

**HISTORICAL RECORD
OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD
REGIMENT, PP.1-69**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649351916

Historical Record of the seventy-third regiment, pp.1-69 by Richard Cannon

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

RICHARD CANNON

**HISTORICAL RECORD
OF THE SEVENTY-THIRD
REGIMENT, PP.1-69**

HISTORICAL RECORD
OF
THE SEVENTY-THIRD REGIMENT:

CONTAINING
AN ACCOUNT OF THE FORMATION OF THE REGIMENT
FROM THE PERIOD OF ITS BEING RAISED
AS THE SECOND BATTALION
OF THE
FORTY-SECOND ROYAL HIGHLANDERS,
IN 1780
AND OF ITS SUBSEQUENT SERVICES
TO 1851.

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

ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES.

LONDON:
PARKER, FURNIVALL, & PARKER,
30, CHARING CROSS.

M DCCC LI.

INTRODUCTION
 TO THE
HISTORICAL RECORD
 OF THE
SEVENTY-THIRD REGIMENT.

DURING the last century several corps, at successive periods, have been borne on the establishment of the army, and numbered the SEVENTY-THIRD; the following details are therefore prefixed to the historical record of the services of the regiment which now bears that number, in order to prevent its being connected with those corps which have been designated by the same numerical title, but whose services have been totally distinct.

In the spring of 1758, the second battalions of fifteen regiments of infantry, from the 3rd to the 37th, were directed to be formed into distinct regiments, and to be numbered from the 61st to the 75th successively, as follows:—

<i>Second Battalion</i>	<i>Constituted</i>
3rd Foot . . .	the 61st regiment.
4th " . . .	62nd "
8th " . . .	63rd "
11th " . . .	64th "
12th " . . .	65th "
19th " . . .	66th "
20th " . . .	67th "

<i>Second Battalion</i>	<i>Constituted</i>
23rd Foot . . .	the 68th regiment.
24th " . . .	69th "
31st " . . .	70th "
32nd " . . .	71st "
33rd " . . .	72nd "
34th " . . .	73rd "
36th " . . .	74th "
37th " . . .	75th "

The 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, and 75th regiments, thus formed, were disbanded in 1763, after the peace of Fontainebleau.

Several other corps were likewise disbanded at this period, which occasioned a change in the numerical titles of the following regiments of Invalids.

The 81st regiment (Invalids) was numbered the 71st regiment.
" 82nd " " " 72nd "
" 116th " " " 73rd "
" 117th " " " 74th "
" 118th " " " 75th "

The 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, and 75th regiments, thus numbered, were formed into independent companies of Invalids in the year 1769, which increased the number of Invalid Companies from eight to twenty; they were appropriated to the following garrisons, namely four companies at Guernsey, four at Jersey, three at Hull, two at Chester, two at Tilbury Fort, two at Sheerness, one at Landguard Fort, one at Pen-dennis, and one in the Scilly Islands.

These numerical titles became thus extinct until October, 1775, when the seventy-first regiment was raised. In December, 1777, further augmentations were made to the army, and the regiments which were directed to be raised, were numbered from the seventy-second to the eighty-third regiment.

The army was subsequently increased to one hundred

and five regular regiments of infantry, exclusive of eleven unnumbered regiments, and thirty-six independent companies of Invalids.

The conclusion of the general peace in 1783, occasioned the disbandment of several regiments (commencing with the seventy-first regiment), and thus changed the numerical titles of certain regiments retained on the reduced establishment of the army.

In 1786 the SEVENTY-THIRD was directed to be numbered the seventy-first regiment; the seventy-eighth to be numbered the seventy-second; and the second battalion of the forty-second to be constituted the SEVENTY-THIRD regiment. These corps had been directed to be raised in Scotland in 1777 and 1779, and were denominated Highland regiments.

The details of the services of the present SEVENTY-THIRD regiment are contained in the following pages; the histories of the seventy-first and seventy-second regiments are given in distinct numbers.

1851

HISTORICAL RECORD
OF
THE SEVENTY-THIRD REGIMENT;
ORIGINALLY RAISED AS
THE SECOND BATTALION OF THE FORTY-
SECOND ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT.

THE present SEVENTY-THIRD regiment was authorised, 1779 on the 30th of July 1779, to be raised as the *Second Battalion of the Forty-second Royal Highlanders*, and was embodied at Perth, on the 21st of March 1780. Its establishment consisted of one lieut.-colonel (and captain), one major (and captain), eight captains, twelve lieutenants, eight ensigns, one chaplain, one adjutant, one quarter-master, one surgeon, one mate, thirty serjeants, forty corporals, twenty drummers, two pipers, and seven hundred private men. Soon after its formation, the battalion marched to Fort George to be drilled and disciplined, and in the course of the year was ordered to proceed to England for embarkation for India, where events had occurred which occasioned reinforcements to be sent to that country.

Hyder Ali, a soldier of fortune, had risen to the 1781 chief command of the army of the Ruler of Mysore,

1781 and when the Rajah died, leaving his eldest son a minor, Hyder Ali assumed the guardianship of the youthful prince, whom he placed under restraint, and seized on the reins of government. Having a considerable territory under his control, he maintained a formidable military establishment, which he endeavoured to bring into a high state of discipline and efficiency. He soon evinced decided hostility to the British interests in India, and formed a league with the French. Hostilities had also commenced between Great Britain and Holland, and the British troops were employed in dispossessing the Dutch of their settlements in Bengal, and on the coast of Coromandel. Thus three powers were opposed to the British interests in India, and the *Second Battalion of the Forty-second Royal Highland* regiment was ordered to proceed to that country.

About the end of the previous year the battalion had arrived at Gravesend from North Britain, and on the 21st of January 1781, embarked at Portsmouth for India, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Norman Macleod.

One division of the regiment landed at Madras on the 18th of May: but the other divisions, consisting of seven companies and a half, had a voyage of thirteen months and thirteen days; they ultimately landed at Bombay in February 1782.

1782 These divisions, soon after landing, took the field, and the battalion was subsequently united under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Macleod, when it shared in the campaign against Hyder Ali and his son Tippoo Saib.

The situation of Colonel Thomas Frederick Mackenzie Humberston (Lieut.-Colonel Commandant of the seventy-eighth, now seventy-second regiment) who had

been despatched with troops to the Malabar coast, 1782 having become very perilous, the second battalion of the *Forty-second* regiment, with other troops, proceeded to his relief at Mungarry Cottah. In the meantime Tippoo Saib, with his usual activity, suddenly collected a body of troops, and proceeded to cut off the force at that station. Notwithstanding the secrecy of the expedition, Colonel Humberston received some vague intelligence of its arrival on the northern banks of the Coleroon, and suspecting at once the design of the enemy, destroyed the fortifications at Mungarry Cottah, and retreated to Ramgaree; where receiving certain information that Tippoo was approaching with the utmost rapidity, he withdrew to *Paniané*, fighting every step of the march. Upon arriving at the river Paniané, a deep ford, after a search of two hours, was found, and the troops passed over, up to the chin in water, with the loss of only two camp followers. He gained the Fort of *Paniané* on the 20th of November, much to the surprise of Tippoo, who had expected an easy conquest.

Colonel Macleod, of the second battalion of the *Forty-second* regiment, having arrived at *Paniané* from Madras, the command of the forces devolved upon him, and the place was immediately invested by Tippoo Saib and Monsieur Lally, with an army amounting to eight thousand infantry, including some hundreds of French and Europeans; ten thousand cavalry, and above six thousand polygars. The enemy kept up a considerable but ineffectual cannonade for some days; the British commander at length endeavoured to surprise the enemy's camp, but after forcing an outpost or two, and taking a few prisoners, the colonel found it necessary to relinquish the design.