

MY LIFE AS A SOLDIER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649205516

My life as a soldier by Thomas McKenzie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS MCKENZIE

**MY LIFE AS
A SOLDIER**



Also in possession of Medal for "Garrison Socy."

Thos. M. Kenzie.

MY

LIFE AS A SOLDIER

BY

CAPTAIN THOMAS McKENZIE,

FORMERLY SERGEANT HER MAJESTY'S 64th REGIMENT,
FIELD BUGLER TO THE GENERALS COMMANDING IN THE PERSIAN
CAMPAIGN AND INDIAN MUTINY.

ST. JOHN, N. B.
J. & A. McMILLAN, 98 PRINCE WILLIAM STREET,
1898.

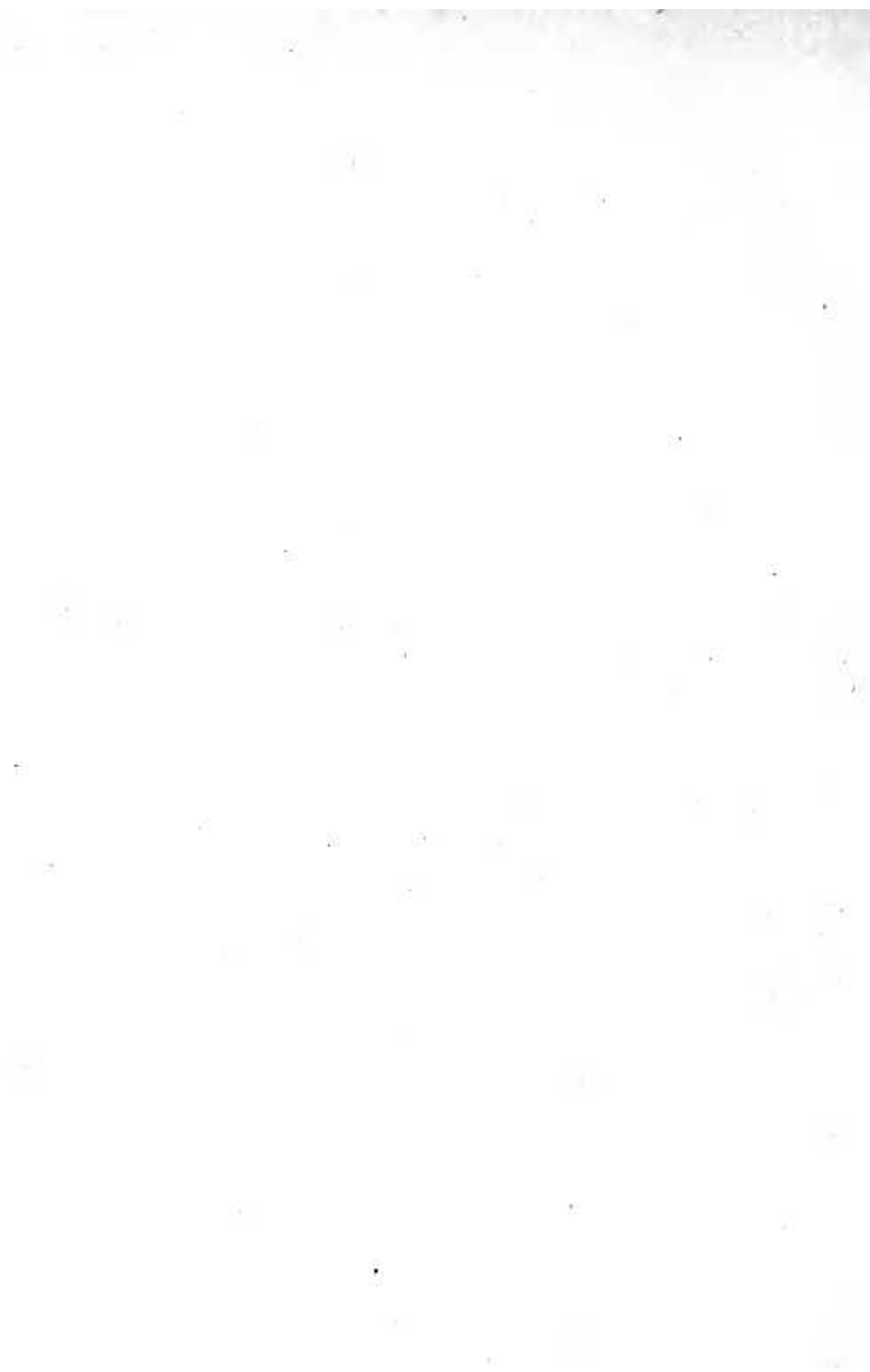
Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1895,
By THOMAS MCKENZIE,
In the office of the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa.

DA68

.32

M22A3

TO HIS EXCELLENCY
THE EARL OF ABERDEEN,
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA,
THIS VOLUME IS,
BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S PERMISSION,
WITH GREAT RESPECT,
INSCRIBED.



INTRODUCTION

Before commencing the story of my own life, I deem it necessary to say a few words respecting my father's career as a soldier.

In January, 1813, my father enlisted in Her Majesty's 93rd Highland Regiment, and was present with the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo on June 18, 1815, for which he received the medal granted for that war. On the completion of the campaign my father purchased his discharge, and returned to his native home in Perth, Scotland, where he married my mother, they having known each other from childhood.

A year afterwards my father obtained the rank of sergeant and master tailor in Her Majesty's 94th Regiment, by purchase, such being at that time the rule of the service. This position he retained until his discharge at Chatham, England, in August, 1841, receiving a pension for over twenty-three years' service. He had received the usual medal for long service and good conduct on the completion of eighteen years, the prescribed period. On his discharge he went to London, and immediately received employment from Mr. Gilbert, army clothing contractor, who was well acquainted with my father from having supplied him with all kinds of military cloth while so long master tailor in the 94th. In November following, as my father and mother, with my brother and myself, were on our way to church, we were met by General Feith, then on the staff at Horse Guards, but previously

colonel of the 94th. He told my father that the 64th Regiment had applied to Horse Guards for a master tailor, and asked him if he would accept the position. Well do I remember my father's reply. "I have had enough of soldiering already, and am doing well." The general then asked him to call at his office the next day, that they might talk over matters connected with the regiment. After our return from church my father and mother considered what General Feith had said, and on the following morning, my father, accompanied by my brother and myself, went to see the general, who again asked him to accept the master tailorship of the 64th. This time the answer was, "Yes, if you will enlist these two sons of mine; if I may draw my pension while serving, and be allowed to take my discharge by giving fifteen days' notice." This caused a laugh from all in the office, to think that my father should ask them to enlist me, then not eleven years old, and only four feet two inches in height, though nearly as broad as long, or high. The authorities were willing to enlist my brother, but not me. My father would not consent to go without me, and eventually the decision was that I was to be enlisted as a special case. We two boys were then enlisted, and passed the usual doctor's inspection, being made to jump and run, to show that we had the use of our limbs and were fit to serve Her Majesty. When we went before a magistrate to be sworn in as soldiers, I shall never forget the laugh of the magistrate when he called my name. I sprang to "attention," and gave him the military salute, which I then knew as well as I do to-day. This I had learnt, as well as the duty of obedience, in the regimental school of the 94th.

I may here mention that in 1840, when Her Majesty Queen