reserve in and about Mametz Valley under continuous shell fire, the losses during this period of so-called inaction amounting to 7 officers and 114 other ranks.

On July 20th the Battalion took part, with the 5th Scottish Rifles, in an attack on High Wood, carried out in the dark under the cover of an intense artillery barrage. The attack succeeded in spite of considerable resistance, and by 11 a.m. the greater part of the wood was in our hands. Later in the day, however, the enemy opened a heavy shell fire on the wood and then at dusk counter-attacked strongly, driving the Battalion back to the outer edge of High Wood, where at midnight it was relieved. Heavy losses were again met with, 9 officers and 52 men being killed, 4 officers and 160 other ranks were wounded, while 157 men were missing. These casualties were made up by drafts from home, and on August 19th the Battalion moved up again to take part in an attack in which a heavy toll was once more taken of all ranks, 134 being killed and wounded in the fighting.

On October 19th the 19th Brigade returned with the 33rd Division to the Somme area, and on the 29th the 1st Battalion The Cameronians took part in an attack on Hazy Trench near Les Bœufs ; this attack had been intended as a surprise, and was made without previous artillery bombardment, but the enemy was prepared, the enterprise failed, and the Battalion lost 129 of all ranks.

On St. Andrew's Day, 1916, a memorable meeting took place, when the football team of the 2nd Battalion came over from Aumartre and played a match against that of the 1st Battalion, the visitors winning by 5—0. In the evening the 1st Battalion officers went over to Aumartre, and for the first time in the history of the Regiment the officers of both Battalions dined together.

The spring of 1917 found the 33rd Division in the VIIIth Army Corps, the Battalion weak in numbers, but strong in fighting spirit, taking part in an attack upon the Hindenburg Line at Bois du Vert, near Croisilles, on April 14th, designed to assist the armies at the time heavily engaged further south ; it was a day of hard fighting, the brunt of which fell upon the 19th Brigade. The German front-line trenches were captured despite heavy losses, but an attempt to carry the success further failed, and the troops were heavily counter-attacked. The Brigade held on all night and throughout the next day, and the grip here obtained was maintained until the spring of 1918, when the great German offensive swept all before it. In May the Cameronians were back again in the front line, and for the manner in which they carried out a difficult reconnaissance preparatory to an attack, the battalions of the 19th Brigade were highly praised in an order issued by Major-General Pinney, commanding the 33rd Division, who especially thanked " the Cameronians for their sound work." During this month the Battalion suffered heavily in two attacks ; on the 20th, in assaulting the German support trenches, it took many prisoners, but had 168 casualties, while on the 27th it attacked again with 13 officers and 350 other ranks, but only 3 officers and 144 non-commissioned officers and men answered their names when the fighting was over.

During the whole of July, 1917, the Battalion was at Condé Folie, resting, training, and gradually building up its strength with new drafts ; it was then moved on August 1st to Dunkirk, and from there back to the battle zone at Lombartzyde, enduring here a good deal of hard fighting until moved to St. Omer. September was passed in the line near Hooze, and during the Third Battle of Ypres the Battalion carried out, on the 25th, a gallant attack on the enemy position on the Menin Road, in which 123 casualties were incurred. On coming out of the line the Cameronians were inspected and personally thanked by Field-Marshal Earl Haig.

Back in the front-line trenches by the end of November, the Battalion took part in the fighting at Passchendaele, losing 131 of all ranks.

The winter of 1917-1918 was spent in the Ypres sector, and in the March following the British Army was attacked with the greatest fury by the combined forces of the enemy, who, by reason of the collapse of Russia and the temporary defeat of our Allies in Italy, was able to mass an overpowering number of divisions against our Third and Fifth Armies in an attack for which he had long been preparing. The heaviest onslaught was directed against the right of the British line, but an almost equally weighty blow was struck at the troops about the Ypres sector. At the time the blow fell the 1st and 5th Battalions were in the trenches about Meteren, and here a deadly conflict raged during April ; the defence of Strazeele by the Cameronians was as fine a feat of arms as any in the war, the enemy attacking again and again, repeatedly getting close up to the British trenches and the ground in front being heaped with his dead. The Cameronians held firm, and when relieved on April 19th by Australian and French troops, the enemy had been completely repulsed, but in those fierce days of fighting the 33rd Division had lost 145 officers and 3,302 other ranks, to which numbers the 1st and 5th Battalions had added of their best.

The Battalion was back in the front of the same sector in May, and on the 8th took part with the rest of the 19th Brigade in a counter-attack, advancing across the La Clytte Road under the fire of the enemy machine guns ; there was no check, no hesitation, and the survivors actually reached the German position, though there were then too few left to hold it. In this gallant effort the Cameronians lost over 200 in killed alone, and when withdrawn from the line, they were personally congratulated by the commander of the Corps and by the general officer commanding, 33rd Division, while on May 20th the 1st and 5th Battalions of the Regiment were inspected by General Sir H. Plumer, commanding the Second Army, who expressed his warm appreciation of their gallantry, and thanked them for their many splendid services.

June was passed at Pont Remy, July and August in training and trench duty, and then followed the events leading up to the close of the Great War.

Before this time the German advance had been checked, and though the enemy gains had been very great, his losses, due to the stubborn British defence, had been wholly out of proportion, while his man-power was becoming exhausted, and the quality of his reinforcements was rapidly deteriorating. The British, on the other hand, had risen to the occasion the more serious the situation became, strong drafts had been

rushed out from home, and divisions had been brought from other and less vitally important theatres of the war to make up the wastage and to fill up the gaps in our long line ; and in the late summer, with the ranks in the Allied armies once more at something like full strength, the British and French turned on the enemy, launching an attack all along the line which drove the German armies back to their last defences, and eventually right back to the banks of the Rhine. In that great attack, which endured for three strenuous months, the Battalion showed throughout the same fine soldierly qualities—fighting almost daily, and continually following up the enemy as he fell back from one defensive position to another, assailing each in the face of heavy machine-gun, shell, and rifle fire. All this was not accomplished without incurring heavy losses, particularly at Troisville and at Neuville on October 9th, when the Cameronians hunted the Germans for fifteen miles from one position to another, and were thanked by Major-General Pinney for their splendid services, the courage and endurance of all ranks, and for the cheerful manner in which officers, non-commissioned officers and men had responded to every call he had made upon them.

On October 25th, less than three weeks before the end, the Battalion was concerned in the capture of Engelfontaine, losing 33 killed and 174—including Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. Lee, D.S.O., the commanding officer—wounded, while it captured many prisoners, 1 field and 6 machine guns, and was thanked once more by the corps commander for services nobly rendered.

The Cameronians moved forward fighting until the advance ended on November 11th, when at 11 o'clock in the morning the Armistice was granted for which the beaten enemy had sued, and at long last the World War came to an end.



CHAPTER III.

"THE GLORIOUS 90TH."

THE 90TH LIGHT INFANTRY (PERTHSHIRE VOLUNTEERS) TO 1881—THE
2ND BATTALION SCOTTISH RIFLES TO 1918.

WHEN the 90th Light Infantry became linked with the Cameronians in 1881, it brought with it a glorious record that made it a worthy member of a great Regiment. It had seen active service in many parts of the world, had provided many leaders of distinction for British armies, and had gathered honour in many grim encounters and arduous campaigns.

The 90th Regiment dates its origin from May, 1794, when Mr. Thomas Graham, Laird of Balgowan, and afterwards General Lord Lynedoch, paraded in Perth a regiment he had raised, and the reason which had induced him to take such action is of historical interest. He had gone abroad by reason of his wife's health, and she died in the south of France in June, 1789, at a time when France was in the throes of the Revolution. Graham was anxious that his wife's body should rest in Scotland, and started on his way home with it. "Toulouse was reached on July 13th, and a boat having been hired, all preparations were made for leaving the place. However, as the boat was being brought to the mouth of the canal preparatory to dropping down the river, it was stopped by a drunken, unruly mob of the Municipal Guards and Volunteers, who refused to allow it to proceed unless the coffin was opened. The maire was appealed to, and he gave orders for the party to pass on unmolested, but equality was the order of the day, and the ruffians cared but little for the orders of those who dared not enforce them. On his return to the boat Mr. Graham was seized and insulted. In vain he attempted to win them over by good temper and reasoning with them; they declared the coffin contained something contraband, and at last brutally forced it open; then, when the foul mob had gratified its curiosity, the horror-stricken mourners were left in peace. So violently had the opening been made that a new lead coffin had to be procured."*

Determined to devote his life to avenging this insult to his dead, Thomas Graham volunteered to serve at the siege and capture of Toulon for the special purpose of satisfying himself that he possessed the natural qualities to become a successful leader of men, and then, returning home again, he obtained the permission of King George to raise a regiment to fight against the French. His commission was dated February 10th, 1794, and within little more than three months—on May 15th, that is—he paraded his new regiment, 753 strong, before General Lord Adam Gordon, commander-in-chief in Scotland. The Regiment was equipped

* Delavoye, *Life of Thomas Graham, Lord Lynedoch*, p. 29.

and drilled as light infantry, and was brought on to the strength of the British Army as the 90th Regiment of Foot, or The Perthshire Volunteers, a title very soon afterwards changed to that of "The Perthshire Light Infantry."

This was the third regiment of the British Army to bear this number. The 90th Irish Light Infantry was raised in 1759, when the Seven Years' War was at its height, by Colonel Hugh Morgan, and the papers of the day speak in glowing terms of its fine appearance when brought to England in 1761. It distinguished itself at the capture of Belle Isle in that year, and at the siege of Fort Moro, Havannah, in 1762, which was carried by the desperate valour of the British troops under the fire of two batteries. This corps was disbanded in 1763. Its other commanders were Colonels James Grant and James Stuart. The second regiment to be numbered 90 was raised at Wakefield, Yorkshire, in 1780, during the war with America, by Colonel Loftus Anthony Tottenham, served for a time in the West Indies, and was disbanded in 1783.

Colonel Graham's Regiment enjoyed for some time the distinction of being the only Light Infantry corps equipped, armed and trained as such in the British Army, and consequently is virtually the senior of the regiments of Foot which from this date up to the year 1858 were made Light Infantry. The uniform worn consisted of a red tunic with wings faced with buff, a red waistcoat, light grey trousers, black leather helmet of dragoon pattern with black bearskin crest and brass-bound peak, and with a small green "buckle" at the side. The grey trousers gave to the Regiment in its early days the well-known nickname of "The Perthshire Greybreeks."

The success that attended the raising of the Regiment so greatly elated Colonel Graham that he offered to raise a second battalion, and, his offer being accepted, a second battalion, 1,000 strong, was complete by the following August; two years later it was transferred to the Marines. Moved to England soon after it was raised, the Perthshire Light Infantry was presented with its first set of Colours at Winchester, in June, 1795, on which occasion their Colonel spoke as follows:—"I am anxious that courage should be tempered and directed by the most perfect discipline, and I trust that none who think themselves worthy to belong to the 90th Regiment will grudge the pains necessary to attain to that perfection. Let it be your constant object to excel. I wish not only to be proud of you but to owe you my gratitude and affection."

In August of this year the Regiment embarked on its first tour of active service, being sent to the coast of France in aid of the French Royalist troops, who had taken the field against the Revolutionary forces. The Isle Dieu was seized and occupied, but the expeditionary force was too weak to effect anything of importance, and was withdrawn to England at the end of the year. On the voyage home, the *Artois* frigate, carrying Colonel Graham and a wing of the 90th, struck on a rock near the island of Hovat, when the 409 men of the Regiment who were on board, gave all possible assistance with the pumps, and the vessel made port in safety. In the April following the Regiment was sent to Gibraltar, and later formed part of the expeditionary force which captured Minorca from the French.



[Reproduced from painting by R. Simpson.]

90TH LIGHT INFANTRY AT MANDORA, MARCH 13TH, 1802.

So far the 90th Light Infantry had won no battle honour for their Colours, but in 1801 the Regiment assisted to make up the force which was sent in that year to Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, under circumstances which have been described in connection with the History of the 26th Cameronians. The force landed in Aboukir Bay from small boats in the face of a heavy fire from the French, but scrambling ashore the regiments formed up steadily on the beach, stormed the heights, and drove off the enemy, who fell back to a series of natural defences at Mandora. Here the British attacked again on March 13th in two columns, the 90th forming the advanced guard of the right, the 92nd that of the left column of the army. As the advanced guards emerged from a wood in front of Mandora Tower, the French left the high ground on which they had been formed and moved down to attack, General Bron sending a considerable body of cavalry, including the 22nd Chasseurs à Cheval, against the 90th. The cavalry came gaily on, taking the 90th, from their black leather dragoon helmets, to be dismounted cavalry. The 90th, however, with the coolness and intrepidity of veterans, received them unbroken upon the points of their bayonets. The French were then obliged to retreat, having received a well-timed volley as they wheeled about, which brought great numbers of them to the ground.”*

Another account† says that the 90th Regiment “undismayed, firmly maintained its ground, and allowing the cavalry to approach, fired such a volley as completely altered their direction, and compelled them to skirt along the front and then to retreat with the greatest precipitation. A few of the dragoons, however, reached the ranks and were bayoneted in their attempts to break through. Colonel Latour Maubourg was himself desperately wounded, and the loss of the whole very great. The discipline and steadiness of the 90th Regiment was most honourable and praiseworthy; and even if the charge of the French had been more vigorous, their intrepidity and firmness would have rivalled the conduct of the Welsh Fuzileers at Minden.”

In this action the 90th had 8 officers and 271 non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded, out of a total strength, from a state rendered on March 7th, of 22 officers and 798 other ranks then present and fit for duty. Among the officers wounded in this battle was Lieutenant-Colonel Hill, the commanding officer, afterwards Lord Hill, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. The picture shows him falling wounded from his horse and being caught as he falls by the regimental sergeant-major and a bugler.

The battle honour of “Mandora” is borne by only one other regiment of the British Army, the 92nd, now the 2nd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, although upwards of twenty infantry regiments, besides several of cavalry, also took part in the action.

Major Moncrieffe succeeded to the command of the 90th on Colonel Hill being wounded, but was later transferred to another regiment.

The campaign ended with the siege and capture of Alexandria, in which the 90th played a gallant part, and it then returned to Scotland to recruit.

* Walsh, *Journal of the Late Campaign in Egypt*, pp. 86, 87.

† Wilson, *History of the British Expedition to Egypt*, p. 20.

In January, 1805, the Regiment embarked for the West Indies, which valuable French possessions, providing them with useful seaports whence their ships could prey upon British commerce, were attacked and captured. The 90th formed part of the force that obtained possession of the island of Martinique, in 1809, and of Guadaloupe in the following year. At Guadaloupe the Regiment captured in action the Eagle of the 80th French Regiment of the line—one of the first of the Eagles to be taken by a British regiment. The commander of the force, General Sir George Beckwith, selected Captain W. H. Whitby of the 90th to convey the Eagle to the King, and His Majesty commanded that it should be escorted with due ceremonial by the regiments of the Household Brigade to St. Paul's Cathedral, where it was deposited, and where for many years it remained. During the reign of Queen Victoria, however, the Eagle was removed from St. Paul's to the chapel of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, where it is at present.

Then followed some few years of service in Canada, and in 1815 the Regiment was ordered to join the British Army assembling in Belgium under the Duke of Wellington, landing, however, too late to be present at Waterloo, but marching on Paris and forming part of the Army of Occupation which for many months remained in and about Paris. During the long years of peace which followed upon the close of the Napoleonic wars, the 90th served at home for four years, then went to Malta, and thence to the Ionian Islands, at that time governed and administered by Great Britain, and while in these islands the Regiment assisted to put down an insurrection in Cephalonia, returning to Scotland again in 1830. In these days the regiments of the British Army spent most of their lives out of the British Isles, and in 1836 the 90th sailed for Ceylon, where it remained for ten years carrying out duties of an especially arduous kind with exemplary fortitude. It was then ordered to the Cape, proceeding thither in different transports, and one of these, the *Maria Somes*, conveying three companies of the Regiment, lost her rudder in a violent storm; in replacing it Private Gunnion repeatedly dived into shark-infested waters. During this storm sixteen lives were lost of those on board the *Maria Somes*, "but the sound heart, undaunted courage, and a trust far higher never failing, brought them out of the conflict victorious as they ought to be." Soon after arrival at the Cape, one of the many Kaffir wars of the last century broke out, and the 90th was ordered from the Cape to Natal, embarking on the *Thunderbolt*. This vessel also, like the *Maria Somes*, struck on a rock, and had to be beached, but owing to the sea-pipe being open it was found impossible to pump out all the water which had entered her. However, Private Gunnion again came to the front and diving into the greasy water managed to reach the engine-room, find the pipe, and close it.

The opening of the Crimean War, in which Great Britain and France allied themselves with Turkey against Russia, then, like Germany in our day, seeking to over-ride a weaker Power, sent the 90th Light Infantry again on active service in the field, and it formed part of the 2nd Brigade of the Light Division, but arrived in the country too late to share in the opening battles of Alma and Inkerman. The Regiment landed at Balaklava on December 5th, 1854, and proceeded at once to the trenches,

where the bitter weather, insufficient clothing, indifferent food, and hard and incessant work in the face of a brave enemy, coupled with the hard fighting, caused the 90th Light Infantry severe losses, but failed to effect its spirit or its discipline. During the siege of Sebastopol there served in the Regiment a young subaltern named Garnet Wolseley, who afterwards rose to the rank of Field-Marshal and became Commander-in-Chief of the British Army.

In the Russian sortie of March 22nd, 1855, a small party of the 90th made a very gallant attack upon the enemy who had seized one of our mortar batteries, and drove them out at the point of the bayonet—an action that won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for nearly every member of the gallant band. Again, in the attack on the Great Redan, the 90th once more displayed exemplary courage in spite of heavy losses—4 officers being killed and 12 wounded, while the casualties in other ranks totalled 173. In this action the Regiment gained two of the many Victoria Crosses which have been awarded to those who have served in it. Sergeant, afterwards Ensign, Moyniham received the Cross for several acts of conspicuous bravery, while it was also awarded to Private John Alexander for rescuing an officer of the Coldstream Guards who had been shot down and was lying exposed to heavy enemy fire. Afterwards, the body was found of Lieutenant A. D. Swift of the Regiment; he had penetrated further into the Great Redan than had any others of those who entered the work with him that day.

In the course of the Crimean War the 90th Light Infantry had 19 officers and 313 non-commissioned officers and men killed and wounded, while in those days the deaths from disease far outnumbered those inflicted by the hand of the enemy.

The Regiment returned home in June, 1856, and had been at Aldershot for something less than a year, when in February, 1857, it was ordered at short notice to embark for China. Again did ill-luck pursue the 90th when at sea. One wing of the Regiment was on board the *Transit*, which first struck her own anchor off the Needles, having to put back to Portsmouth for repairs. When the voyage was resumed it progressed favourably until arrival at the Cape of Good Hope, on leaving which the *Transit* was caught in a cyclone and so badly strained that 500 tons of water was pumped out of her in twenty-four hours. No sooner had the storm abated than the vessel struck on a rock and became a wreck; but thanks to the admirable discipline maintained, little confusion and no panic resulted, Captain Wolseley's company, the place of parade for which was on the lower deck, remaining steady with the water gradually rising about them till ordered to take their places in the boats. After being exposed for many hours on a barren reef under a burning sun, with barely standing room, the troops were taken off and kindly received and cared for by the Dutch on the island of Banca.

The remaining companies of the Regiment were scarcely more fortunate; they voyaged in the *Himalaya*, which narrowly escaped shipwreck at the Cape Verd Islands and again at Simon's Bay, finally running aground near Singapore, and being towed off by an American ship.

While the 90th Light Infantry had been prosecuting its eventful voyage eastward, the Indian Mutiny had broken out.

" In the spring of 1857, India, generally speaking, was apparently peaceful and quiet . . . yet all, had they known it, were walking on a mine. Nor, indeed, were signs and omens wanting to indicate that an explosion was imminent. The Native Army in India at this time numbered about 233,000 men, the English troops only 45,000, and these were so scattered that mutual support or any combined action was difficult, and several important places, Allahabad, for example, were altogether without European garrisons. But not only did the native troops largely outnumber the British, but also long years of mismanagement and slack administration, coupled with injudicious and dangerous curtailment of the powers of commanding officers, had so weakened the bonds of discipline that the native regiments at this time constituted in the aggregate a dangerous mob rather than a regular army. At this particular moment the men, it is true, had no *special* grievance against the authorities, but they were in a suspicious, restless, brooding mood, and it only wanted some small excuse or provocation to make them break out into open mutiny. . . .

" Thus from many and diverse causes the whole continent of India, but Bengal and the North-West Provinces in particular, was in a state of suppressed ferment in the beginning of 1857. The people and the Army were both in a highly inflammable condition ; it needed but a spark to set the whole mass in a blaze, and the spark was supplied in *the greased cartridge* ! This was a new cartridge, lubricated with a mixture alleged to be made of cow's fat and lard. The sepoys objected to receive it on the grounds that to bite it (as they had to bite cartridges in those days) would destroy their caste. The enemies of the Government industriously spread the report that not only was the cartridge actually contaminating, but also that it was introduced by Government as part of a deliberate plan to ruin the men and convert them forcibly to Christianity. Like wild fire this story spread from station to station and from regiment to regiment, with the natural result that it was universally and resolutely determined to have nothing to say to the accursed thing. There were significant outbreaks in connection with it at Barrackpore in January and again in March, which were suppressed indeed, but failed apparently to awaken those in authority to a real sense of the danger that was brewing. And it was not until May 10th at Meerut, that, murdering their officers and all who came in their way, and firing their lines and bungalows, the regiments in that cantonment rose in open mutiny, and escaping to Delhi raised there the standard of rebellion. The contagion quickly spread, and ere many weeks had elapsed the whole country was in a blaze.

" Then commenced the great and memorable struggle. There arose to Heaven the cry for mercy and the prayer for strength. Then was seen what women could suffer and what men could do and dare. Then, battling bravely against a swarming and desperate enemy, against a terrible climate, and against disease and death in many hideous shapes, did British arms and British valour after a fierce and exhausting strife, taking a full toll of vengeance for the treachery and bloody deeds of those who had been faithless to their salt, restore at last peace and order to



[Reproduced from painting by H. Onkes-Jones.]

90TH LIGHT INFANTRY, INDIAN MUTINY, 1857.

the troubled country. If the cost was terrible, the glory was great, and the lesson learned a solemn and a lasting one.”*

Steps had been taken by the authorities, who foresaw the need of obtaining the services of as many British troops as possible, to intercept the 90th Regiment and bring it on to Calcutta, and, landing at Calcutta on July 21st, the headquarter companies marched to Berhampore on August 1st. Here they were almost at once employed in disarming certain disaffected Indian troops, thereafter being hurried up country to join the force which, under General Outram, was advancing to the relief of Lucknow.

In the fierce fighting that followed, the Regiment, like the others engaged, lost very heavily; among the killed being Private Alexander, V.C., while Colonel Campbell, the commanding officer, owed his life to a prayer book he carried in his breast pocket, and which stopped a musket ball. At the relief of Lucknow the 90th captured two guns, while a detachment escorting sick and wounded was cut off in an enclosure, known to this day as Dhooly Square, and was during a whole day exposed to the fire of four rebel guns and of innumerable matchlock-men. The cool bravery of Colour-Sergeant Brittle, who had won the D.C.M. in the Crimea, was conspicuous on this occasion; sheltering behind such cover as was afforded by a pillar, he kept up a steady rifle fire on the enemy gunners, picking off one after another with deadly accuracy until late in the afternoon he was himself killed.

Outram's force had brought relief to the sorely-tried garrison of Lucknow, but was not in sufficient strength to evacuate the entrenchment, taking away all the sick and wounded and the many women and children; the headquarter companies of the 90th therefore remained in Lucknow until the arrival of the relieving army under Lord Clyde, with whom were the remaining companies which had embarked in the ill-fated *Transit*.

These arrived in India towards the end of August and proceeded by rail and road to Allahabad, and on October 17th had their first engagement with the rebels near Cawnpore. By the middle of November the main army was before Lucknow and the companies under Major Barnston, who died later of wounds he received, were heavily engaged in all the severe fighting of the final advance. It was in the square of the Motee Mahul that, as Lord Wolseley tells us,† “he shook hands with Captain Tinling of our Regiment, who with his company had just made a sortie from the besieged garrison in order to meet the relieving force as we approached. Thus, the first greetings between besieged and besieger were between two companies of my battalion, a circumstance all the regiment was proud of.”

The Regiment had much harassing work in pacifying the country after the rebel forces had suffered defeat in the field and the chief cities had been relieved or recaptured; there was much marching, constant skirmishing in difficult country, and the battle with disease cost as many or more casualties than that with the enemy, the total deaths occasioned the 90th amounting to 326 of all ranks. But if “many died” there was also “much glory,” for no fewer than six Victoria Crosses were won

* Lieutenant-General H. D. Hutchinson in his Introduction to Vol. II, *Central India*, of the *Derbyshire Campaign Series*.

† *The Story of a Soldier's Life*, Vol. I, p. 309.

by the Regiment during this campaign. The recipients were Major (afterwards Lieutenant-General) J. C. Guise, Lieutenant (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel) W. Rennie, Surgeon (afterwards Surgeon-General Sir) A. D. Home, Assistant-Surgeon W. Bradshaw, Sergeant S. Hill, and Private P. Graham ; while among others who won the Cross for Valour was Captain Evelyn Wood, who was then serving with the Central India Horse, and who was later to command the Regiment and to rise to the rank of Field-Marshal.

At the conclusion of the campaign Sir James Outram wrote to the commanding officer :—

"In my various despatches I have endeavoured to express my sense of the obligation which I lie under to yourself and the glorious 90th, but I was in hopes of doing so in still stronger terms in my farewell order to the Division. . . . Wherever I may be I shall ever retain the dear brave old 90th in affectionate and admiring remembrance, and think with pleasure of the happy and not uneventful days I have spent with them on the march, in battle, and in quarters."

The Regiment left India in the autumn of 1869, being quartered on arrival at home in Scotland, and in June, 1872, the Colours which had been carried during the Crimean War were deposited in the East Parish Church at Perth. In 1873 the 90th was "linked" with the 73rd Perthshire Regiment, and permission was accorded for the arms of the City of Perth to be worn on the appointments.

The Regiment was represented in the Ashanti War of 1873-4 by two officers, and in 1878 landed in South Africa, where in Natal the Zulus, a powerful and very military tribe of fine savages, had taken the field and were laying waste the northern borders of Natal, and the 90th formed with the 13th Light Infantry and Buller's Irregular Horse, a flying column commanded by Colonel Evelyn Wood.

The 90th never fought better than in the action of Kambula, when they were attacked by 20,000 Zulus, fresh from their victory at Isandlwana, and inflicted a striking defeat upon them ; here Bugler Finn, afterwards Quartermaster of the Battalion, did excellent service ; while in the final battle of Ulundi the Regiment again served with marked distinction, the casualties in killed and wounded in this campaign being 70 killed and wounded of all ranks.

The Victoria Cross was awarded to Lieutenant H. Lysons and Private E. Fowler for gallantry in the affair of Inhlobane Mountain, at which they were present with Colonel Evelyn Wood, V.C.

As an instance of high courage and devotion to duty at the battle of Kambula, the example of Colour-Sergeant McAllen may be quoted. This non-commissioned officer was severely wounded in the arm early in the action, but having had his wound dressed, he returned to his company and fought with it for the rest of the day, being at last unfortunately killed. For his behaviour he was specially mentioned in Brigade Orders. Then Captain G. Sandham of the Regiment, while dying of enteric fever, spent his last remaining strength in clapping his hands and adding with failing voice his cheers to those of his men.

At the conclusion of the Zulu War the 90th proceeded to India and was serving in that country when the reorganization of the Army on a



[Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.]

90TH LIGHT INFANTRY AT ULUNDI, JULY 4TH, 1879.

territorial basis, as described earlier in this booklet, was carried into effect, and the 90th lost its number and became the 2nd Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Queen Victoria specially selected the 90th for conversion to a rifle regiment by reason of its distinguished service as light infantry. Returning home again in 1895 the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles was detailed for service in South Africa, when the trouble which for long had been brewing with the two republics came to a head, and first the Transvaal and then the Orange Free State declared war against Great Britain. An expeditionary force was despatched to South Africa in the autumn of 1899, and the Battalion formed part of the 4th or Light Brigade of the force which, under the command of General Sir Redvers Buller, was sent to relieve Ladysmith, where a body of troops under General Sir George White was besieged by the Boers. In the Battle of Colenso, fought to assist the relief of the beleaguered town, the 2nd Scottish Rifles did very useful service in covering the retirement of the British force after the unsuccessful attempt to cross the Tugela River, while the subsequent endeavour to relieve Ladysmith by a flank attack on Spion Kop resulted in one of the most desperate battles of the war in which the Battalion played a brilliant part.

The hill had been seized under cover of darkness by General Woodgate's Brigade, who when daylight dawned found themselves exposed to concentrated artillery and rifle fire. There was little or no cover on the top of the plateau, and all day the British troops held on in spite of very severe losses, without water or artillery support, while the steep and narrow path which alone gave access to the hill on the British side was choked with wounded going down and reinforcements pushing their way up. General Woodgate had been wounded and Colonel Thornycroft assumed command.

To quote from the account of the special correspondent of the *Standard* : " The Scottish Rifles, who ultimately saved the position, came into action about 4 p.m. Crossing the Tugela at Kafir Drift above Potgieter's, they marched straight for the southern end of Spion Kop, and knowing the urgent need moved quickly uphill. They at once went on to the front firing line, and were in the thick of it. They came none too soon. The incessant fighting under such conditions would have tried the *morale* of any troops but the Scottish Rifles, who, as General Buller put it in his eloquent address to the Regiment and to the King's Royal Rifles, maintained the best traditions of the British Army. Coincident with the arrival of the former on Spion Kop, the enemy made strenuous and desperate endeavours to rush our position. The Scottish Rifles, however, presented a stubborn obstacle to the design. The Boers repeatedly came up to within thirty paces, some nearer even than that to our line. Aided by units of other regiments, the Scottish Rifles held the enemy in strong check, and although shells were bursting all around, and the face of the plateau was swept again and again by a hail of bullets, the Boers could make no headway. During these two hours up to 6 p.m. officers and men were again falling fast. At 4.30 p.m. ammunition and water ran short, and had it not been that a mule train managed to reach the plateau with a large supply of cartridges and a quantity of water, the result might have had awkward consequences at a most critical

time. Fighting continued without a moment's intermission until 6 p.m. when the order was given for retirement. . . .

"The rifle fire diminished considerably after nightfall, but the Boer guns still hurled shells onto the plateau, and towards 8 p.m., when bursting projectiles lit up the scene, the retrograde movement began. There was no possibility in the darkness, and on a narrow path, of order being maintained. Battalion was mixed with battalion, unit with unit, company with company; only one battalion, that of the Scottish Rifles, retained anything like good order, 270 out of 800 answering to the roll-call at the foot of the mountain. All through that long night a stream of officers and men, calling out for their units, hungry and tired, stumbled over rocks and through dangers, down one hillside and up another, seeking the rendezvous. Daybreak saw the hitherto straggling lines of weary men getting into column. It was quite noon, however, before some of the regiments reached their rendezvous and had bite or sup. . . .

"Captain Murray, Scottish Rifles, who was wounded in four places, got up and attempted to lead his men towards the Boer trenches, and while doing so was shot dead; Captain Walter was killed by a shell; Major Strong, who was hit in the body, subsequently died of his wounds; Major Ellis was wounded in three places; Captain O'Gowan was hit in the leg and arm; Lieutenant Lockwood received wounds in both ankles, leg, and back." Lieut. Green and Second-Lieutenants Torkington and Draffen were also wounded.

A few days later the 2nd Scottish Rifles were again engaged at Vaalkrantz, and in the attack upon and capture of Pieter's Hill which opened the road to Ladysmith and caused the enemy to retreat northwards; while after the relief of the town the Battalion shared in all the heavy marching and fighting of the long months of the guerilla war that followed, and in all of which the Scottish Rifles added to their good name and imperishable record. The losses were many, but the officers of the Battalion won three D.S.Os., and no fewer than eighteen members of the Regiment were awarded medals for Distinguished Conduct in the campaign, which gave the Scottish Rifles two more Battle Honours to add to those already borne.

At the outbreak of the great European War in August, 1914, the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles was stationed in Malta, but was brought home with all reasonable despatch and joined the 23rd Infantry Brigade of the 3th Division in the newly-formed IVth Army Corps. By November the Division had landed in France, and only nine days later the Battalion was in the trenches to the south-west of Messines, there relieving the 156th French Regiment of the line. The great battles with which the war had opened were all past, and the winter was one of trench warfare, of rain, frost and snow, of hardship and suffering of all kinds, of death in many terrible forms—all of which were borne not only with an admirable fortitude but with actual cheerfulness. The winter of inactivity was followed by the spring offensive, when the IVth Army Corps attacked the German positions at Neuve Chapelle, a name to be remembered with pride by all ranks and generations of the Scottish Rifles for all time. The task set the troops was a most formidable one, for the enemy's trenches were protected by barbed-wire entanglements, covered by



(Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.)

2ND BN. SCOTTISH RIFLES AT SPION KOP, SOUTH AFRICA,
JANUARY 23RD-24TH, 1900.

well-placed machine guns, while great guns in rear commanded all the lines of approach. The attack was preceded by a tremendous bombardment from the British artillery, which made great gaps in the wire—except on the left, where, screened by the lie of the ground, it remained untouched.

It was against this untouched portion of the German defences that the attack of the 2nd Scottish Rifles was directed, and their experience was a terrible one; in the first gallant rush nearly every officer, including their commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Bliss, was killed or wounded, and more than half the Battalion fell. But there was no pause, the rest went on, and, reaching the wire, hacked a way through, the ground being strewn with the bodies of the gallant stormers. The survivors, led by Captain Ferrers and by Lieutenant Bibby, forced their way through all obstacles under a withering fire and reached the German trenches, clearing them of their defenders with bullet, bomb, bayonet and butt. This success was only gained at a terrible cost, and when relieved, three days later, there remained, after Major Carter-Campbell had been wounded a second time, one officer, Second-Lieutenant Somerville, a youngster of two months standing, with Sergeant-Major Chalmers and no more than 150 of the 900 other ranks who had gone into action.

Speaking in Glasgow after the war of the Battalion's services and sacrifices on this day, Major-General Sir F. Davies, who commanded the Division, at the battle, said :—

"There is another regiment I should like to refer to—the 2nd Battalion of the old 90th Greybreeks; with hardly a man with less than five years' service they went into action 900 strong, 30 officers lay dead or wounded between the trenches, and when the German trenches were rushed only two officers of the Battalion were standing up, and one of those was wounded. That made no difference; the men fought on just the same, and for two days the Battalion, or what was left of it, was commanded by the only surviving officer, a young second-lieutenant of the Special Reserve. Every man in that action fought as if he were an officer himself. I saw them when they came out of action, and asked them if they had had enough. They said 'No, we are quite willing to go in again.' That was the class of man the West of Scotland produced in the war."

An equally fine tribute was paid the Battalion by Sir John French, commanding the British Armies in the Western front, when, after Neuve Chapelle, he visited those of the Scottish Rifles who were left and said to them :—

'I come here as Commander-in-Chief of this Army to express to you my heartiest gratitude for the splendid part which you took at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. I know what awful losses you suffered, I know the gallantry you displayed on that occasion has never been surpassed by a British soldier. You came up against the enemy's wire, and although the artillery was unable to get at it, you showed the utmost bravery and gallantry. I deeply regret the terrible losses you suffered on that occasion. No less than 22 officers were killed or wounded; the officer commanding your splendid Battalion, Colonel Bliss, being included amongst the losses. Everyone in the Regiment will deeply regret this loss. I do not mean to say it was too much—I want

you all to realise that. I am sure your officers will always lead you on, it may be to die, but follow them right gallantly, I know you will. I am sure at the same time you will all feel what your officers have done for you, leading you as they have done ; but still at the same time the officers on their part felt they had splendid and gallant men who would follow them anywhere and had every confidence in them. That is one great thing, the mutual confidence which exists between leaders and men.

"I cannot say more. I feel deeply what you have done for us with your courage and your gallantry. I am certain one of your old officers, Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, will be proud of the work you have done. You have many noble honours on your Colours ; none are finer than that of Neuve Chapelle, which will soon be added to them."

With the arrival of strong drafts from home the depleted ranks were soon filled, and in welcoming a reinforcement to the Battalion of 5 officers and 500 other ranks, the Brigadier, General Pinney, spoke as follows :—

"You will know you are coming to a fine fighting Regiment. I also wish you to know what they did in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. In face of heavy fire your Regiment, led by Colonel Bliss and his officers, charged right through the German wire over the first enemy trench and into the second ; Colonel Bliss, with more than 20 officers and 30 sergeants were casualties at a very early moment. Our loss in Colonel Bliss is a very severe one, because we all loved him and he is a very heavy loss to the whole army. In spite of their heavy losses the remains of the Battalion went on, fighting and getting forward just as they had done when their officers were with them. They continued to fight right in the front of the battle till its close. On the fifth day they were brought out of action by a second-lieutenant and the sergeant-major. Your Regiment's fighting in this action was a glorious feat of arms, and I congratulate you and envy you in joining such a fine fighting regiment."

The splendid reputation thus won by the Battalion in this first great battle of the war was maintained and added to in all those which followed.

By May 1st the Scottish Rifles had regained something of their former numbers, and were engaged in the fortnight's fighting at Richebourg—Festubert, which cost the Battalion 12 officers and 156 non-commissioned officers and men.

In the spring of 1916 the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles was given a period of special training in preparation for the great Battle of the Somme ; here the attack by the 23rd Brigade was a very desperate affair, and the casualties were many. At the outset the Battalion was in support, and so did not perhaps suffer so severely as some others, but the battle was the most protracted of that year, enduring almost without any break from July to November, and the Battalion was sent again and again into the thickest of the fighting and suffered especially in its attack on Zenith Trench near Le Transloy on October 23rd and 24th, winning warm commendation from the Brigadier and Divisional Commander ; and in all the later fighting of this year the Battalion took its full share, suffering many casualties but gaining golden opinions.

Of the spring of 1917 a divisional order said : "The Divisional Commander wishes to convey his congratulations to the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles on the very efficient and capable way in which they



[Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.

2ND BN. SCOTTISH RIFLES AT NEUVE CHAPELLE, MARCH 10TH, 1915.

supported the attack of the Canadians. They throughout showed initiative and dash in moving forward at once."

The Third Battle of Ypres, fought in this year, and in which the 8th Division played a notable part, prevented the Germans from breaking their way through to the Channel ports; here the Division was detailed to attack the Bellewaarde Ridge, by nature and art a veritable fortress. The Division assaulted with the 23rd Brigade on the left of the attacking line, and of the events of August 2nd an historian writes, that "Many strong posts, including several woods, faced the assailants, and from the very beginning the resistance was most obstinate. None the less the advance was carried forward, and the whole of the front line trenches were captured . . . The Bellewaarde Ridge was taken, and the two magnificent Regular brigades swept onward with a perfect order that excited the admiration of all who saw it. As they passed over the curve of the Ridge they came under heavy fire from the further rise near Westhoek, but it neither slowed nor quickened their pace. . . . The Division was relieved next day. All the battalions had done great things in that historical advance."

Pulled out again a fortnight later, the Division attacked again, capturing the German third line and taking many prisoners, but all the battalions suffered heavily, and the losses of the 2nd Scottish Rifles were great, especially in the fighting round Pilckem and Langemarck.

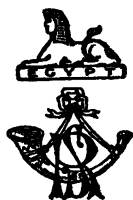
Early in February, 1918, the Battalion was transferred from the 8th Division, in which it had served so long and with which it had seen so much hard fighting, to the 20th, and when towards the end of March the Germans launched their great offensive, the full weight of which fell upon the right of the British line, the Battalion was involved in some of the very heaviest of the fighting. The ten days that followed formed a very desperate and anxious time. The Germans sent against us every man and gun they could spare from other fronts; the British line was bent and battered, though never anywhere actually broken; battalions, brigades, and divisions were decimated as they clung to position after position, and our splendid soldiers were, indeed, as Sir Douglas Haig said, "fighting with their backs to the wall." The old battlefields of the Somme were fought over once more, both sides suffered terrible losses in attack and counter-attack, and, in one of these last, carried out by the 59th Brigade in which the 2nd Scottish Rifles were now serving, those engaged well earned the telegram of commendation sent them by their divisional commander. In the ten days of that fighting retreat, to and behind the line of the Somme, the Battalion was often surrounded, stood to the last possible moment, and then fell back fighting every inch of the way; and when at last all that was left of the 20th Division was withdrawn from the forefront, it contained barely 500 weary but unconquered British soldiers, while of the Scottish Rifles no more than 4 officers and 54 other ranks answered to their names, the losses amounting to 19 officers and 619 other ranks.

Reinforcements were hurried out from home, and by the summer, when the British Army had recovered from the many heavy blows dealt it and had resumed the offensive, the Battalion was once again in its old place in the thick of the fighting in the offensive which the Allies

in their turn were actively prosecuting. The enemy was driven from one carefully prepared position to another, he was given no respite, no time or opportunity for recovery, hammer blow followed upon hammer blow, and at long last the German Army was between rout and revolution, and its leaders were glad and eager to sue for peace.

The Battalion was in the last glorious advance, and in the final fighting of the war, one of its members, Private James Towers, was awarded the Victoria Cross for carrying an important message under very heavy fire ; runner after runner had been shot down in the same attempt, but nothing daunted by the fate of his comrades, Private Towers volunteered for the task and successfully accomplished it.

The Great War ended, the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles formed part of the British Army remaining in France, finally returning home in April, 1919. In November of this year the 2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles embarked for India, and was stationed on the North-West Frontier. Whilst at Parachinar the Machine Gun Platoon under Lieutenant Wightwick took part in certain minor operations, and in 1923 the Battalion was sent to Iraq and formed part of a column operating in Kurdistan.



CHAPTER IV.

THE MILITIA AND SPECIAL RESERVE BATTALIONS.

THE 3RD BATTALION.

FROM the early days of Scottish history the Lanarkshire Militia has been represented among the national forces, and has taken an active part in all the stirring events in which such forces have been employed ; and during the war with Republican and Imperial France the Lanarkshire Militia remained permanently embodied for 16 years, except for a very few months in 1802-3. In the years that followed, the Lanarkshire Militia, now known as the 3rd North British Regiment of Militia, was called up for training at regular intervals, until the reorganization of the Force, in 1852, when the quota of Militia to be furnished from the county was fixed at 2,000 men, thus necessitating its division into two separate battalions. The Regiment, known as the 2nd Royal Lanark Militia, was raised by Colonel Sir David Carrick Buchanan, K.C.B., formerly of the Scots Greys, and was embodied during the Crimean War from February 5th, 1855, to June 30th, 1856, and again during the Indian Mutiny from October 21st, 1857, to June 12th, 1860. During these campaigns the Regiment was quartered in many garrisons of the United Kingdom, and sent a large number of volunteers to the regiments of the line engaged in those wars.

On the reorganization of the Army in 1881 the 2nd Royal Lanarkshire Militia was formed into a double-battalion regiment, and the 1st Battalion became the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). On becoming a rifle corps the Lanarkshire Militia ceased to carry Colours, and those at the time in use are now preserved in the chapel at Douglas in Lanarkshire.

When in the autumn of 1899 the war broke out with the Dutch Republic, the 3rd Battalion was embodied early in the following year, and like many Militia battalions volunteered for active service in the field. It embarked for South Africa in April, 1901, under command of Colonel Farie at a strength of 26 officers and 738 other ranks, being at once sent to the western provinces, and being engaged with the enemy near Kimberley. The Battalion then took over the garrison of Boshof, a town in the Orange River Colony, held as a depot for supplying Hoopstadt and Kimberley, remaining here until the end of the war, and resisting two attempts at the capture of the town.

Under Lord Haldane's scheme of army reorganization the 3rd Battalion ceased to be known as Militia and was styled "Special Reserve."

When the Great War opened in the late summer of 1914 the 3rd Battalion was mobilized and was sent to Nigg, Ross-shire, remaining here until 1918, when it proceeded to Invergordon and the following year to Bridge of Allan. When the trouble in Ireland became acute the 3rd

Battalion moved to the Curragh, where in September of the same year the 1st Battalion was reformed.

During the four years that the war endured the Battalion sent overseas and to every theatre of the war the enormous number of 1174 officers and 57,265 other ranks; these reinforcements were, of course, primarily intended for the battalions of the Regiment, but many of these drafts, both officers and men, were on arrival overseas posted to other regiments.

THE 4TH BATTALION.

The 4th Battalion was one of the first battalions of the Militia to be embodied on the outbreak of the South African War, and remained thus embodied from December 12th, 1899, to June 27th, 1901. Volunteering early for active service in the field, the Battalion embarked for South Africa on February 19th, 1900, under command of Colonel A. H. Courtenay at a total strength of 28 officers and 543 non-commissioned officers and men. On arrival at Cape Town at the end of March it was sent up at once to the front, where it did good and valuable service, being engaged in the investment of Boshof, of which town Colonel Courtenay was appointed commandant. Thereafter the 4th Battalion shared in the operations of the 20th Brigade of the 1st Division at Lindley, Leeuwkop, and Bethlehem, and was present in the Wittebergen operations culminating in the surrender of General Prinsloo and his commando. A detachment of the Battalion also performed excellent service with the Kimberley Flying Column.

During the South African War 15 non-commissioned officers and men lost their lives and 3 officers and 6 men were wounded.

In 1908 when the Army was again reorganized it was decided to disband one Militia battalion of each regiment, but difficulties arose in carrying out this scheme owing to the fact that many Militia battalions were very strong in numbers and there was no means of satisfactorily disposing of all the surplus personnel. It was then decided to leave in being twenty-seven of the existing 4th Battalions of the regiments of the Army, and to classify these as "Extra Special Reserve Battalions," and the 4th Battalion was so retained, the last enlistment of a Lanarkshire militiaman taking place on January 14th, 1908, the first "Extra Special Reservist" being recruited just three days later.

In June, 1914, the Battalion was called out for training at Tinto, when His Majesty King George V visited Hamilton and the Battalion was accommodated in that town during his stay, assisting to line the streets and finding a guard of honour at the railway station on His Majesty's departure. The training was scarcely completed when war broke out and general mobilization was ordered. The Battalion was detailed to guard the shipyards and factories on both banks of the Clyde, from Glasgow to Dumbarton on the northern bank, and from Glasgow to Fort Matilda on the southern, with headquarters at the last named place.

A very large draft was prepared and sent off to join the 2nd Battalion at Malta, and very shortly afterwards the 2nd Battalion proceeded to France.

The 4th Battalion was now kept busily engaged in enlisting and training the recruits who readily came in, in forwarding drafts to the battalions

in France and elsewhere, and in receiving, patching up, and returning those who came home sick and wounded.

In 1916 the Battalion was sent to the east for employment on coastal defence, and at one time held the coast line from Aberlady Bay to St. Abb's Head, a distance of 50 miles, and strong posts were established at Gullane, North Berwick, Scoughal, Hedderwick Sands, Dunbar, and Cockburnspath, with advanced posts all round the coast. In June, 1918, the Battalion was relieved from the work of coastal defence, and from this date until the Armistice it was stationed in the infantry barracks at Redford near Edinburgh.

On demobilization being ordered, the Battalion, now reduced to 100 of all ranks, left Redford Barracks for Bridge of Allan, where the final act of demobilization took place, the remaining personnel being absorbed by the 3rd Battalion.

During the war the 4th Battalion was commanded by Colonel C. J. Lynch, and all officers and men served a tour of duty overseas.

Colonel Lynch received the following appreciative letter from Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, dated June 24th, 1919 :—

" Dear Colonel Lynch,

" I write to you on the occasion of the demobilization of your Battalion to express my warm appreciation of the work done by the 4th Reserve Battalion Scottish Rifles since mobilization. The high standard of the drafts sent overseas by your Battalion, due to the hard work of all concerned, contributed materially to the splendid achievements of the Battalions which fought under my command.

" Will you please convey to all who have served in your Battalion my high appreciation of their work in the past, and my most hearty thanks for the splendid service which they have rendered during the Great War.

" Believe me, yours sincerely,

(Signed) " D. Haig, Field-Marshal,

" Commanding-in-Chief, The Forces in Great Britain."

During the course of the war there were drafted overseas from the 4th Battalion 674 officers and 27,142 non-commissioned officers and men.



CHAPTER V.

THE VOLUNTEER AND TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS.

THE 5TH BATTALION.

THE 5th Battalion are the successors of the old 1st Lanarkshire Volunteers, the senior Glasgow and Lanarkshire Volunteer Battalion, which, in turn, sprung from a number of volunteer companies formed in 1852. These included the 1st Glasgow and also companies from districts in the west-end of the city such as Partick, and composed of professional men. The late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was one of the original members, while another Prime Minister—the late Mr. Bonar Law—was also at one time in the Battalion.

The pre-war uniform was dark grey with blue facings and a soft cap with a blue and white-diced band; this was replaced by a busby with blue and white plumes and later by a dark grey helmet with bronze ornaments.

During the South African War two contingents were supplied to the volunteer service companies which were sent out to and served with the 2nd Battalion; the first of these went out under Lieutenant A. A. Kennedy, and the second under Captain R. J. Douglas.

On the formation of the Territorial Force the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers—known in Glasgow as “The Greys,” from the colour of their uniform—became the 5th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). The Battalion has always taken a keen interest in rifle shooting, and on one occasion brought the King’s Prize to Glasgow.

The Battalion was mobilized on the outbreak of the Great War and proceeded to France in November, 1914, being one of the three first Scottish Territorial battalions to land in that country; its commanding officer was Colonel A. A. Kennedy, D.S.O., O.B.E., T.D., who had seen service in South Africa, and he was killed in action on the eve of his promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General. On arrival in France the 5th Battalion joined the 19th Infantry Brigade in which the 1st Battalion of the Regiment was then serving.

In 1915 the Battalion fought at Loos, and throughout the winter months that followed it was in the neighbourhood of Givenchy; near to this place in the early summer of 1916 Sergeant Erskine of the Battalion won the Victoria Cross for saving an officer’s life at the imminent risk of his own. On July 20th of this year the Battalion attacked at High Wood, where it lost all the officers who went into action except one, and ninety per cent. of the other ranks; but after receiving drafts from home, and having had included in it all that was then left of the 6th Battalion of the Regiment, it fought again on the Somme near Les Bœufs and at Le Transloy. On April 14th and 23rd, 1917, it was again engaged near Henin and also at Croisilles on May 20th and 27th, when the casualties

were heavy, ground being gained in April, while the later attacks were wholly successful.

After a very strenuous time on the coast near Nieuport, when the General Officer Commanding the 19th Brigade especially complimented the Battalion on the labours of its working parties, it took part in the battle of the Menin Road at Ypres on September 25th, 26th and 27th, and although ordered to attack without due preparation, all the objectives were taken after hard fighting. In this action "D" Company was in support of the 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers, and captured three pill-boxes, 6 machine guns, and 35 prisoners, coming finally out of action only 25 strong. Later the Battalion was moved to Passchendaele, where it held the salient throughout the winter.

In April, 1918, the Battalion, now very weak, filled a gap at Meteren, fighting continuously for five days, when nearly all the seniors in officers and non-commissioned officers were casualties, holding on gamely, losing no ground, and inflicting very severe losses on the enemy; while on May 8th it delivered an especially brilliant counter-attack on Ridge Wood near Dickebusch, involving a march of several miles over open country to the north of Dickebusch Lake, then moving under heavy fire to the east side of the lake, turning left and attacking uphill; the whole of the old front line was carried and held against repeated counter-attacks, the Battalion suffering severe casualties until relieved. After a summer spent at Ypres, the Battalion took part in the final advance, capturing Meath Post near Villers Guislain on September 26th by a surprise attack after other attacks had failed. Early in October the 5th Battalion crossed the Scheldt Canal and took La Terriere; on the 9th it advanced nine miles and captured the village of Clary—where the main square has now been renamed "La Place des Ecosais"; on the 23rd and 24th it advanced beyond the Selle River, taking Vendegies Wood and the Pont du Nord; finally, early in November the Battalion pushed through the Forêt de Mormal, crossed the Sambre and captured Aulnoy.

The 5th Battalion returned to Scotland in November, 1919. The Battalion was one of the few Territorial battalions to be awarded the 1914 Star. This distinction implies that the Battalion served within range of the enemy field artillery before the 28th of November, 1914. Both Regular battalions also earned this Star. The Regiment, therefore, has three battalions thus honoured, a record shared by the Black Watch, but by no other regiment that had then only two Regular battalions.

THE 6TH BATTALION.

The history of the 6th Battalion dates back to the year 1859, when the Secretary of State for War issued instructions to the Lords Lieutenants of the Counties of Great Britain to raise a Volunteer Force for home defence. These instructions led to the speedy enrolment of some 120,000 men; in Scotland the County of Lanark was not behindhand, companies of volunteers known as the Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteer Corps were raised and numbered in order of formation as under:—

The 16th Company in Hamilton,
The 42nd Company in Uddingston,
The 44th Company in Blantyre,

The 52nd Company in Hamilton,—all raised in 1859.

The 56th Company in Bothwell,

The 57th Company in Wishaw and Newmains—raised in 1860.

In 1860 these several companies were formed into an Administrative Battalion, which was known as the 16th Battalion Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers. Other companies were raised later and added to the Battalion :—

The 102nd Company in Motherwell.

The 103rd Company in East Kilbride.

The 106th Company in Strathavon.

In 1880 the Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteer units were renumbered, the Battalion becoming the 2nd Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteer Corps, while some seven years later, in consequence of a movement having for its object the close association of the Volunteers with the Regular battalions connected with their counties, the Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers became the 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

Another company was formed at Larkhall in 1892, while the Blantyre and East Kilbride companies were amalgamated, and in 1900 a Cyclist Company was raised and added to the Battalion.

When in the autumn of 1899 war seemed inevitable with the government of the Transvaal Republic, offers to raise companies and battalions of Volunteers for service in the field were made to the authorities, and these were renewed in the opening weeks of the campaign, but they were declined on the ground that Volunteers could not possibly be needed until the Militia Reserve was exhausted, and of this there seemed no immediate prospect ; but about the middle of December, 1899, the Government sanctioned volunteering for service abroad or for embodiment at home of a limited number of Militia battalions, and also the formation of a strong force of Volunteers from the Yeomanry, and of a carefully selected contingent of Volunteers for service in South Africa. These last were to be organized as Service Companies, each of a strength of 114 of all ranks, and were to be attached to Regular battalions at the front to take the place of such companies as had been converted into mounted infantry. During the something less than three years that the war lasted, 16,500 Volunteers went out from home in these Service Companies, and two such were raised by the 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Cameronians, and served abroad during the war.

In 1908 the Territorial Force was formed under Lord Haldane's scheme of Army reorganization, and the Battalion then became the 6th Battalion of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), and was organized in eight companies as under :—

" A " and " B " Companies at Hamilton.

" C " Company at Uddingston.

" D " Company at Larkhall.

" E " Company at Bothwell.

" F " Company at Blantyre.

" G " and " H " Companies at Motherwell.

The Strathavon and East Kilbride Companies became detachments of " D " and " F " Companies, the Wishaw and Newmaine Companies were handed over to the Upper Ward Battalion of the Highland Light

Infantry, while the Cyclist Company was done away with. This organization was adhered to until 1914, when, after mobilization, the four-company system, already some time previously taken into use in the Regular Army, was generally adopted.

The 6th Battalion, having mobilized on August 5th, 1914, at Hamilton, was sent a few days later to Falkirk, where the Lowland Division, of which in peacetime it formed part, was then concentrating. After several months of intensive training, the Battalion was one of the units of the Division selected to proceed on active service, and on March 19th, 1915, it crossed over to Le Havre, whence almost immediately after landing it was pushed up to the front and joined, at Estaires, the 23rd Brigade of the 8th Division, with which, on May 9th, it took part in the attack on Aubers Ridge.

On June 2nd the Battalion was transferred to the 154th Brigade of the 51st (Highland) Division, then recently arrived in France, and fought with it at Festubert, leading the divisional advance and sustaining very heavy losses, nearly all the officers and some 400 non-commissioned officers and men being killed or wounded.

Shortly after this the Battalion, having been reorganized and some drafts added, accompanied the 51st Division to the Somme area, where it took over part of the line from the French, and thereafter was engaged in ordinary trench warfare in front of Albert and in the Ancre valley until January, 1916, when it was sent to Béthune and joined the 100th Brigade of the 33rd Division. Here it took the place of a battalion of the Royal Fusiliers and held the line at Auchy and Quincey until June, although for the greater part of that time the total strength of the rank and file did not exceed 200. Many of the drafts which came out were diverted to other units, so that at the end of June the 6th Battalion was sent to Etaples, from whence a number of the officers and men were distributed among other battalions; the remainder joined the 5th Battalion of the Regiment with which they were amalgamated, and during the rest of the war the 5th and 6th Battalions were known as the 5/6th Battalion.

The amalgamated battalion fought as a complete unit in all the subsequent operations of the 33rd Division—on the Somme in 1916, the Battle of Arras of 1917, at the Third Battle of Ypres, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, and Hazebrouck, and in 1918 shared in the general advance and in all the hard fighting which led up to the final collapse of the German Army.

For some considerable time after the war ended and Territorial units had been demobilized, nothing in the way of reorganization was attempted, since the Army Council had come to no decision as to the strength at which the Territorial Army was in the future to be maintained. In April, 1919, it was intimated that all the pre-war units of the Territorial Army would be re-formed, but it was not until February, 1920, that establishments were notified. It was then proposed that the 6th Battalion should be converted into an Engineer battalion, since, from the nature of their occupation, many of the men had the requisite training and knowledge; strong representations were, however, made against the project, and the proposal was dropped, the Battalion continuing to exist as infantry, and becoming the only infantry battalion in Lanarkshire.

A commanding officer and an adjutant were now appointed, as also a permanent staff, when the work of reorganization was taken in hand.

The four companies were now established as under :—

“A,” headquarters at Hamilton, and detachments at Larkhall and Blantyre.

“B” at Motherwell.

“C,” headquarters at Bothwell, and detachments at Uddingston and Bellshill.

“D,” headquarters at Shotts, and detachments at Newmains and Wishaw.

The 6th Battalion now formed part of the 156th (West Scottish) Infantry Brigade of the 52nd (Lowland) Division, and at the first training since the war, held in July, 1921, the Battalion was in the very satisfactory position of being practically at full strength, with machine gun, signalling, and transport sections, and complete pipe and silver bands, making it the strongest battalion in the division.

THE 7TH BATTALION.

On July 29th, 1859, at a public meeting held in Glasgow and presided over by the Provost, it was decided to form a Volunteer Corps for the south side of the city of Glasgow. Some 60 recruits were almost immediately enlisted; drill was commenced, and official recognition applied for. The unit was finally accepted by the authorities on September 9th, and was initially known as the Southern Rifle Corps, being numbered third in seniority in the County of Lanark.

On October 14th of this year Her Majesty Queen Victoria opened the Corporation Waterworks at Loch Katrine, when the Battalion was the first Volunteer unit to provide a guard of honour for the reigning sovereign. On this occasion His Royal Highness The Prince Consort expressed “his surprise and great satisfaction at the appearance they made, and the proficiency attained in so short a time.”

Early in 1860 the 3rd, 10th, 14th, 22nd, 54th, 78th, 82nd and 87th Companies were incorporated into one battalion, known thereafter as the 3rd Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers. It is worthy of note that when formed originally the 87th Company mentioned above was composed exclusively of surviving veterans of the various Volunteer corps raised in Glasgow during the Napoleonic wars.

The Battalion, now formed, was easily maintained at full strength, although at the outset every man was called upon to provide his own arms, clothing and equipment, at a cost of about £8 per head. The uniform was originally dark grey with a cap, then scarlet with shako, and later still, scarlet with Royal blue facings and helmet.

During the South African War the Battalion supplied its full quota to each of the three Volunteer contingents sent out to the 2nd Battalion in South Africa, thus earning the Honour “South Africa, 1899-1902.”

As a Volunteer unit the Battalion was ever distinguished for its high standard of rifle shooting, and had on two occasions the honour of winning the Queen’s Cup.

In 1908 the Battalion was transferred to the Territorial Force as the

7th Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), when it adopted the uniform and organization of the line battalions.

The 7th Battalion mobilized for the Great War on August 4th, 1914, spent the greater part of the first nine months of the war period at Grangemouth, and then proceeded by train to Liverpool, there embarking on May 24th, 1915, in the *Empress of Britain* for "an unknown destination" the half-way house for which turned out to be Alexandria. This was reached on June 4th and the troops were disembarked, but their stay in Egypt was a very brief one, and the Battalion was almost immediately re-embarked, eventually landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula on June 13th and 14th. The Battalion was now in the 156th Brigade of the 52nd Division, and within a fortnight of landing found itself engaged in one of the very fiercest of all the desperate actions fought during this campaign, and experienced heavy losses. These were, indeed, so severe, and the prospects of early and adequate reinforcements seemed so remote, that on July 1st the 7th was formed with the 8th Battalion of the Cameronians into a composite battalion, the two only being able between them to provide three complete companies.

July 12th saw this combined unit once more heavily engaged, and again was serious loss experienced in both officers and men; the infantry were called upon in both these actions to assault positions which were naturally of great strength and which had been fortified with real skill, while the artillery support rendered was quite inadequate, so that the comparative success achieved under such conditions was truly remarkable. From this time until November 15th there were no outstanding engagements, only a continuous round of trench warfare; but the general conditions of service on the Peninsula were such as to call for endurance of no common kind, and the many casualties sustained at the hands of the enemy were constantly being added to by disease. When on the night of January 8th, 1916, the Gallipoli Peninsula was at last evacuated, the 7th Battalion formed part of the rearguard, and held a portion of the front line trenches at Cape Helles until the end, the last party leaving for the beach at 11.45 p.m., and getting safely away in a destroyer in the early hours of the 9th January.

A short time was spent at Mudros, and then the Battalion left for Egypt, staying a few weeks in Cairo to refit, and opportunity was here taken of again forming the 7th and 8th Battalions into separate units. In the middle of February the 7th was sent to Kantara on the Suez Canal and during the next six months much was done in building defences on the line which was held from Romani to the sea. Here the Turks attacked on August 4th, and the Battalion, with the 8th, led the counter-attack whereby the defeat of the enemy was turned into a rout, the Turks losing many men in killed, wounded, and captured, with much war material.

The success gained was followed up, and by the end of the year the British forces had reached El Arish, the advance being regulated by the need of laying the railway in rear, and of establishing a pipe-line to convey water to the troops across the desert.

In the first battle of Gaza, fought on March 26th, 1917, the Division was in reserve, and the 7th Battalion was consequently not very seriously engaged, while in the second battle fought some weeks later, only

slight casualties were incurred. In the course of the five months that followed there was no general action, but there were many encounters with enemy patrols. In the third battle of Gaza, however, the Battalion was allotted the important task of seizing Umbrella Hill, a strong point which the Turks had occupied and strengthened for flanking their other trenches. Great skill was shown in the attack on this position, especially in avoiding the minefields which the enemy had prepared. The attack, launched late on the night of November 1st, reached its objective within thirty minutes, and the position was consolidated and held until the Turks evacuated Gaza six days later.

The British took up the pursuit of the enemy, and during the rest of the month the 7th Battalion was constantly marching and fighting; it was engaged at Burkah, at Nebi Samwil, and in the attack on El Jib, being then relieved and sent back towards Ramleh, there to rest and refit. But while marching rearwards the enemy made a very determined attack on the thinly-guarded British communications, and the brigade containing the Battalion had some severe fighting near El Tahta.

Then followed a comparatively quiet time, passed in holding the line in front of Jaffa, varied by periods in billets in Saronah—the first experience of billets since leaving Grangemouth in May, 1915. Then on December 20th the Battalion took part in the crossing of the River Auja, two companies of the 7th being the first to cross, and covering the building of a bridge by which the remainder of the Brigade effected the passage of the river.

The situation on the Western Front following upon the early success of the German offensive in March, 1918, induced the authorities to withdraw as many troops as could by any possibility be spared from the less vitally important theatres of war and transfer them to France and Flanders, and on April 11th the 52nd Division sailed from Alexandria, reaching Marseilles on the 17th. On arrival in France some few days were spent re-equipping, refitting and training for the different conditions here prevailing, but early in May the Division commenced moving to the Vimy area, where it remained until the middle of August, when it was sent to the neighbourhood of Aubigny where an attack was in active preparation. This took place to the south of Mercatel on August 23rd, and the Battalion had many casualties, but materially assisted in breaking the so-called Siegfried Line, hitherto deemed impregnable. There was renewed fighting on September 1st, Quéant being occupied and the advance continuing until the 4th, when the Division was withdrawn from the immediate front.

By September 15th the Division was again in action about Mœuvres, when the fighting was of an especially desperate character, the German commander here realizing that the loss of his position would jeopardize the whole line. Early on the morning of the 27th the Battalion took part in the opening of the attack on the defences of the Canal du Nord, this obstacle being passed before 10 a.m., and all objectives reached by the afternoon. Here many losses were inflicted on the enemy, many guns of different calibre being captured, and numbers of prisoners and huge quantities of military stores of all kinds fell into our hands.

For upwards of a fortnight the Division was again in reserve, but



[Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.

8TH BN. CAMERONIANS (SCOTTISH RIFLES), GALLIPOLI, AUGUST 13TH, 1915.

"The CamerONIANS commenced to advance with the bayonet—864 Turks surrendered to the 8th CamerONIANS. This was the end of von Krenstein's

October 19th found it on the move and in hot pursuit of the retreating enemy. The end was now very near, and on November 10th and 11th the 7th Cameronians attacked and took Herchies, six miles north-west of Mons, capturing 2 machine guns and 17 prisoners.

Shortly before 11 a.m. that morning a telegram came to hand which announced that "Hostilities will cease at 11.00 hours."

THE 8TH BATTALION.

Various corps of Volunteers have at different times been raised and trained in this country when it was at war with foreign countries and invasion threatened, but it was not until the middle of the last century was passed that the force, now formed into the Territorial Army, was established on a sound and permanent basis.

In May of the year 1859 several meetings were held in Glasgow to promote the Volunteer movement, but the Government of the day was unwilling to incur any serious expense, and at first would not promise to do more for its Volunteer troops than to provide rifles for 25 per cent. only of the enrolled strength of corps.

The northern district of the city of Glasgow was forward in the movement, and the 1st Northern, afterwards "A" Company of the 4th Lanark, was the fourth company to be formed, its captain being Captain F. Fyfe-Jamieson, afterwards colonel of the Battalion; this company was wholly self-supporting, but it was realized that many eminently desirable recruits were prevented from joining by reason of the cost of such service, and a fund was then raised to assist the enrolment and equipment of men of the artisan class, and with the help of this fund the 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, and 13th Lanark Companies came into being.

The uniform at this time was dark grey.

Before the end of 1859 these various companies were formed into battalions, and the Northern Battalion was first known as the 4th Lanarkshire (Glasgow 1st Northern) Battalion, Colonel John Tennant being the first commanding officer. Later on other Volunteer battalions being associated with the Regular units of Territorial regiments, it became the 4th Volunteer Battalion The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

In 1900 and 1901 the Battalion, like others, helped to make up the Service Companies which were attached to the 2nd Battalion in South Africa, and in 1903 the uniform was changed to that of the Service dress of the Regular battalions, with a slouch hat and plume. Then, under the Haldane scheme of Army reorganization, on March 31st, 1908, the transfer to the Territorial Force took place, when the old 4th Lanark became the 8th Battalion of the Regiment.

When the Great War broke out in August, 1914, the 8th Battalion was at once mobilized, and, after some months of training in the Falkirk-Larbert area and on the Tay defences, it embarked on May 17th, 1915, for Gallipoli, being now in the 156th Brigade of the 52nd Division. The Battalion landed at Helles on the night of June 12th and 13th, 1915, and, after losing its commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Harman, who was killed by a "sniper" on the 22nd, it took part with the 29th Division in the action of Gully Ravine on June 28th, when it experienced grievous losses, 24 officers and over 400 other ranks becoming

casualties. Thereafter the 8th was amalgamated, as already stated, with the 7th Battalion, which had suffered equally severely. The combined Battalion fought in the actions of July 12th and 13th and of November 15th and 16th, in both of which it distinguished itself. At the evacuation of the Peninsula the Battalion was the rearguard of the 52nd Division.

After the arrival in Egypt the 8th Battalion became in February, 1916, once more a separate unit, now under the command of Acting-Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Coulson, but in June Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Findlay, who had been severely wounded at the Helles action a year previously, rejoined and assumed command.

The Battalion, at a strength of under 300 rifles, was engaged at Romani and did excellently in the decisive counter-attack, and had 12 killed and some 30 wounded. In the autumn began the march into Palestine, when the border village of El Arish was occupied by the 156th Brigade on December 22nd. At the first battle of Gaza in March, 1916, the Division was in reserve, but in the second fought in the month following the Battalion played a conspicuous part and suffered over 230 casualties, while in the third battle of November the Battalion was engaged in the attack on Umbrella Hill and on El Arish Redoubt, the Brigade being lent for the operations to the 54th Division.

Thereafter the Battalion was concerned in the very strenuous campaign culminating in the capture of Jerusalem in December, 1916, fighting at Wadi Hesi, Burkah, Mansura, Nebi Samwil, and Beit Sir, and suffering nearly 400 casualties in two months. Reinforcements arriving it then took part in the forcing of the passage of the Auja River, capturing many Turks and much war material and stores.

In April, 1918, under circumstances already previously described, the Battalion embarked at Alexandria for France, and ultimately found itself in trenches in front of Vimy, relieving here Canadian troops. In June the Battalion was transferred to the 103rd Brigade of the re-formed 34th Division in Belgium, where the Battalion was to have relieved a unit in front of Ypres, but the whole Division was suddenly sent south to take part with the Vth French Army near Soissons in the victorious advance of July. The Battalion was engaged at Beugneux suffering heavy losses. It then returned to the northern theatre and pursued the enemy through Kemmel and across the Canal du Nord, and was engaged at Gheluvelt just as the Armistice was announced.

In 1919 the 8th was one of the battalions selected to form the Army of Occupation in Germany, and was employed on the Cologne bridge-head for the prevention of smuggling. It then was sent to Königshafen, and in September, 1919, proceeded to the Curragh, Ireland, where its demobilization was completed on November 11th, after having been four and a half years on active service and having sustained nearly 2,000 casualties, of which about one-third was killed or missing or died of wounds.

CHAPTER VI.

THE SERVICE BATTALIONS.

THE 9TH BATTALION.

WHEN soon after the declaration of war against Germany Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener assumed control of the War Office, he at once grasped the pressing need for immediate and immense augmentation of the Army, and, after mature consideration, he decided against either the expansion of the Special Reserve or the use of the existing organization of the Territorial Force, for the reasons in the one case that the Special Reserve units were too few and too small for the construction of the 100 Divisions the Field-Marshal had in view, and in the other that the existing framework seemed inadequate for his purpose. He therefore decided to create new Divisions, while retaining the Special Reserve for its original functions, and fostering the training, recruiting, and reduplication of the Territorial Force ; the new Divisions were to be contained in armies each of 100,000 men.

While therefore the units of the Territorial Force were preparing themselves for war, the creation of the New Armies proceeded with remarkable smoothness and despatch. On August 8th, 1914, Lord Kitchener issued an appeal for 100,000 men, and within a fortnight this number was actually in camp, the recruits, however, coming in more quickly than arms, clothing, or equipment could be provided. Lord Kitchener's call received nowhere a more hearty response than in the Lowlands of Scotland, and about August 20th a 9th Battalion Scottish Rifles was formed and was training at Bordon under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Northey ; it formed one of the battalions of the 28th Infantry Brigade of the 9th (Scottish) Division.

Training was carried on under very great difficulties ; instructors were few, and arms and equipment were hard to come by, but the extraordinary cheerfulness and keenness of all ranks helped much in overcoming all difficulties in preparation for taking the field in France, where the 9th Division finally landed on May 12th—the first of the New Army divisions to join the expeditionary force.

Almost the first station of the 9th Battalion was Meteren, and here it was attached to the 1st Battalion, then in the line east of Armentières, for instruction in trench warfare, and it was not until July that the Battalion was employed at the front, taking over a sector of the line near Festubert ; later the Division moved to the vicinity of Béthune, and eventually took over the line in front of Cambrai, where preparations were being pushed forward to take part in a battle in which the 9th Scottish Rifles were to play an active and important rôle. Preceded by four days of a heavy bombardment, the infantry battle began on

September 25th, the Battalion supporting the 10th Highland Light Infantry. But many difficulties were met; gas had been set going prior to the infantry advance, and this caused many casualties, while it was found that the British shells had not found the enemy barbed wire, and this remained intact. Casualties mounted up, little or no progress was made, and the coming of night found the survivors holding the original line—undismayed, their *morale* unimpaired, and only hoping that with the darkness they might achieve what had been denied them in daylight.

Every officer of the Battalion who had "gone over the top" was either killed or wounded, and the losses in other ranks ran into hundreds.

Hardly had the 9th Scottish Rifles had time to lick their wounds than they found themselves in the Ypres salient, that place of mud and misery, and here the Battalion remained until the end of 1915, and from here they had a long and toilsome march to the trenches about Dickebusch where the conditions were little if anything better, spending Christmas about Strazeele.

In the spring of 1916 the Battalion, now commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A. Fulton, was transferred to the 27th Infantry Brigade with which it took part in the Somme battle, commencing on July 1st, the 9th Scottish Rifles taking over and consolidating the defences of Montauban and remaining in action until the end of the month, when there remained but a skeleton of the Battalion which had gone into action on July 1st. The 9th Division was commended by the General Officer Commanding Fourth Army, who wrote: "*The attack and capture of the hostile second line system of defence and the village of Longueval was a feat of arms which will rank high amongst the best military achievements of the British Army.*"

During August the Battalion held part of the line on Vimy Ridge, but in the beginning of October it was back again in the Somme area, the front taken over by the 9th Division being in the neighbourhood of the Butte de Warlencourt—the whole region a scene of desolation created by many months of intense warfare. The roads here were deep in mud, and great difficulty was experienced in getting the transport along, the weather was wretched, rain falling incessantly, and the discomfort occasioned the troops was terrible. Then followed a brief rest about St. Pol, after which, towards the end of November, the Division moved to Arras and took over a sector of the line in front of St. Nicolas, remaining here all through the winter and up to the commencement of the battle which opened on April 9th, 1917.

This sector had the reputation of being a "quiet" one, but when once battalions had become established very little rest was given the enemy, who, finding his peace disturbed, retaliated in kind. Raids were the outstanding feature of the stay of the Battalion here; it was looked upon almost as a matter of ordinary routine that the German trenches should be raided once at least during each tour of trench duty, and many prisoners were taken, while casualties on our side were comparatively few. By far the most notable of these "alarms and excursions" was the daylight raid, which is here depicted, and which was carried out by the Battalion on February 14th. The scheme was devised by Major M. M. Forsyth, M.C., and 20 officers and 320 men took part in the



[Reproduced from painting by H. Oakes-Jones.

10TH BN CAMERONIANS (SCOTTISH RIFLES) (FIRST DAYLIGHT RAID) APRIL 1917

operation, which began at 11 a.m. and was crowned with the success its careful organization merited. Many Germans were killed and 43 captured, together with 3 machine guns, 1 trench mortar, and many rifles. The Battalion had 2 killed, 15 wounded, and 1 missing.

Congratulatory messages poured in upon the Battalion, and the Commander-in-Chief wired : "*Congratulate the 9th (Scottish) Division and particularly the 9th Scottish Rifles on the success of their raid carried out on the 14th.*"

In the British offensive which opened early in April and in the subsequent fighting which endured up to the middle of June the Battalion saw much fighting and suffered many casualties.

During August the Battalion spent a comparatively quiet time in the line near Havrincourt Wood, and then, moving to Ypres, took part under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel W. Lumsden, M.C., in the Passchendaele battle of mid-September, wherein, despite the dreadful conditions and the very heavy going, the Battalion gained all its objectives and while the actual extent of ground captured was inconsiderable, the action was the first to reap good results against the pill-box system of German defence. The Battalion was again concerned in the sequel to this battle early in October, and on the Division being withdrawn and leaving the Fifth Army, the commander congratulated all ranks of it "*on the very notable success achieved on September 20th, and the gallant part played during the severe fighting on October 12th.*"

When early in 1918 brigades were all reduced from four to three battalions, the 9th Battalion found itself transferred to the 14th Division, which it joined at Jussy, not far from the junction of the British and French Armies, and here carried out another successful raid, in which, however, that very gallant officer, Major Forsyth, was mortally wounded.

When the great German offensive opened on March 21st, 1918, the Battalion was in reserve at Montenescourt, but its services were soon called for, and it was fighting constantly until withdrawn from the line about April 8th near Villers Bretonneux, the losses in killed, wounded, and missing being very heavy. At the end of this month the 9th Battalion returned to the 9th Division and rejoined the 12th Brigade, taking part with it in the attack on Wytschaete and in the operations near Meteren.

The Battalion then entered upon the final phase of the fighting about Ypres and continued in the field until October 25th, when, by reason of the losses sustained, the Battalion was withdrawn with the 9th Division from the line, being then at a strength of some 200 bayonets only. This was the last operation of the war in which the 9th Battalion took part, for as it was returning to the front again on November 10th news came in that an Armistice was in course of being arranged. The 9th Division was the only New Army division which formed part of the British Army of Occupation in Germany.

THE 10TH BATTALION.

September 27th, 1914, forms something of a landmark in the regimental history of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), for on that day there assembled at Bordon one officer, Lieutenant and Quartermaster F. R. H. Needham, and a collection of civilians garbed in every conceivable costume military

and otherwise—mostly otherwise. To Colonel A. V. Ussher was committed the task of training this keen and cheery crowd of Lowland Scots, with a sprinkling of Lancastrians and Yorkshiremen, and to the success which attended his efforts this brief record bears witness.

So long as the 10th Battalion existed, that is, for the duration of the war, it formed part of the 15th (Scottish) Division, serving at Loos, Arras, the Somme, Ypres, the defence of Arras, Buzancy, and in the final advance, and in all these the 10th Battalion played a very distinguished part.

In the Battle of Loos the Battalion lost 15 officers and 260 non-commissioned officers and men in killed alone; badly wounded on this occasion, Colonel Ussher came back in April, 1916, to lead his men to further successes on the Somme, where the 10th Battalion had a large share in the capture of Martinpuich on September 15th. His wound continuing to trouble him, Colonel Ussher was obliged to resign the command in the early winter of this year, and was succeeded by Captain Stanley Clarke from the 2nd Battalion of the Regiment.

March, 1917, found the 15th Division about Arras, preparing for the spring offensive which was to open on April 9th, and on that day the 9th and 15th Divisions, both Scottish, and each including battalions of the Regiment, attacking on both sides of the Scarpe River, bit deeply into the German line, while the 10th Battalion captured 13 German field guns, one of which is now at the Regimental Depot at Hamilton. On this occasion also Captain D. A. Foulis was given the immediate award of the D.S.O. for conspicuous skill and gallantry in leading his company. The Battalion took part in the Third Battle of Ypres, which began at the end of August of this year, when the fighting was of a very desperate character, and the 10th suffered severely. Many fine deeds were done, and especially conspicuous were the services of Captain McCall, already in possession of the D.C.M. and M.M., and of Battalion Sergeant-Major Grant, who received the Military Cross and clasp thereto respectively.

The winter was spent in Arras, and the 15th Division was one of those which helped to hold back the German onslaught of March, 1918, the 10th Battalion at the outset in brigade support repulsed all attacks, while "C" Company greatly distinguished itself by a very gallant counter-attack led by Captain Munro. Late in the day Captain McCall was killed. In December, 1919, Field-Marshal Earl Haig, speaking at a public meeting in Edinburgh, made special reference to this counter-attack.

In July four British Divisions, of which the 15th was one, assisted the French in launching the counter-stroke between Soissons and Rheims, and the 10th Battalion took a very active part in the fighting round Buzancy, where the French have erected a monument on the spot where lay the body of the Scottish soldier who had penetrated the farthest into the enemy position. On the monument is inscribed in French: "Here the glorious thistle of Scotland will forever bloom amidst the roses of France."

The last day's fighting in this sector was signalized by the outstanding gallantry of Private Owenson, a stretcher-bearer of "A" Company of the Battalion, who gained the D.C.M. and the French Medaille Militaire.

THE 11TH BATTALION.

The *11th Battalion* Scottish Rifles was sent to Salonika late in 1915 in the 77th Brigade of the 26th Division, and served throughout the campaign in that very trying theatre of war, where, if the losses by the hand of the enemy were not so heavy as in France, and the Bulgarians were not so skilled in war nor so well provided with its most modern and most devilish appliances as were their allies on the Western Front, the climate was especially malarious, the men were not in all respects so well cared for, and there were very few opportunities for leave.

The 11th Battalion took part in the attack upon and capture of the enemy positions on the Doiran front that opened the road into Bulgaria, pursuing the enemy up to the banks of the Danube, and clearing the whole country south of the Balkans. The good work done by the Battalion was recognized in a special complimentary order issued by the General Commanding-in-Chief the British forces in Macedonia.

OTHER BATTALIONS.

As the war went on other battalions were raised from time to time, and rendered valuable service in many ways abroad and on the home front. A 12th Battalion was raised in June, 1915, afterwards becoming the 56th Training Reserve Battalion, and later the 52nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

The 13th Battalion came into existence in August, 1915, and was after a time amalgamated with the 14th Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

The 14th (Labour) Battalion served with credit in the war on the Western Front, and later became part of the Labour Corps.

The 15th Battalion was raised in January, 1917, and served to the end of the war, while a 16th and 17th (Transport) Battalions were also raised early in the same year and did good service overseas. The 18th was created in June, 1918, and provided much needed reinforcements for the British Army, while a 20th (Transport) Battalion was raised just before the war ended. Finally, the 1st Garrison Battalion, created in February, 1916, was sent to India, serving there with credit until 1919.



CHAPTER VII.

THE Memorial erected in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow, to the memory of the 7,074 officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men who fell in the Great War was unveiled by Field-Marshal the Earl Haig, K.T., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., on August 9th, 1924.

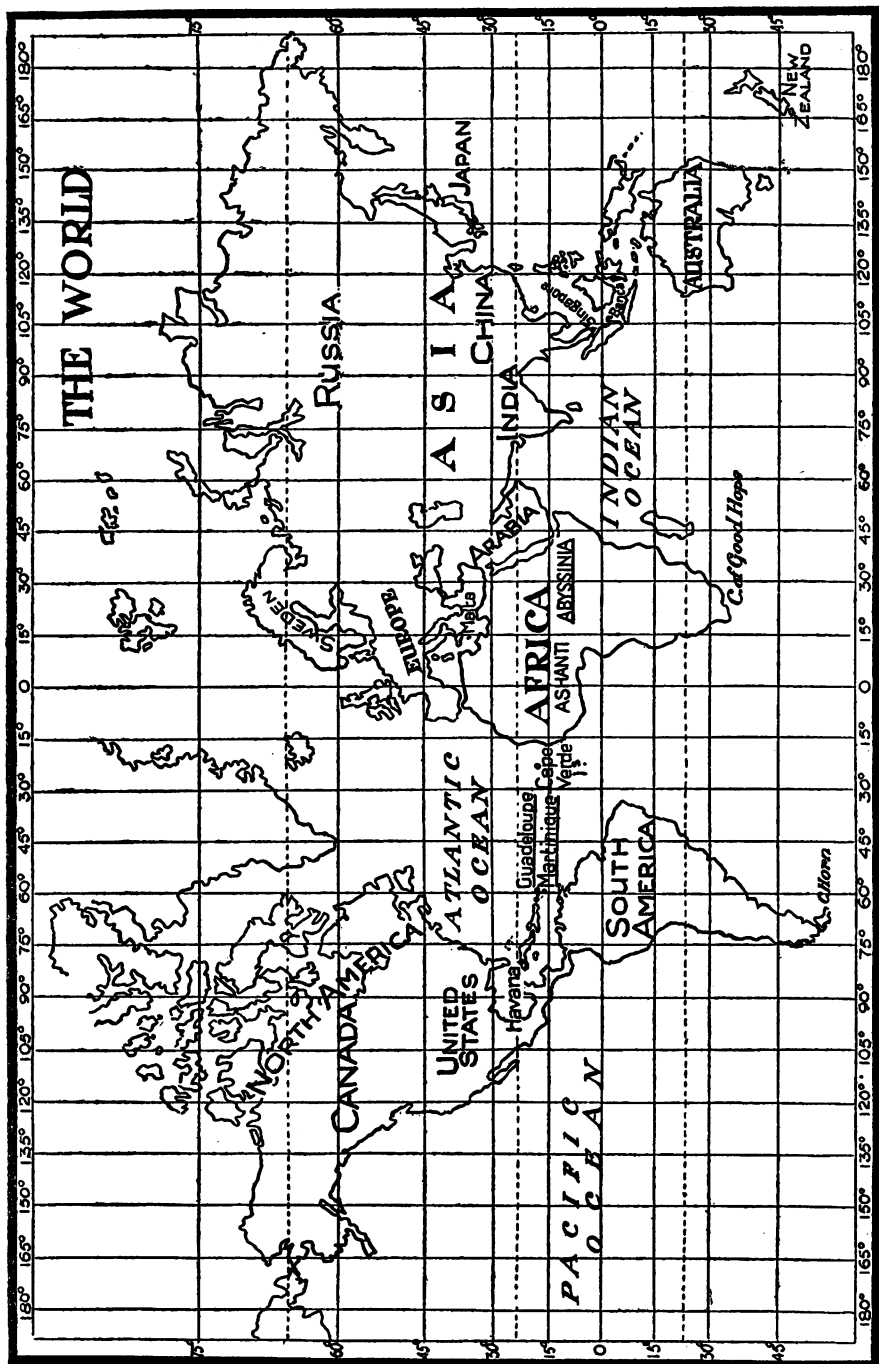
Earl Haig, speaking from the special platform from which his speech was broadcast, said :—" As a Lowland Scot, it is with a full heart and deep sense of pride and gratitude that I am here this afternoon to unveil this memorial to the heroism of more than 7,000 men who in the Great War fell in the ranks of your famous Lowland Regiment. The thought of that great number of brave men, most of them young, many of them only on the threshold of life, yet each lost to home and kindred amid the suffering and tragedy of war, is a sad and terrible one. But with that thought goes another; the thought that, as our fathers in days long past were content to give up all, even life itself, for the sake of the faith that was in them, so in this present generation men of the same old Lowland Scottish stock went out in their thousands, and in their thousands gave their lives for their faith in the freedom of nations, and for liberty and justice among men. By this memorial we know, and generations to come after us will learn, that the spirit of the " Lion of the Covenant " still lives in this corner of Scotland, where he died, and among the regiment that bears his name. That is indeed a thought of which we may be proud. The long history of this ancient regiment is full of splendid episodes of courage and devotion. From Dunkeld to Blenheim, from Gibraltar to Corunna, officers and men of the Cameronians have set a high and difficult standard to those to whom they handed on in turn the splendid traditions of the past. But we can feel that (noble as the examples set them may have been) the men whose names this monument commemorates, and their living comrades now amongst us, proudly and triumphantly upheld in the greatest crisis of our country's story the honour of their regiment.

" Mons gives answer to Corunna, and on many a hard fought battlefield in France and Flanders, in Gallipoli, Palestine, and Macedonia, the dour and stubborn courage that at Dunkeld changed the fate of nations, and at Gibraltar held for Britain the chief gateway of the seas, found their living counterparts. The battle honours of the Cameronians in the Great War are worthy to rank with those older battle honours, on which the glorious reputation of the Regiment was founded and built up. No matter which battalion you take, the old 26th Regiment of the line, the old 90th Perthshire Light Infantry, the Territorial Battalions, or the Service Battalions of the New Army, at Mons, Le Cateau, and the Marne, at Neuve Chapelle and Rosières, at Arras and Epéhy, at the breaking of

the Drocourt-Quéant line, and at the storming of the Canal du Nord the story is the same, and the splendour of it can never be surpassed. In that proud story, and in the thought that those who fought and died so bravely in the making of it did not sacrifice themselves in vain, I trust that consolation may be found by those relations and friends who mourn their loss. No men more truly or more bravely earned the gratitude, affection, and reverence of their fellow countrymen. It is our duty to keep their memory green among us, and to strive to preserve and to hand on to those who shall come after us the spirit that inspired them. To that end you have set up this memorial, that it may speak to the hearts of the living and stir the imagination and awake the generous emulation of generations yet unborn. It has been suggested that as a reverent tribute to their dead and as an acknowledgment of the debt which their comrades owe them, there should be an annual ceremony at this memorial, at which living members of the Regiment should attend. If such an arrangement is at all possible I hope it will be carried out and will become a part of Cameronian tradition. But though such formal and solemn acts have great value in keeping high ideals before the minds of men, there is another and more human influence which should not be forgotten. This monument and the memorial tablet in "Cameronian Corner" forms only a part of the memorial scheme by which it is hoped to commemorate for ever the achievements of the Regiment in the Great War. There is also that part of the scheme which is intended to minister directly to the welfare of ex-Service comrades of the Regiment, men who served with it in all theatres of the war and share its glory.

✓ "The proposal to found a regimental memorial club in Glasgow is a project which I trust will not be allowed to sleep, but which will be aided generously and wholeheartedly by all who can afford to help. I am quite sure that such an institution would be welcomed by the many ex-Service men in this great city, and would give most excellent results. I hope that this remaining part of the scheme will speedily be carried out. One effect I am sure it would have; it would help to stimulate interest here, in the heart of the country of the old Scottish Covenanters who followed Richard Cameron, in the famous regiment which his inspiration founded. If our Lowland Scottish regiments are to preserve their old-time character and renown, they must be recruited here in the Lowlands among men of our own kin. We are too proud of the traditions of our regiments to let them rest in other hands than ours. It is for us and for our own children to keep bright the honour and glory of the Lowland regiments of Scotland in which our comrades died."

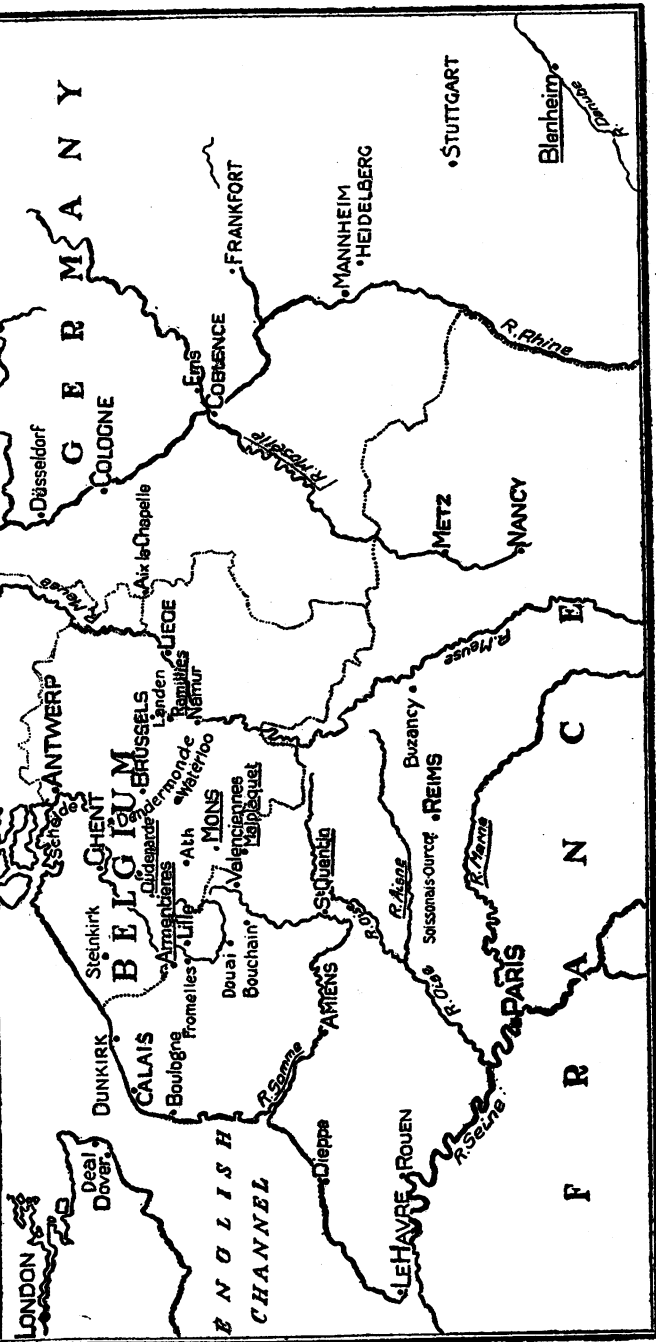
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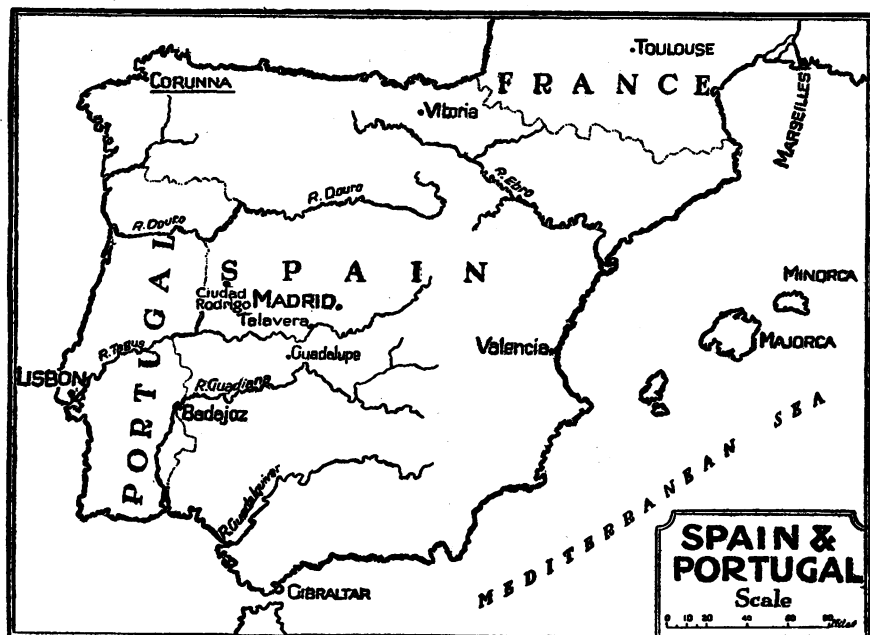
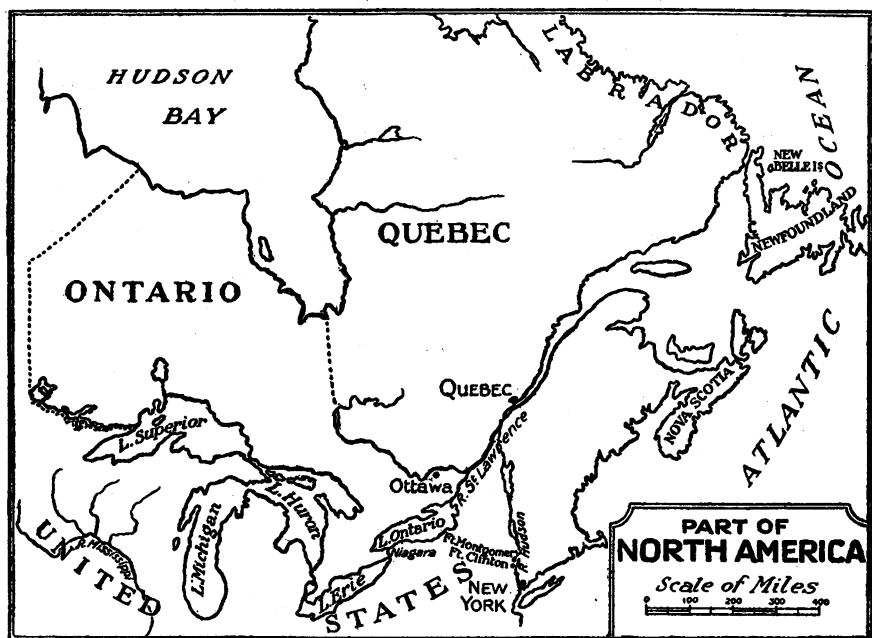


PART OF EUROPE

Showing the Campaigns of
the Duke of Marlborough and
the Duke of the Great War. 1914-18

Scale of Miles





INDIA

Scale



PART OF
CHINA

SHANG-HAI

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CHINA

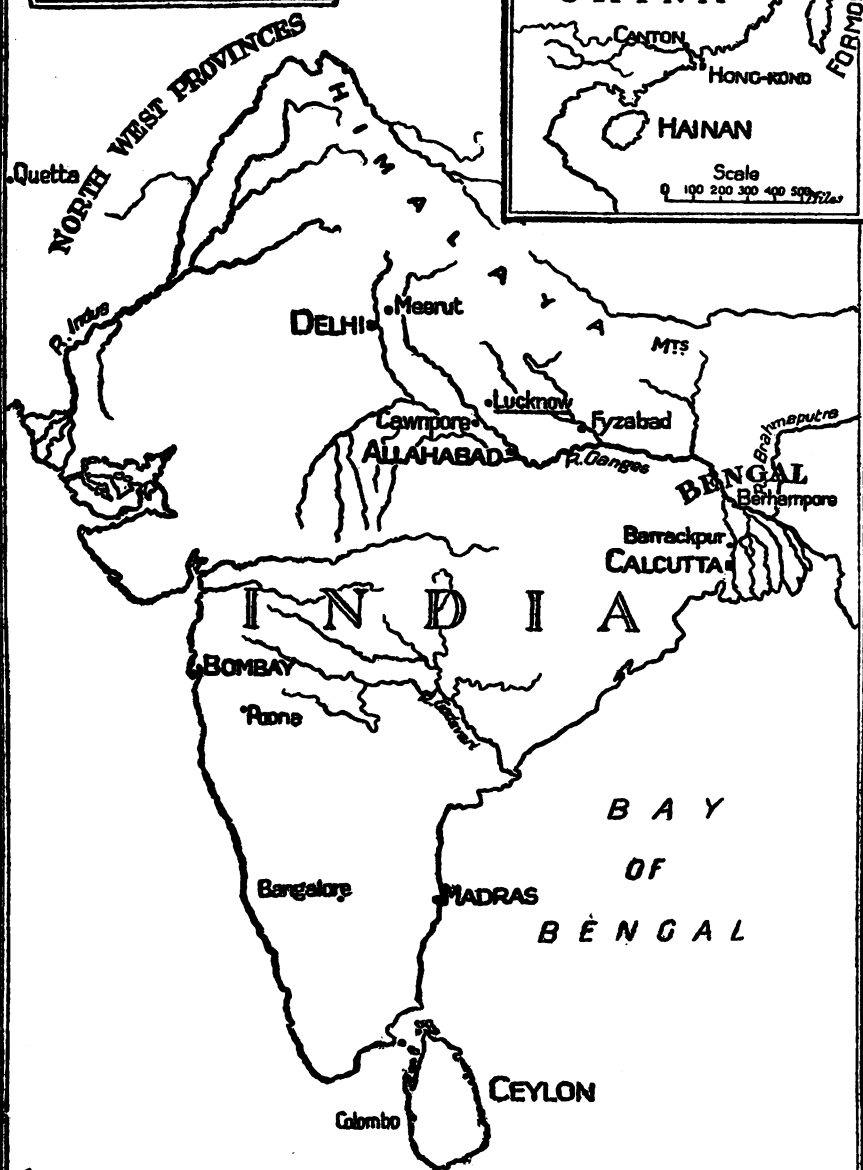
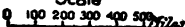
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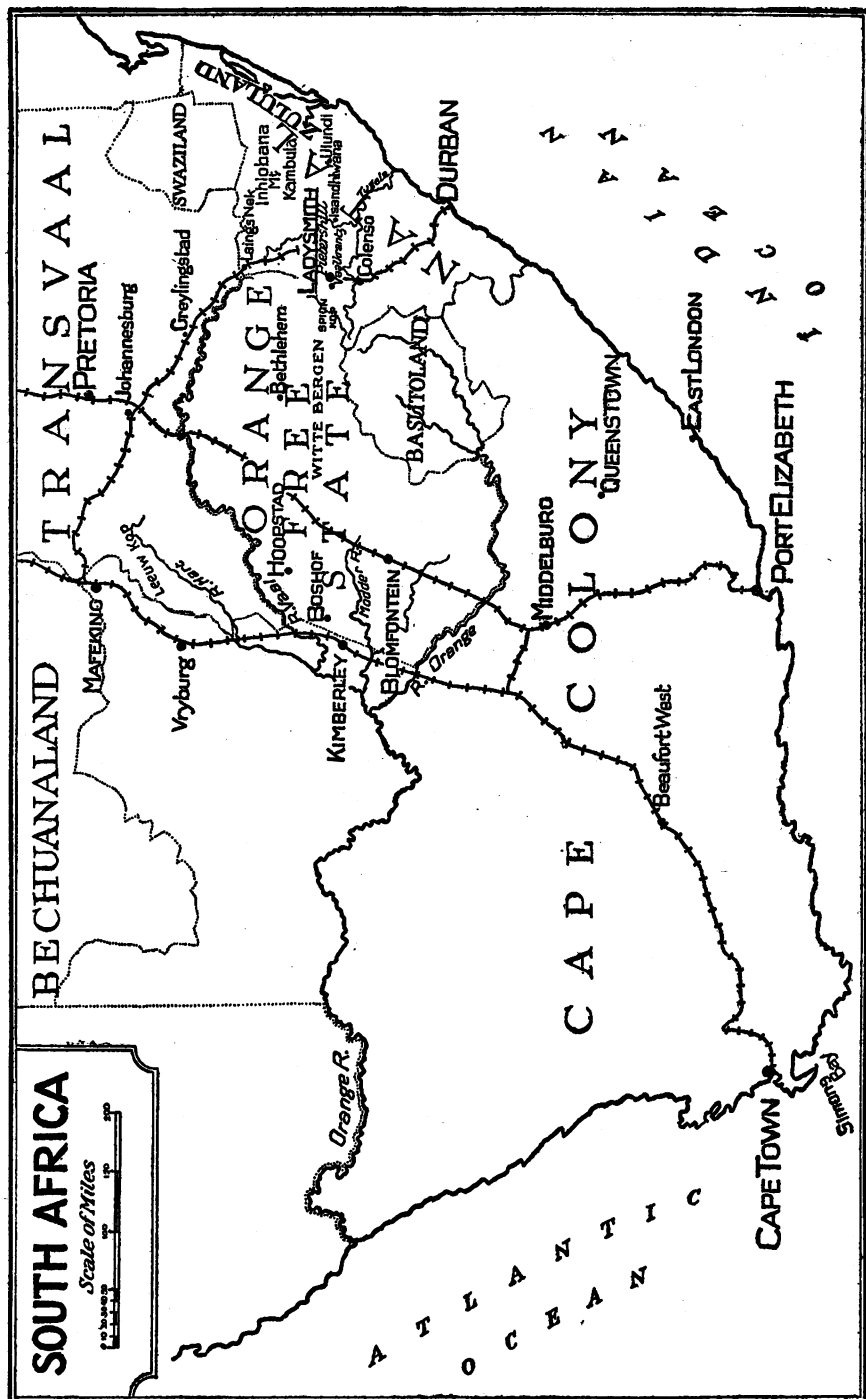
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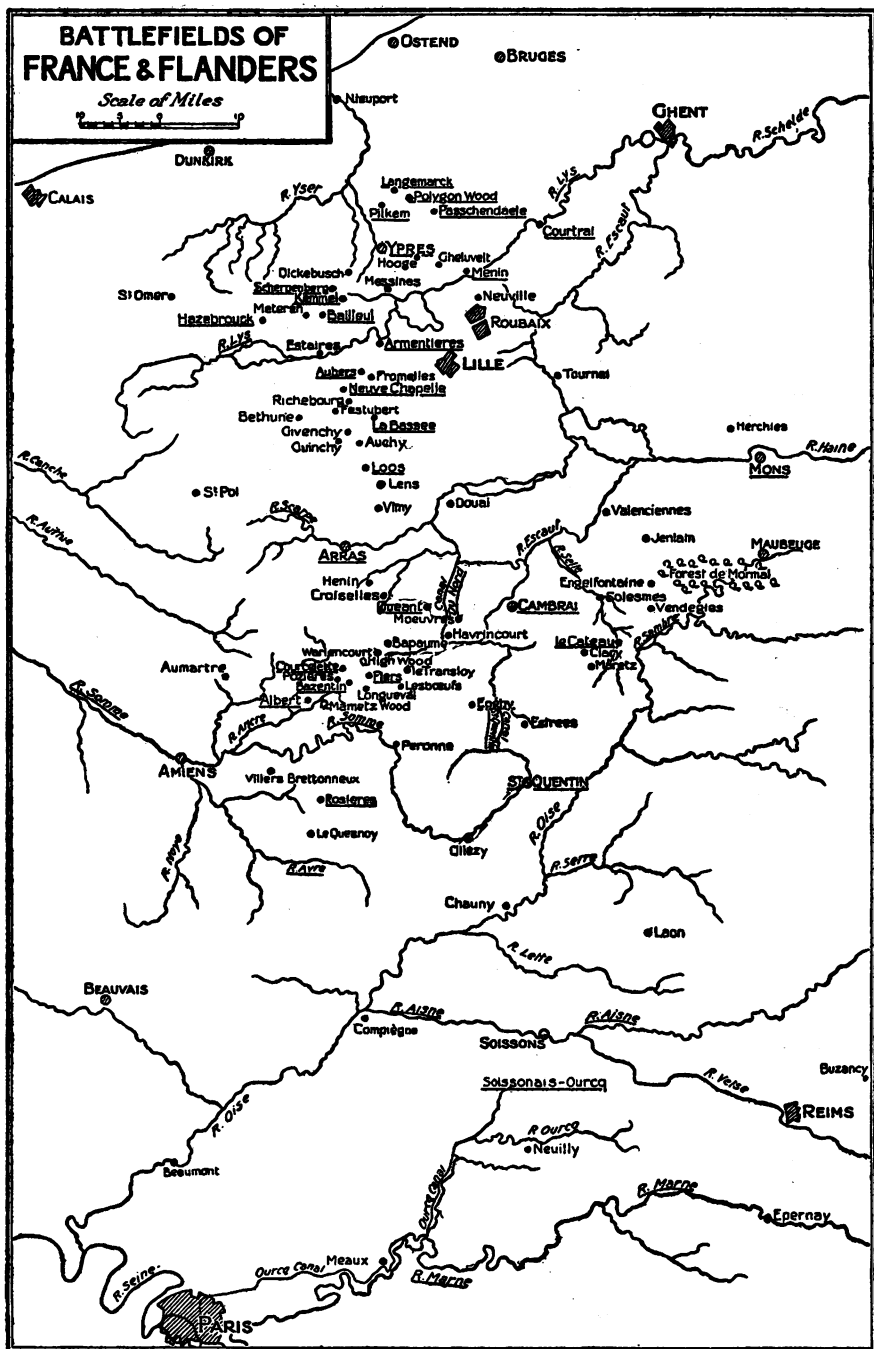
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Scale







MACEDONIA, GALLIPOLI, PALESTINE & EGYPT

Scale of Miles
0 50 100 200 300 400



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(Asterisk denotes *Battle Honour*.)

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