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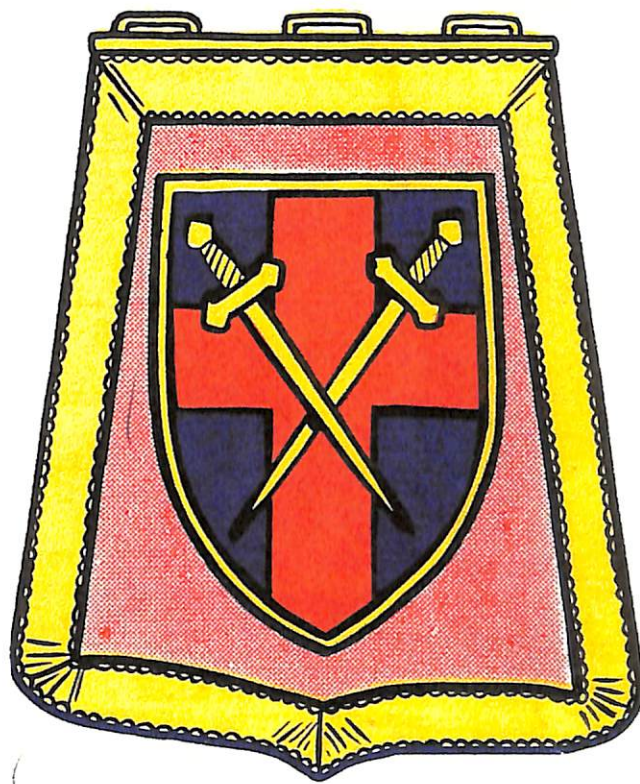
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The Journal of
The **MILITARY RESEARCH** and **COLLECTORS**
SOCIETY of **AUSTRALIA.**

VOL. III

JANUARY, 1961

NO. 3



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SABRETACHE

The Journal of

THE MILITARY RESEARCH AND COLLECTORS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA.

Vol. III.

January 1961

No. 3.

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Australian members	£1.5.0.
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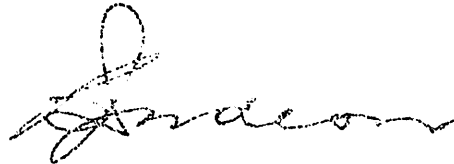
APOLOGY.

The lateness and small size of this edition of SABRETACHE are deplored by the Editor.

As has been mentioned in another place herein, an unfortunately-timed transfer to New South Wales at one stroke removed our usually-available machines, and also the time necessary to compile this edition on schedule.

It is hoped that the material contained in this issue will, in part, atone for this delay; and that the next edition will be on time.

March 1961



Editor.



ANNUAL COMPETITIONS AND EXHIBITION 1960.

On Saturday, December 10th, 1960, the Society held what was probably its most effective Exhibition to date.

By kind permission of the Commanding Officer (Brigadier S. M. McDonald, M.C.), this Exhibition was held in the Drill Hall of the 2nd. Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, at Sandringham, Victoria.

Prefaced by good publicity in the Press, the show attracted a very good crowd, particularly as the day tended to be on the hot side.

On show were a great many items of "militaria" belonging to the Melbourne members--headress, uniforms, badges, models and the like; and also a display of the development of the British Service Rifle, kindly lent by Mr. John Kendall; a reproduction suit of mediaeval armour, lent by Mr. Ted Millett; and an impressive display of modern army equipment demonstrated and displayed by the Army.

Newspaper and TV photographers were gladdened by the opportunity to photograph soldiers in the uniforms of 1880 and 1960 marching together, and a perspiring officer in a high-knecked scarlet tunic, shako, and white belt looked most convincing with Martini-Henri rifle and bayonet.

Great work was done by member, Corporal Mick Youl, who was largely in charge of preparations during the unfortunate absence of the President (Mr. B. J. Videon), who had been transferred to Sydney. Mick was very ably backed by the members of the sub-committee, Ken Pryor being much to the fore in this regard.

The President was fortunate in being able to arrange to return to Melbourne for the final preparations, and for the show itself.

The following letter was received from the C.O., 2RVR, in appreciation of the Society's efforts in this show:-

" May I offer to you my personal thanks, and the thanks of all members of 2RVR, for your magnificent co-operation and display of last Saturday.

The outstanding success of the exhibition was due largely to your (i.e., members of the Society's) efforts and property. Thank you, and best wishes for the future.

It is to be hoped very sincerely that the good impression which this show helped to create in the minds of the 2RVR will be perpetuated in any future relationships of the



Society with the Armed Forces.

Probably the worst part of the show, as will be realised by all who have participated in such activities, was the cleaning up after the event!

The goodwill created, however, was felt to be well worth the effort.

The Society particularly wishes to thank Messrs John Kendall and Ted Millett for once again coming to its aid in the matter of weapons. Whilst these attracted rather more attention than was desirable from the youthful elements in the crowd, they also proved to be of great interest to a goodly number of servicemen.

COMPETITIONS.

It was originally hoped that the results of the Annual Competitions would have been available for some display at the above-mentioned Exhibition. This unfortunately was not able to be done, due to a hitch in the model soldier competitions in connection with the details of the Scheid Trophy. The judging of these competitions had to be effected, therefore, at separate times, the badges being judged at the time of the December monthly meeting.

BADGE COMPETITIONS.

Mr. B. J. Videon's entry "BADGES OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS AND ITS ASSOCIATED CORPS AND SERVICES" was adjudged the winner in this section. The collection of badges represented every type (although not necessarily every size of every type) of badge in this category, from the N.S.W. Medical Corps to the present day. Other entries included the "ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS", and the "ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY".

MODEL SOLDIER COMPETITIONS.

The response from the members was rather disappointing, as will be gathered from the following report from the sub-committee.

This was perhaps due to a number of factors, in addition to a certain amount of apathy on the part of some of the members.

One usual entrant, Dr. Kaye, did not exhibit, due to a misunderstanding about the delivery of his figures to the judging place. Mr. B. J. Videon was unable to submit his proposed entries due to an unexpected transfer interstate at a time when he would have been preparing models.

Some of our other members, who have submitted entries in other years, did not exhibit for (doubtless) good personal reasons.

The net result, however, was DISAPPOINTMENT! These competitions can be entertaining and informative. It is in the interests of the collectors and the hobby generally to support them. Many new ideas can be gained from them. And, last but not least, we may be able to bring new figures to the attention of members if the hobby is supported in



ANNUAL COMPETITION RESULTS.

The Competitions for 1960 were most notable, perhaps, for the apparent lack of interest shown by figure-collecting members of the Society.

But for the fact that one member was sufficiently keen to mail his models some hundreds of miles, there would have been no competitions in the strict sense of the word.

THE ARTS AND CRAFTS TROPHY:

Only two entries were received for this section, and K.W. Pryor's group "AUSERIAN HORSE ARTILLERY, c.1910" was declared the outright winner.

The figures were all converted from Britains kneeling gunners from set 1730. The steel-helmet heads were replaced by shakoes and plumes, and sword-slings, rings, shoulder wings, straps and collars were added after bandoliers and puttees were removed. The figures looked most impressive grouped round a field gun of the period.

THE CONVERSION TROPHY:

Ten entries were received, and notable was the quality of the figures sent in by Major John Gorman. John was beaten for the trophy on a count of second preferences, the winner being K.W. Pryor's "SERGEANT MAJOR, AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY, 1910". This entry was converted from Britains Egyptian Infantry at attention. Shake with plumes, collar, wings, shoulder straps, crossbelt and cartouche box, sword scabbard and slings were added from tin-foil and plastic wood.

THE PAINTERS CUP:

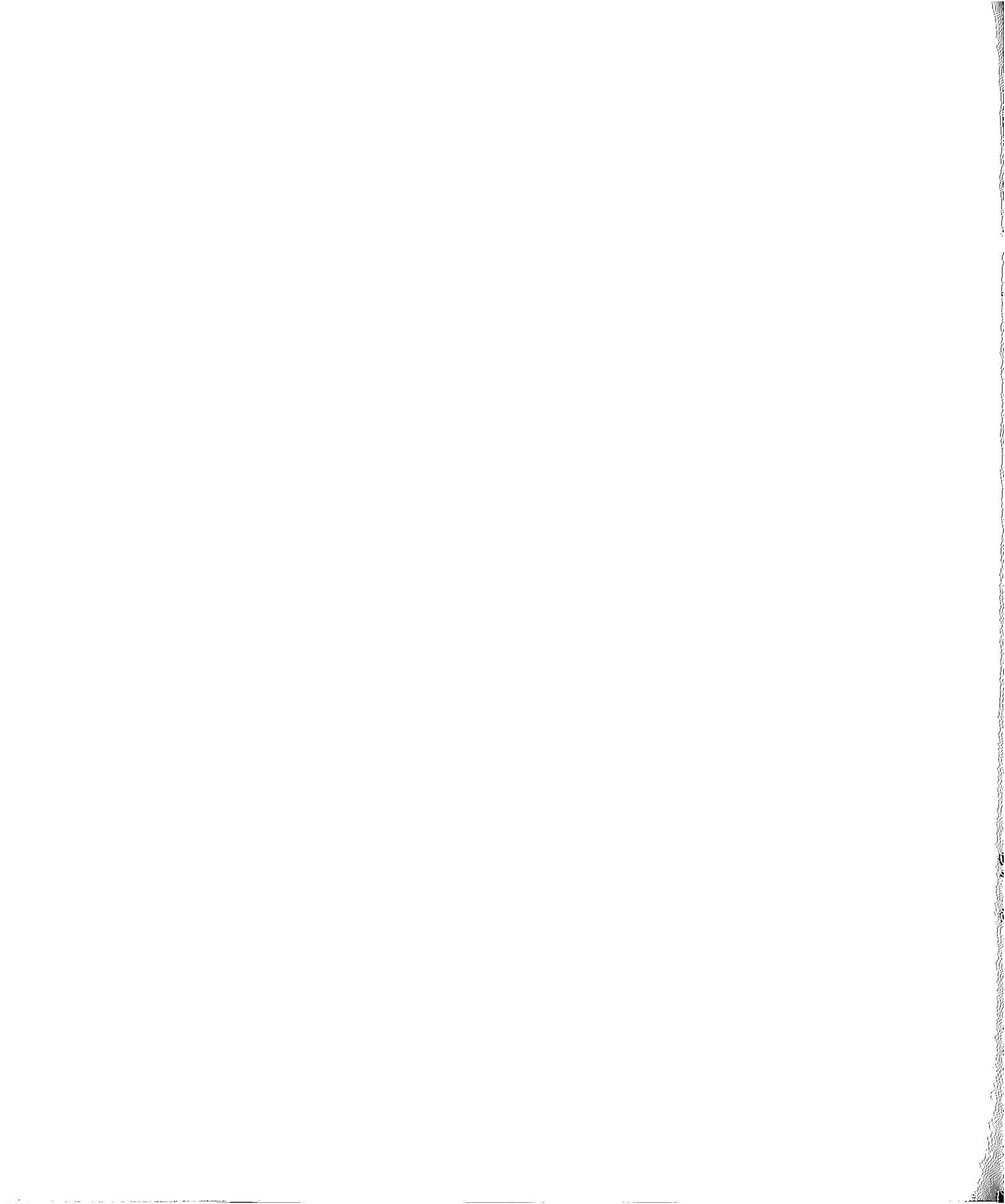
One entry only was received, and there was ruled "NO COMPETITION". It was decided, however, to award the trophy to K.W. Pryor for his "CORPORAL, CONFEDERATE LINE, 1862". This figure, well painted, was mounted on a base embellished with artificial grass. Figure by Louis Marx, U.S.A.

THE SCHEDULE TROPHY:

The figure chosen for the first competition in this series was the "KAISERS BODYGUARD", to be painted as a 4th. Cuirassier (Von Dräussen Regt.). although this section was also declared "NO COMPETITION", it was decided to award the trophy to the only entrant, Mr K.W. Pryor.

It is evident from the above that, owing to the lack of entries, there was a clean sweep by one member. This is to be regretted, as no one enjoys winning trophies under these circumstances.

We earnestly hope that there will be a better response in 1961!

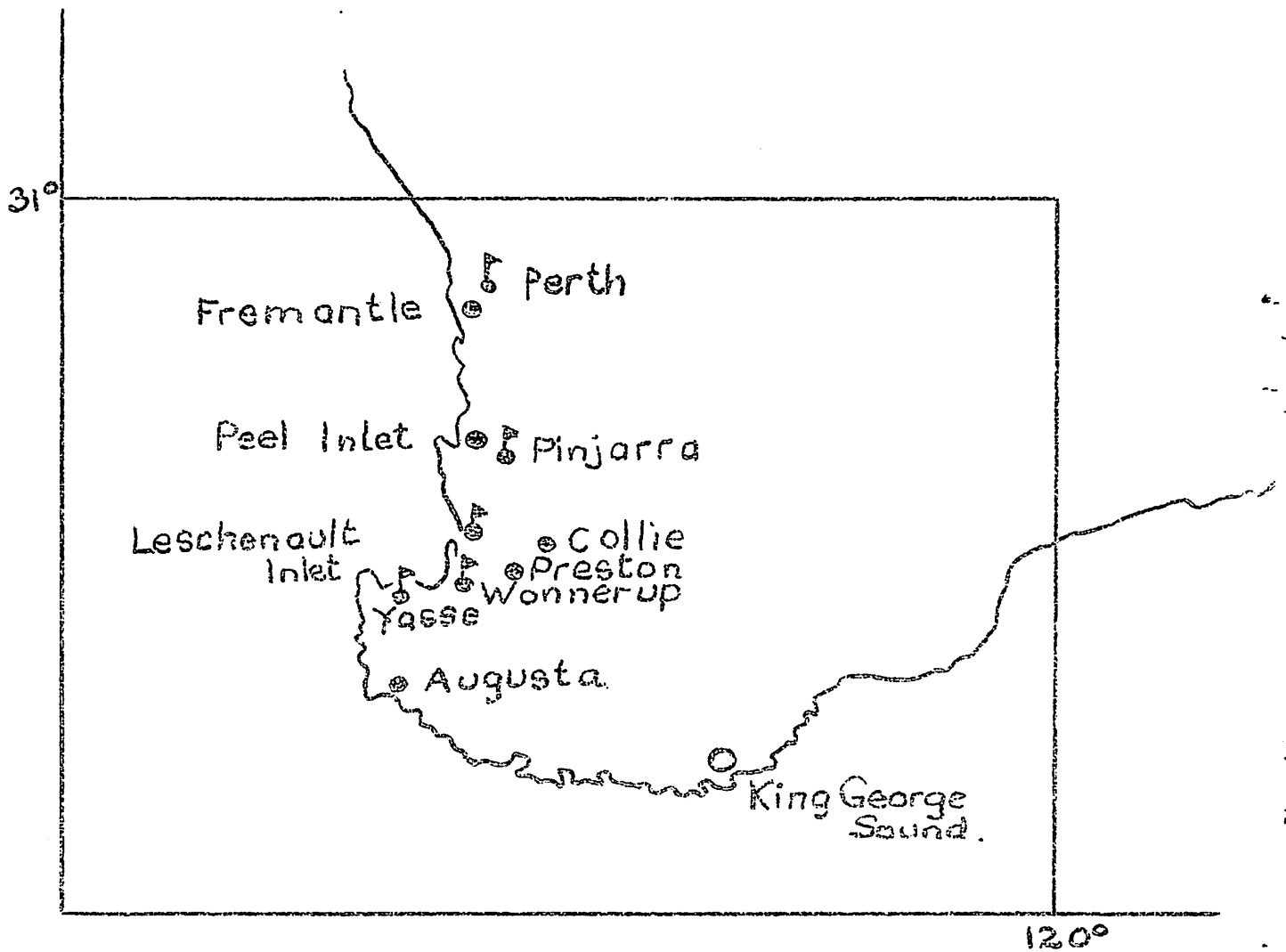


A SHORT HISTORY
of
THE BRITISH REGIMENTS
in
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
1826 to 1863.

By C.HALLS.



- 🚩 military stations.
- ⊙ military sub-stations.
- potential stations.



AREA OF MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY —
1837.



Acknowledgements.

The author wishes to acknowledge the help of Miss M. Lukis and the staff of the Battye Library of Western Australian History, and the Adjutant 51 Infantry Battalion Cairns, who unhesitatingly sent two important volumes to the author on long-term loan.

Preface.

The author hopes that this short history may prove of some interest to students of military history; also that perhaps it may fill gaps in our knowledge of the ports of embarkation and the final destinations of the Imperial garrisons stationed in Western Australia.

The reader interested in the history of the development of Australia's great northern neighbour, India, as part of the British Empire and Commonwealth, may gain some interest from observing the movement of troops during the Pax Britannica and the links between Australia and the Indian sub-continent as seen through these movements of the Imperial garrisons.



BRITISH REGIMENTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THE 39th. (DORSETSHIRE) REGIMENT:

The first British troops to be stationed in Western Australia were those sent to establish a settlement at King George's Sound on the south-western coast of New Holland in 1826. Governor Ralph Darling, acting on orders from London, despatched a detachment of the 39th. (Dorsetshire) Regiment under the command of Captain Joseph Wakefield from Sydney on the 9th. November 1826. The detachment comprised one sergeant and eighteen men together with a labour force of twenty-three convicts. Major Lockyer of the 57th. Regiment was in charge of the settlement.

In the history of the 39th. Regiment, its sojourn in Australia lacks the glamour attendant upon its service in other parts of the world, notably in the Iberian Peninsula during the Napoleonic Wars and later in India. But in Australia's story this regiment must always hold an honoured place, for it provided officers who carried out work of inestimable value in the exploration and development of the continent in those early and troublesome years.

Prior to its service in Australia the regiment served in Ireland where, on the 10th. July 1825, its commanding officer received an order intimating that the regiment was destined for New South Wales and ultimately India. A detachment of the first division of the regiment embarked at Chatham aboard the "Woodman" convict transport on the 4th. November 1825 bound for New South Wales. This first detachment consisted of one Captain, one Subaltern, one Sergeant, and twenty rank and file. In all, eighteen detachments of the regiment of similar strength embarked at Chatham aboard convict transports during 1826 and 1827.

During the long voyage from England to Australia all these detachments served as guards over convicts. In New South Wales the duties of the troops were mainly concerned with the supervision of convict labour and the maintenance of law and order. But on the 9th. November 1826 Governor Darling, in accordance with his instructions from London, Despatched Major Lockyer to New Holland (as Western Australia was then called) to establish a settlement on its south-western coast. The detachment from the 39th accompanying Major Lockyer were to serve as guards over the convict labour force; also, the presence of a detachment of troops in the west would strengthen England's claim to that part of the continent.

Early in 1827, Captain Henry Smyth was sent to effect a similar purpose on the northern coast of New Holland. The settlement he founded was named Fort Wellington at Raffles Bay.



The Headquarters staff under the command of Colonel Lindesay arrived at Sydney Town on 17th. September 1827. Thus between the 4th. November 1825 and the 5th. May 1827 the whole of the 39th Regiment was serving in Australia with the exception of one depot company in England.

In 1828, on the 1st. February, the first detachment of the depot company embarked for New South Wales, to be followed on the 30th. August 1830 by the remainder of the company.

It is interesting to note that during its service in Australia the regiments had troops serving in Van Diemens Land, King George's Sound, and at Fort Wellington, distant 600, 1500 and 2000 miles respectively from its Headquarters.

From the ranks of the 39th. Regiment were drawn some of the most illustrious of Australia's early pioneers, foremost among them, Captain Charles Sturt, who was in charge of two of the most important exploratory expeditions in Australian history. Also from the ranks of the regiment was chosen the first chief of police in Australia, Captain John Douglas Forbes, who was detached from his military duties in October 1830 to take charge of the New South Wales Mounted Police.

The regiment distinguished itself in quelling the convict riots at Bathurst in 1830, while Major Donald McPherson of the 39th was in command.

A highlight of the regiment's service in Australia was the presentation of new colours on the 16th. May 1831, the ceremony taking place in the Barrack Square, Sydney, on the twentieth anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera in the Peninsular campaign, where the regiment had distinguished itself.

The regiment suffered only one loss while carrying out duties connected with the establishment of the settlement at King George's Sound. Captain Collett Barker, while returning to Sydney with the detachment from New Holland in April 1831, was killed by aborigines at Encounter Bay. He had gone ashore for scientific purposes when he was speared to death.

King George's Sound had been abandoned as a site for permanent settlement when Governor Stirling (Capt. R.N.) had chosen to establish a town on the Swan River in 1829. So, as the 39th. was under orders from Sydney, the detachment had been recalled.

On the 30th. May 1831 the regiment received general orders that it was to prepare to embark for India. The first troops sailed from Sydney in July 1832, and by February 1833, the whole regiment had arrived at Madras.



THE 63rd. (MANCHESTER) REGIMENT:

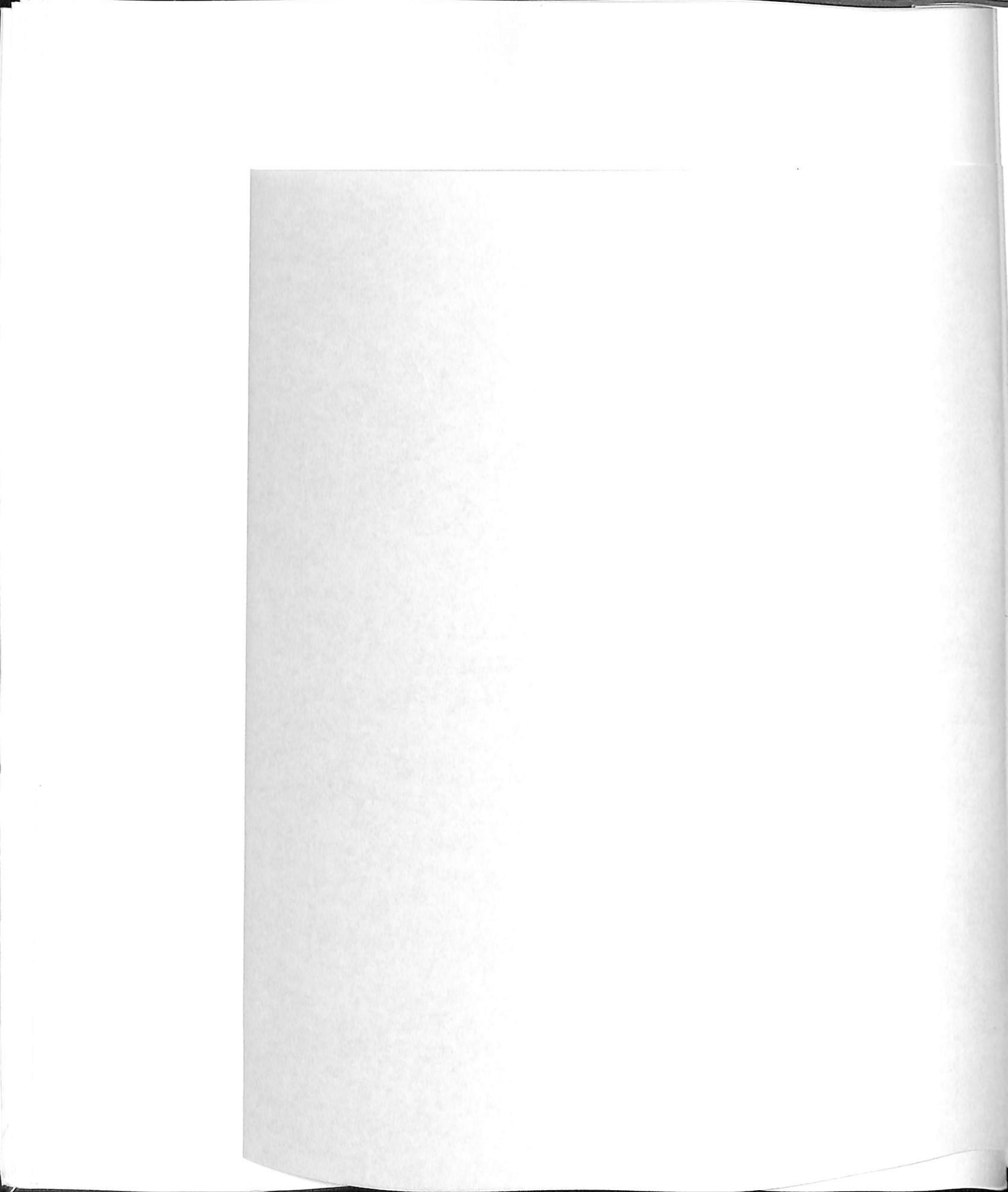
In June 1829 Captain Stirling (R.N.) arrived as Governor Designate at the Swan River to found a colony. There arrived with him fifty-seven officers and men of the 63rd. (Manchester) Regiment, under the command of Captain F.C. Irwin.

We are fortunate in having quite a lot of documentary material relating to the 63rd.'s tour of duty in Western Australia. For instance, documents attest to the fact that Captain Stirling requested that as many of the men as possible should have some useful civilian trade as well as soldiering. Also that as many married men as possible should be selected, whose wives and families would accompany them to the new colony. Stirling had requested that the detachment of troops should be at least sixty strong, thus orders were given to limit the detachment of the 63rd. to a hundred men at the most, and on paper the detachment consisted of--

One Captain,
 one Lieutenant,
 two Ensigns,
 one Assistant Surgeon,
 three Sergeants (one of whom was a Colour-Sgt.),
 three Corporals,
 one Bugler,
 and fifty-six Privates.

This detachment, which numbered 68 men, was reduced to 61 men by the date of departure. The following list gives the rank and civilian occupations of the men who formed the detachment that arrived at the Swan River in June 1829--

	5	sergeants	designated as labourers,	
	3	corporals	"	"
	1	drummer	"	"
	33	privates	"	"
	6	"	"	"
	1	"	"	weaver
	2	"	"	labourers
	1	"	"	weavers
	1	"	"	butcher
	1	"	"	blacksmiths
	1	"	"	carpenter
	1	"	"	cordwainer
	1	"	"	shoemaker
	1	"	"	tallow chandler
	1	"	"	servant
	1	"	"	bookbinder
	1	"	"	hozier
	1	"	"	tailor
	1	"	"	staymaker
	1	"	"	baker
	1	"	"	cooper
and	1	"	"	watchmaker .



Accompanying the troops were twenty-one women and twelve children.

The officers of the regiment who arrived with the detachment were Captain F.C. Irwin (Commandant), Lt. W. Peddler, and Ensigns D.H. Macleod and R. Dale.

Supplies for two years were landed for the detachment; these included medicines, stores, laboratory equipment, fifty entrenching tools and sixteen tents.

Responsibility for maintaining law and order as well as for the defence of the colony in the event of an attack by a foreign power or by hostile natives rested on Captain Irwin, who was himself directly responsible to Governor Stirling on matters arising from the administration of the colony and the deployment of the troops under his command. But on all matters of a specifically military nature, Captain Irwin was directly answerable to the Home Government, who were kept informed of the military situation in New Holland through the monthly returns of the detachment and supplementary reports.

The military had also to undertake constructional work, which included the building of their own barracks, and they were also charged with the drawing up of plans for the future development of the settlement, which included charts of the harbour, listing sites for future harbour installations.

During the first two years of their duty at the Swan River settlement, the men of the detachment received weekly rations which amounted to seven pounds of soft bread, biscuits of flour, and five-and-a-quarter pounds of salt beef (when available this was to include two pounds of fresh beef), pease (or flour), and rum were issued at the rate of one-and-three-quarter pints per week.

Military actions (which may more correctly be termed police actions) involving men of the 63rd. Regiment occurred in 1830 when, in May of that year, some aborigines attacked and killed a man at the entrance to the Murray River. Also, in the same month, a group of aborigines caused a disturbance on the outskirts of the settlement at West Perth. At the time, Captain Irwin was absent from his headquarters, and Ensign Dale, acting on his own responsibility, and with a handful of men, marched to the scene of the trouble. In the meantime, Captain Irwin, having received word of these movements, hurried to help Ensign Dale with reinforcements.



Captain Irwin immediately took charge of the situation, and seeing the aborigines in flight, he ordered some of his men to pursue them, and, if possible, to take prisoners. These orders were adhered to, and the result of the skirmish was three men wounded, including Ensign Dale, and it is probable that the aborigines lost a few men killed, though there is no evidence on this point. About forty prisoners were taken, and immediately released after questioning.

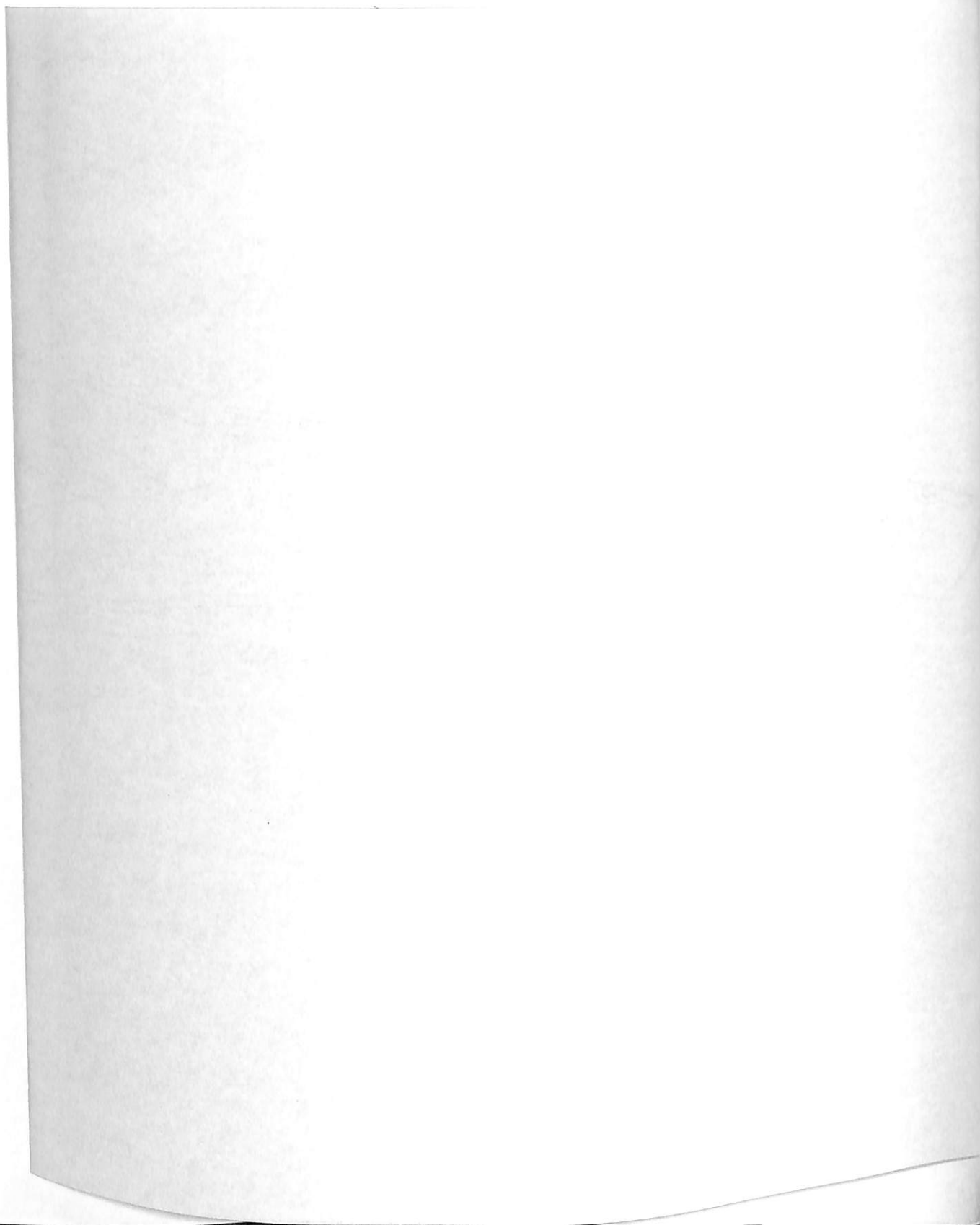
There was another disturbance a few days later, but in the face of a show of arms by a company of troops, the aboriginal skirmishers withdrew.

Men of the 63rd. were actively engaged in geographical explorations during the years 1829 to 1831, Ensign Dale being foremost in this field of enterprise. In all he undertook four expeditions, either alone or in company with brother officers and prominent citizens. Lieutenant Erskine, Adjutant of the regiment, also carried out valuable survey work in 1830.

Many of both the military and the civilian exploring parties included members of the rank and file, who acted as escorts to the explorers.

Thus, by the year 1831, a great deal of very useful information had been obtained, concerning the nature of soils, possible sites for future towns, and the type of country over which roads would have to be constructed to link the future outlying districts with Perth. The knowledge that was gained within the first few years of settlement was primarily of military importance, though it was, of course, extremely significant to the civilian colonists as well.

In 1833 the detachment of the 63rd. stationed in Western Australia officially ended its service, and after the arrival of its relief, which consisted of two companies of the 21st. Regiment, it departed from Fremantle on the 28th. April 1834 for India, aboard the "Merope", to rejoin the Regiment, which had been ordered to India from New South Wales.



The 21st. (ROYAL NORTH BRITISH FUSILIERS) REGIMENT:

The regiment embarked at Chatham during the years 1832-33 by detachments in charge of convicts bound for the penal settlements of Australia and Van Diemen's Land. These detachments were to be stationed in Australia until 1840, when they were to proceed to India.

In 1834 two companies of the regiment arrived at the Swan River Settlement to relieve the detachment of the 63rd. Regiment. From the viewpoint of local military history, the year 1834 was destined to be important, for, towards the end of it, active aboriginal resistance had been pitilessly crushed.

The first attempt at a concerted offensive against the settlers was an attack on the only mill in the district. This stood isolated from the main settlement at South Perth on the far side of the Swan River. Having failed to surprise the mill workers, the aborigines attacked, but were beaten off by the defenders of the mill, who were armed with shot guns. The sound of the shooting alarmed the settlement, and within a short time the "redcoats" arrived on the scene, and put the attackers to flight. One of the natives was captured, and after being taken to the barracks, was flogged. Later, while attempting to escape, he was shot. The soldier who killed him was some time later speared to death in revenge.

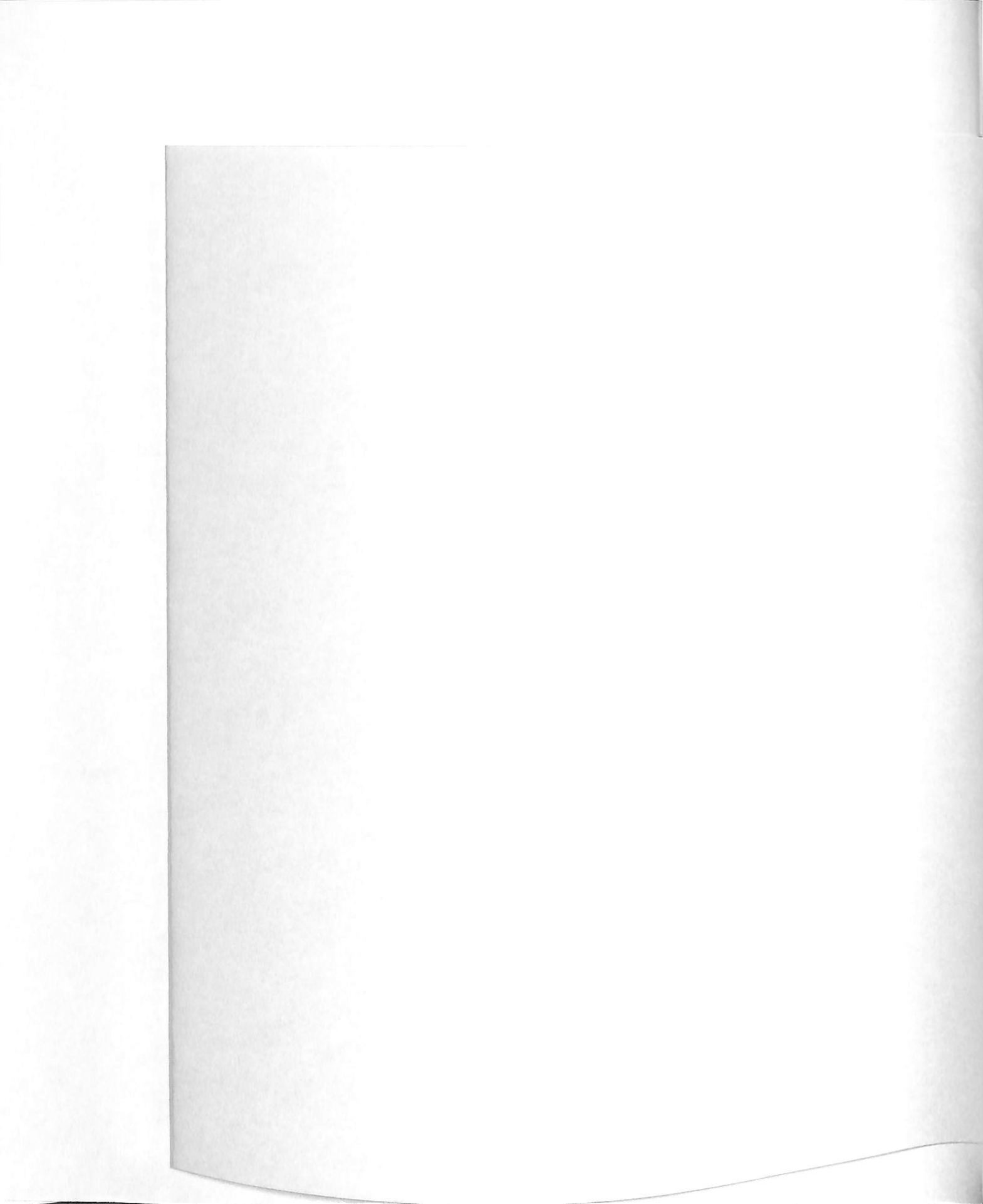
Later in the same year, two men were speared by natives in the Pinjarra area; both these men were ex-soldiers, and one was killed by the spears of the aborigines. The other, although wounded, raised the alarm. Though the reason for the killing is unknown, it resulted in Captain Ellis of the 14th. Dragoons, who was Superintendent of Police, forming a posse to apprehend the murderers. The members of this punitive expedition, numbering about fifty men, were all well armed, and had a small number of soldiers to act as escort. At six o'clock on the morning of October ()th 1834, they surprised a native camp of about seventy persons. At first the natives showed some fight, but in the face of a charge by the mounted settlers, they retreated. The soldiers were called into action and effectively cut off their way of escape, and the retreat became a rout. Of the settlers, only one man was killed--Captain Ellis, who was struck by a spear and fell from his horse, suffering a concussion. He died before the party returned to Perth.



The natives lost between twentyfive and thirty people, including women and children. In this way the so-called Battle of Pinjarra was won, and the natives never again made any concerted action against the white men. During the years 1834 and 1837 there was rapid expansion of settlement, and this, of course, increased the area of military responsibility.

In 1837 it was proposed to establish military stations in the outlying areas, with reference to the best lines of communication for mutual support, and also with reference to the several districts in which lands had been given to settlers and locations made. This dispersal of the troops (amounting to 123 men) meant that expenditure was increased, and also that it became necessary to recommend to the Home Government that more troops were necessary for the Colony's defence. With the limited number of troops available, Governor Stirling's Government decided that the only practicable course open was to limit the area of settlement to that territory included between 31 deg. latitude and the south coast, and from the west coast to the Meridian of Doubtful Island Bay, and within that area, the proposed military stations were established for the protection of the settlers. The proposed amount and distribution of the 21st Regiment then stationed in Western Australia was as follows:-

STATION	SUBSTATION	OFFICERS AT PERTH H.Q.	N.C.O.'s AND PRIVATEES.
PertH H.Q.	The head of navigation on the Swan and Canning Rivers.	1 Commandant 1 Captain 2 Subalterns	30 at Perth H.Q. and 10 at both the sub-stations.
Pinjarra (head of navigation on the Murray River).	Peel's Inlet	Officers at Pinjarra 1 Officer 1 Subaltern Officers at Peel's Inlet ditto.	N.C.O.'s and Privates 10 at Pinjarra and 10 at Peel's Inlet
Wellington or Leschenault.	Collie and Preston	Officers at Wellington or Leschenault 1 Captain	30 men stationed in the area, with theoretically 20 at Collie and 10 at Preston.
Wonnerup and the Vasse	Summer Bay Augusta	Officers at either Wonnerup or the Vasse 1 Subaltern	30 men stationed in the area. 10 at each station and substation.



In February of 1839 detachments of the 21st began to embark in the Eastern States aboard transports to take them to India. The two companies stationed at the Swan River Settlement were withdrawn to join the regiment in July 1840.

The 51st. (KING'S OWN YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY) REGIMENT.

The 51st Regiment was serving in Ireland when orders were received to proceed to Van Diemen's Land, not as a complete unit, but in a number of separate detachments which were to act as convict guards on the voyage.

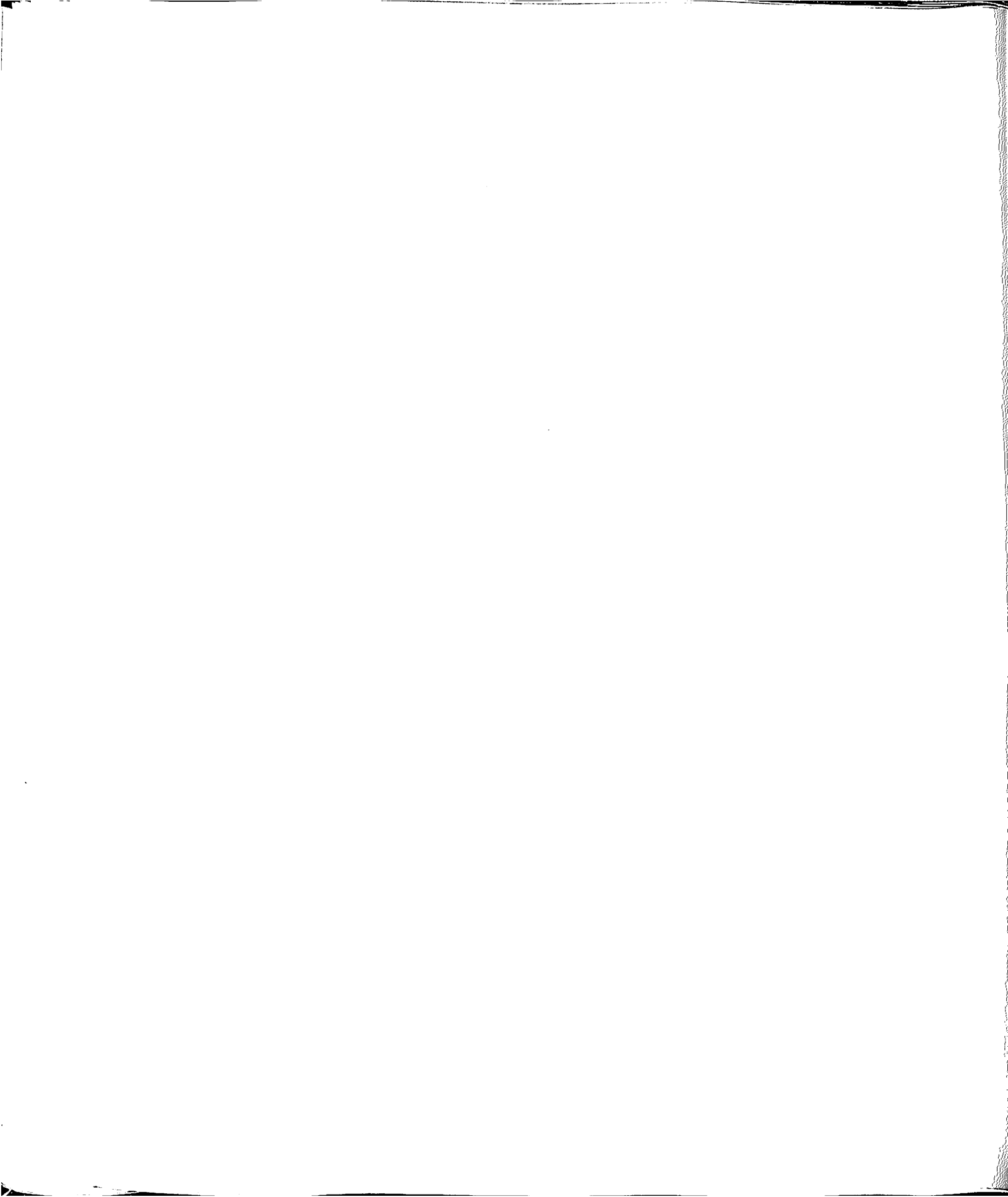
Under command of Major (later Lt. Col.) Elliott, the first guard sailed from Dublin aboard the convict ship "Neptune" on the 25th. September 1837, some months in advance of the remainder of the regiment. The Headquarters Company embarked for New South Wales on the 26th. July 1838 aboard the "Earl Grey", and the last guard of the 51st. left Deptford for Van Diemen's Land on 22nd. June 1839 in the convict ship "Laxton". Prior to its departure the regiment was presented with new colours. Thus, by the year 1840, the whole of the regiment was serving in Australia, with the exception of a Depot Company which remained in England.

On the 21st. April 1840, 2 Captains, 4 Subalterns, 1 Assistant Surgeon, 6 Sergeants, 8 Corporals, and 124 Privates were detached from Headquarters for service at the Swan River Settlement and King George's Sound, Western Australia. With the arrival of the 51st. in the West prior to the departure of the 21st. two months later, the military establishment was temporarily increased from 185 to 269 men, and this sudden increase in the population of the colony must have aggravated the already precarious economic situation in the young colony.

In October 1841 the regiment was issued with the "new" percussion cap rifles to replace the old flintlock "Tower Muskets" already on issue.

Until the last year of its stay in Australia (1847) the regiment carried out "police duties", supervising convict labour gangs, except for the detachment stationed in Western Australia, which was a "free" settlement until 1850.

During the regiment's six years of service in Australia it was much detached--at one time as many as fifteen detachments being furnished to different parts of the continent. Some of these detachments were further sub-divided into even smaller bodies.



Some idea of the problem of internal security and administration faced by the military authorities in the 1840's may be gained from the following list of stations which were garrisoned by men of the 51st.: King George's Sound, Perth, Launceston, Westbury, Avoca, Campbell Town, Oaklands, Cree Ponds, Malcolm's Huts, Waterloo River, Port Arthur, Eagle Hawk Neck and Bridgewater. This list does not include those places held by the smaller detachments.

The strength of the regiment in Australia in 1844 was:

52 Sergeants,
19 Corporals,
938 Privates.

In the same year (1844), the regiment was under orders to embark for India, but this order was postponed due to the disturbances in "Maoriland" (New Zealand). In August 1846 the Headquarters company and five hundred men embarked aboard the "Agincourt", bound for India.

Another party sailed the same day aboard the "China", while the rest of the regiment remained on garrison duty at Hobart and the Swan River until the following year.

The third division of the regiment sailed from Hobart in the troopship "Java" on the 27th January 1847, and touched at the Swan River on the 2nd. March, to take aboard the detachments stationed there. The "Java" sailed on the 15th of the month for Calcutta and Madras.

The 99th. (WILTSHIRE) REGIMENT.

Men of the 99th. Regiment served in Australia from 1842 until 1856.

One company from the Lanarkshire Regiment of the 99th. provided escorts for the many private concerns that were pioneering the unknown parts of the State to exploit the mineral wealth of the North-West. One such enterprise was the Geraldine Mining Company's attempt to establish a settlement at Champion Bay, from whence silver lead ore would be exported to Perth. In 1849 the Government schooner "Champion" conveyed a working party with equipment, together with a guard of seven soldiers, to this new settlement in the North-West.



The year 1850 saw the beginning of a new era in Western Australian history with the introduction of convict labour. This increase in the labour force was to prove most beneficial to the young colony, but it raised serious problems in the military administration, for, with the departure of the two companies of the 51st. Regiment, the garrison had been reduced by half.

However, the Home Government, aware of the problems of the colony, recruited in England from the ranks of the military pensioners a force perhaps unique in Australian history. Pensioners who wished to migrate to Australia were given a passage out with their wives and families in return for their services as convict guards on the transports. Upon arrival in the colony of Western Australia, they were to enter civilian employment. The force thus recruited was known as "The Enrolled Pensioner Force".

But the Colonial military situation was so precarious in 1850 that, upon arrival in Fremantle, this force was retained as a military body to fulfil the duties appertaining to the supervision and control of the convict labour force.

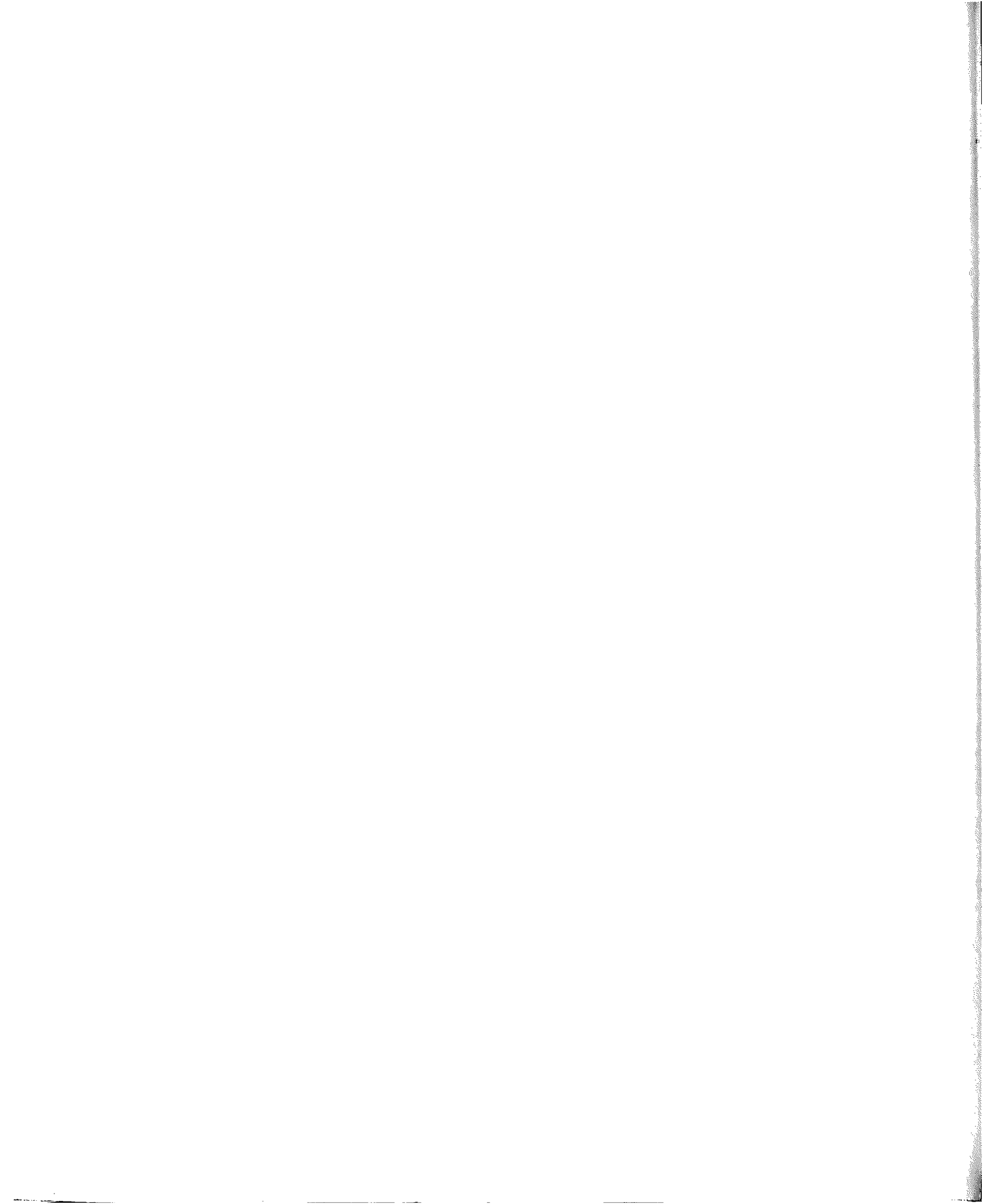
By this expedient, the company of the 99th. was released for service at the various military stations throughout the State, and they served at Perth, Fremantle, King George Sound and Champion Bay, as well as at other stations and sub-stations.

The company from the 99th. Regiment remained in Western Australia until February 1856.

THE ROYAL SAPPERS AND MINERS.

In 1851 the military situation in Western Australia underwent a further improvement, with the arrival of sixtyfive men of the Royal Sappers and Miners. The unit was reinforced in the following year when Lieutenant Crossman arrived aboard the ship "Marion" with a second detachment of thirty sappers. Their Commanding Officer was Captain Henderson, who was also Comptroller General of Convicts for Western Australia. Within a month of their arrival, men of this unit were serving at various convict depots throughout the State. In 1853 the establishment of the Royal Sappers and Miners was as follows:-

C. O. Capt. E. Y. W. Henderson
 1st. Lt. H. Wray
 2nd. Lts. E. F. Du Cane and W. Crossman
 29 Coy. Royal Sappers and Miners, consisting
 of 1 Colour Sergeant, 4 Sergeants, 5 Corporals
 and 85 Privates.



In 1854 Captain Wray (promoted in this year, and commenced duties as commander of the detachment) carried out experiments dealing with the production of gas light from a local plant which was (and still is) known colloquially as the "Blackboy Bush". His intention was to use the gas light produced from this "bush" to replace the oil lamps in use in Fremantle Gaol.

Captain Henderson submitted a report to the local authorities in 1856 on the defences of Fremantle. He proposed the building of a Martello Tower on Point Anglesea, which would be armed with three 8-inch guns, and two batteries each to consist of two 9-pounder guns. The colony at this time had only four pieces of ordnance---two 6-pounders and two 9-pounder guns. Although, as Captian Henderson stressed in his report, the defences were hopelessly inadequate, the authorities showed little interest in his recommendations.

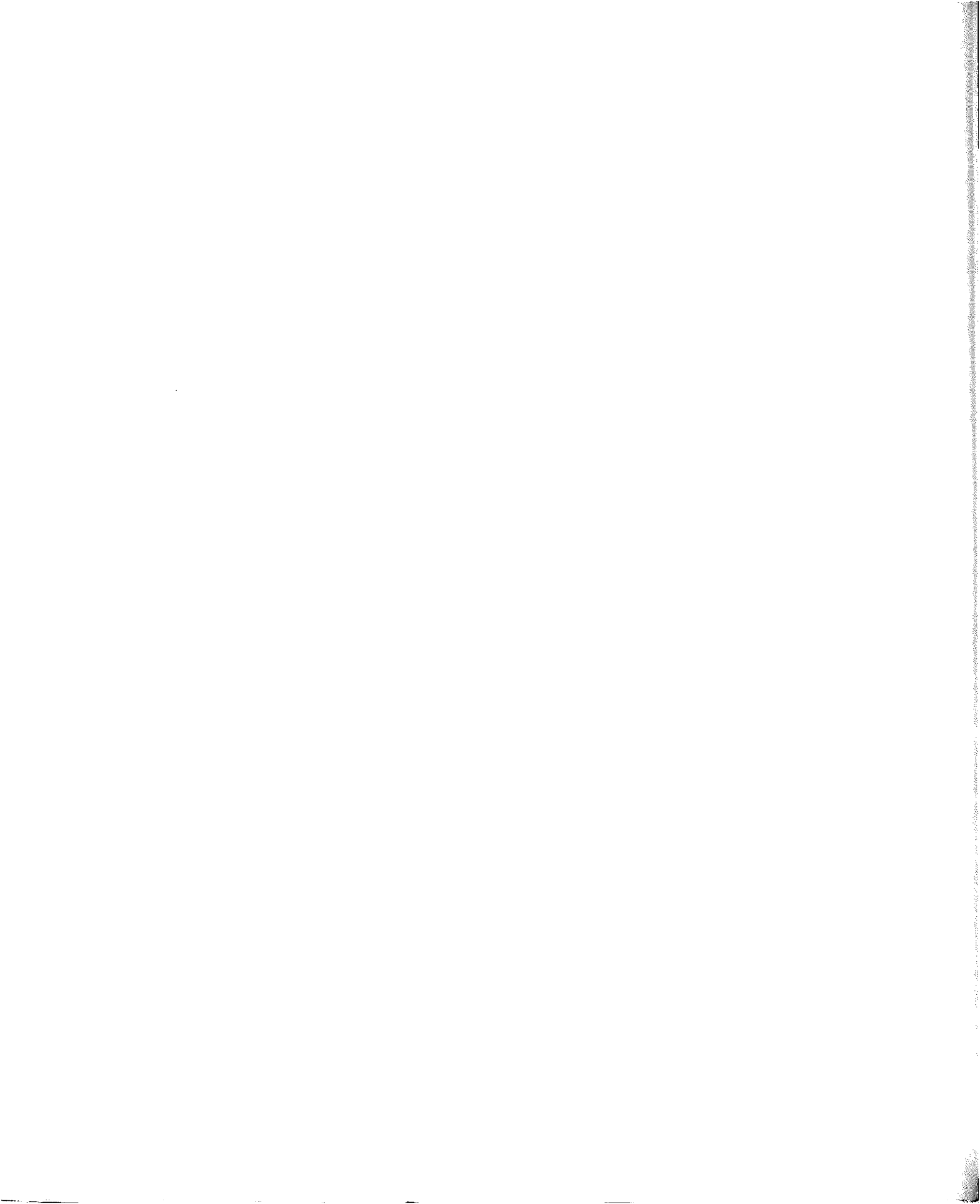
During their first five years of service in Western Australia Captain Henderson and his men supervised road-building and the construction of bridges; they took soundings of the Swan River, and aided salvage operations on the wreck of the ship "Eglinton". The convicts were organised into labour gangs, and they drained marshes and lakes in the vicinity of the town; they also built houses, made bricks, split shingles, and carried out maintenance work on various Government buildings and sites.

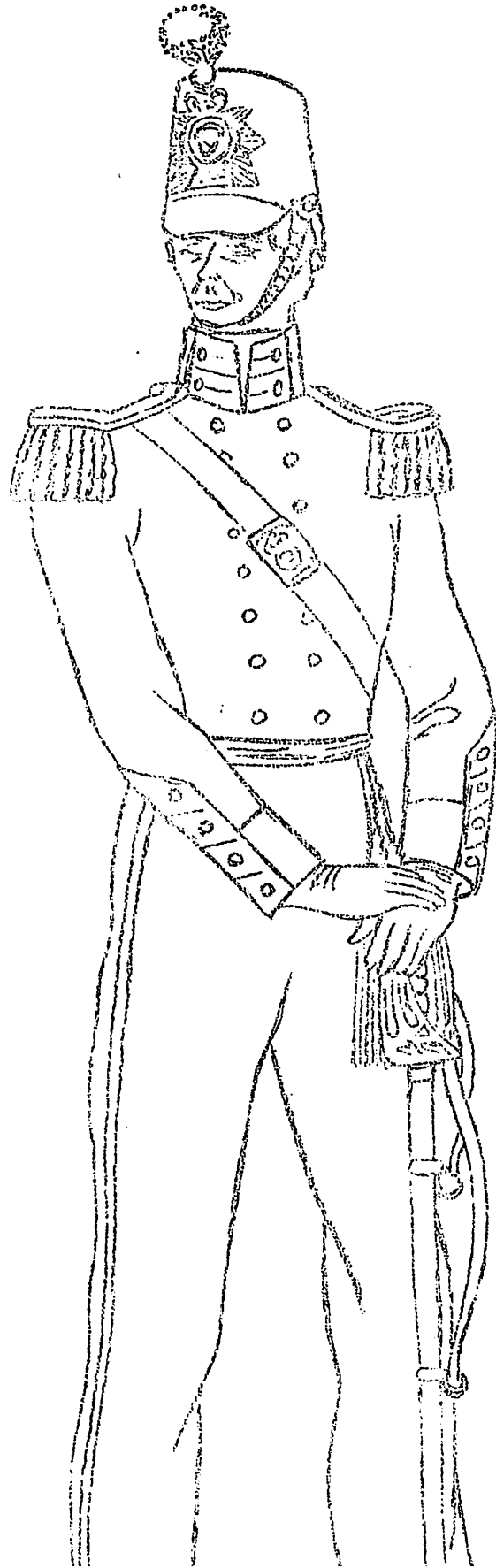
The 12th. (SUFFOLK) REGIMENT.

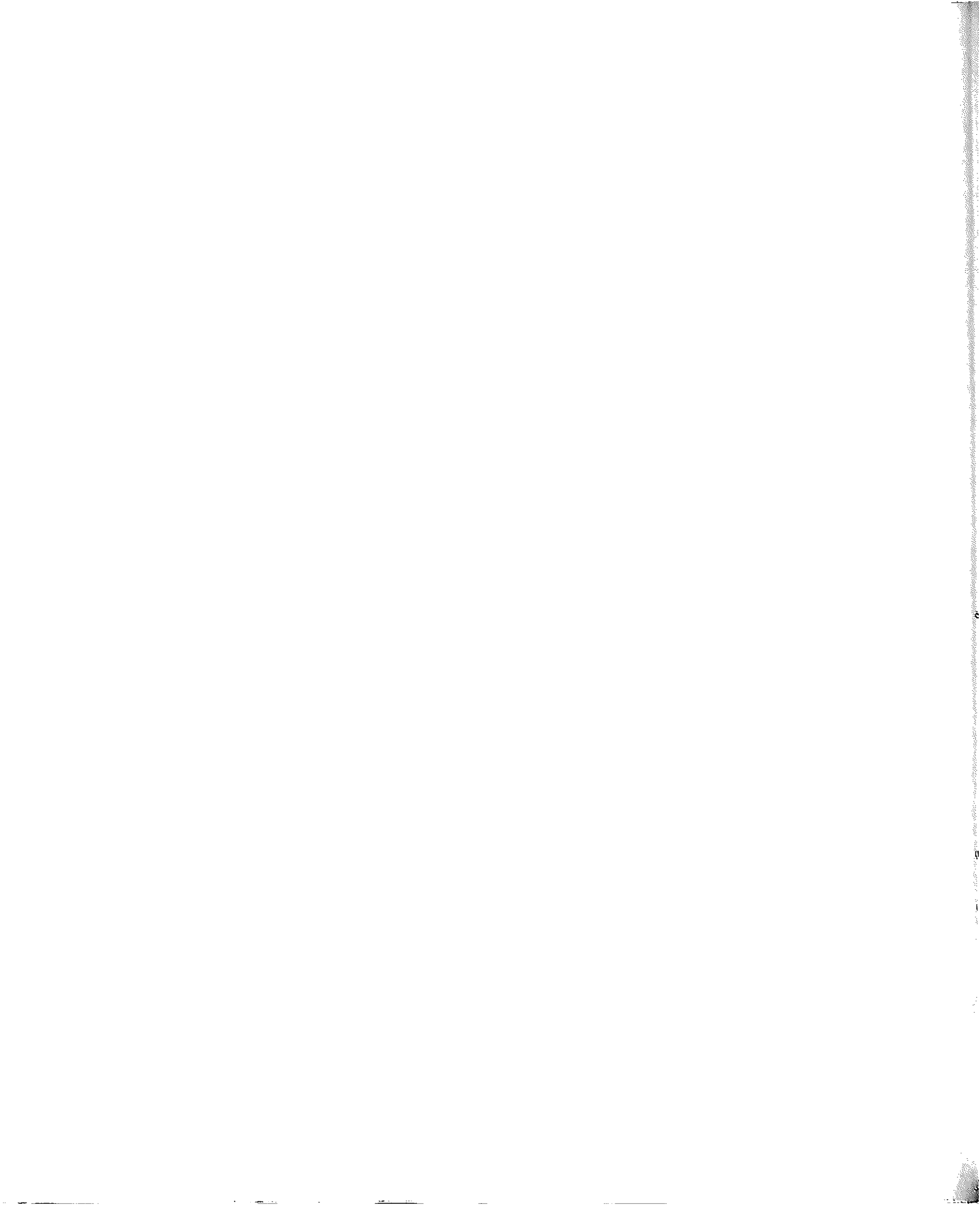
In 1854 the Suffolks received orders to embark in the transports "Camperdown" and "Empress Eugenie" for service in Australia. On the 1st. July, the Headquarters and three companies under the command of Major Kempt embarked aboard "Camperdown", followed on the 18th. October of the same year by the second division, under Captain Atkinson, which boarded the "Empress Eugenie" at Cork. Major Kempt's command disembarked at Melbourne on the 18th. October, and the second division landed there on the 6th. November.

Four companies, together with Headquarters, remained in Melbourne until the 20th. December 1855, when they sailed for Hobart on the transport "Windsor", arriving there on the 29th. of the month. All the troops disembarked with the exception of one company, which proceeded in the transport to the Swan River to relieve the company of the 99th. The Suffolks took over duties from its predecessor in February 1856.

The Royal Sappers and Miners were still stationed in the west, and remained at their original strength for a number of years. In 1861, however, the detachment was reduced by almost half, and in the following year twentyseven non-commissioned officers and men were discharged, thus reducing the force to thirtyone







men. The discharged men were entitled to a free grant of twenty acres of land per man on the expiration of their service. This grant, and the fact that all the married men had their wives and families with them, seems to show that the whole detachment had been sent to Western Australia as potential settlers. But, in the absence of documentary evidence, this must remain as pure conjecture, that is, until such time as it can be substantiated.

The situation in the colony militarily left much to be desired, for the actual defence of the west would devolve upon the one company of regulars, and the much depleted detachment of the Sappers. In the event of hostilities, the "Enrolled Pensioner Force" would be fully occupied in guarding the convicts. Owing, however, to political and military commitments at home, and in Europe, the British Government was unable to increase the establishments in the Australian colonies. Thus, it became obvious to the settlers that some voluntary military units would have to be raised, in order, firstly, to support the regulars, and secondly, to fill the vacuum that would result if and when the Imperial troops were recalled to England or sent to India.

1859 saw the beginnings of the voluntary defence movement in Western Australia, but it was not until 1861 that local ordinance granted power to raise and disband local voluntary establishments.

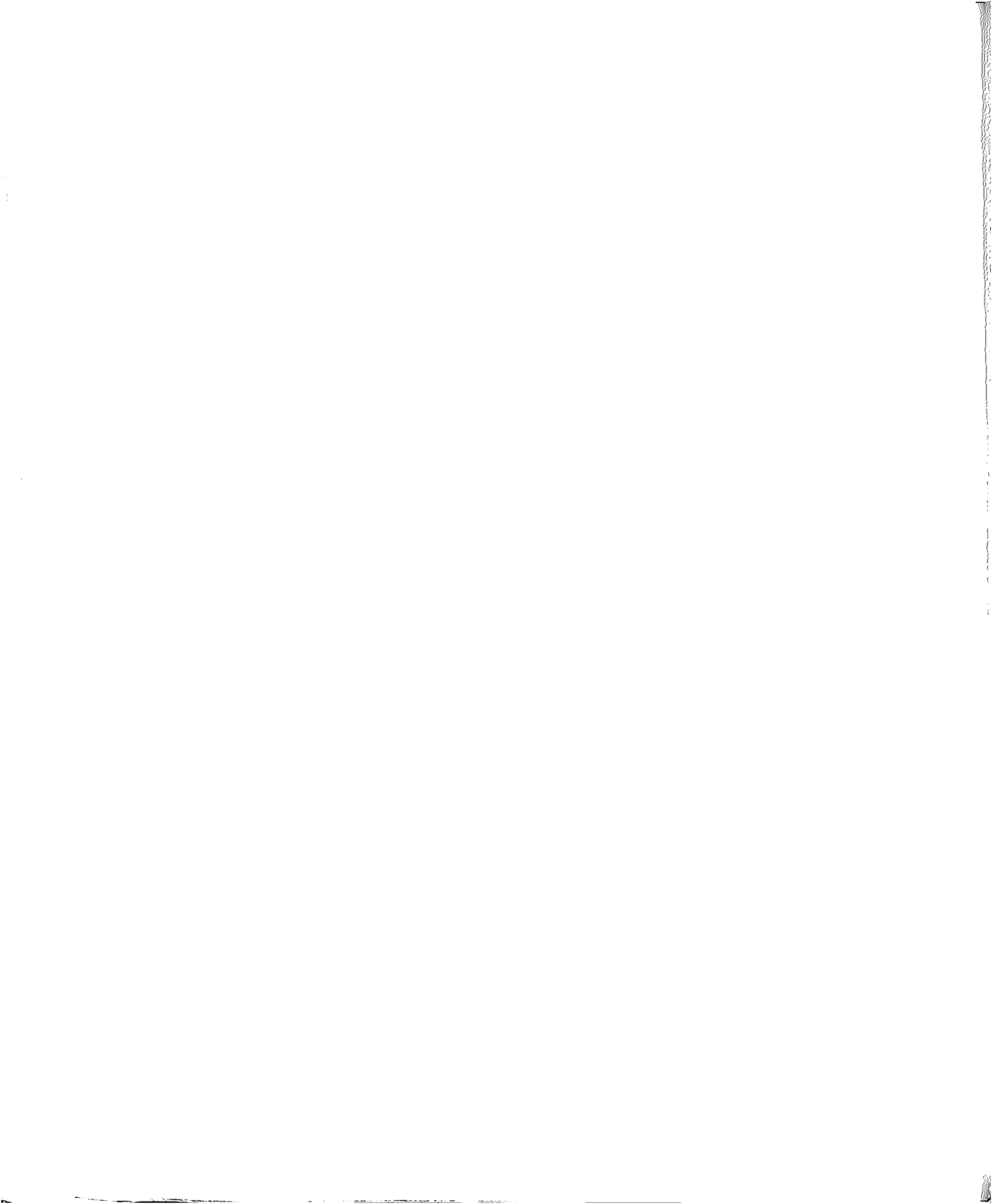
Originally the movement in Australia followed closely the English pattern, whereby the men were allowed to elect their own officers, who often clothed and armed them. This system, however, was replaced in 1863 by the introduction of examinations for officer candidates.

By the year 1863, there were three volunteer units in Western Australia. They were:

- The Enrolled Pensioner Force--raised 1850;
- The Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers--raised 1861;
- and The Pinjarra Mounted Volunteers--raised 1862.

The withdrawal of the regular garrison ushered in a period of military centralisation. The Enrolled Pensioners, who had been quartered previously in Fremantle, moved to Perth to occupy the barracks vacated by the men of the 12th. Regiment.

In March 1863 the company of "redcoats" embarked at Fremantle to rejoin the Regiment in Hobart, Tasmania. The Suffolk Regiment was the last regiment of the British Army to serve in Western Australia, and its departure marked the end of an interesting chapter in Australian military history.



BRITISH MILITARY BADGES AND HEADDRESS 1826-1863.

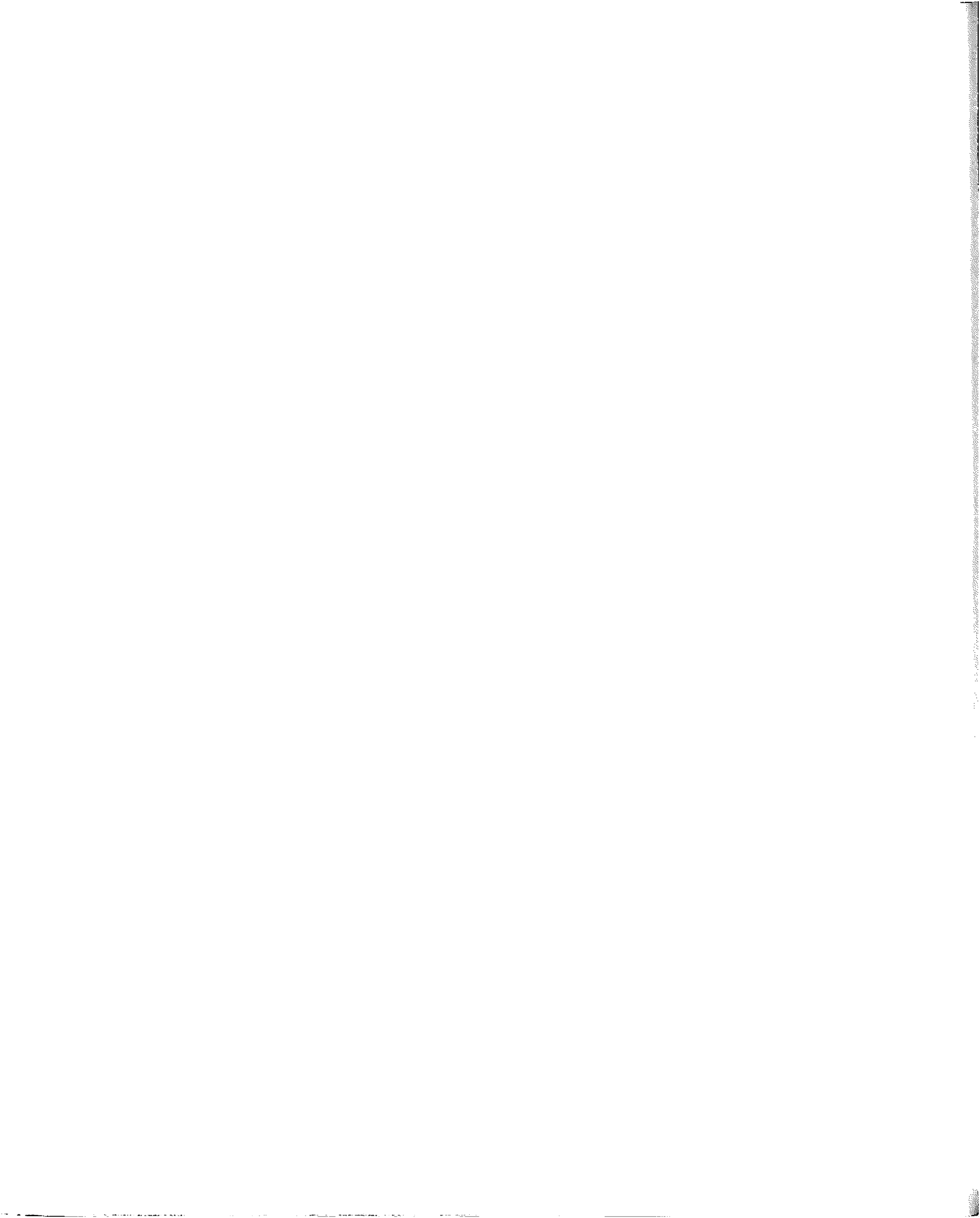
Regimental badges came into prominence with the introduction of the 19th. Century SHAKO. Thus, the 1828 officer's shako carried in front a large gilt badge of a star surmounted by a crown, the centre of the star bearing the badge of the regiment. The men's shako carried a badge made up of the star surmounted by a crown, and the number of the regiment. Light Infantry Regiments and companies of Grenadiers were exceptions, for they bore the devices of a bugle or a grenade respectively.

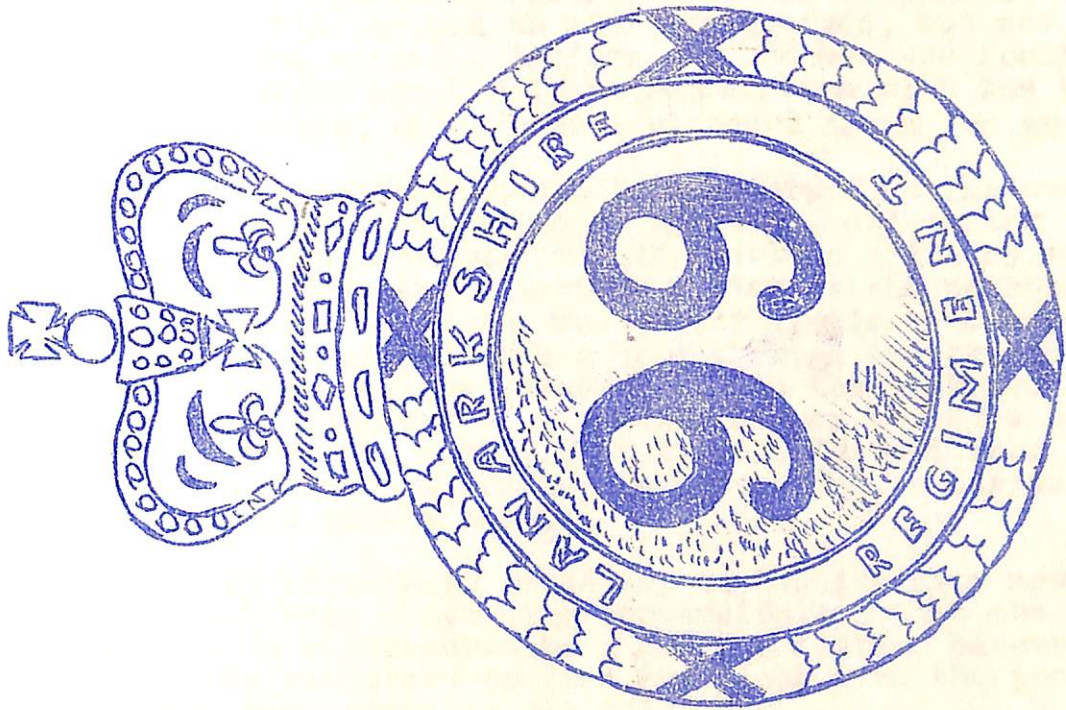
During the period 1826 to 1863, various changes occurred in the patterns of the shako, and the badge alternated between the star, a wreath and the garter within a large laurel wreath.

The detachments stationed in Western Australia during the first half of the 19th. Century wore the tall "Albert Shako", which was replaced in 1861 by a shorter one modelled on the contemporary French pattern. Being shorter, the star badge had to be reduced in size also, and it was this smaller star badge that became the model for the helmet plate stars of the late 19th. and early 20th. Centuries.

Thus, to quote Edwards (E), the historical importance of the shako rests in the fact that "during its seventy-eight years of existence, the shako had established the method of wearing badges, devices, etc., on headdress, which was carried over to the helmet.

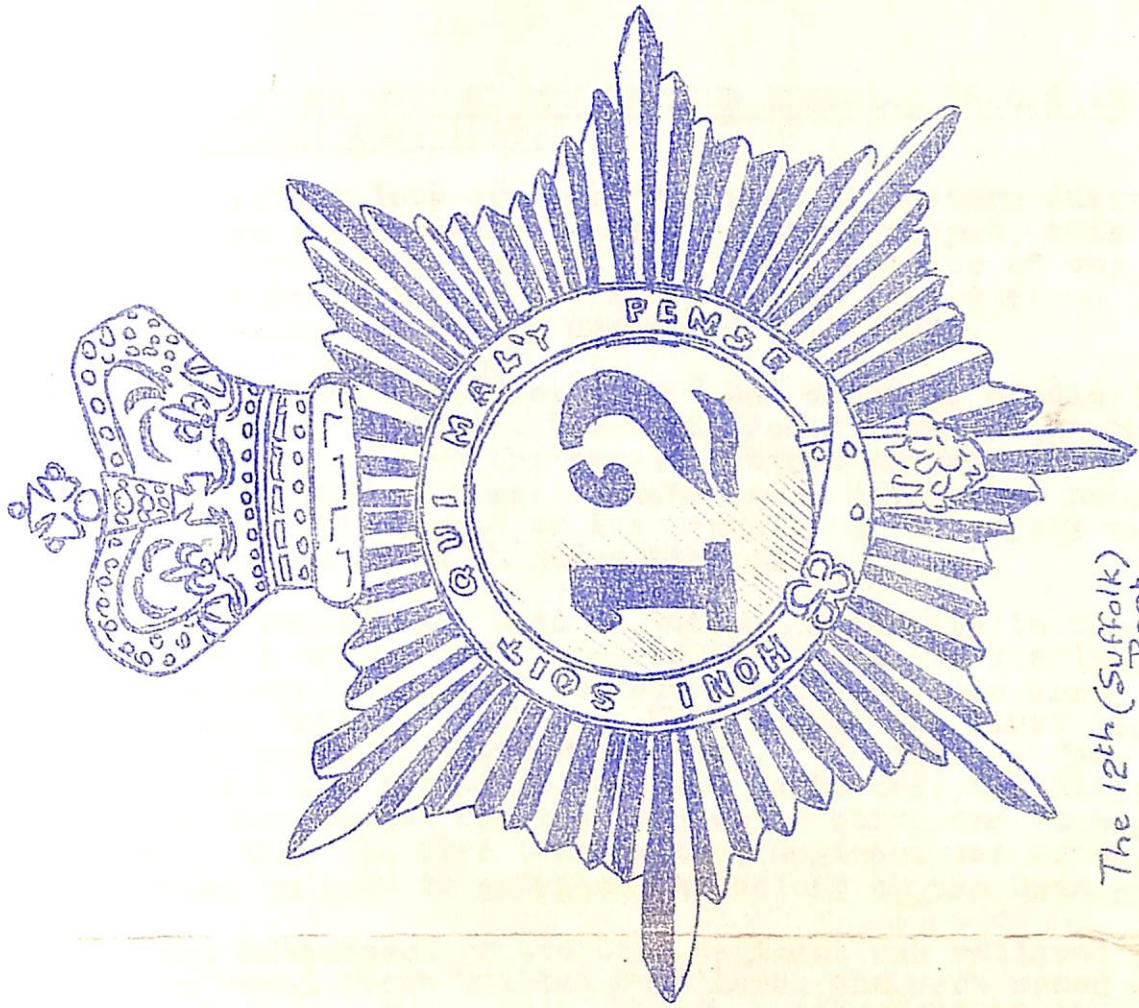
(E) "Regimental Badges" p.29, Major T.J.Edwards, Aldershot, 1953.





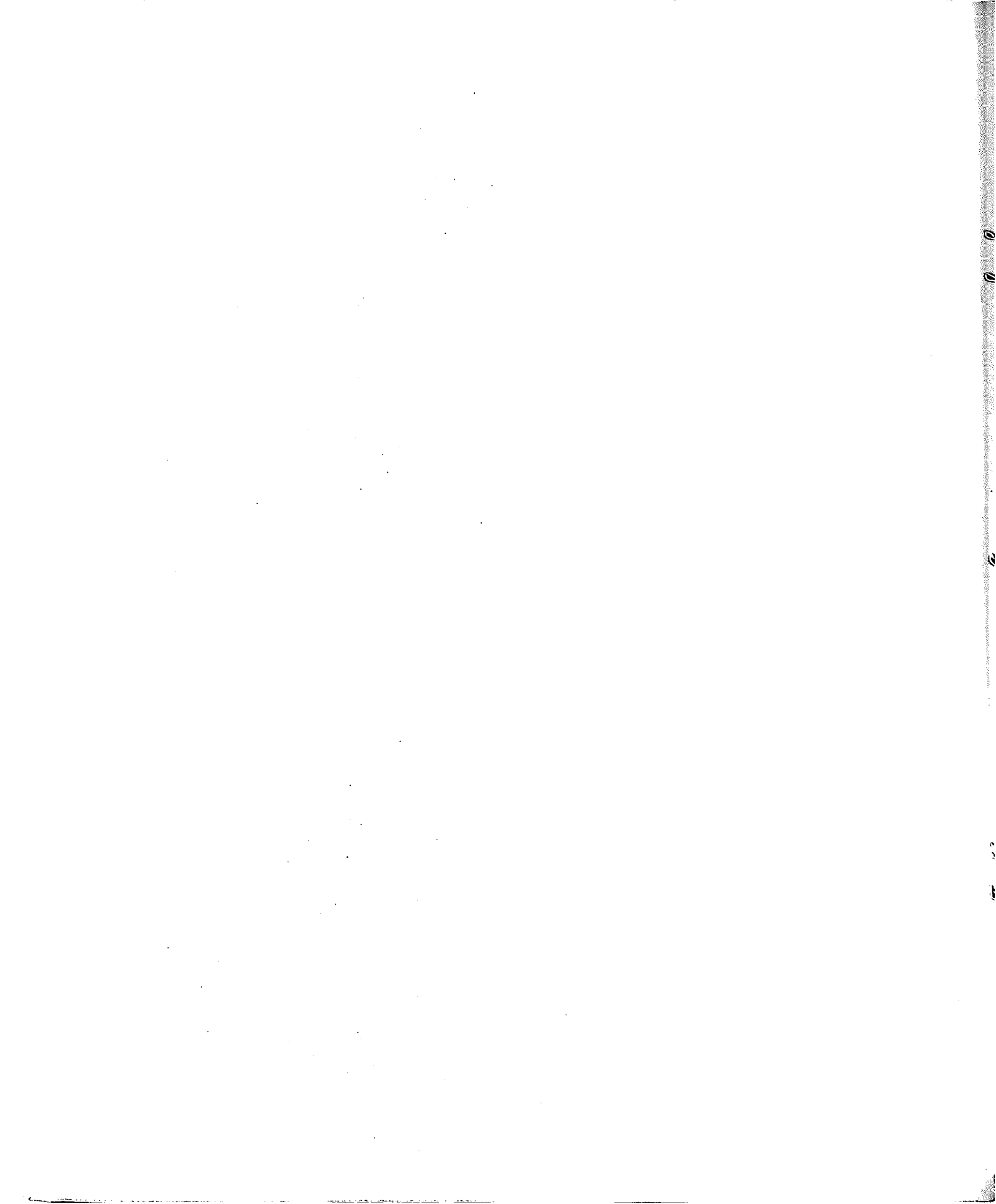
The 99th (Wiltshire) Regt.

Shako Plate
c. 1842-44



The 12th (Suffolk)
Regt.

Shako Plate
1855-63



MUSKETS AND RIFLES USED BY THE BRITISH IMPERIAL TROOPS IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1826-1863.

The first military long-arm that was used in Western Australia was the "Brown Bess" musket. As a military weapon, this musket probably saw the longest continuous service of any military firearm in the world; it was first issued circa 1727, and remained virtually unchanged until 1836.

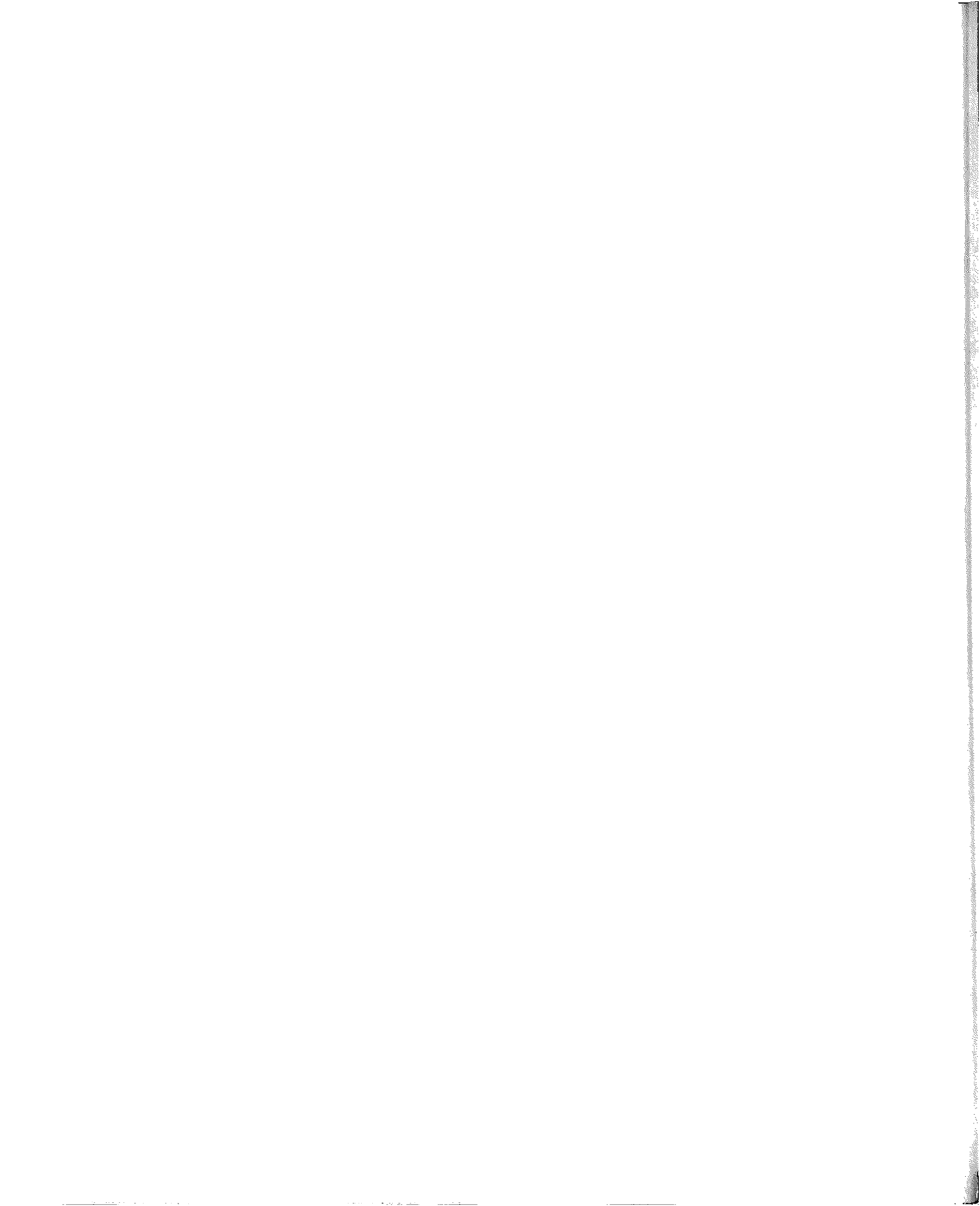
A flintlock musket, the "Brown Bess" had a number of distinctive features; for instance, the word "Tower" appears on the lock plate together with the royal monogram surmounted by a crown. Also, some of these muskets had a regimental number in Arabic numerals stamped on the barrel, and a company number on the escutcheon plate in Roman figures.

Two issues probably were used in Western Australia in the 1820's. The detachment of the 39th (Dorsetshire) Regiment stationed at King George Sound from 1826 to 1834 would have been armed with the "Waterloo Pattern" musket. This musket was first issued in 1800, and had a flat stock and butt. In 1825, a "new" pattern musket was issued to the line regiments; the distinctive feature of this weapon was the "handrail" butt, and it was with this musket that the 63rd (Manchester) Regiment was armed when they arrived in 1829 to garrison the colony on the Swan River.

In 1834 the detachment of the 63rd Regiment was relieved by men of the Royal North British Fusiliers, who were armed with the Baker Rifle. This rifle, though still a flintlock, differed from the "Brown Bess" in that it had a rifled barrel. It fired a spherical bullet which was wrapped in a greased patch. This helped to seal the grooves, but was also found to foul the rifle. In fact, so bad was the fouling, that bullets often could only be rammed home with the aid of a wooden mallet, which became standard issue for this purpose.

The next important change in military firearms was the adoption of the percussion system of ignition, and during the years 1836 to 1840 many hundreds of obsolete military muskets were converted from the flintlock system to the percussion cap mechanism. Conversion was fairly simple. The pan was replaced by a nipple with a hole through the centre which led down to the vent or touch-hole, and the cock holding the flint was replaced by a smaller hammer having a hollow which fitted over the nipple when it fell forward upon the trigger being pulled. In firing, a detonating or percussion cap was placed on the nipple.

The only adjustment necessary to the interior mechanism of the lock when undergoing conversion was that the mainspring had to be re-tempered or a new one fitted, because a harder blow was necessary to fire the piece with the percussion system than with the old flintlock.



These converted muskets were carried by the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry during their tour of duty in Western Australia.

During the years 1856 to 1865, the Minie rifle was the standard long-arm used by the British troops stationed in Western Australia. This rifle was a muzzle-loading percussion cap type, which fired an expanding bullet, the invention of Mr. Greener, a well-known London gunsmith. But, though invented by an Englishman, the bullet was further developed by M. Minie, a Frenchman, and it was in honour of him that the rifle was named.

Enfield rifles also were used in the period 1856 to 1865. They were very similar to the earlier "Brown Bess" except that they worked on the percussion cap system. They were muzzle-loading.

All the muskets and rifles used in colonial days in Western Australia were equipped with the long triangular bayonet, with the exception of the Baker rifle, which carried a sword bayonet.

THE REGULARS AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

It is beyond doubt that the volunteer movement would not have received the enthusiastic support that it did in the years 1861 to 1865 had the officers of the regular troops shown no interest in it. But from the beginning, when an ordinance was passed in 1861 giving power for the raising of volunteer forces, the officers of the 12th Regiment took an active interest in the movement. In fact, the first volunteer units were organised by officers of the regiment. This connection between the regulars and the volunteers was manifest in the uniform worn by the Metropolitan Rifle Volunteers (the senior unit), which closely followed that worn by the Suffolk Regiment.

The 99th (WILTSHIRE) REGIMENT.

Though the writer has mentioned on page 11 that the detachments of the 99th Regiment that served in Western Australia in the years from 1847 to 1856 was from the Lanarkshire Regiment, it has seemed advisable to follow the accepted practice, and give the 99th its post-1881 territorial designation of the Wiltshire Regiment. In fact, the 99th only became known as Wiltshire Regiment in 1881 when, due to the large-scale

reorganisation of the British Army, the 62nd. and the 99th. were amalgamated to form respectively the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Wiltshire Regiment.

MILITARY COMMANDANTS 1829-1870.

1/1/1829--14/9/1833	Capt.F.C.Irwin	63rd.Regt.
14/9/1833-11/5/1834	Capt.R.Daniell	21st.Regt.
11/5/1834-25/5/1834	Capt.P.Beete	21st.Regt.
25/5/1834-7/8/1835	Capt.R.Daniell	21st.Regt.
7/8/1835--21/9/1835	Capt.P.Beete	21st.Regt.
21/9/1835-25/8/1837	Capt.W.H.Armstrong	21st.Regt.
25/8/1837-15/3/1854	Lt.Col.F.C.Irwin	63rd.Regt.
15/3/1854-11/11/1854	Lt.Col.G.M.Reeves	99th.Regt.
11/11/1854-5/11/1870	Lt.Col.J.Bruce	16th.Regt.

NOTE: Captain Beete acted as Commandant on several occasions when Captain Daniell was incapacitated through ill-health. Captain Daniell died in office 7th August 1835.

IMPORTANCE OF THE OFFICE OF COMMANDANT.

Throughout the period under review (1829-1863) the Commandant of the military forces in Western Australia was listed among the members of the Executive Council as "Senior Officer Commanding the Land Forces".

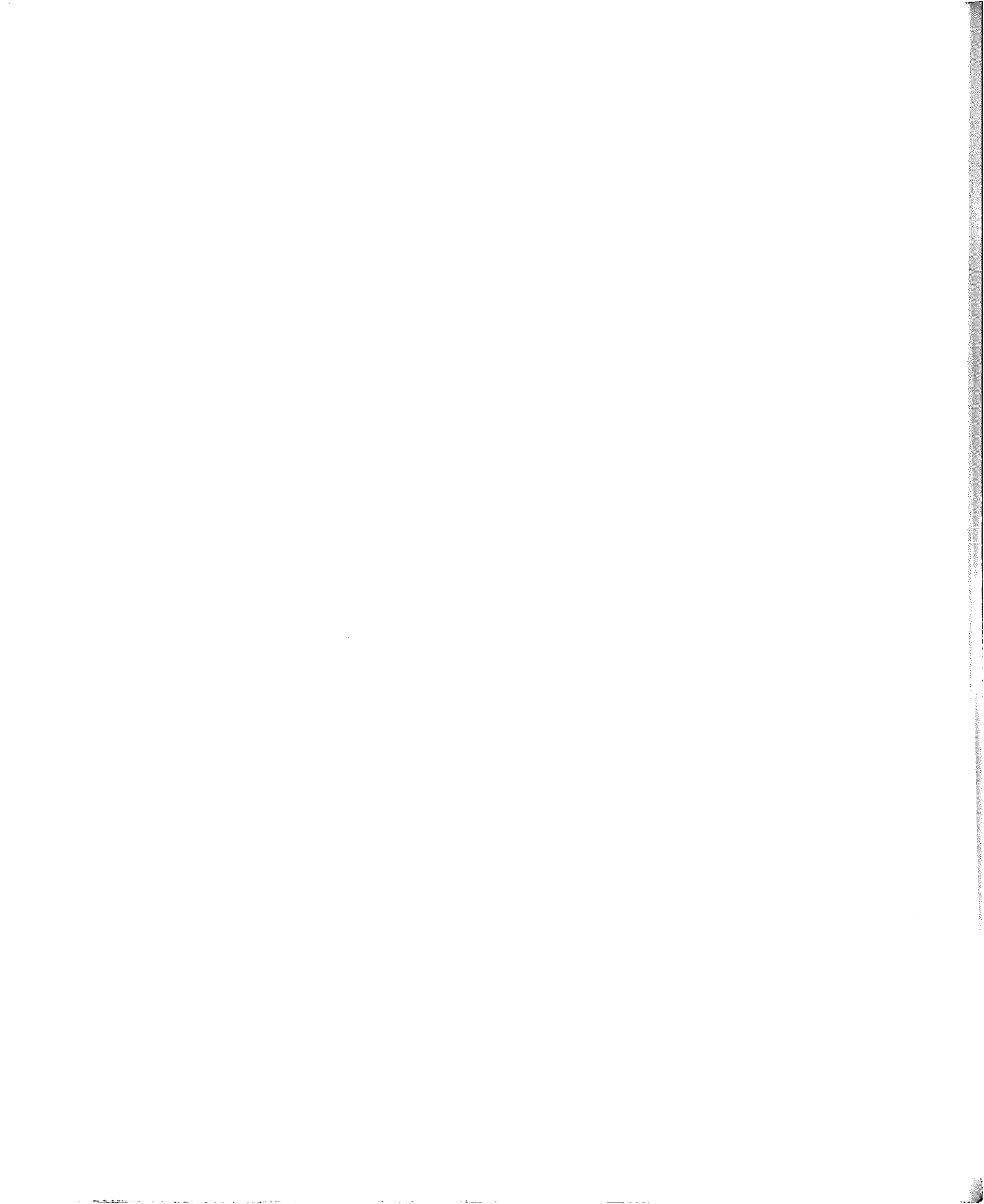
SERVICE OF BRITISH OFFICERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1863-1890.

1871 Major R.H.Crampton served as Military Commandant and was succeeded in the same year by Captain C.Finnerty of the 47th Regiment, who served until August 1872. Lt.Col.E.D.Harvest of the Royal Artillery held the post from 1872 until his departure for Britain in November 1880. He was the last Military Commandant to have a seat on the Executive Council.

1877-1880 Major-General Sir Harry St.George Ord, Royal Engineers, K.C.M.G., C.B., was Governor of Western Australia.

1880 The Enrolled Pensioner Force was abolished, and a new unit known as the Enrolled Guard was formed. This unit was placed under the command of the Superintendent of Police, and thus ceased to function as a purely military force.

1884-1890 During this period a number of British Army officers served in Western Australia as military instructors.



They were detached from their regiments for periods of up to three years.

1887 The last parade of the Enrolled Guard took place on the 1st of March.

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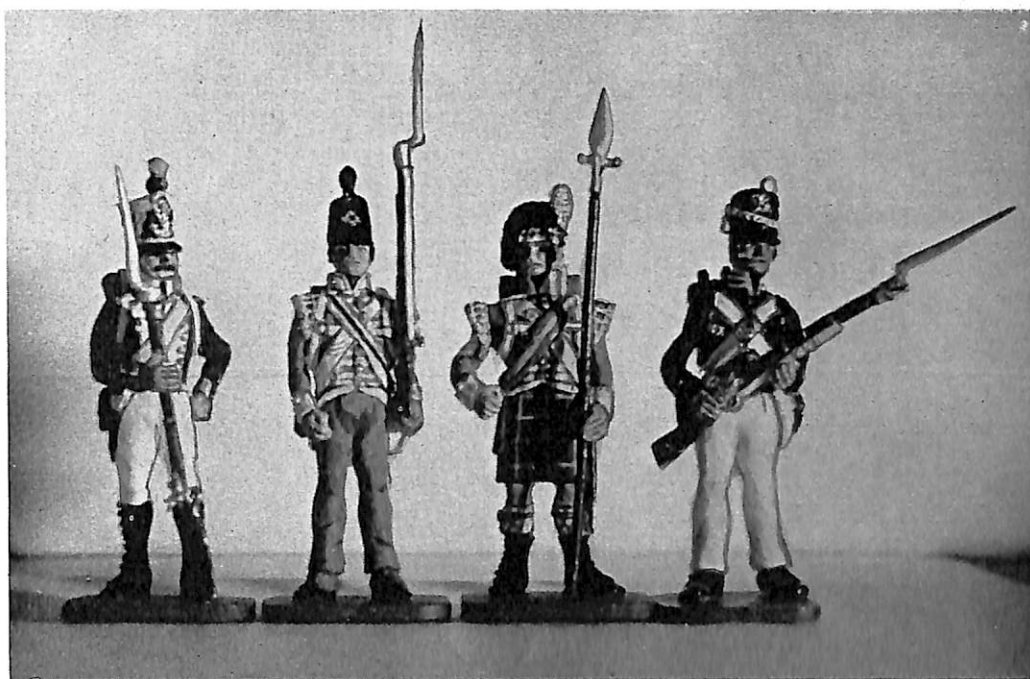


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