

## Famous British Regiments

### 1. Grenadier Guards

It has been aptly written that regiments great in history retain, though old in glory and honor, the vigour of youth, and to none can this observation be more fittingly applied than to the Grenadier guards, who, at Modder River and in the whole course of their South African service, upheld the glorious traditions of two and half centuries.

#### Date from 1660

First on the roll of British infantry, its formation dating from 1660, the Grenadier Guards originally wore scarlet coats faced with blue, with blue breeches and stockings and plumed hats. A Grenadier company was first added to the regiment of 1678, but the regimental badge of a grenade did not figure on the appointments of this or any other regiment until some 90 years later, long after the use of the missile had become obsolete with the class of troops named after it.

To enumerate all the famous battles in which the Grenadier Guards have taken part would be to compile practically a complete list of British campaigns of any importance. They fought against the Moors at Tangier and the Indians in Virginia.

#### Formed a Forlorn Hope

Fifty Grenadiers formed the "forlorn hope" at the storming of the heights of Schellenberg, in Bavaria. This was shortly before the Battle of Blenheim, in which the regiment took a prominent part, and it was always in the thick of the fighting throughout Marlborough's campaigns.

Always conspicuous for steadiness in action, this quality was particularly in evidence at Waterloo, when in the famous charge at the close of the day they swept down from their post on the ridge above Hougomont. The collective loss of the 2nd and 3rd battalions at Quatre Bras and Waterloo amounted to 181 killed and 853 wounded out of about 2,000 of all ranks. The same stubborn valour and indifference to hardship were exhibited in the Crimea at the Alma, at Inkerman, and in the trenches before Sebastopol.

### 2. The Black Watch

A picturesque Highland garb and a fine fighting record have made the Black Watch one of the most popular regiments in the British Army. It is the oldest Highland regiment in the service, its origin dating back to the early part of the eighteenth century. In those days it consisted of six companies, each of which was distinguished by the tartans of their captains for the time being.

### Something About the Troops Who Have Defended the Honor of the Flag in all Lands and Fights They Have Figured In

There is something sinister in the unusual title of the regiment which has always appealed to the popular imagination, but the name "Black Watch" really owes its origin to the fact that such comparatively sombre colours as black, green, and blue predominated in their military dress in contrast to the brilliant scarlet tunics of the majority of the British troops of the day.

Raised primarily with the object of doing service in Scotland, the Black Watch first had its fighting qualities put to the test abroad when it was sent to join the army in Flanders shortly after the battle of Dettingen.

#### Established Reputation

In its first engagement the regiment established that reputation for gallantry on the field of action which has been so jealously maintained ever since. The historian who wrote that the way these Highlanders fought at Fontenoy was "the theme of admiration throughout all Britain" was not guilty of a word of exaggeration. The courage and dash of the Black Watch have been equalled but never excelled.

They fought with such distinction in Canada in 1758 that King George II. conferred the title "Royal" on the regiment, whose subsidiary description became "the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment of Foot."

At Waterloo, in the Crimea, during the Indian Mutiny, and in South Africa the Black Watch have had a lion's share in the making of military history.

### 3. "Death or Glory Boys"

THE badge of the 17th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers is a death's head (skull and cross bones) with the words, "Or Glory," beneath it. Their service record proves that they are thoroughly entitled to an emblematic device signifying courage of the highest type.

Originally called the 18th Light Dragoons, the present 17th Lancers was raised in Hertfordshire in 1759. It first saw service under Lord Granby in Germany in 1761, and when hostilities with the American Colonies broke out it supplied the first body of cavalry to cross the Atlantic. From the battle of Bunker's Hill onwards it took part in important engagements for a period of five years.

#### Employed in Jamaica

Fourteen years later four troops of

the regiment were employed in the Maroon War in Jamaica and at the capture of the island of Grenada. In less than another 12 months the 17th was experiencing arduous service in San Domingo, and in 1788 a part of the regiment was engaged in the attack on Ostend. During 1806-7 the headquarters of the regiment were in all four quarters of the globe within the space of 12 months—in South America, at the Cape, in India, and at home.

#### Regimental Uniform

The regiment, which then wore cavalry-grey uniforms faced with white and silver, distinguished itself in India for more than eight years, and, returning home in 1823, next saw service abroad in the Crimea, being present at the battles of the Alma, Inkerman and Balaclava.

It was, of course, one of the five regiments that took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade. Afterwards it served in Central India during the closing scenes of the Mutiny. In the Zulu War in 1879 the "17th" was present at the capture of Ulundi, and its fine record in the South African War is still fresh in the recollections of most people.

### 4. "The Fighting Fifth"

ONE of the most stirring episodes connected with the return of troops to England after the South African War was the magnificent reception accorded to the Northumberland Fusiliers, popularly known as "The Fighting Fifth," who at Colenso and on the Tugela heights had fought with a courage and pertinacity unrivalled in the records of the British Army. The fact that this famous regiment lost 32 officers and 617 men killed and wounded in South Africa is sufficient evidence that they lived up to their finest traditions.

#### Nicknamed "Shiners"

Originally nicknamed "The Shiners" on account of the gay appearance of the men's uniforms, the regiment has always been known as "The Fighting Fifth" since its various exploits in the Peninsular War. The Duke of Wellington was so impressed by their gallant conduct at El Boden when, forming part of a small force, they beat off an overwhelming force of the enemy during the investment of Ciudad Rodrigo that he announced in a special proclamation to the Army that it was "a memorable example of what can be done by steadiness, discipline and confidence."

#### Hired Out to Holland

It is a coincidence that, seven years after becoming a part of the British Army—it was first raised 11 years earlier as an auxiliary force in the pay of Holland—the regiment gained



great distinction in Flanders at the siege of Namur, which once again has become the centre of tremendous military operations. During its long and honorable career the "Fifth" has seen service in Ireland, America, Portugal, Spain, France, Canada, India and South Africa. In Germany in 1762 a woman, Phoebe Hassell, to whose memory there is a stone in Hove Churchyard, served in the ranks without her sex being discovered until after the campaign. That was the occasion when, at Wilhelmsthal, the "Fifth" took a French standard and twice as many prisoners as the regiment had men on the field.

### 5. Royal Scotch Greys

THE 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) traces its origin to certain troops of horse and dragoons added to the Scottish Establishment in 1678.

The Scots Dragoons, as they were then called, served in the campaign in Flanders until 1763, and went from Scotland to the Low Countries in 1702 by which time they had become known as the Grey Dragoons, or the "Scots Regiment of White Horses."

#### Fought with Marlborough

They fought at Blenheim, and at Ramillies captured the standard of the French regiment du Roi. According to one of the great historians they, in conjunction with the 5th Royal Irish Dragoons (subsequently the 5th Lancers), overwhelmed three battalions of French Grenadiers. The "Greys" fought also at Oudenarde and Malplaquet, and were at nearly all the great sieges in the Low Countries during the campaigns of 1708-12.

During 1742-7 the regiment was in the Flanders campaign, and at Dettingen captured a white standard of the French Household Brigade. In Germany during 1759-62 it fought at Minden, Warburg, Kref, Denkers, Groebenstein, and was engaged in numerous skirmishes. Next it served in Flanders with the Duke of York in 1793-4. At Quatre Bras and Waterloo in 1815 even Napoleon paid a tribute to their prowess and spoke of them as "these terrible grey horses."

#### The Eagle Badge

The Eagle badge afterwards worn by the Greys represented an "eagle" and colour of the veteran French 45th of the Line, valiantly defended but taken by Sergeant Charles Ewart, of the Greys, in one of the charges of the Union Brigade on that memorable 18th of June. The Greys marched with the Army to Paris after the victory.

When the Russian war began the regiment was ordered to the Crimea and was present at Balaclava, Inkerman, and the siege of Sebastopol. In 1894 the Emperor Nicholas of Russia was appointed colonel-in-chief.

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## PLUCKY TARS WHO HANDLED LIVE SHELLS

Five of Them Landed in Boiler of One of the British Destroyers

SHIED THEM OVERBOARD

"No Room For Such Rubbish on Our Yacht," Said The Sailors

London, Sept. 2.—The Harwich correspondent of the Telegraph gives interviews with wounded sailors and speaks of the plucky way in which the British handled live shells.

Many of the German shells which made hits, it appears, but did not burst. "There were five shells in the boiler of one of the destroyers," he quotes one of the sailors as saying, "and if one had burst it would have been all up with the ship."

"What did you do with them?" he was asked. "Oh, just shied them overboard. There was no room for such rubbish aboard our yacht."

In another instance recited to the correspondent, it is related that a shell fell on a British ship and as there was no immediate explosion the sailors rushed at it and pushed it into the sea with their naked hands.

The Germans also showed considerable grit, it is declared. As one of the cruisers was going down with decks aflame and the flag and mast shot away, the only man left in the forecastle hoisted the flag and then went down with the ship.

Proof that some of the Germans were shot by their own officers, the correspondent says, is given by one wounded German landed at Shotley, who had seven revolver bullets in him which he could only have come by from his own ship.

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