

**THE H.A.C. IN SOUTH AFRICA: A  
RECORD OF THE SERVICES RENDERED  
IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR BY  
MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE  
ARTILLERY COMPANY**

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Members of the Honourable Artillery Company by Basil Williams & Erskine Childers

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**BASIL WILLIAMS & ERSKINE CHILDERS**

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RECORD OF THE SERVICES RENDERED  
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MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE  
ARTILLERY COMPANY**



TO  
HIS MAJESTY THE KING

CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND COLONEL OF THE HONOURABLE  
ARTILLERY COMPANY

THIS VOLUME IS, BY GRACIOUS PERMISSION,  
RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

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## NOTE

IN compiling this volume the EDITORS have received assistance from many quarters. Their best thanks are due to the Earl of DENBIGH and DESMOND, Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the Honourable Artillery Company, for advice and help on many occasions ; to Major DUNCUM, until recently the Major commanding B Battery, for valuable assistance in connection with the Appendix ; to Captains TREFFRY, NESHAM, and O'CONNELL, and to Mr. MORDIN and many others who kindly supplied information ; and to Sergeant-Major MAYHEW, of the Headquarters Staff.

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THE  
H.A.C. IN SOUTH AFRICA

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

THIS book is intended to be an accurate, and as far as possible a complete, record of the part taken in the South African War by the Honourable Artillery Company. To explain its scope more particularly a few general remarks are necessary.

From first to last and in various capacities 193 members of the Regiment served in South Africa—a number which may assuredly be regarded with just and abiding pride. The work done by these 193 men falls under two main heads.

First come the quota contributed to the City Imperial Volunteers, a composite regiment con-

sisting of all three arms and representing a large number of Metropolitan Volunteer Corps. To them we sent 154 men: twenty-six for the Infantry, thirty for the Mounted Infantry, and ninety-eight for the Field Battery. (These figures, it must be noted, include supplementary drafts despatched in the summer of 1900.) As to the Field Battery, we need scarcely say that it may be regarded as a complete unit supplied by the H.A.C., which created and organised it, officered it, and provided two-thirds of its total strength.

Under the second head come sixty members of the Company who served in the Imperial Yeomanry, in the Regular forces, and in various other Corps, during a period which covers the whole of the War.

Twenty-one of this number belong also to the first class, having previously been in the C.I.V., and afterwards continued their service in other capacities. The remaining thirty-nine, when added to the 154 of the first class, make up the grand total of 193.

It will be seen, therefore, that to chronicle the doings of the H.A.C. with a due regard to proportion is no easy matter. Man for man and Corps for Corps there are no comparisons to be made. Each of our men in his own sphere was upholding the honour of the Regiment. But to describe the operations in which every individual took part would be to write the history of the War, for there is scarcely a corner of the vast area of hostilities to which one member or another did not penetrate. This applies especially to the second or miscellaneous class, but it applies also to the first, for the three arms of the C.I.V., though administratively parts of a whole, were never in fact united under one command in the field. For practical purposes their histories are distinct. As to two of them moreover, namely the Infantry and the Mounted Infantry, the contingents contributed by the H.A.C., although the maximum, be it noted, that were allowed under the rules of formation, were not large enough fractions respectively to justify a very detailed narrative of the operations in which they shared.