

**HISTORICAL RECORD OF
THE 1ST CORNWALL
(DUKE OF CORNWALL'S)
ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS**

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1ST CORNWALL
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ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

BY
CAPTAIN B. A. MILNE, R. M. ARTILLERY
Adjutant 1st D. C. A. V.

“One and All.”

1885.

P R E F A C E .

SEEING recently in the *Volunteer Service Gazette* that historical accounts of two Volunteer Corps had been written by their respective Adjutants, it struck me that a record of the 1ST CORNWALL ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS could not fail to be of some interest to many members who have served, or are still serving, in the same. I feel that many apologies are due for the apparent presumption on my part in undertaking such a task, considering the short time I have had the honour of being attached to the Corps, and that my period of service will soon expire; still I have endeavoured, from the materials I have at hand to refer to, to compile a faithful record of the Brigade from the date of its formation up to the present time. There is no doubt that such a work is far more difficult in a Corps so peculiarly situated as the 1st Cornwall Artillery, in which all the Companies are outlying (there is, I believe, only one other Brigade which has a larger number of outlying Batteries), and where, in consequence, each has (and always will) considered itself

more or less of the nature of a distinct body. There being so much expense involved in bringing them together on any occasion, that one Battery knows very little of another; still I have attempted to amalgamate the whole in one short history.

I fear the following notes may prove somewhat dry reading, but I have been dependent to a great extent on the bare official documents for my information; and no attempt has been made to do more than collect, in a convenient form, whatever has been thought worthy of record.

Anyone perusing them is requested to remember, moreover, that they were compiled at odd moments, snatched from the usual orderly-room duties, at all times heavy, and which appear to be daily on the increase. Consequent on the consolidation of the Brigade, considerably more work has devolved upon the Headquarters. It is trusted, however, these notes may serve at times as a useful book for reference; should it prove so, it will fully compensate for the time bestowed in arranging the facts together in this form.

B. A. M.

PENZANCE,

March, 1885.

THE HISTORY
OF
THE 1ST CORNWALL ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS.

THE idea of volunteering for the defence of their country against invaders is no new one to Englishmen; when the Spanish Armada threatened our shores, the people sprang to arms, ready to face any odds for the safety of their hearths and homes.

In 1798, the inhabitants of this island were thoroughly aroused by the successes and menaces of Bonaparte, and by 1803 there were about 335,000 Volunteers, almost double the number of the Regular Army; and it must be remembered that the population of the United Kingdom was not half what it is to-day.

The constitution of the Volunteers at this period was not nearly the same as that of the present day, but it was the same spirit that moved them. In the Appendix will be seen the numbers furnished by Cornwall about this time.

After half a century's tranquillity the peace of Europe was again disturbed, and it was impossible to say what turn affairs might not take.

As early as 1854, Rifle Clubs were formed in various parts of England, but the Government declined their services. During the next few years, the writings of several eminent professional men drew the attention of the nation to the defenceless state of our coasts, and to the increasing power of foreign navies. About

the same time, too, several warlike and aggressive pamphlets were published on the other side of the Channel, which roused the suspicions of the English. The Press advocated the formation of Volunteer Regiments, and the Government, obeying the will of the people, decided to aid the movement. On the 25th of May, 1859, General Peel, then Secretary of State for War, issued a circular authorising the formation of Volunteer Corps. Immediately on the Royal Consent being obtained, the nation again sprang to arms.

Cornwall does not appear to have been behindhand; on referring to the table of precedence in the Army List, it will be seen she stands sixth, out of a total of 62, of which Northumberland holds the proud position of being first.

The first Company of Artillery Volunteers in the county was raised at Padstow (owing mainly to the exertions of Charles Prideaux Bruno, Esquire, of Prideaux Place); the date of acceptance of service being the 12th of September, 1859. Considering the size of the town, and its somewhat remote situation, it is particularly creditable to the inhabitants that they should be the first to offer their services in the defence of their native shores. The maximum establishment of the Company was fixed at 80; this included three Officers.

Padstow was not long allowed to possess the only Artillery Company in the county; and, before the end of the year, five more Corps were added, the first of these being a Company at Looe, the date of acceptance being the 30th of September, or only 18 days after Padstow; this was followed by two Companies, one at Fowey and one at Charlestown, sanctioned on the 12th and 28th of October, respectively; and two Sections, with an establishment of 29, were formed from the miners at the Par Consols and West Fowey Consols Mines on the 21st and 29th of December.

1860. On the 20th of February, the services of a Section at

Polruan were accepted, being the seventh Corps formed ; and on the 2nd of the following month, a Company was sanctioned at Hayle, being the first Artillery Corps in the western division of the county.

On the 28th of the same month, another Section, the ninth, or Fowey Consols Mine, was added. It will therefore be seen that between the 12th of September, 1859, and the 28th of March, 1860, a period of little over six months, Cornwall could boast of no less than five Companies and four Sections of Artillery Volunteers.

In March of this year, the undermentioned Officers, viz. :— Captains Brunc, Essell, and Banks ; 1st Lieutenants Tredwen, Sobey, and Banks ; 2nd Lieutenants Pearse, Hicks, and Kernick ; Hon. Assistant-Surgeons A. A. Davis and W. H. Box, attended the Levée the Queen held for Volunteer Officers. It is possible one or two others were present, but the fact is not recorded.

The dress adopted at first for the Volunteer Artillery, on the recommendation of Lord Vivian, then Lord-Lieutenant of the County, consisted of a knitted woollen blue jersey, somewhat longer but very similar to that worn by Cornish fishermen. It was braided at the bottom and round the collar and cuffs with red, and on the chest the Cornish arms, fifteen balls, and the motto "One and All," were worked in red. The trousers were of blue cloth with broad red stripes, exactly as now worn ; the cap of a similar description to that still in use, except that it had a peak attached. A black leather waist-belt completed the uniform. No other Artillery Corps in the kingdom was, it is believed, dressed in this perhaps somewhat peculiar, but at the same time most thoroughly serviceable and comparatively inexpensive costume.

All the before-mentioned nine Corps, with the exception of No. 8 Company (Hayle), wore the jersey as described above ; the latter adopted the uniform as then generally approved of for the Volunteer Artillery in the country. This consisted of a blue cloth tunic, very similar to that still in use, but without the red

collar, and that the Austrian knot on sleeve was of black square cord; for the Officers this was traced in and out with red braid. The cap was of the same pattern as that worn by the other Companies, except that it was loose and not set up. The Officers' had a silver cannon in front.

The tunic before long became the uniform of all the Volunteer Artillery in the county, as will be seen hereafter.

In the Appendix are given the Dress Regulations, as approved of at a meeting held at Bodmin on the 30th of November of this year.

The names and dates of commissions of the first Officers appointed to the Volunteer Artillery were as follows, viz :—

No. 1, Padstow—

Captain C. G. P. Brune	- - -	17 September, '59.
1st Lieutenant J. Tredwen	- -	do.
2nd Lieutenant H. Percorso	- -	16 October, '59.
Honorary Assistant-Surgeon H. Marley		5 January, '60.

No. 2, Looe—

Captain C. W. Riley (late R.N.)	-	11 November, '59.
1st Lieutenant E. Campbell (retired Surgeon in Army)	- - -	do.
2nd Lieutenant J. Grigg	- - -	do.
Honorary Assistant-Surgeon W. T. A. Pattison	- - - -	2 January, '60.

No. 3, Fowey—

Captain W. F. Essell (late R.N.)	-	24 October, '59.
1st Lieutenant W. T. Sobey	- -	do.
2nd Lieutenant R. Hicks	- - -	do.
Honorary Assistant-Surgeon A. A. Davis		16 December, '59.

No. 4, Charlestown—

Captain B. Banks	- - - -	31 October, '59.
1st Lieutenant W. T. Banks	- -	do.
2nd Lieutenant R. T. Kernick	- -	26 December, '59.