

Records of the Monaghan Militia 1793-1870

by

**Quarter-Master William Watson
Monaghan Regiment of Militia
(1871)**

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CONTENTS

Introduction	2
1793-1816	3
1817-1854	16
1855-1871	20

Introduction

Completed in January 1871, the following article was printed in the 'Northern Standard' (Monaghan) in nine weekly parts, from 02 March 1928 - 27 April 1928.

The first newspaper instalment was introduced as follows:

We Publish this week the first instalment of "Records of the Monaghan Militia" written by Quarter Master Wm. Watson in the year 1871, and dedicated by the writer to the Col.-in-chief of the Regiment, Charles Powel (sic) Leslie, Esq., M.P.

The records are exceedingly interesting and will be continued from week to week in the "Northern Standard."

Some obvious typographical errors have been corrected and the weekly chapter headings have been omitted, but otherwise the contents stand as in the newspaper publication.

Brendan Hall
Donal Hall
July 1999

Records of the Monaghan Militia

1793-1816

The 1st or Monaghan Regiment of Militia, was formed and enrolled in the Year 1793. Colonel John Montgomery of Ballyleck, near the town of Monaghan, was appointed Head Colonel of the Regiment by the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (the Earl of Westmoreland), being a loyal and popular man in the County. As Colonel-in-Chief, in him was vested the appointing of all the officers in his Regiment, and who were all supposed to be gentlemen of the county, or else having property therein. It was considered that Colonel Montgomery's first selection of his officers was the very best which could have been made as to the respectability, standing, and efficiency, of the gentlemen whom he selected. His choice of the Adjutant of the Regiment, who had formerly served in the Regular Army, was most happy, and turned out to be both fortunate and judicious, being a brave soldier and an experienced and well drilled officer; and who was the means of bringing the Regiment into a most efficient state of discipline; within a very short period he taught every man his duty, from the Lane-Corporal to the Sergeant-Major, and his accurate knowledge of the duties of the higher grades in the Regiment, and the kindly and gentlemanlike manner in which he imparted it, was pleasing and agreeable to all his brother officers.

The Regiment originally consisted of six companies, but was augmented in 1795 to eight companies, and again in 1797 every company was brought up to the full strength of 70 men per company. It should have been previously mentioned that Colonel Montgomery chose white to be the colour of the facings for his Regiment, considering it to be clean and handsome looking as well.

The following are the names of the officers found upon the roll of those receiving commissions in the first year of the Regiment being raised:- Colonel John Montgomery, Lieut. Colonel Charles P. Leslie, Major Alex. Montgomery, Captain John Ker, Captain Edward Richardson, Captain John James, Captain Robert Minnett, Captain A. N. Montgomery, Captain Thos. Singleton, Lieutenant Garmoney, Lieutenant Nixon. Lieutenant Johnston, Lieutenant Henry, Lieutenant Evatt, and Adjt.. Lieutenant Rawdon, and Q. M. Ensign Gouldsberry. Ensign Hamill, Ensign Cochrane, Ensign Dundas, Ensign Dudgeon, Ensign Tuton, Adjutant Evatt, and Lieut. Quarter Master Rawdon and Lieut. Surgeon R. Montgomery, Surgeon's Mate Mr. Hamill.

It may be here stated that upon the first enrolment or raising of the Regiment so many were the persons offering themselves for Sergeants that many of them were considered eligible for the situation of subaltern officers; and so difficult was it to make choice that at the formation of the

corps, lots were drawn in several instances to decide which of some of those offering themselves should be appointed Ensigns.

Colonel Montgomery being a gentleman of refined tastes and most polished habits was very anxious to have a band formed in his Regiment and which should be a first-class one, but failed in obtaining a master to his liking until the Regiment had been stationed in the City of Cork in 1795, some couple of years after its embodiment; here he procured an efficient person. (Lodge was the name of the first Band Master in the Regiment), with whom he at once made an arrangement, had him attested in the regiment as Sergeant, appointing him instructor and leader to the Band, and choosing his bandsmen from amongst the rank and file and drummers of the regiment in course of some few years, the Monaghan Militia band under this man's training became a really good and efficient one, taking rank amongst the best of the Militia bands in Ireland; and with the exception of the Royal Tyrone Militia band, who were so fortunate as to have amongst them a family of musicians - 4 brothers (their names being Willman) the Monaghan band was second to none other in the service. Here it is right to mention that the corps of drums and bugles in the Regiment was most efficient and none better supposed to be in the Militia force in the Kingdom - Atwood being the name of the first Drum Major who had served in, and was brought up in the Regular Army.

Granard in the County Longford, on the borders of Westmeath was the first place to which the regiment, after its enrolment was ordered to do duty in, and was quartered in that town 1793-4, thence they received the route to Longford 1794, and they were found in the beautiful city of Cork in 1795-6, giving detachments to garrison and several towns in the country, as was the custom in those times. It is stated that during the period of the Regiment remaining in Cork, both officers and men were highly thought of by the inhabitants, as well as by the gentry of the surrounding neighbourhood. The officers, being chiefly gentlemen of property, mixed a good deal with the gentry of the city and its vicinity; and the general conduct and behaviour of the men being such as became soldiers, tended much to their being well thought of and respected by the middle and lower classes of its citizens.

From some cause of a domestic nature, Colonel Montgomery resigned his commission and command of the Regiment early in the year 1797, and it was not very long after until his death took place in Dublin, from whence his remains were brought, and buried in Kilmore churchyard in the neighbourhood of Monaghan and very convenient to his late residence in the county.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Powell Leslie of Glaslough upon the resignation of Colonel Montgomery, was appointed by the late Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (Earl Camden) Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, whose father was one of the representatives of the county in Parliament, Colonel Leslie himself representing the county afterwards during the

greater part of his life. As head Colonel, in him was now vested the appointment of all officers of the Regiment. He was popular with the Government, and very much liked by the entire Regiment, ever taking the most lively interest in all its concerns and everything in connection with it. It was during his command that it became and was looked upon as one crack Militia Regiment, and under him supposed to have given more volunteers to the Regular Army than any other Militia Regiment in Ireland; and it is believed that no other Colonel obtained as many commissions in the line for their subaltern officers as he did, always judicious and careful in the selection of those officers. From his influence with the Government and his discernment of fitting men, those of his Regiment were in most part gentlemen of steadiness and ability. He could boast of having sent a Dundas, and a Bartley, etc. etc. to the line, the latter who became a General and commanded the 49th Foot, which he never left until his death from his first entering it as an ensign from the Monaghan Regiment. He was one of several sons of Dr. Bartley, of the town of Monaghan, a highly respectable practitioner, and some of whose relatives are living still in the neighbourhood.

Colonel Leslie, also, upon his promotion to the command of the Regiment, found his non-commissioned officers, generally speaking, a respectable body of men; and from taking his command, used his influence with his well-to-do tenantry and neighbours, being a gentleman of large property in the county, to send their son, or younger brother, into his Regiment, promoting them if worthy, and by so doing, always kept up a number of non-commissioned officers, upon whom he could rely and place confidence in as to their usefulness, truth, and trustworthiness.

It was in the year 1797 that an increase of one shilling per diem was allowed to all officers under the rank of Captain and a warrant for that purpose was forwarded to all regiments granting the increase.

In the early part of the year the Regiment is quartered in Belfast, and there stationed 1797-98, during the entire of the Irish rebellion. Whilst the Regiment was quartered here, a newspaper called the 'Star' was published in Belfast, having its office somewhere in the neighbourhood of High street and Waring street, and from which disseminated a vast amount of treason and disloyalty, publishing sentiments most injurious to the peace and good order of the community. Frequently was its broad sheet to be seen posted up in the most conspicuous parts of the town where public placards or announcements were customarily placed, and numbers of persons eagerly reading and literally swallowing its contents. On a certain day early in the month of May, 1798, the Commanding Officer of the Monaghan's (sic) and General Nugent, then in command of the Northern district, rode out one evening, as was often their wont, around the neighbourhood for recreation, and to take note of the circumstances of an extraordinary nature that might come under their observation, when a few of the wild spirits of the Regiment assembled around the house in which the 'Star' newspaper was

published, and within a period of 40 minutes, the printing presses, types, frames, and even the windows of the house, were torn up, scattered and destroyed, and the few fellows who committed the outrage off to the barracks, so that when the affair was investigated, and enquired into, not a single man could be identified or sworn as having been present at the sacking of the house, so suddenly and quickly was the act of destruction performed, and so well did those engaged in it keep their own secret.

At this period the Light Company of the Regiment was, with several other Militia Light Companies, brigaded at Blaris camp, near Lisburn, a distance of about 8 miles from Belfast under the command of Col. Barbour, and sad to relate whilst here stationed, the regiment had four men shot for treason and being United Irishmen. During this summer the embers of disaffection was fast-spreading among large numbers of the peasantry and farming classes, and a goodly number of them, chiefly belonging to the counties of Down and Antrim, rose in rebellion against the constitutional authorities in the State, and as a first beginning, determined to possess themselves of the town of Antrim, being by them considered rather a central situation, and suitable for the objects they had in view, which when becoming known to the authorities, they at once despatched the Light Company of the Monaghan Regiment stationed at Blaris camp, who were obliged to make a forced march in order to be up in time, and three companies of the Regiment from Belfast, with the 64th foot of the line, part of the 22nd Light Dragoons, and some Yeomanry, both infantry and mounted; the Mounted troop was commanded by the late James Watson, Esq., J.P., one of the most perfect gentlemen of his day. His father, Commodore Watson, had done good service to his country, and the son proved himself well worthy the fame of his parent. In 1798 Mr. Watson led a troop of the local Yeomanry at the battle of Antrim, and, in the heat of the throng, he cheered on his men with such lusty vigour as to call forth the thanks of the commander. During the latter part of the day his horse was shot under him, and quickly releasing himself from the dying animal he dashed forward on foot, and did not cease his efforts until the army of the United men had been completely routed. The after career of Mr. Watson was that of a country gentleman of that good old school, which, we regret to note, is fast passing away. Brookhill House had long been famed as the seat of a hospitality truly baronial, and during Mr. Watson's day of sturdy strength no one more delightful than he did to see his friends round him. As a sportsman he had few equals, and to this day the equestrian feats of the Lord of the Brookhill Harriers form the subject of many legends. But, while he indulged freely in the sports of the turf and the hunting-field, he did not forget his duties as a resident gentleman. He was an active member of the Grand Panel of the county and an upright magistrate, and in each of these capacities had earned for himself the highest respect from people of all ranks.

The Royalists prevented the rebels obtaining their object of gaining possession of the town, who were encamped in the suburbs and outskirts of it, and upon their attempting to possess themselves of the town were driven back with much loss, though it was judged the commander of the Royalist Forces, Col. Clavering, committed a serious error in making his attack upon the rebels so soon as he did, and in not waiting for all his infantry force to be up, both from Blaris camp and from Belfast. Had he wisely deferred his attack for a short period, so many of his splendid Dragoons would not have been lost to him. They had charged and drove the enemy before them through the town, cutting the pikemen down like twigs, but before they had time to reform and get back to their former position, the rebels had placed some guns in a most favourable spot, and with their musketry, who were entrenched behind a dead wall, which at the time ran through part of the town, emptied the saddles of the Dragoons most fearfully. Fortunately however, the infantry coming up at this juncture, and at once going into action, the route and defeat of the rebels became general, and a large quantity of both muskets and pikes, with the guns, fell into the hands of the royalists who pursued and followed the rebels into Randalstown, where they had taken refuge, and which Col. Clavering burned and sacked, and previous to doing so, allowed the soldiery two hours plunder.

The next affair the Regiment was involved in was at the battle of Ballynahinch, in the County Down, which was fought on the 13th of June 1798, the Regiment having marched from Belfast the day previous, under the command of General Nugent, with some foot and horse Yeomanry and part of the 22nd Light Dragoons. The rebels were commanded by General Munroe, who had been formerly an officer in the Irish Volunteers, a good and brave man, but considered too impetuous and unstrategic as a commander. He had some ship's guns well placed and capable, if well served, of doing much mischief. On the Monaghan Regiment marching into action, they were met by the fire of these guns, forced back, but only momentarily, the Regiment having instantly rallied, repulsed and drove back the rebels, who appeared completely stunned by a well directed fire of musketry just then poured into them by the grenadier company of the Regiment; and here it should be stated how a man of pluck and mettle may, at times, inspire his men with a portion of his own heroism. Lieutenant Gouldsberry, cheering the men of his company (the Grenadiers) led them on in a most gallant manner, and doing good service during the entire engagement. The Regiment had to deplore the loss of their Adjutant (Evatt) in this engagement. He was shot out of a window whilst the rebels were being pursued through the town. He was the only officer of the Regiment killed, and its loss in rank and file was very trifling. The town was pillaged, sacked, and fired, and was given up to the soldiery to plunder for upwards of twelve hours.

From Belfast the Regiment now gets the route for Enniskillen, the county town for Fermanagh, remaining there for the greater part of 1799,

and from which place, towards the end of the year, they received the route for Londonderry, where they were quartered during part of 1799 and 1800, giving detachments to many of the neighbouring towns of the county, also one to Buncrana, in the county Donegal.

Whilst the Regiment was quartered here, the late rebellion having been chiefly stamped out, the most harassing duty now to be performed by the troops was on behalf of the revenue, Revenue officers almost weekly calling upon the commanding officer for parties to assist in the suppression and detection of illicit distillation, vulgarly called 'still-hunting', the manufacturing of illicit whiskey being very much in vogue by the peasantry and farmers of the county at this period; but as each man of the party called out to perform this duty was paid a small amount, according to his rank, it in some measure atoned for the fatigue and disagreeableness attending thereon.

Early in the year 1801 the Regiment was ordered to the town of Sligo, in which place they remained until the spring of 1802, from whence, in consequence of the Peace of Amiens, the Regiment was ordered home to their county home of Monaghan, there to be disembodied, and which they were but yet only a remarkably short period of time, for in consequence of the war with France and this country breaking out again early in the year 1803, the Regiment was ordered to be a second time embodied, clothed, equipped, and drilled, and becoming efficient, and up to their strength, in a very short while, they receive the route for Baltinglass, in the county Kildare, to which they marched, and there remained until the latter end of 1804; thence to Cashel, in the county Tipperary, from whence they receive the route for Clonmel, the capital of the county, in 1805, a town in which at all times a considerable body of troops were stationed, and required most probably from the disturbed and unruly state of the peasantry in the county. In July of this year the light company was ordered to the Curragh of Kildare, there to be brigaded with the light companies of several other Militia Regiments under a general officer, to be ready for any emergency, or urgent duty for which they might be required.

It was during the Regiment being quartered here that at the half-yearly inspection General Meyrick gave the commanding officer the greatest praise for the state of efficiency in which he had the Regiment and expressed himself much pleased with the appearance and cleanliness of the men, finding fault only with some of their accoutrements and forthwith ordering the Regiment to be supplied with a quantity of new belts and pouches and also a number of pioneers new appointments as well. From Clonmel the Regiment receives the route for Prosperous, in the county Kildare, remaining here during the greater part of 1806. In this year a very strict order was issued from Dublin Castle enjoining all commanding officers of regiments, and officers on detachment, to forward to headquarters the state of the country in which they may be located, as to the quietness, peaceability, and the general disposition of the inhabitants; and in

this year also was promulgated stringent orders from the authorities that a special return be forwarded to the Adjt.-General's Office in Dublin stating the number of parties given every month for the assistance of the Revenue officers in the execution of their duty when still-hunting, the number of the men, the name of the person in command, the time the party were out from quarters engaged in such service, and their success or failure in obtaining stills, heads, worms, malt, singlings, etc., etc.; also stating the amount each person of the party under the Revenue officers would become entitled to in the case of securing the still or any portion of it. If the whole apparatus of an illicit still was secured, each private soldier was to receive a sum of 5s 5d, Corporal 8s 1¹/₂d., sergeant 11s 4¹/₂d., and so down, in proportion to the success of the party. Notwithstanding the reward, liberal as it might be called, it was a duty never much desired by the soldiery, because of its extreme fatigue and harassing nature.

It was during the stay of the Regiment at this place that one of the Sergeants (Duncan) unfortunately for himself, remained out of his quarter, too late in some low public house in the town one market day, was set upon, cast into the street, and so dreadfully beaten that when found by the piquet on duty, he was quite insensible and died from the effects of his beating within two days. The country people not having been yet reconciled with the soldiery from the days of '98, many of them, no doubt from just causes, as not unlikely they or some of their friends had suffered from the cruelties of the soldiers in days now past, in retaliation for the barbarities perpetrated by the insurgents also of former days. No clue could ever be found as to the actors in this murder although much pains was taken at the time to investigate and probe the matter, but no sifting could ever find out the guilty parties.

From Prosperous the regiment was ordered to the city of Dublin, and were quartered in James'-street barrack still retaining its name as a Crack Militia Corps, its officers being highly thought as a body of intelligent gentlemen and well disciplined officers, those of them who were married, with their ladies attending in general, all the levees and drawing-rooms held by the then Lord Lieutenant in the castle.

It was whilst the Regiment was quartered in Dublin that an order for the augmentation of the regiments took place, from 70 to 100 rank and file each company as well as two field officers, making an increase to the Regiment of 240 men and ordered to be kept at its full strength of 100 men per company, with a proportionate number of non-commissioned officers. At this period, also, was raised the daily pay of the officers of the Army, advancing it from what it was in 1797 to the present rate (1870), the increase to date from the 24th of June, 1806, so that now for upwards of 64 years has the regimental pay of all the officers, both in the Regular Army and Militia, remained at the appointed rates; and at this period, also, was given a bounty of Ten Guineas to every Militiaman found of to serve in the line, and who chose to volunteer into the Regular Army.

From Dublin, in the autumn of 1808, the Regiment receives the route for Enniscorthy, in the county Wexford which has been the scene of many tragic events during the late rebellion of 1798, for in the neighbourhood of the town, or rather close by it, stands Vinegar Hill, upon which the rebels of that period had fixed their encampment whilst in possession of the town of Enniscorthy, and here were very many cruelties committed upon the persons of the royalists in those unhappy days of violence and oppression. A very severe and bloody engagement took place on this hill in the summer of 1798, when the soldiers and yeomanry succeeded in overcoming and dispersing the insurgents.

It was whilst the Regiment was being quartered here that General Floyd, the inspecting officer, at the usual half-yearly inspection of the Regiment, expressed his great satisfaction with the discipline, fine appearance, and phisique (sic) of the men, so much so, that he afterwards forwarded a letter to the commanding officer, stating that so satisfied and please was he with the entire Regiment, its general appearance, internal economy, and everything connected with it, that he would take the earliest opportunity of making a special and most favourable report respecting it to the commander of His Majesty's forces in Ireland, thereby showing how deservedly was the regiment entitled to its appellation of a crack corps.

It may be here related that a young lady in the neighbourhood, the daughter of a Yeomanry officer, fell in love with one of the Grenadier Sergeants of the Regiment, a remarkably fine looking man at that period. It occurred in this way: She, like many others of her rank, used frequently to drive out on revue and field day to see and admire the soldiery, and on one day on the Regiment being engaged at ball practice, she stepped forward and asked this Sergeant (he being only armed with a halbert as all Sergeants in those days were) to procure her a firelock until she would try a shot at the target. The man did so, and loaded the piece several times for her, she hitting the target every shot. It transpired that on a certain day, during that past rebellion, when her father being from home and engaged with his corps, that a party of six men came to the house in which the family resided, determined on plundering it, and most likely, if resisted, to commit a worse crime. The house was, at this time, only occupied by this young lady, her sister and mother, an old man (the butler), and a young servant maid. Being the residence of a Yeomanry officer, it was well supplied with both arms and ammunition; and upon the alarm being given that the house was already surrounded, this lady immediately procured a firelock which was loaded, went to the drawing-room window, and demanded from those outside their object or business, or what they wanted? They replied they wanted everything - money, silver, and all the pewter plates and dishes in the house. She warned them off, stating at the same time, that the house was well secured and barricaded, and they could obtain no entrance, upon which two of the fellows, more daring than the others, made to rush to the hall-door, intending to force it open, upon which she fired from the window, taking

shelter as well as possible behind the shutters, and wounded one of the party. This quite exasperated them, and they appeared more determined than ever to obtain an entrance into the house, on which she again fired, killing this time one of the men. Her sister and the old man being inside the room loading the firelocks for her, she eventually fired twenty rounds, killing two and wounding one out of the six rebels, on which they decamped bringing with them their two dead comrades. This young lady was afterwards married to the Grenadier Sergeant, and upon his being discharged from the Regiment, returned with him to her native place in the county of Wexford.

In Enniscorthy the Regiment remained until 1810, when ordered to Caher, in which town it remained but for a very short while until again being sent to Clonmel, where the Regiment was quartered for a considerable time. It was while the Regiment was stationed here that Corporal Robert Cherry of the band, who had been a drummer boy at the formation of the Regiment in 1793, was sent for 6 months to London by the commanding officer, to be under the tuition of the celebrated music master, Briscoli, in order to his being taught and made capable of instructing and made capable of instructing and taking charge of the band, previous to his being made Sergeant and Band Master. Whilst being quartered in this town, many of the surrounding peasantry, still tainted with the disaffection of '98, and in general, almost as a rule, troublesome and turbulent, and now under the name of Whiteboys, Chanivests, Caravats, etc., etc., gave great annoyance to the gentry and magistrates, frequently committing the most daring acts of wanton and unprovoked robbery, and even among themselves blood was very often shed from what was called faction fights taking place, and not unfrequently ending in murder, from their utter lawlessness and disregard of the constituted authorities.

In those days, and for nearly twenty years until the law was changed, the going (sic) Judge of Assize and the Quarter Sessions Barrister, had the power of ordering persons brought up for trial before them, if found guilty, to be flogged, according to the nature of the crime charged against them; and it was a mode of punishment frequently resorted to at this period. The manner was to tie the culprit's hands to a car or cart, himself walking behind, and the horse being led by a constable at a slow pace, and according to the greatness or malignity of the crime was the measure of the punishment judged by the distance which the car or cart had to traverse, and the duty of administering this punishment at this period, though afterward changed, was committed to military drummers. If the man to be flogged was a likely man and considered fit to serve in the regular army, and provided his crime had not been of a very aggravated nature, he not unfrequently got his choice of enlisting into a regiment serving abroad or take his punishment. Numbers enlisted under the terms, and many others elected to take the flogging. The following incident is related of a drummer boy of the Monaghan's then barely 14 years of age, and who afterwards became big

drummer in the band. A remarkable fine looking fellow of the county, described as being 6 feet 3 inches in height, and being represented as only 23 years of age, had been sentenced to be flogged for being engaged in a faction fight in which another young man had lost his life, and the punishment ordered to be delivered by military drummers, and the cart to which the prisoner was to be drawn from the main guardhouse in Clonmel to the end of the main street and back. When the day of his having to receive his punishment arrived, and when stripped and undressed, his fine and manly appearance struck everyone present who must necessarily attend at these distressing scenes, with pity and commiseration, and every legitimate argument was used by the Sheriff and others present to induce him to enlist and escape the sore ordeal, but no; he cursed the 'sogers', said he hated and despised them and would die before he would put a red coat upon his back, with many other bitter epithets against King George, his Government and Army. Four soldiers had been told off for the punishment of this man, two of them belonging to the Wexford Militia, then also quartered in Clonmel, and two of the Monaghan's. It had been arranged that one of the Wexford drummers would inflict the first 25 lashes. The lad of the Monaghan's above alluded to being so much vexed and ryled at hearing so many vile expressions from the culprit about the King and the army, that he offered to give the Wexford drummer, who was to inflict the first 25, a day's pay if he would allow him to take his place and wager half a crown besides that if he did so that before the first 25 lashes were administered he, the culprit, would be glad to enlist. The arrangement took place between the lads, the Monaghan drummer getting the cats, and as he prophesied, the prisoner, previous to his receiving the twentieth lash, cried out in the most piteous manner for mercy, and that he would 'list, the Sheriff, however, and others, telling him it was too late, and the man received his punishment.

After remaining in Clonmel for a considerable period, the Regiment receives the route, 1811, for Rathkeale, in the [county of] Limerick, a town of no considerable importance, seated on the river Deel, and having only a very small barrack, the Regiment giving detachments to some neighbouring towns, and thence, 1811-12, they received the route to march to Limerick, there to be quartered, and in which city they remained until getting the route for England.

The Regiment was marched from Limerick to the City of Cork in two divisions, embarking from the latter city, and landing at Plymouth, where they were quartered, and also at Dartmoor, chiefly engaged in doing duty over a very large number of French prisoners whom the English Nation had here confined as prisoners of war. In Plymouth the Regiment remained until peace was concluded with the Emperor of the French in the year 1814, and from Plymouth it was ordered home to its own county in Ireland there to remain until an order for its disembodiment should be received from the Government. The Regiment was landed at Newry, and remained there for several weeks previous to its being marched to

Monaghan. It arrived in Monaghan early in the autumn of 1814, and in due course the order for disembodiment coming to the officer commanding, the Regiment was accordingly disbanded, but only for a few months, for upon the Emperor of the French, Napoleon 1st, flying from Elba, or rather escaping therefrom, authority arrived to Colonel Leslie to recruit, enrol and again embody the Regiment to its full quota of volunteers, and which was effected within a very short space of time, for large numbers of the men, who had been but a few months previously dismissed joined again, and the Regiment was got up within a remarkably short period, clothed, equipped and drilled, remaining in the county town after embodiment, the men in billets and the officers in lodgings until the month of September, 1815, when a route was received by the commanding officer ordering the Regiment to proceed to Roscrea, in the county Tipperary, to which town they marched in two divisions, band and headquarters with the first division, being a march of seven days, as in those times the luxury of railways was then unknown, by which troops now-a-days are so conveniently and quickly despatched from place to place. In Roscrea the regiment remained, giving detachments to Borrisokane, and Borrisnorsory, until March 1816, peace in the meantime having been concluded with the French nation, and in the latter end of the month the Regiment was ordered back to Monaghan, there to remain until inspected by the general officer, and until an authority for the disembodiment of the Regiment would arrive to the commanding officer, which did in due course. The General's inspection of those to be retained upon the staff having taken place, the Regiment was disbanded in April, 1816.

It may be here mentioned that an incident took place upon the arrival of the Regiment very nearly turning out both unpleasant and disagreeable. The Spring Assizes for the town were being held at the time, and the Judges sitting on the bench in the old Courthouse, which was then situated in the diamond or square, where troops when passing through the town were generally marched into previous to being dismissed to their billets. As the Regiment was marching through Church Square, on their way to the Diamond, the band playing, and the colours of the Regiment unfurled, Lieut.-Col. Ker, the officer in command, riding in front, a message came from the Courthouse to 'stopt the music'. Col. Ker at once, and on the moment, requested to know if the message came from the High Sheriff, for if it did he would challenge him within twenty minutes; but on hearing that it came from one of the Judges, he treated it with silence, not however permitting his band to cease playing until the proper time, when the men had marched into the square, were halted, dressed, and dismissed to their billets. It was remarked that the Colonel was very indignant at the message, though he attended the Assizes most punctual himself as a Grand Juror and country gentleman for many years of his life, afterwards having, so far as he himself was concerned, turned his sword into a pruning hook.

The following is a list of the several officers holding commissions in the Regiment upon its disembodiment; and it may be observed that all the subaltern officers serving on full pay at this period were allowed a retiring pension of 2s 6d per diem during life, but liable to serve in case of re-embodiment, or when called up for active service.-

Colonel Chas. P. Leslie, Lieut.-Colonel John Ker, Major A. Montgomery, Major Thomas Coote, Captains, Robt. Minnett, Thos. Cottnam, Walter Tyler, R.W. Maxwell, R. Atkinson, Thos. Seaver, John Cronin, Chas. Dawson, Lieutenants, Jas. Nixon, Alex. Dudgeon, Wm. Johnson, Robt. Thetford, Alex. Moutray, Francis Hanna, Robt. Forster, James Seton, William Ley, Wm. Anketell, Francis Lucas, John Dawson, Wm. Murdock, Alex. Wright, Pay Master James Nixon, Adjutant John Ross, Quarter Master Wm. Johnson, Surgeon R. Montgomery, Assistant Surgeon Charles Ley.

The permanent staff, band, and drums of the Regiment were ordered by Colonel Leslie to Glaslough, there to remain until further orders. The Regiment as before stated being an eight company one, the staff consisted of four officers and ninety-one men, viz:-

- 1 Adjutant Ross.
- 1 Quarter-Master Johnson.
- 1 Pay-Master Nixon.
- 1 Surgeon Montgomery.
- 1 Sergt.-Major Rowlands.
- 1 Quarter-Master Sergt. Stokes.
- 1 Drum-Major Somers.
- 40 Sergeants.
- 32 Corporals.
- 16 Drummers.

Being four sergeants, five Corporals, and two Drummers for each company.

Here the staff of the Regiment was quartered, having a large house in the centre of the village fitted up for the stores and guardroom, but with the exception of a few old drum shells, some old musical instruments, and the store chests of the Regiment, which contained the books and papers belonging thereto, there was no other description of stores, as the arms and accoutrements of the Regiment had all been forwarded and lodged in the Government store at Charlemont, with the exception of a firelock and set of accoutrements for each man on the strength, as every one upon the permanent staff was considered capable of bearing arms, no boys being allowed upon it. The staff were allowed in those days only one complete suit of clothing every two years, with a small allowance for fuel, light, and lodgings. A parade was kept up by order of Col. Leslie every Wednesday and Friday, and on Sundays a Church parade, at which all were to attend, sick and on duty alone excepted, when the men marched to Church and played thereto by the band; and on the 24th of every month, then the

muster-day, though since changed to the last day of the month, a parade in heavy marching order, with full kits in knapsack was, as a matter of duty, always kept up.

Colonel Leslie did everything possible in the way of getting his staff comfortably housed and fixed in the village and its immediate neighbourhood, and it must not be forgotten that his care went even to the welfare of their families, and in the matter of their education he was very mindful and considerate. A Regimental school had always, when the Regiment was embodied, been kept up in it, and an efficient Master provided only, however, as supernumery (sic) of his rank of Sergeant, therefore, when the Regiment came to be disembodied, this non-commissioned officer must naturally be struck off the strength, but Col. Leslie still wishing to retain a school-master for the benefit of the children of his staff, had him retired upon the strength by allowing a Sergeant, who from his length of service was entitled to receive a pension, to be discharged, thereby showing his best wishes for the education and welfare of the children of the men of whom he was in command.

1817-1854

From the year 1816-1822 the staff of the Regiment remained at the same strength as when disembodied, when an order arrived from the War Office to reduce the permanent staff of the Regiment of 1 Sergt.-Major Rowland, 1 Quarter-Master Sergt. Stokes, 1 Drum-Major Stokes, 24 Sergeants, 16 Corporals, 12 Drummers, being three Sergeants, two Corporals, and one Drummer, including two extra Drummers for each of the flank companies. This reduction to many members of the staff was a sad disappointment, at least to those whose length of service did not entitle them to receive pensions; most luckily, however, just at this period the Police or Constabulary force of Ireland was being organised, and every man of Col. Leslie's staff not entitled by length of service to receive a pension was, through his interest placed in the force, and being well drilled and in general intelligent men, the greater number of them were promoted at once to be Sergeants in the force.

The Permanent staff, now reduced to 55 men, still retaining the four staff officers, remained so until the year 1828 when an order from the War Office was issued to the commanding officer ordering a further reduction in the Militia staff, discharging all the Corporals, two Drummers, eight Sergeants, and the Quarter-Master Sergeant, the order desiring to retain upon the permanent staff only one Sergt.-Major., one Drum-Major, sixteen Sergeants, and ten Drummers, being two Sergeants and one Drummer for each of the flank companies, thereby reducing the number of men to be retained upon the staff to 28. As was mentioned before, Colonel Leslie never omitted to promote or interest himself on behalf of any of his well-deserving non-commissioned staff. It may be stated that through his interest, previous to this reduction, the Sergt.-Major of the Regiment (Rowland) obtained the governorship of the county prison. Reed, a former Quarter-Master Sergeant of his, he had procured a situation for in the revenue, Crowe, another of his non-commissioned officers, was appointed governor of the Louth prison at Dundalk. Two of the bandsmen were appointed county and assistant surveyors, and several others of them to highly respectable situations of trust and emolument, chiefly through his interest. Being a member of the Imperial Parliament for the greater part of his life and generally popular with the Government, his influence and interest was very considerable.

In November 1831, Colonel Leslie died, much and deservedly regretted by a large and numerous circle of friends, as well as by many in the humbler walks of life who had opportunities of knowing his sterling worth and goodness of heart.

Some year or two previous to the death of Colonel Leslie, an Act of Parliament had passed the legislature creating the office of Lord Lieutenant in every county in Ireland same as in England, and in those gentlemen was

vested the appointment of the Head Colonels and all other officers of the county Militia Regiments which had hitherto been under the patronage of the Head Colonel commanding; and Lord Rossmore, being the then Lord Lieutenant of the County Monaghan, appointed Lieutenant Colonel John Madden of Hilton Park (whose father had been Lieutenant-Colonel in the Regiment as far back as 1806, he being himself at the same time a Captain in the Regiment, but in some years past promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel) to the command of the Regiment, his commission as such bearing date January 23rd, 1832, and in conformity to his wish, the permanent staff was removed from Glaslough into Monaghan, he considering it much more central and convenient to himself.

The staff was provided with quarters and suitable accommodation for the stores by Lord Rossmore, and a guard of two men mounted daily over them, nothing of moment taking place upon the staff, except an occasional new appointment of a Sergeant when one entitled to a pension or otherwise becoming unfit for service may have been discharged.

In the year 1834 an order from the Horse Guard (sic) was issued desiring a further reduction of the permanent staffs of all Militia regiments, this time reducing three of the staff officers, viz.: the Pay Master, Quarter Master, and the Surgeon, these officers to receive a retiring allowance if entitled thereto by length of service. The first two names officers did receive pensions, but the latter officer (Robinson) being only appointed in 1822, after the death of Doctor Montgomery, who had been in the Regiment since 1793, was considered ineligible for a pension from his short term of service.

The Permanent staff of the Regiment was now to consist of:-

- 1 Adjutant with the rank of Captain.
- 1 Sergeant-Major, and
- 8 Company Sergeants.

The order went on to state that in the event of any of these ten men dying or being discharged, no vacancies were on any pretence whatever to be filled up, but the men allowed to die off.

Early in the year 1836, Colonel Madden, from declining years, resigned his commission and command of the Regiment, and Lord Rossmore, the Lieutenant of the county, appointed his brother, Colonel the Honbl. Henry Westerna, of Camla Vale, near Monaghan, a most gallant and distinguished officer, to the command of the Regiment, a gentleman who had been a soldier from his youth, had seen much foreign service, and been engaged in every action his regiment, the 8th Royal Irish Hussars, had taken part in and which he commanded for many years; Indeed retaining his command until pretty far advanced in life so devoted was he to the Army and his regiment; but the entire family of the Westernas might be called a family of soldiers, Col. Westerna's commission as Colonel-in-Chief of the Monaghan Militia bearing date 22nd March, 1836, and about ten years afterwards we find him resigning his command, and Lord Rossmore, his

nephew (old Lord Rossmore having died in the autumn of 1842, and his eldest son, the Hon. Henry Westerna, now Lord Rossmore inheriting his father's estates and titles), Lord Lieutenant of the county and Head Colonel of the regiment, having been appointed thereto by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, his commission in the regiment bearing date 28th day of November, 1846.

In the month of July 1850, Capt. Ross, his Adjutant, died, but no appointment made in his stead, agreeable to the former order as issued from the War Office, the Sergeant Major of the regiment being entrusted with the payment of the staff, rendering his accounts through the Head Colonel, Lord Rossmore.

It should be here mentioned that his lordship from taking command of the regiment was careful, as occasion offered, to apply to the Lord Lieutenant for commissions in the regiment for such gentlemen as he conceived eligible to receive appointments in the corps, although the rank was at that period, and for some time after, merely honorary.

In the year 1854, war breaking out with Russia, towards the latter part of that year an order was issued to Lord Rossmore from Dublin Castle, acquainting him that he should at once commence to recruit and enrol volunteers in the county regiment, and a beating order authorising him to do so was forwarded to him in due course, and in accordance with the 'Census' of the county, his regiment was to consist of six companies, with a proper number of officers, the rank and file to number 647 men independent of the permanent staff; and it may be here stated that upon arrival of the order authorizing the enrolment and organizing of the regiment, the permanent staff, from death and other causes, had been reduced down to two men, viz:- the Sergt.-Major (Harvey) and one Sergeant (McCoy).

Lord Rossmore being so thoroughly esteemed and respected, and so well known as a nobleman of exalted worth and kindness, it was who amongst a large number of the gentry could now procure commissions for either themselves or their sons to serve under him and be able in a short period to select the greater number of his officers. It required all his lordship's well known tact, judgement and discernment, now to look out and procure a suitable officer for his Adjutant, it being an understood and well-known fact that much depends upon the discipline and energy of the officer in making a good and efficient regiment. His choice, which proved both wise and judicious and which turned out most fortunate for the discipline and conduct of the regiment, fell upon his own brother-in-law, Captain Jesse Lloyd, of the 47th Foot, in which regiment he had served as Captain for a lengthened period, having entered the army when very young, to him was entrusted and most justly so (Lord Rossmore himself having never been in the Regular Army) the arranging of the many details connected with a regiment, and on him devolved the very onerous and arduous duty of seeing everything connected with the regiment correctly and fairly carried out. Of him it might with all truth be said, he was the right man in the right place.

His influence, also, was the means of bringing a large number of good non-commissioned officers from his old regiment who helped much now in conducting the internal arrangements of their new corps, from their known ability, steadiness and good character, as Capt. Lloyd was careful only of bringing such into the regiment. He also got his old Sergt.-Major (Purcell) from the 47th, a man of most exemplary character and efficient and experienced drill, of kindly disposition, though strict withal; he was a most useful and intelligent man, and became a general favourite in the regiment, particularly with the youngest men and recruits, they would do anything for him, though at times duty demanded sternness (sic) and decision, but in him it was at all times accompanied with kindness and impartiality as well.

1855-1871

The regiment was ordered to be embodied on the 22nd January, 1855, and it was not until June of the same year that Lieut.-Colonel Forster joined from the Crimea, where he had been with his regiment, the 77th foot, when he and the Adjutant, both so qualified for their respective duties, very soon brought the regiment up to what in years gone by it had been justly names, viz:- 'A Crack Militia corps,' both gentlemen intent in making it earn a character for itself, which would reflect honour upon them and its noble commander, and also be creditable to the entire body.

The following are the names of the officers found upon the muster roll of the regiment at the embodiment of 1855.

Colonel Lord Rossmore, Lieut.-Colonel Thos. O. Forster, Major Walter D. Shirley, Captains: Thomas Coote, Joseph Whitsitt, Charles Boyle, Edward W. Bond, E.P. Murphy, Thomas Stopford, Lieutenants: M. Blakley, M.E. Lewis, John Welsh, Richard Coote, George Smith, Adam fuller, Ensigns: George A. Shegog, Frank Dudgeon, Richard Ross, Robert Thompson, Edward Fiddes, John C. Dawson, Adjutant: Jesse Lloyd, Pay Master: William Watson, Surgeon: William Temple, Asst. Surgeon: George F. Adams.

It is worthy to remark that out of all the officers on the muster roll of the regiment when last embodied (1816) three only remained alive, and who from their advanced age were excused by the Lord Lieutenant from now serving, and permitted to retain their pensions.

The regiment from being the 1st, or Monaghan Regiment of Militia, became now the 121st. As the militia force had for so long been in abeyance, the numbers of the different regiments were balloted for, and thus the change in the number took place, a change much and greatly regretted by the connexions of some of those who had formerly served in the corps when it ranked first after the line, and which it always did from its first formation up to the present time. The regiment remained in the town of Monaghan from January to September, occupying the small barrack up to the number which it could accommodate, the remainder of the men being billeted amongst the inhabitants of the town, recruiting parties being stationed at Clones and Carrickmacross, the other smaller towns in the county being visited regularly by the Adjutant and a recruiting party for the purpose of enrolling volunteers for the regiment, and numbers of respectable young fellows in the neighbourhood coming in every day to join at head quarters, wishing to let Lord Rossmore see their willingness to be enrolled in his regiment and their wish to serve under him.

His lordship being a nobleman of polished habits, very refined tastes and acquirements, and particularly fond of music, was determined upon having a first rate band in his regiment, and his experience and judgement led him in the right path to having such. He went himself to London,

obtained a band-master, had first class, and the newest improved instruments purchased, and a very short time elapsed until he had his band formed and under training he besides, procuring from the line a number of experienced musicians which added greatly to the efficiency of the band, so that they were soon able to perform very respectably, his lordship taking the most lively interest in their success, and in procuring new and first-class music for them.

The corps of drums and bugles belonging to the regiment were not only fair, but in course of a few months, remarkably good, the Adjutant having obtained Drum-Major (McGann) from the 64th foot of the line fully capable of instructing and teaching in his department. A good number of intelligent and goodly fellows offering, they in a short time became excellent drummers a circumstance chiefly to be attributed to the vigilance, activity, and discernment of the Adjutant in choosing out smart boys for this duty.

During the period the regiment was in Monaghan, hardly a week passed without a large party of the officers dining with Lord and Lady Rossmore at the Park; and Lady Rossmore, previous to their leaving the town, gave a very grand ball to the officers and gentry of the county. Indeed it might truly be said that her ladyship took as much interest in the regiment as did Lord Rossmore. She it was who presented the regiment with its new colours, her interest in it never appearing to flag, being almost daily upon the parade ground in her carriage during the summer. And such was Lord Rossmore's attention and punctuality to his duties that he was to be found daily in the orderly-room with as much regularity as his Adjutant. It may be here mentioned that the day selected for the presentation of the colours to the regiment was one of royal weather; and her ladyship mounted on a white charger took occasion after the consecration of them by the Rev. Mr. Bury and in giving them over in charge of the two junior Ensigns, to pay a very marked compliment to Lord-Lieut. Forster, and all the officers and men of the regiment, trusting that as in years gone by they had always been deemed worthy of admiration and praise, so they would still continue by their character and conduct, to merit the esteem and regard of those placed in command over them and concluded by saying that she had every confidence in the event of the Monaghan's being called upon to protect the colours in defence of Queen and country, as they had in all troublous times now happily long past, her Majesty might rely upon the affection, fealty and loyalty of the officers and men of her Monaghan Regiment of Militia.

Col. Forster made a most happy and suitable reply to her ladyship, thanking her most warmly for her kindness, and on behalf of himself and the regiment returning his best thanks for all the many compliments she had paid them, assuring her she would not soon be forgotten in he regiment, and her address would sink deep into the hearts of everyone then assembled around her.

In the month of May 1855, the regiment was inspected for the first time after its embodiment by General Thomas, and Colonel Lord Rossmore was highly complimented by that officer upon the men under him. During this summer also the regiment was called upon at two different periods to give volunteers to the line, and so pleased had been General Thomas with the regiment from his inspection of it previously that he had a non-commissioned officer from his own old regiment, the 29th foot, sent specially to canvas and solicit the men of the Monaghan's who were so inclined, to enlist into that old and distinguished corps, but the larger number by far went into the 46th and 47th regiments of the line, whilst a good many chose to enter the artillery and cavalry.

Early in the month of September the regiment received the route for Armagh, in which city it only remained for some months, getting the route thence for Cavan, and only remaining in that town for a few weeks; thence January, 1856, ordered to Belturbet, a small place in the same county, but much better accommodated with barracks, leaving however a detachment of two companies under the command of Major Shirley, in Cavan, there to remain until further orders.

Late in the month of May in this year the regiment was inspected by General Gough, attended by Colonel Brough, who complimented Lord Rossmore upon commanding so fine a body of men, and Lieut.-Col. Forster for the state of discipline in which he found the regiment. He remarked that their appearance, cleanliness, steadiness under arms, and general good conduct, reflected much credit upon every officer in the regiment, being convinced that great pains must have been taken by both officers and non-commissioned officers to bring the regiment up to its present state of training, adding that it would give him much pleasure to convey this report to the higher authorities. He also examined the regimental books, and expressed himself satisfied with the correct manner in which they were kept, and being particularly gratified at seeing so very few entries in the company defaulters books.

During the stay of the regiment in Belturbet it was called upon a third time within a few months for more volunteers to the line, and this time, as before, responded very heartily to the call, a goodly number of smart, active young men, indeed amongst them some of the very best recruits in the regiment, cheerfully offering themselves for extended service in the line, this time the bulk of them going into the 47th foot; and to their credit be it observed that in a few years afterwards many of the non-commissioned officers of the 47th regiment were composed of the men who had previously volunteered from the Monaghan Militia.

Lord Rossmore was enabled from the number of his men which volunteered to serve in the regular army, to claim three commissions in the line, and which he bestowed upon his three Ensigns, viz.: Ross, Thompson, and Dudgeon, all rising to higher grades in the service within a short period, and becoming good steady and efficient officers.

Peace with Russia having been concluded the Regiment was ordered back to Monaghan in the month of July, there to remain until authority should arrive for its disembodiment. Meanwhile Lord Rossmore had desired and ordered a grand banquet to be given to all non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment, and which took place, upwards of five hundred persons having been regaled and feasted with a most substantial dinner of roast beef, plum pudding, with fowls and other delicacies &c. Several fair speeches were made by some of the non-commissioned officers upon the occasion, and many were the good-natured and cordial remarks upon the urbanity, kindness, and goodness of his lordship and his family.

The authority for the disembodiment of the regiment having arrived from Dublin Castle, it took place on the 29th August 1856. It may be mentioned that Lieut.-Colonel Forster and the officers of the regiment, wishing to pay a compliment to Lord and Lady Rossmore for their many acts of kindness and attention, entertained them to a very grand ball at the County Courthouse, inviting the gentry of the county and neighbourhood to meet them. It was got up in the most stylish and luxurious manner, a purveyor having been brought from Dublin specially for the occasion; and it was a source of great satisfaction to the officers that it came off so remarkably well, everyone present, and there were some hundreds, being highly pleased and delighted with the politeness shown by Colonel Forster and the other officers for their comfort, amusement and enjoyment, Lieut.-Colonel Forster and his brother, Captain Forster, deserving much credit being the moving springs in the entire arrangement of the whole matter.

The author would here beg to narrate although most unwilling to be thought either anxious or wishful of introducing into these records anything that would be thought or considered as relating to self; yet in justice to Lord Rossmore and his brother officers, whose kindness, cordiality, and regard is ever to be remembered, with the most lively and pleasing recollection, he must not omit to state that he was on a guest night at the mess, after dinner, presented with a very handsome silver snuff-box by Lord Rossmore, who, whilst presenting it took occasion to pass a very complimentary eulogium (sic) on a man, and the manner in which the several duties of the Quarter-Master had been embodied, and (sic) well as his usefulness and example in the early part of a previous year when the regiment was being organised and in course of being disciplined.

The box, a very richly chased one, bears engraved inside the lid the following inscription:-

'Presented by Lord Rossmore and the Officers to Quarter-Master William Watson on the disembodiment of the Monaghan Regiment as a small token of their esteem and regard for the great interest displayed, and the able manner in which he carried on the arduous duties as President of the Band and Mess Committee during a lengthened period, September 1st. 1856'.

The authority desiring the regiment's disembodiment contained an order to retain as a permanent staff

- 1 Adjutant, Lloyd
- 1 Quarter-Master, Watson
- 1 Sergt.-Major, Purcell
- 1 Quarter-Master Sergt., Walls
- 12 Sergeants
- 6 Drummers

which were to serve in any future embodiment as a nucleus of the regiment. An act of Parliament having been passed in the year 1854 whereby the rank and file were still to be retained upon the strength of the regiment, receiving no pay whilst in a disembodied state, but liable to be called up at any time altogether, or once in every year for 27 days training, their clothing and accoutrements etc. etc. being retained in store for their use when so called up.

Colonel, afterwards General Doyle, was appointed the first Inspector-General of the Irish Militia, and in the month of November, 1856, made his first inspection of the permanent staff stores, clothing and books of the regiment, expressing himself very well pleased with the state in which he found the clothing and accoutrements, and the manner of keeping them by the Quarter-Master.

In the following year, Lord Rossmore, finding his health rather declining, and wishing to be relieved from the duties and attention necessarily required from the head Colonel of a militia regiment, resigned his commission in, and command of, the Monaghan Militia, appointing Charles Powell Leslie, Esq., M.P., of Glaslough, in his own stead, and whose commission bears date August 6th, 1857. It was a graceful compliment paid to the son of its old commanding officer, and no doubt very pleasing to Mr. Leslie to be appointed to a situation held in early and middle life by his late father with so much honour and credit to himself, and with results of much utility to his country.

Early in the following year, 1858, Capt. Lloyd, the Adjutant, desirous for more leisure and wishing to have more of his time at his own command, resigned the Adjutancy, but still retaining his commission of Captain in the regiment, and promoted afterwards to a Majority, his commission as such bearing date February 18th, 1865.

In the June of 1858 took place the first training after the disembodiment, when the regiment was called up for 21 days, all the officers and above 500 men answering the roll call. The regiment was inspected by Lieut.-Colonel Campbell, commanding a line regiment, quartered at Newry and was pleased to compliment Lieut.-Colonel Forster upon the very effective state he appeared to have the men in, and upon there (sic) general appearance and discipline, the men being dismissed at the end of 21 days to their respective homes.

In 1859 an augmentation to the permanent staff took place of 1 Drum-Major, and 3 sergeants, making the number to consist of two officers and 25 men, viz.:-

- 1 Adjutant Crofton
- 1 Qr.-Master Watson
- 1 Sergt.-Major Steenson
- 1 Orderly room Clerk, Boyle
- 1 Pay-master Sergt., Hanna
- 1 Musketry Instr. Sergt. McKinley
- 1 Hospital Sergt. Atkinson
- 1 Drum-Major Duffy
- 6 Color Sergeants
- 6 Company Sergeants, and
- 6 Drummers

In the year 1859 the regiment was called up for training for 21 days from 8th July, and was inspected by Lieut.-Col. Baumgarten of the 65th foot, who said he was very well pleased with the regiments general appearance, but considered the very short time allowed for the exercise of the regiment was not sufficient to bring either officers or men to a perfect knowledge of their duty or drill.

In 1860, the regiment was called up for 27 days training, from the 1st May and towards the latter end of the training period, was inspected by Colonel Hobbs, of the 14th depot battalion, when stationed in Belfast. He paid Lieut.-Colonel Forster the compliment of stating that he found the militia regiment in course of his inspection superior to his in its general appearance, cleanliness, discipline or physique of the men; and expressed himself well pleased and satisfied in the manner in which he found the stores and clothing of the regiment kept, and everything altogether so satisfactory that he promised to Colonel Forster making a most favourable report of all coming under his eye connected with the regiment to the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

In 1861, the regiment was again called up for 27 days training from the 4th of June and it having been reported to general Doyle that a row had taken place between some men of the regiment and the police force in town and some few of the loose characters in the regiment becoming quite insubordinate, he came himself down from Dublin, specially to inspect the regiment, and at the same time, to enquire into the cause of the row, or how the ill-feeling between the men and police had arisen. He was much displeased and expressed himself highly so, at the conduct of the ring-leaders in it, and could he, with any degree of certainty have found them out, would not allow a single man of them ever the privilege of wearing her Majesty's uniform again. It should, however, in all fairness be stated that there was more made of the affair than it was ever really worthy of. It was created by a few men immediately belonging to the town, of very middling character, and rather incline to drink, and who had, at some time in their 'cups' came under the grasp of the police, and most probably smarting under what they may have considered harsh or undue severity when in the hands of the force, immediately on donning the red coat, imagining that they

might not be easily found out, and when opportunity offered, attempted to insult the police, and which led to a company of regular army being telegraphed for to Belfast, who arrived in Monaghan within a few hours and the commanding officer of which thought it expedient not to allow the militiamen their arms for several days, but placed at once a guard upon them in the store in which they were kept, so that the men were drilled without arms for several days, and nothing appeared to ryle general Doyle so much upon his arrival as to have to inspect a regiment without arms. Although much and greatly annoyed with those characters, who had brought disgrace upon themselves and nearly the whole of the regiment, yet, he admitted their general appearance to be good, but condemned their marching both in slow and quick tune, no doubt therefore hinting that a little more drill would be necessary to the perfecting of the men in their duties.

In this year, towards the latter end of it, Lord Rossmore's death took place at Rossmore Park near Monaghan, when in the 70th year of his age, the former Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, whose loss was felt and deplored by a large and numerous circle of relatives and friends, his death casting a gloom over the entire neighbourhood, every individual from the humblest rank in life to the highest, feeling that a nobleman of real worth, exalted birth, kindly disposition, and whose goodness of heart could not be over-estimated, had departed from amongst them, and who by his many acts of genuine friendship had endeared himself to all classes of the community. He left an interesting family of four sons and two very beautiful daughters to mourn his removal. Of the latter rumour speaks that they are as good as they are beautiful, and the former gives hopes of walking in the steps of their departed parent. The permanent staff of the regiment made a request through their commanding officer to be permitted to be present in uniform at the funeral, notwithstanding his late lordship had been unconnected with the regiment for a good while previous yet, so impressed were the members of the staff with his many acts of kindness and attention to them in days gone by, that they felt most anxious and desirous to be present at the obsequies. The permission was granted, the soldiers taking their place at either side of the hearse, marching in funeral order, officers in rere, and all supplied with mourning scarfs and bands. At the arrival of the cortege at the Church gate in Monaghan the Sergeants of the staff carried the coffin into the church, and the service was performed, from thence to the family vault, there depositing the remains of as true and worthy a nobleman as coronet in this life ever adorned.

In the year 1862 a new Inspector-General of Militia was appointed viz.: - Colonel Selby Smyth, unattached, in the room of General Doyle, whose time upon the staff had expired, and who made his first inspection of the permanent staff and stores early in the Spring. The Adjutant being on leave, the staff was under the command of the Quarter-Master, who paraded the men and accompanied Col. Smyth round the stores in course of his

inspection. He expressed himself as being very well satisfied with the manner in which he found the clothing and accoutrements kept. Thence to the orderly-room, where he inspected the regimental books, and with only asking some very few questions of no moment, bade good-bye, continuing his route of inspection, going from Monaghan to Armagh to make a similar inspection of the staff of that regiment.

On the 4th of June in this year the regiment was called up for 21 days training and as a sort of punishment on account of the row with the police force the previous year, it was ordered to assemble at Drogheda, in the county Meath, staff and drums being marched there, volunteers being obliged to find their way as best they could, recruits being ordered to join on the 4th, and the remainder of the volunteers within 14 days after the regiment, occupying Mill Mount barrack up to the number of men and officers it would contain and the remainder being billeted amongst the inhabitants of the town, who treated the men with marked attention and civility.

Col. Smyth arrived from Dublin to inspect the regiment towards the later end of the month, and he was much pleased with the appearance of so fine a looking body of men (the regiment mustering considerably upwards of 500 men) but would have wished to see some of the officers of the regiment better acquainted with their drill, particularly company and battalion drill, remarking at the same time that good officers invariably made good soldiers. He expressed himself very well pleased with the internal economy of the regiment, and the manner in which he found the regimental books kept. In course of his inspection through temporary stores and barrack rooms he came down upon the Quarter-Master for not having a number of the mens' accoutrements and all the forage caps marked and numbered. Hitherto it had not been the custom to mark the forage caps and as to the accoutrements, a certain number was issued out to each company, the same being required to be returned into store at the end of each training. The clothing, knapsacks, and necessaries of the regiment, had already been marked from 1 upwards, agreeable to the circular upon the subject (694); however between that and the next training Colonel Smyth's wishes were attended to, and all articles in possession of the volunteer were marked and numbered as directed, so that no complaint under this head could at any future time take place.

It may be mentioned that previous to the regiment leaving Drogheda, Captain Henry Henderson, from the 10th foot, joined as Adjutant, a gentleman of mild and pleasing manners, well disciplined and thoroughly up to his duty, and who had seen a good deal of service for his years, having been all through the Indian Mutiny of 1857; served upon the staff of General Frank's (sic) and did the State some service, possessing a medal and two clasps, and his services honorably mentioned and recorded in Hart's Army List. When Lieutenant he served on the staff in India as assistant executive Engineer in 1855-56; in June 1857 was appointed to an

irregular levy of 1,400 men engaged in the district of Agra and was vested with the powers of joint magistrate in the district of Agra, Allyghur, and Muttra. In his duty his conduct was highly approved of by the Governor, Mr. Colvin. Present as the action fought at Agra on the 5th July 1857, afterwards appointed assistant field Engineer in the fort of Agra; in October was appointed orderly officer to Colonel Greatheads' column; present at the action of Dilkorsha; at the relief of Lucknow by the Commander-in-Chief; affair at Avougal on the 2nd, and action of the 6th December at Cawnpore; with Brigadier Franks as A.D.C. at the action of Chanda, Umperapooona, Douraha, and the siege and capture of Lucknow in March 1858. At the expiration of the training period, the volunteer non-commissioned officers and men were dismissed to their respective homes from Drogheda after being settled with, and each man receiving a portion of bounty due to him. It is fair to them to state that their conduct upon departure was most orderly and also very pleasing to Lieut.-Colonel Forster to receive from the local authorities and inhabitants a testimonial in praise of the good conduct and bearing of the men whilst quartered amongst them and regretting that their stay in Drogheda had been so short. The permanent staff remained behind for two days in order to regulate and pack up the clothing and stores, &c., of the regiment previous to their being forwarded to the depot at Monaghan, the Quarter-Master remaining to hand over the barracks to the authorities.

In 1863, the regiment was called up for training in Monaghan for 21 days, from the 15th June, and inspected by Colonel Smyth, the Inspector-General of Militia, on the 2nd July, he expressed himself very well pleased and satisfied with everything coming under his inspection, observing a marked improvement in the drill of the officers since his former meeting of them at Drogheda, nothing of importance occurring during the year more than the usual drills and parades of the staff.

In 1864, the regiment was again called up for training at Monaghan for 21 days, from 15th June, the men occupying the cavalry barrack to the extent it would accommodate, the remainder being as usual billeted amongst the inhabitants. They were inspected by Colonel Smyth on Tuesday 28th same month, who expressed himself, as he did in 1863, as perfectly satisfied with the general appearance and cleanliness of the men, and again remarking an improvement in the drill of the regiment since his last inspection. He was very particular this year in his examination of the regimental books, and making enquiries as to the amount of barrack damages stopped from the men, he having in course of his inspection in the South, seen as much as 9d. and 10d. charged per man for barrack damage, and which he considered most unfair. He examined our barrack damage account, found it correct, and admitted it to be quite satisfactory, as in no instance did the barrack damage in Monaghan ever exceed two pence per man and which appeared to please him much; for it was not until his inspection of it that he mentioned about the practice in the Southern

regiments of what he considered excessive damages being charged to the men.

Early in the month of May in this year, 1865, the regiment obtained a new Sergt.-Major (Dobbs) from the 92nd foot, the third since the discharge of Purcell. He has proved a great acquisition to the regiment - a man of remarkably steady habits, upright and straightforward, an experienced and competent drill, and fully acquainted with all his duties in every particular and his worth is very justly appreciated by both the Adjutant and the Commanding Officer. On the 12th of June in this year the regiment was called up for 27 days training, and for a fourth time inspected by Colonel Smyth, the Inspector-General of Militia. He arrived in Monaghan on the 30th of the month in the early part of the day and at 1 o'clock commenced his inspection of the regiment in a large field in the rear of the barrack, hired for the purpose, having complained at every former inspection of not having room in the barrack square to move the men in, or to be able to properly judge as to the drill or real efficiency of the regiment. Upon no former occasion did Colonel Smyth ever express himself so pleased or satisfied with the men as he did this time, giving Lieut.-Colonel Forster much and deserved praise for the discipline of the regiment; to the Adjutant and the field officers, the Captains and subalterns, he gave much credit, observing how much pleased he was himself with the general appearance and cleanliness of the men; remarked their clothing and accoutrements as fitting well, and so thoroughly satisfied with everything coming under his inspection that he promised himself great pleasure in being able to make a most favourable report of the regiment officers and men to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland upon his return to Dublin Castle. Col. Smyth dined same evening with Lieut.-Colonel Forster and the officers in their mess-room in the county Courthouse (officers in full dress) where a very pleasant and social assembly of brethren-in-arms were met, and a most agreeable evening spent by friends, some of whom were never destined to meet again. In the same social way, two of the number having been called hence within a few short months afterwards, much and greatly regretted by those they left behind.

The following is a list of the officers present at the training of 1865 and, although in these records the names of the officers attending at the several trainings have not been usually inserted, yet as so long a period intervened between and the next training of the regiment the compiler considers it advisable to diverge a little from the usual custom and give the muster-roll of those present as recorded in the regimental books. Were it only for the sake of some of those as mentioned above whose last training it was their privilege to attend, but who yet at this distant period live in the memory of the survivors, who cherish in their hearts for those departed comrades a most fond and kind recollection:-

Hon. Colonel C.P. Leslie M.P., Lieut.-Colonel Thos. O. Forster, Major C. Woodwright, Major Jesse Lloyd, Captains: E.W. Bond, Robert

Forster, M.E. Lewis, Adam Fuller, John Leslie, Thos. Coote, Lieutenants: M. Blakley, Frith Thompson, John Crozier, M.B. Naughton, Henry S. Bird, James McMath, Pay Master Rob. Thompson, Adjutant H. Henderson, Qtr. Master William Watson, Surgeon W.N. Irwin.

In 1866 the regiment was not called up for training in consequence of a spirit of Fenianism having broke out in the Southern and Eastern parts of the Kingdom and spread itself to nearly every county in the country. The Habeas Corpus Act having been suspended, and a general uneasiness arising amongst every class of the community, it was considered by the authorities more prudent to allow the volunteers to remain in their own homes and their several employments and occupations, than to call them up for training. In this year a guard of three Sergeants and one drummer was ordered to mount daily over the stores, clothing, accoutrements, &c., &c., of the regiment.

In 1867 the same wild spirit of disaffection continuing amongst a fraction of the people, it was considered by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland inadvisable to call out the militia for training or exercise this year either, the Habeas Corpus Act still having to be kept suspended, chiefly caused by an influx of Americans pouring over in large numbers by wicked arts and means, to keep alive a spirit of lawlessness and disaffection amongst the lower order of the peasantry. Towards the Autumn of this year, the guard over the stores of the regiment was reduced to what it had been in former days, viz., one Sergeant and one drummer, but before the end of the year, was again augmented to two Sergeants and one Drummer, continuing so all the winter, the authorities allowing an extra quantity of fuel for the guard-room, owing to the severity of the season, and the additional duty the guard had to perform, having to patrol round the barrack and stores every quarter-of-an-hour, this, being the orders issued, and most strictly adhered to, the guard having also to be visited occasionally by an officer or the Sergt.-Major, which was duly attended to.

In 1868 the guard of two sergeants and one Drummer still continued over the stores, until the month of April, when the order arrived to the commanding officer, empowering him, should he think it advisable to reduce the guard to one Sergeant, as in former years; yet, early in the Spring of this year, a number of sand-bags were supplied, a portion to be kept in the stores and guard-room, filled and ready in case of their being required, either for the purpose of defence or against Greek-fire.

In the early part of this year Col. F. Maude V.C., and late of the 3rd Buffs, was appointed Inspector-General of the Irish Militia, vice Col. Selby Smyth whose term of staff service had expired. On the 4th of July of this year the permanent staff of the regiment was inspected by Colonel Maude, the new Inspector-General. The men were paraded in heavy-marching-order, with full kits in knapsacks, and after a most minute and close inspection, were ordered to take off their packs; they were again paraded, Drummers falling in upon the left, and were severely called to the front and

were desired to sound the different regimental calls; afterwards the Sergeants were called upon and each man tested as to his qualifications as a drill, and examined in company and squad drill, as well as in light infantry exercise. After a period of about two hours upon the parade ground, the men were dismissed for an hour, Col. Maude, in the meantime, visiting the mens' quarters and examining the several buildings connected with the barrack, also the Quarter-Master's stores, clothing and accoutrements of the regiment; thence to the orderly room, where he made a most painstaking examination of the books of the regiment, inspecting the Quarter-Master's books at the same time. He again ordered the whole of the staff to be paraded, and after enquiring if they had any complaints to make and finding they had none, he addressed them in very complimentary terms, giving Captain Henderson much credit for the efficient state in which he found his men, praising their very clean and soldierlike appearance. He also gave the Quarter-Master (Watson) due praise for the manner he kept the stores, observing the tidy and correct way in which he found everything connected with his department in, also stating his satisfaction with the manner he found the regimental books; winding up by remarking some few of the Sergeants might be a little improved in their drill; and also recommending the Drum-Major to give his drummers somewhat more bugle practice, at same time making allowance for the timidity and nervousness which he thought he discerned in one or two of the Sergeants as well as the junior buglers. After dismissing the men he started for Armagh, leaving a most favourable impression of his kind and soldierlike qualities on both officers and men, notwithstanding his very minute and close inspection, an inspection so stringent as they had never underwent before, at least since their appointment to the permanent staff.

A circumstance may here be noted incidentally connected with the regiment and nearly proving fatal to the Adjutant. An assembly of Orangemen had taken place on Monday, 13th July, at the residence of a gentleman, within about two miles of Monaghan, where a very large number had met, and towards the evening of the day, those returning into Monaghan were set upon by an opposing party, and obliged to take refuge in a public house in the town; but so exasperated appeared the mob at their getting under shelter, that they commenced throwing stones and smashing the windows and shutters of the house into which the Orangemen had retreated, when some shots were fired out of the upper windows, upon the mob, and one man shot dead. This maddened them so, that the police who had been previously called upon were completely powerless, and Mr. Young, a magistrate present, sent a note to Captain Henderson, commanding a permanent staff, and asking him for God's sake to come and bring his men with him to assist in keeping the peace. The Adjutant, acting upon the Magistrates order, went at once, but before calling at the barrack for the men, wished to see Mr. Young, as the following correspondence between the Inspector-General of Militia and the Quarter-Master of the

regiment, upon whom the command of the staff devolved, shows. So serious, however, was the riot, and the appearance of the mob, that it was deemed necessary by the local authorities, as a precautionary measure, to telegraph to Armagh, a distance of 14 miles, for a company of soldiers, who arrived late at night, and remained under arms until 6 o'clock the next morning, and not leaving until the Wednesday following:-

Monaghan, July 15th 1868

'Sir I have the honour to state, for your information, that a riot of a party nature took place in this town, on the evening of Monday of the 13th instant; that a magistrate of the town, Mr. Young, considered it advisable to write a note to Captain Henderson calling on him for the assistance of the permanent staff to aid in quelling the riot; and on Captain Henderson going to see Mr. Young to consult with him upon the matter, he was struck down with a missile of some description, and for a considerable time rendered quite insensible. The surgeon of the Regiment, Dr. Irwin, was at once sent for and had him removed to his own residence, it being nigher hand than Captain Henderson's own house., and he there remains still in a very precarious state, under the care of Dr. Irwin, who informs me that he has had a good night, but by no means yet out of danger. I have to add that Mr. Young had also telegraphed to Armagh, a distance of 14 miles, for a company of military there stationed to come on to Monaghan at once. Four officers and 101 men of the 72nd regiment arrived at 9.30 o'clock by rail the same evening, and still remain here, the cavalry stables at these barracks being cleared out for their accommodation, and a quantity of straw provided for them by the barrack contractor. I have further to add that the permanent staff was not called upon after the accident to Captain Henderson, but remained in quarter, and ready to act if called upon. I beg also to state that I have assumed the command of the permanent staff until further orders, or until Captain Henderson shall be pronounced fit for duty by the surgeon of the regiment.

'I have the honour to be Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
William Watson, Quarter-Master
Acting Adjutant, Monaghan Militia'
'Inspector-General of Militia
Dublin Castle'.

'Monaghan, 16th July, 1868'
(Pressing)

'Sir: - I have the honour to report for your information that the company of the 72nd regiment, which arrived here on Monday evening, left for Armagh yesterday; and a very uneasy feeling appears to exist amongst the inhabitants of the town, and a dread of more rioting taking place, I beg to be informed, if called upon by a magistrate as commanding officer of the

permanent staff and be guided in acting according to the instructions as laid down in page 188, 189, and paragraph 912 to 823 (sic) of the Queen's Regulations.

In the event of such taking place, I shall be obliged to leave a guard behind to protect my stores, say the Quarter-Master-Sergeant and three Drummers, taking with me the Sergeant Major, sixteen Sergeants and three Drummers'

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,

William Watson,

Acting Adjutant, Monaghan Militia'

'Inspector-General of Militia

Dublin Castle'.

'Militia Office, Dublin Castle,

July 17th 1868'

(to be copied and returned)

'The Quarter-Master Monaghan Militia'

If called upon by a magistrate to turn out the permanent staff in aid of the civil power, obtain a requisition to that effect in writing if there is time to do so and proceed at once to carry out the Magistrate's orders.

The Queens Regulations quoted by you are applicable to your case.

A guard as proposed, to be left in charge of the stores. Keep me informed if anything unusual occurs.

F.F. Maude, I.G.M.'

'Monaghan, 18th July, 1868

Sir - Herewith I beg to return the enclosed copied as directed, and shall attend to your instructions as to keeping you informed should anything unusual occur in town. I wish to state for your information that in addition to the usual number of police which are quartered in Monaghan (about 20 men) ten other men arrived here on yesterday, to remain for a longer or shorter period, as may be required. Matters appear settling down since the arrest of a person named Baird, who is accused of shooting the man on last Monday.

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,

William Watson, Quarter-Master

Acting Adjutant, Monaghan Militia'

'Inspector-General of Militia

Dublin Castle'.

Militia Office, Dublin Castle

July 18th, 1868.

Sir:- I have the honour to transmit for your information and guidance, copy of a letter of this day's date. addressed to Captain and Adjutant Bellingham, Louth Militia, directing him to proceed to Monaghan,

and to take command of the Monaghan Militia permanent staff for the present.

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,
F.F. Maude, I.G.M.
Quarter-Master William Watson
Monaghan Militia'

Militia Office, Dublin Castle
July 18th, 1868.

Sir, Their Excellencies the Lords Justices direct you to hand over temporarily command of the permanent staff of the Louth Militia to the Quarter-Master, and to proceed at once to Monaghan to take command of the permanent staff of the Monaghan Militia, vice Captain and Adjutant Henderson, who is in a precarious state from the effects of a blow received on the 13th instant during a riot that occurred in Monaghan.

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,
F.F. Maude, I.G.M.
Captain Bellingham
Adjutant Louth Militia, Dundalk'.

'Monaghan, July 19th, 1868

Sir - I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated Dublin Castle, July 18th, 1868, and in reply, beg to state, that upon the arrival of Captain Bellingham, Louth Militia, I shall be prepared to hand over the command of the permanent staff Monaghan Militia '

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,
William Watson, Quarter-Master
Acting Adjutant, Monaghan Militia'
'Inspector-General of Militia
Dublin Castle'.

Captain Bellingham arrived in Monaghan on Sunday evening, 19th July, taking over the command of the permanent staff on the following day, remaining in Monaghan about a fortnight, when Capt. Henderson was again sufficiently recovered from the effects of his wound to resume command of the staff as usual.

After the inquest upon the body of the man shot in the riot had been held, matters were cooling down, and apparently everything becoming quiet in the town. Yet the inhabitants thought it prudent to petition the Lord Lieutenant to quarter a company of regular soldiers in a cavalry barracks for the peace of the town, with which he complied after some routine correspondence, and the permanent staff which had been living in the barrack were ordered to vacate them upon two hours notice delivered at 8 o'clock at night, and which they did, seeking lodgings as best they could, a troop of dragoons arriving from Dundalk by special train same night at 11

o'clock, and occupying the barracks. The arrival of the troops gave great satisfaction to the town's people, all feeling confident that an end had been put to any more rioting, as the very knowledge of the soldiers being at hand would have the effect of preventing any evil disposed persons showing any disposition to turbulence or quarrelling.

A company of regular troops - sometimes dragoons, sometimes infantry - still continue to occupy the barracks, the permanent staff of the militia getting settled either in small houses or lodgings, mostly all in the neighbourhood of the barracks, nothing of any moment taking place except the ordinary drills and parades under the Adjutant and Sergeant-Major, no training having taken place this year.

In the year 1869, although fully expecting to be called up for training none took place, the authorities considering it more prudent not to embody the Irish militia this year either, though all matters of a political nature had quite settled down, and the Habeas Corpus Act allowed to drop. Early in the Spring of the year the sandbags which had been served out to the regiment for the protection of the stores and barrack buildings were ordered to be forwarded to the government stores at Enniskillen thereby showing that the authorities had no alarm as to the safety of their stores or buildings at Monaghan.

Captain Maude, V.C. Inspector General of Militia, made his second inspection of the permanent staff, stores, clothing and accoutrements of the regiment on Tuesday, the 25th May of this year. He made a very strict inspection of each member of the staff, as to age, health and efficiency, the men being drawn up in the barrack square, and receiving him with the usual salute. He made a most careful examination of their clothing, arms and accoutrements upon the parade ground, taking down in writing his own observations, as he considered right. His inspection was very similar to the one of the previous year, calling upon one or two of the Sergeants to drill the others, and making each bugler to sound the different regimental calls; ordered the men to be dismissed and paraded in an hours hence in their great coats, which order was complied with, he, at the same time minutely examining the coats, and enquiring as to the length of time ther (sic) had them in wear. This closed the inspection of the men who were dismissed to their several quarters. He then visited the stores of the regiment, appeared pleased and satisfied as to the care taken in keeping the clothing and accoutrements, and the several multitudinous articles requisite for the turning out of a regiment. Thence he proceeded to the orderly-room, inspecting the regimental books, and making several enquiries as to the manner in which the men were housed, and the locality, and if we could procure accommodation for the stores in any house in the town or suburbs. We, however, could not, for a building suitable for such a purpose is not in the town or neighbourhood, nor could we be better suited in stores than those we have in the barrack, if only allowed to hold them permanently.

Upon Colonel Maude's departure from Monaghan to inspect the Louth regiment he told Captain Henderson that he was very well pleased, and quite satisfied with everything coming under his observation regarding the permanent staff of the Monaghan Militia.

In the early part of this year a circular was received from Dublin Castle, by the authority of the Lords Justice, desiring that all future appointments to commissions in the regiment under the rank of Captain, the officer so appointed must attend at the depot of the regiment to be drilled by the Adjutant and staff for at least one month, and afterwards to be attached to a regiment of the line, for the purpose of being further instructed in battalion and company drill, and perfecting him in a full knowledge of his duties as a subaltern officer; and shortly after a circular from the Inspector General arrived, stating that an allowance of 5s per diem for one month would be allowed to such officers whilst attached on this duty, but not to be paid unless vouched by a certificate from the Commanding officer of the regiment to which he may be attached, stating that he is fully acquainted with his drill and duties and perfectly competent to move a body of troops on the parade ground.

In accordance with the foregoing instructions Lieutenant Watson was the first officer so attached after the receipt of this order, he attended at the depot in Monaghan barracks and was drilled by the Adjutant and permanent staff for an even longer period than was required, but which made his duty much lighter when afterwards attached to the 54th regiment then quartered in Belfast. He remained with them for upwards of a month, obtaining the requisite certificate from the commanding Officer and was complimented by the Adjutant, Lieutenant Tarleton as having picked up his drill and duties in so short a space of time.

Copy of certificate of Colonel Thompson 54th Regiment: -

I certify that Lieutenant Watson of the Monaghan Militia has been attached to the 54th Regiment for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of his duties as a subaltern officer, which I consider him fairly acquainted with.

James S. Thompson, Lieut.-Colonel
Commanding 54th Regt.
Belfast, August 1st, 1869.

At a later period in the year a communication was received from the Inspector General stating that an allowance of 4s per day would in future be allowed by the Government to all officers of Militia attending the training of their respective regiments in addition to their regimental pay for the purpose of covering any additional expense which they are of necessity put to whilst so attending training; also fourteen days additional training pay to the Quarter-Master, making a boon of 21s to those officers for their very arduous and additional work during the period for which the regiment is up

for drill and exercise; same order doing away with all property qualifications in future for any officers appointed to Militia regiments.

The following is the list of the officers found upon the muster roll of the regiment on the 1st January, 1870: -

Hon. Colonel C.P. Leslie, M.P.

Lieut.-Colonel Thos. O. Forster.

Major C. Woodwright.

Major Jesse Lloyd.

Captain, E. W. Bond

Captain, Robert Forster

Captain, M.E. Lewis.

Captain, John Leslie.

Captain, Thomas Coote.

Captain, W.W. Madden.

Lieutenant M. Blakely

Lieutenant Frith Thomson

Lieutenant M.B. Naughten

Lieutenant James McMath

Lieutenant Robert Watson

Pay Master Robert Thomson

Adjutant H. Henderson

Quarter-Master William Watson

Surgeon W.N. Irwin.

1870 onwards the latter end of the month of January, an order was received from Colonel Maude, Inspector-General of Militia, dated from Dublin Castle ordering a guard of one Sergeant and one bugler to be mounted daily over stores, &c., &c., of the regiment, with instructions that should anything unusual occur or take place, he was to be immediately communicated with, and an extra Sergeant, if considered necessary to be added to the guard. Regimental orders were at the same time issued, that each member of the permanent staff provide himself with quarters within sound of the bugle and if found necessary for the assembly to be sounded, or the men to be brought together, the militia stores were appointed as the general rendezvous as the place of assembly.

At the assembly of the House of Commons, Mr. Cardwell, the Secretary of State for War, announced from his place in Parliament that the War Office authorities had come to the resolution of abolishing the office of Quarter-Masters upon the permanent staff of all disembodied regiments of militia, stating that the duties performed by that officer were in future to be undertaken by the Adjutant, with the assistance of the Quarter-Master Sergeant; and when the regiment shall be called up for training or embodiment should the officer commanding find that the Adjutant was unable to attend or perform the duties connected with the Quarter-Master's department efficiently, then a subaltern officer was to be appointed by the Colonel for that duty, being also allowed additional pay while so acting.

The Secretary of State for War, whilst making his announcements, stated that when doing away with the Quarter-Masters upon the staffs of disembodied regiments he at the same time wished to say that in obedience to the wishes of both sides of the House of Commons, he had resolved upon granting a retiring allowance to each of the officers according to their length of service and at the same time remarking he wished to deal in a most liberal manner with these gentlemen, and would do so by allowing them the following rates of pension, viz.: From and after 1st day of April 1871, under 5 years of service, 2s 6d: over 5 and under 10, 3s: over 10 and under 15, 3s 6d: and over 15, 4s per diem.

As to the liberality of this allowance there will likely be a difference of opinion on that point, as all the older officers who had served with their regiments whilst embodied considered themselves hardly treated by being put off with less than 5s per diem, as was granted when a similar reduction took place in the year of grace, 1829.

Late in the month of March this year a circular letter was received from the Inspector-General of Militia ordering a minute inventory of all public property viz. clothing, accoutrements, and all description of stores in possession of the regiment and in charge of the Quartermaster, and sent to him between the 1st day of April and the 1st day of July, 1870 in order to its being forwarded through him to the War Office authorities at the same time stating the condition and state in which the several articles were in, viz., whether new, part worn, or unserviceable. This order was compiled with Capt. Henderson, the Adjutant, and Mr. Watson going over the several articles, and the returns made out and forwarded, as directed, to the Inspector General, previous to the 1st of May.

The guard which had been ordered on in January of this year over the stores was, towards the summer months, allowed to be done away with so long as a detachment of the line should occupy the barracks.

Early in the month of May in this year the permanent staff of the regiment were supplied with the Snider rifle, Quarter-Master Watson and an escort of two Sergeants being ordered to meet a similar one at Cavan to receive the arms over from them, as despatched from the Pigeon House Fort, Dublin, via Mullingar railway, which duty was performed according to route and detailed orders from the Inspector-General.

Towards the latter end of the month of June, the following circular letter was addressed to the commanding officer from the inspector-General of the Irish Militia ordering a reduction on the permanent staff as vacancies would occur, just following the precedent of 40 years previous when similar reductions upon the militia staff took place: -

'Dublin Castle
June 29th, 1870

The Secretary of State for War has directed the following reductions to take place, as vacancies occur, on the permanent staff of the Irish Militia,

viz., the suspension of appointments to the rank of Hospital Sergeant, and the reduction of the company Sergeant from two to one per company.

In carrying out the reduction amongst the company Sergeants when a vacancy occurs the one whose time has expired is not necessarily to be discharged, but the least efficient company Sergeant is to be discharged. By carrying out the reduction in this way, the most efficient non-commissioned officers will be retained.

F.F. Maude

Inspector-General Irish Militia'

To what to attribute the rescinding of the order for reducing the staff no one could tell if not to be accounted for by the war between France and Prussia, the former having declared war against the latter power early in the month of July, 1871, and which proved to be a most deplorable and disastrous one for both parties, particularly France - beaten almost to the dust, as the history of this period will show, and which must take very many years of peace and industry ere either of the combatants will have regained their former position as to either their trade or commerce.

Colonel Maude, V.C., Inspector-General of the Irish Militia, made his annual inspection of the permanent staff on Thursday, December the 1st arriving in Monaghan about 12 o'clock, and making as is his wont, a very minute inspection of the men, stores, clothing and accoutrements; he had the men upon the parade ground for nearly two hours, calling upon several of the Sergeants to drill each other in order to test their knowledge in the new drill which they had been engaged in learning for a very short time previous, the instruction books having only been issued about the month of October. He wound up by skirmishing drill, and the men were dismissed for a short period, when the assembly, after about half-an-hour's interval, was sounded, the men falling in, and the Inspector-General addressing them in a few telling words, stating his being very well pleased with their appearance, general good conduct, and soldierlike bearing, and their having obtained a fair knowledge of the new drill, but still expecting and looking forward to an improvement in some of the Sergeants, who were not quite up to the new manoeuvres or words of command, at the same time giving orders for a march out once a week during the season, and also desiring a requisition to be forwarded to him, which he would send on to the Secretary of State for War, requiring six new breech-loading Snider rifles, for the use of the Drummers of the permanent staff, as he wished them to be drilled with the Sergeants, and to become thoroughly acquainted with the rifle exercise.

Whilst in course of inspecting the stores and examining the clothing of the regiment, he had a conversation with the Adjutant and Quarter-Master relative to the clothing of volunteers, called up for 27 or 28 days annual training, and requested the Quarter-Master to place on paper and forward to him what clothing he considered would be sufficient, add his views as to the requirement of a volunteer when up for training.

Agreeable to the wish of the Inspector-General, Mr. Watson made out a list of what in his opinion would be necessary for each man, a copy of which is here stated, forwarding it, as directed to the Inspector-General, acquainting his commanding officer, and also submitting a copy to him:

One forage cap of a better quality than the one now in use to be returned to store at the end of training and to last five years. One cloth tunic, one serge do., one cloth trousers, one serge do., to be returned at the end of the training, to last five years, and to become the property of the man in whose possession it is at the end of the training, and the usual pair of boots, shirts and socks. When embodied or called out for service to be clothed in all respects as the line.

Towards the latter end of the month of December, an order arrived from the Secretary of State for War, addressed to the Officer Commanding through the Inspector-General of Irish Militia informing him that he was to commence from that date (23rd December, 1870) to enrol and re-enrol volunteers for the regiment until it should be brought up to its full strength, which order was at once and promptly acted upon and the beginning of the new year, 1871, saw the Sergeants and Drummers actively employed in recruiting and beating up for volunteers, when numbers of recruits offered themselves daily for enrolment so that it is calculated that ere many weeks expire, the regiment will be recruited to its original strength, as from the length of time since the last time since the last training (1865) and from no enrolments having taken place since it had dwindled down to a mere skeleton.

Having now brought these few words of our gallant county regiment over a period of nearly 80 years, I shall for the present conclude. Trusting that those of my readers who have had the patience of reading them through, will look with indulgence on my feeble but earnest effort in collecting and putting together the foregoing incidents and travel of our County Militia and which I feel proud in having belonged to, and served so many years of my life in my first entry into the regiment dating so far back as the year 1827.

William Watson
Quarter-Master Monaghan Regiment of Militia
Monaghan, January 1871

Notes

Dundalk Democrat 01 August 1908

The Monaghan Militia were finally disbanded yesterday and some people seem inclined to weep tears of regret over the disappearance of the corps. Major Madden of Orange Hall fame, newly fledged GNR director in handing over the regimental colours to the keeping of the Protestant Church in Monaghan, delivered himself of quite a pathetic speech. He recalled the fact that 200 years ago the county supported a dragoon as well as a foot regiment and that in the rising (or as the Major called it, the Rebellion), of '98 the Monaghan Militia took part in the battles of Ballynahinch and Ballinamuck. If the Major had not recalled the fact we should have been disposed to allow the regiment to pass to its repose in the Protestant Church of Monaghan 'unwept, unhonoured and unsung.

The Gallant Major, on occasions a howling Orange dervish screeching for the withdrawal of the British Army in order to allow the brethren a free hand to drive the papists into the Atlantic Ocean, posed in this instance as a critic of the new army arrangements which swept the Monaghan Militia out of existence. The two positions would be irreconcilable were it not for the historic memories which the Major invoked. What was the Monaghan Militia of 200 years ago? Obviously part of the Protestant Arms of William of Orange engaged in just the work which Major Madden pants to recommence - the extirpation of Papishes and the clearance of the fair lands of Ireland to make way for Scotch, English and Dutch settlers. What part did the Monaghan Militia play at Ballynahinch and Ballinamuck? Well history is unaccountably silent as to the heroic deeds of the men of Monaghan on either field, but since Major Madden says they were there we take his word for it. They were fighting in Ballynahinch as the hirelings of England against their own fellow countrymen, and we presume co-religionists, the heroic Presbyterian freemen of Down who were risking life and liberty and all that men hold dear in one glorious effort "to right their native land". Alas, sad record of the men of Monaghan! And again at Ballinamuck they were somewhere doubtless to the rere - of Marquis Cornwallis' grand army of 20,000 men with which he ventured to oppose 500 French soldiers and 1,500 half naked and half armed Connaught peasants. Inglorious achievement! Had even the Monaghan Militia done as the Louth men did who were at the famous "Races of Castlebar" and who went over as a body and fought on the side of the French, we might drop a tear over the flags that had been borne by men of courage and patriotism. But in this record of the deeds of the Monaghan Militia as given by Major Madden we see nothing to move a Monaghan man do else than blush for shame.

Monaghan can afford to see its militia pass. The county will be non the poorer, its people none the worse. And a day may come when we shall see the people of the country once more enrolled in a citizen army like that which in 1782, in the Church in Dungannon and again behind the guns in the streets of Dublin, asserted and upheld and forced England to admit 'There is no body of men competent to make laws to bind this nation except the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland.'