WHAT ARE THEY NOW ?

A History of the British Regiments

Contents

The Way the Army Works

With all the rumours that are floating around Whitehall at present and being repeated, and no doubt exaggerated, by the media, there is understandably a great deal of confusion amongst those members of the general public who have no military background knowledge as to just what is going on. Helping out in the advice centre at the Society of Genealogists' Fair recently I was constantly asked about the terms that are being used:

What is the difference between a regiment and a battalion? Is a brigade the same as a battalion? What is a division, and how can it become a brigade? So

- while I wait and see if we are going to lose any more regiments (which I am reasonably sure we will after the election, despite vigorous denials by Ministers but senior military sources saying it is inevitable), I will take a break from my series of articles on what has happened to all the old regiments we knew so well and try and explain the organisation.

The basic unit of the Army from its formation in 1660 has always been the Regiment. Indeed, long before we had a permanent army it was always the basic fighting unit. However, the size of the regiment varied enormously over the centuries - in *1645* Cromwell led regiments of 1,200 fighting men but, as more muskets became available, this was reduced to about 400. In Victorian times it was probably about 600-800. Today, many regiments only muster 400-500 effectives [servicemen equipped and ready for action]. The ordinary soldier has always given his loyalty first to his regiment, secondly to his Sovereign (who is Commander-in-Chief not, as many of the public believe, the government) and thirdly to his country.

In 1748 the regiments were given numbers in order of seniority. In 1783, the majority of infantry regiments were given county titles as well to try and improve recruiting by giving them a definite area. However, by 1879, this system, in all but a few cases, had foundered and the territorial titles were meaningless. Regiments had no permanent home in their so-called affiliated areas and were moved around the country in theft peacekeeping and anti-smuggling role, recruiting wherever they could. Regiments serving abroad often stayed there for 20 years or more, moving between the various stations in India, Australia, Canada and the other former colonies. They were fed with recruits from the home depot; this was usually where the regiment had last been stationed in Britain or Ireland and not necessarily in the county they had been given. Soldiers who, at that time, enlisted for 21 years were frequently persuaded, often by bribes, to transfer to the relieving regiment when thefts was posted home, although they could not be forced to do so.

In 1857, the first 25 regiments were doubled in size by organising them into two Battalions (the battalion may best be described as the fighting unit of the regiment; the word comes from the Latin word *batteure* - to strike).

The system was muddled and inefficient and when Edward Cardwell became Secretary of State for War in Gladstone's first government, he set about a wholesale reform of the Army. His first reorganisation in 1873 was to put the entire Army onto a two-battalion system. In future, one battalion would serve at home - providing the

training of recruits and the supply of replacements - and the other one overseas, with the soldiers being interchangeable between the two. The remainder of the regiments who only had one battalion were paired, and these pairings often led to subsequent amalgamations, as we have already seen in my articles.

Each regiment, where possible, was given a home county and a permanent depot with a clearly defined recruiting area; the depot also administered the local Militia, which became the 3rd Battalion and the Volunteers who became the 4th Battalion. This system, in the main, continued for the next 100 years or so and saw the Army through the next 40 years of campaigning - a very busy period which included the Ashanti, Kaffir, Afghan and Zulu Wars; the Egyptian Campaign of 1882 and the subsequent Relief of Khartoum; the 3rd Burma War; the Sudan Campaign and the Boer War and Boxer Rebellion. In times of great emergency, such as the 19 14-18 War, some regiments formed over 30 battalions. Within the battalion were up to four smaller units, called Companies, each of which had about 150 men.

When the Liberals returned to power in 1906, after a long period in opposition, the new War Minister, J B S Haldane, set about completing Cardwell's reforms in preparation for the European War he could see coming. He converted the Militia into the Special Reserve as reinforcements for the Regular Army in time of war, set up Officer Training Corps in the universities and leading schools and in 1908 amalgamated all the Volunteers and Yeomanry into a new Territorial Force, making them an integral part of the county regiments and bringing them up to the same standards of equipment and organisation. As a result of all these measures, when war did come in 1914, what the Kaiser disparagingly referred to as our "contemptible little army" was one of the best trained armies we have ever sent overseas.

In the bigger wars, regiments were grouped together in twos and threes into Brigades; Brigades similarly into Divisions; Divisions into Corps and Corps into Armies and, in the 1939-45 War, even Army Groups consisting of several armies. The constitution of each formation could vary from time to time according to need.

A division, which consisted of about 10,000 fighting men, also had its own artillery, engineers and other supporting units and could operate as a completely independent fighting force if necessary.

Many of these divisions bore famous names and that is what a lot of today's controversy is about, and particularly the rumoured amalgamation of the Highland and Lowland Brigades in Scotland. These are the descendants of two famous divisions - the 51st (Highland) Division who were abandoned at St Valery after Dunkirk and forced to surrender to overwhelming enemy forces, losing two brigades containing battalions of most of the famous Scottish regiments into captivity for the rest of the war - and the 52nd (Lowland) Division. A writer in a national daily newspaper recently pooh-poohed the whole idea of regimental and divisional loyalties, saying they were irrelevant - I suspect he was young and with no practical experience of soldiers, particularly Scottish soldiers! As a Scots MSP said Highlanders and Lowlanders are like chalk and cheese!

Army organisation is always shown in the form of a traditional family. Over the page is the command structure of 1st Corps when they went to France in August 1914.

Each battalion would have a head-quarters and four rifle companies with an establishment of 1,000, but an effective fighting strength of about 800 Each rifle company, in turn, would have four platoons, each consisting of four sections of 14 men
There have been, and I expect always will be other formations such as Battle Groups, and Special Forces such Chaytor's Force in the desert campaign, in 1916 (named after its commander Major General Chaytor), created *from* time to time as the need arose. But, at the end of the day, to the soldier's officer or other rank - it is the regiment that matters. •

BY lAIN SWINNERTON .

WHAT ARE THEY NOW ?

Part 1

The Infantry of the Line

The Infantry of the Line were so called to distinguish them from the Guards who are also Infantry just as the Cavalry were referred to as the Cavalry of the Line to distinguish them from the Cavalry Guards - the Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards.

Since the founding of the British Army in 1661, there have been 135 numbered regiments of Foot, although many had fairly short lives, having been raised for a particular campaign and then disbanded when it was over.

At first the marching regiments of foot were known by the name of their colonel unless they had a Royal title, but in 1751 they were given numbers in order of seniority. To these, in 1782, were added subsidiary titles denoting a territorial affiliation in an effort to aid recruiting, but this was not popular and was often ignored. As part of the Cardwell Reforms of 1881, however, these were made mandatory when the country was divided into 66 districts based on the county boundaries.

Each district contained a regimental depot whose function was to administer the Militia and Volunteer Battalions as well as the Regular regiments. In addition, with the exception of the 60th and 79th Regiments, all regiments from the 26th to the 109th were paired, each pair being allocated to a district, but kept their old titles for the time being (the 1st to the 25th Foot already had two battalions each). The idea was that one regiment should be based in the depot, providing recruits and training for the other regiment serving overseas.

After World War I, regiments were given the choice of changing their titles to show this territorial link and most did so. Sadly, at the same time the Army lost five of its Irish regiments with the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922.

We were then left with 64 regiments of infantry plus the Rifle Brigade - today we have just 24! Who are they, and where have the other 41 gone?

The senior infantry regiment in the British Army today is the old 1st of Foot, the Royal Scots, whose history I dealt with in my article on the Scottish regiments in the November 2000 issue of this magazine. Their proud title is The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

The next senior regiment is The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire's). They are descended from no fewer than 12 former separate regiments: the 2nd, 3rd, 31st, 35th, 37th, 50th, 57th, 67th, 70th, 77th, 97th and 107th Foot. Their history is so complex that they will require a special article to themselves, so for the moment I will pass on to the next senior regiment, originally numbered as the 4th of Foot.

They were raised by the Earl of Plymouth in 1680 as the 2nd Tangier Regiment, nicknamed The Tangerines, to reinforce the garrison of Tangier which we had acquired with Bombay and £300,000 as the dowry of Catherine of Braganza when

Some Regimental Badges

The Middlesex Reg

The Royal Sussex Reg

The Royal West Kent Reg

The Hampshire Reg

The Buffs Reg

The Royal West Surrey Reg

The East Surrey Reg

she married Charles II in 1662. In 1684 they were renamed the Duchess of York and Albany's Regiment and then became successively The Queen's Regiment (1685), The Queen Consort's Regiment (1688). The Queen's Marines (1702), the King's Own Regiment (1715) and finally numbered 4th or King's Own Regiment in 1751. On the adoption of territorial titles in 1881 they became the Royal Lancaster Regiment (King's Own) but changed their minds later that year and became the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) but were always known to the rest of the Army as just The King's Own. Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir John Salmond was first commissioned in this regiment in 1901.

The 34th Foot were raised in 1702 by Lord Lucas, then Lieutenant of the Tower of London, at Colchester and Norwich, from the men of Essex, Norfolk and surrounding counties. Despite this, in 1782, in typical Army fashion they were given the title of the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment of Foot!

The 57th Foot was originally raised at Stirling in 1755 by Colonel George Perry, but was renumbered 55th in 1757. In 1782 it was given the territorial designation of 55th (Westmoreland) Regiment of Foot. The pairings of 1881 saw a logical union of the Cumberland and Westmoreland Regiments, who then became the 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Border Regiment. They were lucky, all mergers were not by any means so logical or happy, and indeed some created great acrimony.

On 1 October 1959, the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) amalgamated with the Border Regiment to form toady's **Kings Own Royal Border Regiment,** a happy amalgam of three adjacent counties who quick march to the delightful, traditional tune of Do ye ken John Peel.

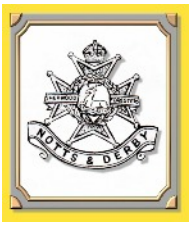
Fusilier Regiments were originally formed to guard the train of artillery in the days when the guns were hauled by horses led by civilian drivers. The name is derived from the *Fusil,* a short musket equipped with a flintlock, the spark of which was much safer to have around large quantities of gunpowder than the permanently burning slow match used with the standard matchlock musket. Their duty was also to prevent the drivers running away!

The first Fusilier Regiment was raised by Daniel O'Brien, Viscount Clare, in Holland in 1674 when peace was concluded with that country. It was one of the six Holland Regiments formed from regiments of British auxiliaries for service with the Prince of Orange, later King William III, and was named the Irish Regiment. They were recalled to England by James II to help put down Monmouth's Rebellion, but went back to Holland when that was over. Two of the regiments returned to England and were placed on the English Establishment in 1685. Clare's Regiment, now known as Monck's Regiment after its colonel as was then the custom, was numbered the 5th Foot in 1751, adopting the territorial title of 5th (Northumberland) Regiment in 1782. It was redesignated, as a Fusilier Regiment in 1836, and in 1881 became The Northumberland Fusiliers whose best known march was the Geordie song *The Blaydon Races.*

The second Holland Regiment to return was also raised in Holland, in 1674 by Colonel Sir Walter Vane. It was numbered 6th Foot in 1751 and became the 6th (1st Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot in 1782, having served, like many other regiments, as Marines in 1702. In 1881 it became simply The Royal Warwickshire Regiment but was still known by its nickname of The Saucy Sixth. It was renamed the Royal

Some Regimental Badges

The Berks & Wilts Reg



The Notts & Derby Reg

The East Lancs Reg

The Cheshire Reg

The East Yorks Reg

The Devonshire Reg

The South Lancs Reg

Warwickshire Fusiliers in 1963. It had the distinction of having produced no fewer than three Field Marshals: The Earl of Lucan of Charge of the Light Brigade? fame (or perhaps a better word would be notoriety), first commissioned in the regiment in 1816; Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, commissioned in 1908, and Viscount Slim, commissioned in 1914 but who, of course, had first joined the regiment as a private soldier. It also produced a Marshal of the Royal Air Force in Lord Newall, commissioned in 1905. I know of no other infantry regiment with such a record.

Another Fusilier Regiment was raised in 1685 by George, Lord Dartmouth, then Master of the Ordnance. The regiment was referred to in the original warrants as both Our Royal Regiments of Fusiliers? and Our Ordnance Regiment. Its original personnel were drawn from two companies of guards at the Tower of London, later augmented to 12 companies and a company of miners. It was numbered the 7th Foot in 1751 and was known as the Royal English Fuziliers. In 1881 it adopted the title of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) continuing its association with London and the Tower, since when it has always had a special place in the affections of that great city.

The last Fusilier Regiment we are concerned with here was raised in 1688 by Sir Richard Peyton. They, too, served as Marines in 1701 and were numbered 20th Foot in 1751. In 1782 they were given the territorial title of 20th (The East Devonshire) Regiment of Foot, but despite this, in 1881, chose to become the Lancashire Fusiliers. They were one of the six Minden Regiments.

The Royal Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers shared with the Gordon Highlanders the distinction of having the second highest number of VCs awarded to any line regiment (19 each) after the South Wales Borderers who had 22 but, of course, 16 of those were won when it was still the 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment of Foot.

All these Fusilier Regiments - the 5th, 6th, 7th and 20th - were amalgamated in 1968 to form today's **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.**

The second senior regiment in toady's British Army is descended from no fewer than 12 former separate regiments.

The **2nd Foot** was raised in 1661 by Henry Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough, as the Tangier Regiment to garrison Tangier, brought to the English Crown as part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza who married King Charles IL Their ranks included many unemployed former soldiers of the New Model Army, and they adopted as their badge the Paschal Lamb (a lamb bearing a lance, with banner of St George, over its shoulder) a favourite badge of the Royal House of Portugal. From this and the name of one of their colonels, Percy Kirke, who became notorious for his treatment of the rebels after the failure of Monmouth's Rebellion in 1685, they acquired the nickname of Kirke's Lambs. However, to the rest of the army they were more often known as the Mutton Lancers !

They were also known as The Tangerines? Or the Queen's Regiment; in 1684 they became the Queen Dowager's Regiment of Foot, changing to the Queen's Royal Regiment in *1751.* However, from 1715-1727 they were known as the Princess of Wales's Regiment of Foot. In 1881 they adopted the territorial title of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Their regimental march was, appropriately, *The*

Soldiers of the Queen. It was a detachment of the Queen's who stood fast on deck and let the women and children fill the boats when the *Birkenhead* went down.

The other Surrey regiment has had a typically tortuous succession of titles. It was raised as Villier's Regiment of Marines in 1702 at the start of the War of the Spanish Succession. It was numbered 31st in 1714 and 31st (Huntingdonshire) Foot in 1782. It raised a 2nd Battalion in 1756, which was separated and numbered 70th in 1758, eventually becoming the 70th (Surrey) Foot in 1782. In 1812, the 70th was totally renamed the 70th (Glasgow Lowland) Regiment and at one time was known as the Glasgow Greys? From the colour of the facings of their tunics and from the many men from Glasgow serving in the ranks. However, in 1825 it reverted to being the 70th (Surrey) Foot. Field Marshal Sir Charles Egerton was commissioned into the 70th in 1867.

On the reorganisation of 1881, these two regiments - the 31St and 70th - amalgamated to form the East Surrey Regiment. It fought under this name in the Boer War and through two World Wars, but in 1959 it was amalgamated with the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) to form the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

The 3rd Regiment of Foot has a very interesting origin in the London Militia Trained Bands who were sent to the Low Countries (now Holland) in 1572 by Queen Elizabeth I to help the Protestants who were being persecuted by the Spanish Catholics. Here they acquired their famous nickname of The Buffs. From the buff-coloured leather coats they wore. They retained this colour as their facings when the Army adopted the scarlet coat with different coloured lapels and collars for each regiment. They continued in the Dutch service for many years but were disbanded in 1665 and recalled by King Charles because we were then at war with the Dutch. Obviously, they would have had divided loyalties! They were placed on the English establishment as a new Holland Regiment and were officially known as The Buffs. They were numbered 3rd Foot in 1751 and remained as The Buffs (except for the years 1689-1708 when they were known as Prince George of Denmark's Regiment) until 1881 when they took the territorial title of The Buffs (East Kent) Regiment of Foot.

The other Kent regiment was raised in 1756 by Colonel James Abercromby and was numbered 52nd but was renumbered 50th later in the same year. It had had two predecessors, both disbanded, the 58th (Cornwall's Marines) and the 50th (Shirley's American Provincials)! In 1752 it became the 50th (West Kent) Regiment of Foot; in 1827 the 50th (Duke of Clarence's) Foot; and in 1831, 50th (The Queen's Own) Regiment of Foot. In 1881, it amalgamated with the 97th Foot to form **The Royal West Kent Regiment (The** Queen's **Own).**

This 97th Regiment had had a very chequered history. It was originally raised in 1759 but between then and 1798 was disbanded and re-raised three times, having been variously known as the Strathspey Highlanders and the Queen's Germans. It was finally established in 1824 as the 97th (Earl of Ulster's) Foot and amalgamated with the 50th in 1881, as seen above, to form the Royal West Kent Regiment. They equalled the record of the Royal Warwickshire regiment in producing three Field Marshals: Studholme John Hodgson commissioned into the 50th in 1728, Sir John Griffin Griffin (later Lord Howard de Walden) commissioned into the 50th in 1739 and Viscount Hardinge of Lahore and Kings Norton, commissioned into the 97th in 1798. However,

the Warwick-shires also produced a Marshal of the Royal Air Force. The 50th were often known by their nickname of The Dirty Half Hundred? Gained at Vimiera where they fought very gallantly and had faces as black (from the powder burns) as the lapels on their tunics. The Earl of Donegal's Regiment was raised in Belfast in 1701 and became the 35th Foot in 1751 when the regiments were given numbers in accordance with their seniority. It was popularly known for many years as the Belfast Regiment, but in 1782 it was re-designated the 35th (Dorsetshire) Regiment. In 1805 it changed its county affiliation to Sussex and in 1832 became the 35th (Royal Sussex) Foot. In 1881 it became the **Royal Sussex Regiment.** It is reputed to have been the first regiment to have marched right across India.

The 3rd Bengal European Light Infantry, a regiment of the Honourable East India Company, was raised in 1853. In 1861 it was transferred to the Crown, coming on to the Army List as the 107th Bengal Infantry Regiment. In 1881, in accordance with the Cardwell Reforms, when all regiments except for the 1st to the 25th were paired, the 107th became the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment.

The Middlesex Regiment had a succession of numbers. Raised in 1741 as the 57th Foot, it was renumbered 46th in 1748, 59th in *1755* and only finally settled to 57th in 1782 when it became the 57th (West Middlesex) Foot.

Its 1881 pair regiment was the 77th Foot, which was originally raised in 1756 as the 77th (Montgomery Highlanders) Regiment. It was disbanded in 1763, reraised in 1775 as the Atholl Highlanders, disbanded again in 1783 and finally reraised in 1787 by Colonel James Marsh as the 77th Foot. It was given the territorial title of East Middlesex Regiment in 1807 and gained royal patronage in 1876, becoming the 77th (East Middlesex) (Duke of Cambridge's Own) in 1876, the Duke being Queen Victoria's cousin and Commander-in-Chief, 1856-95.

In 1881 the West and East Middlesex Regiments amalgamated. to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regiment. Known forever as The Die-hards, from the call of their wounded commander, Colonel Inglis, at Albuhera in 1811 to die hard my men, die hard. Which they did - 22 out of 25 officers were killed or wounded and 425 of 570 other ranks.

On 31 December 1966, all these regiments - the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, the Royal West Kent Regiment, the Royal Sussex Regiment and the Middlesex Regiment were amalgamated to form the Queen's Regiment. One would have thought this was enough - 10 famous regiments had already disappeared - but in 1992 there was yet another merger.

Colonel Thomas Meredith raised a regiment of Foot in Ireland in 1702, which was numbered 37th in 1751. In 1782 it was given the territorial title of 37th (North Hampshire) Foot.

The other Hampshire Regiment started life as the 2nd Battalion of the 10th Foot in *1756,* but in 1758 became a separate regiment and was numbered 67th. In 1782 it became the 67th (South Hampshire) Foot, and in 1881 the two Regiments paired to become the 1st and 2r battalions of the **Hampshire Regiments** and gained a royal suffix in 1946 of its outstanding services in World War I. The 67th also produced a Field Marsh in Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, who was commissioned in 1841.

Some Regimental Badges

The Royal Welsh Fusiliers

The Dorsetshire Reg

The West Yorks Reg

The Kings Royal Rifle Corps

The West Riding Reg

The Lancs Reg

The Rifle Brigade

Finally, on 9 September 1992, the Hampshire's amalgamated with the Queen's Regiment to form today **Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queens and Royal Hampshire's)** who's music, at least, recalls some of the traditions of these fine regiments - the Quick Marches Farmer's Boy and Soldiers the Queen and Slow March Minden Ros for the 37th.

All these six regiments, however, still maintain regimental museums, detail of which can be found in Terence an Shirley Wise's excellent publication, Guide to Military Museums and Other Places of Military Interest (25th Anniversary Edition, 1994). •

The fifth regiment in order of seniority in today's British Army is **The King's Regiment,** formed in 1958 as the King's Regiment (Manchester and Liverpool) from the former **King's Regiment (Liverpool**) and the Manchester Regiment. It was re-titled The King's Regiment in 1968.

The King's Regiment (Liverpool) was originally raised by Charles, Lord Ferrers, in 1685 as Princess Anne of Denmark's Regiment and was renamed the Queen's Regiment in 1702 when she ascended the throne. Following the succession of George I in 1714, it reverted to its former name of The King's Regiment in 1716 and was sometimes known as the King's Hanoverian White Hone from its famous badge of the White Hone of Hanover, which was strange as it was an infantry regiment! It was given the title of King's and the badge in 1715 for its services against the Jacobites in the 1715 rebellion where it suffered heavy casualties at the Battle of Dubliner. It was numbered as the 8th Foot in 1751 and, when territorial titles were adopted in 1881, became the King's (Liverpool) Regiment although it had originally recruited most of its men from Derbyshire during the Monmouth Rebellion. Its soldiers, to this day, are given the title of Kinsman as opposed to the usual Private and their regimental march is that lovely old song *Here's to the Maiden of Bashful 15!*

The **Manchester Regiment** was originally raised in 1744 as the 63rd (American) Regiment of Foot, later renumbered as the 49th and disbanded in the reductions of 1748. It was reformed as the 2nd battalion of the 8th Foot in 1757 (so the merger of 1958 was quite logical) but in the following year reverted to its original number as the 63rd Foot (whose nickname was The Bloodsuckers!), becoming the 63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot in 1782 but adopting Manchester as its territorial title in 1881.

Meanwhile, in 1760 a regiment numbered 96th was raised specially for service in the Carnatic [the Carnatic region covers the Eastern Ghats and Coromandel plain in southern India]. It only served for three years and was then disbanded. Raised again in 1780 as the 96th (British Musketeers) Regiment, it was disbanded in 1783. Its next incarnation was as the 96th (The Queen's Royal Irish) Regiment from 1793-1798, when it was dispersed. Its history then becomes quite complicated. It seems to have been formed again in the same year as the 96th (Queen's Germans), renumbered 97th in 1802, reverted back to 96th in 1815 but was disbanded in 1818 despite having fought in Egypt and the Peninsula. Finally, it came on to the Permanent establishment in 1824, again as the 96th, which it remained until the reorganisation of 1881 when all regiments from the 26th upwards raised 2nd Battalions on the adoption of the two-battalion system; it then became the 2nd Battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

Immediately after the King's Regiment in the Army List comes the **Royal Anglian Regiment.** This was formed in 1964 from the regiments of the East Anglian Brigade which, in turn, had been formed through a series of amalgamations in the late 5Os and early 60s. It is the regiment, which today represent the former 10 regiments of East Anglia and the East Midlands.

The first regiment of the East Anglian Brigade was the 1st East Anglian Regiment (Norfolk and Suffolk). The **Royal Norfolk Regiment** was originally raised in Gloucestershire in 1685 by Colonel Henry Cornwell and in 1751 was numbered the 9th of Foot. In 1782 it became the 9th (East Norfolk) Regiment, achieving royal status in *1935.* It produced two Field Marshals: Sir William Gomm who joined the regiment in 1784 and Lord Clyde who was commissioned in 1808. It marched, in both quick and slow time, to *Rule Britannia;* the figure of Britannia entirely unadorned by any motto or other embellishment was its famous cap badge, given to it by Queen Anne for its great gallantry at Almanza during the War of the Spanish Succession when it lost 24 officers and 300 men killed and wounded out of a total strength of 467.

The second component regiment of the first East Anglian Regiment was the **Suffolk Regiment**, raised in 1685 as the Duke of Norfolk's Regiment, and numbered 12th Foot in 1751. In 1782 it became the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment and in 1881, the Suffolk Regiment. It also produced a Field Marshal and one of the most famous soldiers of all time: Viscount Wellesley who was commissioned in 1852. Its badge of the Arms of Gibraltar, the Castle and Key, came as a result of its sterling defence of the Rock between 1779 and 1783 from attacks by the French and Spanish during the War of American Independence.

The second regiment of the East Anglian Brigade was the 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northampton-shire). **The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment** was raised in 1685 by Colonel Sir John Goreville (Earl of Bath), numbered 10th in 1751, given the territorial title of North Lincolnshire in 1782 and the Lincolnshire Regiment in 1881. Surprisingly, its nickname was The Springer's? And not, as one might have expected. The Poachers after its famous quick march.

The **Northamptonshire Regiment** started life in 1741 as Colonel James Cholmondeley's Regiment of Foot, was numbered 48th in 1751, 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment in 1782 and known as the Northamptonshire Regiment from 1881. Its great celebration was on 27 July each year - Palaver Day, when it was said the Northampton's saved the day by their steadfastness and from which, it is said. they got their nickname of The Steel Backs. This regiment also marched to *The Lincolnshire Poacher.*

In 1881, it acquired a second battalion in the form of the 58th (Rutland shire) Foot which had been at various times the 58th, 47th, 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire and 60th!

The third regiment was the 3rd East Anglian Regiment (1 16th/44th). The 16th was raised in 1688 by Colonel James Douglas and numbered 16th in 1751. In 1782 it was given the title of 16th (Buckinghamshire) Regiment of Foot but in 1809 exchanged titles with the 14th Regiment at the request of the Colonel of that regiment and became the 16th (Bedfordshire) Regiment. One could do that sort of thing in those days! However, it retained the nickname of The Old Bucks. In 1881 it became the

Bedfordshire Regiment and in 1919 became the **Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment** always known as the Beds and He(a)rts.
The 44th was raised by Colonel James Long in 1741 and in 1782 became the 44th (East Essex) Regiment of Foot. In 1881, it joined forces with the 56th (West Essex) Regiment to form the **Essex Regiment**. The 56th had started life in 1741 as the 56th (Sherwood Foresters) Regiment of Foot, was renumbered 45th, became the 58th from 1741-48 and then finally the 56th in 1757 and the 56th (West Essex) in 1782. One of its nicknames was The Pompadours. Tradition has it that when the Army's facings were changed in 1764 because the red ones, worn hitherto, did not wear well, the Colonel wanted blue but, this not being approved, chose purple which was a favourite colour of King Louis IIV's mistress, Madame de Pompadour!

The final component of the Royal Anglian Regiment is the **Royal Leicestershire Regiment.** It was originally raised by Colonel Solomon Richards in 1688 and numbered 17th in 1751. Mainly recruited around London, nevertheless in 1782 it was given the title of 17th (Leicestershire) Foot to try and help recruiting in that area. Its well known badge is the Royal Tiger with the motto *Hindustan* which was granted in 1825 to commemorate its 20 years of service in India. From this it gets its nickname of The Tigers. It was made a Royal Regiment in 1746.
And so, toady's **Royal Anglian Regiment** is the representative of the former regiments (as they are officially known) of Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Suffolk as well as the Territorial Army Regiment of Cambridgeshire which never had a regular battalion but fought in both World Wars and was incorporated into the Suffolk Regiment in 1961.
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In 1685, His Grace the Duke of Beau-fort raised a Regiment of Musketeers at Bristol from West Country loyalists to oppose the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth against King James II. When the rebellion was finally put down and Judge Jeffries had done his terrible work (his first victim was actually a woman, Alice Lisle, a devout lady from the New Forest who was accused of harbouring rebels), the regiment was kept on the establishment and, when regiments were given numbers in 1751, was ranked 11th.

Meanwhile, it had distinguished itself with King William in the wars in Ireland, particularly at the Battle of the Boyne, in Flanders at Stienkerk and with Marlborough at Hay and Limber and was then sent to Portugal. Here the whole regiment was made prisoner.

Having been exchanged for enemy prisoners and after serving as Marines at various actions off the French coast, it went to Spain where it was decimated at the Battle of Almanac, so much so that it had to be completely reformed in 1709 when it was sent to join Marlborough, again in Holland. From there it was sent to Canada, then Dun-Kirk, then Scotland for the rising of 1715, then fought at Hettinger, the last battle at which an English king (George 11) commanded his troops on the field, and Fontenot. In 1782 it was given the title of 11th (North Devonshire) Regiment of Foot and in the great reorganisation of the Army in 1881 became the **Devonshire Regiment.**

Some Regimental Badges

The North Staffs Reg

The Yorkshire Reg

The Connaught Rangers

The South Staffs Reg

The Royal Irish Rifles

The Royal Irish Fusiliers

The Royal Inniskiling Fusiliers

Some 16 years after the Devon's were first raised, Colonel Richard Coyote was given a commission to raise a regiment of foot for which he went to Ireland, always a fertile ground for recruiting fighting soldiers. Sadly, he only enjoyed his command for a very short time, being killed in a duel shortly afterwards. This regiment also fought in Portugal and, as Marines, went to Gibraltar to reinforce the garrison when it was besieged by the Spanish 1726-7.

It is best known, however, for being the first regiment to go to India, as a result of which it was later awarded its motto Primus in Indies. It sailed to Madras in 1754 and served under Clove, particularly at his great victory at Plissé. When the regiments were numbered in 1751 it became the 39th Foot and when they were given territorial titles in 1782 became the 39th (East Middlesex) Regiment of Foot. In 1807 it changed its title completely to the 39th (Dorsetshire) Regiment. Field Marshal Sir George Nugent (1751-1849) was commissioned into the 39th in 1773.

Meanwhile, in 1755, Colonel John Campbell, later Duke of Argyll, raised a regiment in Salisbury which was numbered 56th but renumbered 54th two years later. It first served as Marines and then fought in the American War of Independence and it was while it was in New York in 1782 that it was given the title of 54th (West Norfolk) Regiment. After the cessation of the war, the regiment was stationed in Canada for many years, during which time its Regimental Sergeant Major was none other than William Corbett, later a Member of Parliament and author of *Rural Rides.* In 1881, it merged with the Dorsetshire Regiment, whose title became the more usual Dorset Regiment in *1951.*

In 1958 these two fine old regiments were amalgamated to form today's **Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.**

The next regiment in order of seniority in our Army today is the Light Infantry, but as this is descended from no less than five separate Light Infantry regiments, we will leave its history until the next article in this series.

Following them comes the **Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire,** which has a comparatively simple descent from just two former regiments. The first of these was raised as early as 1685 by Colonel Sir Edward Hale Bail, from Kent. Whether he was a Man of Kent or a Kentish Man I do not know, but he raised his companies in Canterbury, Sittingboume, Rochester and other places in Kent. After sterling service at Nauru, in the French Revolutionary Wars, in Gibraltar and the West Indies the regiment was numbered 14th in 1751 and given the title of 14th (Bedfordshire) Regiment in 1782. This lasted until 1809 when, at the request of its Colonel, the Adjutant-General Sir Harry Calvert, its title was changed to 14th (Buckinghamshire) Regiment as he had large estates in that county!

In 1876 it received royal patronage and became the 14th (Buckinghamshire -The Prince of Wales's Own) Regiment of Foot and in the 1881 reorganisation changed its allegiance and became the **Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire) Regiment.** It marched in quick time, and its successor still does, to ca *Ira,* the song of the French revolutionaries, which its band played mockingly when the regiment was advancing against them at Farmers in 1793.

Also in 1685, Colonel Sir William Clifton Bail, of Clifton, raised a regiment of foot at Nottingham. It was stationed in Scotland for many years and in 1701 went to

Flanders with Marlborough and fought in all his famous battles of Brenham, Families, Woodenware and Malplaquet. The regiment later went to South America where it suffered very heavy casualties at Carthagena, from where it had to be sent to Jamaica to recuperate, after which it made a landing in Cuba. In 1751 it was numbered 15th and in 1782 took over East Yorkshire from the Inniskillings as its home area (it had previously mainly recruited in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset) and became the 15th (York, East Riding) Regiment of Foot. In 1881 it became simply the **East Yorkshire Regiment. In 1935, it** received royal patronage and became the East Yorkshire Regiment (The Duke of York's Own).

In the amalgamations and reductions of 1958, these two fine old Yorkshire regiments were amalgamated to form **The Prince of Wale's Own Regiment of Yorkshire** whose Colonel-in-Chief, however, is not, as one might have expected, the Prince of Wales, but Hon Major-General HRH The Duchess of Kent, a Yorkshire lass, which is the title of the second regimental quick march. The Prince is recognised in its first slow march, that of the old West Yorkshire Regiment, *God Bless the Prince of Wales.*

Part 2

The Light Infantry

Troops of specially trained soldiers who could move quickly, shoot accurately and were able to scout ahead and skirmish were first introduced in the North American Wars of the *1750s.* Here, the conspicuous red coats and rigid formation drill of the standard British Infantry proved to be totally useless when opposed to Indians and French backwoodsmen. Some experiments had been carried out in the l740 s and now a small corps of Light Troops was raised from loyal settlers. These proved to be very successful and, as a result, Light Companies were raised in each regiment, selected from the best and toughest men who were capable of operating in small detachments in advance of the main army. They all had to be skilled marksmen and became something of an elite within the regiments. Their badge was the bugle horn, the instrument by which they conveyed their commands, as opposed to the drum of the infantry. Readers who are devotees of the Richard Sharpe series by Bernard Cormwell will know them well.

Later, whole regiments of light troops were formed and it became the custom to reward a regiment who had particularly distinguished themselves in battle with the title of Light Infantry.

The senior regiment was the **Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's)**, originally raised in 1685 at Buckingham as the Earl of Huntingdon's Regiment and given the number 13th in 1751. When territorial titles were introduced in 1782 it became the 13th (1st Somerset shire) Foot and was given the title of Light Infantry in 1822. For its gallant defence of Jellalabad, India, in 1841-2 it was allowed to augment its bugle horn badge with a mural crown and the initials PA intertwined and awarded the title of Prince Albert's Own. It retained this title in various forms until its first amalgamation in 1959.

The Duke of Cornwallis Light Infantry was formed from two regiments both with links to the South West. The first was raised in 1702 by Colonel Edward Fox as a regiment of Marines. It was disbanded in 1713 after the Treaty of Utrecht at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession but was re-raised two years later as the 32nd Regiment of Foot. It took the title of 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment of Foot in 1782 and was given the distinction of becoming Light Infantry in 1858 when it became the 32nd (Cornwall) Light Infantry.

The second regiment was raised in January 1741 by Colonel John Price of the 1st Foot Guards and originally given the number 57. Renumbered 47th in 1748, it finally became the 46th (South Devonshire) Regiment of Foot in 1782.

On the general reorganisation of the Army in 1881, the 32nd and 46th amalgamated to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Duke of Cornwallis Light Infantry, one of whose quick marches is toady's Cornish National Anthem - Delaney

On 6 October 1959, these two regiments amalgamated to form the Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.

The Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was originally raised at Leeds in December 1755 by Colonel Robert Napier as the 53rd Foot but was renumbered 51st in 1757.

It was one of the six British regiments (three Hanoverian regiments also took part) who won undying fame at the Battle of Minden in Hanover on 1 August 1759 when, having misinterpreted their orders, they advanced against, and tumbled into ruin, three lines of French Cavalry - something infantry were not supposed to do! Tradition has it that during their advance across the fields, they picked wild roses and put them in their hats, which their descendants, except for the Royal Welch Fusiliers, still do to this day on the anniversary of the battle.

In 1782, they became the 51st (2nd Yorkshire, West Riding) Regiment. They were given the Light Infantry title in 1809 and had the rather cumbersome title of 51st (2nd Yorkshire, West Riding, Light Infantry) but then in 1821 this became even longer when they became the 51st (2nd Yorkshire, West Riding, The Kings Own Light Infantry)!

Meanwhile, a regiment of the East India Company known as the 2nd Madras European Light Infantry, which had been raised in 1839 at Arena and retitled 2nd Madras (Light Infantry) Regiment in 1858, was transferred to the British Army in 1860 and became the 105th (Madras Light Infantry). They came to England for the first time in 1874 and, under the reorganisation of 1881, amalgamated with the 51st (above) to become the South Yorkshire Regiment (Kings Own Light Infantry). A few months later they adopted the familiar title of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, always known as the Kylies.

Lt General Sir John Moore, the brilliant young general who was chosen to command the experimental Corps of Light Infantry at Shorncliffe in 1803 and who subsequently fought with them with such distinction in Portugal and Spain, was commissioned into the 51st in 1776. He was killed, sadly, at Corunna in 1809: it was generally felt in the Army that, had he not been killed, he could have rivalled Wellington as a great commander.

The Kings Shropshire Light Infantry was also descended from two previous regiments - the 55th raised on 21 December 1755 at York (renumbered 53rd two years later) and the 85th raised by Colonel Sir George Nugent in 1793.

The 53rd was sent almost immediately to garrison Gibraltar, where they remained for many years. In 1782, it became the 53rd (Shropshire) Regiment of Foot. It was never a Light Infantry Regiment in its own right. Its most famous former member was Field Marshal Lord Raglan, Commander-
In Chief in the Crimea, who was commissioned into the regiment in 1855.

The 85th was first raised almost entirely from employees on the Marquis (subsequently Duke) of Buckingham's estates. Consequently, they were given the subsidiary title of Buckinghamshire Volunteers. They were given Light Infantry status in 1808 as the 85th (Bucks Volunteers) (Light Infantry) Regiment but, after taking huge casualties in the Peninsula, were sent home in 1811. Unfortunately, for reasons unknown, the surviving officers fell out amongst themselves, whereupon the Prince Regent removed the lot and distributed them among other regiments! Newly officered and brought up to strength, they became the 85th (Bucks Volunteers) (The Kings Light Infantry) Regiment in 1821.

The two regiments, 53rd and 85th, amalgamated in 1881 to become the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Sir George Nugent, who raised the regiment, became a

Field Marshal, as also did Lord William Paulette, who was commissioned into the regiment in 1821, and Sir John Fitzgerald (1874-1877) who was a commissioned officer for 84 years!

The last of the Light Infantry regiments, **The Durham Light infantry**, was also formed from two regiments: the 68th and 106th.

The 68th was raised in 1756 at Leicester as a 2nd Battalion of the 23rd Foot (later the Royal Welsh Fusiliers). It was formed into a separate regiment on 22 April 1758 as the 68th, taking the title of 68th (Durham) Foot when such titles were first bestowed in 1782. This was to commemorate the fact that it was largely recruited in the county of Durham: the first Colonel was John Lamb ton of the Cold stream Guards and many years MP for Durham, whose grandson became the first Earl of Durham. Durham has always been a fertile recruiting ground for the Army and, in 1800, having raised a 2nd Battalion of volunteers from the Militia, the regiment was 2,800 strong! They paraded in three 10-company battalions. In the Great War it was the fifth strongest regiment, with 42 battalions.

The 106th Regiment started life as the 2nd Bombay European Regiment in the army of the Honourable East India Company. They were brought onto the strength of the British Army after the Mutiny as the 106th Bombay Light Infantry.

The two regiments merged in 1881 to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Durham Light Infantry.

On 10 July 1968, all these historic Light Infantry regiments, who were the model for many Continental armies, were amalgamated to form a two-battalion regiment,

The Light Infantry.

There have been other Light Infantry regiments which have now lost their Light Infantry status as we have seen in previous articles: the Highland Light Infantry, now part of the Royal Highland Fusiliers; the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, now part of the Royal Green Jackets, and the Herefordshire Light Infantry, whose descendants may be found in the 5th Battalion (The Shropshire and Herefordshire) Light Infantry (Volunteers), a Territorial Army regiment.

The Light Division

The previous pages dealt with the Light Infantry. They are part of today's Light Division in which the other regiment is the Royal Green Jackets, who are descended from four former very famous regiments, the junior two of whom may be said to have possibly had more influence on the structure and tactics of our modern Army than any other regiments.

Colonel Thomas Fouke of the 7th Dragoons raised a regiment of Foot on 3 January 1742 which was given the number *54* but became the 44th when the 10 Marine Regiments were taken out of the line. At first its companies were stationed at Amp hill, Leighton Buzzard and Woburn (all in Bedfordshire) but then came together at Winchester, Hants, before sailing to Minorca. When the regiment came home in 1747 it was renumbered 43rd and displayed as such when it fought with Wolfe at Quebec. When territorial titles were first given in 1782 it became the 43rd (Monmouthshire) Regiment and in 1803 was awarded Light Infantry status.

On Christmas Day *1755,* Colonel Heyworth Lamb ton, a Cold streamer, was authorised to raise a regiment of Foot. This was numbered 54th and based on Coventry (Warwickshire). It was renumbered 52nd in 1757 and took a prominent part in the American Wars of 1774-8, suffering tremendous casualties at Bunkers Hill where its Grenadier Company was reduced to eight men, all the rest, officers and men, being killed or wounded. In 1782 it was given the title of 52nd (Oxfordshire) Regiment of Foot and in 1803 was also given Light Infantry status. On the general reorganisation of the Army in 1881, the 43rd and 52nd became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Oxford-shire Light Infantry. In 1908 it changed its name to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry - as far as I can see for purely recruiting purposes, they being adjacent counties.

The 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry was known as the Royal Bucks Militia but the original Buckinghamshire Regiment, raised in 1685 as the 14th Foot, had become transmogrified into the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, as we have seen.

In 1958, the Ox and Bucks became the 1St Green Jackets (43rd and 52nd) -one of the new large regiment’s fashionable at the time.

The third component of the Royal Green Jackets is the 62nd Foot, originally raised in 1755 in New York and Philadelphia on the orders of the Earl of Louduon, Commander-in Chief of the British Forces in North America, and known as the Royal American Regiment of Foot. Technically speaking, it was a Colonial Corps and so Parliament had to pass a special Act to allow commissions to be granted to foreigners and these were for service in America only. It was renumbered 60th in 1757 and had four battalions. In 1797, a fifth battalion was raised to serve in America only and to consist of foreigners (actually officers and men from Impost's Chasseurs and later Lowe stein's Chasseurs). Unlike their sister battalions who still wore the traditional red coats, this battalion were dressed in green jackets, albeit with scarlet facings, white waistcoats and blue trousers! The service in America only appears to

have been fairly quickly set aside because this 5th Battalion served in Ireland during the rebellion of 1798 and then in the West Indies.

In 1799, 6th and 7th Battalions were formed, also consisting of Germans -part rifles and part light infantry and later an 8th Battalion. In 1805, a new Act of Parliament allowed
10,000 foreign troops to serve in England and so the 5th Battalion was brought home. The battalions subsequently served all over the world, including the Peninsula, the Gambia, Gore, the Cape, Ireland, the West Indies and North America.
In 1824, the title of Royal Americans was dropped, all the foreigners drafted out and the remaining two battalions became the 60th (Duke of York's Rifle Corps and Light Infantry) one battalion being Rifles, the other Light Infantry - both dressed in green. This later became the 60th (Duke of York's Own Rifle Corps) and, eventually, in 1830, the 60th (Kings Royal Rifle Corps). In the reorganisation of 1881, it retained its seniority as 60th in the Line but became the well known **Kings Royal Rifle Corps**. In 1958 the regiment became the 2nd Green Jackets (The Kings Royal Rifle Corps). Field Marshall Lord Bra mall was commissioned into the regiment in 1943.

The last regiment to form part of today's Royal Green Jackets will be very familiar as the 95th Rifles to devotees of Bernard Cornwall's novels of Richard Sharpe. In the late 1700s, it was begin-fling to be realised by thinking soldiers that something other than massed ranks or squares of red-coated troops firing ancient muskets was needed. In 1800 an experimental Corps of Riflemen was set up under the command of Colonel Coote Manningham, selected from the best men of 14 regiments. They were dressed in green and issued with the new, much more accurate, rifle. They were trained as specialist marksmen and skirmishers but also to take their place in the Line in set battles. Their first action was the attack on Ferro in August 1800, where they distinguished themselves. The next year, a detachment served as marksmen on Nelson's flagship at the Battle of the Baltic and, after having proved themselves notably, they were brought into the Line as the 95th (Rifles) Regiment.

They fought with great distinction throughout the Peninsular Campaign and no fewer than four battalions fought at Waterloo. For these exceptional services, after Waterloo, they were taken out of the line and renamed **The Rifle Brigade**. In 1862 they received royal patronage, becoming The Prince Consort's Own Rifle Brigade. As a Rifle Corps, they never had colours as other regiments and, like the Light Infantry, march at a fast pace of 140 paces to the minute as opposed to the infantry's 120. They wear black badges and buttons and, because of the many senior officers who started their careers in the Rifles, they are known to the rest of the Army as the Black Mafia. These included Field Marshals Lord Greenwell (commissioned 1859), Sir Henry Wilson (1884), Lord Wilson (1900) and Sir Francis Festing (1921). In 1958 they became the 3rd Green Jackets (The Rifle Brigade).

The Kings Royal Rifle Corps and the Rifle Brigade share one curious distinction: each has a VC who was the son of a VC! Lieutenant Freddie Roberts of the KERR was the son of Field Marshall Lord Roberts (the famous Bobs? and Brevet-Major Billy Contrive was the son of General Sir Walter Contrive, also of the Rifle Brigade.

In 1966, these three battalions of Green Jackets were merged to form **The Royal Green Jackets,** a distinguished title but which sadly gives no clue to their proud origins as Riflemen. •

The Kings Division

The Kings Division is composed of all northern regiments: we have already looked at The Kings Own Royal Border Regiment, The Kings Regiment and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and now we must deal with the remaining three - two from Yorkshire and one from Lancashire.

The senior of these bears a very famous name indeed - The Green Howard's. Originally raised on the *25* February 1689 by Colonel Francis Luttrell, it claims to have its roots in some companies of pike men and musketeers raised for the Revolution of 1688 against James II when William of Orange was invited **t~** come over from Holland to take the throne.

The regiment was numbered 19th of Foot in 1751, by which time it had already acquired its nickname of the Green Howard's? From its commander, the Hon Charles Howard, and the green facings to its tunics. This was to distinguish it from the Old Buffs who were also known as Howard's after their colonel, George Howard and wore buff facings. When fifes were first introduced into the Army in 1747, the Green Howard's were the first to adopt them.

In 1782, it was given the title of 19th (1St Yorkshire, North Riding) Regiment of Foot and, in 1875, received royal patronage and was able to add Princess of Wales's Own to its title. This, of course, was Princess Alexandra, wife of the future King Edward VII. On the general reorganisation of the Army in 1881, it became The Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) and appears in the Army list today as **The Green Howard's (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment),** a rare example in today's Army of a title that has remained virtually unchanged for over 100 years and of one of only a handful of regiments which retain their original identity. It is not surprising that such a famous regiment has produced no fewer than three Field Marshals: Sir Samuel Holes, commissioned into the regiment in 1761, Sir William Rowan, 1803, and Sir Nigel Banal in 1946. 18 members of the regiment have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Army owes a great debt to one of its colonels, Charles Cranford Hay, who commanded the regiment from 1842-1854. He founded the School of Musketry at Hither that did so much to raise the standards of shooting in the Army and he also gave great support and encouragement to the Volunteer Rifle movement. He died a Lt General in 1873.

The regiment marches to *Bonnie English Rose* and is one of the few regiments still to wear a khaki beret, as opposed to the standard infantry navy blue.

The other Yorkshire regiment in the Kings Division was raised in 1702 by George, Earl of Huntingdon. It fought at Hettinger in 1743, the last battle at which a reigning British Monarch (George II) commanded in the field, and at Fontenot. It was numbered 33rd in 1751 and given the title of 33rd (1st York, West Riding) Regiment of Foot in 1782. In honour of the great Field Marshal, it was renamed the 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment in 1853 - the only regiment in the British Army to be named

after a person of non-royal blood. The regiment's third colonel was George Wade, who later built all the military roads in Scotland, after the rebellion of 1745. The regiment fought throughout the American War of Independence under its colonel, Earl Cornwallis, but was finally made prisoner after the surrender at York
Town, following the shameful failure of the home government to support its Army in the field.
Meanwhile, in 1787, the East India Company paid for four new regiments, two Highland and two English, to be raised when the affairs of Holland threatened to plunge Europe into war again. They were numbered 74th-77th and one of the English regiments was named the 76th (Hindustan) Regiment of Foot and served in India for 20 years. On returning to this country, it dropped the Indian part of its title, reverting to plain 76th, until 1881 when it merged with the 33rd, to become The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). Today, it is the **Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding).** The regiment has a rather curious nickname of The Haversack Lads, derived from the custom of their recruiting sergeants marching in front of the recruits with a Bayer or oatcake stuck on their swords.

The regiment's most famous former member is, of course, Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington who, however, was not commissioned into the regiment, but joined the 76th as a major from the 73rd in 1787, and was then gazetted as a major to the 33rd in 1793. It is said that he learned his trade with the 33rd, he purchased his Lieutenant Colonelcy in the regiment in the same year and commanded it until 1803. During those years, he took the regiment to Holland and to India. Having moved on to higher things, he was reunited with his old regiment in 1815 at Waterloo, where the 33rd fought under him and took part in the charge that routed Napoleon's Imperial Guard.
Another Field Marshal from the regiment was George Wade, already mentioned, and Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, is said to have learned his drill with the 33rd!
It is alleged that when all the amalgamations and reductions were taking place in the l96O s and 70s, it was suggested that a logical amalgamation would be of these two Yorkshire Regiments, but it was turned down flat by the Ministry of Defence, on the grounds that the rest of the Army would promptly call them The Green Willies!

The last of the regiments in the Kings Division is the **Queen's Lancashire Regiment**, descended from three former Lancashire regiments.

The first started life in 1702 as a Regiment of Marines, although the man who raised it, Colonel Thomas Sanderson, had raised a previous regiment in 1694 that, famously, went into the breach at the fortress of Nauru in 1695 although it did not receive the Battle Honour for it until 1910!

He commanded the regiment until it was disbanded after the peace of 1698. The officers were retained on half-pay, and presumably it was largely using these that he raised his regiment of marines four years later. However, some authorities claim that the regiment also had its origins in another regiment raised in 1689 by Lord Castleton, also disbanded in 1698. Whichever it was, the new regiment was numbered 30th in 1751 and in 1782 became the 30th (Cambridgeshire) Regiment of Foot. In 1881, its recruiting area was completely changed and it became the **East Lancashire Regiment.**

Under the new two-battalion regiment scheme introduced in 1881, its 2nd Battalion was formed from a regiment first raised on the 30 September 1755 at Nottingham by Colonel Montague and numbered *59th.* The regiment was first placed on the Irish Establishment and, having served in America for many years, fought at Bunker's Hill on the 17 June 1775, the opening battle of the American War of Independence. In 1782 it was renamed the 59th (2nd Nottinghamshire) Regiment of Foot.

The 2nd Nottinghamshire itself raised a 2nd Battalion in 1802 which fought in the Peninsular Wars. That war over, in 1816, this battalion sailed from Dover to Ireland on the transport *Sea Horse.* In Tram ore Bay, County Water-ford, a tremendous storm blew up and the ship was driven ashore. Only four subalterns and 22 men managed to reach the rocks, but the remainder of the 16 officers, 300 men, 31 women and 42 children on board perished. Except for the soldiers, these were greater losses than those sustained on the more famous *Birkenhead.*

In 1717, Colonel Richard Philips, the newly appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, raised a Regiment of Foot from independent companies that had served in the West Indies and American Plantations for many years. In 1751 they were numbered the 40th and fought under Wolfe at Quebec in 1759. in 1782, they were allotted the title of 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot. In 1793, Major General Leigh of the 3rd Foot Guards and a member of the suite' of the Prince of Wales (later George IV), raised a Regiment of Foot which was given the number 82. The men were principally recruited from Lancashire but also in Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Worcestershire and, no doubt because of the influence of General Leigh, were given royal patronage and became the 82nd (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) Regiment of Foot. Naturally enough, they commenced their duties at Hampton Court and Windsor, but then went out to Gibraltar and from there to the West Indies. Here, in action and from sickness, they lost 22 officers and over 1,000 men, only one officer and 22 men survived, to land in England in January 1798. They also served in the Peninsular Wars and after the war were posted to Ireland from Dover in January 1816. Their ship the *Bodice* was also wrecked off Kin sale losing three officers, 157 men, 10 women and 17 children.

In 1881, on reorganisation, the 40th (2nd Somerset shire) and the 82nd (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) were merged to form the two battalions of the Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire) Regiment.
The East Lancashire Regiment and the South Lancashire were merged in 1958 to form The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers).

The last of the Lancashire regiments always known as the Loyal Regiment had a typically complicated descent. The first part was raised

In Scotland in 1740 by Colonel John Mordant, numbered 59th and spent the first years of its service in that country, taking part in the Battle of Falkirk and defending Edinburgh Castle against the rebels in the 45. It was renumbered 47th in 1748 and, the rising over, went to the Channel Islands and then to America in 1750. It

fought with Wolfe and, with the 43rd, held the centre of the line at the battle on the Plains of Abraham on the 12 September 1759 and was present at the surrender of the French forces at Montreal in 1760 that finally saw the French off from Canada.

It returned home in 1763 but returned to America for the War of Independence, where it had the misfortune to be interned for a while after the surrender at Saratoga. It was given the title 47th (Lancashire) Foot in 1782.
The second part was raised at Lincoln by Major General Albemarle Bettie (no doubt named after the great Duke of Albemarle, otherwise George Moncks, father of the British Army) in 1793 and given the title of 83rd (Loyal Lincoln-shire Volunteer) Regiment of Foot. It was renumbered 81st in 1794 and in May 1881 amalgamated with the 47th (Lancashire) Foot to Form the **North Lancashire Regiment.**
It was renamed yet again two months later to become the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and again in 1921 as the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). In 1951 it merged with The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) to form today's **Queen's Lancashire Regiment** of which, naturally, the Queen is Colonel-in-Chief. Sadly, the old nickname of The Loyal, so well known to many soldiers, has now disappeared. •

As we approach the end of this series of articles, we are left with the regiments in the Prince of Wales's Division. I mentioned the Kings Division in my last article, and perhaps an explanatory note about Divisions, of which there are two types, may be helpful.

The Division as a fighting formation was introduced in the 19th century and was the smallest force capable of acting completely independently in the field because it had its own cavalry, artillery and support troops as well as at least two brigades of infantry. The number of divisions has varied greatly over the years with the needs of the particular campaign: at Waterloo, for instance, Wellington had seven British divisions, whereas at the outbreak of the First World War we had only six. Between 1914 and 1918 a further 70 were raised. Some of them had famous names : the 2nd were always the Light Division from its glorious Peninsular days, the 3rd were nicknamed the Iron Division and the 51St (Highland) Division achieved lasting fame in both world wars. Today we have just two ready Divisions: the 1st (UK) Armoured Division, based in Germany, and the 3rd (UK) Division here in the UK.

The other sort of Division is the traditional sort into which regiments of a similar type with common interests are grouped for administrative purposes. They are the Guards Division, the Scottish Division, the Queen,s Division, The Kings Division, The Prince of Wales's Division and the Light Division.

The senior regiment in the Prince of Wales's Division is the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment which I have already dealt with in Part 4 (October 2001). Following them in the list is the **Cheshire Regiment,** one of the few regiments to have retained its identify from its formation in 1689 to the present day. There was an attempt to merge it with its neighbouring county regiment, the Stafford's, a few years ago, but this was resisted fiercely by both regiments and, to the huge delight of both, came to naught.

The Cheshire Regiment was originally raised by Henry, Duke of Norfolk as one of the new regiments designed to strengthen the crown after the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth in 1685. It was recruited at Chester and fought at the famous Battle of the Boyne we hear so much about these days. It went to Jamaica at the turn of the century

and remained there for many years. This may sound idyllic but, like many regiments who served there, it suffered badly from the deadly yellow fever. It was rewarded by a posting to Minorca, from where part of the regiment was sent to help to defend Gibraltar in the famous siege by the Spanish and French.

The regiment was numbered 22nd in 1751 and, when titles were first given in 1782, was ordered to style itself the Cheshire Regiment, a title it retained in the major reorganisation of the Any in 1881 and to this day. If you have lost an ancestor at the end of the 18th century, the rolls of the Cheshire's are one place it might be worth looking. For it was one of the regiments which, in 1795, was ordered to expand its ranks up to 1,000 by recruiting poor boys between the ages of 12 and 16 from the parish poor houses. One of these boys, the orphan John Shipp, achieved the unique feat in the British Army of twice winning a commission before he was
30. Like many other regiments, it performed long and gallant service. It was a sergeant of the Cheshire's who led the Forlorn Hope, not just once but no less than three times, in the assault against the great fortress of Bhurtpore.

Nicknamed the Two-Two's from their 22nd number, their unique badge of the acorn and oak leaf was given to them by George II at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743 when only the steadfastness of the 22nd saved him from capture by French cavalry. He was sheltering beneath an oak tree from which he plucked a leaf and acorn and gave it to their colonel to serve as their badge for ever more.

The next regiment in the division is the Royal **Welch Fusiliers,** another of the very few regiments which has managed to remain unchanged since its formation in 1689.

It was formed at Ludlow by Henry, the fourth Lord Herbert, from 13 companies of Foot raised in the Welsh Marches three years previously. After distinguished service under Marlborough when it fought in all his major battles, it was awarded the title of The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers. The regiment fought at Dettingen and Fontenot and was one of the six Minden Regiments I have mentioned previously. It is the only one not to wear the rose on Minden day. It fought in the American Wars and was interned after Cornwallis's surrender. It was numbered 23rd in 1751.

Its badge is the feathers of the Prince of Wales, but it is perhaps best known for the black flash, a knot of black silk ribbons sewn on to the back of the collar. This represents the black leather patch that, before the abolition of pigtails in 1808, was sewn on to tunics to protect them from the flour and grease that was used to dress the hair. The 23rd embarked for the West Indies in January 1808 and claimed never to have received the order to cut off their pigtails, so they were still wearing them when they arrived in the Peninsula in 1811. They, therefore, wear the flash to commemorate the fact that they were the last regiment in the Army to wear the pigtail.

Like other Welsh regiments, they wear a leek in their hats on St David's Day. New recruits also follow the custom of Eating the Leek. They have a regimental goat (never referred to as a mascot) and adopted the spelling Welch in 1921.

Part 4

The Infantry:

There are now just three infantry regiments in the Prince of Wales's Division left to deal with to complete our investigation into the ancestry of the regiments of today's Army. The first of these represents four former regiments.

In 1744, Governor Delaney of Jamaica formed the independent companies in the island into a regiment, which was given the number 49 in 1748. It was popularly known as the Jamaica Volunteers. These companies had originally been raised from men of Colonel Roger Handy side's Regiment (later the 22nd Cheshire Regiment) who had volunteered to stay behind when their regiment left for home on 31 May 1714. They served for nearly 50 years in the West Indies before coming home in 1762. They fought in the American wars before returning to the West Indies for another long spell of duty in 1778. When territorial titles were first awarded in 1782, they became the Hertfordshire Regiment of Foot. In 1816 they received royal patronage and became the 49th (Hertfordshire - Princess of Wales's) Regiment.

They were relieved after their first marathon stint in the West Indies by a regiment which had originally been raised at Moppet as the 2nd Battalion of the 19th Foot (later the Green Howard's) in *1755,* when the senior 15 regiments of foot were all ordered to raise second battalions. Three years later, the War Office changed its mind and formed all these new second battalions into separate regiments and the new regiment was numbered 66th. When regimental titles were bestowed, it became the Berkshire Regiment, and on the comprehensive reorganisation of the Army in 1881, the 49th (Hertfordshire) and 66th (Berkshire) became the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the **Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment).** They used to march in quick time to that splendid Scottish tune The Dashing White Sergeant which gave them a very jaunty swing.

Another of the second battalions raised in 1755 mentioned above was the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Kings Own Regiment of Foot, which then became the 62nd in 1758. It was sent immediately to Ireland and involved in a famous exploit there. After running out of ammunition, its men fired regimental buttons from their muskets and then threw rocks and bricks at the 1,000 Frenchmen besieging the broken-down castle at Carrickfergus. It became the 62nd (Wiltshire) Regiment in 1782. It is said to have gained its nickname The Springers from being employed as a light company in the American wars when, as part of General Burgoyne's Army, it was forced to surrender at Saratoga.

Once things had settled down after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the government restricted the number of infantry regiments to 94, excluding the Rifle Brigade, from 1818. In 1824 fresh rumblings from the Continent persuaded the government to raise an additional six regiments, numbered 95-100~ The 99th was named the Lanarkshire Regiment and was very fortunate in that its first posting was to Mauritius, with a detachment in the Seychelles!

Returning home in 1837 the regiment was sent to Australia as a convict guard and then on to New Zealand, where it was prominent in the Maori Wars (now for the

sake of political correctness known as the Land Wars). To make up for an easy start, the next few years were very adventurous with the regiment serving in India, China, Japan and South Africa. Meanwhile, in 1874, it had become the 99th (Duke of Edinburgh's) Regiment.

In 1881, the 62nd Wiltshire and the 99th Duke of Edinburgh's merged to become the **Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment).** These two well-known county regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire were amalgamated in 1959 to form today's Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).
The regiment's Colonel-in-Chief is, of course, the present Duke, but the regiment was named for Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the second son of Queen Victoria.

Colonel Thomas Farrington of the Coldstream Guards was commissioned to raise a new regiment in 1694, which subsequently became the 29th Foot. It had a very chequered early career, being reduced several times to a cadre of officers and NCOs after supplying its soldiers to other regiments and having to return home and recruit. However, it always survived. By 1726, when the 29th Foot sailed from Ireland to Gibraltar to take part in the defence of the Rock against the great Spanish siege, it was firmly established as a regular regiment of the Line. Numbered 29th in 1751, it was given the title of 29th (Worcestershire) in 1782.

Like many other regiments over the years, they fought at sea as marines and for their particular steadfastness on the Glorious First of June 1794 under Admiral Howe. The regiment was awarded a Naval Crown to be worn on its colours and the motto 'Firm'. This became part of their badge when they replaced the regimental numbers in helmet plates in the 1880s and eventually their cap badge - the first I ever wore as a member of my school OTC (Officer Training Corps), 58 years ago!

Their nickname, the 'Ever Sworded 29th', arises from an incident in 1746 when the officers were attacked at dinner by supposedly loyal Red Indians and had to fight with their fists and feet. Ever since, the officers - against all custom -dined wearing their swords until the practice was abolished in 1850 by a Colonel who obviously had no feeling for such traditions. The only concessions he made were that the Captain of the Week and Subaltern of the Day (the Orderly Officer) could continue to dine wearing their swords. This custom is still observed today.

William, Viscount Charlemont, soldier and statesman, was commissioned to raise a regiment in 1701 which subsequently became the 36th of Foot. It saw action all over the world, from Culloden to Canada, from India to the Peninsula. Of Irish origins, it was back in Ireland in 1752. At this point, in a typically quirky fashion, it was given the title of 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment despite the fact that in 1744 it had been allocated Bedfordshire, Leicestershire and Lincoln-shire as recruiting grounds. Strange indeed were the ways of the War Office. In 1881, these two regiments of Worcester-shires and Herefordshire were amalgamated to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Worcestershire Regiment into which Field Marshal Sir Claud Jacob was commis-sioned in 1882.

Colonel David Houghton raised a regiment of Foot in Buckingham in 1741 which was sent straight to Gibraltar. From there it went to America where it remained for many years, not returning home until 1766. It was numbered 45th in 1748. Ten years

later it was back in America to fight in the War of Independence, and when it finally returned home 12 years later the regiment was down to just 100 men. In 1799, at the request of local gentry who promised funds, the regiment was given the name of the Nottinghamshire Regiment and ordered to recruit there. It performed very gallant service in the Peninsular campaign, fighting in all the famous battles and suffering such heavy losses that it was not able to go to Waterloo. In 1866 it received its second- and probably much better known - title of the **Sherwood Foresters.**

The Sherwood Foresters second battalion was originally raised by Colonel Sir Cohin Halkett in December 1823 and numbered the 95th (Derbyshire) Foot, inheriting a famous number formerly borne by the 95th Rifles who for their great gallantry were taken out of the Line in 1816 and formed into the Rifle Brigade. Halkett, a very experienced soldier and later a general, had commanded Wellington's 5th Brigade at Waterloo. In its ranks were many officers from the old 95th Rifles and the regiment adopted as its badge the Maltese Cross of that regiment. Starting in Malta and the lonian Islands, they served in Ceylon and China, in the Crimea and the Indian Mutiny, finally returning home in 1870.

In 1881 the Nottinghamshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters) merged with the Derbyshire Regiment to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters (Derbyshire Regiment) whose name, in deference to the senior regiment's origins, was changed in 1902 to the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).

On 28 February 1970, the Worcestershire Regiment and the Sherwood Foresters amalgamated to form the **Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.** Soldiers are quick to give names to new regiments and the new regiment has, somewhat unfortunately, acquired the nickname of 'The Woofers'. Their new badge is a somewhat unhappy combination of the Maltese Cross and Heart of the old Sherwood Foresters superimposed on the elongated Garter Star of the Worcester's. The regiment has a ram as a mascot, inherited from the old 95th.

The very last regiment for us to deal with in the Prince of Wales's Division and, indeed, the last of the present-day Army, is the Stafford's. They are certainly not the most junior regiment as placing them here might suggest, but I have dealt with all the others already. Today's regiment is the result of the amalgamation in *1959* of two Staffordshire regiments, the South and North Stafford's, who were in turn each descended from two former county regiments.

The oldest of these was first raised at Lichfield in 1702 by Colonel Luke Lillington. Having served in England for a few years, it was sent to the West Indies in 1706 where it remained for the incredible term of nearly 60 years, mostly in Antigua. It came home in 1765 and was placed on the Irish Establishment but was one of the first regiments to be sent to America.

Where it fought at the opening battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. In 1782 it was named the 38th (1St Staffordshire) Regiment. The second regiment was raised at Chatham in 1793 by Henry, Lord Paget, later the famous Marquis of Anglesey who commanded the cavalry at Waterloo. Despite his title, he came from a Staffordshire family and was at the time a Captain in the Staffordshire Militia. He raised the regiment mainly from men

of the Staffordshire Militia who were, then on duty at Plymouth and were commanded by his father, the Earl of Uxbridge.

The regiment was numbered 80th and, because of its mainly militia origins, was given the title of "Staffordshire Volunteers?' The regiment served for many years in India but in 1836 was sent to Australia in charge of a convict convoy and served in New South Wales, Tasmania and Norfolk Island.

In 1840, a detachment was sent to New Zealand - the first British troops to serve there. An escort from this detachment was present at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on the 6 February 1840 when the Lieutenant Governor of New Zealand, Captain William Hobson, concluded a treaty with 46 Maori Chiefs. This established British Sovereignty, gave the Maori all the rights of British subjects, and guaranteed them possession of their lands, which were only to be sold to the Crown. It was the disregard of these land rights that led to what used to be called the Maori Wars but are now known as the Land Wars. The treaty is still in force.

In 1881 these two regiments amalgamated to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the **South Staffordshire Regiment.**

The third regiment originated in 1756 as the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Foot. It was created a separate regiment in April 1758 under Colonel The Honourable John Barrington and was numbered 64th. In 1782, when territorial titles were first bestowed, it became the 64th (2nd Staffordshire) Regiment.

The 64th were involved in a little-known incident which, in many ways, matched the gallantry of the troops on the *Birkenhead* but, happily, without the same loss of life. A detachment from 10 companies of the regiment were returning to England in 1842 on board the hired barque Alert. The ship struck a rock about 100 miles south-east of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and began to fill with water so fast that they only just had time to run her aground on an uninhabited island. All the 200 soldiers were below decks and, having had it explained to them by their officers that if they rushed up on deck the ship would probably sink before it could be beached, stood 'silent and firm' with the water rising rapidly to above their knees while the ship was beached and the women and children got off safely. Eventually the men were all got off without any loss of life.

The last regiment was raised and disbanded six or seven times under various titles before it was finally re-raised by Colonel Henry Conran at Chichester in 1824 and ranked as 98th of Foot. For many years the regiment served in the East in the Cape, China, Hong Kong and India.

After a spell at home, it was sent to Barbados in 1873 and, after three years there, moved to Malta. In 1876, it received royal patronage, becoming the 98th (Prince of Classis) Foot soon after his visit to Malta. From there it went back to India and then Aden without coming home, and it is thought that this was the only occasion when a British battalion served in both the West and East Indies in one tour of foreign service. The regiment finally returned home in 1888 but, in the meantime, it had been merged with the 64th to become the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the **North Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's).**

On the 31 January 1959, these two Staffordshire Regiments were amalgamated to form the **Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Classis),** thus forming a truly representative county regiment.

Part 5

The lost regiments

Over the past chapters I have traced the antecedents of our present regiments of cavalry and infantry. Sadly. for various reasons, over the last 70 years or so we have lost several regiments completely. They have no representative in today's Army.

The first of these regiments disappeared in 1922 on the partition of Ireland when we lost the services of five famous Irish fighting regiments: the Royal Irish Regiment (18th) raised in 1684, the Connaught Rangers (88th and 94th) raised in 1793, the Prince of Classis Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadian) raised in Canada in 1858 and numbered 100th and two regiments who started life as regiments of the Honourable East India Company, the Royal Munster Fusiliers (101st) raised in 1652 and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers (102nd) raised in 1641. These regiments were all disbandment on the 31 July 1922 on the formation of the Irish Free State.

Two British battalions preferred disbandment to any merger or amalgamate. So in 1968 we lost the old 26th of Foot, the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) And the York and Lancaster Regiment (65th and 84th).

In the last article in this series, next month, we will look at the new Royal Irish Regiment and the regiments and corps who now form part of the Royal Logistic Corps and the Adjudant-General's Corps.

Previously , I said that we had lost the Royal Irish Regiment (the former 18th Foot raised in 1684) in 1922 on the partition of Ireland. However, we still do have a **Royal Irish Regiment** but this is a new regiment formed on 1 July 1992, exactly 70 years after the old one was disbanded.

The new regiment was formed by the amalgamation of the Royal Irish Rangers and the Ulster Defence Regiment and, on its formation, immediately became the largest regiment in the British Army. The Royal Irish Rangers had been formed on 1 July 1968 from three former famous Irish regiments. The first was the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, formed from the amalgamation of the 27th Foot (Inniskilling) and the 108th Foot (Madras Infantry) in 1881 and always known to the rest of the Army as "The Skins". The second was the Royal Ulster Rifles, being the former Royal Irish Rifles, renamed in 1922, and formed from the 83rd Foot (County of Dublin) and the 86th Foot (Leinster) in 1881. The third was the Royal Irish Fusiliers, again formed from an amalgamation in 1881 of the 87th Foot (The Prince of Classis Own Irish) which became the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1827 and the 89th Foot (Princess Victoria's). The Ulster Defence Regiment was formed on 1 April 1970 solely for service in Northern Ireland and consisted of part-time volunteers with a small core of full-time personnel.

The new Royal Irish Regiment has six battalions but they are not numbered consecutively; the numbers used keep alive old traditional battalion numbers. So - the 1st Battalion is a regular battalion serving anywhere in the world alongside the rest of the Army, the 3rd, 7th, 8th and 9th are deployed exclusively in Northern Ireland and the now-combined 4/5th (Rangers) Battalion is a Territorial Army unit.

What else have we left? Well, as everyone must know, we have 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, colloquially known as just the **SAS**: three battalions of the **Parachute Regiment** and two battalions of the **Royal Gurkha Rifles.**

Supporting these infantry and cavalry regiments we still have, thank goodness, the Gunners, more properly known as the **Royal Regiment of Artillery**, now reduced to 17 regiments. We also have 13 regiments of Sappers or **Corps of Royal Engineers.** The **Royal Corps of Signals**, formed in 1920 from the Royal Engineers Signal Service, who provide all the, Army's communications, while the **Intelligence Corps** provide its information. We still have the **Royal Army Medical Corps** to care for the bodies of our soldiers and the **Royal Army Chaplains Department** to look after their souls! Alongside the RAM are the **Royal Army Dental Corps** and the **Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps**. The regiments of the **Army Air Corps**, raised in *1957,* are the inheritors of the traditions of Army flying of the Royal Fl~ Corps of World War I and the GI Pilot Regiment and Air Observation. Squadrons of World War II.

To look after all the highly technical equipment used by the modem Arm) have the **Corps of Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers** formed in 1942 mi from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps but elements of the Royal Engineers and Royal Service Corps. **The Small Arms School Corps**, descended from the School of I Musketry (somewhat illogically named as it formed upon the introduction of the first rifle replacing~ musket in 1776) are a very small corps but play a vital ix training the men who train the soldiers in all matters of Weaponry. **The Army Physical Training Corps** are responsible for the physical fitness of the soldiers. Finally, eve this modem technological age, we still hay **Royal Army Veterinary Corps** who look the Armies dogs and horses.

Well known names that have disappeared are the Corps of Royal Military Police Royal Army Pay Corps, the Military Provost Staff Corps, the Royal Army Education Corps and the Army Legal Corps, who all amalgamated in 1992 to form the **Adjutant Generals Corps.** The Royal Corps of Transport (previously the I Army Service Corps), the Royal Army Ordinance Corps, the Royal Pioneer Corp Army Catering Corps and the Postal and C Branch of the Royal Engineers were similar merged in 1993 to form the **Royal Logistic Corps.**

Col, Ian Swinnerton

The details about the history and reorganisation of the Regiments in the British army is compiled from a series of articles written by Col Swinnerton for the

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The Militia

My series of articles on what has happened to the old regiments of the British Army has prompted several readers to ask if 1 was going to \\rite a similar series on the Militia as their ancestors were militiamen Well 1 can't really do that because the Militia regiments did not have the same history of fighting and traditions as their regular counterparts Nevertheless, they played an important pan in the defence of this country for many centuries but have not existed as a separate body since 1908. Let us see what became of them.

I gave a detailed history of their early days in this magazine's sister publication *Practical Famih History* ("The part-time army", December 1999) so a brief summary will suffice here. The origins of the Militia go back to King Egbert (802-839 AD), the first King of all England Until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, . they were the only organised military force in the ^ country although their efficiency and standard of training varied enormously over the centuries They were mustered to defend the country against the Spanish invasion m the time of Queen Elizabeth 1 but, in the end, were not needed as Drake saw the Armada off with Just the Navy and never gave the Spaniards a chance to land.

They were mustered again for the Civil War, both King and Parliament seeking to control them but in the end they mostly fought for Parliament with the London Militia, the Train[ed] Bands, forming the backbone of the Parliamentary Army.

Twenty years later, it was the inefficiency of those same London Militia in failing at first to put down an insurrection by the Fifth Monarchy Men led by Thomas Venner, a disaffected former captain in the New Model Army, that led directly to the foundation of today's Army on 14 February 1661

The Militia were mustered again in 1685 to put down the Duke of Monmouth's Rebellion but half of them immediately joined him' Regular regiments had to be brought in to put down the Rebellion which they did at the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1685

After that the Militia were allowed to decline almost ceased to exist. However, there was a renewed threat from the old enemy, France, at the outbreak of the Seven Years War in 1757 Most of our still quite small Regular Army was overseas and there was very little left to defend the country. The Prime Minister, William Pitt, realising the danger, introduced the all-important Militia Act of 1757 which completely reorganised the Militia. The Lords-Lieutenant were required to raise a Militia in their ow n county of 1,600 men who were to serve for three years and to muster and train for one month per year anywhere in the country

Each parish was required to submit a list of men eligible to serve. They had to be between 18 and 50 (lowered to 45 in 1762) and these Militia Ballot Lists provide a valuable census of the adult into male population of the country. Many of these lists have survived and are detailed in *Militia Lists and Musters* by Jeremy Gibson and Menyn Medlicott (available from Family Tree Magazine\ postal book service) It was possible for a selected man to arrange a substitute on payment of a fine.

Many in the Militia were, however, volunteers. They were paid a retainer and received full military pay while mustered and this must have been a great attraction in the hard times of the 18th and 19th centuries. Men were allowed to volunteer into the Regular Army from the Militia, indeed the Army welcomed this source of trained

recruits and it is estimated that some 40 per cent of regular soldiers started their Army life in the Militia They were supposed to have served for five years in the Militia first but, in practice, this was often ignored The government tried to control this because the Militia Ballot was desperately unpopular There was always great difficulty in raising sufficient men for the Militia, but the Army's hunger for recruits often won over the regulations

If you have lost a man in a census for instance, it is a strong possibility that he was elsewhere in the country serving w ith his Militia regiment. During the Crimean War (1854-1856) and the Indian Mutiny (1857-58) nearly every Militia regiment was mobilised for home defence to allow as many regular regiments as possible to go to the front.

The same thing happened in the Boer War (1899-1902) when Militia Battalions served in Gibraltar, Malta, and in South Africa itself, guarding prisoners and lines of communication

For the year 1781-82, Stuart Tamblin and Liz Hore have done a splendid Job by transcribing the Militia Musters, county by county, for the whole country - a most valuable research tool. They are available from Stuart on microfiche or 3'/2 inch floppy disk from 14 Copperleaf Close, Moulton. Northampton NN3 7HS The originals are in the Public Record Office in class W013, the enrolment lists are in W068

So, in their territorial affiliations the Militia were ahead of the Regular Army, who did not get their first prov isional affiliations until 1782 Ev ery county now had a Militia Regiment w ith some having two or three such as the East and West Suffolks, the North and South Gloucesters and the East, North and South Devons Yorkshire had five: East and North Riding and 1st, 2nd and 3rd West Riding.

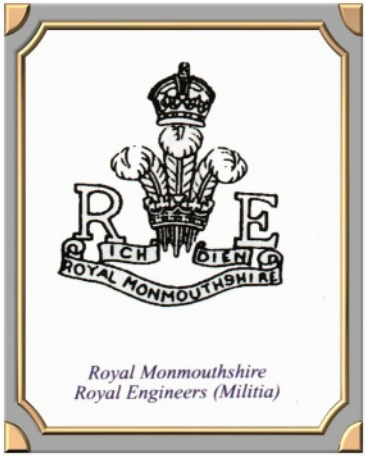
This system prevailed with minor variations until the general reorganisation of the British Army that started in the early 1870s and culminated in 1881. This, as I have mentioned in many of my previous articles, was when all the remaining single-battalion Regular Army regiments were amalgamated to form two-battalion regiments At the same time, the 3 Militia Battalions were merged with the county regiments to form 3rd (and sometimes 4th) Battalions.

An excellent listing of the pre-1881 Militia districts and of the post-reorganisation Militia Regiments, and indeed of the records of the Mili-tia in general, is to be found in William Spencer's Records of the Militia and Volunteer Forces 1757-1945 (PRO Readers' Guide No 3).

The Militia finally disappeared in 1908 when, on the merger of the Yeomanry and Volunteers into the new Territorial Force (re-named the Territorial Army in 1920), the Militia was absorbed into a new Special Reserve. This was again renamed the Militia in 1921 but all its units were put into suspended animation except the Bermuda, Malta and Channel Islands Militias and just one English regiment - the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers. They remained an active supplementary reserve regiment until 1953 when they became part of the Territorial Army but still proudly retain the word Militia in their title

The remainder of the Militia, which since 1908 had only had a nominal existence, was formally disbanded in 1953. •

by lain Swinnerton



Royal Monmouthshire
Royal Engineers (Militia)

Peter Masters
Armchair History
Llanaelhaearn
Gwynedd
LL54 5AE
01758 750322