



VI.—THE CAMERONIANS (SCOTTISH RIFLES)

THE Cameronians are the first Scottish infantry regiment by numerical order which, in their comparatively modern composition, illustrate that incomprehensible exposition of War Office genius by which two old corps with not the least connection, territorial or historical, were *nolens volens* merged together to form one double battalion regiment. The only excuse, of course, was the usual one of economy, to save having in the new order of things to find a second battalion for each single battalion corps. Formerly the two now under review were the 26th Cameronians and the 90th Perthshire (Volunteers) Light Infantry, with different traditions, and widely separated in territorial area and consequent personal sympathies. Consequently, the union meant the disappearance of the individuality of the old Perthshire Regiment, in which were trained many distinguished soldiers, including the late Lord Wolseley, Commander-in-Chief, and Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood. Now, however, merged as the Cameronians, and generally known as one of Glasgow's regiments, the two battalions have maintained the fine records of both on the field, to the great pride of the Second City in the Empire.

The Cameronians had a remarkably unique origin, having been in arms against the powers that "were" in the days of the persecution of the Covenanters, and then, when a new order of government came in by the will of the people, in giving their military services to the Crown, having preserved in their regimental title the name of one of their doughty leaders of the days when they stood as rebels for conscience' sake. But even when William of Orange, in 1688, was established as the champion of Protestantism, and a call went out for fresh regiments to meet the trouble in Ireland, the Covenanters of the southwest were, as the great Macaulay re-

It was not, assuredly, for want of courage, for they had evidenced it against the great Claverhouse, they had borne the murders of sire and son, the ravishing and burning of homestead for the sake of religion, but yet they had a scruple about drawing the sword in any quarrel other than that of the defence of conscience. So, when the question was raised at a great meeting at Douglas whether, in the face of an expected Irish invasion, it was not an imperative duty to take up arms, there were divided counsels, the majority, indeed, vehemently asserting that association with the sword would be sinful, and quite a healthy minority as sternly predicting the evil fate of those who would now turn back after having put hand to the plough. From among that minority the Earl of Angus in one day raised the regiment which was subsequently to be known to fame as the 26th Cameronians, and to have its dépôt headquarters within ten miles of the scene of the principal places of meeting of the Covenanters over two hundred years ago. They were "kittle cattle" to handle, these Sons of the Covenant, and, to begin with, they laid down certain conditions, such as that they would not serve under any officer, commissioned or non-commissioned, who was not ready to sign the Covenant. They even, it is stated, instituted the churchly office of elder in their midst, and one of their first acts was to petition Parliament "that all drunkenness, licentiousness, and profaneness might be severely punished." Raised to the strength of a thousand men in a few hours, the regiment was first stationed in Edinburgh for the congenial duty of keeping a keen eye on the Jacobites there. It was not present at Killiecrankie, where "Bonnie Dundee," in his dying, with his clans raised so brilliant a flicker to the waning star of the Stewarts; but it was afterwards transferred to the danger zone, and, by the meddlesome lay councillors at Edinburgh, against all military advice, was planted down in a seemingly hopeless position at Dunkeld, in the heart of the enemy. The men of the regiment, realising that they were be-

mutiny, till their commander, Colonel Cleland, vowing that neither he nor any of the officers would abandon the cause, uttered, it is recorded, these significant words, "Bring out my horse, all of you; horses; they shall be shot dead." With equally fervent and generous response the men refused to allow the sacrifice. They had their baptism next day when just 1200 strong, they were assailed by from 4000 to 5000 Highlanders. Their outposts driven in, the Cameronians held out obstinately in the church and behind the wall of a house belonging to the Marquis of Athole, and when their ammunition was spent they stripped the lead from the roof of the house with which to improvise bullets. The colonel and then the second-in-command, who were encouraging the men, were shot down by the Highlanders firing from neighbouring houses, and then a party of enraged Cameronians sallied out, set fire to the houses from which the fatal bullets had come, and turned the keys in the doors, so that in one house alone sixty of the enemy were burned alive. The struggle lasted for four hours; half the town was blazing, and then the Highlanders broke and retired in disorder with a loss of 300 men.

The regiment saw service in King William's foreign campaign. Steadfastly "carles" they showed their valour at Landen and at Steinkirk, where their leader, Lord Angus, and not a few of their number were devoted to death in the face of great odds; and again at the costly capture of Namur the great depletion of their ranks attested the gallant determination in the fight. With brief respite they were again in the field of Flanders, and had no small share in the great victories associated with the name of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, gaining for their colours the never-dying words "Bleed for him" (where the foe had casualties numbering 40,000), "Ramillies," "Cudenarde," and "Malplaquet," and doing hard work at the taking of such fortresses as Tournay and Douay, where the underground defences were the cause of bitter loss to the captors. The Cameronians had in 1727 the felicity of sharing in the successful defence of the Rock of Gibraltar against the powerful

were engaged in the unfortunate task of fighting against our kinsmen in the American War of Independence, enduring with great credit much hardship and privation. One bitter incident is recorded. Shortly after the capture of St. John a detachment of the regiment was embarked on secret service, but the expedition was discovered by the enemy, and the vessel captured. When resistance was found to be impossible the colours were wrapped round a cannon shot and consigned to a watery grave in the river. In the Napoleonic period the Cameronians formed part of Sir John Moore's army of heroes who proved the indomitable valour of the British in covering retreat, and at Corunna was one of the regiments which gained such laurels for the tomb of their great leader. After the subsequent Walchern expedition, so hardly had the regiment been hit in all these campaigns that only some ninety men returned to represent it, so that it was not in a position to take a further part in the fighting of that period. It was not till 1840 that it was again in the field in the Chinese War, when it was honoured for its good work, having in particular been the first to mount the walls of Amoy. Next it appeared, in 1868, with Lord Napier in the Abyssinian campaign, which was successfully terminated in the capture of Magdala. Its after fortunes in the field were associated with the now 2nd Battalion, a short note of whose record falls now to be given.

As we have said, the present 2nd Battalion was originally the 90th Perthshire (Volunteers) Light Infantry. Raised in 1794 by him who was afterwards Lord Lyndoch, the 90th was at the capture of Minorca in 1798, and in 1801 at the driving of Napoleon out of Egypt. They had a memorable day at Mandora. The French cavalry, judging that the 90th, by their wearing helmets, were dismounted horsemen and thus less likely to make a stand, charged them again and again, only to be driven back by the murderous fire of the Perthshire lads. It is also recorded that on this occasion the victorious commander, Sir Ralph Abercromby, separated from his staff, had his horse shot under him, and was in no little danger when rescued by a gallant soldier of the 90th, who risked his life fearlessly to save the British leader. The 90th was afterwards at the reduction of Martinique, and took a conspicuous part in the capture of Guadaloupe. After a long period of peace service the 90th was out in the South African bush in the Kaffir War of 1846-7, when there was harassing work with incessant attacks by an unseen and treacherous foe. It next appeared in the Crimean War during the fatal winter in the trenches before Sevastopol. It was in the assault and defence of the fortifications known as "The Quarries," and was part of the force which so heroically yet unsuccessfully strove to carry the great Redan, the bodies of Perthshires being afterwards found furthest forward in the advance. With them the young officer, afterwards Lord Wolseley, here first earned distinction. The Indian Mutiny next called them, and they were with Outram and Havelock in the advance for the relief of Lucknow and at the storming of the position of the mutineers at the Martiniere. The period was bright with individual acts of gallantry by officers and men of the 90th, no fewer than six

brought them out as part of the force of Sir Evelyn Wood, another distinguished man of their own training. They had great credit at Inhlobane, where an officer and a private added to the regiment's list of Victoria Crosses by clearing out a cavern from which a party of Zulus had kept up a hot fire. They were in the thick of things at Kambula, and again at Ulundi, where Cetewayo's host was finally defeated.

Transformed in the interim into the 2nd Battalion the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), they were next in the Boer War of 1899-1902. With General Sir Redvers Buller they went through the arduous and dangerous operations which culminated in the relief of Sir George

the order came to retreat, but they did so, a weary, sorely tried band, yet maintaining good order and the best traditions of the British Army. Not many days later, advancing under a shower of bullets, they formed part of the brigade which swarmed up the hill at Vaalkranz, drove off the Boers with the bayonet, and afterwards maintained the position in spite of a cross fire till General Hildyard's Brigade brought relief. Next at Pieter's Hill they shared in the stirring charges which culminated in the Boers being discomfited with a loss of 500 men, and the way cleared for the ultimate relief of Ladysmith. They subsequently took part in the operations which effected the evacuation by the Boers of the strong position at Laing's Nek, and later did much good service through the long guerilla warfare, their casualties in the campaign numbering 263, including 123 killed. The old 4th (Militia) Battalion, which with the 3rd (Militia) had volunteered for active service, was also out in South Africa, and did its duty well in the less spectacular but, perhaps, no less necessary duty of convoy work and guarding lines of communication. The old Volunteers, too, did their share, sending out service companies who were attached to their brethren of the line, and who well maintained the honour of the name they bore.

The Toll of the Baronets

THE baronetage has suffered heavily, and Second-Lieutenant Sir Gilchrist Nevill Ogilvy has followed Sir Archibald Gibson-Craig, Sir Gawaine Baillie, and the others at the age of twenty-two. Sir Gilchrist succeeded his grandfather, Sir Reginald Ogilvy, of Baldoan House, Forfarshire, in 1910, his father, Major Angus Ogilvy, D.S.O., having died four years earlier. The Ogilvy family has been connected with Forfarshire since the fourteenth century or earlier, and the young Scots Guardsman gave every promise of carrying on the honourable traditions of his ancestors. He is succeeded by his uncle, Mr. Herbert Kinnaid Ogilvy, who ten years ago married Lady Christian Bruce, a daughter of Lord Elgin. The present Lady Elgin's first husband was a brother of the new baronet.

Connected with Scotland

Lieutenant David Drummond, also of the Scots Guards, who was killed in action on 3rd November, was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. George Drummond, of Swaylands, Kent, and a brother of Mrs. Dudley Gordon, of Mrs. Maurice Drummond, and of the young soldier who only a few weeks since espoused Miss Pauline Chase. He was married and leaves three daughters. Lord Rosebery mourns the loss of a favourite nephew in Captain William Wyndham, who was next brother and heir presumptive to Lord Leconfield. A good soldier who went through the South African War, Captain Wyndham was also a thorough sportsman, and his horses met with considerable success at one race meeting or another. One of them ran third at Windsor on the day he was killed. Lord Rosebery's son-in-law, Lord Crewe, has had a son-in-law killed: Arthur O'Neill, who was the first member of Parliament to fall. He married in 1902 Lady Anna



A Private of the 90th Light Infantry in 1847. The coat was red-faced with buff, and plentifully trimmed with white. A green ball adorned the front of the shako

(Drawn by A. E. H. Miller)

White's immortal garrison at Ladysmith. The way was marked by the sad yet glorious episode of Spion Kop, where all day on the 23rd January 3000 troops, including the Lancashire Brigade and the Cameronians, on the platform of that hill endured a terrible cannonade from commanding Boer positions around them, shells falling among them at the rate of about seven per minute. It was a test to the last.

THE CAMERONIANS

Arthur Miller 1914



The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

The uniform of the Scottish Rifles is unique in almost every respect. The old-fashioned shako is worn by only one other regiment, the H.L.I., and in that corps with a ball instead of a brush on the front. The green of the tunic is practically black, unlike that of other rifle regiments, which is distinctly green, and it is, of course, the only rifle regiment wearing the tartan trews. The shako is adorned with cords to which are added, in the case of officers and warrant officers, lines which are attached round the neck and end in acorn tassels which lie across the right breast. On the front of it are the "bugle and strings" badge, and above it on a tuft the Douglas "Mullet" or spur rowel. The uniform of the drummer (which is shown above) has interesting features, such as the bright green cord and tassels across the breast,

and the peculiar trimming of thin cord on the "arms and wings." The figure next shown is a sergeant in undress uniform, wearing a pattern of jacket peculiar to this corps. Next is shown a quartermaster-sergeant in full dress, and it will be noticed that he wears the lines attached to the shako, and a claymore instead of the sword worn by officers. The piper (who is next shown) wears an undress shell jacket which is also quite peculiar to the regiment. The full dress doublet is trimmed with white. The uniform here illustrated is that of the first battalion (26th). The pipers of other battalions have different details, such as sporrans, buckles, &c. It may be noticed that the piper's cap badge is different to the other one shown. The remaining figure is an officer in full dress.