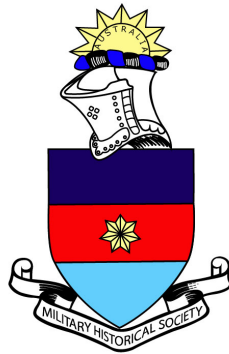


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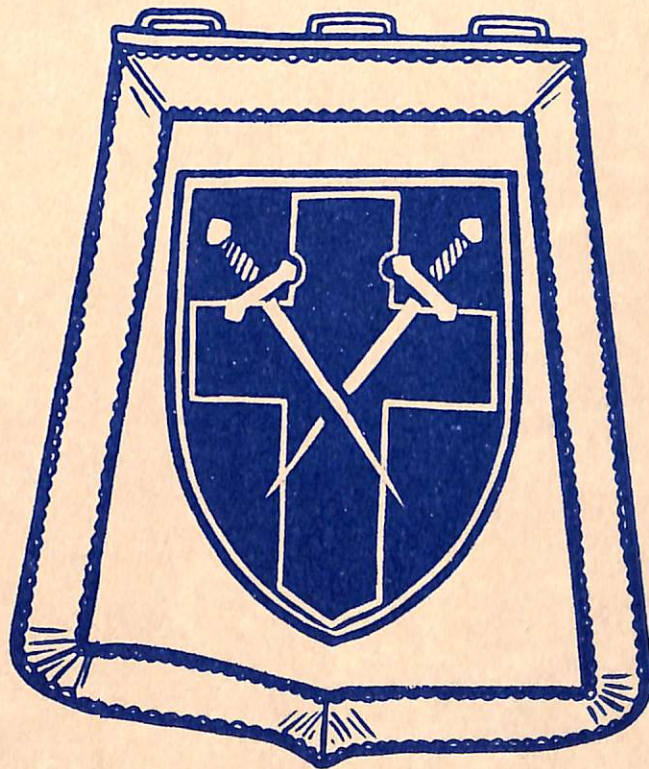
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.....

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

MELBOURNE- 2nd Saturday afternoon
SYDNEY- 4th Saturday afternoon
in each month.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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① VICTORIAN VOLUNTEER
RIFLES.
1860.

② ROYAL VICTORIA
VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY
1860.



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
COLLECTION OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

THE EARLY DEFENCE FORCES IN VICTORIA (continued).

The Volunteers that existed after the reorganisation of 1884 include the Victorian Rangers, the Hastings Battery, University Corps of Officers, Victorian Scottish Regiment, and the Victorian Railways Volunteer Regiment.

VICTORIAN RANGERS.

A very satisfactory measure of success attended the formation of the Victorian Rangers from the Rifle Clubs in the country districts. In 1889 approval was given for these rifle volunteers as they were then known to be organised as a military force. The commanding officer was Major A.E. Otter, a retired marine officer, who also served with the permanent artillery of the colony. The members were provided by the Government with brown leather equipment and rifles, and provided their own uniforms, which consisted of a khaki jacket with scarlet collar and cuffs, and red welt down the side seams of the trousers. Head dress was khaki helmet, from 1894 on, previously a felt hat.

From 1889 onwards detachments existed at many of the important centres of Victoria, and these were formed into companies. In 1891 a reorganisation of the Victorian Rangers was effected, when they were formed into Battalions. The 1st Battalion had its headquarters at Ballarat, the 2nd Battalion at St Arnaud, and the 3rd at Cheltenham. These battalions were commanded respectively by Majors R. Wilson, W.R. Bussett and R.E. Rigg.

In 1897 the organisation was again changed from three battalions to two, the headquarters of the 1st being at Dandenong, and the 2nd at Donald. They were a very keen and effective corps.

HASTINGS BATTERY.

The Hastings Battery, erroneously called the "Bullock Battery", was formed at Hastings to act in conjunction with the Victorian Rangers. This was in fact a position battery for the defence of Western-port, and took the

place of earthworks for the defence of that locality. It was armed with 40 pounder guns on travelling carriages drawn by a team of bullocks. The Battery Officers were Lieutenants W. Peddle and Watson, and the establishment was fixed at fifty-four other ranks. One hundred and sixty rounds of common shell were allowed for annual practice. Taking the scanty population of this district into consideration at the time this battery was in existence, it is interesting to record that the strength always exceeded the establishment. The members of the Battery wore uniform similar to that of the garrison artillery, except that the material was khaki instead of blue; helmets with ball mountings, and forage caps were also worn.

In 1893 a Nordenfolt detachment was formed at Queenscliff to form part of the Hastings Battery; it existed for only a few years, being disbanded in March 1897.

UNIVERSITY CORPS OF OFFICERS.

An Infantry unit, known as the University Corps of Officers, was formed in 1895. It was not to exceed forty members, to be limited to graduates of the Melbourne University between the ages of eighteen and twentyfive years. Arms and equipment were issued free by the Government, but members on joining were required to provide their own uniforms, which consisted of blue serge jacket, blue trousers with red welt, blue field service cap and badge, also a white helmet with spike and mountings. The members of the corps were allowed to select their own regiment, and were posted as vacancies occurred.

VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT.

The first and only national regiment to be raised in Victoria was that styled the "Victorian Scottish Regiment", raised and commanded by Sir Malcolm McEchran in August 1898. Members were enlisted under the Defences and Discipline Act 1890, and were engaged for a period of three years. No person was allowed to be engaged unless he was born in Scotland, or was of Scottish descent, or who had previously served in the Imperial regular force, or any colonial militia or auxiliary force. Members wore the national dress of jacket and kilt. When first formed, the headdress was a white helmet, but in later years highland bonnets were provided.

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS VOLUNTEER REGIMENT.

This Regiment came into existence in 1900, and was the last unit raised under Victorian control. It was formed on the lines of a similar corps in England. The Railways Commissioners highly approved of the formation of this corps, which also received the hearty support of the chief railway authorities. Lieutenant Colonel J.W. Hacker was the commanding officer. The corps existed for only a short period, when, owing to lack of equipment, it was disbanded. The members of the unit wore a dark blue serge uniform with a red welt down the side seams of the trousers, a blue felt hat with pleated pugaree, turned up at the side.

(A photograph reproduced in a recent edition of the paper "THE VICTORIAN RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER" shows a group of this corps wearing dark coloured uniforms, with grenade collar badges, and dark leather belts with snake clasps. Most of the men wear caps field service, one wears a dark felt hat turned up at the left side. Two individuals, probably staff, are attired differently--one in khaki jacket, the other in peaked officer pillbox cap with metal grenade badge at front. Accompanying the photo are the following remarks, furnished at the time of reproduction of the photo, from memory of two old members:

"There were no formations outside of Melbourne. The uniform consisted of:

- blue trousers with the broad red stripe of engineers;
- red tunic with upright collars and brass buttons;
- blue slouch hat with red broad band. Turned up at side like later digger hat, badge most likely that of the Engineers (we were classed as Engineers, and generally considered as connected with the Permanent and Militia Engineering Companies);
- "glengarry" cap blue with red crown;
- khaki jacket for working and drill occasions;
- overcoat of very dark grey wool;
- badges two brass "VRVR" badges on shoulder straps.

(NB. These do not appear to be the badges shown in the photo, which rather resemble a single word) Headquarters and orderly room were at the Engineers Depot in Alexandra Ave., just beyond the bowing club sheds."

.....

EVOLUTION OF REGIMENTS AND CORPS.

Victoria had only two permanent corps--the Victorian Permanent Artillery, and the Victorian Permanent Engineers. The former were stationed mainly at Queenscliff, where they were available for the care of the guns and the manning of the various forts. A detachment was always stationed in Melbourne for guards at Government House and ceremonial duties. The Engineers were quartered at Swan Island, at which fort they cared for the maintenance of sub-mining and other stores applicable to the defence of the Heads.

PERMANENT ARTILLERY.

The origin of the Permanent Artillery can be traced to the year 1870. After the Imperial troops departed from the Colony in that year, a small corps was formed, mainly as a recruiting ground for the Victorian Police and Penal Warders. The Corps, which was known as "Stubbs's Bulldogs", was commanded by Captain J.A.Stubbs, and had a total of one hundred and thirtyeight other ranks. This corps existed for ten years, and on 31st December 1880 its disbandment was announced. Two years later the commandant reported to the Treasurer that he had carefully inspected the defence works then in course of construction at the Heads, and was impressed with the necessity of providing a sufficient number of artillerymen for the care of the works, and for the purpose of being trained for the use of and mounting of the guns in the fort; and he recommended the establishment of a battery of garrison artillery. These proposals were approved and gave birth to the "Victorian Artillery" on 1st July 1882. Major Charles le Marchand, Captain D.Nicholson, and Lieutenants C.Hamilton and A.E.Otter were the officers of the corps. The strength was one hundred and twentyone other ranks.

In 1884 the Victorian Artillery was commanded by Major F.W.Ind, R.A., an officer who had been obtained from England on a five years engagement. Ind died at Queenscliff on 23rd June 1887, and, in consequence, Otter, then a Captain, assumed the temporary command. He had with him Lieutenants Umphelby, Boothby and Wallace. The next commanding officer was Major A.E.Daniel, R.A. When Daniel took over command, the establishments were revised and fixed at two hundred and fiftysix. In 1891 Daniel returned to England, and the command was given to Major C.E.E.Umphelby, and the title of the corps altered to "Victorian Permanent Artillery". At this time the corps was formed into three companies with an establishment of two hundred and eightysix, and remained so until the year 1896. In this year the Government called for retrenchment, and reduced the establishment to two

hundred and fortyone, certain members of the corps receiving six months pay as compensation for such retrenchment.

During 1899 the South African War broke out, and Umphelby, then a Lieutenant Colonel, was despatched on special service to the seat of war, leaving Major (later Major-General) John Stanley in command. At this time a committee of officers dealing with defence matters, including that of forming the whole of the permanent artillery in Australia into one regiment, was in being. On the 14th July, 1899, the Colonial Office, London, announced its approval of this amalgamation, and the Corps became the Victoria Regiment of Royal Australian Artillery. News was received of the death from wounds received in South Africa of Umphelby, the command then passing to Stanley, who was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

PERMANENT ENGINEERS.

The Victorian Engineers (permanent Section) dated from the 1st July 1882, when an establishment was laid down as thirty-one all ranks. On 26th August 1889, Lieutenant (later Lieutenant General) J.W. Parnell was appointed to take charge of the submarine yard at Swan Island, and the Permanent Section was placed under his orders for discipline. Members of the Corps were all artisans, deckhands, firemen or engine drivers, and were enlisted for a term of five years.

MOUNTED TROOPS.

In 1862 the mounted forces of Victoria were in a disintegrated state, each independent of the other, having different uniforms, and enjoying different appellations, such as the "Mounted Troop", the "Castlemaine Dragoons", and the 1st or "Royal Volunteer Cavalry Regiment". Towards the end of that year, steps were taken to amalgamate the whole of the volunteer cavalry force into one body under the title "Prince of Wales Victorian Volunteer Light Horse (Hussars)". The troops were thus made subject to the same rules and regulations, placed on an equal footing, and uniformed alike. Members supplied their own horses, uniforms and accoutrements, and the Government provided rifles and swords. Troops were distinguished by the name of the town or district in which they were raised. In later years the government supplied instructors, and the cavalry troops made great progress in their work. Troops existed at Melbourne, (metropolitan), Bacchus Marsh, Kyneton, Castlemaine, Sandhurst, Ballarat, Maryborough, and the Southern Troop, the latter being recruited from Dandenong.

The Sandhurst Troop survived the lot, as in 1884 it became part of the Militia Forces with the title "Sandhurst Cavalry Troop". It lingered on until 1892, when it was finally disbanded.

Another cavalry troop formed in later years was that established at Bulla ($\frac{1}{2}$ troop) in March 1885; it was disbanded, however, in the following November. In 1901 another volunteer cavalry corps designated "Melbourne Cavalry" was formed by Captain Alex Rushall. These were clothed in a blue uniform with yellow facings of hussar pattern, white helmets being worn in place of busbies. (Badge--crossed sabre with "MELBOURNE CAVALRY" on a blue enamel scroll beneath.)

VICTORIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.

One of the most popular corps that existed in Victoria was the Victorian Mounted Rifles, a volunteer corps raised by Colonel Tom Price from the Rifle Clubs in country districts. Its organisation dates from the 2nd December 1885, when nine companies were formed. Detachments forming the companies were raised in many of the outlying villages. In 1891 approval was given for a reorganisation into two battalions--1st battalion with headquarters at Melbourne, and the 2nd with headquarters at Ballarat. The members of the V.M.R. were uniformed in khaki jackets with crimson facings, riding breeches and brown leggings, felt hat with pleated puggaree and turned up at the side, and also a crimson forage cap. They provided their own horses, and the Government found the equipment. During the maritime strike of 1892 detachments were mustered to quell the riots that were in progress, but fortunately their services as a firing body were not required.

FIELD ARTILLERY.

Three Field Artillery batteries were raised under the Volunteer Act of 1854. These were termed Metropolitan, East Melbourne and St. Kilda Batteries. As the result of the reorganisation of 1884 these corps were converted to militia, and styled "Victorian Field Artillery". Metropolitan Battery became "A" Battery; St. Kilda became "B"; and the East Melbourne became "C" Battery, and located at South Melbourne. The Field Artillery wore the blue uniform of the Royal Field Artillery, except for the helmets, which were white instead of blue.

HORSE ARTILLERY.

What was generally known as the "Rupertswood Battery" originated from a Nordenfeldt battery formed in connection with the cavalry. It was armed with four Nordenfeldt machine guns, each with ten barrels. In March 1889 the battery was converted into Horse Artillery, and designated the "Victorian Horse Artillery", and placed under the command of Captain (later Major General) F.G. Hughes. A detachment of half battery was sanctioned at Werribee on 16th March 1889, but was disbanded on 6th March 1893. The Victorian Horse Artillery were armed with 12 pounder field guns, and were allowed 90 rounds of shrapnel and common shell for annual practice.

The battery was wholly maintained by Mr Chirnside and the Hon Sir William Clarke, Bt., and the guns were provided by the Government. The uniform worn by members was of the same pattern as that of the Royal Horse Artillery, except that white helmets took the place of bushbies. (Victorian pattern ball buttons were used. Ed.)

In June 1897 the battery, then at Rupertswood and Sunbury, were disbanded, and the members were allowed to join the reserve of the Field Artillery. For many years the guns used by the battery reposed at the main entrance of Cliveden Mansions (East Melbourne), the former residence of Sir William Clarke.

GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The garrison artillery of the colony in 1870 was composed of the Williamstown Corps, 1st Geelong Corps (formed from personnel drawn from Geelong and Drysdale), 2nd Geelong Corps (Geelong and Queenscliff), Portland, Belfast, Warrnambool, Emerald Hill, and Sandridge detachments. In 1874 volunteer batteries of garrison artillery existed at Williamstown, Emerald Hill, Sandridge and Brighton in the Metropolitan area, also the South Grant Battery, composed of detachments at Geelong, Drysdale and Queenscliff, and the Western Battery, composed of Warrnambool, Portland and Belfast detachments. The whole was formed into a brigade of the Royal Volunteer Regiment of Artillery, and remained so until 1883. There was no difficulty in obtaining men for this arm, and batteries were nearly always up to strength. They received a fair amount of drill with 80 pounders, the only heavy guns they had the opportunity of using; and, in common with other arms, drilled only at night. A corps also existed at Brighton--this, so far as can be ascertained, was disbanded about 1877. Two years later, the Sandridge Battery shared the same fate. In 1884 approval was

given to disband the volunteer corps at Williamstown, Geelong and South Grant and reform them on a militia basis, organising them as 1st Brigade Garrison Artillery, headquarters at Geelong (including a detachment from Kensington); Footscray Battery (including Williamstown); South Grant Battery (including Queenscliff and Drysdals). The detachments at Warrnambool, Portland and Belfast were organised into the 2nd Brigade Garrison Artillery, with headquarters at Portland. The Footscray Battery was formed into a separate detachment and designated the Williamstown Battery.

A battery styled "The Harbour Trust Battery" came into existence on 20th April 1885. It was formed from members of the Melbourne Harbours Trust, and it proved itself a crack unit in later years, its gunnery being very efficient.

During this year a further change in designation was made, the Footscray Battery becoming the North Melbourne Battery, and allotted to the 1st Brigade Garrison Artillery.

In later years this battery was commanded by Major (later General Sir) John Monash.

In 1886 the Portland Battery, which had been disbanded in 1884, was reformed, and in the meantime the Belfast Battery became the Port Fairy Battery. Two years later the Brigades of Garrison Artillery were discontinued, and the batteries forming them were constituted separate corps, and took their precedence in the following order:

Geelong, South Grant, North Melbourne, Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Williamstown and Harbour Trust Batteries. The headquarters of the South Grant Battery were transferred from Drysdale to Queenscliff, and the command of the battery taken over by the officer commanding Victorian Permanent Artillery.

In 1889 the South Grant Battery took the designation "Port Phillip Battery", and a new detachment was formed at Sorrento. The officer commanding V.P.A. (Major Daniel) was relieved of the command of the Port Phillip Battery at his own request, consequent on this the Drysdale battery reverted to the Geelong battery. The Garrison Artillery existed as such until the year 1897, when authority was given for the V.P.A., Geelong, Port Fairy, Warrnambool and Portland Batteries to be formed into a brigade and designated the "Western District Brigade", and placed under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Umpholby. In the year ended June 1900, the garrisons consisted of the Western Brigade (as above), the Metropolitan Brigade (Lt. Col. W.H. Hall) composed of the

North Melbourne, Williamstown and Harbour Trust Batteries. The Garrison Artillery wore the blue uniform of the Royal Artillery, but white helmets were worn instead of blue.

ENGINEERS.

The Engineer Corps was raised in Melbourne under the Volunteer Act of 1854. From 1870 to 1879 the establishment was 150. The first commanding officer was Captain E. Parnell, who served with the corps until 1877. On the organisation of 1884 the corps became militia, with an establishment of 101 all ranks. In the following year Captain R. Amess assumed command and the corps became known as the Field Company, Victorian Engineers. A Torpedo and Signal Corps was raised in 1870 under the Discipline Act of that year. The command was given to Major T. Couchman, and later was held by Major R. L. J. Ellery. Members wore a blue uniform with scarlet facings. In the year 1882, on the introduction of torpedo defences, Ellery was called upon for suggestions for the reorganisation of the existing volunteers into militia. He suggested that a defensive torpedo corps, of from 80 to 100 men be organised, the force thus constituted to have scientific, artisan and boat sections. Colonel Scratchley, who was in the colony at the time, considered this would be an efficient and reliable force for establishing, maintaining and working the scheme of submarine mining defences recommended by Sir William Jervois and himself. The corps became militia and were named the Submarine Mining Company, Victorian Engineers, and Captain R. E. Joseph assumed the command. The Queenscliff section of this company consisted of an establishment of twelve sappers, clothed in a uniform similar to A.B.'s of the navy, and were employed as boatmen, being selected from the fishermen in the town.

The Engineers were clothed in the familiar scarlet and blue uniform of the Royal Engineers.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

A Commissariat and Transport Corps was formed in 1886. The members were selected from such callings as clerks, butchers, grocers, bakers, forage assistants, drivers, cooks and store-keepers, and were allotted to infantry companies from which they were drawn. During encampments they received 2/6 per day in addition to the pay of their rank. Two years later it was announced that the commissariat of the transport corps would in future be constituted a separate body, and cease all connection with their companies. Major V. Cairncross, who was also the ordnance officer, was appointed to command.

On the appointment of Major G.W. Watson, an officer of the Public Works Department, as Barracks Master, he assumed command and reorganised the corps to enable it to be distributed in small self-contained detachments, which allowed for representatives to be at camps at Langwarrin, Queenscliff and other places. In 1895 the title of the corps was altered to "Army Service Corps", they were clothed in a dark blue uniform with white facings, and a double white stripe down the trousers. Their headdress were a helmet and a forage cap.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

From 1874 to 1883 medical officers received commissions in the volunteer forces, and were allotted to the various companies and batteries. They were all under the orders of the Principal Medical Officer (Surgeon Major W. Gillbee). There was no definite establishment, and medical officers ranked among themselves and were commissioned in the following manner:

Surgeons ranking as Major,
Assistant Surgeons ranking as Captains, and
Assistant Surgeons (?) as Lieutenants.

It was not until 1886 that an actual medical corps existed as a separate body. The members were drawn from men who held positions allied with the medical profession, and a certain number of drivers and cooks. The Commanding Officer was Surgeon Major R. Robertson, who was later succeeded by Surgeon Major G. Horne. A reorganisation of the corps took place in July 1886, when the "Victorian Ambulance Corps" was formed, with an establishment of 50 all ranks. Owing to the small attendance at parades it was announced that the commandant was compelled to recommend the disbandment of the corps. There were a few N.C.O's and men (some twelve in number) who had been in constant attendance, and performed their duties very satisfactorily. The commandant thanked Surgeon Horne for the zeal and energy he had displayed in the formation and command of the corps, which he regretted had not been more successful. A new Ambulance Corps was again provided for in 1895, with a staff and a total of forty other ranks. The uniform was dark blue with white facings and white helmet.

ARMY VETERINARY DETAILS.

The senior veterinary officer in Victoria from 1870 to 1883 was styled Veterinary Surgeon 1st Class, ranking as Captain. The appointment was held by Veterinary Surgeon H.

WRAGG. Other veterinary Surgeons were attached in an honorary capacity to the mounted troops of the colony, and ranked among themselves.

(In next issue "EARLY FORTIFICATIONS AND DEFENCE".)

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SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES UNIFORM POSTCARDS.

Some really excellent coloured postcards have recently been issued by the South African National War Museum, Johannesburg.

Three cards depict uniforms, the regiments shown being: South African Irish Regiment 1962 (Pipe Major); Witwatersrand Rifles 1962 (Drum Major); and Transvaal Scottish 1962 (Drum Major).

These are representations of photographs, and the colour and clarity are first class. Price is most reasonable at 6 pence per card (sterling equivalent).

The Museum will assess the response to the first cards before deciding whether to print others. We sincerely hope that more of the South African Forces will be shown in this series, and recommend our members who are interested to get together to write for sets of these very worthwhile cards.

FOOTNOTE: A letter to the Australian War Memorial enclosing this set, and suggestion re-consideration of their previous decision not to print cards of Australian uniforms brought the following response:

'At the present time it is not proposed that the Australian War Memorial will enter this field'.

Collectors and students of uniforms will regret this decision of the A.W.M.

B.J.Videon.

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THE PICTON SWORD.

A MISSING NATIONAL TREASURE.

by C.Halls.

Recently the author was approached by the National Trust of Trinidad-Tobago regarding the chances of locating a missing sword in Australia. The weapon, known as the "Picton Sword", or the "Golden Sword" from its gilt decoration, was once the property of Sir Thomas Picton, first British Governor of Trinidad. Sold at public auction conducted by Messrs Spink in London in 1926, the sword was reputedly purchased by an Australian.

DETAILS OF THE SWORD:

Type--A presentation fighting sword. Probably a sabre, similar to the Light Cavalry Pattern 1796, having a curved blade, stirrup hilt, and ray skin grips.

Blade--Either a full Damascus blade, or more probably a half Damascus with floral decoration and bearing the following inscription "The inhabitants of Trinidad to Governor Picton for a colony preserved".

Hilt decoration--Floral gilt.

Scabbard--Metal scabbard with floral designs and probably gilded.

SIR THOMAS PICTON'S GOVERNORSHIP.

He was the first British Governor 1797-1803, and it was his responsibility to hold Trinidad in the event of a Spanish counter attack. The period of his rule was a difficult one for the island, for he had only a small force of soldiers and no naval support. Fortunately there was no Spanish counter attack, but there was a great deal of trouble with pirates and privateers.

Sir Thomas Picton resigned the Governorship in 1803 and returned to England. However, before his departure the principal citizens and landowners presented him with the sword which is the subject of this paper.

Later, Sir Thomas became Chief of Staff to the Earl of Chatham, and was killed in action at Quatre Bras in 1815.

Should any arms collector in Australia be able to supply information concerning the present whereabouts of the "Picton Sword", would he kindly write to: C.Halls, Flat 6, 45 Adelaide Terrace, PERTH, W.A.

GUNS OF THE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

by C.Halls.

THE ARTILLERYMEN AND THEIR GUNS.

During the Volunteer period in Western Australia (1861-1903) the twin cities of Perth and Fremantle each mustered an artillery corps.

The senior unit was the W.A.Troop of Volunteer Horse Artillery raised in Perth and gazetted on the 1st July 1872. This troop had previously been a cavalry unit known as the "Union Troop of Mounted Volunteers", raised two years previously. At this time, the only field guns in the colony were two in the possession of the Enrolled Pensioner Corps.¹

These were 12 pounder Armstrong Whitworth breech-loaders, complete with limbers and associated stores. Whether the guns were ever officially transferred from the one corps to the other seems doubtful, for the Enrolled Pensioners are known to have operated one of the guns in 1876 during the "Catalpa" incident.²

In 1882 the corps designation was changed to "Perth Volunteer Artillery". The guns were drawn by four-horse teams hired for the occasion and the corps numbering 30 all ranks took part in numerous ceremonial parades and camps. A gun-shed was erected in Francis Street Perth in 1885, while the Francis Street Headquarters building was built in 1896. These buildings occupied the site of the present Swan Barracks, Headquarters, Western Command.

Two nine-pounder rifled muzzle-loaders arrived from England in 1894 to replace the two Armstrong Whitworth breech-loaders. In 1887 the corps had received a new designation, becoming known as No.1 Battery, Field Artillery. This title was retained until 1903, when it became No.1 W.A.Battery, Australian Field Artillery. Gun replacements consisting of two 15-pdr. breech-loaders with limbers and stores arrived in 1902.

The history of the Fremantle Artillery followed a similar pattern to that outlined for the Perth Corps. However, there was one significant difference--whereas Perth, of necessity, concentrated on field artillery, Fremantle was preoccupied with the problem of fixed defences for the port.

The fact that Fremantle eventually raised a field artillery corps was due to the failure of early efforts to establish fixed coastal defences.

A corps of artillery was raised in Fremantle in 1879 and gazetted in that same year as Naval Artillery Volunteers. The raising of this corps was an effort to solve the problem of coastal defence, for it had long been an obvious necessity that some form of artillery defence was needed to safeguard the port. All schemes suggested by responsible officers, however, had either been shelved indefinitely or abandoned altogether, because of lack of available finance.

Early in 1854 Captain E.Y.W. Henderson, Royal Engineers, had suggested the building of a Martello Tower, armed with three eight inch guns, at Point Anglessea or Arthur Head. Supporting batteries were also planned, each battery to be armed with four twelve-pounder howitzers. But the estimated costs of building the tower were prohibitive, so the whole scheme was abandoned.

Enrolment in the Naval Artillery Volunteers was at first restricted to ex-Royal Navy men, but this so limited the recruitment that in 1888 the designation of the corps was changed to Fremantle Artillery Volunteers, and recruits were drawn from all walks of life.

Originally the corps was armed with two obsolete muzzle-loading six-pounders mounted on wooden carriages and without limbers. These guns only left their depot on one occasion, when the corps attended the camp and manoeuvres at Albion in 1884. In 1889 these two old guns were replaced with two nine-pounder rifled muzzle-loading field guns, complete with limbers and stores. These came as a gift from the Imperial Government, and were valued at £850/-/-.

On the 26th October 1892, the corps became No. 2 Battery, Field Artillery, and ten years later received two fifteen-pounder breech-loading field guns, limbers and stores. Thus in 1902 standardisation of equipment was achieved between Perth and Fremantle.

In 1903 the Fremantle Artillery Volunteers were absorbed by the Federal Defence Organisation, and later, in 1907, it became a company of the Garrison Artillery.

THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE GUNS.

In 1902 there were eight obsolete field guns in the Perth-Fremantle area, and of these, two were still in use for saluting and drill purposes. Thus when the Kings Park Board began making enquiries regarding the availability of these old guns, to flank the approach to a memorial statue of Queen Victoria to be unveiled in the park late in the following year (1903), there were only six guns available. These were four field guns at Fremantle, lying in front of Major Hope's residence opposite Fremantle Gaol, and two carriage guns stored in a shed at Karrakatta near Perth.

The oldest of the Fremantle guns are two brass-barrelled 6-pounders, bearing the dates 1720 and 1739. Both, however, were re-commissioned during the Napoleonic Wars, and they are marked with the Royal Cypher of King George III.

Because of their age, these guns are very interesting, but unfortunately there is no record of their arrival in the Colony, nor any reference to their earlier history in contemporary documents as yet available to researchers.

The other two guns that were in front of Major Hope's residence in 1902 are both brass-barrelled 12-pounder muzzle-loaders, each weighing about six hundredweight, and manufactured in 1843. Both guns are marked with the Royal Cypher of Queen Victoria, and Colonel Ricardo, Western Australia's military commandant in 1903, went on record as stating that he believed them to have been used in the Crimean War. There is no record of these guns arriving in the colony, nor any reference to their earlier history.

It seems certain from all available evidence, and especially in view of the fact that Major Hope, referred to above, was a former officer in the Fremantle Artillery Volunteers, that these four guns are those used by the Fremantle Artillery between 1879 and 1902.

All four guns were moved from Fremantle with the consent of the Mayor of that city, and were placed in Kings Park near the statue of Queen Victoria, prior to the unveiling ceremony in October 1903.

Before being set up in the Park, however, extensive reconstruction work had to be carried out, as the wooden carriages were too rotten to bear removal. This work was carried out under Colonel Ricardo's personal supervision. The new carriages made were exact replicas of the original ones.

These old guns have often been the subject of debate among some of Perth's historically-minded citizens, because they have never borne any plaque detailing their history or vital statistics.

Two additional guns were required by the Kings Park Board in 1904 for placing near the Fallen Soldiers Memorial, and it was known to the Board that there were two obsolete guns lying neglected in an old shed near Karrakatta Station, and that these would be suitable for the purpose. The Board negotiated with the military authorities for these guns, and eventually the Army agreed to donate them to the Park, and in November 1905 they were placed in position looking over the Swan River, at the Fallen Soldiers Memorial.

These guns were 9- or 12-pounder rifled muzzle-loading cannon mounted on garrison carriages for coast defence, and weighing $6\frac{1}{2}$ tons each, they were 9 feet long. Costing about £450 each, complete with mountings, they had been sent out from England, probably in the late 1880's for the proposed Fremantle coastal defences. When the coastal defence scheme was abandoned, the guns had been left on the beach, and there they remained for some time before they were removed to Karrakatta, where they were stored, neglected, and all but forgotten.

After their siting in Kings Park, the guns remained on display for four years, then, as dry rot set in and the ravages of white ants took their toll, the timber carriages became unsafe, and first one, and then, in about 1910, the other was removed.

These guns are no longer on display in the Park, and rumour has it that they were buried near the Fallen Soldiers Memorial. It is to be hoped, however, that some day the guns will be excavated, their carriages reconstructed or replaced, and that they will once again be on view to the public.

From all the available evidence it appears that Kings Park is the last resting-place of all the guns used in the defence of Fremantle between the years 1879 and 1902. This collection of ordnance is thus of great historical interest to the State of Western Australia.

The present whereabouts of the guns used by the Perth Artillery Volunteers is not known. A 15-pounder breech-loading field gun, mounted at the entrance to Swan Barracks, Perth, may be one of the old volunteer artillery pieces of 1902.

In 1961 there were reputed to be two 15-pounder breech-loaders in a shed at Fremantle, and both guns are believed to have been sold for scrap. These guns may have been the 15-pounders sent from England in 1902 for the use of No 2 Battery, Field Artillery, formerly the Fremantle Artillery Volunteers.

NOTES:

1. The Enrolled Pensioner Corps was formed in 1850 in England to form a guard for convicts aboard transports to Western Australia. Recruitment was from the ranks of the military pensioners, and they were to be disbanded on arrival at the Swan River Colony. Because of the shortage of troops in the Colony to guard the convicts, the Enrolled Pensioner Corps was retained as a military force. The last parade of the Corps took place in 1887.

2. The American whaler "Catalpa" assisted in the escape of a number of Irish political prisoners from Fremantle in April 1876. Pursuing the whaler, the government steamer "Georgette" had aboard a detachment of the Enrolled Pensioner Corps with one cannon, an Armstrong-Whitworth rifled breech-loading field gun. The gun was lashed to the deck, but although some warning shots were fired at the American vessel, she managed to escape to the safety of international waters. The fact that the Enrolled Pensioners used an Armstrong-Whitworth breech-loading field gun against the "Catalpa" seems to suggest that Ordnance was held jointly by the Pensioners and the Perth Artillery Volunteers. This state of affairs may have continued until 1880, when the Pensioners ceased to be a military corps, and became a police force.

3. Major J.W. Hope served as a Captain, Fremantle Artillery Volunteers 24th October 1892, promoted to the rank of Major when the Corps became a battery (No.2) of the Field Artillery in 1892, and continued service with the Corps when it was absorbed into the Federal Defence Organisation.

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THE DUTCH PART IN THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

(Submitted by Mr Eric Wiseman, who writes-
 ' In my enquiries into the Battle of Waterloo I approached the Netherlands Information Service, Sydney, for any data which was available on the Dutch Army's role in the Battle. In response they sent me a translated excerpt from W.E. van Dam van Isselt's "THE ROLE OF THE DUTCH ARMY IN THE 1815 CAMPAIGN" (Amsterdam 1915).
 As well as being a good condensation of the Battle, the excerpt shows that the Dutch took a far greater part in it than is generally realised.')

THE EXCERPT

'On the evening of July 14 th 1815, when Napoleon had concentrated 123,000 men around Beaumont, an Anglo-Dutch army of 95,000 men under Wellington was camped in Western Belgium, 29,000 of whom were Dutch. In Eastern Belgium, with headquarters at Namur, was a Prussian army of 116,000 men under Blucher.

Wellington's army consisted of a first and second army corps, a general reserve, and a cavalry reserve. The first army corps was under the Dutch Crown Prince, the second corps under Lord Hill, the general reserve under Wellington himself, and the cavalry reserve under the command of Lord Uxbridge.

The Prince of Orange's command was made up of the first and third British Infantry divisions, the second Netherlands Infantry division under Lt.Gen. de Perponcher, the third Netherlands Infantry division under Lt.Gen. Chasse, and the Netherlands Cavalry division under Lt.Gen. de Collaert.

These troops were on the left flank of Wellington's forces around Nivelles and Quatre-Bras, in between the British and the Prussians, and they were therefore in the marching route of Napoleon's army, which tried to drive a wedge between the allies via the Charleroi-Brussels line.

Wellington, who expected an attack on his right flank, was at the Duchess of Richmond's ball in Brussels on the night of June 15/16, when he was surprised by a message brought to him by the British Captain Webster, who had made a dashing ride by night to Brussels to report that south of Quatre-Bras skirmishes had taken place between French and Dutch troops.

These were the advance guard of Marshal Ney's light cavalry, and the second brigade of the second Dutch Infantry division, which, due to the illness of its commander, was placed under Prince Karel Bernard of Saksen Weimar. These skirmishes had cost the Dutch forty men and thirty horses.

That night, the second Division commander, de Perponcher, hastily reinforced his position around Quatre-Bras. When the Prince of Orange, Commander of Wellington's first army corps, arrived at Quatre-Bras at six in the morning, there arrived also the first brigade of Perponcher's division, under Maj.Gen. van Bijlandt.

At 230 in the afternoon of the same day, July 16, the battle between Napoleon and Blucher began. Marshal Ney had orders to attack the Prussians in their flank at Quatre-Bras, so as to drive them to the east, away from their allies. When he opened the attack at 2 p.m. with 17,500 infantry, 4,700 cavalry and 62 artillery pieces, the allies had only 8,000 men of de Perponcher's Dutch division, with 16 guns, under the Prince of Orange's command.

At 330 p.m. van Merlen's brigade (1,000 men) of de Collaert's Dutch cavalry division arrived, and was immediately thrown into battle. At the same time 4,600 men of the third British Infantry division under Picton arrived.

The Duke of Wellington, who had inspected the position at 930 in the morning, returned at 345 p.m. from his conference with Blucher, and then took over the command from the Prince of Orange.

The Netherlands troops, which had lost 1,073 men, could now be withdrawn, as fresh troops were arriving on the battlefield. During the evening of June 16 the allies had assembled 30,000 troops at Quatre-Bras. The total allied losses there on that

day were 4,800 men, and the French lost 4,140 men.

The failure of Ney's attack enabled the Prussians to retreat in a northern direction to Wavre, whilst Wellington, under Uxbridge's cavalry cover, could depart from Quatre-Bras on June 17 without attracting Ney's notice. Wellington also retreated in a northerly direction to Mont St. Jean, a strong position south of Waterloo. Bad weather made the French pursuit unsuccessful.

The right centre of Wellington's new position, between the roads Mont St. Jean-Nivelles, and Mont St. Jean-Quatre-Bras, was placed under the command of the Prince of Orange.

Men of the second brigade of the second Dutch Division (de Perponcher), together with four companies of British troops, held the castle Hougoumont in front of the right centre. The remainder of the brigade held the villages Papelotte and La Haye, as well as the castle Fricherfont.

At 11 in the morning the first brigade of de Perponcher's division which was placed south of the left centre, was ordered to the rear, out of its position, which was very exposed to cannon fire. On Sunday morning June 18, at 1115 hours, the French commenced the battle with an attack on Hougoumont Castle. At 1400 hours, after an artillery bombardment lasting one hour, they began to attack on the left centre, with the French divisions Allix, Donzelot, Marcognet and Durutte.

In the ensuing battle, the British General Picton, and the commander of the first brigade of the second Division, Maj. Gen. van Bijlands, were killed. The Chief of Staff of the second Division, Col. van Zuylen and three lieutenant-colonels of the first Brigade were wounded, and carried from the battlefield.

In beating off Ney's very heavy centre attacks between 430 and 6 p.m. (the French cavalry charged 14 times in close formations with 10,000 men) both the light and heavy cavalry of the Dutch Division, under de Collaert, fought fiercely. De Collaert and the commander of the second Light Brigade, Maj. Gen. Baron van Merlen, were killed.

During the last heavy French attack on the centre, at about

1940 hours, in which Ney used 3,000 veterans as attack core, the Prince of Orange was wounded, and his horse killed. The Prince's shoulder was pierced, and he was hastily removed to the rear. The Anglo-Dutch army went into a counter-attack. The third Dutch Infantry Division, under Chasse, which had been held in reserve, moved its first brigade forward, a general charge followed, the French retreated, and their retreat became a flight under the rapidly developing Prussian pressure on their rear right flank.

TYPES OF DUTCH TROOPS
IN 1815.



KARABINIER.



INFANTRY
SOLDIER.

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1870
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep.

THE
END

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City of Geelong Regt	Regt, Royal N.S.W. Lancers
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