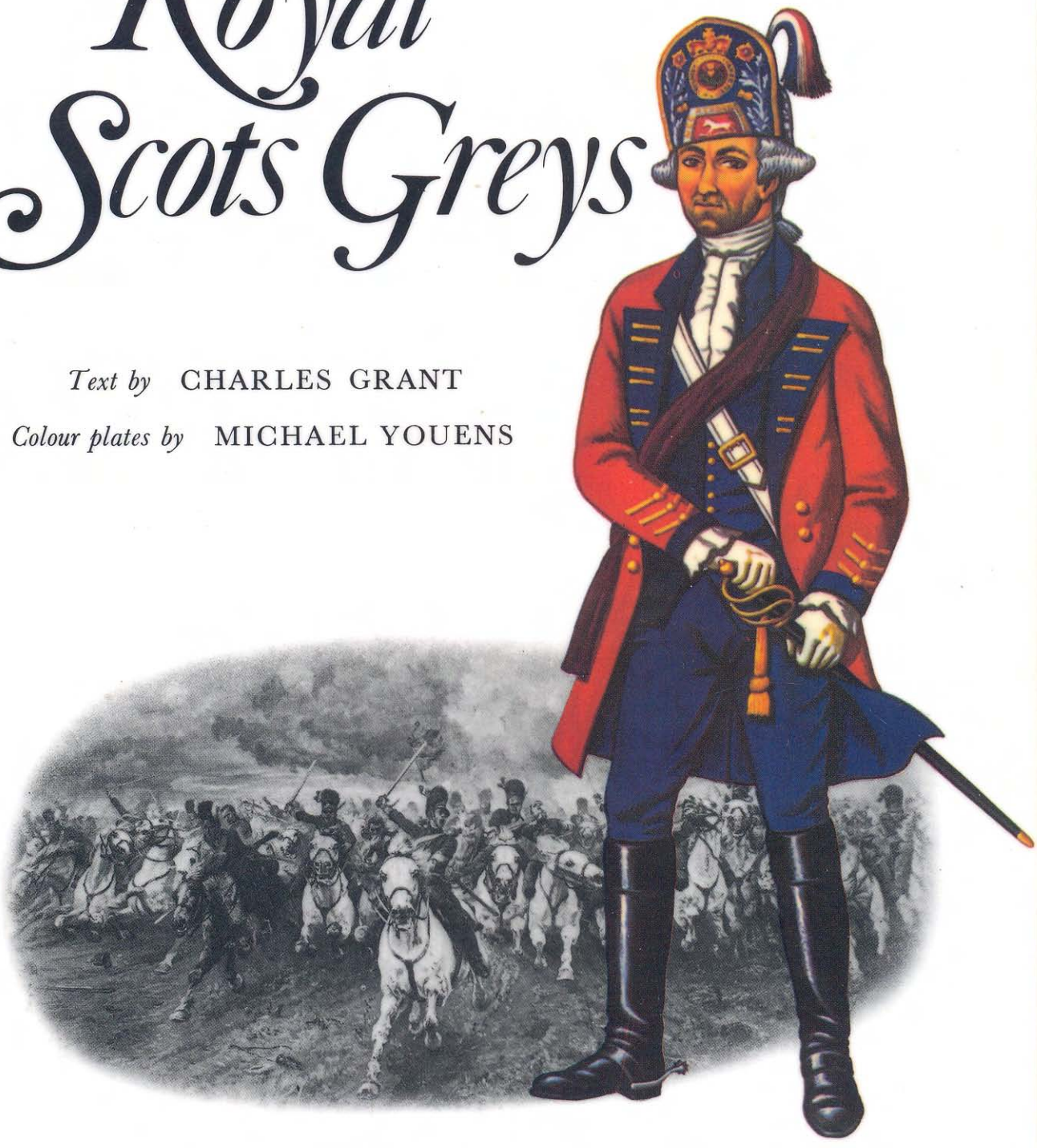
OSPREY · MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES

Royal Scots Greys

Text by CHARLES GRANT

Colour plates by MICHAEL YOUENS



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EDITOR: PHILIP WARNER

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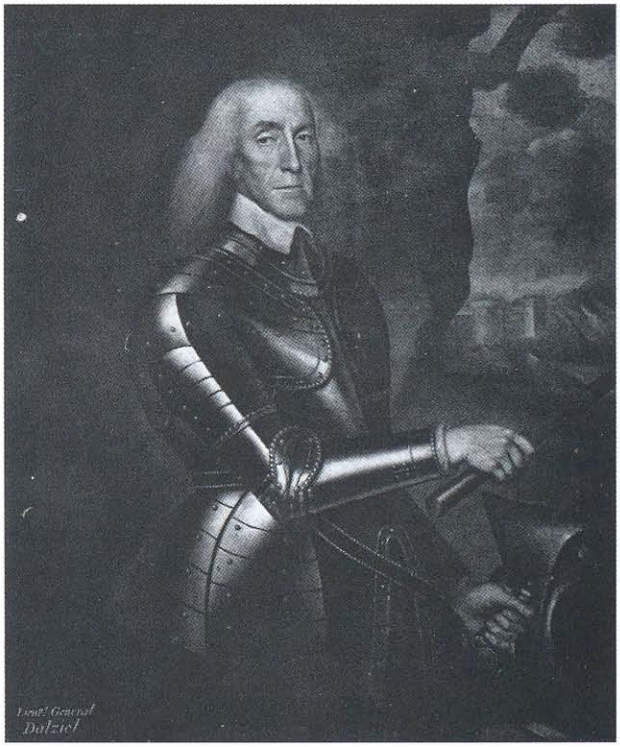
The Early Years

For just a little short of three centuries the Royal Scots Greys has had the proud distinction of being Scotland's only regular cavalry regiment, and during that time it has made, on more occasions than can be recounted, notable and gallant contributions to the martial story of its parent country. Like many another unit it was born in troublous times and of these none can have been more bloodily fanatical than the concluding years of the 17th century, when Scotland was rent right across by the most bitter religious strife and men walked abroad with the sword in the one hand and the Bible in the other. In those unhappy and evil days mercy was, practically speaking, unknown, and the regular troops of the government were given the unenviable task of crushing resistance to the theological dictates forced upon an unwilling people. Everywhere in the south of Scotland bands of devoted and armed men were prepared to resist the compulsion of authority, and scenes of brutality and the summary execution of prisoners were all too frequent. In order to augment the already existing army, the resources of which in men and material were sorely strained, two troops of dragoons were raised in the spring of 1678, for inclusion in the forces of the Crown. It is in these two modest troops – raised in a time of almost unprecedented civil turmoil and upheaval – that we find the origins of the Royal Scots Greys. A few months later a third troop was added to the first two, but as yet the three troops were given neither organization nor a regimental name – these were yet to come.

It was no great surprise, of course, that only a short time after their formation, when their training could have been only minimal, the three troops were already in action, following the murder in May 1679 of Archbishop Sharp of St Andrews. All the available mounted forces were directed to hunt down and stamp out the prohibited Presbyterian assemblies or, as they were termed, 'conventicles'. On 1 June at Drumclog, two troops of cavalry, one of horse and one of our dragoons, fell in with a vastly superior number of armed countryfolk and were defeated, some twenty of the dragoons being killed. Naturally this



Lieutenant-General Thomas Dalziel ('Tam Dalyell'), first Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons, 1681. (Scottish National Portrait Gallery)

success, although for the moment greatly heartening the rebels, told ultimately against them, since powerful forces under the command of Charles II's natural son, James, Duke of Monmouth, were at once ordered to put down what amounted to nothing less than an insurrection. The sequel was only what might have been expected: a raw, untrained militia was brought face to face with a disciplined military force; the rebels spent much of their time in praying and preaching instead of in training, which would have profited them more, and they were utterly crushed at Bothwell Bridge by Monmouth's army, which included the three troops of Scots dragoons. Many of the ringleaders were taken prisoner; five of them were executed and the remainder transported. During the winter of 1680–1 the dragoons were actively engaged in scouring the hills of south-west Scotland to flush out any lurking rebels; they made a thorough search of farmhouses and maintained ceaseless vigilance on roads everywhere to spy out any suspicious movement of groups of malcontents. On one occasion a force, which included fifty dragoons, fell in with a body of insurgents in Galloway; after a sharp little action they put them to flight, but not before several of them were captured, including the Covenanter David Hackston of Rathillet, one of the murderers, or at least a passive assistant at the murder, of Archbishop Sharp. Hackston and four others were later executed in Edinburgh.

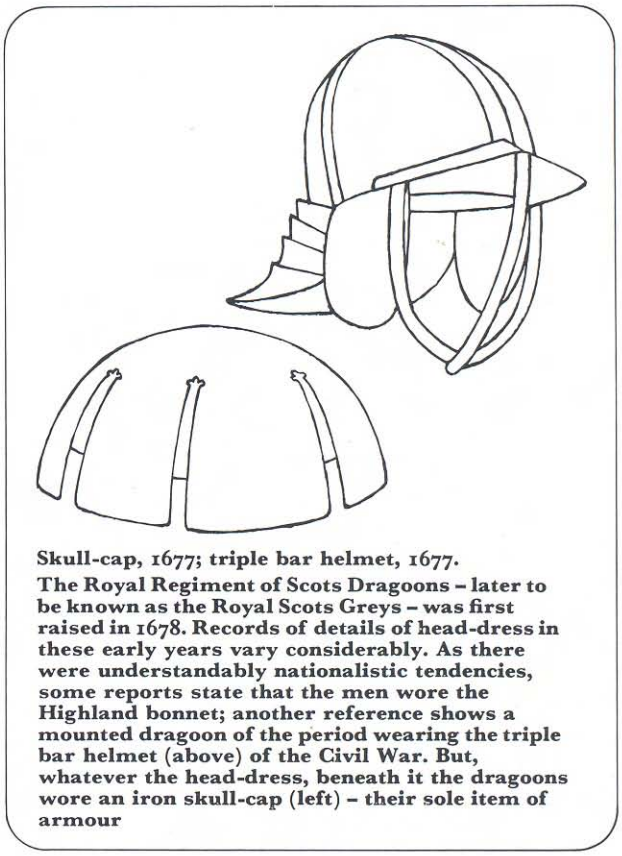
It was about this time, owing to the continuance of savage political and religious turmoil, that the decision was made that the troops of dragoons should be organized on a regimental basis. Accordingly, three further troops were raised, and all six were incorporated into a single regiment. This was styled the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons and, by Royal Command dated 25 November 1681, Lieut.-Gen. Dalziel was appointed the Regiment's first Colonel. Bald, and remarkable for his enormous white, bushy beard, the new Colonel, who had served in his youth with the Russian Army, was the first of a long line of distinguished soldiers to hold this command. Since at the same time several troops of Scots 'horse' were formed into a regiment, it may be appropriate at this point to give a brief account of the difference between the two types of cavalrymen. Generally speaking, dragoons may be considered as something between heavy and light cavalry; they originated in the middle years of the 17th century, during the Civil War. They had been raised and trained first as a sort of mounted infantry. Their function was to move rapidly to some desired point where they could dismount, leave their horses, and skirmish on foot with the enemy. For this purpose they were armed more or less as infantry. The 'horse' regiments, on the other hand, were the traditional shock troops – 'big men on big horses' – who charged, boot to boot, against a shaken enemy in an effort to break through his ranks by weight and the violence of impact. Such, at least, was the theory. As time passed, however, the difference between 'horse' and 'dragoon' became progressively less marked; and, truth to tell, the attempt to create some kind of hybrid force between infantry and cavalry was never conspicuously successful. During the ensuing century, in fact, the two gradually became almost identical, and by the time of the Napoleonic Wars the distinction between them was one of nomenclature only.

In 1681, however, the new Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons was armed, as befitted their title, with the musket and bayonet, the broadsword, and a pair of heavy pistols – a truly weighty burden for the horse, let alone the man – and the Regiment, each of whose six troops numbered an officer and sixty other ranks, was clothed in grey uniform coats, probably with the normal 'tricorne' hat of the time, although it may possibly have been a fur cap with hanging 'bag'. The uniform colour seems to have had no connection with the later name of the Regiment, for it was soon discarded – but of this more presently. It is clear that, at all events when the Regiment was raised, there was no suggestion that its horses were to be of any specific colour.

Their new regimental status in no way altered the role of the dragoons. During the next few years they were largely engaged in putting down civil upheavals and riots – a task which normally does not greatly appeal to the soldier – and the carrying out of the customary harsh measures then considered normal and necessary must have been repugnant to many of the men of the Regiment, particularly when these brutalities were to be inflicted on their own countrymen.

Rather more orthodox military duties, however, were soon to be undertaken. Not long after the accession of James II in 1685 the Regiment was engaged in the operations against the 9th Earl of Argyll, who had landed in Scotland in an attempt to unseat the Catholic monarch. In the final extinction of this revolt, the Regiment was in action, and suffered several casualties. Almost immediately after the capture and execution of Argyll, another rebellion – that of the Duke of Monmouth – flared up in south-west England, and the Dragoons were at once ordered south. But hardly had the Regiment started on its march towards the seat of the trouble when it was ordered back to Scotland; the Monmouth rising had come to its inglorious end at the Battle of Sedgemoor.

The following two years were for the most part similarly occupied in the performance of duty in aid of the civil power; there was, for example, an expedition into the remote Highlands against a recalcitrant Highland chief, MacDonald of Keppoch, and no sooner had this assignment been successfully discharged than the Regiment was again heading south in September 1688 to oppose William of Orange's projected invasion from the Continent. In November the Dragoons were quartered in London, but on the landing of William at Torbay they were ordered to Salisbury where with two other cavalry regiments they were under the command of Sir John Graham of Claverhouse, the tireless harrier of the Covenanters and partisan of the Stuarts, then newly created Viscount of Dundee and known to his enemies as 'Bloody Claverse' and to his supporters as 'Bonnie Dundee'. From Salisbury the Regiment was ordered back to Reading when the situation, already much confused, was aggravated by the news that King James had fled to France. The cavalry moved back towards London, and Dundee at the same time added still further to the general confusion and uncertainty by suddenly leaving his command. The Scots Dragoons apparently favoured the new King William, and the Regiment was taken on to the Army Establishment on more or less the same basis as the English regiments of the same arm. They were ordered back to Scotland, and were engaged in watching Viscount Dundee, who had now declared for the runaway King James. After some marches and countermarches in expeditions directed against bodies of Jacobites, the Regiment was at Inverness at the time of the Battle of Killiecrankie on 17–27 July 1689. Though the Highlanders were victorious, their victory cost the life of Dundee and for the time being marked the collapse of the Jacobite cause. But the Dragoons still had some fighting to do, especially in a dawn attack on rebel positions at Cromdale in Strathspey and in another action later at Abergeldie. A continuing succession of minor defeats – due in no small part to the lack of such strong direction and inspiration as the dead Dundee might have provided – caused the Jacobite Highlanders to abandon hope of success and in 1691 there was a general submission to King William. The monarch showed his 'special confidence' in the Regiment on 7 May 1692 by confirming its title as 'our Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons'.



Skull-cap, 1677; triple bar helmet, 1677.
The Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons – later to be known as the Royal Scots Greys – was first raised in 1678. Records of details of head-dress in these early years vary considerably. As there were understandably nationalistic tendencies, some reports state that the men wore the Highland bonnet; another reference shows a mounted dragoon of the period wearing the triple bar helmet (above) of the Civil War. But, whatever the head-dress, beneath it the dragoons wore an iron skull-cap (left) – their sole item of armour

The Wars of Marlborough

So far, the Royal Scots Dragoons had seen service only in this country, but before long were destined to go on foreign service, when the outbreak of the first of a lengthy series of wars with France carried them abroad. In May 1694 the Regiment moved to the Low Countries and, after being reviewed by King William in person, were brigaded with two other dragoon regiments, the Royal English (later the 1st Dragoons) and Lord Fairfax's (later the 3rd) and based at Mont-St-André.

By this time the clothing of the Regiment had altered somewhat, the grey uniform having given way to the more appropriate red coat with the blue facings proper to a 'Royal' regiment, and the original 'tin' buttons having been replaced by brass ones. In 1693 there occurs the first indication that grey horses may have been peculiar to the Regiment and, in the following year at a review held in Hyde Park just before the embarkation for Flanders, it was noted that the Regiment made a fine show, being 'mounted on grey and white horses'. The headgear may have been either a brown fur cap or a broad-brimmed hat which was in time to evolve into the 'tricorne'. Nothing, however, can definitely be said concerning the actual origin of the grey horses adopted by the Scots Dragoons, although a theory, fairly generally accepted, is that they were originally the mounts of the Dutch Horse Guards who accompanied William of Orange on his successful invasion of England, and were handed over to the Royal Scots Dragoons when the Dutch troops returned to Holland. Be that as it may, it was as 'Scots Greys' that the Regiment seems to have been increasingly known henceforward, being also referred to in the early years of the 18th century as the 'Grey Dragoons' or as the 'Scots Regiment of Grey Horses'.

To continue with our narrative, however, it appears that little of importance occurred to the Regiment during its early service in Flanders, although it did take part in a certain number of minor skirmishes with French cavalry. During the following year, after quitting winter quarters, the Scots Dragoons were brigaded with two other dragoon regiments, both subsequently disbanded, and were with King William's army when he laid siege to Namur, on this occasion forming part of the covering force during the prosecution of the actual siege. This duty was relatively uneventful and when the citadel of Namur had surrendered the Regiment went into winter quarters. The year 1696 was similarly quiet: the Dragoons were restricted to the normal duty of mounted troops, and formed part of the cavalry screen along the Ghent–Bruges canal, on the other side of which the French were stationed. After a third winter in quarters the armies marched out in their deliberate fashion to take up their positions for another season of complicated manœuvring, but a cessation of hostilities was already being considered; when peace had been concluded, the Regiment embarked for home, arriving in Scotland at the beginning of 1698.

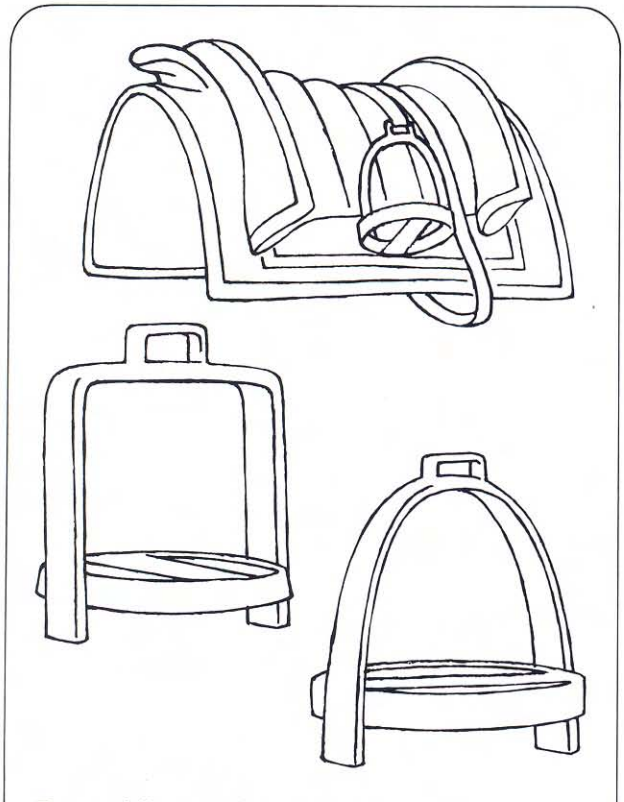
The Peace of Ryswick was followed by a dramatic reduction in army strength; the eight troops of the Regiment were reduced to six, and the strength in officers and men was brought down from 590 to 294. The Regiment was now garrisoned in Scotland.

Upon the outbreak of the War of the Spanish Succession, the Regiment was brought up once more to its war establishment of eight troops and promptly sent abroad. It arrived in Holland in the spring of 1702, and in July of that year it joined the army under the command of John Churchill, Earl (and later Duke) of Marlborough.

The year 1702 was occupied mainly with several sieges; Marlborough reduced a number of fortresses, particularly those on the Meuse, in rapid succession during September and October, and before the end of the year had gained control of

the areas of the lower Moselle and Rhine. After a winter spent in quarters in Dutch Brabant, the Scots Dragoons took the field for the campaign of 1703, during which they distinguished themselves by pursuing and capturing a detachment of French troops who had intercepted and seized the contents of a large bullion convoy. There followed the customary covering duties falling to the lot of the cavalry arm while several further sieges took place, and by September 1703 the Regiment was back once more in winter quarters where it remained until the spring of 1704. That year was to produce far more dramatic events than had those immediately preceding it.

It had become evident to Marlborough that a move must now be made towards Bavaria; an army sent there by the French had gained several successes over our own country's Austrian allies. Accordingly, on 19 May 1704, the Allied Army was assembled on the Lower Rhine and, having been passed in review by Marlborough, set out on its momentous march across Europe to the Danube. At first it appeared to those who watched its progress with interest that its destination was the Moselle, but on 25 May the advance changed direction, and the Allied Army headed for Coblenz. Having crossed the Rhine and the Moselle, Marlborough advanced rapidly with his cavalry, including the Scots Dragoons, which had, prior to the march, been augmented by a considerable remount – not only horses but men – from Scotland.



Top: saddle, 1712; below: stirrups, 1742

Once contact with the Imperial Army had been achieved, the important thing was to secure a crossing over the great River Danube. The Allies advanced towards Donauwörth, where on 2 July an assault was made, regardless of losses, upon a strongly defended and heavily entrenched position on the Schellenberg, a hill north of the town. The resistance was stubborn indeed, and such heavy losses were inflicted upon the attacking infantry battalions that the Scots Dragoons, moving forward in support, were ordered to revert to their dragoon role; they did so by dismounting and attacking the entrenched French with the utmost energy. The enemy was now under pressure from several sides at once and retreated precipitately. The 'Greys' instantly remounted and pursued the fleeing enemy in every direction, cutting them down with their sabres. After the entry into Bavaria proper, a series of exhausting marches finally brought the opposing armies back across the Danube to meet on the site of Marlborough's first and most famous victory – Blenheim. The battle there was fought on 2 August. The Scots Dragoons were in the thick of the fight about the strongpoint at Blenheim itself, and they succeeded in repulsing a sortie by a party of French soldiers striving to escape from the surrounded village in which thousands of men were massed practically shoulder to shoulder. Yet although a number of Dragoons were wounded they lost not a single officer or man killed.

The results of Blenheim were profound and far-reaching. The Austrian domains were freed from immediate threat and in November the Scots Dragoons returned to Holland for the winter.

The following year, 1705, was, generally speaking, less eventful. No great battles took place but the Regiment, after an abortive expedition up the Moselle which was frustrated by Marlborough's unwilling allies, took part in a night

march which forced the enemy's lines. Enemy reserves came up in an endeavour to restore the situation, and a brisk fight ensued. The Scots Dragoons, together with other cavalry, charged, led by Marlborough in person. The enemy troops were routed, and many prisoners were taken as well as the desirable trophies of standards and kettle-drums.

In 1706 the 'Greys' played a distinguished part in the Battle of Ramillies. The engagement was noteworthy for a tremendous cavalry fight in which many thousands of horsemen joined. Charge and countercharge succeeded each other with lightning rapidity. The Regiment was prominent in the action, during which it entered the village of Autre Eglise at the gallop, and completely vanquished a body of infantry crowding the streets. Pouring out of the village, the Dragoons collided with the French *Régiment du Roi*, which immediately laid down its arms and surrendered, handing over its colours – a most cherished prize – to the Dragoons. It seems that once this was done, some men, at least in the French regiment, had second thoughts and picked up their weapons to make a stand, but were promptly cut down. In the words of a contemporary, the result of this breach of the rules and usages of war was that they 'suffered dearly' at the hands of the Dragoons, who doubled the guards over the remaining prisoners before taking up the chase again.

One anecdote concerning Ramillies and the Royal Scots Dragoons has been related many times but is nevertheless worth a brief mention. It tells of a wounded trooper who, on being attended to by the primitive medical staff of the time, was found to be a woman. It appeared that she had joined the army in an attempt to find her husband who had himself enlisted. They had actually found each other at Blenheim, and had thereafter passed themselves off as brothers. A wound in the leg at the Schellenberg had not revealed her identity, but on the discovery of her secret at the Battle of Ramillies, she was allowed to remain in the army as a sutleress, once she had recovered. She died in 1739 and was buried with full military honours.

Upon the Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland in 1707, the Regiment was renamed the 'Royal North British Dragoons', but though this name may be admitted to be more correct, it is horribly unwieldy; and we shall perhaps be forgiven if, from time to time, we continue to use the original name 'Scots Greys'.

During the year 1707, apart from outpost duty, which included occasional skirmishes with enemy cavalry, the Regiment saw no major action, but in July of the following year it took part in the Battle of Oudenarde; once again Marlborough inflicted a crushing defeat upon the French, and the Scots Greys were sent in pursuit of the fleeing enemy. The winter of 1708–9 was a particularly severe one, during the course of which, it was said, both men and horses were frozen to death in their cantonments. The Dragoons eventually left their quarters in June 1709 and formed part of the covering force during the successful siege of Tournai. In early September this mighty fortress capitulated and the Regiment marched with the army to Malplaquet, where the last of the Marlburian battles took place. Thirty officers and men of the Scots Greys were killed or wounded in the battle, which was by far the most desperately contested of any of the Great Duke's engagements and produced unprecedentedly heavy casualties on both sides – on the French side, something short of 12,000 men; on that of the Allies, not less than 20,000 – that is to say, near a quarter of their combined forces. At the beginning of the fighting the Dragoons were in reserve but after being directed forward they clashed violently with the French cavalry. At first they were driven back by sheer weight of numbers but, quickly rallying, they flung themselves forward again into the fray. Several successive charges were required before the French horsemen, including the famous and glittering squadrons of the Household Cavalry, were driven back and the battle was won.

During 1711 the Regiment took part in one of Marlborough's greatest exploits, the forcing of Marshal Villars's impregnable, so-called *Ne plus ultra* lines stretching from Valenciennes to the sea. But Malplaquet had really marked the end of the war, although peace was not made until the signing of the Treaty between England and France at Utrecht in 1713. In that year the Regiment left Belgium and returned to England.

During 1713 the Royal North British Dragoons, which had originally taken precedence as the

fourth dragoon regiment, was the subject of deliberations by a board of general officers, whose terms of reference were to examine regimental seniority throughout the army. The board determined that, as the Regiment had entered England in 1685, when there had been but one dragoon regiment on the establishment, the Royal North British Dragoons would be numbered as the second regiment of dragoons, although it was not for many years that that number would form part of the regimental title.

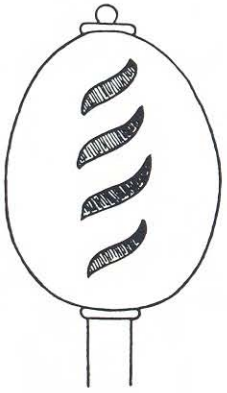
Later 18th Century Wars

Although the customary 'pruning' in the strength of the armed forces after the Peace of Utrecht meant the disbanding of several regiments of dragoons, the Royal North British Dragoons were nevertheless augmented to nine troops. In the year 1715, however, three of the troops of the Regiment were removed from its establishment to be incorporated with other 'surplus' troops from certain other cavalry units to form a new regiment. The year, of course, was that of the 'Fifteen, the first Jacobite Rising, when the standard of the exiled Stuarts was raised in the Highlands by John Erskine, Earl of Mar. From their station near Stirling, the Regiment was called upon to provide parties for the hunting down of rebels, and one such expedition involved a night march to Dunfermline where a strong body of rebels was surprised. The main confrontation of the campaign took place on 13 November at Sheriffmuir near Dunblane. This proved to be a very confused engagement, during which part of both the contending forces were simultaneously in flight. At the beginning of the battle the North British Dragoons were on the extreme right of the Government army, commanded by John Campbell, 2nd Duke of Argyll, in person. There was a spirited cavalry encounter, the upshot of which was a flight by the Jacobites; they were pursued by the 'Greys' and other cavalry, and many standards and colours were taken. But the battle was in point of fact indecisive; during the night the Jacobites left the field, and the Government forces emulated this manœuvre the next morning. Both commanders claimed to have been victorious, but all in all the fight was not one of the more notable events in the history of warfare. The landing at Peterhead in December of the *de jure* James III – the 'Old Pretender', as he was to be known – did little to encourage his supporters and within a month he had returned to France, whereupon the Rising subsided. The Regiment went into winter quarters in Glasgow.

In 1719 there occurred a smaller and much less dangerous Jacobite incursion, centred on Glenshiel in the northern Highlands. The Greys took part in the operations against the rebels in the rocky fastnesses of north-west Scotland – not the easiest thing for a cavalry regiment – but the invaders, a few Spaniards, quickly surrendered and their Highland supporters dispersed.

The following twenty-three years were spent in garrison duties in various parts of England and Scotland; it was an entirely uneventful period, only punctuated by occasions when the Regiment was required to assist local magistrates in quelling riots and other disturbances which they could not suppress unaided. At last in 1742 the Royal North British Dragoons were selected for service abroad on the outbreak of the War of the Austrian Succession and in June of that year they found themselves in garrison at Ghent in Belgium. Their first action was at Dettingen on 27 June 1743 where they formed part of the Allied Army commanded by King George II in person. The King and his forces found themselves in a somewhat unenviable position, with powerful French armies in front and behind, while they were at the same time under cannon fire from the opposite side of the River Main, along the north bank of which they were marching. Fortunately the French troops facing them committed the error of

forsaking a most advantageous position, and there followed a battle, fought out with the greatest energy; on both sides the infantry blazed away at short range after the fashion of the time, and finally the cavalry of both armies charged each other with terrific violence. Despite the fact that this was their first full-scale engagement since the days of Marlborough the British troops behaved with great credit; in the battle it was in particular the Greys – by this time the name seems to have been adopted for general, though unofficial, use – who put to flight in no uncertain fashion the greatly superior numbers of enemy horse arrayed against them. The Regiment suffered only slightly



Hilt of trooper's sword, Royal Regiment of Dragoons, 1742. This sword is entirely different from the heavy cavalry sword of the period, and is of a type which is not found in any museum or collection

in the process, although, in the words of a contemporary, 'they took most pains to be diminished' and captured a standard, believed to be that of one of the regiments of the French Household Cavalry.

Throughout the next year the Greys were based in Brabant; they passed the winter of 1744–5 at the town of Ghent in East Flanders, and saw no action until the following spring. It was on 11 May 1745 that the French, commanded by the renowned Marshal Saxe, were attacked at Fontenoy, some four miles from Tournai, by an Allied Army under the Duke of Cumberland. After a bold advance into the heart of the French lines, the British and Hanoverian infantry, scourged by cross-fire from gun and musket, was forced to withdraw in the face of incessant counter-attacks by horse and foot. Cumberland's cavalry, including the Greys, came forward to cover the retreat and clashed with the pursuing enemy, losing a considerable number of killed and wounded. A general withdrawal was decided upon after what had been, in effect, a disastrous day, relieved, nevertheless, by the bravery and steadiness of the British taking part.

Immediately after the battle the Royal North British Dragoons were ordered to return to Scotland to join in the suppression of a fresh Jacobite Rising, the 'Forty-five, but bad weather prevented their transports sailing and they remained in the Low Countries. Only a few British regiments stayed with them, the majority having been sent back to Scotland; only three regiments of cavalry and seven of infantry remained on the Continent under the command of Sir John Ligonier. All were present with him at the Battle of Rocourt on 11 October 1746 when once again the Allied Army, this time under Prince Charles of Lorraine, met the redoubtable Saxe, whose forces were very considerably stronger than those of the Allies. The Greys were originally posted before the village of Rocourt itself and saw the advance of an immense number of French infantry deployed in dense columns. Despite the efforts of the Allied foot, including some of the British battalions, the French maintained their momentum, dislodging the Allied troops from the defensive positions they had occupied. When it was decided that a retreat was inevitable, the British cavalry, including the Greys, dashed forward against the enemy masses, driving them back in confusion and allowing the retreating infantry to retire in good order.

The following year saw another battle in which the Greys participated with distinction, although, sadly, it was yet another reverse suffered at the hands of Marshal Saxe – surely no other general has had so many successes against the British Army. The Duke of Cumberland was back in command at the Battle of Lauffeld on 2 July 1747. The Greys were posted on the left wing of his army; at about ten o'clock in the morning, under a tremendous bombardment from their artillery, the French attacked and after a number of their onslaughts had been repulsed they finally began to gain ground. Several hours of the fiercest fighting finally broke the centre of Cumberland's army. It became appallingly clear to Sir John Ligonier, in command of the cavalry, that, to allow the infantry to retreat comparatively unscathed, he would have to commit all his mounted regiments. Accordingly he led forward the Greys and the other dragoons

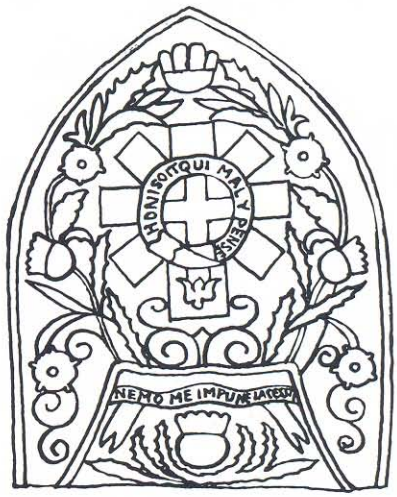
and rode headlong at the French, scattering the leading regiments. The enemy had plentiful reserves and brought them forward at once, subjecting the oncoming Greys to deadly volleys of musketry. Despite their initial success, the now sadly diminished squadrons, losing cohesion, were obliged to fall back, leaving behind their General, who was surrounded and taken prisoner. The loss suffered by the Greys was heavy indeed – over a hundred officers and men were killed and fifty wounded.

During the next two years the Regiment, partially brought up to strength, saw no major engagement and after the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle had been signed on 18 October 1748, they returned home to England the following month.

The clothing of the Regiment, among other things, was the subject of regulations laid down on 1 July 1751 by King George II, which specified that the uniform should be scarlet, double-breasted and without lapels. It was lined with blue and had cuffs of the same colour. Buttons were of white metal, and blue cloth grenadier caps were worn. Earlier, in 1742, it seems that at least part of the Regiment had worn the grenadier cap – possibly only the grenadier or *élite* company – but certainly it appears that in 1751 the entire unit was so equipped.

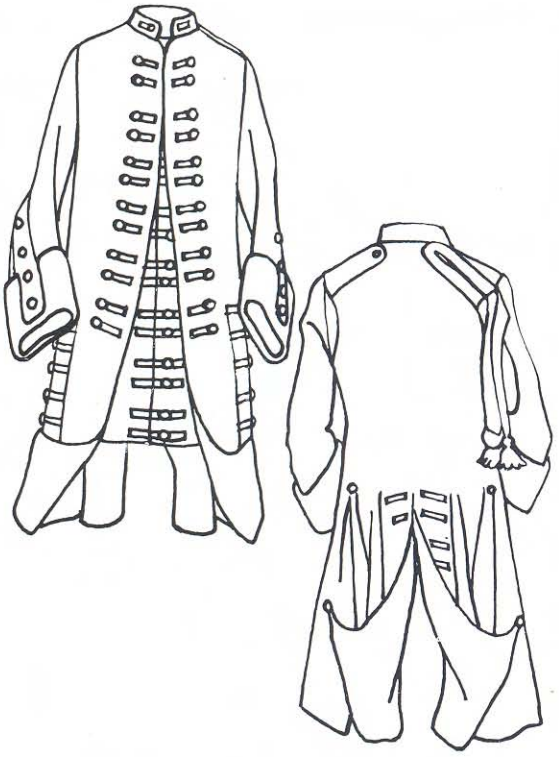
In the years succeeding the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle little of note took place in the history of the Regiment. It may be observed that it has been established that in 1755 the Regiment numbered 357 officers and men, and that this total was subsequently increased by the addition of a light company.

The new company did not remain long with the Regiment; not long after the declaration of war against France in 1756, it was detached from the Greys and ordered on active service, to be brigaded into a regiment with the light troops from eight other cavalry units. While this provisional unit was taking part in various amphibious operations along the French coast, the remainder of the Regiment in the same year joined the Allied Army in Germany under the command of Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick. It was present at the Battle of Bergen on 13 April 1759, being in support of the infantry which was subjected to heavy French attack. There was prolonged infantry fighting throughout the day, at the end of which the Commander-in-Chief decided to withdraw. He did so during the night, covered by the cavalry, the Greys losing but one horse during the operation. Following this battle came more of the long marches and intricate manœuvring characteristic of the military art during the Seven Years War and on 1 August there was a general

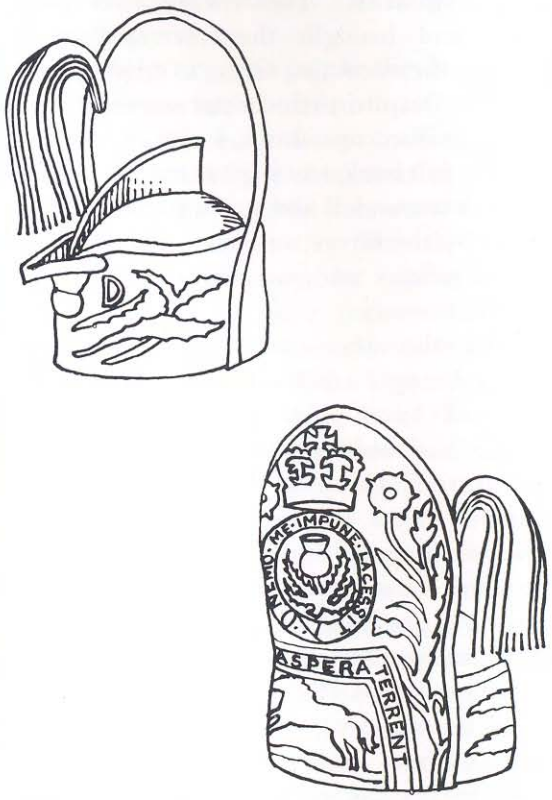


Officer's grenadier cap, 1742. The cloth grenadier cap was first authorized to be worn by the whole Regiment of Royal Scots Greys in 1742. It has a red velvet front with yellow edging, an embroidered border of roses and thistles and bears the device of the St George Cross inside a Garter, these devices being set upon an eight-pointed cross; the little flap is of the facing colour – blue – and as well as the national Thistle for Scotland, bears the motto 'Nemo Me Impune Lacessit'. The back of the cap would be red with yellow piping

engagement at Minden, when the Duke of Brunswick with 41,000 men faced a French army comprising some 51,000 troops under Marshal de Contades. The British cavalry under Lord George Sackville was late in arriving on the battlefield and witnessed the extraordinary occurrence when, actually through a misunderstanding, six British and three Hanoverian battalions advanced upon a dense mass of French cavalry vastly outnumbering them and sent them tumbling from the field. For the British cavalry the sequel was galling and frustrating. These fine regiments sat impotently looking on, while their commander, Sackville, ignored the repeated orders sent him to charge by the Commander-in-Chief. The opportunity of utterly destroying the French by cavalry action



Private's coat, 1747 (front and rear). The Royal Regiment of Dragoons of this period wore red coats with 'Royal' blue facings and skirt turnbacks. Lapels were not yet worn, but a small blue patch appeared on either side of the collar. The blue cuffs of dragoon regiments – all of which were Royal regiments – were very distinctive, being turned back with a long flap and five yellow buttonholes. Buttons and buttonholes down each side of the front of the coat were also yellow



Officer's cap, light troop 1756-63 (front and rear). There has been a development in the design of the grenadier cap since 1742. The front is now blue with the device of the Thistle moved to the centre on a red circlet surrounded by the Garter with the Scottish motto. Above the Thistle appears a crown, and on either side are embroidered union sprays

was lost. Sackville was later court-martialled for his incomprehensible behaviour and dismissed from the army. Even so, the battle was a great victory and the Greys pressed the pursuit of the French for many miles, continuing their operations for some considerable time into the winter.

In the following year the Regiment was able to make up for their involuntary and disappointing inaction at Minden. At the Battle of Warburg, on 31 July 1760, the Greys formed part of the cavalry under the Marquess of Granby, whose lack of hair combined with the loss of hat and wig and the bold manner in which he led his men on this occasion gave rise to the expression 'going at it bald-headed'. Making a forced march of some five miles to the battlefield, Granby and his men arrived at a moment when the French left was under strong pressure from Allied infantry columns. Despite having cantered for the greater part of the march, the squadrons thundered down upon the French cavalry in the centre just as it was about to retire in conformity with the movements of the infantry on its left. Two French cavalry brigades bravely counter-attacked, but the blood of Granby's cavalrymen was up and they swept forward irresistibly; the whole mass of fighting men and horses plunged back towards the French rear, and the chase continued into the town of Warburg itself. The Greys' losses were light and on the next day the Commander-in-

Chief issued an order extolling the conduct of the cavalry in the most generous terms.

Not long after the Battle of Warburg came an action at Zierenberg, when a mixed force of infantry and cavalry, the latter including the Greys, was ordered to make an attack upon a body of French troops. Contact was made near Zierenberg, a fortified town, and sharp fighting ensued between the skirmishers of both sides. The issue was decided by the bringing forward of the dragoons. Two squadrons of the Greys dashed against four squadrons of French cavalry, overwhelmed them, and sent them pelting back helter-skelter into Zierenberg. Not long after this the Regiment was in a force which marched from Warburg to Zierenberg, beat up the enemy's quarters and captured a number of prisoners before returning to Warburg.

During the next three years the Greys were active in many minor engagements – the skirmishes and ambushes which made up the *petite guerre* fought with an ever active and vigilant enemy. They were present at the battles of Vellinghausen in July 1761 and Wilhelmsthal in June 1762. After the latter they took part in a very successful pursuit, chasing the enemy right through the town of Wilhelmsthal, taking prisoners and seizing much abandoned baggage. A peace treaty followed close upon this victory; having received formal thanks from Parliament for their conduct in the war, the Greys marched into Holland and sailed for England in February 1763.

The inevitable reduction in strength followed. The detached light troop was disbanded and the total regimental establishment fixed at only 225 officers and men. In June of the same year a further reduction of twelve men was made, but at the same time twelve men in each troop were equipped as light dragoons; the military mind was becoming increasingly aware of the vital role played by light cavalry in the warfare of the day.

The end of the 18th Century

For a very prolonged period, indeed, for no less than thirty years, only peacetime duties fell to the lot of the Royal North British Dragoons; though during that time large numbers of British troops were engaged in the bitter fighting that marked the War of American Independence. Throughout these years many and varied were the stations occupied by the Regiment, generally in England but occasionally in Scotland also, and, as was customary during lengthy periods of inaction, the uniform of the Regiment became of greater importance in the military scheme of things. In 1764, the year following its return from the Continent, the Regiment was ordered to be remounted on long-tailed horses, the tails of their horses in former years having presumably been docked. At the same time officers and men were ordered to wear epaulettes on the left shoulder instead of the worsted aiguillette in former use. The blue waistcoats and breeches were substituted for white ones and the heavy leather boots – 'jacked' as they were termed – were replaced by a lighter type; it may be added that this idea would have been of more solid advantage had it been adopted in earlier days when, as dragoons, the Greys were employed from time to time in the infantry role, a function which, by this time, was fast becoming obsolete.

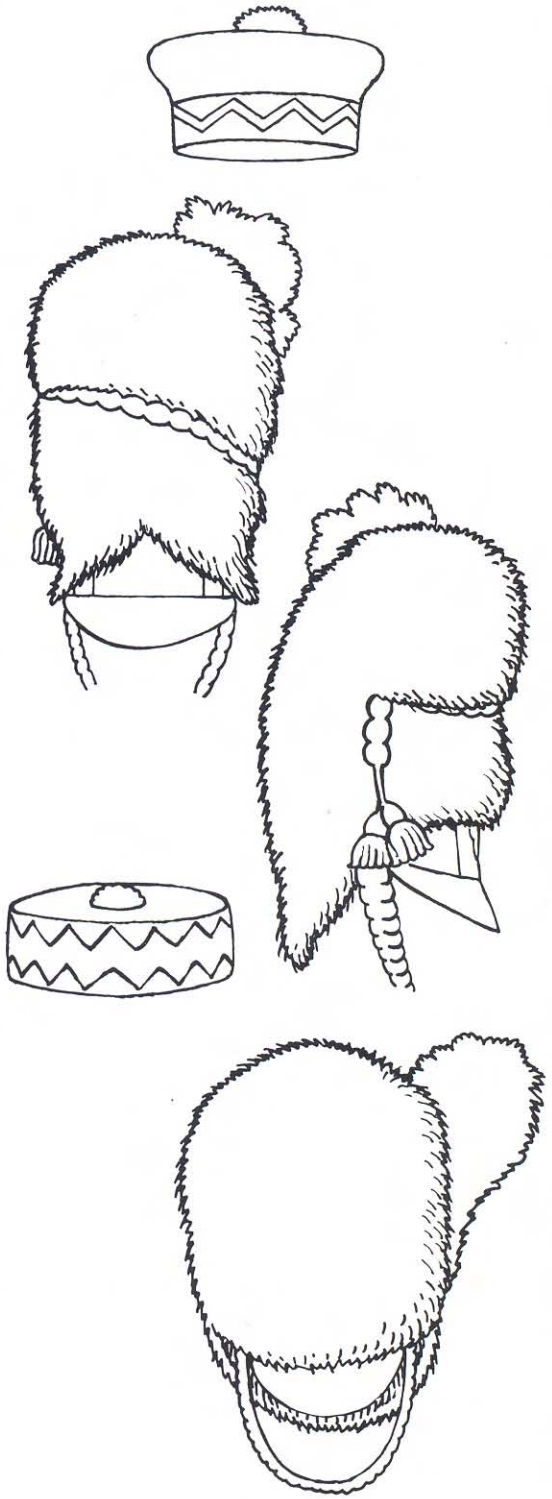
The change in the character of the dragoon was made more marked than ever in 1766 when the drummers, who had been part of the Regiment since its foundation, were replaced by trumpeters; this was an even more definite indication that the

dragoons were looked upon as belonging primarily to the cavalry arm.

Yet another Royal Warrant concerning the uniform of the army in general was issued on 19 December 1768; by its terms the Royal North British Dragoons were directed to wear black bearskin caps, with the thistle within the circle of St Andrew and the motto '*Nemo me impune lacessit*' on the front of the cap. This was in lieu of the cloth grenadier cap which the Regiment had worn for some time, and it was the original use of the tall bearskin which has been characteristic of the Regiment almost up to the present day; although, sadly, full dress and the glory of the high black fur hat with its plume has long been the prerogative of the bandsmen only.

A notable event of the year 1773 was the royal inspection of the Regiment on Blackheath, when His Majesty King George III was graciously pleased to express his high approbation of its appearance and discipline. Contemporary newspapers dwell on the enormous crowds of people who were present at the ceremony and on the admiration shown at the perfection of the drill and movements of the Regiment.

Consequent upon the outbreak of hostilities in 1775 in America and upon the later declaration of war against France was the order of a substantial increase in the regimental strength to the number of 102 men and horses. Although the direction of the army by the High Command in the war against the American Colonies was frequently not far removed from the inept, the authorities were sufficiently percipient to realize that the employment of heavy cavalry in the trackless forests of America would put them completely out of their element. Accordingly not only the Greys but also the remainder of the heavy cavalry remained in Britain for the whole period of the war. Nevertheless the Regiment was not allowed to remain inactive and was employed in patrolling the coasts of Kent and Sussex, along which numerous detachments were stationed at selected points to maintain a watch on the Channel, performing the dual role, it must be supposed, of keeping observation at one and the same time for possible French invaders and for any furtive smuggler. About this time the Regiment was again subject to an increase in strength, on this occasion by



From top to bottom: forage cap, 1811; bearskin cap (front and side), 1821–7; forage cap, 1900; bearskin cap, 1900

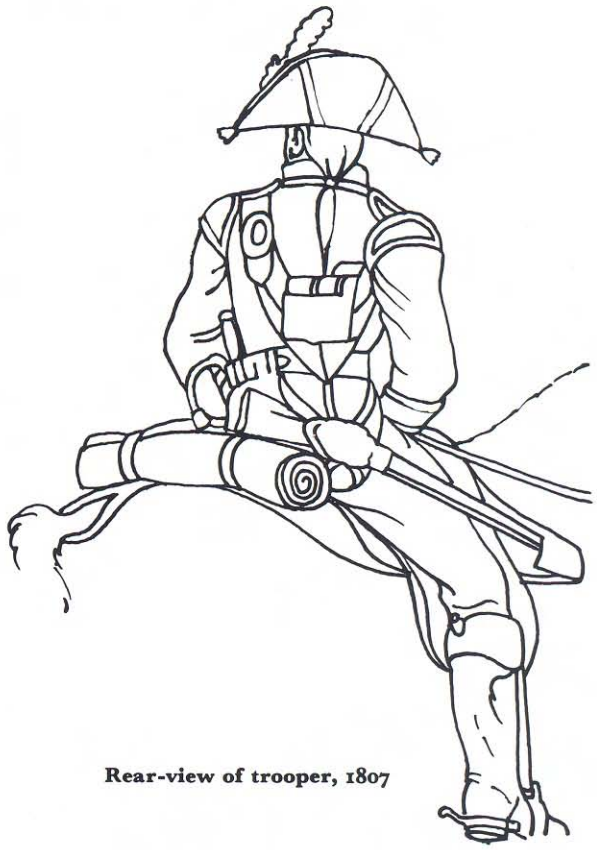
forty-eight men, who were equipped as light dragoons and mounted on horses smaller than those normally in use by the cavalry of the line. The result of this increase was that the number of men in the Regiment in the 'light' category reached the total of 6 sergeants, 6 corporals and 84 troopers. During the year that followed, however, this section, together with the light troops of several other dragoon regiments, was lost to the Greys, owing to its being incorporated into a new regiment, the 21st Dragoons.

As had happened in the past, the Greys were from time to time employed in giving aid to the civil authorities, particularly on two occasions in Wiltshire and Dorset. But on neither occasion does any dramatic action appear to have taken place.

Quarters were changed very frequently: it seems that hardly twelve months elapsed before one station was left for another. But when in December 1792 the Greys were stationed in Lancashire and an increase of 60 men was ordered, it was probably in anticipation of the active service which was soon to follow.

The revolutionary fires kindled in Paris in 1789 had, to one degree or another, enflamed the greater part of Europe, and the execution of Louis XVI, coupled with the proselytizing zeal of Republican France, had drawn government after government into the conflagration. In 1703 signs of approaching war were looming on all sides; the Royal North British Dragoons, preparing for imminent action, were augmented to nine troops, each of fifty-four non-commissioned officers and men, and soon after this four troops were placed on stand-by duty, ready at a moment's notice to proceed on active service.

On 9 July the move was made, the four troops embarking at Blackwell for Flanders, to join the British and Hanoverian armies under the Duke of York, mustering for operations against the French who were pressing northwards from their old frontiers. On 23 July the fortress of Valenciennes capitulated to the Duke of Coburg and it seemed that the French would probably be pushed back from the Low Countries, and that an invasion of the French homeland might be a feasible operation. About a week earlier, the four troops had landed at Ostend and had marched directly to join the army, arriving just before the fall of Valenciennes. This success, unfortunately, seems to have been some sort of turning point; instead of launching a decisive and determined stroke towards Paris, the Allies wasted time and adopted a totally wrong strategy. The Duke of York's force, now including the Greys, were sent to the coast to lay siege to the powerful fortress of Dunkirk. Unluckily for the Allies, a strong French



Rear-view of trooper, 1807

army was on the way and struck the covering force which was separated from the Duke of York's troops, now near to Dunkirk, by a great stretch of swampy ground. The Duke himself, who, incredibly enough, had not been provided with a siege train, was simply observing the fortress, having no means of making any sort of attempt upon it. The covering force was badly beaten and driven off, but as the French unaccountably failed to push on immediately towards Dunkirk, the Duke of York was able to beat a hasty retreat to Furnes on 9 September. Not only had he never even got as far as completely investing the fortress of Dunkirk, but the British Channel Fleet had not

provided any of the assistance in guns and supplies which should have been readily available. After the Dunkirk fiasco the Greys were employed in skirmishing operations as part of the cavalry screen, and they had one small but encouraging encounter with some French cavalry. This was most heartening, but in November all four troops moved back to Ghent. Meantime, the five troops remaining in England were increased to a strength of eighty men each.

After a fairly severe winter the Greys, in preparation for the 1794 campaign, moved from Ghent to Beveren in February, and in March took the field, shortly after receiving from England a welcome remount of 17 men and 42 horses – not an enormous reinforcement, it is true, but it did help to fill the gaps left through disease. In April, before their investment of the fortress of Landrecies, the Regiment supported some infantry in an attack on the villages of Vaux and Premont, and when the fortress was actually under siege, it joined the covering army near by. On 26 April sharp action took place against a strong French force which advanced under the cover of a thick fog, but the assailants were flung back, and a fine cavalry charge accelerated an already rapid retreat.

After Landrecies surrendered, the Greys were sent by forced marches to the vicinity of Tournai, and took up a position in front of the town. The remainder of the army came after, and on 10 May the whole force, with the Greys positioned in the left rear, was fiercely attacked by the French, who threw forward several powerful columns in an attempt to turn the Allied left wing. This manœuvre did not succeed and was followed by a frontal attack on the Allied centre. British and Hanoverian musketry was most effective and held up the assault, while the Greys, forming a brigade with two other dragoons regiments (one of them the Inniskillings, with whom they were to be gallantly associated in further battles), were sent to attack the French right flank, the Duke of York guiding the advance personally. The British squadrons 'dashed forward with the velocity and fury of a tempest'; such indeed was the vigour of their charge that the French crumpled before the onslaught, fleeing in utter confusion and abandoning no fewer than thirteen pieces of artillery. The loss to the Greys was slight – only 20 officers and men killed or wounded.

Despite this success the French pressure increased steadily as fresh reinforcements – the product of the organizing genius of Carnot, the French Minister of War – moved up towards the theatre of operations, and on 18 May the Duke of York suffered a serious reverse at Turcoing, his somewhat antiquated ideas of manœuvre proving ineffective when matched against the clouds of skirmishers and sharpshooters pushed forward by the French. The campaign thereafter became a series of retreats and rearguard actions, in which the Greys played a prominent part. Forced back all the way to Holland, where the populace were very pro-French, and exposed to a really hard winter, with drenching rain and bitter cold, the morale of the British Army fell to a lamentably low level, illness and exhaustion being commonplace in horse and man. The season increased in severity with heavy snow and freezing temperatures, and the greatest hardships were endured by the troops, since provisions were scarce and at times actually non-existent. During this dreadful time the Greys were at Nigmegen, but conditions became so impossible that a further retreat proved necessary and finally, in a very battered state, the army arrived at Bremen. The British troops saw no further service in this ill-judged and mismanaged campaign. During the summer of 1795 the four troops of the Greys were encamped in villages on the banks of the River Weser. In November they embarked at Bremen for a welcome return to England.

When the four troops which had been on foreign service were back in England, the Regiment's ninth troop was ordered to be disbanded, and the establishment was fixed at 679 officers and other ranks. After the separated parts of the Regiment had moved about from station to station for some time, the Regiment was finally re-united at Canterbury in February 1796.

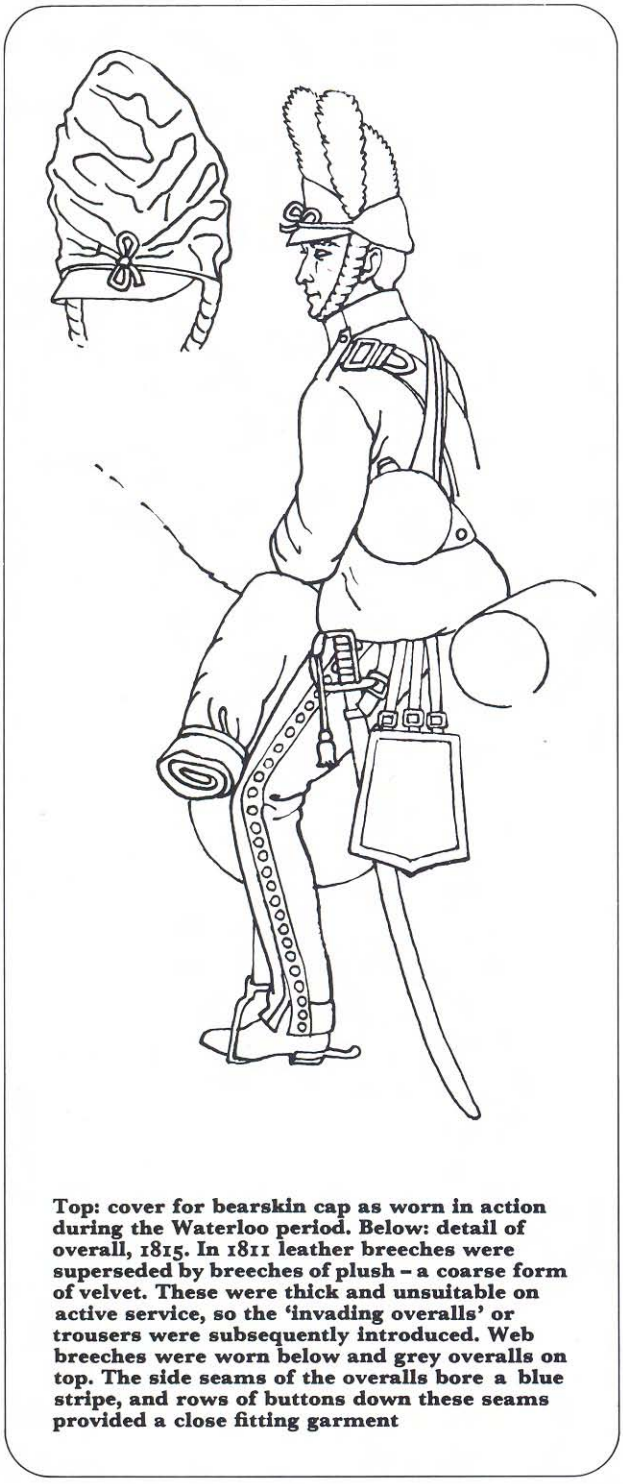
Waterloo

For almost twenty years after 1796 there is no outstanding event to record in the story of the Royal North British Dragoons. Little more happens than that frequent change of station in England, Scotland and Ireland which is an inevitable feature of peacetime service. From time to time the composition of the Regiment changed, and in April 1800 a tenth troop was added to the establishment, primarily in order to absorb a draft of eighty-one men received from units of the disbanded Fencible cavalry. With the signing of the Peace of Amiens on 27 March 1802 and the conclusion of hostilities with the French Republic, the strength of the Regiment was reduced to eight troops numbering 553 officers and men. The period of peace, however, was not to last fourteen months, and in May 1803 there was a fresh declaration of war against France – a war which would not really terminate except with the final overthrow of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815. Accordingly, back went the establishment to the wartime strength of ten troops, and the Regiment was at the greatest strength it had ever enjoyed – over 1,000 officers and men. For two years it was stationed at Canterbury in Kent, forming part of the force designed to repel Napoleon's threatened invasion. When the French Emperor marched off into Central Europe on his career of conquest, precautions were somewhat relaxed and the Greys were moved to quarters at Ipswich and Colchester. In January 1806 the Regiment provided a representative detachment at the funeral of Admiral Nelson and, shortly afterwards, as the risk of invasion seemed to be relatively negligible, the establishment was once again reduced. A move to Ireland took place in 1808, and during the quartering of the Regiment in that country an important order was promulgated, to wit, that the men's hair, formerly plaited and powdered, was henceforth to be cut short, a 'modernization' which saved the troops both time and money.

Throughout the long and bloody course of the Peninsular War, during which many of the Greys' fellow regiments were winning fame and gaining battle honours, the Regiment had to endure the frustration of being kept at home, moving as usual from barracks to barracks, and most certainly chafing at the enforced inaction. The Regiment's only connection, and that a distant one, with the long struggle against Napoleon was on 20 June 1814 when it marched to London to take part in a splendid review in Hyde Park organized for the benefit of visiting notabilities, including the Tsar of Russia. In the ranks of the cavalry being inspected there were some unfamiliar bedfellows, the Greys finding themselves next to a detachment of Cossacks commanded by Count Platov, their famous hetman, recently ennobled by Tsar Alexander. It goes without saying that 'the martial appearance and correct discipline of the several regiments were highly commended by all present'.

A further reduction to eight troops or less than six hundred men was authorised in July 1814, but it was speedily countermanded in the following spring when the Emperor Napoleon escaped from Elba and arrived in Paris. The Regiment was then brought up to war strength and simultaneously, to the great joy of the Greys, six of the troops were ordered to prepare for foreign service. Indeed, during the course of April 1815 they sailed from Gravesend, landed at Ostend and took up quarters near Ghent. Brigaded with the Royal Dragoons and the Inniskilling Dragoons under Major-General Sir William Ponsonby, the Greys now formed part of that famous unit to be known – from the number of nationalities of the regiments comprising it – as the Union Brigade.

Throughout this time a wide-ranging screen of Napoleon's light horse was operating along the French border, and little or nothing could be learned of the Emperor's disposition or plans. Behind the screen, however, the powerful French army was concentrating during the early part of



Top: cover for bearskin cap as worn in action during the Waterloo period. Below: detail of overall, 1815. In 1811 leather breeches were superseded by breeches of plush – a coarse form of velvet. These were thick and unsuitable on active service, so the 'invading overalls' or trousers were subsequently introduced. Web breeches were worn below and grey overalls on top. The side seams of the overalls bore a blue stripe, and rows of buttons down these seams provided a close fitting garment

June under conditions of admirable secrecy, and finally burst across the frontier. The allied British and Prussian armies were still many miles from their concentration areas, Wellington's regiments being in their widely separated quarters in villages around Ghent and Brussels. Orders were immediately given for concentration, and the roads of Belgium echoed with the tramp of marching feet and the rumble of guns and caissons.

It was 'Boot and saddle!' for the Greys early on the morning of 16 June, and soon the Regiment was mounted and moving off on the stiff march to Quatre Bras, where throughout the long day Marshal Ney flung his battalions and squadrons against Wellington's men. The latter were continually hard pressed, at times perilously so, but the troops held on grimly as reinforcements came pouring in from all directions and, at the end of the day, the French fell back utterly fought out and exhausted. It was about this time, at dusk, that the Greys arrived on the field, after a march of nearly fifty miles.

The following morning the battlefield was quiet and no move was made until news of the Battle of Ligny reached Wellington – Napoleon had beaten Blücher and sent the Prussians reeling back. Immediately orders were given that a withdrawal should be made to a position that Wellington had previously noted at Mont-St-Jean, in front of the village of Waterloo, and the cavalry moved forward to cover the shattered infantry battalions as they marched off in that direction. Forthwith the French, deploying great masses of light cavalry – hussars and lancers – began to press forward. In contact with the French were the British light horse regiments, handled not too expertly by Lord Uxbridge, the cavalry commander, and as the troops went pouring northwards, through the defile of Genappe, some of the British cavalry found themselves under severe pressure from the French lancers. Help was forthcoming from the Life Guards, who charged the French at the gallop and scattered them. All the way back to the Mont-St-Jean position there was sharp skirmishing, some of the cavalry at times dismounting and holding off the eager French with carbine fire. Finally, on its arrival on the rising ground of Mont-St-Jean, Wellington's army deployed into its positions for the great battle by which Napoleon was to stand or fall. The commissariat was in its usual state of chaos and the army passed an uncomfortable and hungry night, as there was little or no food for the men, nor any forage for the horses. During the night, rain fell heavily.

'Charge of the Scots Greys at Waterloo' from an oil painting by Lady Butler. The Greys at Waterloo form one of the most memorable pictures in military history. With their cry of 'Scotland for ever!' they charged upon the legions of France. During the battle, Sergeant Ewart of the Greys captured an imperial eagle of the French 45th Regiment, and it is this which was then incorporated into the regimental badge. (National Army Museum)

Although the rain ceased by the morning of the 18th, it had been so heavy and persistent that a considerable time was taken up with getting the guns into their battery positions on the soaked and muddy ground; it was a miserable and wet army which stood to arms to await the expected French onslaught. After their fifty-mile march on the 16th, and the fighting rearguard action on the previous day, the Greys must have been very tired.

Deliberately the heterogeneous mass of Wellington's army took up its disposition, the bulk of the cavalry in the right rear centre, although Ponsonby's Union Brigade, with the Greys, stood just to the east of the Brussels road in the rear of the farm of Mont-St-Jean, the centre of the Allied line. At 11.30 a.m. a cannonade was opened up by the French artillery and rapidly increased in fury. The Allied guns immediately replied, and from this time onwards an increasingly dense cloud of gunsmoke swirled and thickened about the battlefield, reducing visibility before long to less than a hundred yards. The first objective of the French was the château of Hougoumont; this was attacked by Jérôme Bonaparte who, trying to emulate his elder brother, impetuously converted what was intended to be a diversion into an all-out effort, using up troops unnecessarily. It was half past one before the main French attack, launched by four massive columns, each a division strong, began to move ponderously up the slopes towards the left centre of the Allied line, in the rear of which sat the stolid horsemen on their grey chargers, by now recovered a little from the exertions of the previous two days.

With drums frenziedly rattling out the *pas de charge*, the columns moved up the slope to meet the waiting British infantry, who fired a murderous volley at the French at forty yards' range. The enemy fell in swathes, the heads of the columns seeming almost to dissolve before the deadly fire as thousands of musket balls from Pack's and Kempt's brigades cut through their ranks. The shock of the impact of this almost solid wall of lead halted the attackers in their tracks, but after a pause their advance continued. At this moment, when it appeared that the British infantry, horribly attenuated from the fighting at Quatre Bras, might be overwhelmed by sheer numbers, Lord Uxbridge, who now made up magnificently for the lack of generalship he had displayed the previous day, led forward his two heavy cavalry brigades, a truly formidable array of scarlet-clad men and big, powerful horses. First to thunder

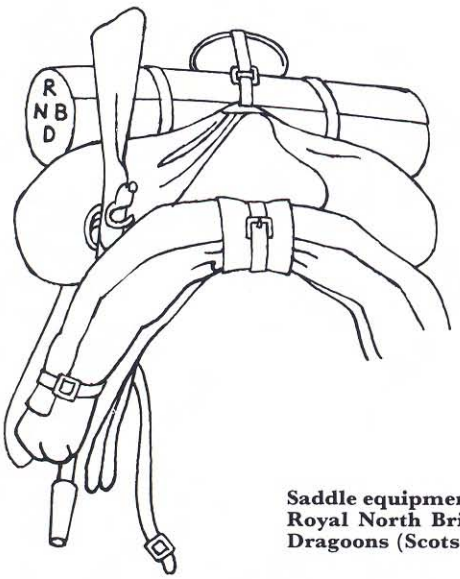
'. . . the French infantrymen could not withstand this blow and were hurled back as the Greys, swinging their heavy dragoon swords, cut their way into and through their ranks.'

The charge of the Scots Greys at Waterloo from a print after Stanley Berkeley. (National Army Museum)

forward and crash into the French was the Household Brigade and at the same moment Ponsonby advanced with his three regiments. Passing over a difficult sunken road, the Greys came trotting through the intervals in the Highland regiments of Pack's brigade, re-formed, and in successive squadrons spurred forward and drove like a series of thunderbolts into the heart of the packed French battalions facing them. As they passed through the ranks of the 92nd Highlanders (the Gordons, as they were to become), a veritable fighting madness and pride of nationality seized the kilted infantrymen. Many of them grabbed at the stirrup leathers of the Greys and with a wild yell of 'Scotland for ever!' went leaping and bounding forward with the cavalry. The impact was tremendous and completely decisive; though fighting with something like desperation, the French infantrymen could not withstand this blow and were hurled back as the Greys, swinging their heavy dragoon swords, cut their way into and through their ranks. Many surrendered and two of their regiments lost their Eagles, one to Sergeant Ewart of the Greys who charged the *porte-aigle* and wrested it from his grasp. Said Ewart, 'It was in the first charge that I took the eagle from the enemy. He and I had a hard contest for it. He thrust for my groin; I parried it off, and cut him through the head. After which I was attacked by one of their lancers, who threw his lance at me, but missed the mark by my throwing it off with my sword by my right side. Then I cut him from the chin upwards, which went through his teeth. Next I was attacked by a foot soldier, who, after firing at me, charged me with his bayonet – but he very soon lost the combat, for I parried it, and cut him down through the head. So that finished the contest for the eagle.'

This soldierly and matter-of-fact account, quoted in George Hooper's *Waterloo: the Downfall of the First Napoleon*, conveys the impression of a cool and professional soldier, cutting and parrying as though merely in a *salle d'armes*; but if Ewart was so, he was an exception. The combination of the speed of the charge, the nervous excitement and the noise of battle all have a tremendously

stimulating effect on both horse and man, as many historical examples indicate, and the Union Brigade was so infected by this fever that it became completely out-of-hand. Down the slope from Mont-St-Jean and towards the French positions the regiments careered through a hail of canister and musketry. Totally incapable of rallying or re-forming, they went galloping wildly up towards the French guns. Many artillerymen fell beneath their sabres as not only men but officers were caught up in the frenzy. Even the Greys' commanding officer, Colonel Hamilton, was last seen with a few of his men in full cry towards the French lines. He was not seen again nor was his body identified. Immediate counter-attack was to be expected, and Napoleon at once flung strong forces of light and heavy cavalry against the Greys and the rest of the brigade. Ponsonby fell and many more of his men were mercilessly slaughtered as they straggled back towards the Mont-St-Jean position. As they went, the French artillery opened a deadly fire upon them, to increase their heavy losses. These had indeed been dreadful, the Greys being reduced to little more than a single effective squadron. They and the other remnants of the brigade could only support the infantry as the



Saddle equipment, 1815, Royal North British Dragoons (Scots Greys)

battle reached its climax with the arrival of the Prussians on the French right flank, the attack on the Imperial Guard, and its defeat.

So ended the Battle of Waterloo, which endowed the Regiment with its renowned 'Eagle' badge and cost 97 wounded, and 104 officers and men killed or wounded to the death.

What was left of the Regiment moved off in pursuit of the French army, continuing on to Paris at the final fall of Napoleon. On 11 October the Greys marched to Harfleur; there they remained until the formal signing of the Peace Treaty, when they embarked at Calais for England on 10 January 1816. They went into quarters at Canterbury, where the establishment was fixed for the time as 554 officers and men.

The Crimea

The period of peace following Waterloo lasted almost forty years, and it was one of complete inactivity for all the regiments of heavy cavalry. No continental wars occurred and the only active service was to be found in India, whither British cavalry, particularly the 'heavy' type, was rarely if ever sent, owing probably to the excellent native cavalry available in the sub-continent. Consequently, the outbreak of hostilities with Russia in 1854 found the country quite unprepared to wage a major war, but after deliberation between the allies, Britain and France, an invasion of the Crimea was decided upon, the aim being to capture the Russian naval base at Sevastopol. An expeditionary force was sent to the Crimea. It included a cavalry division of one heavy and one light brigade, the former including the Scots Greys.

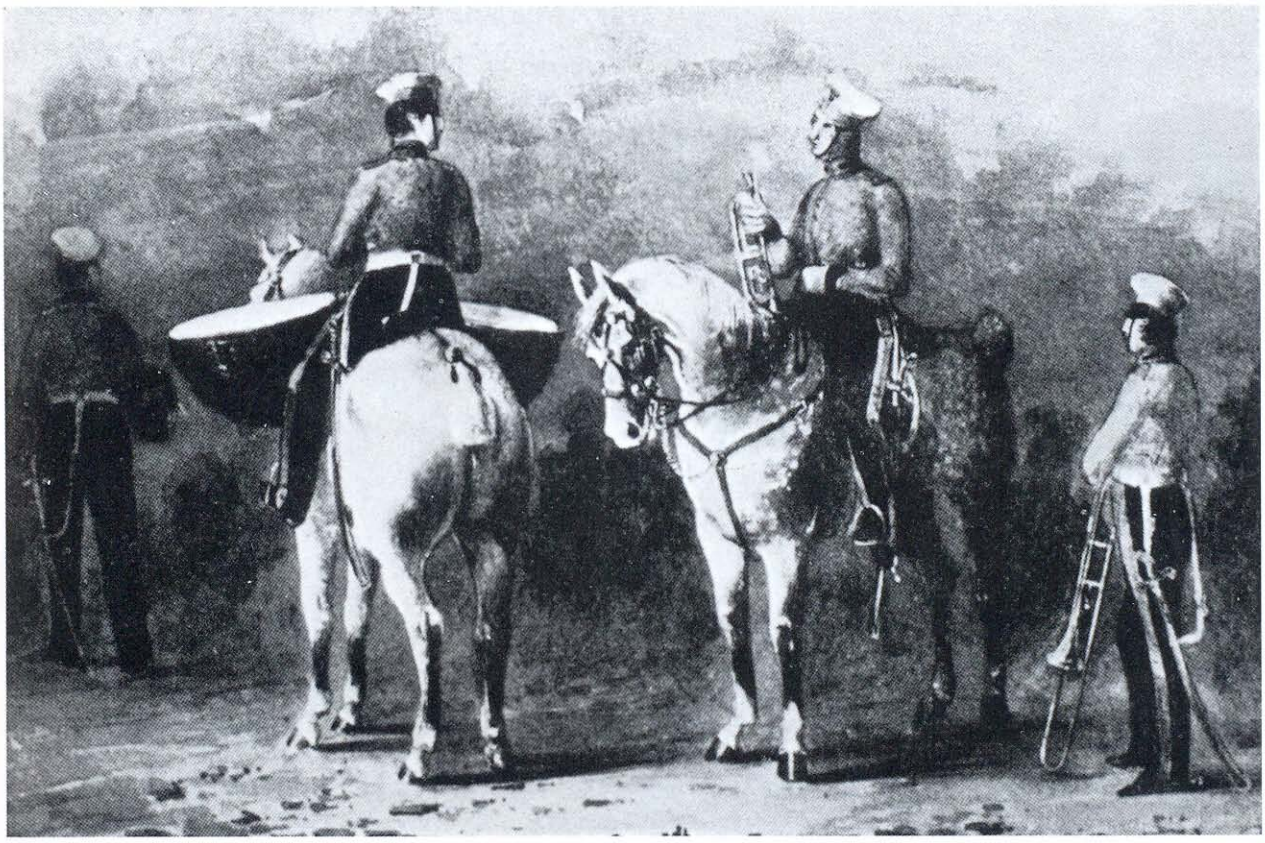
Not long after the landing, the invading forces collided with the Russians at the River Alma, the enemy being driven back towards Sevastopol. A swift follow-up might have achieved a great success but the opportunity was lost and the main Russian army moved out into the country while

Water colour showing bandsmen of the Regiment in full dress in 1838. All three men are wearing the bearskin cap with distinctive curved plume, but it seems that bandsmen at this time wore a plume of a different colour from that of the rest of the Regiment, it being crimson instead of white. Both the saddles of the drummer (centre) and the trumpeter (right) have covers of sheepskin edged with red, a feature peculiar to them alone, and swords with curved scimitar blades are carried

the Allies proceeded to invest Sevastopol. On 25 October a strong Russian force moved to attack the British base at Balaklava, at first meeting with success and driving off a body of Turks, part of the Allied army. With the Russians was a body of cavalry and while part of this was repulsed by the 93rd Highlanders, the main force, some 3,000 strong, began to move from what was called the North Valley over the intervening heights into the South Valley.

At that moment the Heavy Brigade was moving eastwards along the South Valley, in ignorance of what was happening over the hills. It consisted of two squadrons of Scots Greys, and two each of the 5th Dragoon Guards, the Inniskilling Dragoons and the 4th Dragoon Guards, all under the command of Brigadier-General the Honourable Sir James Scarlett. He, like many of the other general officers in the Crimea, had never been previously on active service. He was 55 years of age, burly of build, with a red face and a flowing white moustache, and was not only a brave but also a cool commander, one who could make a decision the instant it was called for. His immediate entourage consisted of two aides and a trumpeter, and he was now about to carry out a cavalry charge as great as any ever led by Murat or Kellermann or any other of the great cavalry leaders who were able to handle 'hurricanes of cavalry'.

When, suddenly and unexpectedly, Scarlett saw the great sea of Russian horsemen flooding over the heights on his left flank, he wasted no time but gave the order to wheel into line. While this was being done, he sat his horse facing the enemy with the utmost *sang-froid*, while behind him his regiments – 800 men to face the 3,000 Russians – carried out their movements. Although without battle experience, the cavalry knew their drill, and into the front line moved the Scots Greys

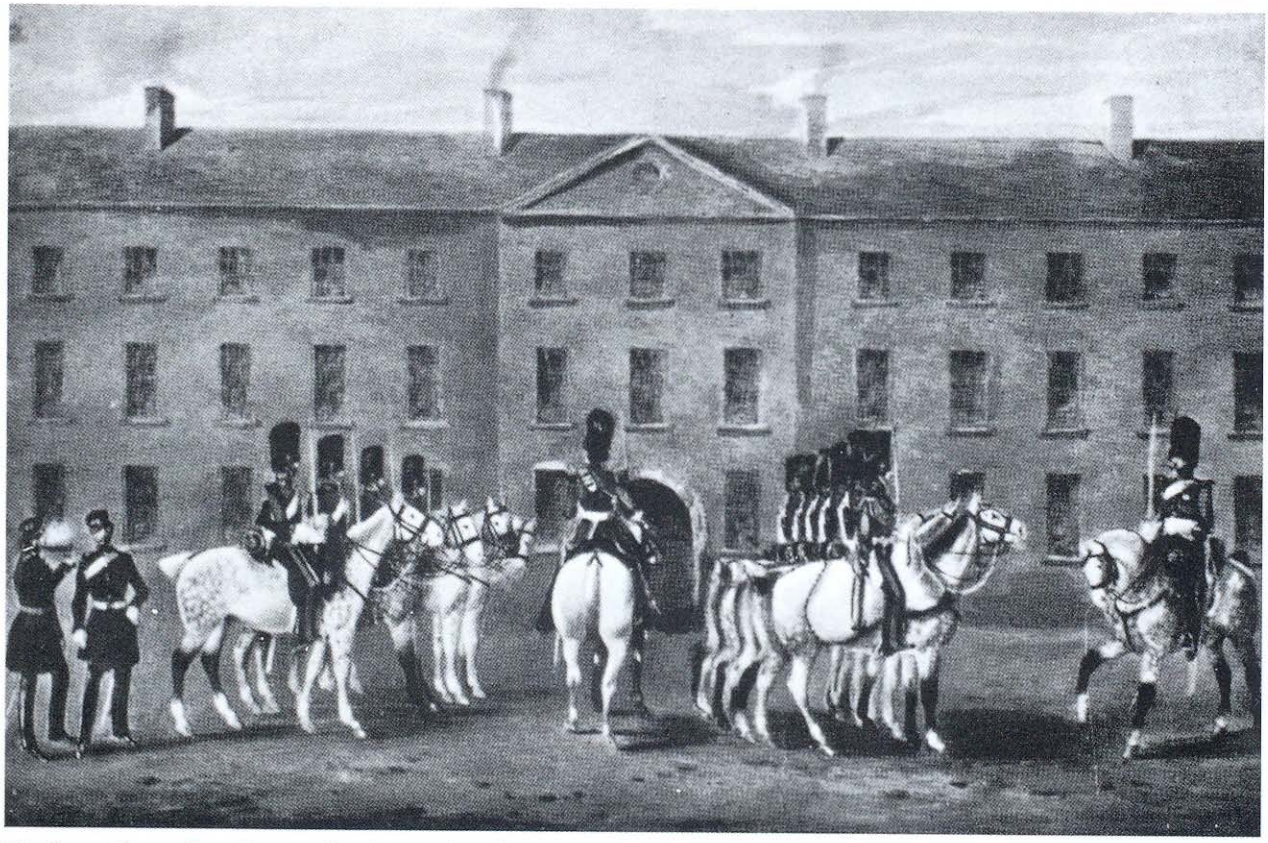


Bandsmen in undress, from a water colour of 1838. They wear short scarlet jackets and white caps, the latter bearing a gold grenade badge on the front, and a red band around the bottom

and one of the Inniskilling squadrons, the old bond of Waterloo days being cemented again, while in the second line was the other Inniskilling squadron and two of the 5th Dragoon Guards. Two further squadrons of the 4th Dragoon Guards were some little distance away when General Scarlett, in his place directly in front of the centre of his brigade, his staff behind him, drew his sword and ordered, "Sound the charge", spurring forward at the same time. The British cavalry moved forward deliberately at first, as the Greys had to make their way gingerly through some old picket lines. Thus, by the time the squadrons had picked up a little speed, Scarlett and his group were fifty yards ahead and in full career towards the Russian cavalry.

As though astonished at the temerity of these few hundred horsemen, the Russians slowly descending the hill halted – it was an unpardonable error on the part of the commander to receive a charge at the halt – forming a body so dense as to seem quite impenetrable and so wide as to outflank the oncoming British cavalry.

As the Brigade went forward, the speed increased and up the slope it charged. The Inniskillings held back until the Greys drew level with them, and then spurred hard until the pace broke into a gallop and finally into a headlong charge. Far in front thundered Scarlett until, with his sword waving in the air, he hurtled past the Russian officer in front of the grey-coated squadrons and disappeared into the mass, slashing and cutting in all directions. Furiously his squadrons came on and at the moment of impact there came a wild, Irish yell from the Inniskillings, while from the Greys there burst another sound, hard to describe. Throughout the history of warfare there have been times when soldiers in battle have made their presence known by some war cry – the *'eleleu!'* of the Greeks at Marathon, the



The Scots Greys Guard mounting in Dublin, 1839

shrill and eerie yelping 'Rebel Yell' of the Confederate soldiers, and the 'single, stern shout' of the British Peninsular infantry; but the awesome cry which came from the Scots Greys was even more terrifying and could only be described as a great 'growling moan' as they drove deep into the Russians, the long sabres rising and falling rhythmically on every side. To those who watched from afar it was as though the three squadrons had been completely swallowed up by the Russian hordes and would be utterly destroyed.

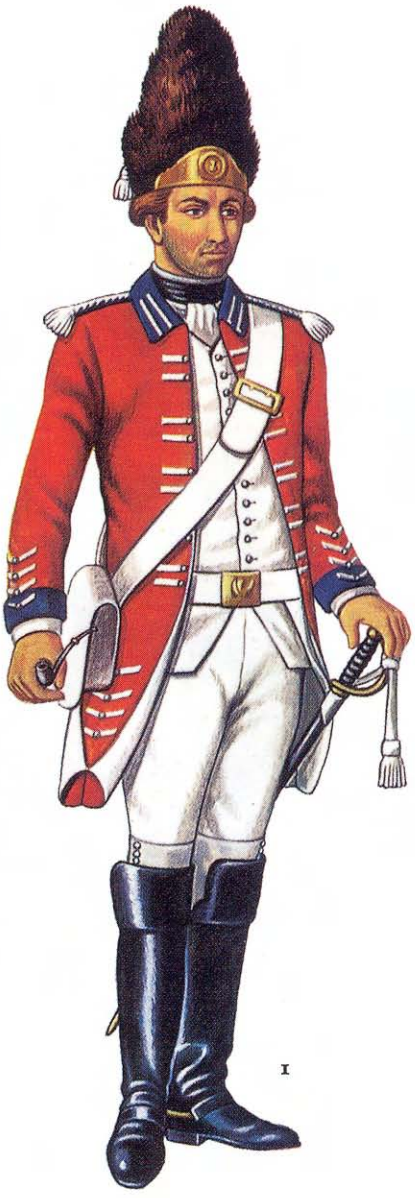
Deep in the heart of the mass was Scarlett and his staff, with the Scots and Irish rapidly following. In their wake the second line plunged into the Russians and ere long the reserve squadrons came pounding up. Now it seemed that it was but one huge grey sea, continually heaving and surging and giving out from its midst the continuous roar of combat. No firearms were used, both sides employing only the classic *arme blanche* of the cavalryman. The fighting was vicious; Scarlett's junior aide, separated from his fellows, emerged from the conflict with no less than fourteen wounds and – *mirabile dictu!* – survived the grisly experience. At length, when it seemed that the various surgings and heavings were coalescing into one movement, and that movement up hill towards the Russian rear, the 4th Dragoon Guards, the last reserve, charged into the Russian right flank. It was the *coup de grâce*, and in a moment first one grey-clad horseman, then another, followed by a group, went racing up the slopes, and suddenly the whole mass broke up and streamed away in complete disintegration. Away they went, leaving Scarlett, covered with blood from five sabre cuts, to rally his brigade and get it into some sort of order after what was perhaps the most successful cavalry charge ever carried out by British troops.

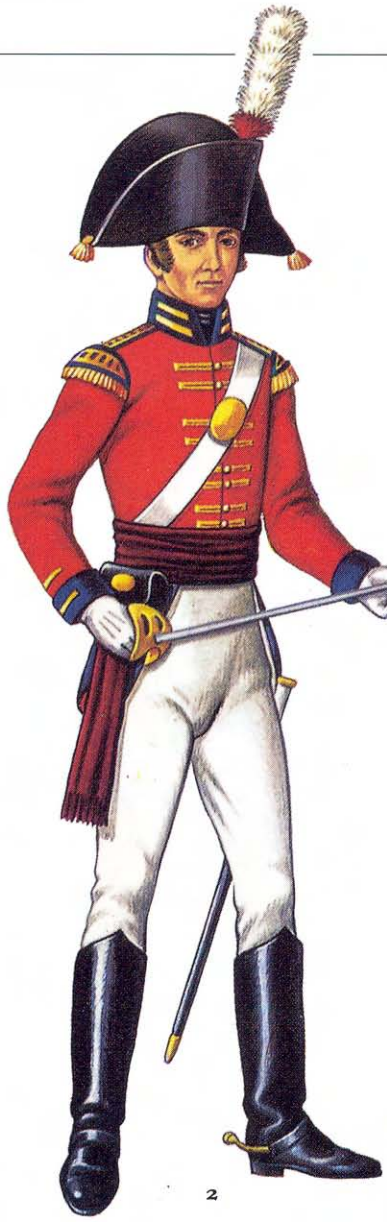
That gallant old Scot, Sir Colin Campbell, who had brought the Highland Brigade to the Crimea, came over and spoke to the Regiment. 'Greys, gallant Greys,' he said, 'I am sixty-one years of age, but were I young again, I should be proud to serve in your ranks.'

It was in truth a memorable encounter.

1 **Private, 1684**
2 **Private, 1706**
3 **Officer, 1762**

Trooper, 1751

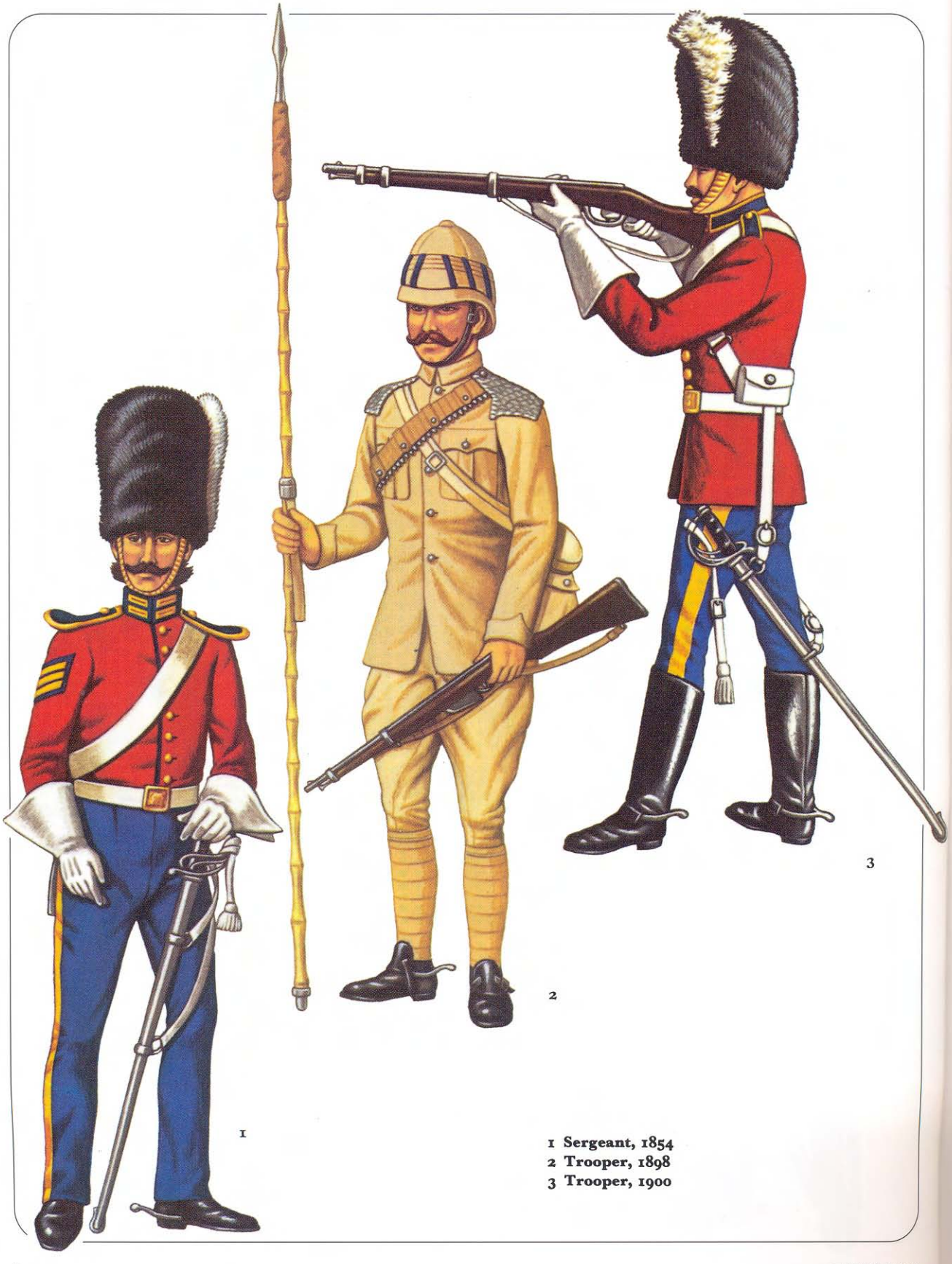




1 Private, 1778
2 Officer, 1799
3 Officer, 1815

Trooper, 1807

1 Sergeant, 1832
2 Officer, 1834
3 Officer, 1844

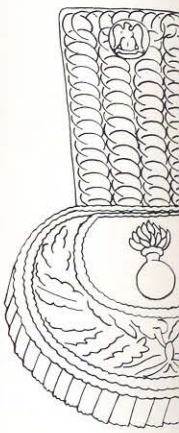


1 Sergeant, 1854
2 Trooper, 1898
3 Trooper, 1900

1 Trooper, 1918
2 Officer, 1953
3 Bass drummer, 1966

Kettle-drummer, 1935

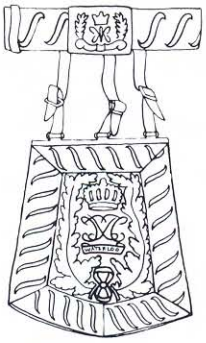
Sabretach



Hilt of trooper's
1853. Described
Army Order 185
new sword, esse
a thrusting weap
the trooper's sw
a straight blade
long with a spea
The grip is of tw
pieces of leather
chequered and ri
on either side of
tang, and the gua
of the three-bar
unfortunately pr
rather weak prot
to the hand

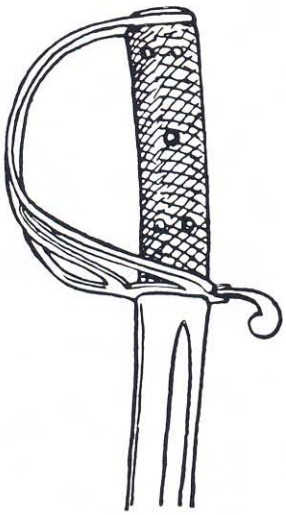
Kettle-drummer, 1935

The heavy cavalry took little or no part in the remainder of the campaign; they had done their duty well, and that their exploit – a complete success – should have been overshadowed by the catastrophe of Cardigan's Light Brigade is one of the most poignant ironies of military history. It was not the last time that the nation has converted failure into moral victory.



Sabretache, 1830–7

Trumpeter's epaulette, 1839. During this period epaulettes worn by both Dragoons and Dragoon Guards were of gold bullion and 'boxed' – that is the bullion fringe was fixed to prevent it from hanging loose and thus being liable to damage. The men and officers in undress uniform wore shoulder scales, which were a kind of metal epaulette without fringe



Hilt of trooper's sword, 1853. Described in Army Order 1854 as 'a new sword, essentially a thrusting weapon', the trooper's sword has a straight blade 35 in. long with a spear-point. The grip is of two thick pieces of leather chequered and riveted on either side of the tang, and the guard is of the three-bar type – unfortunately providing rather weak protection to the hand

South Africa

During the years following the Crimean War the Regiment had another lengthy period without active service, carrying out normal peacetime duties. In 1877 came the long overdue recognition of what had for so long been the unofficial title, and the Regiment became the 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys), but it was not until 1899 that their trumpets sounded again for war; this time South Africa was the scene of action, and the new enemy was the Boers. On 7 September of that year mobilization was ordered, and three months later the Greys, 25 officers and 548 other ranks plus 498 horses, arrived at Cape Town in three troopships. In January 1900 the entire cavalry was organized on a divisional basis under General French; the Greys formed part of the 1st Cavalry Brigade together with the 6th Dragoon Guards and a squadron of their old comrades in arms, the Inniskilling Dragoons. Two squadrons of light cavalry and three batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery were attached to the brigade.

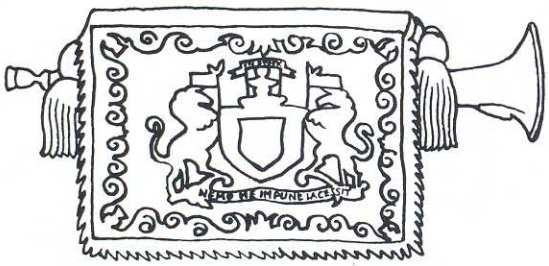
It was a completely new concept of war that the Regiment had to contend with on the hot and arid plains of South Africa. No longer did the men ride forth in the panoply of scarlet and blue, with the high black bearskin; khaki was now the dominant hue everywhere. Even the horses had to adhere to the unlovely if utilitarian colour scheme. Believing,

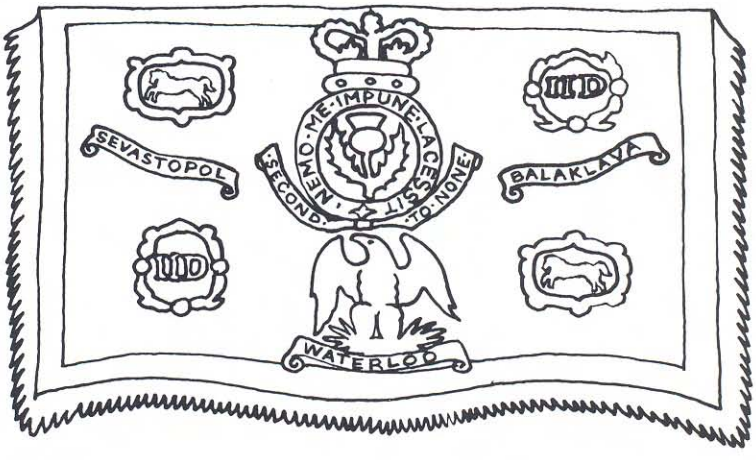
no doubt correctly, that the grey horses would easily be seen by the Boer marksmen and would suffer disproportionately, the High Command decreed that they should be stained to the same muddy colour. The comments of the troopers on this can be imagined, although they doubtless recognized the necessity for what would otherwise have been considered a heresy.

In South Africa gallant headlong charges against an enemy arrayed in close order had no place and it was no longer the role of heavy cavalry to deal, sword in hand, the final blow at a shaken foe. Instead there were long and tiring marches frequently ending in the complete exhaustion of both men and their animals, and with an elusive enemy disappearing into the distance. Exposed as the troops were to the enervating heat of the day and the bitter night cold of the veld, far more casualties were suffered from disease than were inflicted by the enemy, and the physical resources of horse and man were strained to the utmost.

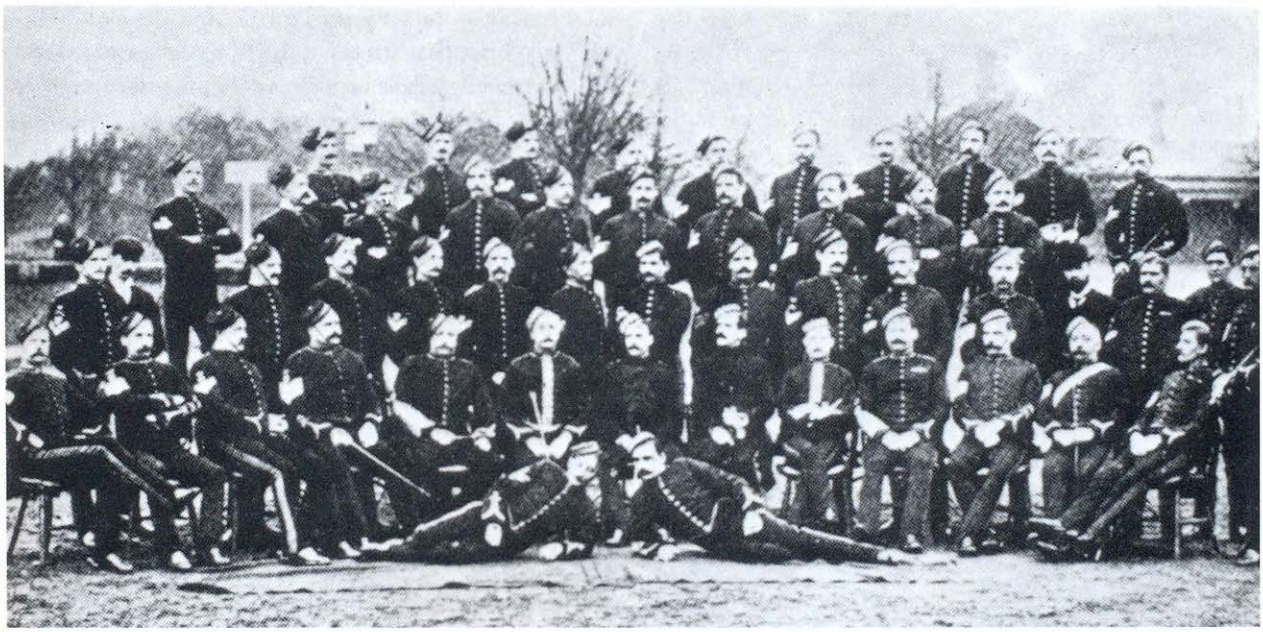
The innumerable small actions and skirmishes of a conflict against a populace in arms, which made up the South African War, cannot possibly be told in detail, one by one, although each was fought as bitterly as any major battle, and they especially affected the cavalry which did not take its place in the line of battle as it had in former years. Even so, just as lethal as the redoubtable Boer riflemen were the climatic conditions which, during the first major operation, the march to Kimberley, caused very heavy losses. The advance to Kimberley, which was relieved on 15 February 1900, saw the horses suffering cruelly from the intense heat and the lack of water.

After this operation there was only a minimum of respite before the Greys were involved in the Driefontein fighting, here giving close support to the infantry in their attacks. Under severe pressure the Boers had to retreat, a move which they were able to carry out successfully owing to the utter inability of the British cavalry to intervene through sheer exhaustion of the horses. On 12 March the army was poised to make an attack on Bloemfontein and, as part of the plan, a squadron of the





Left: trumpet banner, 1887; right: drum banner, 1858. The trumpet banner is one of those made for the Golden Jubilee of 1887, and bears the Arms of the Scottish Kings. The drum banner is one of a pair of blue banners which were probably made up from the Squadron Guidons which went out of use in 1858



A group of staff-sergeants and sergeants of the 2nd Dragoons (Royal Scots Greys) in 1904

Greys were directed to turn the enemy's left flank. On this mission it was halted by a very strong wire fence which no effort, without the necessary tools, could penetrate. At this the squadron came under a heavy fire and suffered a number of casualties, but some casting about revealed a weak section of fence. The 65 men still mounted passed through and advanced at the gallop to their objective, a ridge near by. Dismounting, the squadron moved over the crest of the ridge to be greeted with the sight of some two to three hundred Boers riding up to take over the ground just occupied by the Greys. Somewhat taken aback, the burghers halted, and the dismounted troopers immediately opened fire with well-directed volleys which drove the burghers back in disorder with considerable losses. The squadron continued to hold the hill throughout the night, and Bloemfontein surrendered the next day.

Casualties in horses were appallingly high and by the end of March 1900 the total number of mounts available for the seven regiments of French's cavalry, including the Greys, was only 650.

Remounts, however, were hurriedly brought up, and the division was able to advance from Bloemfontein towards Kroonstadt, during which move the Greys were in action on the Sand River. Some of General French's patrols fell in with a Boer force of 2,000–3,000 men and at once he moved his 1st Brigade forward towards Vredes Verdrag, a piece of high ground occupied by the enemy, and ordered that it should be attacked by a squadron of the Greys, of the Inniskillings, and of Australian horse, with two troops of the 6th Dragoon Guards. The last-named gained the southern extremity of Vredes Verdrag and the remainder of the force prepared to follow, but almost at once came under very heavy fire from powerful Boer forces. Casualties were heavy and in spite of covering fire from Royal Horse Artillery guns the British had no option but to retire to their main body.

The advance progressed, but an even more unfortunate reverse was suffered by the Greys on 11 July at Zilikat's Nek. One squadron plus two guns were posted at this point, another was at Commando Nek, while the remainder of the regiment was some distance further back holding a position commanding a bridge over the Crocodile River. Rumours of an imminent attack were very strong and five companies of the Lincolnshire Regiment came up on 10 July. The take-over had not been completed before night fell and the squadron at Zilikat's Nek remained until the next day. Overlooking the position were two high

Sergeant-Major, full dress, c. 1904

peaks, and on the following morning the Greys came under heavy fire from a great number of Boers who had occupied them. Following this the enemy advanced, moving so rapidly that the supporting guns were able to fire only a few rounds before the Boers overran them. Having expended all its ammunition, the supporting infantry fell back and by late afternoon the force, including the squadron of the Greys, was completely surrounded. The senior officer present, the colonel of the Lincolns, had no alternative but to surrender. Both his regiment and the Greys had suffered severely, the latter having twenty men killed or wounded, a high proportion of a squadron strength. A very small consolation was that early in the fighting the horses had been turned loose and rejoined the regimental headquarters later in the day.

Throughout the following two years the Greys' main duties consisted in operations against the commandos in the Transvaal. The story is one of a multitude of minor operations against small concentrations of the enemy, of hunting down the wily and fast-moving parties of diehard Boers who appeared suddenly, struck hard and vanished into the trackless veldt. In one such affray a party of the Regiment wounded and captured a famous commando leader, Malan, but it was exhausting and unrewarding work. Nevertheless, the Regiment maintained its high spirit throughout this long period and earned the highest praise from its commanders. Casualty lists in this sort of warfare are unrevealing, proving little and giving no real indication of hardships and vicissitudes endured; in the South African War, indeed, it was not so much men as horses which suffered to an unprecedented degree. The figures speak for themselves – 256 were killed, 507 had to be destroyed and 456 died from exhaustion. This gives a measure of the war – it exacted its toll as brutally as any in history.

When Boer resistance finally came to an end and peace was signed on 31 May 1902, the Greys moved to Cape Colony where they remained in garrison at Stellenbosch until 1905; they then returned home, moving to England after a brief sojourn in Edinburgh.

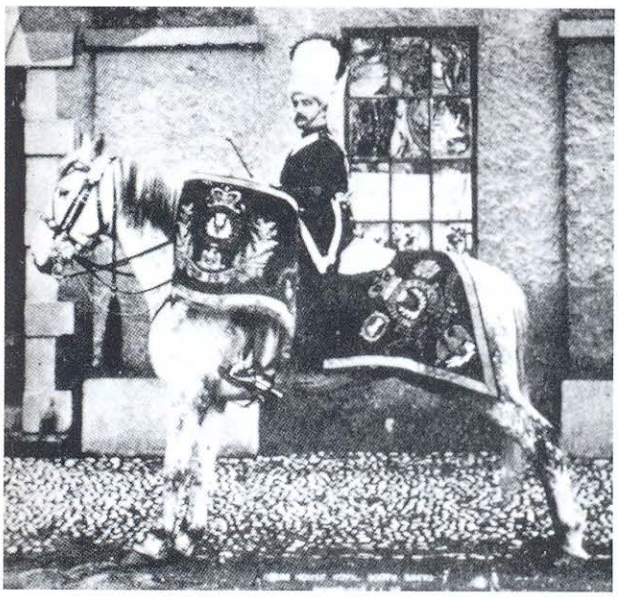
World War I

The outbreak of war in 1914 found the Scots Greys forming part of the 5th Cavalry Brigade, along with the 12th Lancers and 20th Hussars. It was the beginning of four years without parallel in military history; these years marked, among other things, the end of the cavalry arm as it had been known, but this fact, like many others, was as yet part of the future. The Regiment, three squadrons strong plus headquarters – a grand total of 545 of all ranks – arrived in France on 17 August 1914 and went into billets at Beauvais and Maubeuge. Here, as in South Africa, it was deemed wise to

dye the horses, not apparently so much for concealment as to prevent identification of the unit by the enemy. The substance employed for the process was permanganate of potash, which produced a chestnut colour which lasted about a month.

The first contact with the Germans was made on 22 August, and soon the Regiment was under the severest pressure, but valiantly held up a full enemy cavalry division for several hours. The German flood was in full spate and orders had already gone out for a retreat by all units, but the instruction failed to reach some of the scattered regiments and the Greys lost nearly a score of prisoners who remained in Mauberge and were overtaken by the onrushing Germans. For almost a fortnight the Regiment marched and fought, desperately holding the enemy at arm's length from the retreating infantry. 'Through the heat of each burning day' they retired yet further and further, lack of sleep and fatigue telling heavily on men and horses. Finally, and at long last, the tide turned and by the beginning of September the situation had somewhat stabilized. It was in the very nick of time – the British troops had reached the end of their tether.

With the Allies going over to the offensive, the cavalry was on the move again, advancing to press



Drummer Booth of the Royal Scots Greys in 1892. Photographed mounted on the Greys' famous drum horse 'Plum Duff', purchased in Dublin in 1885, Drummer Booth wears the distinctive white bearskin cap with scarlet plume. The uniform is precisely the same as worn today

Kettle-drummer, c. 1900, from an original photograph. The kettle-drummer of the Greys did not wear the white bearskin cap on all occasions as may have been supposed, and many contemporary photographs show either the white cap or, as above, the black bearskin cap as worn by the rest of the Regiment and band. The drum banner and shabrack (or saddle cloth) are either blue or red, there being two sets of banners belonging to the Regiment. The blue pair are the older, and these were replaced by the red in 1877; and both sets were subsequently retained

the enemy vigorously as, realizing his danger, he began to fall back. This indeed was no easy pursuit, and fighting was hard and sustained, the Greys having more than their share of it. By 9 September the Marne crossings were secure and the Regiment was well north of the river, clearing the village of Gandelu on the following day in great style, capturing a number of Germans, led by an officer who drew his sword and surrendered in the classic style, presenting its hilt first, to a Greys officer. The Battle of the Aisne in mid-September brought virtual stalemate, and during it the Greys suffered badly, losing 3 officers and 50 other ranks. The Regiment was withdrawn from the line shortly after and went into quarters at Couvrelles, remaining there until the end of the month.

During a short break there was time to pay

some much-needed attention to horses, saddlery and equipment, and a welcome reinforcement of some 60 men and horses arrived.

The race for the sea had begun and in October the Greys took part in the general move of the British forces to take up their assigned station on the left of the Allied front, finding themselves in the Flemish-speaking part of France at Wallon Cappel. By the time the Channel had been reached by the contending armies a continuous line of trenches stretched from the Swiss border to the sea, two immense systems of field-fortifications which, for four years, would see the most ghastly type of warfare yet experienced and would cost tens of thousands of dead. This was the Western Front of history.

During the First Battle of Ypres the Regiment's role changed as the cavalry became simply another section of troops to feed into the insatiable maw of the trenches, and only employed their horses occasionally to move from one part of the battlefield to another. It seemed to the Greys that they were for ever in the line, every man being committed to this duty, and only the barest minimum being left with the horses in the rear areas. An indication of what they were to expect was the fact that bayonets had been issued to the cavalrymen. The weather was foul, and attack and counter-attack across no-man's-land were carried out in drenching rain. Throughout the Battle of Ypres the Regiment was almost continuously in action, having only one short break when it was reunited with its horses, only a day or two after which the men were back in the line. The Battle of Ypres, however, was grinding to a halt. The strain was indescribable, and the exhaustion resulting from marching and fighting in pouring rain and a biting frost that turned the roads to sheets of ice was well-nigh unbearable. Apart from battle casualties the weather caused an extremely heavy drag on the Regiment's horses and the few replacements were insufficient to maintain the strength.

Throughout 1915 the story was the same. Training, when it was possible, was in the techniques of the new craft – trench siting and positioning, and bayonet and bombing drill. In February, the Greys were back in the line at what was to become known as Sanctuary Wood – the trenches were knee-deep in water, no gum boots were available, and there was no halt to the incessant trench warfare. In April, the Second Battle of Ypres was opened by the Germans with the first poison-gas attack; the Regiment was in the line for twenty days out of twenty-eight, but after this ordeal it was withdrawn for a much needed rest and reorganization together with more training. Until the end of the year it was in reserve except for the frequent occasions when detachments were called upon to go into the line to relieve other hard-pressed units. In January–February 1916, in accordance with a system newly developed, the Regiment, along with other cavalry units, provided a company for line service, and during these two months it saw a great deal of fighting, mining, countermining and bombing raids, the last being particularly costly in men. In the two months, 66 casualties were suffered.

From March to August the Regiment, as a whole, was not in the line, its Division being in Second Army reserve. Changes in equipment and armament were taking place; fire power was much increased, and for the first time the steel helmet, the celebrated 'tin hat', was issued – not the easiest thing for mounted men to wear. On their new headgear the Greys painted the yellow St Andrew's Cross they had worn on their khaki helmets in South Africa. Although the Regiment was officially in the rear areas, men were continually required for working parties in the trenches and there was a steady drain on manpower from the casualties they suffered.

The Greys, with the rest of the 2nd Cavalry Division, were brought up in preparation for the Somme offensive. This resulted in a shattering repulse that cost sixty thousand casualties in a single day. Flung against strong entrenchments protected by great belts of barbed wire, battalions were literally wiped out by concentrated machine-gun fire. It was an unmitigated disaster: the rain poured down in torrents, and the whole operation foundered irretrievably in the mud. It had been hoped that in the event of a breakthrough the cavalry might revert to its proper role; the hope proved utterly vain, and the Regiment remained in the rear, ending the year in quarters north-east of Abbeville. During the winter further changes in regimental organization were made, and the 5th

A mishap to the Scots Greys at Klippan, 18 February 1902. A section of the Greys detached to one flank of General Hamilton's column at Klippan, Transvaal, was cut off, surrounded and partially captured. They made a gallant fight against the greater numbers of Boers, during which three officers and two men were killed and six wounded

Squadron was established as a machine-gun squadron.

The coming of spring 1917 foreshadowed a new offensive and in early April the Greys were in action at Wancourt, fighting in a blinding storm and suffering heavy casualties under a murderous bombardment. Three days of continuous fighting cost the Regiment a great number of killed or wounded, and during the fighting which made up the Battle of Arras the cavalry lost approximately 1,600 horses. In June the Greys were detailed to carry out a major raid at Guillemont Farm where the Germans were reported to be mining the British trench system. The raid was carefully planned and was a complete success, 56 Germans being killed and 14 taken prisoner. Again in action in November, this time at Cambrai, the Greys had to be content with the infantry role, for cavalry action was impossible in the face of the concentrated machine-gun fire to which they were subjected by the enemy. Further action was seen at Gouzeaucourt later in the month.

The German offensive of March 1918 was the most tremendous of the war and it found the Greys watching the crossings over the St-Quentin canal. There they encountered the full might and fury of the enemy onslaught; the Germans mounted attack after attack, but the steadiness shown by the Greys under terrific pressure was beyond praise. As the Germans drove through the defences, by-passing pockets of resistance, there was tremendous confusion everywhere, and the Regiment's horses had to be moved back to safety; this required the assistance of a hundred men from a labour battalion at hand. The most intense efforts were made to get the mounted and dismounted detachments of the Regiment together; while this was being done, all sorts of provisional squadrons

Right: detail of hilt of officer's sword, 1896. By regulations of 1896 all cavalry officers were ordered a sword with a bowl-guard engraved with a 'honeysuckle' pattern. The 38½-inch blade was straight and encased in a steel scabbard.

Left: hilt of officer's sword, 1912 to present day, The semi-pistol-shaped grip, with thumb-bowl, is covered with fishskin and bound with silver wire. The straight blade is 35 in. long and the steel scabbard has two fixed rings

and *ad hoc* troops were put together and thrown forward into the path of the German advance. This, fortunately, was slowing down and by the beginning of April the situation had been somewhat stabilized. The cavalry was able to pull out of the fighting to re-form and for the first time since the opening of the offensive all three regiments of the Brigade were assembled. The troopers, however, were again obliged to dismount to take part in the counter-attack, in which the Greys assaulted Rifle Wood, where severe losses were suffered from machine-gun fire. After this operation the Greys withdrew to Amiens which was still within German range, but by April the advance had finally been halted. From Amiens the Regiment moved to Abbeville, where it was joined by nearly 300 men from home.

During May–July 1918 the Greys were in the rear, recouping after the severe fighting of the previous months and training the new arrivals, but in August they moved forward to take part in the last grand Allied offensive. Although this was a surprise, resistance stiffened very quickly and hard fighting was the rule rather than the exception. In the advance the Greys were considerably split up, furnishing patrols, parties for liaison duties and the like, but they were reunited again by the beginning of September and took part in smashing through the Hindenburg Line. The advance continued and by 18 October, after sharp fighting, the Regiment was probing at the crossings of the Sambre, and coming under heavy shellfire. A sudden and virulent outbreak of influenza swept at this time through the Regiment, in common with other units in all the armies, and it had to be withdrawn. Owing to this epidemic it could muster only one strong squadron. The Regiment's last actual day of action was on 9 November, and in their rapid advance the men had a tremendous welcome from the French populace, liberated after four years of occupation. By the 10th they were at Avesnes and on the following day came the Armistice. The war was over.

On 1 December the Regiment entered Germany, and thereafter it was anticlimax. Men and horses were immediately drained away, and it was as a dismounted unit, numbering no more than 7 officers and 126 other ranks, that the Scots Greys sailed from Antwerp for Southampton on 22 March 1919.

Four years of practically continuous fighting, had cost the Regiment 37 officers and 585 other ranks killed or wounded.

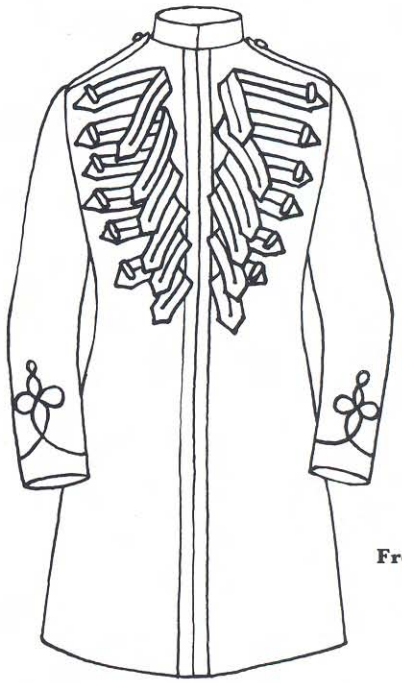
World War II

Even allowing for the advantages of hindsight, it does seem strange that, despite the lessons of 1914–18, many experienced if diehard commanders continued to believe in the efficacy of horsed cavalry; the advent of aircraft and tanks seems to have had little effect on the traditionally conservative military mind. Thus, horsed cavalry remained a substantial part of the British Army, and a system was established whereby the regiments spent in rotation two years in Egypt, five in India and seven at home. The Regiment, which had been given its present title, The Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons), in 1920, was sent abroad in that year and, after service in Egypt and Palestine, went to India in 1922. It remained there until 1928. These were years of polo, gymkhanas, horse shows, everything that went to make up military life in India in the last days of Empire, and when the Greys returned home in 1928 it was a vastly different state of affairs that they found – depression and gloom everywhere, shortage of money and recruits, and total uncertainty as to what would be the role of the cavalry in future wars.

Despite the stringency of the period, however, certain improvements were made in the cavalry regiments – a machine-gun component was attached to headquarters, and one of the four sabre sections of each troop was equipped with light automatic weapons. In 1933 the Regiment moved to Edinburgh and in that year took part in a spectacular recruiting march through the Scottish Highlands, at one stage actually traversing the fastnesses of the Cairngorm Mountains, where the horses had to be led over three miles of the rockiest going, and in a thick mist. The march caught the public imagination and led to a welcome influx of recruits.

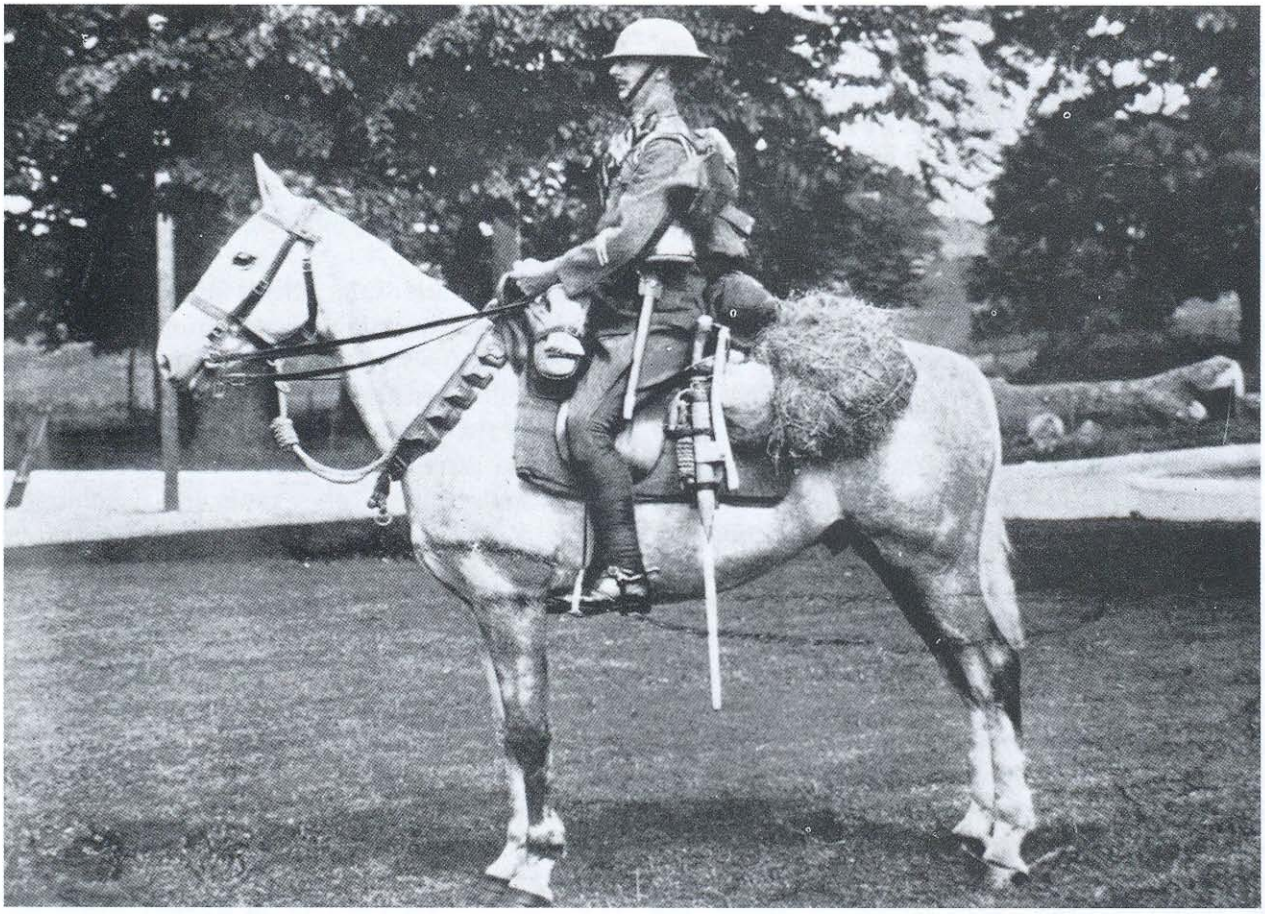
In the late 'thirties mechanization was very much in the air, and both in 1935 and in 1937 there was a very real threat that the Regiment would lose its horses; nevertheless it was with their mounts that the Regiment sailed for Palestine in October 1938.

There the task of the British forces was to assist the police in maintaining a precarious good order between Arab and Jew, and the familiar 'cordon and search' operation became a frequent occurrence. On the outbreak of the Second World War the Greys were at Rehovot with a strength of 17 officers and 455 other ranks. In Edinburgh, however, the depot squadron was busy receiving and sending off the reservists as they flowed in, and one draft of 18 officers and 259 men joined the Regiment at the end of October. Civil disturbances increased and in February 1940 one squadron actually carried out a mounted charge to deal with a group of rioters. This was the last mounted action of the Scots Greys. Immediately after this event it was decided that the Regiment should become an armoured one, to the great joy of all who wished to take a more active part in the war than being 'tethered to horses' would permit.



Frock coat, 1900

Part of the Regiment took part, as a species of



Trooper, 1918, in full marching order. (Scottish United Services Museum)

mechanized infantry in a very indifferent collection of trucks, in the Syrian campaign against the Vichy French, and in September 1941 the horses were handed in – not without secret regret here and there – and the Regiment immediately began intensive training in 'Stuart' light tanks.

In February 1942 the Greys moved to a camp west of Cairo, where training went forward in every aspect of desert warfare. In April the Regiment received its first 'Grant' tanks, a heavier infantry support vehicle with a 75 mm. gun of low velocity and limited traverse. After three months' training, although with still only a limited number of Grants, the Regiment was eager for action, but this was to be denied for the moment. After the fighting about Tobruk, in which the Greys took no part, they had to hand all their tanks over to other units which had suffered badly in the preceding battle. Tobruk fell on 20 June and by the end of July the Regiment was back, much frustrated, in its camp near Cairo. After re-equipping with more Stuarts, plus a few Grants and Lees, it moved into the forward area, taking up a position on the Ruweisat Ridge.

It was in August, when Rommel's thrust was repulsed at Alam Halfa, that the Greys first tasted armoured warfare. The German commander tried everything he knew to break through, but finally had to withdraw his battered tanks – this was really the turning point of the Desert War. After further training and operations involving the light squadron, which daily moved out into the desert to observe the enemy, the Regiment moved to its concentration area on 22 October, ready for the great battle which was to send the enemy reeling back across North Africa. It was only during the following day that the tanks required to bring the regiment up to strength arrived, just in time for the advance. Half an hour after the roar of the Alamein bombardment had begun to echo from

end to end of the line the Greys advanced through the minefields and from then until the end of the month the Regiment was actively engaged with the 21st Panzer Division, effectively containing this crack unit in the south. Losses were very heavy during this period, and on 2 November the Regiment moved north to take part in the pursuit, forming many of the armoured 'left hooks' which kept the Germans on the run. In the attack on Fûka, tanks of the Regiment reverted to cavalry tactics, charging and overrunning a battery of Italian artillery. Eleven guns and three hundred prisoners were captured for the loss of one light tank.

On and on went the pursuit, at a prodigious cost in broken-down tanks, and miracles of improvisation were carried out as the advance reared forward. New tanks – not many of them – were received, the American Sherman among them, and by the middle of December the Regiment's armour was a polyglot mixture, numbering at one point six Grants, seventeen Shermans and twenty-one Stuarts. On the 17th of the month there was a severe action at Nofilia with the powerful Mark III and Mark IV tanks of the 15th Panzer Division, and it was a depleted Regiment which went into leaguer in the evening. But the enemy did not tarry, and the pursuit was recommenced the following day.

Casualties in tanks continued to be heavy owing to the skilful use the enemy made of his 50 mm. and 88 mm. anti-tank guns, but by the beginning of January the Regiment still mustered eighteen Stuarts, sixteen Shermans and four Grants, thanks to tremendous efforts by the maintenance crews.

On went the advance to Tripoli, which was entered on 23 January 1943. It was deemed advisable to refit the Regiment, and accordingly it remained in the area for some six months. Having handed over all its serviceable tanks, it was issued with Shermans and training proceeded actively.

There was a second re-equipping, this time with diesel-engined Shermans, and when these and the transport had been waterproofed the Regiment sailed for Italy on 1 September. The desperate nature of the Salerno fighting is well known, and attacks and counter-attacks burst round the beach-head until an initially doubtful situation had been restored, this despite the appearance of very strong German armour, notably the Mark IV Special. Once Salerno itself had been cleared and the invading forces were able to move, a road was punched through to Naples into which, after heavy fighting, a triumphal entry was made on 6 October. Fighting all the way, the tanks pushed northwards towards the River Garigliano but on 14 January 1944 the Greys were withdrawn from the line, and, having handed over their tanks, sailed for England on 28 January.

Freshly rearmed with Sherman II tanks, one in each troop armed with the 17-pounder gun, and having enjoyed a very brief spell of leave, the Royal Scots Greys landed in Normandy on D-Day +1 at Courseulles. This was the more open part of the country, not the close *bocage* further west, and in it the Greys were to meet the 45-ton German Panther and the enormous Tiger. As more and more German troops and armour came on, in an attempt to contain the expanding beach-head, the fighting became quite murderous, and the Regiment was continually in action. At times this took on the character of a series of individual duels, with the Shermans stalking the Panthers in an effort to get their guns to bear on the less powerfully protected flank or rear of their enemies. Heavy losses were suffered in men and tanks, and soon there was a dearth of experienced commanders and tanks were in short supply. On 29 July the Regiment moved through Caen to support Canadian troops two miles south, and after an encounter with enemy 'beetles' – small remote-control tanks filled with high explosive – it was brought back to the north of Caen.

At the beginning of August the Regiment was brought into the *bocage* country west of Caen to support an infantry attack towards Vire. A hectic engagement ensued after which the Regiment moved back to Évrecy. By this time the American breakthrough at St-Lô was complete and the German counter-attack towards Mortain had been defeated. The push south from Caen to cut off the Germans in the Falaise area was under way, and the Greys pushed southwards against the bitterest opposition and in very bad and close country. By the 20th the Falaise 'pocket' had been closed and the long, long battle of the beach-head was over. Everywhere were the signs of the greatest disaster the Germans had suffered, abandoned transport

Bandmaster Stuart Fairbairn leads the regimental marching band of the Royal Scots Greys, 1968. (Crown copyright)

and guns and dead horses by scores lying everywhere. The worst feature was the dreadful stench from the corpses of those unfortunate animals – it would linger in the nostrils of all who experienced it for a long time. The Greys had been fighting with no let-up for a month, generally out-gunned and with largely inexperienced crews, but every man had stoutly and honourably done his duty.

Forward went the pursuit across northern France. Mines and booby traps had to be negotiated but having advanced upwards of a hundred miles without setting eyes on the enemy, the Regiment crossed the Seine on 29 August. More mines were met and there was evidence of coalescing German resistance, but some hundreds of prisoners were collected. They appeared astonished at the rapidity of the British advance. The next barrier was the Somme and here the crossing was made under heavy shellfire and in the teeth of a strong resistance. The enemy launched a counter-attack but this was outflanked and driven off by the Greys.

With the crossing secured, the Regiment moved forward to St-Pol, a fatiguing journey along roads lined with craters from bombing attacks on the V1 sites near by, and the Belgian border was crossed on 5 September. During the next two days the Regiment was engaged in conflict around Avelghem on the Scheldt, only a few miles from Oudenarde, where the Greys had fought more than two hundred years before. In this action the Greys successfully broke up a German infantry attack strongly supported by the deadly 88 mm. guns. Later in the month the Regiment handed over the area to infantry units and moved to an area near Antwerp for a short rest, during which, remarkably enough, short leave was granted in Brussels.

During October the Regiment was engaged in Nijmegen Island, where owing to the waterlogged ground in this highly irrigated area, operations with tanks were exceedingly difficult and, faced with a determined enemy, the troops suffered heavy casualties. The Regiment later moved off and took part in the liberation of 's Hertogenbosch. After stiff fighting there the Regiment joined in clearing the area to the west of the River Maas opposite Roermond. Mines were everywhere, and were a constant danger, costing the Regiment many tanks. Those left were in a dreadful condition and a halt had to be called for repairs and maintenance.

On 18 February the Regiment was brought forward to Tilburg, from there mounting an attack on Udem, where the fighting was as severe as anything experienced since the landing in Normandy. The enemy were first-rate troops and fought stubbornly for every inch of ground. Nevertheless, all objectives were secured and after a few days of quiet the Greys moved forward to take part in one of the most momentous operations yet – the crossing of the Rhine. This was made in support of the 15th (Scottish) Division, and in the wake of the infantry the Regiment crossed the great river during the night and pressed forward, meeting mines and demolitions. On 5 April the Regiment joined with the 52nd (Lowland) Division for the long drive across Germany. There was no question of a joy ride, action being almost continuous, and civilians occasionally sniping at the tanks with bazookas. On 24 April they entered Bremen.

Last operation of all was the thrust to the Baltic, which was reached at Wismar on 2 May. On the last day the Regiment covered 60 miles in eight hours, a prodigious feat for tanks so old and battered. As the Greys approached Wismar the final speed was such that the troop-carrying trucks found it hard to keep up with the tanks. At 9.00 p.m. the Regiment saw its first Russians approaching from the west – both male and female soldiers.

On 11 May a victory parade was held at Wismar, and, true to tradition, a number of horses were collected and a riding school was started. The Second World War was over.

LAST WORD

On Friday, 2 July 1971 the Royal Scots Greys were amalgamated with the 3rd Carabiniers to form a new regiment – The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys). It is indeed a sad state of affairs that a regiment with virtually three centuries of service and tradition should find itself dependent for its very existence upon the stroke of an unsympathetic and bureaucratic pen.

The Plates

A1 Private 1684

Factual details regarding the uniform of the Royal Scots Greys during the early years of the Regiment's existence are very difficult to find, this being particularly applicable to pictorial material, and consequently the uniform shown must be regarded as fairly speculative. The Pilkington Jackson statuette in the Scottish United Services Museum in Edinburgh Castle shows a mounted dragoon wearing the 'lobster-tailed' triple bar helmet so characteristic of the Civil War, but it seems likely that by 1684 this would most probably have been replaced by the rather baggy fur-edged cap associated with the dragoon-type of cavalryman. The cross-belt or bandolier still carries the individual powder charges – the 'twelve apostles' – and despite the fact that dragoons were ostensibly intended for dismounted as well as mounted operations the very heavy 'jacked' boots were worn, while the straight basket-hilted type of sword was in use. The grey uniform requires comment. Although an order had previously been issued for the importation from England of red or scarlet cloth for making uniforms, the colonel of the Regiment was, in 1684, allowed to purchase a quantity of grey cloth for the purpose. This appears to be the sole reference to the wearing of grey uniform, but it does seem likely that, once purchased, some use would have been made of it. The trooper of 1684 is therefore shown thus.

A2 Private 1706

By the beginning of the eighteenth century the Regiment was uniformed in red in conformity with general usage throughout the army. Again, sadly, little or no pictorial evidence exists, but the private of 1706 is depicted in accordance with what written material is available, this uniform being very similar to what was worn by most regiments of British cavalry. The coat is long and full, as was characteristic of the period, and officers' embroidery was of gold while that of the other ranks was white (this style of lace continuing until the beginning of the following century). The head-dress was the broad tricorne, laced with white for the private, and belts and bandolier are of heavy buff leather, as is the ammunition pouch. It is of interest to note that equipment and arms lost by the 40 casualties at the Battle of Ramillies in this year cost the equivalent of £13·50 per man. Facings and cuffs were now blue, as befitted a 'Royal' regiment. The straight cavalry sword continued to be standard equipment and, as can be seen, the hair was worn long, unpowdered, and gathered together with a ribbon tied in a small bow.

A3 Officer 1762

This is an officer of the Light Troop of the regiment, based on a portrait of Lord Newbattle (later Marquess of Lothian). The cap, of which an actual specimen was formerly in the Museum of the Royal United Services Institute, is an elaborate

one, with much gold and silver braid. The front flap is crimson and bears the White Horse of Hanover in silver, and a tri-coloured dangling plume – red, white and blue – ornaments the left side of the headgear. Uniform is scarlet and the facings blue. The Light Troop wore rather lighter boots than did the men of the rest of the Regiment, the tops being considerably smaller and more flexible than those of the jackboot. The officer wears his sword belt under the coat, and the weapon itself has a three-bar hilt. Gold lace ornaments the facings and cuffs. The cap, such a distinctive feature of the dress, was 10 in. in height, and, possibly anticipating the *panache* of the light cavalry of later years, it seems that it was frequently worn tilted to one side of the head.

B Trooper 1751

This illustration is based on a contemporary painting by Morier and shows the mitre or grenadier cap of the type first authorized to be worn by the whole Regiment in 1742. It had a red front with yellow edging, embroidered border of roses and thistles and a blue Garter with the motto in yellow letters. The small flap was blue and edged with yellow, bearing a device which included the thistle. The back of the cap was red with yellow piping. The red coat has a small blue patch on the front of the collar with a white loop and button, white loops and buttons in pairs down the front edge of the coat, blue cuffs with white loops arranged in chevrons and blue turnbacks. The waistcoat and breeches were also blue. White leather belts and pouch were worn. Horse housings were of blue, edged with lace and bearing the badge of the Thistle on a red background within a blue circle. Holster caps were blue, edged with similar lace with 'II.D' thereon, and a 'G.R.' monogram in yellow. From 1729 the regulation horse for dragoons was to be 'a strong, well-bodied horse, 15 hands high'.

C1 Private 1778

This illustration shows a private wearing the bearskin head-dress which had been authorized in 1768 in place of the old cloth grenadier cap. The coat is red, with turned-down collar with two white loops on each side; blue, white-embroidered cloth epaulettes are worn on each shoulder; cuffs are blue with two pairs of loops. Waistcoat, breeches and turnbacks are all white. The bearskin cap bears the badge of the Thistle within the circle of St Andrew on the plate, and there is a white plaited cord at the rear, ending in a tassel which can be seen projecting from the side of the head-dress. The hair was worn in a plait turned up at the back. The cross-belt is white leather as is that worn about the waist.

C2 Officer 1799

This shows the officer wearing the regulation cocked hat of the period, quite plain, but with a red-and-white plume. The jacket is scarlet; the collar is blue with two gold lace bars. There are gold chain wings on the shoulders and four pairs of gold lace loops on the front of the coat. A white pouch-belt with oval gilt plate is worn over the left shoulder, and it bears a small black pouch hanging just on the right hip. The sash is crimson with the ends hanging to the wearer's right, and the coat turnbacks are blue, bordered with gold lace and ornamented at their junction. White gloves are worn, white breeches and knee boots.

C3 Officer 1815

Based on one of the figures from a group painted by Denis Dighton which is now in Windsor Castle, this officer wears the cocked hat worn when not in Field Service Dress and it is ornamented with a very generous white feather plumage. He wears jacket and sash, but is without the cross-belt and pouch. The belt is narrow and black and has the plain black sabretache suspended by two narrow black slings. He is armed with a light sword with gold hilt carried in a black leather scabbard with gilt mountings. His breeches are white and he wears hessian boots.

D Trooper 1807

Again in this year we find a return to an individual head-dress, once more a variety of the fur cap. Prior to 1807 the regulation cocked hat of the dragoon regiments had been worn for some time. The white lace ornamenting the front of the jacket appears, in one contemporary source, to have been worn in pairs of loops, and red, white-laced shoulder wings can be seen. In 1811 this white lace was replaced by broad stripes of yellow lace running vertically down the front of the coat and extending round the skirts. A brownish goatskin

covers the saddle and a red cloak was rolled and strapped over the pistol holsters carried in front of the saddle. The collar, cuffs and shoulder straps are blue, the collar being ornamented with a pair of white lace loops, and the shoulder straps also edged white. In this year 'milled kersey breeches' were proposed for regimental wear instead of 'shag breeches', the price of the coarse wool from which the latter were made having increased astronomically. Where the rank and file wore white lace, the officers wore gold.

E1 Sergeant 1832

This is the period where the magnificence of military uniform was virtually at its peak. Exaggeration is the rule rather than the exception, and this is typified in the size of the vast bearskin cap now worn. A large white plume extends up the left side of the cap, curling over to the right, and a brass plate ornaments the front. Heavy metal epaulettes are worn, and a plain black sabretache hangs on white slings from a sword belt of the same colour. A broad yellow stripe can be seen on the outer seam of the trousers. Large gauntlet gloves are regulation wear.

E2 Officer 1834

This officer, in undress uniform, wears a blue, single-breasted frock coat with uniform buttons and high, stand-up 'Prussian' collar and scale shoulder straps. The collar is ornamented with gold grenades. The pouch-belt is of plain buffalo leather and the pouch box is plain black. The bearskin cap has long gold lines ending in a loop round the back of the neck. A broad gold stripe appears down the outer seam of the trousers. The shoulder straps are described as being of blue cloth and ornamented with an open gilt crescent and metal edging of dead gilt, a gilt 'S.G.' and a silver grenade, all on blue cloth.

E3 Officer 1844

Full dress during the Victorian era continued to be extremely elaborate. The officer shown here is weighed down with ponderous, fringed gold bullion epaulettes and a heavy, gold-embroidered sabretache. The tunic is single-breasted, fastened with gold buttons and has a blue collar liberally ornamented with gold lace, on which a grenade is superimposed. The bearskin is large and cumbersome and the wearing of the white feather has been discontinued. However, this order was only temporary, and in 1846 the first Dress Regulations of Queen Victoria's reign were made and the bearskin is described as having a white hackle feather nine inches long. A gold sash with heavy fringe hanging at the front is worn in full dress.

F1 Sergeant 1854

This was the uniform worn by the men of the Royal Scots Greys who charged the mass of Russian cavalry at Balaklava as part of Scarlett's heavy brigade. The coatee is scarlet, and is short-tailed. The bearskin has the characteristic white plume, although slightly small now, and the blue collar has a pair of lace loops on each side. From the collar narrow blue piping extends down the edge of the coatee. Large white gauntlets are worn.

F2 Trooper 1898

Field service order as worn in the Sudan in 1898. The khaki uniform was worn by all ranks, and came in a variety of different shades, and the coat or 'frock' was common to infantry and cavalry. Shoulder chains were worn by all ranks of cavalry and horse artillery personnel. The helmet was of cork and covered with white or khaki drill – during the campaign all brass fittings were removed. In the field a helmet cover – also of khaki – and neck protector were worn. The Royal Scots Greys may have worn a twisted narrow ribbon in the puggaree (the folded band around the crown of the helmet). Cavalry wore a brown leather cartridge bandolier over the left shoulder, with the haversack and water bottle over the right. The Lee Enfield carbine was used initially but was later exchanged for the Lee Enfield rifle as used by the infantry. The lance was also apparently frequently carried by cavalry.

F3 Trooper 1900

Full dress towards the end of the Victorian age became slightly more practical than it had been, and in fact that shown remained standard with slight changes while full dress still existed. The bearskin cap varied in height according to the size of the wearer, and was made of black bearskin with a white hackle feather ten inches in height on the left side, secured by a small badge which incorporated the Royal Arms. A metal curb chain was

Members of the band of the Royal Scots Greys in 1892. The trumpeters in the front row can be seen wearing the 1874-pattern forage cap with their distinctive grenade badges at the front and a pair of yellow crossed trumpets embroidered on the right upper arm

worn. The tunic was scarlet, fastened by eight large buttons down the front, and had blue collar and cuffs. The buttons had a scalloped edge and were embossed with an Imperial eagle over the honour 'Waterloo'. Waist-belts were of buff leather, pipeclayed white, and with sword slings of the same material.

G1 Trooper 1918

This illustration is based on an original photograph dated 1918 and shows the soldier in full marching order. The equipment is complicated, being made up of waist-belt, bayonet frog, braces, cartridge carriers, pack, haversack and water bottle. Although spending as much time in the trenches as on his horse, the trooper would cling tenaciously to his spurs without a doubt. In fighting order rather less equipment would be carried, and he would be armed with the 1902 Lee Enfield rifle.

G2 Officer 1953

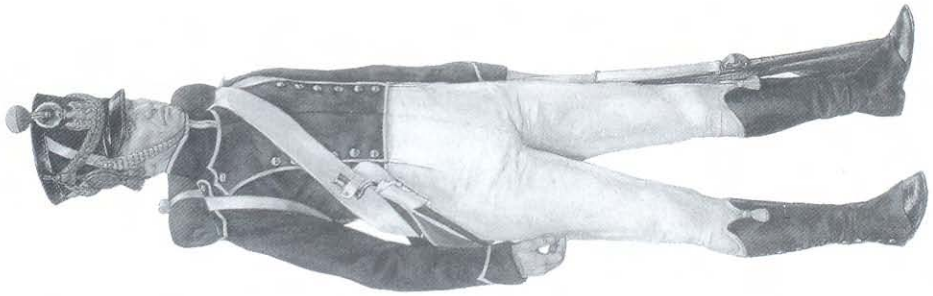
The glory of 'full dress' is no longer part of the orders of uniform in the British Army. The officer shown is part of a detachment of the Regiment who, during the Queen's visit to Edinburgh in 1953, wore this splendid uniform. The main features are all traditional – scarlet coat, distinctive blue cuffs and collar, black bearskin with white plume, broad gold band down the outer seam of the breeches, standard cavalry sabre in steel scabbard.

G3 Bass Drummer 1966

In 1960 it was decided, within the Royal Scots Greys, that, as the occasion when the mounted kettle-drummer would be seen were becoming increasingly fewer, the tradition of the white bearskin should not be allowed to vanish, and the privilege of wearing it was extended to the bass drummer of the Regimental Band. It is he who is shown here, wearing the typical leopard-skin apron associated with bass drummers in practically every military band in the Army. During the summer of 1971 the Royal Scots Greys' Regimental Band took part in the ceremony of beating the retreat on Horse Guards Parade, with the white-bearskinned bass drummer prominent, and all bandsmen wearing spurs!

H Kettle-drummer 1935

The famous, if incorrect, story that the white bearskin cap worn by this most spectacular member of the regimental mounted band was presented by the Czar of Russia has been properly exposed as being totally apocryphal. It was, in fact, introduced experimentally as long ago as the 'eighties of last century, but was at first deemed not to be a success, and indeed, much later, it was not worn by the kettle-drummer on all occasions, but possibly only on the instructions of the colonel of the Regiment. The custom of having a black horse to carry the kettledrums was also of late beginning – about 1904 – prior to which year the drum-horses had been a variety of greys and skewbalds. It was in 1937 that the mounted band with the kettle-drummer wearing the re-introduced white bearskin provided such a sensation, and on many subsequent occasions the mounted band has been the cause of the greatest admiration at many military spectacles.



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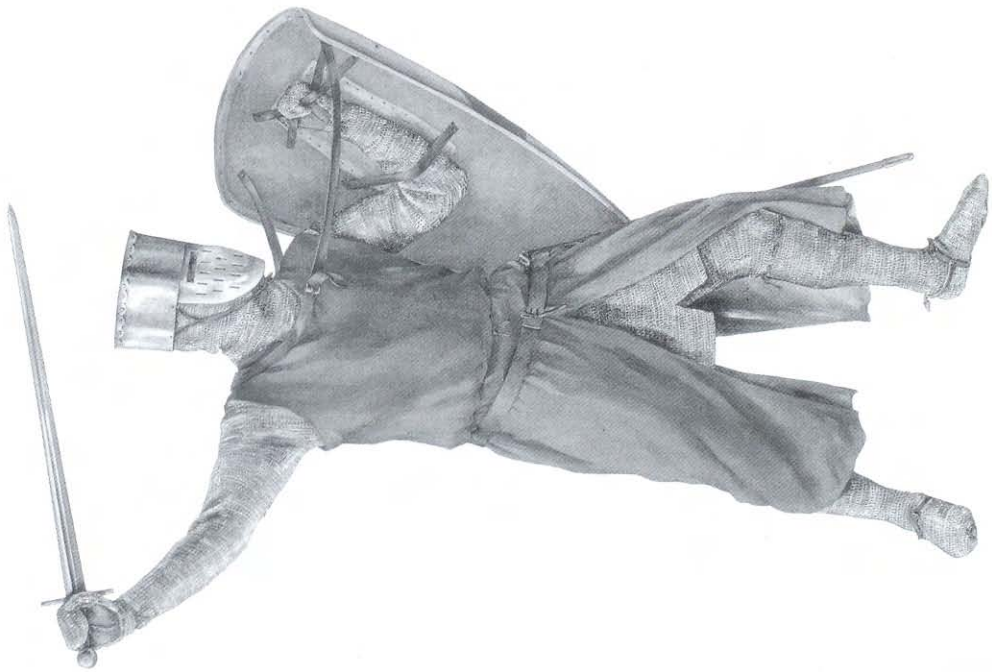

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THE KING'S REGIMENT *Alan Shepperd*

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