

April, 1813, two companies of the Eighth, under command of Capt. Neale M'Neale, happened to be there, while *en route* from Kingston to reinforce the garrison at Niagara. York, at that time a village of not more than 1,000 inhabitants, had a garrison of only about 350 regulars and a few militia, while the defensive works were old and useless. The place was incapable of defence to a strong attacking force; and as the invaders were in great strength, and their landing covered by the fire from the ships, the plan of Sir Roger Sheaffe, the British commander, was to check the American assault long enough to enable him to destroy all military stores, etc., and to retire with his force to Kingston. The two companies of the Eighth, with about 200 militia were given the post of honour in engaging the enemy while the latter were landing. M'Neale may have exposed his slender force rather recklessly to their fire and the broadsides from the ships, but in any case he and a large number of his command were killed early in the fight. The remnant, after a short defence, slowly fell back on the main body in face of a steady attack from the Americans, of whom a force about 1,000 strong had by this time come on shore. The defences were soon carried and the whole remaining British force retreated unmolested to Kingston; an explosion of a powder magazine near the works at this time rendered *hors de combat* a large number of the assailants, and no doubt prevented further molestation of the retiring British force. Of the regular troops engaged 62 were killed and 72 wounded not far from one-half of the force engaged. The light company of the Eighth, also on the way to Niagara, was met by Sheaffe's force a short distance from York, and joined the retreat.

By the end of May five companies of the King's had been added to the British force at or near Fort George; and at the American attack of the 27th of that month, 6 officers and 198 men of this regiment were killed or wounded, out of a total strength of 320 who went into the action. The fighting was most stubborn, and the detachment of the Eighth showed especial vigour and bravery in the fight, as attested by the heavy loss it sustained.

A portion of the regiment was still in the Kingston garrison, and two companies took part in Sir George Prevost's abortive attack on Sackett's Harbour on 27th May, and sustained a loss of 81 out of 259, the total casualties of the force engaged.

The battle of Stoney Creek was fought on the night of the 5th June. In the small British force (704) which successfully attacked an American army of 2,500 men, there were five companies of the King's under command of Major Ogilvy; proportionately to the number engaged their loss was heavy, 83 in all.

On the 3rd of the same month, Sir James Yeo sailed from Kingston with 280 men of the King's to reinforce the army on the Niagara frontier. They reached the Forty-Mile creek on the 8th, and after an engagement with the enemy landed there. The American army of invasion, which had penetrated as far west as this point, had by this time commenced a retrograde movement, and a large stock of arms and stores were abandoned to the landing party.

In the attack on Black Rock on 11th July, memorable as the occasion of the death of the gallant Lieut.-Col. Bishopp, 40 men of the King's participated and lost exactly half their number. In the second and more formidable expedition in the same direction made on the last day of 1813, and which ended in the destruction of Buffalo, there were four companies of the King's employed, their loss in the affair being 7 killed and 16 wounded.

In the campaign of 1814, the Eighth lost a company at Fort Erie on 3rd July when that post surrendered to General Brown, the American commander. In the fight at Chippewa that followed and which resulted disastrously to our arms, the King's (which had just arrived from York) took part, and acted with great gallantry and steadiness. In the hardly-contested fight in Lundy's Lane on the 25th of July, a detachment of 120 men of the King's formed part of the British force and were in the brunt of the engagement. At the unsuccessful attack on Fort Erie on 15th August the available companies of the regiment were engaged, and suffered a loss of 32 killed and wounded.

With the exception of trifling skirmishes the King's regiment was not engaged with the enemy again during the year, and peace was declared in the following winter. In the following year the regiment returned to England, and for the

next thirty years was employed on the usual home and colonial reliefs.

The Halifax *Herald* publishes an extract from the old *Nova Scotian* of 9th May, 1839, which states that the 8th regiment, under the command of Lieut.-Col Bould, arrived there on Sunday 5th inst., in H.M.S.'s Pique, Andromache, and brig, Wanderer, and disembarked next day. Shipping intelligence in same paper of same date: "Arrived, Sunday, H.M.S. Pique, Capt. Boxer, Montego Bay, 17 days, with part of 8th regiment; H.M.S. Andromache, Capt. Baynes, ditto, with part of 8th regiment; H.M. brig Wanderer, ditto, with remainder of 8th regiment."

In 1846 the King's went to India, and was still there when the Mutiny broke out in 1857, the corps being then stationed at Jallundur. It at once took part in the campaign, marched to Delhi in June and bore an honourable and prominent share in the siege and the assault, it furnishing the storming and ladder party in the attack on the Water Bastion. After the fall of the city, the corps formed part of a flying column sent to Cawnpore, and which completely routed a force of 6,000 Sepoys which attacked them *en route*. They subsequently acted with the Lucknow Relief column, and participated in most of the actions of the war. In 1860 they returned home, the Governor-General acknowledging their services in an order which assured "the regiment of "the very high sense entertained by him of its soldierly conduct whether in quarters or in the field." Since the Mutiny the 1st Battalion has been in various stations but has seen no special service.

On three separate occasions, in 1756, 1804 and 1857, second battalions for this corps have been formed. That first-mentioned remained with the King's for two years only, it receiving a separate regimental organization as the 63rd Foot in 1758. The 2nd battalion of 1804 was in Halifax in 1812-13 and in February, 1814, six companies marched from New Brunswick to Quebec on snow-shoes through an almost unbroken forest. They arrived at their destination in March after undergoing great hardships, which was cheerfully borne. In September this battalion took part in the expedition to Plattsburg, so atrociously mismanaged by the commander-in-chief, Sir George Prevost. The battalion was reduced in 1815.

In October, 1857, more troops were required for India, and a second battalion for the King's was again easily recruited. It served in Gibraltar, Malta and India, and was in the thick of the fighting in Afghanistan during 1878-80. Its latest active service has been in Burmah.

The colours of the King's Regiment attest its length of service and its valour in action. The badges of honour that are there inscribed read as follows: "Blenheim," "Ramillies," "Oudenarde," "Malplaquet," "Dettingen," "Egypt," "Martinique," "Niagara," "Delhi," "Lucknow," "Peiwar Kotul," "Afghanistan, 1878-80."

To members of the Masonic order in Canada, this regiment possesses a special interest, for the lodge attached to the corps when it was quartered in Niagara in 1775 is the first known record of Masonry in what is now the Province of Ontario.

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The very doubtful yarn, now current, of the invention of a bullet-proof uniform in Germany, recalls an anecdote of the great Duke of Wellington. A stranger gained admittance to the War Office one busy morning, and urged the Duke to introduce into the army a bullet-proof jacket which he had invented. He produced a specimen. "Bullet-proof?" said the Duke; "very good. Put it on, will you?" The man did so. The Duke rang the bell; an officer appeared. "Tell Capt. So-and-so to send two of his men here and let them load with ball cartridge." When the Duke looked up from his writing presently the inventor had disappeared.

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The Queen and the Prince of Wales have expressed a strong wish that the detachments of horse artillery from Victoria and of cavalry from New South Wales, both now on their way to England to take part in the Military Tournament, shall form part of the Royal escort when Her Majesty opens the Imperial Institute in May. There will also be a detachment of cavalry from India.