

### The History of the Twenty-fifth Regiment—Continued

rural one, was comprised of six companies, No's. 1, 4 and 6 in St. Thomas; No. 2 at Vienna; No. 3 at Aylmer, and No. 5 at Port Stanley, with headquarters at St. Thomas. The Port Stanley Company was later disbanded.

Captain McKenzie resigned the command of the company soon after the Fenian Raid and was succeeded in the captaincy in turn by Messrs. John King, S. Day, White, Moore, Wardell and Neil Caswell. In September, 1866, the Rifle Company ceased to exist, being incorporated as No. 1 Company of the 25th Regiment, Elgin Infantry.

In May, 1867, Lieut.-Col. Charles A. O'Malley, of Wardsville, was appointed to the command of the regiment and retained that position until June, 1889, when he was succeeded by Lieut.-Col. W. H. Lindsay.

To give a full and adequate history of the regiment would take more space than can be spared for this sketch and at the best, such a history would unfortunately be in many parts and in numerous interesting details, far from complete, many of the valuable records having mysteriously disappeared during a period in which the military zeal of the early days was replaced by internal dissensions which culminated in a rapid deterioration and lack of efficiency. The ranks became depleted, a d for the time the battalion existed in little more than a name in the militia list.

Many of the officers and men resigned and in 1889 Lieut.-Colonel O'Malley also forwarded his resignation to headquarters and was succeeded in the command by Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, son of Lieut. James Lindsay, of the Rifle Company.

On April 15, 1893, the regiment, by a general order was made a city corps, the county companies being disbanded, and the band, whose headquarters had been at Aylmer, was transferred to St. Thomas. This result was brought about largely through the efforts of Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, Major George Stacey, Captain A. F. McLachlin and other officers of the battalion, who believed that such a course would lead to greater cohesion and efficiency of control and training.

Shortly after the change was made from a rural to a city corps, Lieut.-Col. Lindsay was transferred from St. Thomas to the 7th Fusilier Regiment in London and the command of the Twenty-Fifth was given to Major Stacey, who was promoted to be Lieut.-Colonel. During Lieut.-Col. Stacey's command the regiment attained considerable efficiency and much regret was felt at his retirement.

Lieut.-Col. Stacey was succeeded in the command by Major A. F. McLachlin, an enthusiastic and efficient military man, who had made his way upwards from the ranks of the Collegiate Institute Cadets of which corps he rose to the rank of Captain. Lieut.-Col. McLachlin's advancement was rapid, his steps being as follows: 2nd Lieutenant, May 14, 1892; Lieutenant, May 5, 1893; Captain, August 25, 1893; Major, August 10, 1899, and Lieutenant-Colonel, September 29, 1900; in 1904 Lieut.-Col. McLachlin was transferred to the Reserve of Officers and was succeeded in the command by Lieut.-Col. E. H. Caughell, who was succeeded in 1908 by Lieut.-Col. J. S. Robertson.

On March 1, 1912, Lieut.-Col. W. J. Green, the present officer commanding the regiment, was named commanding

officer, Lieut.-Col. J. S. Robertson having been transferred to the Reserve of Officers. Since Col. Green's succession to the command, a steady growth in numbers and efficiency has been the history of the regiment, a growth which has been greatly accelerated by the outbreak of war between Great Britain and Germany.

The formation of the Home Guard and the enthusiastic spirit with which all classes of men in the city, in common with the rest of the Canadian people, have responded to the call of the Motherland for help in this great struggle either in men or cash, or goods, plus the call for volunteers for active service, has assisted very materially to this growth, with the result that the Battalion will in all probability for the first time in its history soon attain its full establishment as an eight company Battalion.

In the dark days that followed the Boer ultimatum to Great Britain on October 9, 1899, to the close of the Boer war in 1901, the 25th Regiment showed the same spirit of loyalty to the British flag, which animated their forbears during the days of the Fenian Raid, sending no less than eleven officers and men to swell the British ranks in South Africa. Some of these went with the first Canadian Contingent and others with the second.

The members of the 25th Regiment who served in the Boer war, with the ranks which they held in the regiment when they volunteered for active service, are as follows:

Captain W. J. Green, wounded at Paardeberg, now commander of the 25th Battalion.

Captain W. H. Westaway, now resident in the city and for several years paymaster of the Battalion, and recently appointed by the Board of Education as drill instructor in the city schools.

Lieutenant "Edge" Farley, who died at Orange River from enteric fever.

Lieutenant Percy Ermatinger, who after the war, served for some time with the South African Constabulary before returning home. Mr. Ermatinger has again volunteered for active service.

Lieutenant Percy Stacey, son of Lieut.-Col. George Stacey, former O. C., now resident in Australia.

Sergeant George F. Stanbury, now Captain Stanbury and acting adjutant of the Battalion.

Sergeant George R. Barrett, who served for some time in the S. A. C. Since deceased.

Privates, the late A. H. Anderson, late H. B. Travers, J. Sutherland, now resident in South Africa, and Gunner Wm. Stokes, city.

Since the opening of the present war, upwards of 200 men have enlisted for active service from St. Thomas, many of them have been members of the Twenty-Fifth Regiment.

The motto of the 25th Regiment, "Officium Primum," is borne on the regimental badge on a scroll under a garter surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves and bearing the words, "Elgin Infantry." The garter encircles the numerals XXV., which are backed by a copy of the seal of the County of Elgin. The top of the wreath is closed by a beaver. The badge is borne on an eight-point military star and is surmounted by the Imperial Crown.

