

**HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE THIRD, OR  
THE KING'S OWN REGIMENT OF LIGHT  
DRAGOONS: CONTAINING  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE FORMATION OF  
THE REGIMENT IN 1685, AND OF ITS  
SUBSEQUENT SERVICES TO 1846**

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Historical Records of the Third, or the King's Own Regiment of Light Dragoons: Containing an Account of the Formation of the Regiment in 1685, and of Its Subsequent Services to 1846 by Richard Cannon

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**RICHARD CANNON**

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*1st Brit. Adjutant general's office.*

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OF THE  
THIRD, OR THE KING'S OWN REGIMENT  
OF  
LIGHT DRAGOONS:

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AN ACCOUNT OF THE FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT  
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AND OF ITS SUBSEQUENT SERVICES  
TO 1846.

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COMPILED BY  
RICHARD CANNON, ESQ.,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, HORSE GUARDS.

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## GENERAL ORDERS.

### *HORSE GUARDS,*

*1st January, 1896.*

His MAJESTY has been pleased to command, that, with a view of doing the fullest justice to Regiments, as well as to Individuals who have distinguished themselves by their Bravery in Action with the Enemy, an Account of the Services of every Regiment in the British Army shall be published under the superintendence and direction of the Adjutant-General; and that this Account shall contain the following particulars, viz.,

— The Period and Circumstances of the Original Formation of the Regiment; The Stations at which it has been from time to time employed; The Battles, Sieges, and other Military Operations, in which it has been engaged, particularly specifying any Achievement it may have performed, and the Colours, Trophies, &c., it may have captured from the Enemy.

Form 40 1-7-88M&W

— The Names of the Officers, and the number of Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates, Killed or Wounded by the Enemy, specifying the Place and Date of the Action.

— The names of those Officers, who, in consideration of their Gallant Services and Meritorious Conduct in Engagements with the Enemy, have been distinguished with Titles, Medals, or other Marks of His Majesty's gracious favour.

— The Names of all such Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates as may have specially signalized themselves in Action.

And,

— The Badges and Devices which the Regiment may have been permitted to bear, and the Causes on account of which such Badges or Devices, or any other Marks of Distinction, have been granted.

By Command of the Right Honourable  
GENERAL LORD HILL,

*Commanding-in-Chief.*

JOHN MACDONALD.

*Adjutant-General.*



## P R E F A C E.

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THE character and credit of the British Army must chiefly depend upon the zeal and ardour by which all who enter into its service are animated, and consequently it is of the highest importance that any measure calculated to excite the spirit of emulation, by which alone great and gallant actions are achieved, should be adopted.

Nothing can more fully tend to the accomplishment of this desirable object than a full display of the noble deeds with which the Military History of our country abounds. To hold forth these bright examples to the imitation of the youthful soldier, and thus to incite him to emulate the meritorious conduct of those who have preceded him in their honourable career, are among the motives that have given rise to the present publication.

The operations of the British Troops are, indeed, announced in the "London Gazette," from whence they are transferred into the public prints: the achievements of our armies are thus made known at the time of their occurrence, and receive the tribute of praise and admiration to which they are entitled. On extraordinary occasions, the Houses of Parliament have been in the habit of conferring on the Commanders, and the Officers and Troops acting under their orders, expressions of approbation and of thanks for their skill and bravery; and these testimonials, confirmed by the high honour of their Sovereign's approbation, constitute the reward which the soldier most highly prizes.

It has not, however, until late years, been the practice (which appears to have long prevailed in some of the Continental armies) for British Regiments to keep regular records of their services and achievements. Hence some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining, particularly from the old Regiments, an authentic account of their origin and subsequent services.

This defect will now be remedied, in consequence

of His Majesty having been pleased to command that every Regiment shall in future keep a full and ample record of its services at home and abroad;

From the materials thus collected, the country will henceforth derive information as to the difficulties and privations which chequer the career of those who embrace the military profession. In Great Britain, where so large a number of persons are devoted to the active concerns of agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, and where these pursuits have, for so long a period, been undisturbed by the *presence of war*, which few other countries have escaped, comparatively little is known of the vicissitudes of active service, and of the casualties of climate, to which, even during peace, the British Troops are exposed in every part of the globe, with little or no interval of repose.

In their tranquil enjoyment of the blessings which the country derives from the industry and the enterprise of the agriculturist and the trader, its happy inhabitants may be supposed not often to reflect on the perilous duties of the soldier and the sailor,—on