

How "The Inniskillings Saved the Day."

Gallant Irish Regiment's Bravery in Recent Balkan Engagement Recalls Long Record of Daring Deeds at Waterloo and in the Crimea.

"Where the Inniskillings Died."

The Royal Inniskillings died defending Kevis Crest.

I'll be best—
But I never heard of Kevis Crest before.
What is more,
Neither did the men, defied there,
On their bellies, side by side there;
Yes, sir! Fighting 'til they died there,
On the top of Kevis Crest!

The fighting Inniskillings were outnumbered ten to one.

They'd have won—
But they didn't have machine guns, don't you know?
And the foe!
Well, the foe had ammunition,
And their troops were in condition;
But they still found opposition
On the top of Kevis Crest.

And where is Inniskilling; is it listed in the book?

Let us look.
Why, we might have known that men like that were Celts!
Sure! What else?
And sure what's the use of crying?
It's the Irish way of dying—
Like a man—but still I'm sighing
When I think of Kevis Crest.

—JOE TOYE.

The Inniskillings saved the British Army last week. Those gallant Irish soldiers added another badge of honor to their record so that it may read:

Waterloo
Balaklava
Sebastopol
Kevis Crest

The insignia of this historic Irish regiment, which saved the day for the allies in the Balkans at the battle of Kevis Crest, already bear the name of the first three battles listed above, battles in which the Inniskillings have distinguished themselves by extraordinary bravery. "Kevis Crest" may well be added by common consent.

The spirit characteristic of the Celt—audacity, unflinching courage, a genius for battle—has inspired this regiment from the beginning of its history—the days of the "Glorious Revolution."

On Kevis Crest the Inniskillings are admitted to have saved the day. There were two companies of them, and they held the ridge and kept back the Bulgarians the whole morning, although supported only by rifle fire, thus giving Tommy Atkins the much needed time to complete the defensive dispositions in the third line. It was this line that finally held the Bulgars back for four days.

Scarcely a man of the two Irish companies survived that desperate resistance, but the day was saved. Their stand—so reports say—much impressed the Bulgars, who for almost a week undertook no strong offensive.

The official name of the Inniskilling Regiment is the Sixth Dragoons, or "Enniskilleners." The bear as a badge, the Castle of Enniskilling (the more familiar spelling of the Irish name, Ennis kilien), the castle in which William and Mary of Orange were proclaimed King and Queen on March 11, 1689.

The history of the Inniskillings has in it two incidents of most stirring and romantic interest—Waterloo and the Crimea.

Inniskillings Fought Well at Waterloo
When the English forces were sent to the continent to check Napoleon's victorious campaign after his return from Elba, the Inniskillings were sent in six troops, mustering 450 men, to reinforce the Duke of Wellington's army in The Netherlands.

Brigaded with the First Royal Dragoons and Scotch Grays, they formed the famous Union Brigade, representing three portions of the United Kingdom—England, Scotland and Ireland.

"About noon," writes W. H. Davenport Adams, in "Famous Regiments of the British Army," Napoleon delivered his first grand attack upon the British left, and placed, under Count d'Erlon, four columns of infantry, 15,000 strong, supported by a superb body of cuirassiers, under Keller. These advanced, covered by the unceasing fire of 74 pieces of artillery, against the left centre of the allied army, and as their stately array ascended the slope and their skirmishers opened a scattering musketry, a Belgian brigade posed on the ridge, lost heart and took to flight.

"Picton brought forward his two brigades—they were scarce 3000 strong—side by side, in a thin, two-deep line. As the French halted on the crest of the hill and began to deploy into line not more than 30 yards from the scanty force of British Pic-

ton's Heavy. It was during the siege of Sebastopol that the Highland Brigade, under Sir Colin Campbell and the Turkish contingent, was detailed to protect the harbor and magazines of Balaklava. The Russians attacked this position on Oct. 25. The Turks put up only a feeble resistance, but the Highlanders stood their ground, fired two devastating volleys, and put the Russians to rout.

Meanwhile a large body of Russian horse had moved on Balaklava from another direction. The Heavy Brigade (including the Inniskillings) was ordered to advance and drive them back. What followed is thus described by W. H. Russell, the special correspondent of the London Times:

"We saw," he says, "Brigadier-General Scarlett ride along in front of his massive squadrons. The Russians—evidently corps d'elite—their light blue jackets embroidered with silver lace, were advancing on their left, at an easy gallop, toward the brow of the hill. A forest of lances glistened in their rear, and several squadrons of gray-coated dragoons moved up quickly to support them as they reached the summit. The instant they came in sight the trumpets of our cavalry gave out the warning blast, which told us all that within another moment we should see the shock of battle beneath our very eyes.

"The Russians advanced down the hill at a slow canter, which they changed to a trot, and at last nearly halted. Their first line was at least double the length of ours—it was three times as deep. Behind them was a similar line, equally strong and compact. They evidently despised their insignificant looking enemy, but their time had come.

Struck Russian Centre.

"The trumpets rang out again through the valley, and the Grays and Inniskilleners went right at the centre of the Russian cavalry. The space between them was only a few hundred yards; it was scarce enough to let the horses 'gather way,' nor had the men quite space sufficient for the full play of their sword arms. The Russian line brought forward each wing as our cavalry advanced, and threatened to annihilate them as they passed on.

"Turning a little to the left, so as to meet the Russian right, the Grays rushed on with a cheer that thrilled to every heart—the wild shout of the Enniskilleners rose through the air at the same instant. As lightning flashes through a cloud, the Grays and Enniskilleners pierced through the dark masses of Russians.

"The shock was but for a moment. There was a clash of steel and a light play of sword blades in the air, and then the Grays and the redcoats disappeared in the midst of the shaken and quivering columns. In another moment we saw them emerging with diminished numbers and in broken order, charging against the second line. It was a terrible moment.

"God help them! They are lost!" was the exclamation of more than one man and the thought of many. With unabated fire the noble hearts dashed at the enemy. It was a fight of heroes.

"The first line of Russians, which had been utterly smashed by our charge, and had fled off at one flank and toward the centre, were coming back to swallow up our handful of men. By sheer steel and sheer courage, Enniskillener and Scot were winning their desperate way through the enemy's squadrons, and already gray horses and red coats had appeared right at the rear of the second mass, when, with visible force, like one bolt from a bow, the Fourth Dragoon Guards, riding straight at the right flank of the Russians, and the Fifth Dragoon Guards, following close after the Enniskilleners, rushed at the remnants of the first line of the enemy, went through it as though it were made of pasteboard, and put them to utter rout."

It was following this brilliant engagement that the famous charge (or rather advance) of the Light Brigade took place. The tactical error lay in ordering them to advance too soon, so that as a result they were surrounded and almost annihilated.

"Had it not been for a daring rush of Scots and Enniskilleners," writes Mr. Adams, "scarce one man could have returned to receive the pity and the praise of wondering, fearful England."

The cavalry division of the British army, dispatched to the Crimea in 1854, consisted of the Heavy Brigade and the Light Brigade, the Inniskillings and other "heavy" regiments which made possible the victory. The cavalry division of the British army, dispatched to the Crimea in 1854, consisted of the Heavy Brigade, the Inniskillings were classed with

en part—more or less prominently—in almost every war that England has fought since that date.

"The Sixth, or the Inniskilling Regiment of Dragoons" (says the official British War Department history), "was originally composed of men who evinced an example of valor, constancy and devotion to the interests of civil and religious liberty, as established by law, at a period of peculiar difficulty and danger, such as seldom has been witnessed in the United Kingdom; and their heroic gallantry insured to their country the blessings of constitutional monarchy. Loyalty, courage and obedience have been evinced by the officers and soldiers of the regiment from that period to the present time; and whether in the war of the Austrian Succession—in the Seven Years' War in Germany—French revolution—or on the memorable field of Waterloo, the same valor and constancy have been displayed, which shone so brilliantly in the first members of the corps. Being equally conspicuous for good conduct on home service, the regiment has always possessed the confidence, and ranked high in the estimation, of the sovereign and the country."

KEVIS CREST.

O Paddy dear, and have you read
What all the papers says?
On Monday last on Kevis Crest
The Irish saved the day!

They nobly stood the morning out
So Tommy could fall back;
They kept the British from a rout
With Bulgars on their track.

So has it been on many fields,
Old Erin's sons are where
The bullets reap a harvest rich
And where the brunt's to bear.

There has enough of Irish blood
Been shed on turf and sea
For other lands and other Kings
To set ten Irelands free.

So let us hope now, Paddy dear,
Our sire land will be blest
With freedom consecrated by
The blood on Kevis Crest!
—J. J. M., in New York Sun.

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NOTICE

THE First Annual Convention of the Conception Bay

District Council of the F.P.U. will be held at BAY

ROBERTS on MONDAY, the 18th instant. The Conven-

tion will open at 4 p.m. at the F.P.U. Hall. All Officers of

District Councils and Local Councils of the F.P.U. in the

Districts of Harbor Main, Port-de-Grave, Harbor Grace,

Carbonear and Bay-de-Verde are members of the Con-

ception Bay District Council and should be present at the

Convention. Any such Council through its Delegates,

may by resolution bring any matter before the Conven-

tion. A Permanent Official, to attend to Union matters

in Conception Bay will be selected.

W. F. COAKER,

Chairman C.B.D.C.

St. John's, January 3rd, 1916.

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