

[Written Expressly for "THE REVIEW"]
 NOTES FROM AN OLD REGIMENTAL
 ORDER BOOK.

BY CAPTAIN DARTNELL, 34TH BATT. V. M.

(Continued from our last.)

From various memoranda contained in Lieutenant Cox's book it would appear that in the year 1787 (then stationed in Dublin) he had been 18 years in the service, two and a half as a gentleman cadet in the Royal Regiment of Artillery at Woolwich, also six years as 2nd Lieutenant in the same corps, from which he received his Lieutenantcy in the 21st Regiment from General Burgoyne during the campaign in North America, 1777, in which country he served six years during the late war. Further notes would show that the Regiment was stationed in East Florida in 1768, and returned to Ireland at the close of the American war. In 1789 the Regiment was again ordered abroad, this time to Nova Scotia. A note gives the following as the "winterkit," viz: 1. A spare flint each man. 2. A piece of cloth to keep the lock dry. 3. A pair of creepers each. 4. A quantity of old Blanket to wear in the mawkasons (sic). 5. A blanket and slings. 6. A pair of mitts. 7. A tin pint. 8. A camp kettle to six men. 9. A haversack and canteen. 10. Foraging cap. 11. Salt and matches. 12. One shirt and piece of soap. 13. Razor, comb, needles and thread. 14. A pocket knife.

Under the date of June 1787, the directions given out by General Pitt in that year are entered in full. They are curious as being accidentally the foundation of the "general principles" regulating the movements of a company, battalion, line or column; and, in fact, with but merely verbal changes, are the germs of those laid down in the pages of the "Red book." There are some deviations however; among others as to the steps of march, it being that "the ordinary step is 70 within the minute, 2 feet 4 inches in length. It is the pace in parade, common marching in front, and on all occasions where greater celerity is not ordered. The quick step is 120 in a minute, 2 feet 4 inches in length. It is used in all filings of divisions from line to column, and from column to line, and for quick movements in front."

It would appear that at this date the formation of fours had not been introduced into the army.

A neatly arranged table of words of command are given. The difference between them and those now in use are but slight. For example instead of the caution "the line or column will advance" is found "the battalion will move forward." "Heads to the right (or left)" instead of "Right (or left) dress." To retire from the right of companies and reform line the words appear to have been: "From the right of divisions file to the rear. March. Halt. Front. Dress. To the left wheel and form in line. March.

Halt. Dress." When a column changed direction the word "Halt" seems to have been given on all occasions instead of "forward" as now, and the column again put in motion as soon as each company or division had conformed in succession to the new direction.

A King's order, dated January 4th, 1792, provides "that the following articles hitherto provided out of the pay of our Foot soldiers, be in future supplied without any expense to them, viz: "1. A pair of black cloth gaiters per year, 4s. 2. A pair of breeches, besides the ammunition pair, 6s. 6d. 3. Altering clothing to fit, 2s. 6d. 4. Proportion of expense for watch coat per year, 1s. 5. A worn turnscrew, prick and brush, at 1s. 3d. in five years. 6. Imery, brick-dust and oyl per year, 2s. 6d." A list of various articles then follows to be provided out of the men's pay including a second pair of gaiters, "powder bag and puff, once in three years at 1s. 6d., and "grease and powder for the hair, per year, 3s."

Under date of 1793 is a note that "on saluting days, the army fire at 12 o'clock, and the navy at one."

No further entry appears in the book until the year 1814, a period of 21 years, when the entries are resumed in another handwriting, the first being a copy of a despatch from the War Office dated 30th February, 1814, and signed "Palmerston."

A General Order dated Quebec, 5th March, 1814, reads as follows: "His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received information from His Excellency Sir J. C. Sherbrooke, commanding the Forces in Nova Scotia, of the arrival at Halifax of the following officers: Captain Lehender, Regiment De Watteville; Lieutenant Carter, Royal Artillery; Lieutenant and Adjutant Steel, 89th Regiment, and Mr. Green, Deputy Assistant Commissary General."

"The three first named officers were captured on their passage to Kingston on the 5th October. They were considered as prisoners of war on parole until the 3rd December, when they were placed in close confinement in Worcester gaol. Mr. Green was captured on the 7th November, and, although exempt by the cartel as a non-combattant, was nevertheless placed with the above named officers in close confinement in the common gaol of Worcester.

"The Lieutenant General having caused the most minute investigation to be made of the nature of the confinement and the circumstances attending the escape of these officers, reports that they were not bound by any pledge or parole whatever and have in no degree violated their honor in making their escape and directs them to join their respective corps and resume the discharge of their military duties."

Perhaps some of your readers may be able to throw some light upon the incidents referred to in the foregoing order.

A General Order of the date of the 18th March, 1814, contains the particulars of a

skirmish or engagement of the War to which I can find no allusion in any of the histories to which I have at present access.

The order states that "His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has received from Lieut. General Drummond the Report of Captain Stewart of the Royal Scots of an affair which took place between the detachment under the orders of that officer and a body of the enemy at Longwood in advance of Delaware town. Captain Stewart reports that receiving a report late on the night of the 3rd instant, from Captain Caldwell that a party of the enemy had been seen in Longwood, directed the flank companies of the Royal Scots, and the Light Company of the 89th Regiment under the immediate command of Captain Blasdell, 89th Regt., to march at day-break to the support of Capt. Caldwell, and that at 5 o'clock in the evening the enemy was observed, in very superior force, posted on a commanding eminence, strongly entrenched with log breastworks. This post was instantly attacked in the most gallant manner by the flank companies in front, while Captain Caldwell's company of Rangers, and a detachment of the Royal Kent Militia made a flank movement on the right, and a small band of the Indians to the left with the view of gaining the rear of the position, and after repeated efforts to dislodge the enemy in an arduous and spirited contest for an hour and a half's duration, which terminated with daylight, the troops were reluctantly withdrawn having suffered severely, principally in officers. The enemy has since abandoned his position in Longwood."

The loss in this action from a return appended seems to have been: of the Royal Scots, Captain D. Johnson and 9 rank and file killed, Lt. A. Macdonald, 3 sergeants and 31 rank and file wounded, one Buglar missing. Of the 89th Light Company, Lt. P. Groome and 3 rank and file killed, Capt. Basden, 1 sergeant and 7 rank and file wounded. Volunteer Pigott wounded and taken prisoner. Of the Royal Kent Volunteers, one Lieutenant, 1 sergeant and 3 rank and file wounded.

The skirmish must have been a sharp one as shewn by 60 casualties in an engagement of an hour and a half duration. Perhaps some of your correspondents may be able to throw further light upon this affair.

NOTE.—The *Esportions* mentioned in my former paper in the *Review Exercise* were a sort of half pike or halbert carried by dismounted officers of Infantry. It would thus appear that at the date given these weapons were yet carried by Infantry officers, except those of Grenadier and Light Infantry companies who carried fusils.

(To be Continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

FENIANISM.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

DEAR SIR:—The exhaustive discussion which their insane, yet annoying organisation has undergone, leaves but a limited margin for a pen as guiltless of originality, as it is of that rarely attained condensation which constitutes the grand desideratum of writing—a short letter; I must therefore throw myself upon the courtesy of the *Review* for permission to encumber its space (which I am glad to observe is daily becoming more valuable) with a few remarks, however crude or trite.