

# UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL

AND

Naval and Military Magazine

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR HENRY COLBURN

BY RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET

## Editorial Note

The following *Record of the Services of the Twenty-Third Regiment, or Royal Welsh Fusileers* has been extracted from the United Service Journal and Naval and Military Magazine, published in 1832 and 1833. The issues in which it was published are:

Issue	Date	Pages
48	November 1832	414 to 420
49	December 1832	565 to 571
50	January 1833	130 to 136
51	February 1833	273 to 280

It is the earliest known printed history of the Regiment, and was used by Richard Cannon in his *Historical Record of The Twenty-Third Regiment, or The Royal Welsh Fusiliers; containing an Account of the Formation of the Regiment in 1689, and of its subsequent Services to 1850*, published by Parker, Furnivall & Parker in 1850. Cannon, writing over 15 years after 1832, made some corrections to the text. He also brought the history up to date.

The next history, published in 1889 – Major Rowland Broughton-Mainwaring's *Historical Record of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, late the Twenty-Third Regiment, or Royal Welsh Fusiliers (The Prince of Wales's Own Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusiliers); containing an Account of the Formation of the Regiment in 1689, and of its subsequent Services to 1889*, Hatchards, 1889 – copied Cannon up to 1850.

This US Journal history therefore forms the basis of the 1850 and 1889 histories. Without a detailed check, it is not known what changes were made to the 1832–33 text.

The text which follows is not a completely accurate copy of the original. When it was retyped

changes were made – for example Welsh Fusileers was always copied as Welch Fusiliers. This has been corrected, but other small inconsistencies remain, particularly in the form of dates – for example ‘5 July’ instead of ‘5th July’ or ‘5th of July’. Numbers are mostly printed as figures, whereas in the original they were often spelt out.

The footnotes are from the original document. My few comments are in square brackets.

No attempt has been made to identify the names of individuals or places, many of which are known to be incorrect or have modern spellings.

This text is stored on my computer at C:\Work\History\United Svc Jnl 1832 (M).wpd.

R.J.M. Sinnett

June 2007

## **RECORD OF THE SERVICES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD REGIMENT, OR ROYAL WELSH FUSILEERS**

The Royal Regiment of Welsh Fusileers <sup>-6</sup> was raised in the year 1688 [ *sic* ]: the commission of their first Colonel, Henry Lord Herbert, being dated 15th March, in that year.

We are unable to discover how they were employed, or what part they took, in the momentous transactions of the first year of their existence.

On the 15th April 1688, Charles Herbert succeeded to the colonelcy; and in August the regiment, with several others, embarked at Highleake, near Chester, for Ireland, the whole of which, with the exception of the towns of Londonderry and Enniskillen, was then in possession of the adherents of King James. The troops disembarked at Belfast on the 30th of August, and soon after, under the command of Duke Schomberg, advanced against the Irish, who burned and abandoned Newry on their approach, and retired to Dundalk. This place they also abandoned, and retreated to Ardee, where they had a considerable force assembled.

Schomberg finding Dundalk a strong position, with a good harbour for receiving supplies from England, resolved to entrench himself there. The French and Dutch built themselves good warm barracks, but the English, being raw soldiers, neglected the Duke's orders, till it was too late to procure timber and straw. They paid dearly for their improvidence, for, on the setting in of the rainy season, the army suffered so much from sickness, that; the Duke found himself obliged to break up his encampment, and retire northward, with the loss of nearly three-fourths of his men. Some regiments were so much reduced, as to be broke up and incorporated in others.

Early in 1690, King William arrived in Ireland, and assumed the command of the army, which now amounted to 30,000 men. His Majesty soon took the field; and, on the 1st of July, defeated the Irish, under King James, in the memorable battle of the Boyne, in which the Welsh Fusileers were present. <sup>-66</sup> King William now marched to the south, and laid siege to Limerick, but after an unsuccessful attack, on the 27th of August the troops were withdrawn,

and placed in winter-quarters along the Shannon.

About the middle of May 1691, the army assembled at Mullingar, under the command of General Ginkle, and marched against the Irish, who were posted at Athlone. The town of Athlone is divided by the river Shannon, and both sides were at that time strongly fortified, but a breach being made in one of the bastions of that nearest the English, the Irish retired to the western side, and blew up an arch of the bridge. After the hostile armies had annoyed each other for some time, General Ginkle formed the bold resolution of fording the river in the face of the enemy; which was carried into effect on the 22 June, with the loss of only about 50 men on the part of the English, while that of the enemy was computed at 1000. The Irish General, St Ruth, withdrew in the night to a strong position at Aughrim, where he collected as many men as possible from the neighbouring garrisons. General Ginkle, having remained a week in Athlone to refresh his army and to repair the works, advanced against the enemy, whom he totally defeated at Aughrim on the 12 July. The Welsh Fusileers were both engaged and suffered severely on this occasion, losing among others, their Colonel, Charles Herbert, who was taken prisoner and put to death. The surrender of Galway and Limerick followed the battle of Aughrim, and terminated the war in Ireland.

Colonel Herbert was succeeded by Toby Purcell, 13 July 1691; Colonel Purcell (20 April 1692), by Sir John Morgan, who only held the regiment till the 28 February 1693, when he was succeeded by Richard Ingoldsby.

In 1695 we find the regiment engaged at the siege of Namur, though not mentioned in any account of the other military operations, which terminated with the peace of Ryswick in 1697, when the army returned to England.

On the 7 June 1701, the regiment commanded by General Ingoldsby again embarked for Flanders, and formed part of the army which achieved such glorious triumphs under the Duke of Marlborough. Of the particular services of the regiment in these campaigns few notices are to be found; but we find distinct and honourable mention of them on two memorable occasions. At the attack of the lines of Schelleberg, on the 2 July 1704, it is stated, that "All the confederate troops behaved themselves with a great deal of bravery and resolution, and the horse and dragoons shared the glory of the day with the infantry; but the first onset was made by a battalion of the English Foot Guards and the regiments of Orkney (Royals,) and Ingoldsby, (Welsh Fusileers,) which suffered more than the others,"

At the battle of Blenheim, 12 August 1704, Major General Wilkes made the first onset with the five English battalions of How, Ingoldsby, Marlborough, Row, and North and Grey. The five English battalions, led by Brigadier Row, who charged on foot at the head of his own regiment with unparalleled intrepidity, assaulted the village of Blenheim, advancing to the very muzzles of the enemy's muskets, and some of the officers exchanging thrusts of the sword with the French, through the pallisades; but being exposed to a fire much superior to theirs, they were soon forced to retire, leaving behind them near one-third of their men, they were soon forced to retire, leaving behind them near one-third of their men, either killed or mortally wounded, and among the latter, Brigadier Row himself. "They returned to the charge three or four times with equal vigour, yet were still repulsed with the like disadvantage, so that it was found impossible to force the enemy at that point, without entirely sacrificing the infantry."

In April 1705, General Ingoldsby being removed to the 18th Regiment, Brigadier Sabine succeeded to the colonelcy of the Welsh Fusileers, and we find him at the battle of Oudenarde, 11 July 1708, leading the attack on the village of Haynem, with such resolution, that they soon made themselves masters thereof, and found seven French battalions in it, three of which entire, and the greater part of the other four were made prisoners.

In the autumn of 1712, when the British army was withdrawn from the Continent, Brigadier Sabine was left with his regiment in command of the citadel of Ghent, from whence they returned to England early in 1713, on the signing of the peace of Utrecht.

To these wars succeeded a period of comparative repose in Europe, and we do not find that the Welsh Fusileers were again employed on foreign service till 1742, in the summer of which year they embarked at Deptford for Flanders.

The intermediate period appears to have been passed in the United Kingdom. In 1736 they were stationed in Edinburgh Castle, where Gilbert Elliott, afterwards Lord Heathfield, the celebrated governor of Gibraltar, joined the regiment as a volunteer.

No remarkable event took place in the year 1742, after the arrival of the regiment; the troops being suddenly sent into winter-quarters, after every preparation had been made for active operations. Early in the following year the British army, commanded by the Earl of Stair, commenced its march for the Rhine, and in May encamped near Hoech on the Mayne.

From thence they proceeded to Kellenbuch and Ashaffenburgh, where they found themselves hemmed in, and their supplies cut off by the able dispositions of the French general, the Count de Noailles, who had crossed the Rhine in the beginning of June, with an army of 60,000 men. In this state his Majesty, King George the Second, found matters when he assumed the command of the army on the 9 June. A retreat was determined upon, and commenced on the 26 June. His Majesty had no sooner quitted Ashaffenburgh than it was seized by the French. He had not proceeded above three leagues when he perceived that the enemy, to the number of 30,000, had crossed the river farther down at Selingustadt, and was drawn up at the village of Dettingen, to dispute his passage. The route of the allied army lay between a mountain and the Mayne, and the French army was drawn up with this narrow pass in its front. In this situation the destruction of the Allies seemed inevitable; but the Count de Noailles having repassed the river, the Count de Grammont, who succeeded to the command, advanced to the attack through the defile, thus foregoing all the advantages of his position.

The British troops, under the immediate eye of their king, received the impetuous attack of the French with such steadiness and intrepidity, that the latter were forced to retire, and recross the Mayne with the greatest precipitation, and the loss of 5,000 men. The loss of the Allies was 2,000, of which the Welsh Fusileers sustained 15 men killed. Wounded, Colonel Pears, severely in the throat, of which he afterwards died, Lieutenant Price, and 27 men.

This victory, though honourable to those by whom it was achieved, was productive of no important results. The army, after some unimportant movements, retired into winter-quarters in October.

The year 1744 passed without any remarkable event; but the following year is memorable in the annals of the Welsh Fusileers. In the spring, a French army of 76,000 men, commanded by Marshal Saxe, invested Tournay. The Duke of Cumberland, who had assumed the

command of the allied army of British, Austrians and Dutch, resolved to attempt its relief, although his force did not exceed 50,000.

His Royal Highness accordingly advanced, and on the 28 April took up a position at Maulbre, in sight of the French army, which was strongly posted behind the village of Fontenoy. The following day was employed by the Allies in driving in some of the enemy's outposts, and clearing some defiles through which they were to march to the attack, while the French completed their batteries, and made the most formidable preparations for the reception of their enemy. The Duke of Cumberland began his march at two o'clock in the morning of the 30th; the action began at nine, and lasted till three. The efforts of the British infantry, who began the attack, were at first successful: they drove the French from their lines; but the left, composed of Austrian and Dutch troops, failing in its attack of the village of Fontenoy, the British were compelled to retire with great loss. They rallied, however, and again charging the enemy, drove him back to his entrenchments with great slaughter; but, from wanting the support of the left wing, that flank became exposed to the tremendous fire of the French batteries, and a retreat became necessary. It was effected in good order.

The loss of the Welsh Fusileers, on this occasion was 4 officers - Lieutenants Weaver, Price, Foster, and Isaac, and 181 men killed; 10 officers - Captains Hickman, Bernard, Carey, and Drysdale; Lieutenants Izard, Awlrey, Clarke, Eyre, Roberts, and Rolle - and 77 men wounded; and 8 officers - Major Lort, Captains Taylor, Sabine, and Johnston, Lieutenants Bemer, Gregg, Howe, and Lort - and 39 men missing.

In October 1745, the Welsh Fusileers, with several other regiments, were recalled from the Continent, on the account of the breaking out of the rebellion in Scotland. In December, they were sent to the coast of Kent and Sussex, in anticipation of a descent by the French; but we are unable to discover whether they remained in that part of the kingdom, or marched in pursuit of the rebels on their retreat from Derby.

In December 1746, we find the regiment still in Great Britain; but it is probable they returned to Flanders early in the following year, as we find them engaged in the unfortunate battle of Laffeldt, or Val, where they again suffered severely from the misconduct of their Dutch allies.

A squadron of their horse giving way, fled with such precipitation and confusion, that they overthrew and trampled down the infantry in their rear; two platoons of the Fusiliers fired upon them; but the French cavalry, charging after the fugitives, increased the confusion, and penetrated to the centre of the allied army. The Duke of Cumberland exerted himself with great courage and activity to remedy the disorder; but the defeat would have been total had it not been for the gallantry of Sir John Ligonier, who, at the head of three regiments of British cavalry and some squadrons of Imperial horse, charged the whole of the French cavalry with such impetuosity and success, that he overthrew everything before him, and enabled the army to effect an orderly retreat to Maestricht.

In this battle the Welsh Fusileers had Captain Johnston and one man killed; Captains Fortescue, Izard, and Baldwin, Lieutenants Eyre, Rich, Gregg, Aday, M'Laughlan, and Hewett, and 42 men wounded; and Lieutenant Oakes and 187 men missing.

No other event distinguished this campaign: in October the troops went into winter-quarters in the territories of the States General, and in the following year returned to England.

From 1748 to 1754 the regiment remained in Great Britain, in 1755 they were sent to Minorca, and in the following year assisted in the glorious, though unsuccessful, defence of Fort St Phillip in that island. The troops in that island consisted of four regiments, the 4th, or King's Own, Welsh Fusileers, <sup>6</sup> 24th, and 34th, which together mustered not more than 2,460 duty men, a force too small even for the defence of Fort St Phillip. His Majesty's Government, having received intelligence of extensive preparations in the port of Toulon, the object of which was generally supposed to be an attack on Minorca, early in April, despatched a fleet under Admiral Byng for the defence of that island: the unfortunate result of this expedition is sufficiently known. The French force destined for the reduction of Minorca amounted to 16,000 men, and was commanded by the Due de Richelieu. They sailed from Toulon on the 13 April 1756, appeared off Citadella on the 18th, and disembarked on the following day. A few days sufficed to make them masters of the whole island, with the exception of Fort St Phillip, into which all the troops were withdrawn, after having broken up the roads and bridges, and opposed every possible obstacle to the movement of the enemy. The works of the fort were strong in themselves, but they were at this time in a ruinous condition, notwithstanding the efforts of the governor, General Blakeny, to put them in a posture of defence.

The enemy entered the town of Mahon on the 27 April, and commenced their approaches under an incessant fire from the fort, which caused them much loss. Their batteries opened on the 8 May, but they were soon discovered to be at too great a distance, and to be liable to much annoyance from the guns of the fort; they, therefore, on the 12th, pushed forward a body of troops, which took possession of the town of St Phillip, and commenced erecting batteries under cover of the houses, within two hundred yards of the fort, while the garrison kept up a continued fire, which destroyed in the day the works thrown up during the night, besides causing the enemy a heavy loss of men.

On the 19 June the fleet of Admiral Byng appeared off the island, and the exertions of the besieged were redoubled; the elation of hope, however, was but of short continuance, for on the 22nd the French fired a *feu de joie* in honour of their pretended victory over the English fleet. The siege was carried on with the greatest vigour till the 27th, when the enemy's fire had done such execution of the defences of the fort, that the Due de Richelieu judged that the moment had arrived for giving the assault. At ten o'clock that night the enemy issued from their works to the different attacks, which were made simultaneously on so many different points, that the garrison, worn out with seventy days' incessant duty, were unable to repel them in all. The assailants were, however, received with the most determined courage, and repulsed several times with immense slaughter: strong in numbers, however, they as often returned to the assault; and after a long and bloody contest, ultimately succeeded in effecting a lodgement in the Queen's redoubt, and in the Anstruther and Argyle batteries, the last of which blew up with three companies of French grenadiers.

The firing having continued from ten o'clock at night till four in the morning, the French general beat a parley, for leave to bury the dead and carry off the wounded, and a cessation of arms was agreed on, of which the French took the most unfair advantage of strengthening the force in the lodgements they had effected. The success of the assailants, on this night, was purchased at the expense of 2,000 men; while the loss of the garrison did not exceed 47 killed and wounded. The governor, however, considering the worn out condition of his men, and the shattered state of the works, and one of the principal outworks being in possession of the

enemy, summoned a council of war, in which it was unanimously agreed that the fort could not sustain another assault. Terms of surrender were accordingly proposed, and on the 29th a capitulation was signed, allowing the garrison all the honours of war. "The noble and vigorous defence which the English have made (says the Due de Richelieu in his reply to the second article proposed by General Blakeny) having deserved all marks of esteem and veneration that every military person ought to show to such actions - and Marshal Richelieu being desirous also to show to General Blakeny the regard due to the brave defence he has made, - grants to the garrison all the honours of war that they can enjoy, under the circumstances of their going out for an embarkation, to wit, firelocks on their shoulders, drums beating, colours flying, twenty cartridges for each man, and also lighted matches."

The total casualties of the siege, were 89 killed, 367 wounded, one missing, 23 died of wounds, and 10 of disease. The loss of the Welsh Fusileers exceeded that of any other regiment, being 28 killed, and 90 wounded, among whom was Lieutenant Price; 5 died of wounds and 2 of disease.

The garrison embarked on the 12 July, and were conveyed to Gibraltar, from whence the Welsh Fusileers soon returned to England, and were quartered in the Isle of Wight. About this time a second battalion was added to the regiment, which in 1758 was detached, to form a distinct corps, the colonelcy of which was conferred on General Lambton; it is now the 68th, or Durham Regiment of Light Infantry.

In the summer of 1758, the Government resolved on making a descent on the French coast, by which it was expected to make such a diversion in favour of our allies in Germany as would obviate the necessity of sending them a reinforcement of troops. The Welsh Fusileers formed part of the army employed on this occasion, which amounted to 14,000 men, and was commanded by the Duke of Marlborough. The embarkation commenced on the 24 May; the expedition sailed on the 1 June, and on the 5th stood in for the bay of Cancale, two leagues to the eastward of St Malo, where a landing was effected without loss. The army was put in motion on the 7th, and took up a position close to St Malo, which the commander-in-chief reconnoitred. Having observed several houses filled with naval and military stores which were not protected by the guns of the town, a detachment was sent after dark to set fire to them, a service which was most effectually performed, thirteen vessels of war, besides several merchantmen and prodigious quantities of stores, being destroyed.

St Malo, though incapable of making an effectual resistance against a regular siege, was considered too strong to be attempted by a coup-de-main; the army, therefore, returned to Cancale Bay, where it embarked on the 10th and 12th, having lost only 30 men, from the time of landing.

The fleet left Cancale on the 21 June, and on the 23rd made the Isle of Wight; but the wind changing, it again bore away for the coast of France, and on the 26th was close to Havre de Grace. Preparations were made for landing, but, on reconnoitring the coast, the enemy was found to be so well prepared, that the design was abandoned, and the fleet steered for Cherbourg, where it anchored on the 29th. Here the preparations for a descent were renewed; but a strong gale blowing on shore, occasioned such a surf, that it was deemed too hazardous to land the troops. The gale meanwhile increased to such a degree, that several of the transports were driven from their anchors, and ran foul of each other; and the whole fleet was

in considerable danger. The provisions and forage were nearly exhausted, and sickness began to show itself among the troops. Under these circumstances the design against Cherbourg was abandoned; the fleet returned to England; and the Welsh Fusileers early in July, once more took up their quarters in the Isle of Wight.

Soon after this, the Government considering it necessary to reinforce the army in Germany, a brigade, consisting of the 20th, 23rd, and 25th regiments, was ordered from the Isle of Wight, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough.

The Welsh Fusileers disembarked at Halzoone, near Embden, on the 2 August 1758, and on the 4th commenced their march to join the allied army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. They effected their junction about the middle of the same month; but though they had much severe service in marching and countermarching, during the remainder of the campaign, they had no opportunity of signalling themselves against the enemy. On the 13 November they went into winter quarters in Munster.

The campaign of 1759 opened unfavourably for the allies. A French army advanced from Cassel, and entering the Hanoverian territories, took possession of Gottingen without opposition. Prince Ferdinand, who had assembled his army in the neighbourhood of Lippstadt, Werle, and Soest, finding himself inferior in force, retired as the enemy advanced.

The French having taken possession of Minden, Prince Ferdinand resolved to dispute their conquest with them; and moved with his army on the 29 July to Hilee, with six leagues of the enemy. The French General, the Marshal de Contades, having resolved to attack, put his army in motion about midnight on the 31st, and at day break, on the 1 August, formed it in order of battle in front of the allies, who also marched out to the encounter in eight columns.

The action soon became general; the principal efforts of the enemy were directed against the right wing of the allies, where six battalions of British Infantry, the 12th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 37th, and 51st, not only withstood the brunt of the French carabineers and gens d'armée, but absolutely broke everybody of horse and foot that advanced to attack them. The enemy being repulsed in every onset with great loss, at length gave way, and abandoning the field of battle, were pursued to the walls of Minden.

The loss of the allies, which was inconsiderable, fell chiefly on the British regiments; that of the Welsh Fusileers was 4 sergeants and 31 rank and file killed; Lt Col Pole, Captains Fowler and Fox, Captain Lt Bolton, Lieutenants Orpin, Reynell, Groves, Barber, and Patterson, Second-Lieutenant Ferguson, 6 sergeants, 3 drummers, and 153 rank and file wounded; and 10 rank and file missing.

The steadiness of the British infantry at the battle of Minden, was long the theme of general admiration. A writer describing the conduct of another regiment, <sup>-6</sup> more than forty years afterwards, observes, - "Even if the charge of the French had been more vigorous, their intrepidity and firmness would have rivalled the conduct of the Welsh Fusileers at the battle of Minden. <sup>-66</sup>

In the General Orders of the following day, "His Serene Highness orders his greatest thanks to be given to the whole army for their bravery and good behaviour yesterday, particularly to the British infantry and the two battalions of Hanoverian guards. His Serene Highness declares publicly, that next to God, he attributes the glory of the day to the intrepidity and

extraordinary behaviour of the troops.”

For their distinguished conduct on this occasion, his Majesty was graciously pleased to grant the Welsh Fusileers permission to bear the word “Minden” on their colours and appointments.

We are unable to give an account of the further services of the regiment in the seven-years’ war, or to fix the date of their quitting Germany; but in May 1763, we find them returning to England with the garrison of Belleisle.

From this period the regiment remained in Great Britain till the summer of 1773, when they were embarked at Plymouth for North America, and disembarked at New York on the 14th June.

In the following year they were removed to Boston, where, in consequence of the spirit of insubordination shown by the people, a strong military force was assembled under the command of General Gage.

On the 10th of April 1775, the Welsh Fusileers were engaged in the first hostile collision that took place between his Majesty’s troops and the colonists, in the unhappy contest which was soon to assume so formidable a character. Information having been received that the Americans were forming a considerable depot of military stores, at a place called Concord, about twenty miles from Boston, a detachment, consisting of the flank companies of the army, was despatched under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Smith, of the 10th Regiment, for the purpose of destroying it. Though the greatest secrecy had been observed in the preparations for the expedition, and the detachment marched with the utmost caution, they soon perceived, by the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, etc, that the country was alarmed; and, on arriving at Lexington, about fifteen miles from Boston, they found a considerable body of people assembled under arms. These dispersed in confusion on the approach of the detachment; some shots were exchanged, though it does not seem certain which party was the first to fire. One soldier and several of the Americans were killed. The detachment continued its march to Concord, where a strong party of the militia of the country was found posted on an eminence at the entrance of the town; these were attacked and dispersed by the light infantry, not without further loss on both sides, while the grenadiers carried into execution the purpose of the expedition, by destroying the stores.

By this time the alarm was spread far and near; and an immense multitude appeared, who opposed the return of the detachment to Boston, by keeping a galling fire on front, flanks, and rear, under cover of the houses, hedges, and walls, which lined the road; the colonists displaying, at this early stage of the contest, that skill in this species of warfare, by which they were subsequently so much distinguished.

Thus harassed, the detachment reached Lexington, where they met another detachment, consisting of the remaining eight companies of the Welsh Fusileers, and the same number of the 8th Regiment, which had been sent to their support under the command of Lord Percy. These formed a square, under protection of which the wearied soldiers of Colonel Smith’s detachment took some rest and refreshment, the first since leaving Boston: so much were they exhausted, that they are described as “having their tongues hanging out like hounds after a severe chase.” Both detachments soon resumed their march, still harassed by the Americans, till they arrived at Boston about sunset.

The British force amounted in all to about 1,800 men, of whom 71 were killed, 136 wounded, and 49 missing; the loss of the Americans is stated by themselves at about 60, of whom two-thirds were killed.

Boundless was the exultation of the Americans at the result of this unhappy affair, they talked of nothing but driving the King's forces out of Boston; the militia poured in from all quarters, till 20,000 were assembled under commanders who had acquired some military experience as militia officers in the former wars. This formidable force was even still further increased, and a line of encampment was formed thirty miles in extent, enclosing Boston in its centre.

At the same time the provincial congress was busily employed, in framing regulations and providing equipments which should give to their forces some semblance of a regular army.

Meanwhile the British troops were kept blockaded in Boston, their numbers being considered inadequate to any hostile operations, though about the beginning of June reinforcements arrived from England with Sir William Howe, which placed the army on a more respectable footing than it had hitherto been.

Separated from the peninsula of Boston by the river Charles is the peninsula of Charlestown, in the centre of which rises an eminence called Bunker's Hill, which commands the whole of Boston. This eminence, General Gage, owing probably to the insufficiency of his force, had not occupied; but the Americans perceiving the advantages of the position, formed the hardy design of taking possession of it, which they soon executed with singular skill. As soon as it was dark, on the evening of the 19 June, a strong body moved with great precaution across Charlestown neck, and gained unobserved the summit of the hill. Being provided with the necessary tools, they commenced throwing entrenchments, with such order and silence that before morning they had completed a considerable line well flanked, and in many places cannon-proof. The first alarm was given by the fire of some of the men-of-war, by which the peninsula was nearly surrounded; this was soon followed by that of the batteries of Boston.

About noon a detachment from Boston was landed at Charlestown, and soon after a reinforcement, which made the whole up to two thousand. These, under cover of the artillery, advanced to attack the works: the Americans, with the steadiness of veterans, kept close behind their entrenchments, and reserved their fire till the near approach of their enemy, when they poured it in with such effect, that the British ranks were literally moved down, and the soldiers forced to recoil in several places. Rallied by their officers, and stung by the reflection of having been repulsed by an enemy whom they held in contempt, they again mounted, to the assault, with such impetuosity that they forced their way over the entrenchments, driving the enemy from them at the point of the bayonet. The success was complete; the Americans fled with precipitation; but the reduced and exhausted state of the victors did not admit of a pursuit.

The casualties of the day amounted to about one-half of the numbers engaged, being 226 killed, and 828 wounded; among the former 19, and among the latter 70 officers. Of this severe loss the Welsh Fusileers, eager to distinguish themselves the first time they engaged under the immediate eye of their colonel, Sir William Howe, appear to have borne their full proportion. We have no return of the casualties of the regiment generally; but the grenadier Company went into action with 3 officers and 46 rank and file, and returned with five effective, the rest were all killed or wounded. <sup>-6</sup> The loss of the Americans is estimated by themselves at 146 killed, and 304 wounded.

After the battle of Bunker's Hill nothing of importance was attempted on either side, the besieged and besiegers remaining in a state of equal inactivity, till the commencement of 1776, when General Washington began to carry on his operations with more vigour, in the hope of reducing the place before the arrival of some expected reinforcements from England.

Among the besieged the slow but sure effects of the long blockade began to show themselves, provisions were scarce, and a supply could not be procured, and the men were worn out with incessant toil. On the 2 March, two batteries opened their fire on the town, with such effect, that Sir William Howe, who had succeeded to the command, soon became sensible that nothing now remained but to evacuate the place. Accordingly, the garrison, and such of the inhabitants as adhered to the cause of the mother country, were embarked and conveyed to Halifax, in Nova Scotia.

The troops having recovered from the sickness and fatigue produced by the blockade of Boston, Sir William Howe sailed for Staten Island, near New York, where he landed on the 2 July, and was joined by considerable reinforcements from England. Shortly afterwards, another body of troops arrived from the southern provinces, commanded by Sir Henry Clinton, and the operations of the campaign commenced on the 22 August, by the army crossing over to Long Island, where the Americans had raised a strong line of defence across a narrow neck of land, near Brooklyn, for the protection of New York, which it commanded.

The Americans were soon compelled to retire to their works, which the British commander prepared to attack in form; this was no sooner perceived by the enemy, than he resolved to abandon his lines, which he was sensible were incapable of resisting a regular attack. This resolution was carried into effect on the 29 August, with extraordinary secrecy and good order - an army of 9,000 men being transported from New York, with all its cattle, artillery, and stores, without the loss of a single individual. Early in September, the British crossed over to New York Island, and soon after took possession of New York without opposition.

After a series of movements and skirmishes, which terminated with the battle of White Plains on the 28 October, the Americans were driven in from all their positions in York Island, with the exception of the important fort of Fort Washington, which kept open the communication with the Jerseys: this place was reduced on the 15 November, the garrison of 2,500 men surrendering prisoners of war. The Welsh Fusileers having assisted in all these operations now went into winter quarters on New York Island.

On the 12 April 1777, the regiment embarked under command of Major General Tryon, and proceeded to Norwalk Bay, in Connecticut, where they landed. From thence they marched, about twenty miles, to Danbury, where they destroyed vast magazines of warlike stores belonging to the enemy. The following day the troops marched to Ridgefield, where the Royal Welch had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, being attacked by very superior numbers, stationed to protect very large magazines of military stores of every description, which were burnt after the rebels had been defeated and dispersed.<sup>-6</sup> The intention for which the expedition had been undertaken having been fully accomplished, the British troops returned to embark, when they were constantly harassed and attacked night and day by a very superior force of the enemy, particularly when they came in sight of their ships, they saw more than three times their own numbers drawn up in a very advantageous position, with the intention of disputing their passage. After much manoeuvring on the part of the British, they at length attacked the rebels with the bayonet, and totally defeated them, with great loss in killed and wounded. While the embarkation was proceeding, a strong party of the enemy, under General Arnold, attacked a British regiment with so much vigour as to

make it give way. Upon this the Welsh Fusileers were ordered by Brigadier General Erskine, Quarter Master General of the army, to charge; this they did, after firing a volley, so effectually aided by the other regiment, which had rallied, that, after killing and wounding a great number of the Americans, the latter dispersed, and did not fire another shot, but allowed the rear-guard to embark without further molestation.

The Welsh Fusileers received the particular thanks of General Erskine and the other general officers, for their gallant conduct on this and every other occasion since they disembarked: after this the troops returned to New York. <sup>-66</sup>

Early in June, the Commander-in-Chief crossed over with the army to Staten Island, and subsequently to New Jersey. He however found General Washington's position at Middlebrook too strong to be attacked with any prospect of advantage, and every scheme to draw that cautious officer from his fastnesses proving unavailing, Sir William Howe returned to Staten Island on the 20 June, and on the 24th of the Welsh Fusileers were again in New York.

Having failed in his attempt to penetrate to Philadelphia through the Jerseys, Sir William Howe now resolved to embark the army, and to arrive at that place by sailing up the Delaware. The troops destined for this service, among whom were the Royal Welch, embarked on the 21 July, and sailing two days afterwards, arrived on the 30th off the Capes of the Delaware. Here, in consequent of information that the enemy had taken means that would render the navigation of the Delaware extremely dangerous, the Commander-in-Chief altered his plans, and proceeded to the Chesapeake, where he arrived about the middle of August: on the 25th, the Welsh Fusileers disembarked at Elk Ferry, in Pennsylvania. The army marched for Philadelphia, the enemy retiring and taking up a position on the opposite side of the Brandywine, of which they determined to dispute the passage. The able dispositions of the British general, and the valour of his troops, however, prevailed, and after a sharp contest the Americans were driven into the woods in their rear, where they took up a second position, from which they were also dislodged and completely routed. The Americans suffered severely in this action, having 300 killed, 600 wounded, and 400 prisoners; the British loss was 100 killed and 300 wounded. On the 20 September, another body of the rebels, under General Wayne, was completely routed by a detachment commanded by Major General Grey, who, in pursuance of a system which he afterwards strongly inculcated on his army in the West Indies, commanded that not a shot should be fired, but the bayonet only should be used; the surprise was, in consequence of this precaution, most complete, and the slaughter of the enemy dreadful, at the expense to the English of one officer killed, and 7 men killed and wounded.

On the 26 September, Sir William Howe advanced to German Town, and, on the following day, Lord Cornwallis took possession of Philadelphia. The first object of the British commander, after the occupation of the town, was to open a communication with the fleet by removing the obstructions which the enemy had contrived to the navigation of the Delaware; large detachments were made for this and other services, which considerably reduced the main body of the army; which was stationed at German Town, an important post about 7 miles from Philadelphia. General Washington, who was apprised of this circumstance, conceived the moment favourable for an attack on German Town. He accordingly moved from his encampment on the evening of the 3 October, and, on the morning of the 4th, under

cover of a dense fog, commenced a vigorous assault on our outposts, which were driven into the village, while the Americans advanced in separate columns, with the view of at once cutting the centre of the position, and attacking it on both flanks. Their designs were, however, frustrated by the gallantry of the 40th Regiment, which occupied a large stone house, in which it maintained itself, and checked the advance of the enemy till the whole of the British line had formed. The action was kept up with considerable obstinacy for some time, but the thickness of the fog preventing the combination of the several attacks of the enemy, he was repulsed, and under cover of the fog, withdrew, with all his artillery. We do not find the regiment engaged in any other operations during this winter, which they passed in Philadelphia, but it is probable they took their share in some very severe duty at the reduction of the forts on the Delaware below the city.

In the spring of 1778, Sir William Howe returned to England, and resigned the command of the army to Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton, who decided on evacuating Philadelphia, and returning with the army to New York. The evacuation was effected on the 18 June, when the army was transported, with its baggage, provision, and stores, to the Jerseys, in the boats of the fleet. General Washington having received intelligence of the design, had despatched messengers to various points, with orders to collect all the troops that could be assembled, to harass and obstruct the British army on its march. After a variety of movements on both sides, Sir Henry Clinton arrived, on the 27 June, at a place called Freehold, where, judging from the appearance of more numerous parties of the enemy, that a serious attack was meditated, he encamped in a very strong position.

The night passed without any hostile movement on the part of the enemy, and in the morning Sir Henry Clinton conceiving that the vast convoy of baggage with which he was encumbered would be the object of attack, despatched it at an early hour, escorted by General Kreyphausen's division, himself following it at some distance with the rest of the army. The rear guard, composed of the flank companies, understood Cornwallis had not proceeded, for when near Monmouth courthouse, a vastly superior body of the Americans made its appearance under Generals Lee and Lafayette. The British immediately commenced their dispositions for attacking them, but these were completed, the Americans retired to a rising ground in their rear. Sir Henry Clinton still resolved to engage, with the view of compelling the enemy to recall some parties, that were advancing on the flanks of the army in pursuit of the baggage. The attack was made with such vigour, notwithstanding the exhausted condition of the men from the severe heat of the weather, that the Provincials were forced to give way, and were only saved from a total rout by the arrival of General Washington with the main body of his army. The flank companies of the Royal Welch distinguished themselves on this occasion; particularly the right flank company, which received the warmest thanks of Brigadier General Sir William Meadows, who commanded the grenadier brigade; that company had one-third of its officers and men killed and wounded: among the latter was Captain Willis, who had his thigh carried away by a cannon shot, of which he died a few days after; he was assisted of the field by his subaltern, Lieutenant Saumarez. <sup>-6</sup> After this affair the army continued its march unmolested to Sandy Hook, from whence it was conveyed to New York on the 5 July.

About this period the French king having taken part in the contest, a powerful fleet under the Count D'Estaing arrived on the coast of America, and appeared off the harbour of New York. The British Admiral, Lord Howe, though inferior in force, made such preparations for their

reception, that the French thought it prudent to withdraw to Rhode Island, whither his lordship resolved to go in pursuit of them. On this occasion the 52d Regiment was ordered to serve on board the fleet as marines, but the Welsh Fusileers, desirous of paying a compliment to the brother of their Colonel, volunteered their services, which were accepted, and the regiment embarked on the 2 August. The fleet was prevented by contrary winds from sailing before the 6th, and on the 9th, it arrived off Rhode Island, where a part of the hostile fleet was discovered at anchor, the remainder had gone up a river. Lord Howe immediately made the signal to prepare for action, and bore down to the attack; unfortunately, however, when almost within gun-shot of the enemy, the wind all at once became contrary, and he was obliged to put back. On the following day the French fleet was observed coming out of the harbour, and forming in line of battle; Lord Howe having manoeuvred unsuccessfully to gain the weather-gage, at length resolved to engage without that advantage. But just as the fleets were nearing each other, so furious a tempest arose, that both were so completely dispersed, that, on the following morning, no two ships were in sight of each other. A general engagement was thus prevented, but three encounters afterwards took place between single ships of the hostile fleet, which terminated most honourably to the British arms. On the evening of the 15th, the *Renown*, of 50 guns, fell in with the *Languedoc*, of 90 guns, Count D'Estaing's flagship, and attacked her so vigorously, that the French admiral was every moment expected to strike his colours, when, unfortunately, six of the enemy's ships hove in sight, and compelled the gallant *Dawson* to desist. On the same evening, Captain *Hotham*, in the *Preston* also of 50 guns, engaged the *Tonant*, of 80 guns, with every prospect of success, when night put an end to the contest, which he was prevented from renewing in the morning by the appearance of the French fleet. On the 16th, Captain *Raynor*, of the *Isis*, another 50 gun ship, fell in with the *Caesar*, 74, and engaged her in so spirited a manner, and with so much advantage, that she put before the wind, and sailed away, leaving the *Isis* so disabled in her masts and rigging, as to be unable to pursue. The loss of the *Isis* was only one man killed, and 15 wounded, while that of the *Caesar* amounted to 50, and her keel was so much damaged, that she was obliged to put into Boston Harbour to refit. The regiment disembarked at New York on the 4 September, when Lord Howe was pleased to present "his most particular thanks to the officers and soldiers of the three companies of the Royal Welsh Fusileers for their spirited and gallant behaviour on board the ships that had engaged the enemy, and to the whole regiment for its conduct during the time it served on board the fleet."

On the 27th of May 1779, the regiment embarked with a part of the army, and sailed up the river Hudson to East Chester and Verplank's Neck, when it assisted at the taking of Fort Lafayette, and other fortified places, which the Americans had constructed there and at Stony Point. Soon after it proceeded on another expedition, under Major General Tryon, to Newhaven, in Connecticut, a great rendezvous for American privateers. The detachment landed, and having demolished the batteries that had been erected to oppose them, destroyed several ships, and a vast quantity of naval stores. From Newhaven they proceeded to Fairfield, where they destroyed the stores, and reduced the town itself to ashes; Norwalk also shared the same fate, as did also Greenfield, a small seaport in the neighbourhood. The detachment then returned to New York, having, during an absence of not more than 9 days, occasioned prodigious losses to the Americans.

On the 20 September, the regiment embarked, with a strong detachment of the army, under Earl Cornwallis, and sailed under convoy of Admiral Arbuthnot's fleet, with the intention of invading the whole of the French West India Islands. In consequence however of information

received from an English frigate, that a greatly superior French fleet was within a few days' sail, the British fleet put back, and made all sail for New York, where the troops disembarked.

Towards the end of this year, the Commander-in-Chief having resolved to carry the war into the southern provinces, embarked with a great part of the army, in which were the Welsh Fusileers, and sailed for Charlestown, South Carolina. After a tedious and tempestuous voyage, during which some of the transports were lost, the troops disembarked on the 12 February 1780, at North Ediston, on St John's Island, about thirty miles from Charlestown. So great were the obstacles encountered by the army in its advance, that it was the 29 March before the Commander-in-Chief, having established the necessary posts to preserve his communication with the sea, crossed the river Ashley, and established himself on Charlestown Neck. This interval had been diligently employed by the Americans in strengthening and improving the defences of the town, which were, however, to much extended for the numbers of the garrison. On the 1 April, the British army broke ground within 800 yards of the works, and, on the 8th the guns were in battery; on the 10th, Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot, who had passed the outer defences of the harbour, summoned the town to surrender to his Majesty's arms, but the Governor General, Lincoln, declaring it was his determination to defend it to the last extremity, the batteries opened, and the fire of the enemy's advanced works was soon observed to slacken. General Lincoln had been expecting supplies and reinforcements; but these, by the activity of Lord Cornwallis and Colonel Tarleton were intercepted. A considerable body of militia and cavalry, that was marching to the relief of the town, was totally routed by these officers, who now crossed the Cooper river, and completed the investment of the place. Meanwhile the second and third parallels had been completed, and a second summons had been answered by proposals which were deemed inadmissible.

The batteries of the third parallel now opened on the town; the works were pushed to the very edge of the ditch, and preparations for an assault were in progress, when the terrified inhabitants presented a petition to General Lincoln, praying him to accept the proffered conditions. A flag of truce was sent out, and the articles of capitulation, which had before been rejected, were agreed to, a circumstance highly honourable to the humanity of Sir Henry Clinton, considering the extremities to which the place was reduced. Great quantities of ordnance and military stores were taken in Charlestown, and several French and Americans taken or destroyed.

The loss of the British during the siege was 76 killed, and 189 wounded. Soon after the surrender of Charlestown, Sir Henry Clinton returned to New York, leaving Earl Cornwallis with 4,000 men in South Carolina; to this part of the army the Royal Welch were attached.

As the season was unfavourable for active operations, the little army was distributed in cantonments, securing the frontiers of the province, the Welsh Fusileers at Cambden, with some other corps, under Lord Rawdon. The Americans, however, were not disposed to leave us in quiet possession of South Carolina; and, during the month of July, various parties, moving from different points, assembled under the command of General Gates, and entered the province. The British outposts were also called in, and united at Cambden.

On the 15th of August, General Gates being at Rugley's Mills, about 12 miles distant, Lord Cornwallis, who had arrived at Cambden from Charlestown, 2 days before, got his little band under arms about midnight, and marched with the intention of surprising and attacking him.

At the same hour the American general moved from his ground with similar intention, and about three o'clock in the morning the advanced guards met. Some shots were exchanged, but the firing soon ceased, as if by mutual consent, and both armies lay on their arms till daylight. The ground on which they had thus accidentally met was a small sandy plain, with some straggling trees; some swampy ground on the flanks of the British narrowed the field of action, and made the numerical superiority of the enemy of less consequence.

Each army was drawn up in two lines; the right division of the first line of the English, was composed of a small corps of light infantry, the 23rd and 33rd regiments, commanded by Colonel Webster, of the 33rd. Observing a movement on the enemy's left, which appeared to be with the intention of making some alternation in their order, Lord Cornwallis directed Colonel Webster to begin the attack, which was done with great vigour, and in a few minutes the action became general along the whole front. The enemy's left, which was composed of Virginia militia, soon gave way, thus leaving that flank of their army uncovered; on this, the Welsh Fusileers and light infantry, instead of pursuing the fugitives, wheeled up to their left, and falling on the exposed flank, materially contributed to the success of the day. "Our line," says Lord Cornwallis, "continued to advance with the cool intrepidity of experienced British soldiers, keeping up a fire or making use of the bayonet, as opportunities offered." After an obstinate resistance of three quarters of an hour, the enemy was thrown into complete disorder, and forced to fly from the field in the utmost confusion. The cavalry was ordered to pursue, and made about 1,000 prisoners.

The army by which this victory was achieved did not exceed 2,000 men, of whom not more than 1,500 were British or regulars, the remainder were militia or refugees; the American force was computed at 6,000, of whom 800 or 900 were killed or wounded; our loss was 213.

Seven pieces of artillery, all the enemy had, 150 waggons, laden with ammunition, provisions, etc and several stand of colours, fell into the hands of the victors."

Lord Cornwallis having awaited at Cambden the arrival of some necessary supplies from Charlestown, set out on the 8 September on an expedition which he had long meditated, for the reduction of the province of North Carolina. Towards the end of the month he removed to Charlotte, where he halted and established a post. As the army depended entirely for subsistence on the country through which it marched, several mills in the neighbourhood of Charlotte were occupied by detachments, for to be preserved for the purpose of grinding corn for the troops. At one of these (Polk's Mill) a small detachment was posted, commanded by Lieutenant Guyon, a very young man. The Americans made an attack on the mill with a very superior force, but were repulsed. Lieutenant Guyon's conduct was highly applauded. <sup>-6</sup>

Here Lord Cornwallis received the intelligence of the defeat and destruction of the detachment of Major Ferguson; and as this disaster left the western frontiers of South Carolina exposed to the incursions of the enemy, his lordship found himself under the necessity of returning to protect the loyal inhabitants of that province. On this march the army was exposed to the greatest privations, being frequently two days at a time without sustenance. "For five days they were supported on Indian corn, which was collected as it stood in the fields, – five ears was the allowance for two soldiers for twenty-four hours <sup>-66</sup>."

At this period, and for several months after, the army was without tent, bivouacking in the woods, under torrents of rain, while at every step the soldier sunk over the shoes in mud.

On the 29th of October, the troops arrived at Wynesborough, a convenient station for supporting two of the most important posts, Cambden and Ninety-Six, where Lord Cornwallis halted to await the junction of reinforcements from New York, with whose assistance he might resume his operations in North Carolina.

On the 6th of January 1781, the British cause in North America suffered a severe blow in the defeat of a detachment under Colonel Tarleton, at Cowpens. Lord Cornwallis, hoping to retrieve in some measure the disaster, by recovering the numerous prisoners made by the enemy on this unfortunate occasion, commenced the most vigorous pursuit of the American General Morgan, by whom the blow had been struck. To expedite the movements of the army, orders were now issued for the destruction of all superfluous baggage; these were obeyed with the most rigid exactness: the soldiers, emulating the example of the Commander-in-Chief, destroyed even the spirits without a murmur. By extraordinary exertions the army reached the Fords of the Catawber on the 29th of January, only two hours after the passage of General Morgan, having on this march suffered even greater hardships than on that from Charlotte to Wynesborough. "The troops had to ford one or more rivers or creeks daily or nightly, and had to march generally all night, without any wine or spirits to drink, having destroyed all they had, and that without having ever been recompensed for so doing."

A heavy fall of rain during the night rendered the Calawba impassable for the next two days, and enabled General Morgan to disencumber himself of his prisoners, whom he despatched, under an escort of militia, by a different route from that which he proposed to follow himself.

On the 1 February, the river having so far subsided as to be fordable, Lord Cornwallis made his dispositions for crossing during the night. A portion of his little force was detached to make a feint at a public ford called Beakies, while his lordship marched with the remainder to a Private one, called McGowan's. The fires on the opposite side soon made it evident that this ford had not escaped the vigilance of the enemy; it was, nevertheless, determined to proceed with the enterprise, and the column entered the river, which was 500 yards wide, and reached to the men's middles. The head of the column had not got half way over when the enemy's piquets were alarmed, and commenced firing. "The current was so strong," says Sir Thomas Saumarez, "that the officers and men were obliged to fasten each other, otherwise they must have been carried down the river and perished. The bottom was rocky and uneven, and the enemy firing from the opposite bank all the time the troops were crossing.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, they made good their landing, and immediately attacked and dispersed the Americans. General Davidson was killed, and several of the rebels bayoneted." Captain James, of the Welsh Fusileers, was wounded.

The enemy now fled with a precipitation that again baffled the most active pursuit, and crossed the Yadkin, where the British were again detained by a sudden rising of the river.

Lord Cornwallis now endeavoured, by a circuitous route, to cut off the enemy's communication with Virginia; but in this design he was also frustrated by the excessive rains and the swollen state of the rivers.

The Americans were, however, driven from North Carolina, and Lord Cornwallis retired to Hillsborough, in that province, where he hoisted the royal standard, and invited the people to join him, but provisions becoming scarce in the neighbourhood, his lordship was under the necessity of making a retrograde movement, and the enemy re-entered the province. Lord

Cornwallis advanced to meet them, but General Green, who now commanded the American army, declined a battle, till, being joined by strong reinforcements, he at length made a stand at Guildford Courthouse. The British general seeing, with much satisfaction, that the long-wished-for opportunity of bringing his antagonist into action had arrived, put his little army in motion early on the morning of the 15 March.

“About one o’clock,” says Sir Thomas Saumarez, “the action commenced. The Welsh Fusileers had to attack the enemy in front, under every disadvantage, having to march over a field lately ploughed, which was wet and muddy from the rains which had recently fallen.

The enemy, greatly superior in numbers, were most advantageously posted on a rising ground, and behind rails. The regiment marched to the attack under a most galling and destructive fire, which they could only return by an occasional volley. No troops could behave better than the regiment and the little army did at this period, as they never returned the enemy’s fire but by word of command, but marched on with the most undaunted courage.

When at length they got within a few yards of the Americans’ first line, they gave a volley, and charged with such impetuosity, as to cause them to retreat, which they did to the right and left flanks, leaving the front of the British troops exposed to the fire of a second line of the rebels, which was formed behind brushwood. Not being able to attack in front, the Fusiliers were obliged to take ground to their left to get clear of the brushwood. They then attacked the enemy with the bayonet in so cool and deliberate a manner, as to throw the Americans into the greatest confusion and disperse them. After this the Royal Welch attacked and captured two brass 6-pounders, after having assisted in the attack and defeat of the third line and reserve of the Americans. Such men of the Fusiliers and 71st as had strength remaining were ordered to pursue the dispersed enemy. This they did in so persevering a manner, that they killed or wounded as many as they could overtake, until, being completely exhausted, they were obliged to halt, after which they returned as they could to rejoin the army at Guildford Courthouse.”

“This action,” continues Sir Thomas, “was unquestionably the hardest and best-contested; fought during the American war. The Welsh Fusileers had about one-third of the officers and soldiers killed or wounded.” Earl Cornwallis, in his official account of the battle, thus characterises his troops, “The conduct and actions of the officers and soldiers that compose this little army, will do more justice to their minds than I can by words. Their persevering intrepidity in action, their invincible patience under the hardships and fatigues of a march of about 600 miles, in which they have forded several large rivers, and numberless creeks, many of which would be considered large rivers in any other country in the world, without tents or covering from the climate, and often without provisions, will sufficiently manifest their ardent zeal for the honour and interests of their sovereign and their country.”

The victory at Guildford was gained by 1,445 men over an army computed at 7,000; the loss of the victors was 93 killed, and 413 wounded, a large deduction from so small a force.

Unfortunately, too, many of the wounded perished on the night that succeeded the action, as the great extent of ground on which it was fought, rendered it impossible to collect them all under shelter from the torrents of rain which continued to fall.

This brilliant and dearly-purchased success was followed by no beneficial results; the army could not be subsisted in that part of the country, and Lord Cornwallis was under the necessity of retiring to Wilmington. General Green now penetrated into South Carolina, and

caused so much apprehension for the detached posts in that province, that Lord Cornwallis, with the view of drawing him off, marched into Virginia. At Petersburg he was joined by a detachment from New York, under General Arnold. From Petersburg the army marched to Richmond and Williamsburgh, destroying everywhere vast quantities of tobacco and other produce in which the wealth of the colonists consisted. At this period we find 70 men of the Welsh Fusileers under the command of Captain Champagne, mounted and detached with Colonel Tarleton, to surprise the General Assembly of the state of Virginia, which was sitting at Charlotteville. This novel service they seem to have performed very efficiently, for they are described charging through a river into the town, taking prisoners, 7 members of the assembly, and destroying 1,000 stand of arms, and a great quantity of gunpowder, tobacco, etc.

While at Williamsburgh Lord Cornwallis received instructions from Sir Henry Clinton to detach a considerable portion of his force to New York, where Sir Henry expected to be attacked by General Washington. Lord Cornwallis, conceiving that he should not be able to maintain himself at Williamsburgh with the remainder of his army, resolved to march the whole to Portsmouth, where the detachment was to embark for New York. For this purpose it was necessary to pass the river James, and while the army was thus engaged in doing so, on the 6 July, the Marquis de la Fayette came up, expecting to cut off the rearguard after the main body should have crossed. Lord Cornwallis, however, aware of his intentions, made his dispositions so that the French general supposed that there was only a small body to oppose him, advanced briskly, driving in the picquets, who had been instructed to draw him on. The whole line was, however, under arms, and gave the enemy so warm a reception, that night alone saved them from total destruction, as it was they lost 300 in killed, wounded, and taken prisoners.

It soon became evident that the preparations of General Washington, which had caused so much apprehension for New York, were in reality directed against the army in Virginia. Lord Cornwallis's situation was indeed becoming most hazardous; General Washington, with 8,000 American troops, and the Count de Rochambeau, with an equal number of French, were rapidly approaching to hem him in by land, while the French fleet was preparing to blockade him by sea. His lordship selected York Town, at the mouth of the river York, as the best post for at once securing his own troops, and the ships by which he was attended. The army arrived at York Town in the month of August, and immediately commenced fortifying the place. The Welsh Fusileers were directed to construct a redoubt on the right flank, and in advance, having a ravine between it and the town, and were informed by Lord Cornwallis, that this post was to be entrusted to them to defend.

On the 28th of September, the combined French and American army made its appearance, and Lord Cornwallis having the same evening received assurance of speedy succour from Sir Henry Clinton, withdrew his troops from the outer works, which were, on the following day, occupied by the enemy, and the place completely invested. On the 6th of October, the enemy opened the first parallel, and on the 9th, their batteries commenced firing on our left; other batteries fired at the same time against a redoubt advanced over the creek upon our right, and defended by 120 men of the 23rd Regiment and marines, who maintained that post with uncommon gallantry: <sup>-6</sup> soon after 3,000 French grenadiers, all volunteers, made a vigorous attempt to storm the right advanced redoubt, and were repulsed by only 130 officers and soldiers of the Welsh Fusileers, and 40 marines; two other attempts were also made by the

French to storm the redoubt, which were also unsuccessful. <sup>-66</sup> On the night of the 14th, the enemy established the second parallel, and it being evident that the half-ruined works of the town could not stand many hours against its fire, a sortie was determined on. This was made on the morning of the 16th, by a party of 350 men, who gallantly forced their way into two of the batteries that were in the greatest state of forwardness, spiked the guns, and killed about 100 of the enemy. This success was, however, of little avail; the guns having been hastily and imperfectly spiked, were soon restored, and before evening were fit for service. Not a gun could be shown on the works of the town, and the shells were nearly all expended; no alternative, therefore, remained, but to surrender, or attempt to draw off the garrison by the Gloucester side of the river, on which there was only a small French force, which could be easily overpowered. The latter alternative was decided on, and some large boats were, on other pretences, ordered to be in readiness at night. In these a detachment of the army, including a part of the Welsh Fusileers, embarked, some reached the opposite side, but at this critical moment, the weather, from being calm and moderate, changed to a most violent storm of wind and rain, and drove all the boats, some with troops on board, down the river. Fortunately, they were all enabled to return in the course of the forenoon, but the design of drawing off the garrison was completely frustrated. Meanwhile the enemy's batteries had opened at daybreak; the defences were crumbling into ruins, and were already assailable in more than one point. Under these circumstances, Earl Cornwallis, unwilling to expose his men to the carnage of an assault, which could not fail of success, made proposals for a capitulation on the 17th. The terms were adjusted on the following day, and on the 19th the articles were signed; and so terminated the services of the Royal Welch in the American war, though unfortunately, not ingloriously. Lord Cornwallis, in his official account of the siege, observes, "The detachment of the 23rd Regiment and Marines in the redoubt of the right, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone, deserve particular commendation." Sir Thomas Saumarez adds, "For the gallant defence made by the troops which defended the right redoubt, they received the particular thanks of Earl Cornwallis, and also the most flattering testimonies of approbation from the general officers of the army, for their persevering and intrepid conduct during the siege, and on all former occasions." Even the French general officers, after the termination of the siege, gave the Welsh Fusileers their unqualified approbation, and praise for their intrepidity and firmness in repulsing the three attacks made by such vastly superior numbers on the redoubt, and could not easily believe that so few men had defended it.

The combined army, including militia, amounted to 20,000 men, while the garrison, on the day previous to the surrender, mustered 5,950 rank and file, of whom, however, only 4,017 were reported fit for duty. Lieutenants Mair and Guyon, of the Welsh Fusileers, were killed during the siege.

By the terms of the capitulation, the garrison surrendered prisoners of war, but the officers were permitted to return to Europe on parole, and to retain their private property; the colours of the regiment were thus saved, by Captain Peter <sup>-6</sup> and another officer wrapping them round their bodies. <sup>-66</sup>

On the 29th of October Captain Saumarez, who was appointed to attend the regiment during its captivity, marched from York Town with half the garrison, and on the 15 November arrived at Winchester in the back settlements of Virginia, where the soldiers were confined in

barracks, surrounded by a stockade.

On the 12th of January 1782, the regiment marched from Winchester, through the state of Maryland to Lancaster in Pennsylvania, a long and severe march, during which several of the soldiers were frost-bitten. Here, on the 2d of June 1782, Captain Saumarez was one of the thirteen British captains who were compelled to draw lots for their lives.

In May 1783 the regiment quitted Lancaster, and joined the British army in Staten Island; and in January 1784, embarked for England. From that period till 1794, they were stationed in the United Kingdom, and in the latter year embarked for St. Domingo, where they assisted at the taking of Port au Prince, but suffered so severely from the climate, that they returned to England a perfect skeleton in 1796.

In 1798 the regiment formed part of a force sent under the command of Major General Coote, to destroy sluices and works in the canal of Ostend. Two companies only landed on this service; they were made prisoners of war, in common with the rest of the troops, and marched to Lille; they were soon after, however, exchanged, and joined the headquarters of the regiment in Guernsey.

In August 1799, the regiment embarked for Holland, with the army under Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Abercrombie, sailed from the Downs on the 13th of that month, and after a tedious and tempestuous voyage arrived in Texel Roads on the 22nd. Immediate preparations for a landing were commenced, but it coming on to blow so hard on shore, the fleet was forced to put to sea again; and the gale continuing unabated for the two following days, it was not till the 26th that it finally came to anchor. On the morning of the 27th the troops got into the Boats and launches of the fleet to disembark. The reserve, composed of the Welsh Fusileers and 55th, commanded by Colonel M'Donald of the latter regiment, were the first to reach the shore. They had scarcely formed, and began to move forward, when they got into action with a considerable body of Dutch infantry, cavalry, and artillery, commanded by General Daendels. "The ardour and glorious intrepidity displayed by the troops soon drove the enemy from the nearest sand-hills;" but the contest continued from five o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon, when the enemy, completely worn out, were compelled to retire. The loss of the British fell chiefly on the reserve, which were the corps principally engaged. The Welsh Fusileers had 18 rank and file killed, and Captains Bury, Ellis, and the Honourable Godfrey M'Donald, five sergeants, and 69 rank and file wounded.

For some days the troops remained in the position they had won on the sand-hills, suffering severely from the weather, having no other shelter than trenches, which they dug for themselves in the sand. On the 1 September they advanced from this uncomfortable situation, and established themselves on the Zype Dyke, extending across the peninsula of the Helder, from the Atlantic to the Zuyder Zee. Early in the morning of the 10th of September, the enemy advanced in three columns to attack the position, but were repulsed at every point; the reserve quickened the retreat.

In a few days His Royal Highness the Duke of York arrived and assumed the command of the army, and as considerable reinforcements of English and Russians arrived about the same time, offensive operations commenced. On the 19 September the Allied army marched in 4 columns to attack the posts of the enemy. All conducted themselves with great bravery, and the efforts of 3 of the columns were crowned with complete success. The right column,

however, composed of Russians, was unfortunately surrounded in the village of Bergen, and ultimately repulsed with considerable loss. In consequence of this misfortune, the whole of the troops were recalled to the position from which they had marched in the morning. The reserve had marched on the evening preceding the battle to turn the extreme right of the enemy. There was no opposition in that quarter, but the column also resumed its former position.

The state of the weather prevented further active operations during the remainder of the month of September; but the interval was usefully employed in preparations for a renewal of the attack on the enemy: this was made on the 2 October, on which was gained the hard-fought battle, generally known as that of Alkmaar. The action commenced by the reserve, which formed the advanced guard of the right column of the army, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, attacking and carrying a redoubt in front of the village of Campe, and driving the enemy from that village and the heights above it. They then advanced along the sand-hills inclining to their left, took the Slaper Dyke in reverse, and cleared the road to Groete, and the heights above it, for the Russian column which marched by the Slaper Dyke. Having cleared the ground in front of the Russians, the reserve inclined considerably to the right, to connect itself with the right column (which had marched by the seashore), still warmly engaged with the enemy, who were in considerable force on the sand-hills. Meanwhile Sir Ralph Abercrombie had been for several hours warmly engaged with a superior body of the French, which occupied Egmont of the Zee, and the hills in front of it. The arrival of the reserve enabled him to advance and take post on the sand-hills, on which the troops lay on their arms that night, and on the following morning occupied Egmont of Zee. In this battle the Welsh Fusileers had 7 rank and file killed, and Lieutenants McLean and Keith, one sergeant, 3 drummers and 49 rank and file wounded.

After the action the enemy took up a strong position between Boever Wyck and Wyck of Zee, from which His Royal Highness determined to drive him before he should have time to strengthen it, or to receive reinforcements. In pursuance of this determination, and preparatory to a general movement, the advanced posts were ordered to be pushed forward on the 6th October. This was effected in general with little opposition; but the Russians, while attempting to take possession of a height in their front, were attacked by a strong party of the enemy. Sir Ralph Abercrombie moved up with the reserve to support them, and the enemy advancing with his whole force, the action soon became general along a great part of the line, and was maintained with great obstinacy till a late hour in the night, when the enemy withdrew from the field. The Welsh Fusileers had 6 rank and file killed, and one sergeant and 33 rank and file wounded.

Winter was now setting in with such rigour, that it was evident nothing further could be effected during that season; a retrograde movement was therefore resolved on. About 7 o'clock on the evening of the 7 October, the troops were suddenly ordered to fall in, and by ten the retreat had commenced; the night being extremely dark and stormy, and the greatest precautions having been taken to elude the vigilance of the enemy, there was no pursuit, and the army on the 9th resumed its former position on the Zype Dyke unmolested.

On the 14th, His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief made proposals to the French General Brune for withdrawing the British and Russian troops from Holland, and on the 18th, articles to that effect were agreed on.

In pursuance of the convention, the Welsh Fusileers marched to the Helder, and on the 29 October embarked on some Dutch schuytz, to be conveyed to some line-of-battle ships about fifteen miles off. The wind dying away they were unable to proceed, and were ordered on board some Dutch frigates, when it was the fate of Lieutenants Hill, Hanson, Viscer, Maclean, and Hoggard, with the grenadiers and two other companies, amounting to 262 men, and 25 women and children, to embark in the Valk. This ship was prevented from sailing at the same time with those which conveyed the rest of the regiment, but she got out with the next tide. On the following evening they were, by reckoning, within 30 miles of Yarmouth, but would not come nearer the shore during the night. Next morning the wind was contrary, and soon increasing to a storm, drove the Valk towards the coast of Norway. She now beat about for several days, till all idea of her position was lost. On the morning of the 10 November the ship struck on a sandbank, as was afterwards ascertained, within 6 miles of the Dutch coast, from which the captain had conceived he was many leagues distant, supposing himself to be at least equally near to that of England; the crew, of whom, indeed, scarce 20 had ever been at sea before, abandoned themselves to despair, and trusted more to their prayers than to their exertions.

The spirit of the Englishmen was not, however, dismayed by their appalling situation. Lieutenant Hoggard, who had some little knowledge of nautical affairs, took some of the soldiers down to the pumps, and Lieutenant Hill having failed in an attempt to break open the powder magazine, fired several rounds from a soldier's musket; the ship guns had all been drawn, and the gunner could not be found. The ship now beat over the bank and drifted among some breakers, the main-mast went overboard, severing the long-boat in two in its fall; the mizen and foremast soon followed, carrying with them numbers of people who had crowded into the rigging. Lieutenant Hill now hearing the ship going to pieces, took his station on the fore-castle, where he lay down, and from whence he witnessed the unhappy fate of most of his companions, the after-part of the ship having soon broken away. The fore-castle seemed to be fast bedded in the sand, but it soon fell over, when Lieutenant Hill quitted it, and after many fruitless and fatiguing efforts, succeeded in fastening himself with his braces to a fragment of the wreck, on which he at length reached the shore, where he found, that of 446 souls who had sailed in the Valk, only 25 survived, himself, 19 men of the Welsh Fusileers, and 5 Dutch sailors.

The land on which they were cast proved to be the island of Ameland on the coast of Holland. The inhabitants had hoisted the colours of the House of Orange, and cut off all communication with the mainland; they received the survivors in the kindest manner, and performed the last offices to those who were washed ashore, with as much decency as their poverty would permit.

Having fulfilled these melancholy duties, Lieutenant Hill hired a fishing boat, in which he and his companions were conveyed to the Helder, from whence they returned to England in the Success frigate.

The regiment was now reduced by shipwreck and the casualties of the campaign, from 1,000 to about 400 men; drafts were received from the Irish militia, and a few recruits were raised in England, but the supplies were far from placing the regiment on its former establishment.

In June 1800, the regiment embarked at Plymouth, in three frigates, and joined the Channel

fleet under Lord St Vincent, disembarked on the Isle de Houat on the coast of France, re-embarked and joined the army under Lieutenant General Sir James Pulteney, in the unsuccessful attempts on Ferroll and Vigo in August; they thence proceeded to Cadiz Bay, and joined the army assembled there under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The troops being prevented from landing in consequence of an epidemic fever raging in the city, it was resolved to employ them in an expedition to Egypt. The Welsh Fusileers sailed for Malta, where they landed early in December, for the purpose of refreshing the men, and cleaning the ships; from Malta they proceeded to the general rendezvous, Marmorici Bay, in Asia Minor, where they again landed and encamped. The expedition finally sailed from Marmorici Bay on the 23d of February 1801, and on the 2d of March, anchored in Aboukir Bay. The Welsh Fusileers again formed part of the reserve, with the flank companies of the 40th regiment, the 28th, 42d, and 58th regiments, the Corsican Rangers, and detachments of the 11th dragoons, and of Hompesch's regiment, commanded by Major-General Moore.

The state of the weather, and the surf on the shore, prevented any attempt to land till the 8th. At two o'clock on that morning, the reserve, the Guards, and the 1st brigade, amounting in all to about 5,500 men, commenced getting into the boats, but owing to the great extent of the anchorage, the assembling and arranging of these at the place of rendezvous was not completed till nine. When the signal was made to advance, all sprang forward at the same instant: the French, to the number of two thousand, drawn up at the summit of the sand-hills, in part sixty feet high, and apparently inaccessible, looking down in amazement at the hardihood of the attempt. When they could no longer doubt of the seriousness of the intention to land, they opened such a tremendous fire from their artillery, and as the troops approached, from their small arms, that the surface of the water was broken into foam, and it seemed as if nothing could live in it. This only increased the ardour of the rowers, who pressed on and forced the boats to the beach. "The reserve jumped on shore, and formed as they advanced; the 23d and 40th rushed up the heights with almost preternatural energy, never firing a shot, but charging with the bayonet the two battalions which crowned them, breaking and pursuing them till they carried the two Mole Hills in the rear, which commanded the plain to the left, taking at the same time three pieces of cannon."<sup>6</sup> The Guards and the 1st brigade were no less successful, and the British were left in full possession of the heights, and eight pieces of cannon.

The loss of the regiment was six rank and file killed, and Captains Ellis, Lloyd, and Pearson, one sergeant, and 37 rank and file wounded.

The rest of the army disembarked during the day, and the whole occupied a position about three miles in advance, till the 12th, when it again moved forward and came in sight of the enemy, who was strongly posted with his right to the canal of Alexandria, and his left to the sea. On the morning of the 13th, the army marched in two columns against the right of the enemy's position, but had not proceeded far, when the French, descending from the heights, attacked the leading brigades of both columns. These quickly formed line, repulsed the enemy, and continuing to advance in the same formation for three miles, finally compelled him to take refuge under the fortified heights of Alexandria.

The reserve, which had covered the right flank during these operations, was now brought forward, while the second line marched to the left to turn the enemy on both flanks. The Commander-in-Chief, however, on reconnoitering the position, judged it prudent to withdraw

the troops rather than expose them to the certainty of considerable loss, when the extent of the advantage to be gained could not be ascertained, they had already, indeed, suffered severely during the reconnaissance.

The army remained unmolested in the position to which it had retired till the morning of the 21st. The reserve was posted on an eminence on the extreme right, within a few yards of the sea, and among the ruins of an ancient palace, the work of the Romans. About an hour before daybreak on the morning of the 21 March, the French, to the number of 12,000, issued from their works and advanced to the attack. The action commenced by a feint on our left, but it soon became evident that the greatest efforts were directed against the right. The attack on this point was begun by the infantry, sustained by a strong body of cavalry; the contest was unusually obstinate: the enemy was twice repulsed, and their cavalry were repeatedly mixed with our infantry. They at length retired, leaving a prodigious number of dead and wounded on the field. "The reserve, against whom the principal attack of the enemy was directed, conducted themselves with unexampled spirit: they resisted the impetuosity of the French infantry, and repulsed several charges of cavalry." <sup>-6</sup> "To Major General More, Brigadier General Oakes, and the reserve, no acknowledgements are sufficient." <sup>-66</sup>

After the victory of the 21st, Major General Hutchinson, on whom the command devolved, by the lamented death of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, marched against Cairo with the main body of the army. The Welsh Fusileers remained with Major General Coote before Alexandria, and assisted in the operations which terminated in the capitulation of that place on the 2 September. In November they embarked for Gibraltar. "The conduct of the troops of every description," says General Hutchinson in his despatch of the 5 September, "has been exemplary in the highest degree; there has been much to applaud and nothing to reprehend. Their order and regularity in the camp have been as conspicuous as their courage in the field."

For their conduct on this service the troops received the thanks of both houses of Parliament, and His Majesty was graciously pleased to permit each regiment to bear on its colours and appointments, the Sphinx, with the word "Egypt." Each officer was presented with a gold medal by the Grand Signior.

The regiment returned to England from Gibraltar in August 1803, and was quartered in the Southern counties till October 1805, when it embarked at Ramsgate on an expedition under the command of Lieutenant General Don. The regiment disembarked at Cuxhaven early in November, and after a severe and fatiguing march was cantoned on the banks of the Weser, about a day's march from Bremen. About 2 months afterwards, the army now commanded by Lord Cathcart, occupied Bremen, where they remained in anxious expectation of being called upon to partake in more active scenes, till the battle of Austerlitz so completely changed the aspect of affairs in Europe, that the British troops were recalled to England in February 1806.

The next service in which the regiment was employed was the expedition to Copenhagen, under Lieutenant General Lord Cathcart. The Welsh Fusileers, who, with the 4th Regiment, formed Major General Grosvenor's brigade, embarked at Harwich on the 25 July 1807, sailed on the 30th, and on the 16 August landed, without opposition, on the island of Zealand, about 12 miles from Copenhagen. On their advance toward the capital on the following day, some

skirmishing took place with the advance-guard, commanded by Major Pearson, in which the regiment lost 5 or 6 men.

On the 18th, the stores and artillery were disembarked, and the troops soon commenced erecting batteries, and making other necessary preparations for a bombardment. During the progress of these, the piquets had frequent encounters with the enemy, in which the regiment had a few men killed and wounded; but the greatest annoyance was from the fire of the Danish gun boats. The bombardment commenced on the evening of the 2 September, with such effect, that the town was soon observed to be on fire in several places. The firing continued on both sides till the morning of the 6th, when negotiations were opened, and on the 7th, articles of capitulation were signed. Lieutenant Jennings and 2 men were killed on the 4th, by a six pound shot, which wounded 2 other men of the regiment, and killed 2 of the King's Own.

From the signing of the capitulation, the regiment was quartered in the suburbs of Copenhagen till the 18 October, when they embarked for England in the Brunswick, Surveillante, and Heir Apparent Frederick, one of the Danish prizes. On the 6 November the regiment landed at Deal, after a stormy voyage, during which the Heir Apparent was more than once in considerable danger. From Deal they marched to Colchester, from whence they soon moved to Portsmouth, where, in February 1808, they embarked in transports, and proceeded to Halifax, Nova Scotia. From Halifax one company was detached to Windsor, the remainder were ordered up the Bay of Fundy, the headquarters, with 3 companies, to Auxapolis Royal, and the rest to St John, New Brunswick.

In these quarters they remained only till December in the same year, when they again embarked, and sailed with the Royal Fusiliers, under the command of Sir George Prevost to Barbados, where they joined a force under the command of Sir George Beckwith, destined to make an attack upon the island of Martinique.

The expedition sailed from Barbados on the 28 January 1809, and on the following day, having separated into 2 divisions, in order to attack on different points, the Welsh Fusileers landed in the Cul de Sac Robert, on the north-east side of Martinique, a small body of the French disappearing as they approached. As soon as it was dark they commenced their march, the men dragging 2 pieces of artillery, as the horses were quite unserviceable, from the length of time they had been on board ship. The roads were in such a wretched condition from the rains, that it was one o'clock in the morning ere they accomplished a distance of 5 miles, when they halted. In this manner they continued their march across the island towards Fort Bourbon.

“On the 1 February, the Royal Fusiliers, and the light companies of the brigade who were in advance, drove a body of the enemy from Morne Bruno to the heights of Sourier. Lieutenant Colonel Ellis, who was advancing in support with the grenadiers of the Royal Welch, now ascended the heights, and drove the enemy across them, and down a narrow road between 2 sugar plantations, at the mouth of which the grenadiers took post. Here they were soon assailed by a superior force, which they ultimately repulsed. The contest, however, was most obstinate; the French repeatedly returning to the attack, with drums beating. The grenadiers, however, maintained their ground, though with the loss of 26 of their number killed and wounded.

“The remainder of the regiment now came up, and a sharp action took place, which terminated in the retreat of the French, and in which the Welsh Fusileers had upwards of 100 men killed and wounded. A most important position was now gained, from which all the subsequent operations against Fort Bourbon were directed. On the following morning 2 redoubts were discovered in front, and in advance of them a body of the enemy’s infantry.

The redoubts opened their fire, and a few men of the brigade were killed and wounded. Parties from each regiment were now ordered forward; they attacked and drove the enemy into their forts, but were ultimately obliged to retire, covered by the grenadiers, and Captain Keith’s company of the Welsh Fusileers. In this affair Lieutenant Roshelly was wounded. Sir George Beckwith now came up, and asked Lieutenant Colonel Ellis whether he thought he could trust his grenadiers to storm the Forts - ‘Sir,’ replied Colonel Ellis, ‘I will take the flints out of their firelocks and they shall take them.’ Sir George would not, however, permit the attempt to be made. The enemy evacuated them during the night, spiking and dismounting the guns, and retired to a third fort near their principal works. The second division of the army having now come up, and the way being opened for the fleet by the capture of Pigeon Island, preparations were commenced for bombarding Fort Bourbon.

“Four mortar batteries opened on the evening of the 19 February, and continued firing all night. This was repeated till the 23rd, when the French proposed terms of capitulation, which were deemed inadmissible, and the firing was resumed. On the following day 3 white flags were hoisted, and negotiations were opened, which terminated in the garrison, amounting to 2,000 men fit for duty, besides 700 sick, laying down their arms and eagles, and becoming prisoners of war.

“The casualties of the regiment during this service were 2 sergeants, and 18 rank and file killed, and 2 officers, Surgeon Power and Lieutenant Roshelly, 3 sergeants, and 97 rank and file wounded. Of 850 voted to the wounded at Martinique from the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd’s 250 fell to the share of the grenadier company of the Welsh Fusileers, out of which sum the company erected a monument in the Dutch church at Halifax, to the memory of their comrades who fell in the expedition.”<sup>-6</sup>

For their distinguished conduct on this service, the regiment received the gracious permission of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, to bear the word “Martinique” on their colours and appointments. After the reduction of Fort Bourbon, the regiment returned to Halifax with Sir George Prevost.

In the year 1804, a second battalion was added to the regiment: it was embodied at Chester, where it remained till it was completed, and rendered in every respect fit for service. In November 1807, it embarked for Ireland, and in the summer of 1808 was encamped on the Curragh of Kildare, where a considerable body of troops was assembled to be exercised by Lieutenant General Sir David Baird.

In the autumn of the same year the second battalion formed part of the force which proceeded with Sir David Baird to join Sir John Moore’s army in Spain. It subsequently accompanied the former general in his march to Sahagun, and shared in all the hardships of the disastrous retreat which followed, being one of the regiments of General Frazer’s division, which unfortunately advanced a few days’ march on the road, from Liego to Vigo, in consequence of the misconduct of the orderly dragoon who carried the despatch directing the retreat to be

made on Corunna.

In the action at Corunna on the 16 January 1809, the battalion was in Major General Beresford's brigade, which was in reserve, and which formed the rear guard when the army embarked on the 17th, the Welsh Fusileers being the last battalion to quit the Spanish shore.

For their services in this campaign the regiment was permitted to bear the word "Corunna" on their colours and appointments, and Lieutenant-Colonel Wyatt the honorary distinction of a medal.

The battalion returned with the army to England, and in the summer of the same year again embarked to join the expedition to the island of Walcheren under General the Earl of Chatham. On this service the battalion suffered so severely, from the pestilential climate of the island, that it returned to England almost a skeleton. It was never afterwards employed on foreign service, and, indeed, never attained to such a degree of efficiency as to be equal to repairing the casualties of the first battalion during the Peninsular war.

The first battalion embarked at Halifax on the 10 November 1810, arrived in the Tagus on the 11 December, and having disembarked on the following day, marched on the 16th to join the army under Lord Wellington, which was then advancing from the lines of Torres Vedras in pursuit of Marshal Massena; on the 18th the Welsh Fusileers arrived at Sobral, where they joined the 4th Division, commanded by Major General the Honourable G L Cole, under whose orders they continued till the termination of the war; they were brigaded with the 2 battalions of the Royal Fusiliers under the Honourable Colonel Pakenham.

The hostile armies soon went into cantonments; the Welsh Fusileers in Azembuja, where they remained till the 24 January 1811, when they moved to Aveira de Cima; in the meantime Major General Houston had been appointed to the command of the brigade.

On the 5 March Marshal Massena broke up from his cantonments at Santarem, and put his army in motion for the frontiers of Portugal. The allied army was immediately ordered in pursuit. The 4th Division formed part of a force which was sent in the direction of Thomar, under the orders of Marshal Beresford, who, on the 12th, came up with a strong rear guard of the enemy at Redinka. It was immediately attacked, and after a sharp contest driven in on the main body of the army.

Lord Wellington now determined to detach a considerable portion of his army to lay siege to Badajoz, which about this time fell into the hands of the French, and the 4th Division was ordered on this service, the execution of which was entrusted to Marshal Beresford.

The Welsh Fusileers having quitted the main army marched by Thomar, and on the 18 March crossed the Tagus at Tancos. A bridge having been constructed with some difficulty, the division crossed the Guadiana, and on the 9 April arrived before Olivenea, which they were directed to besiege. General Cole sat down before the place on the 11th, and on the 15th, when the breaching battery was completed, sent a flag of truce into the town, offering favourable terms in case of an immediate surrender. No answer was returned, and the batteries opened their fire. A breach was soon effected, when the governor, apprehensive of an assault, made an unconditional surrender of the town, and the garrison, consisting of 370 men, marched out prisoners of war.

Soon after this event Lord Wellington arrived in the neighbourhood of Badajoz and having reconnoitred the place, gave orders for the immediate commencement of the siege. The fortress was completely invested on the 8 May, and the operations of the siege carried on with little effect till the 14th, when Marshal Beresford having received intelligence of the march of Marshal Soult from Seville with a strong force to raise the siege, broke up from before the place, and advanced to Valverde. The 4th Division was left to cover the removal of the stores to Elvas, a service which was so completely effected, that not a single article fell into the hands of the enemy.

As the position of Valverde left Badajoz completely open, Marshal Beresford, on the 15th, moved his army to the heights of Allmera, where he resolved to give battle. The 4th Division joined on the morning of the 16th, only about half an hour before the commencement of the action, and formed, with a brigade of Portuguese, the second line of the British and Portuguese army; the Spanish troops under Generals Blake and Castanos forming in 2 lines the right of the allied army. About eight o'clock in the morning the enemy was observed to be in motion: a strong body of cavalry, and 2 heavy columns of infantry issued from the woods in front of the position, and moved on the bridge and village Albuera. Meanwhile, Soult, with the main body of his army, crossed the river considerably above the position, and having taken possession of the heights on the right, attacked and drove the Spaniards from their ground, and formed his line so as to rake that of the allies nearly at right angles. In order to dislodge the enemy from this commanding position which he had thus gained, General Cole was ordered to form his division in an oblique line in rear of the right, with his now right thrown back, and an ineffectual attempt was made to induce the Spanish troops to advance. Major General Stewart's division now arrived from the centre of the line, passed through the Spaniards and attacked the heights. At this period of the action a heavy storm of rain, added to the smoke of the guns, obscured the atmosphere so much, that the leading brigade of this division, while in the act of deploying, was attacked by a body of Polish Lancers, when two regiments were unfortunately broken and cut to pieces. Major General Houghton's brigade next arrived, and sustained the contest for some time with the greatest gallantry, but the enemy's artillery and musketry spread havoc through their ranks, while a deep gully in their front prevented the British from using their bayonets. At this crisis the 4th Division was ordered to advance, and General Cole in person led the Fusilier brigade up the heights.

“Such a gallant line issuing from the midst of smoke, and rapidly separating itself from the confused and broken multitude, startled the enemy's heavy masses, which were increasing and pressing forward as to an assured victory; they wavered, hesitated, and then vomiting forth a storm of fire, hastily endeavoured to enlarge their front, while a fearful discharge of grape, from all their artillery, whistled through the British ranks. Myers was killed; Cole, and the 3 colonels, Ellis, Blakeney, and Hawkeshaw fell wounded; and the Fusilier battalions, struck by the iron tempest, reeled and staggered like sinking ships. Suddenly and sternly recovering, they closed on their terrible enemies, and then was seen with what a strength and majesty the British soldier fights. In vain did Soult, by voice and gesture animate his Frenchmen; in vain did the hardiest veterans, extricating themselves from the crowded columns, sacrifice their lives to gain time for the mass to open on such a fair field; in vain did the mass itself hear up, and fiercely striving, fire indiscriminately on friends and foes, while the horsemen, hovering on the flanks threatened to charge the advancing line. Nothing could stop that astonishing infantry. No sudden burst of undisciplined valour, no nervous

enthusiasm, weakened the stability of their order, - their flashing eyes were bent on the dark columns in front; their measured tread shook the ground; their dreadful volleys swept away the head of every formation; their deafening shouts overpowered the dissonant cries that broke from all parts of the tumultuous crowd, as foot by foot, and with a horrid carnage, it was driven by the incessant vigour of the attack, to the farthest edge of the hill. In vain did the French reserves, joining with the struggling multitude, endeavour to sustain the fight; their efforts only increased the irremediable confusion; and the might mass giving way, like a loosened cliff, went headlong down the ascent. The rain flowed after in streams discoloured with blood, and 1,500 unwounded men, the remnant of 6,000 unconquerable British soldiers, stood triumphant on the fatal hill.”<sup>-6</sup>

The loss of the Welsh Fusileers in this desperate conflict was severe. Captain Montague, and Lieutenant Revis Hall,<sup>-66</sup> one sergeant, and 73 rank and file killed; Lieutenant Colonel Ellis, Captains Hurford, M'Donald, and Stainforth, Lieutenants Harrison, Treeve, Booker, Thorpe, Castles, Harris, Ledwith, and M'Lellan, 12 sergeants, one drummer, 232 rank and file wounded, and one sergeant and five rank and file missing: Captain McDonald, and Lieutenant Castles died of their wounds. So numerous were the casualties among the officers and sergeants, that Captain Stainforth's company was at the conclusion of the action commanded by a corporal.<sup>-666</sup>

About three o'clock in the afternoon both armies resumed the positions they had respectively occupied in the morning, and remained in them during the 17th. On the morning of the 18th Soult retired towards Seville, pursued for some distance by the allied cavalry, though far inferior in numbers.

On the retreat of the French the siege of Badajoz was resumed, and the place again completely invested on the 25 May, under the immediate superintendence of Lord Wellington. Two additional divisions arrived from the northern army to assist, and the 4th Division was stationed at Almandralejo to cover the operations. These were continued till the 10 June, when Lord Wellington determined on converting the siege into a blockade, and removed the stores to Elvas, himself taking post at Albuera. As the forces, however, which were moving upon Badajoz proved to be greatly superior in number to the allies, his lordship retired across the Guadiana, and placed the army in position on the Caza, with the right protected by the fortress of Elvas.

The army continued in this position till the middle of July, when the French Corps, which were opposed to it, having separated, the 4th Division marched to the north, and joined the main army, which was occupied in blockading Ciudad Rodrigo. Towards the end of September, Marshal Marmont having been joined by the corps of General Dorseene, advanced to raise the blockade, and Lord Wellington withdrew on the 25th to the heights of Fuente Guinaldo. The 4th Division having been as a rearguard at Aldea de Ponte, this village was attacked on the 27th by the French advanced guard, which twice succeeded in gaining possession of it, and was as often repulsed by the gallant division, who remained masters of the disputed post, which they maintained till night, when they fell back to Soito. Lord Wellington having asked Major General Pakenham for a “stop-gap regiment” to cover the retreat of the division, the latter replied, “That he had already placed the Welsh Fusileers there.” “Ah!” said his lordship, “that is the very thing.”

In these affairs Captain Van Coutland was killed, and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Pearson, commanding the light companies of the brigade, and Captain Cane severely wounded.

Lord Wellington awaited the enemy in the position of Soito; but Marmont, satisfied with the sample he already had of the prowess of his opponents, declined an engagement, and retired to Ciudad Rodrigo. The allies went into cantonments on the frontiers of Portugal.

While in quarters the troops were employed under the direction of the engineers, in preparing large quantities of fascines and gabions, which they were soon summoned to employ in the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo.

As the 4th Division contributed to this brilliant affair only by taking its turn of duty in the trenches, - in which the Royal Welch suffered a loss of 17 rank and file killed and wounded, - it may be sufficient to state, that the ground was broken on the night of the 8 January 1812, and that on the 19th of the same month the place was taken by storm; a rapidity of operation which Marmont, (who was approaching somewhat hastily to its relief,) declared to be quite incomprehensible.

Having repaired the works of Ciudad Rodrigo, and placed a Spanish garrison in it, Lord Wellington next turned his attention to Badajoz. The preparations for the siege of this fortress had been carried on with extraordinary secrecy, and were completed about the beginning of March. The army broke up from its cantonments in the neighbourhood of Almeida, and marching with the greatest rapidity, arrived before Badajoz on the 16th of that month, when the place was invested by the 3rd, 4th, and light divisions. On the 6 April, three breaches were considered practicable, and orders were issued for the assault. The storming of the breaches in the face of the bastion of 'La Trinidad,' and in the curtain between that bastion and that of Sta Maria, was assigned to the 4th Division, led by Major General the Honourable Charles Colville.

The troops destined for this service issued from the works at 9 o'clock at night; when on the glacis they were discovered by the enemy, who poured a heavy fire upon them; they, nevertheless, advanced in good order to the covered way, which they entered at various points where the pallisades had been broken by the fire of the besiegers. Bags of hay were now thrown into the ditch to lessen its depth; and on these the men jumped down, or descended by the ladders. The ditch was now filled with men, and the enemy exploded an incredible number of fougasses, shells, and other combustibles, which they had arranged along the foot of the breach, and in the ditch: their effect was in the highest degree appalling, as well as destructive, and naturally created some confusion among the assailants. In the midst of this fire, smoke, and noise, three flank companies of the 4th Division, that were intended for the attack of the breach, in the curtain, mounted as unfinished ravelin in front of it, conceiving it to be the breach itself. They soon discovered their mistake; but being now exposed to a musketry fire from the whole of the front attacked, and seeing a difficult descent, before they could reach the foot of the breach, they halted, and returned the fire of the garrison. At this crisis the light division, which was to have stormed the breach in the bastion of Sta Maria, being led too much to the right, joined these flank companies of the 4th Division on the summit of the ravelin, and considerably increased the confusion. Order was at length restored, and these troops were conducted to the real points of attack.

In the meantime the columns of the 4th Division moved on to the attack of the breach, "La

Trinidad,” without firing a shot; but from want of sufficient ladders, there was no formation of the troops to make them advance as a machine. Only the bravest, prompted by their individual gallantry, or those nearest the spot, followed their officers; and the enemy was found to be so well prepared, that notwithstanding the most heroic and persevering efforts of the assailants, no lodgement could be effected on the breach. As the men ascended, the besieged rolled down upon them an astonishing quantity of loaded shells, and exploded a variety of other combustibles which had been previously arranged on the face of the breach.

Several officers and men reached the summit, and grappled with the *chevaux-de-frise* with which it was guarded; but being unable to force over them, they were much cut and bayoneted in their attempts to remove them; and finally, driven down the breach with great slaughter. Though thus repulsed in repeated assaults by the seemingly inexhaustible combustibles of the enemy, not an individual attempted to withdraw from the scene of carnage; but all remained patiently to be slaughtered in the ditch. Lord Wellington, however, hearing of the state of affairs, ordered the divisions to be withdrawn, and to be formed again for a renewal of the assault a little before daylight. The success of the 3rd and 5th divisions in escalating the castle and the bastion of San Vicente, however, obviated the necessity of any ulterior measures, - the British were already masters of Badajoz.

The loss of the Welsh Fusileers during the siege and in the assault was, - Captain Maw and Lieutenant Collins, 3 sergeants and 19 rank and file killed. Lieutenant Colonel Ellis, Captains Potter, Leahy, Stainforth, and Hawtyn - Lieutenants Farmer, Johnson, Harrison, George Brown, Walley, Brownson, Walker, Tucker, Fielding, Holmes, Llewellyn, and Wyngate - 7 sergeants, 1 drummer, and 84 rank and file wounded; of whom, Captain Potter and Lieutenant Llewellyn died of their wounds; 1 sergeant and 19 rank and file missing.

With the exception of Lieutenant Colonel Ellis and Potter, all the officers were killed and wounded on the night of the assault, when in consequence of Colonel Ellis's wound, the battalion was commanded by Captain Leahy.

Major General Colville was severely wounded, and carried from the breach by Sergeant James Ingram, of the Welsh Fusileers, who is still in the regiment.

After the fall of Badajoz, the army marched to the North; and on the 16 June, arrived at Salamanca. Marmont retired on their approach, leaving garrisons in some forts which commanded the Tormes at that place. The allies crossed the river by the fords above and below the town; and while the 6th Division besieged the forts, the remainder were held in readiness to oppose the main body of the enemy, who still attempted to keep up a communication with them. On the 20th, Marmont appeared in front of the position of San Christoval, and made a strong demonstration with his cavalry on the plain; but after a pretty warm skirmish, retired again. Lieutenant Leonard, of the Welsh Fusileers, while looking at the affair was killed by a chance shot from a great distance. The forts being taken on the 27th, the French retired to the Douro; but being soon reinforced, resumed the offensive, and obliged our army to retire in turn.

These movements continued several weeks, each General narrowly watching his adversary, and holding himself in readiness to attack, on the commission of any important fault. Such an opportunity presented itself on the 22 July, on the plains of Salamanca, and Lord Wellington hastened to avail himself of it. The attack was made against the centre and left of the enemy. On the former point the resistance was obstinate. The 4th Division advanced to

the attack in line, exposed to a very accurate fire of grape, round, etc: they carried two positions in the most gallant style, - but the most determined valour must yield to numbers. They were opposed to Bonnet's division, about 10,000 strong, - got intermixed with the lines of the enemy, who involved them, - deployed on the left flank of the Portuguese brigade of the division, and finally, compelled them to retrograde about 400 yards: here they reformed, and being joined by their supporters, the 6th Division renewed the attack with complete success.

The victory of Salamanca cost the regiment, Major Offley, and 9 rank and file killed; Lieutenant Colonel Ellis, Major Dalmer, Lieutenants Enoch, McDonald, Fryer, and Clyde, and 84 rank and file wounded.

The enemy being now driven across the Douro, Lord Wellington marched upon Madrid, where the army arrived on the 12 August. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm with which they were received by the inhabitants of the capital; thousands came forth to meet them, bearing branches of laurel and other emblems of triumph. All business was suspended in the city, - the streets were strewn with flowers, - and the houses decorated as on occasions of the greatest festivity. Bullfights and other public amusements were exhibited for their entertainment.

From this scene of gaiety and dissipation, the regiment removed to the Escorial, where it remained till the retreat of the army to the frontiers of Portugal, in consequence of the failure of an attack on the castle of Burgos, and the approach of Soult, with his army, from Andalusia, and of Clausel, with the troops that had been beaten at Salamanca.

The Welsh Fusileers reached Soutilla, on the banks of the Douro, on the 5 December, so reduced by 11 months of incessant service, that they were about this time formed into six divisions of twelve files each. In the course of the winter a few men joined from the second battalion; but the regiment commenced the campaign of 1813, with only 300 effective men; most of these, however, were hardy and experienced veterans, and all were newly clothed, and in the highest state of equipment.

The army did not take the field this year till the middle of May, when it advanced and drove the enemy from his position on the Douro; following him up without intermission, as far as Vittoria, where, on the 21 June, a general action was fought, which terminated in the total defeat of the French, commanded by King Joseph; the intruder himself narrowly escaped being made prisoner. On this occasion the Welsh Fusileers did not come in immediate collision with the enemy. Lieutenant Sidley was wounded, and 4 men killed, in driving the French across the Zadorra, on the 19th.

In consequence of this decisive victory, the whole of the French, with the exception of the garrisons of San Sebastian and Pampluna, evacuated the Spanish territory, and retired across the Pyrenees. The blockade of Pampluna was entrusted to the Spaniards; the 4th Division covering them in front of the pass of Roncesvalles. On the 25 July, Marshal Soult, who now commanded the French army, made his appearance in the pass, with a very superior force; and the division, after an obstinate resistance, was compelled to retire to a strong position in the rear, which the enemy did not venture to attack. On the two following days, the enemy continued to advance in great force; and the allied army, which was now concentrated to protect the blockade of Pampluna, fell back on that fortress, near which, on the 28th, both

armies appeared in order of battle.

The chief efforts of the enemy during this day, were directed against the position occupied by the 4th Division, which was engaged in a contest second only to that of Albuera, in severity.

“The battle of the 28th, was a beautiful display of military manoeuvres; the enemy formed his columns in the most perfect order, and advanced to the attack with a rapidity and impetus, apparently irresistible. I was in immediate support of the 7th cacadores (Portuguese), who were the advanced piquet, and consequently received the first shock of the enemy’s column.

My people only thought of fighting, and at once checked their progress. Our supports on both sides were brought up, and the contest continued with varying success till four o’clock, when the enemy withdrew, only leaving his voltigeurs in our front. We had three divisions upon us, - the 4th, 5th, and 7th; the two former were chiefly opposed to the 40th, who made two unheard of charges; indeed, the whole day was a succession of charges”.<sup>-6</sup> “In the course of this contest,” says Lord Wellington, “the gallant 4th Division, which had been so frequently distinguished in this army, surpassed their former good conduct.”<sup>-66</sup> Every regiment charged with the bayonet; and the 40th, 7th, 20th, and 23rd, four different times.”

Their officers set them the example; and Major General Ross, commanding the brigade, had a horse killed under him.

On the 28th, Captains Stainforth and Walker were killed; and Lieut.-Colonel Ellis, Lieutenants the Honourable John Neville, Harris, Brice, and Adjutant M’Lellan, wounded.

“The battalion,” says Colonel Ellis, “has only the semblance of one. I commenced the action of the 25th, with only 254; so with the loss of 105 in action, sick, and attendants on the wounded, I am reduced to 160 bayonets. On the morning of the 30th, when formed for the pursuit of Soult, I only stood 121; and by the 2d August, I was reduced to 108.”

On the 29th, both armies remained inactive; but on the 30th, the enemy was observed to be in motion. He was instantly attacked, and compelled totally to abandon a position which Lord Wellington declared to be one of the strongest and most difficult of access ever occupied by troops. On the 2 August, the French were once more driven through the passes of the Pyrenees, into their own territory.

The siege of San Sebastian, which had been suspended on the advance of Soult to the relief of Pampluna, was now resumed. On the 31 August, the breach was carried by assault; the storming party consisting of volunteers from the different divisions of the army, - those of the Welsh Fusileers were commanded by Lieutenant Griffiths, who was among the wounded.

After the fall of San Sebastian, the hostile armies remained for some time inactive, or occupied only in strengthening their respective positions, and preparing for the further prosecution of the campaign. The troops, however, suffered severely from the inclemency of the weather. Exposed on the bleak summits of the Pyrenees, they gazed with intense longing on the beautiful plains of France, which lay stretched out beneath their feet. The close neighbourhood of a watchful enemy, rendered the greatest vigilance necessary, and the duties were severe.

The moment so ardently desired at length arrived. Early on the morning of the 7 October, the army, under favour of a dark and stormy sky, descended from the heights, crossed the Bidassoa, and established itself on the French territory, with little opposition from the enemy.

The continued inclemency of the weather, and the badness of the roads, retarded the further advance of the army till the 10 November, when all preparations being completed, the columns moved down the passes of the Pyrenees in the most perfect silence, and lay down, each at its appointed station, to await the dawn of day to make their attack. This was commenced by the 4th Division, which carried a strong redoubt in front of the village of Sarre, drove the enemy from that village, and continued its advance against the heights in its rear, exposed to the fire of intrenchments by which the position was secured. These, however, were successively abandoned as the division advanced, the enemy flying in great disorder, towards the bridges on the Nivelle; the garrison of one redoubt, which alone offered any resistance, were made prisoners. The other attacks were all equally successful, and terminated in Soult withdrawing the whole of his army, and resigning his position to the allies; who now went into cantonments in advance of the Nivelle, where they were permitted another interval of repose.

On the 9 December, the army was again in motion, and attacked the enemy's position on the Nive; on that and the four following days, a severe contest was maintained by the hostile forces, in which each was in turn the assailant. The flanks of the position were the contested points; and the 4th Division, which was in the centre, was not immediately engaged; but it had much severe duty in marching to the support of either flank, as they were successively engaged.

On the 11th, two battalions of Nassau troops, having heard of the liberation of their country from the yoke of Napoleon, deserted from the French, and were received by Lieutenant Colonel Ellis, who then commanded the brigade.

After the passage of the Nive, the army again went into cantonments; the Welsh Fusileers at Ustaritz, where they remained till the middle of February, 1814, when they again took the field, and drove the enemy through a most difficult and intersected country; till on the 27 February he took up a strong position at Orthes, where he determined to await the issue of a battle. The attack was commenced by General Cole, with the 4th Division, carrying the village of St Boe's, after an obstinate struggle. Marshal Beresford, who directed the movements of this part of the line, next turned his attention to two lines of the enemy posted on the heights above; the only approach to these, lay along a narrow tongue of ground, flanked on either side by a deep ravine, and completely exposed to the fire of the enemy's artillery. In this confined situation it was impossible to deploy; and so destructive was the action of the enemy's guns on the columns, that notwithstanding the most gallant and persevering efforts of the 4th Division, it was impossible to gain the heights. By a powerful attack in flank, however, the enemy was at length driven from the position, and forced to retreat with precipitation, pursued by the cavalry, who made many prisoners.

Captains Wynore and Jolliffe, and Lieutenant Harris, were severely wounded; and 50 men killed and wounded.

By the 10 April the whole army had crossed the Garonne; and an immediate attack on the enemy's position, under the walls of Toulouse, being resolved on, it was begun by the 4th Division, which, having driven the enemy from the village of Mont Blanc, proceeded in open columns along the front of the position, till they gained the extreme right, when they wheeled up, and advanced in line, overcoming all resistance, and forcing the enemy from the

heights, and beyond their entrenchments. Here they waited for the artillery, which, owing to the badness of the roads and the rapidity of the advance, had been left behind. As soon as the artillery came up, they continued their advance along the ridge, following up their success, till the enemy, repulsed on all points, was compelled to take refuge within the walls of Toulouse.

The regiment was not much exposed to musketry in this action, but was under a heavy cannonade the whole day. The casualties did not exceed 8 men killed and wounded.

After this battle the regiment marched to Langon, near Bourdeaux, where it was stationed during the whole of the month of May. On the 1st of June, they marched for Blancfort, where they arrived on the 6th, and embarked on board the Egmont, 74, disembarked on the 25th at Plymouth, from whence they soon after marched to Gosport.

For their services during the Peninsular war, the Royal Welsh were permitted to bear on their colours and appointments, the words "Albuera", "Badajoz", "Salamanca", "Vittoria", "Pyrenees", "Nivelle", "Orthes", "Toulouse", "Peninsula".

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis, who had been promoted (4th June 1814) to the rank of Colonel by Brevet, was appointed a Knight Commander of the Bath, and received the honorary distinctions of a Cross, and one Clasp. Lieutenant Colonel Sutton, also Colonel by Brevet, and Knight Commander of the Bath, a Cross and three Clasps, for his services in the Portuguese army. Lieutenant Colonel Pearson, a Medal. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Dalmer, a Medal, and one Clasp. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Hill, attached to the Portuguese army, a Cross. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Hurford, a Medal, and one Clasp. Captain Leahy, who commanded the regiment at the storming of Badajoz, a Medal.

On the 25th of October, this year, the second battalion was reduced, when 26 serjeants, 21 corporals, 23 drummers, and 377 privates, were transferred to the first battalion, which now mustered upwards of 1,000 rank and file. Of these, however, many of the veterans of Holland, Egypt, Martinique, and the Peninsula, and some limited servicemen, were soon after discharged.

On the return of Napoleon from Elba, the regiment was again ordered on service, and embarked on the 23d of March 1815. On the 30th they disembarked at Ostend, and immediately proceeded in canal boats to Bruges, from whence they marched to Ghent, and subsequently to Lessines, where they were attached to the 4th Division, commanded by Lieutenant General the Honourable Sir Charles Colville.

On the 24 April the battalion marched to Grammont, where it remained, with the intermission of a few days, till the 15 June, when the troops were hastily summoned from their cantonments in consequence of the advance of the French army, commanded by the Emperor in person. The Welsh Fusileers marched with the greatest expedition during the whole of the 16th and 17th, and arrived late in the evening of the latter day, at Braine la Leude, in the neighbourhood of which they bivouacked in a wheatfield, under torrents of rain.

The station of the 4th Division, on the memorable 18 June, was the reserve; and during the early part of the day, the regiment was merely exposed to a distant cannonade, from which it suffered no loss. The light companies of the brigade were, however, engaged, and lost some

men.

As the day advanced, Sir Henry Ellis perceiving an opening where his regiment might be employed with advantage, moved it up into the line; where, formed in square, it sustained several charges of the French cuirassiers. The greater number of the men were now, for the first time, in presence of an enemy; but these emulated the steadiness of their veteran comrades, and all nobly maintained the character of their regiment.

The glories of the day were, however, dearly purchased by the Welsh Fusileers with the life of their beloved commander, Sir Henry Ellis, who, continuing on horseback in the centre of the square, was struck with a musket ball in the right breast. Feeling himself faint from loss of blood, he calmly desired an opening might be made in the square, and rode to the rear. At a short distance from the field he was thrown from his horse while in the act of leaping a ditch; here he was found soon afterwards, much exhausted, and conveyed to a neighbouring out-house, where his wound was dressed.

In the course of the night of the 19th, the hovel in which he was lodged unfortunately caught fire, and he was with difficulty rescued from the flames by Assistant Surgeon Munro, of the regiment; but exhausted by so many shocks, he soon after expired. <sup>-6</sup>

The other casualties, were, Brevet-Major Hawtyn, Captains Jolliffe and Farmer, Lieutenant Fenshaw, 2 sergeants, and 9 rank and file killed. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Hill, Captain Johnson, Lieutenants Fielding, Griffiths, Clyde, and Sidley, 7 sergeants, and 71 rank and file wounded. Lieutenant Clyde died of his wounds.

After this brilliant and decisive victory, the allied army advanced rapidly on the French capital. On the 24th, the 4th Division arrived before Cambray, which they took possession of on the same day: the Welsh Fusileers entering by an old breach near the Port du Paris, with the loss of Lieutenant Leebody, and one private killed. The citadel having surrendered on the following day, the division resumed its march on Paris on the 26th, and on the 1 July encamped on the plain of St Denis.

Lieutenant General the Hon Sir Lowry Cole, having now joined the army, the Welsh Fusileers were, at his request, transferred to the 6th Division, in which they were again brigaded with the Royal Fusiliers, their associates in so many victories.

The regiment remained under the command of the Lieutenant General, in Major General Kempt's brigade, till October 1818, when the British troops were withdrawn from France.

On their return from France, the Welsh Fusileers served in Ireland till December 1823, when they embarked for Gibraltar. <sup>-6</sup> In January 1827, they joined the expedition to Portugal, under Lieutenant General Sir William Clinton; and in March 1828, returned to Gibraltar, where they are now serving.

## FOOTNOTES

-6:

That they were so named at their original formation seems probable; though in the earlier histories they are merely distinguished by the name of the Colonel. His Majesty's warrant, dated in December 1688, grants the regiment permission "to bear in the centre of their colours the device of the Prince of Wales, viz, three feathers issuing out of the Prince's coronet. In the three corners of the second colour, the badges of Edward the Black Prince, viz Rising Sun, Red Dragon, and the three feathers in the coronet, the motto, 'Ich dien.' On the grenadier caps the King's crest, also the three feathers as in the colours. The same badge of the three feathers and motto, 'Ich dien,' on the drums and biles [ sic ] of arms, the rank of the regiment underneath."

-66:

The spurs worn by Major Toby Purcell at the battle of the Boyne, are still preserved in the regiment, in possession of the senior Major for the time being.

-6:

At the commencement of the siege they, commanded by Lieutenant General Hashe [ sic . Huske], mustered 1 major, 4 captains, 14 subalterns, 1 chaplain, 1 adjutant, 1 surgeon, 1 assistant surgeon, 1 quarter master, 28 sergeants, 27 corporals, 17 drummers, 616 privates, of whom only 6 were sick.

-6:

The 90th.

-66:

Sir Robert Wilson's History of the Expedition to Egypt.

-6:

Journal of Captain Julian, one of the surviving veterans of the day. If it may be permitted to quote a work of fiction as an authority, it may be observed, as a confirmation of the severe loss of the regiment, that an American novelist, after describing the battle of Bunker's Hill, says, "The Welsh Fusileers had not a man left to saddle their goat."

-6:

Journal of Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Saumarez, then a captain in the Welsh Fusileers.

-66:

Sir Thomas Saumarez.

-6:

Sir Thomas Saumarez.

-6:

Stedman's History of the American War, vol ii, p 223.

-66:

Ibid, vol ii, p 224. The author was commissary to the army.

-6:

Lord Cornwallis's despatch.

-66:

Sir Thomas Saumarez.

-6:

The late Lieutenant General Peter.

-66:

Captain Julian's Journal.

-6:

Sir Robert Wilson's History of the expedition.

-6:

Major General Hutchinson's despatch.

-66:

General Order.

-6:

Letters and Journal of Lieutenant now Lieutenant Col Harrison.

-6:

Col Napier's History of the Peninsular War.

-66:

This young officer had not yet completed his 17th year, when he was thus prematurely cut off from his country and connections. He had borne the King's colour of his regiment throughout the engagement, and it was not until its termination – even when the roar of battle

had given place to the shouts of victory – that a stray shot struck him on the forehead, the effects of which proved mortal. This slight tribute will, it is hoped, be excused to a brother's memory – ASST.-ED.

-666:

Thomas Robinson.

-6:

Letter of Lieutenant Colonel Ellis to Captain now Lieutenant Colonel Harrison.

-66:

Colonel Ellis, in the letter above-quoted, feelingly laments that his Lordship had not witnessed the conduct of the regiment in the battle of Albuera, which he declares is “still without a parallel.”

-6:

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers of the regiment, have commemorated their affection and esteem for their distinguished leader, by erecting a monument to his memory, in the Cathedral of Worcester, his native city. The following is the inscription:

In Memory of  
Colonel Sir Henry Walton Ellis, KCB,  
A native of this city,  
Who, at an early age, entered the 23rd Regiment,  
Or, Royal Welsh Fusileers,  
Then commanded by his father, Major General John Joyner Ellis,  
And afterwards led on to honourable distinction by himself, during seven years of  
unexampled military renown;  
Having received eight wounds, and rendered services as important as they were  
brilliant,  
In Holland, Egypt, the West Indies, America, Spain, Portugal, and France,  
He fell by a musket-shot at the head of his Regiment,  
Almost in the glorious moment which announced victory to Great Britain, and

Peace to Europe, on the memorable Plains of

Waterloo.

He died of his wounds on the 20 June 1815, aged 32 years.

His loss was lamented, and his worth recorded, by his illustrious Commander,

Wellington,

In words that will perish only with history itself.

This Monument was erected

By the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Royal Welsh Fusileers,

As a Tribute of their respect and affection to the Memory of a Leader,

Not more distinguished for Valour and conduct in the Field,

Than beloved for every Generous and Social Virtue.

---

Extract from His Grace the Duke of Wellington's despatch, dated Orville, 29 June 1815:

“Your lordship will see in the enclosed lists, the names of some valuable officers lost to his Majesty's service. Among these I cannot avoid to mention Colonel Cameron, of the 92nd, and Colonel Sir Henry Ellis, of the 23rd regiments, to whose conduct I have frequently drawn your lordship's attention, and who at last fell, distinguishing themselves at the head of the brave troops which they commanded.

“Notwithstanding the glory of the occasion, it is impossible not to lament such men, both on account of the public and as friends.”

-6:

Adjutant General's Office, Dublin, 24 November 1823

G.O.

The 23d Royal Welsh Fusileers being on the point of embarkation for a foreign station, Lieutenant-General Lord Combermere feels he cannot, in too strong terms, express his approval of the general good conduct and discipline of this superb regiment, during the time it has been under his orders.

The 23rd, so eminently distinguished for its services in the field, has been uniformly conspicuous in this command for its soldierlike appearance and behaviour; and from the ample opportunity the Lieutenant-General has had of personal observation, he is enabled to

bear testimony to the merits of the system – evincing throughout the corps the greatest zeal, energy, and talent on the part of Colonel Pearson, as well as unremitting attention on the part of all under his command.

By command of the Lieutenan-General,

(Signed)J. GARDINER, D.-A.- General

W. HARRISON, Lieut-Colonel, 23d Fusileers .