


THE 45TH: 1ST NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REGIMENT.

"THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS."

THEIR HONOURS AND MEDALS.

BY FRANK E. BURTON.

O far as is known the Greeks were the first to give honours and decorations for military service, but the Romans were the first generally to give military rewards for valour and gallant conduct on the field of battle. These were of various kinds. The highest military honour which could be obtained in the Roman State was a "triumph," or solemn procession, in which a victorious commander and his army advanced through the city to the capitol. The highest personal reward conferred upon a soldier was given to him who saved the life of a comrade—as our Victoria Cross of to-day is given for conspicuous valour—and consisted of the bestowal of the civic crown, the *corona civica*, of oak leaves. This was presented to him before the assembled troops, and under the emperors it was always bestowed by one of the leading princes. It carried with it distinguished honours, as it was worn at all reviews and spectacular displays, also upon great assemblies, when its recipient had the privilege of sitting next to the senate, and upon his entrance the audience rose as a mark of respect.

To those who were the first to mount a rampart, scale the walls of a city, enter the camp of an enemy, or show conspicuous bravery, was given a golden crown by the commander. Other honours were given for minor deeds, which took the form of golden chains, bracelets, ornaments for the helmet, trappings, clasps, buckles, etc.

Such decorations as these were always conferred by the commander in the presence of the army, and they were worn on all public occasions. Every soldier, of whatever rank, wore his honours at every ceremonial event in which the army took part, and they were ever kept and treasured. A soldier might also receive promotion. Marius rose from being a common soldier to be seven times consul. After the days of the Romans decorations seem to have been practically given to commanders only. In this country we find Queen Elizabeth awarding certain medals for naval achievements, but the first ruler of England to give rewards for military services was Charles I. His example was followed by Cromwell for the defeat of the Scots at Dunbar in 1650, but afterwards nearly all medals given were again only for naval services. No medals were awarded for any of the victorious campaigns in Queen Anne's reign, not even to the great Marlborough himself; but some were issued during the Jacobite Risings and for the Battle of Culloden in 1746; and the East India Company issued them for the campaigns in India, Ceylon, and Egypt.

Coming down to later times, the first to generally grant rewards for military campaigns was the Emperor Napoleon, and it is on record that when he proposed the institution of the Legion of Honour he was met by the assertion that—"Crosses and ribbons were the pillar of an hereditary throne, and were unknown to the Romans, who conquered the world." In his reply, he said:—"Rome rewarded the achievements of her citizens by all kinds of distinctions," and added—"For a soldier, as for all men in active life, you must have glory and distinction; recompenses are the food which nourish military virtue." He did not actually say that the Romans bestowed honours for military services, but we know that he founded his Code of Honour upon Roman Law, so no doubt he was influenced in inaugurating the giving of honours and campaign medals by the example of the Romans, and he undoubtedly realized, as the Romans did, the value of decoration as an incentive to daring deeds of conspicuous valour, any one of which might turn the tide of fortune.

Napoleon never underrated the value of such military honours, for when a prisoner on board the *Bellerophon*, remarking the absence of

personal decoration upon those around him, he is reported to have said: "Are there none amongst you who have seen service?" He was then informed that most of them had seen much service, but that it was not the British custom to confer medals except upon officers of the highest rank; when he replied: "Such is not the way to excite or cherish the military virtues."

In the year 1810 George III. authorised gold medals in commemoration of the victories under Sir Arthur Wellesley in the Peninsular, to be awarded only to general and field officers; but no medal in any metal was given to the non-commissioned officers or to the privates. This neglect caused immense dissatisfaction amongst the old veterans, which increased as years rolled by, and it was only in the year 1848—nearly forty years afterwards—that this grievance was repaired by Queen Victoria; and even then the Peninsular Medal was only granted to the survivors, and they had to send to Whitehall, London, their names and their discharge documents, and also to prove their actual presence in the battles, before the medal with the bars for each battle was granted. It had been the custom, some years before this, for the officers of a few regiments to present, at their own expense, a medal to the non-commissioned officers and men for bravery, long service, shooting, etc.; but it was generally discontinued on the introduction of the Long Service Medal by William IV. in 1830.

Medals, however, had been issued to all troops engaged in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Then both officers and men received the same medal, and this precedent has since been strictly followed.

Probably no regiment in the British Army has a finer record of discipline, of gallant conduct and of conspicuous bravery than that of the 45th, or Nottinghamshire Regiment, and few have gained more honours or seen more arduous service.

The 45th was given the sobriquet of the "Old Stubborns" during the Peninsular War, a name it well earned many times over, both before in Monte Video and then in the great Peninsular Campaign.

Originally the title "45th" was borne by one of the Marine

regiments raised in 1739, but when in the year 1748 these Marine regiments were disbanded, seven regiments of the line, which had been raised in 1741, and numbered 54 to 60, were moved up, and of these the 56th Regiment became the 45th. In 1750 we find it quartered in Nova Scotia and it remained in America for some years, taking part in many engagements, amongst which were the conquests of Louisburg and Quebec. In 1765 the regiment left America and landed in Ireland, returning again to America in 1776, where it was in action near Brooklyn in 1778. It then returned to England barely 100 strong, whereas when in America previously its numbers had been 655.

It is from this date, 1778, that we find the regiment more closely associated with Nottingham, and this was due to the patriotism and military ardour of the land-owners of the county and the burghers of Nottingham. At a town's meeting there in August, 1779, at which Sir Robert Sutton presided, it was decided to raise a subscription, and also to petition the Secretary of War to request His Majesty to appoint some particular regiment to be recruited in the county with the assistance of the subscriptions raised. The Crown agreed to this request, and appointed the 45th Regiment, then numbering less than 100 men, with the assurance that when 300 men were recruited there it should be distinguished by the title of the "Nottinghamshire Regiment," as a memorial of the zeal and loyalty shown by the county. In addition to the usual bounty paid for each recruit upon enlisting, six guineas were paid for each from the county subscriptions. As might be expected, many more recruits than the stipulated number were obtained, and ever afterwards the ranks were chiefly filled from the town and county of Nottingham; indeed during the French Wars hundreds of men and a number of officers volunteered from the Nottinghamshire Militia into the 45th, many of whom served in the Peninsular Campaign, and of such Napier says in his account of the victory of Talavera:—"Yet the greatest part were men from the militia regiments, and many of them still bore the number of their former regiments on their accoutrements."

In reference to the Nottinghamshire Regiment of Militia, it is interesting to note that it had a grenadier company composed entirely



PORTRAIT OF COLONEL GEORGE NEVILLE WHEN CAPTAIN OF THE GRENADIER
COMPANY OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REGIMENT OF MILITIA, *CIRCA 1775.*

PLATE II.

of picked men, averaging more than 5 feet 11 inches in height, and commanded by Captain George Nevile, afterwards Colonel, whose portrait and silver gorget I have, also two officers' suits of the period, and a private's belt plate, Fig. 1.



FIG. 1.—PRIVATE'S BELT PLATE OF THE OLD NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MILITIA.

The portrait is illustrated as the accompanying Plate II, and it will be noticed that the Colonel is wearing the same gorget which I reproduce from the original as Fig. 2. The survival of the gorget is interesting. It was probably the earliest piece of plate armour to be



FIG. 2.—THE ORIGINAL SILVER GORGET SHOWN IN COL. NEVILE'S PORTRAIT.

invented, for it was first worn to relieve the chest from the weight of the hanging mail, and yet it was the last to remain in *general* use, for Planché, writing in 1876, speaks of it as “the little gilt toy hung round the neck by a piece of dark blue ribbon, which was worn by officers when on duty *within my recollection*.”

There is no doubt that the fact that these well-drilled militiamen joined the 45th had a great deal to do with the reputation the 45th won for itself, and the honours it gained; for the Nottinghamshire Militia was probably the finest trained militia regiment of its time. A field battery of artillery and two rifle companies were attached to it, and such was the accuracy of the latter that they were called the Nottinghamshire Marksmen. Napier says:—“The fire of an English line is at all times the most destructive known.”

The following advertisement appeared in *The Nottingham Journal*:—

Wanted:—Able substitutes to serve in the Nottingham Marksmen or the 42nd Battalion of Militia for three years, commanded by Lord George Sutton and now quartered in the delightful town of Kingston-upon-Hull, where excellent ale is sold at threepence the full quart, fish of best quality at one penny per pound, and shambles meat at a lower rate than in most towns in the Kingdom.

The result of all these local men joining was that it endeared the regiment in the hearts of the people, and there is little wonder that all the county was proud of the 45th, for there must have been very few families in it that had not some relative at the front fighting for his country, and upholding the honour of what undoubtedly was his native regiment.

The regiment remained in England and Scotland from 1778 to 1786, when it embarked for the West Indies, where it was actively employed until its return to England in 1794. In the following April it again embarked for the West Indies, returning to England in 1801. In June of 1806 we find the regiment at Buckland, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Guard. In this year the numbers were increased to 892 officers and men, who were already embarked for Chili, when the

orders were countermanded and they were sent to the River Plate and took part in that most disastrous attack upon Monte Video. In this action they covered themselves with glory and achieved an honour seldom granted to any part of a defeated army, for it was conceded that so distinguished and brilliant was the conduct of the 45th under Col. Guard that, when the treaty was signed and hostilities ceased, it was stipulated that the 45th should quit the post it had captured and defended with all the honours of war. Accordingly the regiment marched through the streets with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed, taking away the captured guns loaded and with lighted matches.

In 1808 the regiment was at Cork and embarked under Lieut.-Col. Guard for the Peninsula. It landed at Mondego Bay, north of Lisbon, and formed part of the 5th Brigade, the army being under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, and reached Roleia about the middle of August. In the Battle of Roleia, the first real action fought by British troops in the Peninsula, the 45th and the Light Companies had the honour of leading the attack upon the centre of the enemy's lines. It was no sinecure to capture the position, as the following extract from *The Annals of the Peninsular Campaign* will show :—

The position of the enemy could only be approached in front by narrow paths winding through deep and rocky ravines, and surrounded by masses of brushwood in which Delaborde had stationed his Light Infantry. Till reaching the bottom of the heights the British troops were protected by the cork and olive woods from the fire of the enemy's artillery, but in their ascent the troops had to encounter a resistance which became at every stage of their progress more fierce and vehement. A heavy fire was opened on the assailants from the brushwood on either flank, and at every point at which they became exposed to the action of the artillery a shower of cannon shot came sweeping down the ravines with terrible effect. The British troops eventually captured this difficult position, completely defeating the French troops and capturing three guns and taking a number of prisoners.

The 45th was also present at the Battle of Vimiera when the French were defeated and six guns captured; but afterwards it

remained in garrison at Lisbon until entrusted under Col. Guard, jointly with the 95th Regiment, with the defence of the important fortress of Almeida. On the return of Sir Arthur Wellesley to the Peninsula in April, 1809, the 45th was stationed at Villavellia, and in July was with the army, when it formed part of the advanced guard which entered Spain, marching upon Talavera.

At the commencement of the battle of that name, the British outposts, being surprised, were driven back in disorder, and a disaster was only averted by the steady conduct of the 45th and the 60th Rifles. The Commander-in-Chief in his official dispatch stated :—" Upon this occasion the steadiness and discipline of the 45th and some companies of the 60th Rifles were conspicuous." The General had good reason for saying so, for at one particular moment he and his staff, at the advanced posts reconnoitring the enemy, found themselves in rather a precarious position, which necessitated Wellesley himself taking command and directing the operations of the 45th and 60th in covering the retreat of the advanced division to the position from which the Battle of Talavera was fought. In this battle, in which the British troops were opposed to double their numbers, the 45th again distinguished itself when, although the line beyond it was broken by the French, the regiment alone held its position until the line was restored by the 48th. It was again specially mentioned in the dispatches. This great victory over the French, personally commanded by Joseph Bonaparte, caused immense pleasure in England, and Wellesley was raised to the peerage under the titles of Baron Douro of Wellesley and Viscount Wellington of Talavera. The losses to the 45th in the two days' fighting were 13 rank and file killed ; wounded and missing 5 officers, 5 sergeants, and 140 men.

From now onwards the regiment was nicknamed the "Old Stubborns," and who shall say that the term was not earned ? Lieut.-Col. Guard having been wounded at Talavera, the regiment was now under the command of Major Gwyn, and formed part of the second brigade of the " Third Division " under Robert Crauford, which was soon to be known by the name of the " Fighting Third." At the Battle of Busaco, fought under Major-General Picton on September 27th, 1810,

the 45th was again engaged. With eight Portuguese regiments, and the 88th, it was placed in position on the left, defending the heights, and the French made a desperate attempt to break through between the 45th and the 88th. Only when the enemy came to close quarters, and the position became critical, was the command given to charge. Then the attack with the bayonet was irresistible ; it swept all before it, and completely defeated and drove in the right column of the French. Lord Wellington in his dispatch said that he had never witnessed a more gallant attack than that made by the 45th, 88th, and the eight Portuguese regiments on an enemy's division, which had reached the edge of the Sierra. This was praise indeed from Lord Wellington.

Nor was this a mere passing tribute to the regiment, for its conduct at the battle was evidently impressed upon his mind when, on September the 30th, three men of the 45th having been convicted of highway robbery and sentenced to death, he issued the following order as Commander-in-Chief :—

Although the Commander of the Forces has long determined that he will not pardon men guilty of crimes of which the prisoners have been convicted, he is induced to pardon these men in consequence of the gallantry displayed by the 45th Regiment on the 27th inst. at the Battle of Busaco. He trusts this pardon will make a due impression upon the prisoners, that by their future regular and good conduct they will endeavour to emulate their comrades, who have by their bravery saved them from a disgraceful end.

Again the 45th was prominently engaged at the Battle of Fuentes d'Onoro on March the 5th, 1811, and, on the retirement of the Third Division from El Boden to Fuente Guinaldo, Lieut.-Col. Campbell refers to the gallantry and steadiness of the 45th in receiving charges of the enemy's cavalry. In January, 1812, commenced the investment of Ciudad Rodrigo, which was captured after 14 days' siege and was a great military achievement, carried out in the depth of winter. The assault was opened in five separate columns, but the attack upon the main breach was made by the 45th, 74th, and 88th, the 45th leading the attack with their Company of Grenadiers in front. Of

this, General Picton in his divisional order dated January 20th says :—

By the gallant manner in which the breach was last night carried by storm, the Third Division has added much credit to its military reputation, and has rendered itself the most conspicuous corps in the British Army.

He also specially mentioned the 45th, and what above all marked his appreciation of their conduct, was his gift to the Grenadier Company of the 45th of a hundred guineas for their share in the night's work, saying that he hoped that the men would do him the honour to drink to the future success of the Third Division.

Napier says of the Light Division at Ciudad Rodrigo :—

They did not wait, but with extraordinary swiftness, running to the crest of the glacis, jumped down the scarp, a depth of eleven feet, and rushed up under a smashing discharge of grape and musketry. The final success depended more upon the courage of the troops than the skill of the engineers.

General Crauford, who commanded the division—"The Fighting Third"—an old 45th officer, and a man of great ability, was killed. In the capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, three generals and seventy other officers had fallen, but the soldiers, fresh from the strife, only talked of the death of Hardyman, a captain in the 45th and the most popular officer in the army. Lord Wellington said of the 45th that it distinguished itself not less in the storming of the place than in the performance of its laborious duty during the siege.

It was in March, after the fall of Ciudad Rodrigo, that Wellington decided, for the third time, to endeavour to reduce the formidable fortress of Badajos, which was the key to all the offensive operations of the Allies. This fortress was well garrisoned and under the command of General Philippon, one of the most able officers of France. It was determined to assault the castle by escalade. Accordingly, on the night of April the 6th the attack was made, and, after terrible slaughter, it proved successful.

Col. Jones says :—" Never probably since the discovery of gun-powder were men more exposed to its action than those assembled in the ditch to assault the breaches." Many thousand shells, hand grenades and bags filled with powder, every kind of burning composition and destructive missile had been prepared and placed along the parapet of the whole front ; these under an incessant roll of musketry were hurled into the ditch amongst the assailants without intermission for upwards of two hours, giving to the surface an appearance of vomiting fire. To quote Napier :—

A combat so fiercely fought, so terribly won, so dreadful in all its circumstances that posterity can scarcely credit the tale ; but many are still alive who know that it is true ; but no age, no nation, ever sent forth braver troops than those who stormed Badajos.

And Carter says of the storming :—" At its head marched the 45th ; few more desperate conflicts are on record than that which took place."

Lieut. McPherson of the 45th, though wounded previously to his ascent of the ladders in the escalade, distinguished himself by hauling down the French flag from the staff of the citadel. This being brought to Major Greenwood, who commanded the regiment, he ordered a jacket of the 45th to be substituted in its place. Two points of emulation amongst the different regiments during the siege had been which should achieve the honour of striking the French flag, and which that of spiking a certain gun in the castle that had been particularly offensive during the operations. The 45th had the good fortune to gain both. What greater honour, what greater praise, could be bestowed upon any regiment by any writer ! For even if the 45th had had no brilliant record, its signal bravery in the attack at this siege was enough to make the regiment famous for all time. In the capture of Badajos, the allied army suffered the enormous casualty list of 5,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

The army then moved on to Salamanca, and on June the 17th, 1812, the forts were invested, the 45th forming part of the Third Division which, with the Right Brigade, was under Major-General

Sir Thomas Brisbane. The Third Division was ordered to attack the French left, which it did, the 45th leading. Of this Lord Londonderry writes :—

The attack was not only most spirited but the most perfect thing of the kind that modern times have witnessed. Regardless alike of a charge of cavalry and of a murderous fire which the enemy's battery opened, on went these fearless warriors without check or pause until they won the ridge, [and] the French were pierced, broken and discomfited.

On December the 4th, 1812, *The Nottingham Journal* reports :—

We have seldom witnessed a more general and gratifying scene of rejoicing than was exhibited in this town on Monday and Tuesday last, on account of the brilliant series of glorious and happy tidings which reached us last week, in such rapid succession from the Continent. Large fires were seen blazing in the streets, with sheep and oxen roasting before them, guns firing, bells ringing, music playing, public dinners in all parts of the town, tea parties for the females, fireworks, illuminations, etc. The streets were crowded. There were on the whole 20 to 30 sheep roasted, and four oxen were roasted in the Market Place besides sheep, and distributed with a liberal proportion of ale.

In June, 1813, was fought the great Battle of Vittoria, in which Wellington gained a brilliant and most decisive victory. The 45th was with the Right Brigade of the division under Brisbane, and passed first over the Mendoza bridge, and then, with the Fighting Third, was as usual in the thick of it. On July the 10th appeared the following notice in *The Nottingham Journal* :—"The welcome intelligence of the splendid victory of Vittoria was received here with feelings of the liveliest joy. The bells immediately commenced ringing and every countenance beamed with delight."

The 45th was with the Third Division at the Battle of the Pyrenees, and at Nivelle. At the latter, the Fighting Third with the Fourth and Seventh Divisions effectively attacked the French centre, cutting apart the two wings of the French army now commanded by Marshal Soult. This was Wellington's first victory on French soil.

At Nive the 45th formed part of the Third Division under Picton, and in February, 1814, it was still included in the same division at the Battle of Orthes. In *The Annals of the Peninsular Campaign* we read that the Third Division earned particular distinction in the attack. The whole of the regiments composing it were desperately engaged, and drove the enemy's forces from every height on which they ventured to make a stand. In this battle the loss of the Allies was about 2,300, the Third Division alone losing 70 officers and 800 men out of that total. The heavy casualty list of the Fighting Third is proof, if proof were needed, of how desperate the fighting must have been, and how stubborn the defence, and speaks for itself as to the conduct of the 45th in its advanced position at the front of the right wing. Wellington now moved on to Toulouse, and the 45th took part with the Third Division in this, the last of the battles of the Peninsular Campaign. After the defeat of the French, peace was concluded. In *The Nottingham Journal* of April the 14th, 1814, the following advertisement appears :—

Public Dinner at Thurland Hall, Nottingham.—There will be a dinner on Monday, the 18th inst., at Thurland Hall, to celebrate the late glorious news and the downfall of a great Tyrant, who has been a curse of the human race, and the cause of all the misery and bloodshed that have desolated the civilised world.

When Lord Wellington—or as he now was, the Duke of Wellington, reviewed the regiment in June, 1814, preparatory to its embarking for Ireland, he is reported to have said :—"They have been with me the whole time ; they have been through everything." After landing in Ireland the regiment marched to Cork and went into barracks. In October, 1814, large numbers of discharges were made, and the second battalion was disbanded. The regiment remained chiefly in Ireland until 1819, when it sailed for Ceylon and stayed there until 1825. Thence it went to Burmah under Sir A. Campbell, but sickness was so rampant in the ranks that it was sent to Madras to recruit. Later in the year it returned to Rangoon and took part in the operations, being mentioned by the Governor-General, and honoured

by the addition of the word "Ava" upon its colours. After about six years in Burmah, the regiment embarked for Madras.

In 1833 we find the 45th in Secunderabad, where it remained for some years. In 1837 it embarked for England, landing at Gravesend in 1838, and went on to Canterbury, thence to Windsor and later to Newport. In 1840 we find it again in Ireland. In 1843 the regiment sailed for the Cape, and after landing at Cape Town it was split up into detachments, doing duty in different places in South Africa, and taking part in numerous engagements against the Boers and Kaffirs. In 1859, after sixteen years' service in South Africa, it returned to England, and was quartered at Aldershot for some time, going again to India in 1864.

In the year 1866, Queen Victoria, in consideration of its distinguished services and its traditions in relation to the County of Nottingham, conferred upon the regiment the title of "Sherwood Foresters." This title had been previously borne by the old Nottingham Militia, and was conferred in 1813 by the Prince Regent. A similar title was also borne by Kingston's Horse—a regiment of light cavalry raised in the County of Nottingham by the Duke of Kingston—which distinguished itself at the Battle of Culloden,¹ and was always known as the "Royal Foresters."

Even so early as in 1415 the Nottinghamshire Archers had fought at Agincourt as the Sherwood Foresters, so that it was only right that this old and coveted title of the county's military prowess should be revived in favour of the Fighting 45th, which had been so long associated with it.

In January, 1867, the regiment sailed for Abyssinia, and took part in the Capture of Magdala. When the advance was made the 45th had been delayed, and to join the advanced troops under the Commander-in-Chief, it achieved fame by its memorable march. Lord Malmesbury said in the House of Lords:—"The march of the 45th is one of the

¹ A memento of this battle, in the form of a punch ladle inscribed "The gift of Capten Evelyn Chadwicke of Stroxton of Kinstons Light Hors to Wm. Johnston, 1746," was exhibited to the *British Numismatic Society*, November 30th, 1906 (see volume iii, p. 401). Stroxton is between Melton Mowbray and Grantham.

most extraordinary on record. Having been detained in the rear, and being anxious to get to the front as soon as possible, they marched 300 miles in twenty-four days, and accomplished seventy miles in four days over a pass 10,500 feet high." This was the last occasion upon which the 45th, as such, was called upon for active service.

In connection with the Abyssinian Campaign, it is interesting to note that the late Mansfield Parkyns, of Woodborough, Nottinghamshire, a great-grandson of Sir Thomas Parkyns, of Bunny, near Nottingham, and author of the well-known book, *Life in Abyssinia*, had for some years been travelling in the then almost unknown country of Abyssinia. Therefore, when the trouble arose with King Theodore, he was the only man in the country who was competent to supply first-hand information to enable the Government to properly equip the expeditionary force.

The regiment afterwards went on to India, returning to England in 1878.

When, in 1881, Mr. Childers introduced his new army scheme, the old 45th Nottinghamshire Regiment of Sherwood Foresters became the 1st Battalion of the Derbyshire Regiment, and over 100 years of old associations with Nottinghamshire ceased.

THE COLOURS.¹

The treasured colours, borne with such conspicuous bravery throughout the American Wars and the Peninsular Campaign, nearly shot to pieces, yet brought back with all a soldier's pride, met, alas! with a sorry end, being accidentally burned in the barracks at Belfast.

In 1814, when the reserve or second battalion of the regiment was disbanded, the first battalion took over its colours, but of these I am unable to find any trace.

In 1819, new colours were presented at Colombo by Lady Browning, wife of the Governor, and in presenting them she said :—

Major Stackpoole and Officers of the 45th Regiment.—You have greatly honoured me by requesting me to officiate on this occasion

¹ I am indebted to Mrs. Shirley-Fox for the design of the colours represented as our frontispiece.

of replacing your old colours, worn out in the service of your country. Soldiers, my brave countrymen, under your old colours you have most nobly distinguished yourselves. The new colours you now receive are a memento of your achievements. Thirteen victories are emblazoned upon them. Their field is not capacious enough to hold the rest of your deeds of glory. Let then these deeds be impressed on your memories; let the recollections of them, let that star of honour which shines on your hearts, lead and stimulate you whenever and wherever duty calls you to fresh acts of heroism. Officers and soldiers, this island is happily tranquil. Long may it enjoy the blessings of peace, and as on the Continent of Europe you distinguished yourselves by your valour, here may you distinguish yourselves by your virtues. This is my most sincere wish, and that you may enjoy health and every rational happiness.

These colours again are missing. In 1839, when the regiment was stationed at Windsor, new colours were presented to it, and were carried by the regiment until 1881, after which date they were borne by the 1st Derbyshire Regiment. Upon them are the following honours:—

Louisburg, Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Orthes, Toulouse, Peninsula, Ava, South Africa, Abyssinia.

It is strange that they do not bear "Nive," for a number of officers and men of the 45th received the medal with the bar for that battle. Previously to 1844, all honours and badges were placed on both colours, but in that year an order was issued for them to be placed on the regimental colour only. This order was never carried out in the case of the 45th, which was then on foreign service, and upon its return from India, in 1879 the old colours—the pride of forty years—were completely restored.

The 45th Regiment won more honours and bear more honours upon their colours for the Peninsular Campaign than any other regiment in the British Army. These colours are also the oldest

carried by any regiment in the British Army, and as new colours have been presented to the 1st Derbyshire Regiment, now stationed in India,¹ it is expected that the old colours will be brought back and deposited in the Mother Church of St. Mary's, Nottingham, for honourable keeping.

SOME REGIMENTAL BADGES AND ORNAMENTS OF EQUIPMENT
OF THE 45TH.

The following examples have been selected for illustration from my collection of relics of the bygone equipment of the regiment.

Fig. 1.—Private's belt-plate of the old Nottinghamshire Militia previously referred to.

Fig. 2.—The gorget worn by Col. Nevile has already been described.



FIG. 3.—OFFICER'S SILVER BELT-PLATE, CIRCA 1800.

Fig. 3.—Officer's oval silver belt-plate of the 45th, a general date for which would be around the year 1800.

Fig. 4.—Officer's silver lace epaulette stamped with a crown and the figures "45," in use about 1800.

Fig. 5.—Officer's gilt epaulette stamped with a crown and the figures "45," in use about 1845.

¹ This was written in 1913.

Fig. 6.—Officer's belt-plate. These belt-plates are gilt, with a background of cut steel. They are surmounted with a crown,



FIG. 4.—OFFICER'S SILVER LACE EPAULETTE, *CIRCA* 1800.



FIG. 5.—OFFICER'S GILT EPAULETTE, *CIRCA* 1845.

and in the centre are the figures "45" surrounded by 1ST NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REGT., and bear the following honours :—

ROLEIA, VIMIERA, TALAVERA, BUSACO, FUENTES
D'ONOR, C' RODRIGO, BADAJOZ, SALAMANCA,
VITTORIA, PYRENEES, NIVELLE, ORTHES,
TOULOUSE, AVA, PENINSULA.

It will be noticed that one honour, namely, Louisburg, is omitted. Fig. 6 may be dated about 1835, and another, almost identical, is some ten years later.



FIG. 6.—OFFICER'S BELT-PLATE, *CIRCA* 1835.

Fig. 7.—The non-commissioned officer's and private's badge was plainer. In the centre is "45," round the figures the word NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, above is the crown, and below are the Nottingham Town arms between the words SHERWOOD FORESTERS upon a label. This badge is of a much later date, as the title "Sherwood Foresters" was only granted in 1866.

Fig. 8.—Officer's shako-plate. Large gilt star with silver-gilt mounts, surmounted by a crown. Within a wreath springing from a label bearing the word PENINSULA are the title of the regiment, "45," in an enamelled circle surrounded by NOTTINGHAMSHIRE REGT., and its honours upon the rays

of the star, as on Fig. 6, but arranged in a different order. An approximate date for this would be 1825.

Fig. 9.—Officer's sword-belt in use about 1835.



FIG. 7.—NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER'S AND PRIVATE'S BADGE, *CIRCA* 1866.



FIGS. 8 AND 9.—OFFICER'S SHAKO-PLATE, *CIRCA* 1825; AND SWORD-BELT, *CIRCA* 1835.

MEDALS OF THE 45TH.

The following medals of the regiment, with one exception—that of fifteen bars—are selected from my collection as illustrative of the part played by the individual in the making of the reputation and honour of the 45th.

The Peninsular Medals.



FIG. 10.—FIELD OFFICER'S GOLD MEDAL AND CLASP FOR ROLEIA, VIMIERA AND TALAVERA.

Fig. 10.—Field officer's gold medal and clasp for Roleia, Vimiera and Talavera. Granted to Lieut.-Colonel William Guard.

This officer, having completed his education at the University of Oxford, entered the Army in 1789 by being in June of that year appointed ensign in the 45th Regiment, then stationed in the West Indies, where he joined the corps. He was advanced to lieutenant in 1790 and promoted to a company in 1795. He purchased his majority in the year 1797 and the lieut.-colonelcy of the regiment in

1799, obtaining the brevet of colonel in 1809, the rank of major general in 1812, and that of lieutenant-general in 1825.

From 1789 to 1801 he was, with the exception of a few months, present with his regiment in the West Indies and volunteered his services against the French Islands under Sir Charles Grey, where he was wounded. In 1802 the 45th was in Ireland, and in the following year, Lieut.-Colonel Guard, being then second lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, was there appointed to command a light battalion composed of the light companies of the regiments of the line. In 1804 he assumed the permanent command of the 45th.

At the ill-fated attack of Buenos Ayres, Colonel Guard placed himself at the head of his grenadiers and most conspicuously distinguished himself in the charge upon the enemy. In this charge so heavy was the fire upon this gallant officer, that two balls passed through the blade of his sword, one struck the handle, a ball stuck in the top of his steel scabbard and another musket ball went through his head-dress; his conduct being honourably mentioned in the dispatch of the commander of the forces. In 1808 he was with his regiment at the battles of Roleia and Vimiera. In 1809 he was in command of the 45th at Talavera, where the regiment was highly praised and he received the personal thanks of Sir Arthur Wellesley for his conduct on that occasion. Colonel Guard was severely wounded at Talavera and, falling into the hands of the enemy, became a prisoner for nearly five years.

His long service in tropical and unhealthy climates, together with his captivity, so impaired his health and constitution as to prevent him from subsequently participating in further active service. General Guard's services obtained for him a letter of special approbation from the Duke of York, and in 1827 he was appointed Governor of Kinsale and Charles Fort. He died at his residence in Exeter on the 13th of July, 1830, and was buried in the Cathedral there.

A monument to his memory was erected in the northern transept of the Cathedral, as illustrated in the accompanying Plate III,¹ which bears the following inscription:—

¹ The photograph, from which this plate is reproduced was permitted by the courtesy of the Dean and Chapter.



MONUMENT TO LIEUT.-GENERAL WILLIAM GUARD IN
EXETER CATHEDRAL.

Near this spot
are interred the remains of
LIEUT.-GENERAL WILLIAM GUARD
Many years in command of the 45th Regiment.

His conduct as a soldier
During a long period of active employment
was marked by a strict sense of honor,
and the most ardent zeal for his profession.
In acknowledgment of his eminent services
He was made Governor of Kinsale and Charles Fort.

All who knew his worth lamented him,
and the remembrance of his uniform kindness
in the several relations of private life
will ever be cherished by his afflicted family
with feelings of affection and gratitude.

He died at Exeter 13th July, 1830, aged 57.

This Tablet was erected by his children.



FIG. 11.—OFFICER'S PENINSULAR MEDAL OF FOUR BARS.

Fig. 11.—Officer's medal of four bars—Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro,
VOL. X.

Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos. Awarded to Sub-Lieutenant (afterwards Captain) J. H. Reynell.



FIGS. 12 AND 13.—OFFICER'S PENINSULAR MEDAL OF SEVEN BARS AND ARMY OF INDIA MEDAL.

Fig. 12.—Officer's medal of seven bars—

Busaco, Albuhera, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, Toulouse.

Awarded to Surgeon W. Smyth.

This is the only medal of the 45th I have ever seen with the clasp for Albuhera, and probably the recipient served with some other corps in the battle.

Fig. 13.—Medal of the Army of India, with a letter from the War Office, which reads—

“Office for Military Board,
“11th August, 1847.

“I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the
“15th July and to acquaint you that your claim to a Medal will be
“laid before the Board of General Officers for their consideration

"and report to the Commander-in-Chief, and that the final
"decision upon the same will be communicated to you in due
"course.

"I have the honour to be

"Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"Henry Elliot.

"Surgeon Wm. Smyth,

"H. pay 45th Reg."

Also awarded to Surgeon W. Smyth.

Medal—Fifteen Bars—

Roleia, Vimiera, Corunna, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro,
Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria,
Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes and Toulouse.

Awarded to James Talbot.

This medal is in the collection of Lord Cheylesmore, D.S.O.

The fact that only one British soldier in the whole army could prove his title to and receive the Peninsular Medal with fifteen bars is a unique distinction in the annals of war, and a glorious addition to the records of the Fighting 45th.

Fig. 14.—Medal—Thirteen Bars—

Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos,
Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes,
and Toulouse.

Awarded to William Whitehouse.

Although Whitehouse's name is not on the regimental roll, there cannot be very much doubt as to the authenticity of the medal, for Private William Whitehouse was present at the Duke of Wellington's funeral, and for a considerable period he was an in-pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Fig. 15.—Medal—Thirteen Bars—

Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Awarded to William Crowder.

Private William Crowder was born in Nottingham and joined the Nottinghamshire Militia in 1801, serving with the regiment until August, 1807, when he volunteered into the 45th. He landed in Portugal with a detachment of that regiment in 1808 and directly took part in the wars. He formed one of the "forlorn hope" at the storming of Fort Picariene at Badajos. On this occasion he escaped being wounded by the enemy but fell from one of the scaling ladders,



FIGS. 14 AND 15.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF THIRTEEN BARS.

the effects of the fall being felt ever afterwards. He had been wounded at Talavera, and was discharged in November, 1814, but for many years had no pension. In addition to the engagements represented by the medal and thirteen clasps, he was also present at the Battle of Nives and the affairs of Campo Mio and Tarboz. He died at Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, January 1st, 1871, in the 85th year of his age.



FIGS. 16 AND 17.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF THIRTEEN AND TWELVE BARS.

Fig. 16.—Medal—Thirteen Bars—

Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Awarded to Corporal T. Griffiths.

Fig. 17.—Medal—Twelve Bars—

Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Awarded to G. Alsop.

Alsop served in the Nottinghamshire Militia and volunteered into the 45th.



FIGS. 18 AND 19.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF TEN AND NINE BARS.

Fig. 18.—Medal—Ten Bars—

Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Nivelles, Nive, and Orthes.

Awarded to James Watson. Also discharge document, original

box and envelope from the War Office, in which the medal was sent addressed—

"On Her Majesty's Service.

"James Watson,

"Late 45th Foot.

"2, Poplar Square,

"Poplar,

"Nottingham."

It may be noted from the discharge document, signed by Lieut.-Col. Greenwell of the 45th, that Watson was a native of Watnall, Nottinghamshire, that he was a shoemaker by trade, enlisted at the age of 33 and served for over seven years.

Fig. 19.—Medal—Nine Bars—

Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Badajos, Salamanca,
Vittoria, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Awarded to William Saunders.



FIGS. 20 AND 21.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF EIGHT BARS.

Fig. 20.—Medal—Eight Bars—

Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos,
Salamanca, Vittoria, and Pyrenees.

Awarded to J. Bowers.

Fig. 21.—Medal—Eight Bars—

Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos,
Salamanca, Vittoria, and Toulouse.

Awarded to L. Fallahee.



FIG. 22.—PENINSULAR MEDAL OF SEVEN BARS AND PORTUGUESE SILVER CROSS.

Fig. 22.—Medal—Seven Bars—

Talavera, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria,
Pyrenees, and Orthes.

Portuguese Silver Cross for services in the Peninsular.

Both awarded to T. Caunt.



FIGS. 23 AND 24.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF SEVEN AND SIX BARS.

Fig. 23.—Medal—Seven Bars—

Busaco, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Nivelle, Orthes,
and Toulouse.

Awarded to G. Muitt.

Fig. 24.—Medal—Six Bars—

Corunna, Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca,
and Vittoria.

Awarded to Matthew Harris.



FIGS. 25 AND 26.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF FIVE AND FOUR BARS.

Fig. 25.—Medal—Five Bars—

Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Nivelles.
Awarded to J. Makin.



FIGS. 27 AND 28.—PENINSULAR MEDALS OF FOUR AND THREE BARS.

Fig. 26.—Medal—Four Bars—

Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, and Vittoria.

Awarded to Drummer J. Strike. Also the original box.

Fig. 27.—Medal—Four Bars—

Vittoria, Pyrenees, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Awarded to Samuel Smith.

Fig. 28.—Medal—Three Bars—

Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca.

Awarded to Sergeant W. Allwood.



FIGS. 29 AND 30.—PENINSULAR MEDAL OF ONE BAR AND ARMY OF INDIA, ONE BAR.

Fig. 29.—Medal—One Bar—

Talavera.

Awarded to Corporal John Hulland.

A medal with only one bar for Talavera is uncommon.

Medals of Later Campaigns.

Fig. 30.—Medal—Army of India, One Bar—
Ava.

Awarded Drummer T. Griffiths.



FIG. 31.—THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDAL OF 1853.

South Africa, 1853—

Fig. 31.—Medal awarded to C. Wild.

Medal awarded to J. Whitehurst.

Medal awarded to G. Brown.

Medal awarded to H. Shipston.

Medal awarded to J. Naylor.

Abyssinian Campaign—

Fig. 32.—Medal—Abyssinian.

Fig. 33.—Medal—Long Service and Good Conduct.

Both awarded to M. Doyle.

Medal—Abyssinian.

Medal—Long Service and Good Conduct.

Both awarded to G. Cotton.

Medal—Abyssinian.

Medal—Long Service and Good Conduct.

Both awarded to Sergeant J. Knowles.



FIGS. 32 AND 33.—THE ABYSSINIAN AND LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDALS.

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Medal—Awarded to J. Bradshaw.

Medal—Awarded to G. Turner.

Medal—Awarded to R. Angel, Apothecary.

This Medal was first instituted by King William IV. in 1830 and was greatly prized. It was given to the non-commissioned officers and men under the following conditions :—

At least 18 years' service with an irreproachable character, or [to one who] has specially distinguished himself, or has at least three Good Conduct Badges.

It had on the obverse a military trophy and the Royal Arms with a small shield in the centre bearing the Hanoverian Arms, and on the reverse the inscription : "For Long Service and Good Conduct."

The name of the recipient was indented in large letters on the edge of the medal, and a record is kept of all the recipients of these medals in the office of the Secretary for War. Soon after the accession of Queen Victoria, Hanover having ceased to be under the British Crown, the Arms were omitted, see Fig. 33.

General List of Officers connected with the 45th who received the Peninsular Medal.

The following officers, who had served with the 45th Regiment in the Peninsular War, received the medal in 1847 :—

Captain T. P. Costley, L.p., 45th Regiment. Clasps for Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, and Pyrenees.

Bt. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Fraser. Clasps for Corunna, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, and Toulouse. He was also at Waterloo.

Lieutenant A. Lowry, H.p., 45th Regiment. Clasp for Orthes.

Major A. Martin, 45th Regiment. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Ciudad Rodrigo, Nivelles, Nive, and Orthes.

Lieutenant Charles Munro, H.p. Clasps for Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Captain James Reid. Clasps for Nivelles, Nive, and Orthes.

Captain J. H. Reynell. Clasps for Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, and Badajos. See *ante*.

Surgeon W. Smyth, 45th Regiment. Clasps for Busaco, Albuera, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse. See *ante*.

Colonel W. Guard. Clasps for Roleia and Vimiera. He also received the special decoration of the Peninsular gold medal. See *ante*.

Major-General T. Lightfoot. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera de la Regna, Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Fuentes d'Onoro.

Captain B. G. Humphrey, H.p., 56th Regiment. Clasps for

Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Captain W. Hardwick, H.p., 2nd Regiment. Clasps for Fuentes d'Onoro, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Bt. Major J. Macpherson. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Corunna, and Salamanca.

Lieutenant James John Rowe, H.p., 7th Regiment. Clasps for Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Nive.

Lieut.-Colonel James Campbell, 50th Regiment. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Barnwell, C.B. (Adjutant 45th Regiment), 9th Regiment. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Bt. Major F. Andrew, 52nd Light Infantry. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, and Salamanca.

Captain Richard C. Colley (Adjutant 45th Regiment), 1st Regiment. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, Busaco, and Fuentes d'Onoro.

Staff-Surgeon T. Hoggie, Inspector to the Forces. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera, and Fuentes d'Onoro.

Captain James Bishop, 23rd Regiment. Clasps for Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Nivelles.

Captain Joseph Douglas. Clasps for Nive, Nivelles, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Lieutenant Thomas Atkins, 73rd Regiment. Clasps for Roleia, Vimiera, and Corunna.

For the names of the following officers of the 45th who received medals, I am indebted to the *Regimental Annual, The Sherwood Foresters*, edited by Col. H. C. Wylly, C.B. :—

Colonel E. F. Boys (Lieutenant). Fuentes d'Onoro, Orthes, and Toulouse.

Captain G. Croasdill (Lieutenant). Orthes and Toulouse.
 Captain Robert Elliott (Sergt.-Major). Roleia, Vimiera, Talavera,
 Busaco, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca, Vittoria,
 Pyrenees, Nivelle, and Orthes.
 Lieutenant R. Hill. Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos, Salamanca,
 Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse.
 Captain Charles Huson. Toulouse.
 Lieutenant Robt. Mackenzie. Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Nivelle.
 Major Thomas Pilling (Sergt.-Major). Roleia, Vimiera, and
 Talavera.
 Lieutenant W. F. Reynell. Vittoria.

Major W. Lachlan Forbes kindly gives me the following additional name—

Lieut.-Colonel Thomas Forbes. Clasps for Badajos, Nivelle,
 Orthes, and Toulouse. He also received the special decoration
 of the Peninsular Gold Medal.

Some Authorities from which information has been quoted or used.

History of the 45th Nottinghamshire Regiment, by Col.
 P. H. Dalbiac.

Carter's Medals of the British Army.

Napier's History of the Peninsular War.

War Medals and Decorations, by D. Hastings Irwin.

Annals of the Peninsular Campaigns.

England's Battles, by Lieut.-Col. Williams.

Historical Record of the Royal Sherwood Foresters, by Captain
 A. E. Dawson Lowe.

The Nottingham Journal.

General Crauford and his Light Division, by the Rev.
 A. H. Crauford.



OBVERSE OF THE CALLIS NAVAL MEDAL.

PLATE I.