

# The Royal Goats of the Royal Welch Fusiliers

## 1st Battalion

Compiled by the late Lt Col (Retired) RJM Sinnett

Billy	Joined		Died		Service (Years)	References (Page)	Remarks
	On	At	On	At			
I	1844	Halifax, Canada	End of 1852	Chester Castle	8	BM 160, 1689 RR 456, 65	This is the goat in the 1849 Drum Major Noble group (Canon frontispiece, TAI p 68 & RR II p 58).
II	Apr 1853	Chester	Nov 1854	Sevastopol	1½	BM 1946 RR 66, 878	See letters in BM. Also Lysons pp 15960. This is the goat whose head was used by Lysons's groom on St David's Day 1855 (Lysons p 176). There was no royal replacement until 1857.
III	Early 1857	?Aldershot	Jul 1858	Kaiser Bagh, Lucknow	1½	BM 216, 231 RR 105, 119	The skull is in the museum (1586). There was no royal replacement until 1864 (RR II p 134).
IV	Nov 1864	Agra, India	16 Apr 1871	Newport, Mon.	6½	BM 257, 264 RR 134, 141	1871 photo RR II p 46 and album 2386, p 33. Also 2096, p 108 (1870). Death scene TAI p 86 from album 2096 (in colour). Burial 19 Apr 1871 Clough-Taylor album (Mus 4378).
V	7 Mar 1872	Pembroke Dock	9 Nov 1880	Jubbulpore, India	8½	BM 265, 290 RR 142, 163	
VI	22 Nov 1881	Chakrata, India	29 May 1883	Dum Dum, Calcutta	1½	BM 294, 296 RR 167, 169	Photos in album 2386, p 26 (1871), and 2386, p 37.
VII	19 Nov 1883	Dum Dum, India	28 Oct 1892	Cherat, India	9	BM 296 RR 169, 210	Went to 2 RWF before leaving UK (BM 296).
VIII	17 Jan 1894	?Jhansi, India	?1900	?Natal, South Africa	5	RR 218	No regimental record has yet been found of the death of this goat. The Natal 1900 information comes from the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> of 12 February 1903 (Mus 4299).

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IX	7 Mar 1903	Lichfield	12 Mar 1903	Lichfield	5 days	RR 300,	'... died of syncope.' [Heart failure]
X	17 Apr 1903	Lichfield	12 Apr 1912	Dublin	9	RR 300, 323	This goat received the Lichfield silver shield and chain on 1 March 1904 (RR II, p 304).
XI	26 Apr 1912	Dublin	Replaced 13 Jun 1913 Died 6 Oct 1914	Portland	1	RR 323, 3278	Replaced, as one of his horns was broken off when kicked by a horse. In January 1914 he was sent to Newport Pagnell, Bucks (RR II, p 3278). He died there on 6 October 1914 see <i>Y Ddraig Goch</i> June 1977, p 1201 for the finding of his gravestone, now in the museum..
XII	7 Jul 1913	Portland	1915	Gayhurst, Newport Pagnell		RR 327	This goat went to Flanders with the battalion in 1914, but was sent back immediately (RR IV, Appx IX). See <i>Y Ddraig Goch</i> March 1986, p 66 for the finding at Gayhurst of his gravestone, which is now in the museum.
XIII			By Jan 1923	Dalhousie, India		YDG Jan 23/123	'... never recovered from the severe winter...'
XIV	1926		?1926			D of S May 26	'... HM The King has approved of a goat being given to your Battalion.'
	16 May 1930	Quetta, India				D of S May 30	Named Billy and born in Wales, he could have been presented by the King, although presumably not from Windsor stock. He possibly returned home with the battalion, plus another goat from Cyprus.
XV	?Apr 1932	Tidworth	2 Feb 1944	Wrexham	c 12	YDG Mar 32/1. NL 2/15, 3/16	NL 2 states 'Billy has been at the Depot over 4 years, .... He was 12 years old.'
	Aug 1944	Wrexham	? ?			NL 3/16, 4/1	NL 4 states 'The new Royal Goat of the 1st Bn has been at the Depot since August...' It is not known what happened to this goat. The 1st Bn definitely took over the 6 RWF goat see the footnote to the next entry.
XVI	Jul 1946	?Düsseldorf	17 Nov 1954	Dortmund	11	TAI, p 291	Taken over from 6 RWF (194346). Probably the Regiment's most travelled and famous goat. See <i>That Astonishing Infantry</i> , page 291 for his 'biography'.

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XVII	?1955	Dortmund				YDG W 55/11	'We have... a new Billy.'
			May 1959	Cyprus		YDG S 59/5,16	Probably the goat in the above serial
	11 Feb 1960	Bulford	18 Apr 1965		5	YDG StD 60/55; Sep 65/222, 233	'Eustace' from Regent's Park (Press cuttings (P)). Died of heart disease, aged 7
	c. Aug 1965	?Minden	8 Jun 1971	Hong Kong	6	YDG Sep 65/222 YDG Dec 71/526	Died of pneumonia and cardiac failure, aged 7
	March 1972	Londonderry	Replaced 1978	Lemgo	6	<i>D Tel</i> 29 Jan 72: YDG Jul 72/7, 8(P); Mar 79/8	From Whipsnade to Cwrt y Gollen 28 January 1972. Lost a horn in ?April 1978. Taken back by Whipsnade
	26 May 1978	Lemgo	Replaced 1982	Lemgo	4	YDG Mar 79/8 YDG Mar 83/27S8	From Whipsnade to Cwrt y Gollen ?April 1978. Broke off part of horn in Feb 1982 at Lemgo. 'Retired' to Caernarfon.
	24 Sep 1982	Warminster	15 Dec 1982	Warminster	0	YDG Mar 83/27 HR 1982S3	From Whipsnade. Put down due to 'painful internal disorder.
	11 Feb 1983	Warminster	Replaced May 1992	Berlin	9	HR 1982S3	From Whipsnade Retired to Berlin Zoo S YDG 1993, p 23
	1992	Berlin	Replaced	Brawdy	4		From the Great Orme herd S YDG 1993, p 42 This Billy did not grow and was deemed to be a runt. It was therefore retired to the Royal Herd and a new selection made.
		Brawdy	Replaced	Aldershot			

## Sources

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*Volume II, 1816–1914*. Forster Groom & Co, 1923; Reprinted 1995.
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