HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND REGIMENT, OR PRINCE OF WALES'S VOLUNTEERS

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Historical Record of the Eighty-Second Regiment, or Prince of Wales's Volunteers by Samuel Peters Jarvis

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SAMUEL PETERS JARVIS

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OF THE

EIGHTY-SECOND REGIMENT,

OR

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Bediented to bis brother Glicers

BT

BREVET-MAJOR JARVIS, 82ND REGT.,

Adjutant of the Staff College.



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PREFACE.

A General Order, dated Horse Guards, 1st January, 1836, commanded that an account of the services of every Regiment in the British Army should be published, under the direction of the Adjutant-General, showing the period and circumstances of its formation, the stations, battles, and sieges at which it had been employed, and specifying any particular achievement it may have performed, together with the names of officers and the number of soldiers killed and wounded on each occasion, adding the names of such officers who may have received titles or medals, or other marks of Royal favour, for gallant conduct before the enemy.

Military history, while recounting in detail the many glorious actions in which the British Army has proved itself victorious, seldom or never follows consecutively the career of any one Regiment throughout a campaign or a battle. Divisions and brigades, with the names of the generals in command, occasionally enjoy this special notice; but the student must read many volumes and search many libraries to learn the history of his own particular corps.

Officers, as a rule, do not find pleasure in sedentary occupations; and as the noble deeds accomplished by our forefathers, with which history abounds, must, when known, excite emulation amongst youthful soldiers, the greatest importance should be attached to any measure which would disseminate this knowledge throughout the Army.

The publication of these Regimental Records was continued for some years, at the public expense, but the Treasury afterwards decided that such a charge could no longer be admitted, and consequently the original design of his Majesty King William IV. was paralysed. Those Regiments whose Records had been published before this decision now enjoy an advantage which other corps, equally distinguished, do not enjoy; and as there is no chance of a Record of the 82nd Regiment being published, except by private enterprise, the compiler of this History has been induced, at the solicitation of many brother officers, to prepare one for circulation amongst them. The Annual Registers, the

"Wellington Despatches," with Napier's "Peninsular War," and Cust's "Annals of the Wars," have been searched and largely quoted from, to exemplify the particular actions and the special deeds of bravery displayed by the 82nd, while the Muster Rolls at various periods of its career, with the names of officers and the number of soldiers killed and wounded in its ranks have been obtained through the cordial co-operation of Thomas Carter, Esq., of the Adjutant-General's Office, at the Horse Guards—a gentleman, whose thorough knowledge of the subject and long acquaintance with the duties of his department, render any information obtained through him most valuable and authentic.

The career of the 82nd began at an eventful period of modern history, just before the close of the 18th century, and its early achievements gained for it a reputation which must ever reflect a halo of glory upon all who wear its uniform. To place these exploits in a form at once attractive and instructive is the object of this compilation, in the hope that every officer, entitled to the name of a Prince of Wales's Volunteer, may be induced to study its contents, and while learning the former history of his own Regiment in par-

ticular he may also become acquainted generally with the object and conduct of the various wars and battles in which it has been engaged, and, while thus excited to emulate the gallant deeds of his predecessors, he may, perhaps, acquire a taste for deeper research into the interesting historical events here merely glanced at, the study of which cannot fail to improve the understanding and perfect the education of every soldier.

The Regiment has been engaged continually, from the date of its embodiment to the present time, in every war waged by Great Britain, and would have shared in the final triumph of the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo, had it not been called upon to defend its country's rights and honour in British North America, whence it returned to take part in the occupation of Paris, before the final withdrawal of the British Army from the territories of France. Thus its history includes the detail of some operations and some battles in every war · from its formation in 1793 to the present time, including the occupation of St. Domingo in 1795, the attack on Copenhagen in 1807, the Battle of Corunna in 1808, the Walcheren Expedition in 1809, the whole of the Peninsular Campaigns of the Duke of Wellington, the American War of 1814, the siege of Sebastopol in

1855, and the Indian Mutinies in 1857; and although the official reports mention generally those corps distinguished in action, it remains for a Regimental Record alone to specify acts of individual bravery performed in each corps.

