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Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK

Royal United Services Institution. Journal

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rusi19>

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Published online: 11 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Lieut.-General F. H. Tyrrell (1903) The Brigade of Grenadiers of Sardinia, Royal United Services Institution. Journal, 47:309, 1248-1269, DOI: [10.1080/03071840309417574](https://doi.org/10.1080/03071840309417574)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071840309417574>

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THE BRIGADE OF ~~GREENADERS~~ OF SARDINIA.

By Lieut.-General F. H. ~~TYRRELL~~ (late Indian Army).

IN the Royal Museum of Porcelain at Dresden may be seen a set of eight china vases, which Augustus the Strong, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, obtained from King Frederick William of Prussia in exchange for a regiment of dragoons. At that date Saxony and Prussia were States of almost equal strength and importance: to-day, less than two centuries later, Prussia stands at the head of the German Empire, and has a foremost place among the great Powers of the world; while Saxony is her humble and feeble satellite. That transaction of exchange or barter foreshadowed the future of the two States. While King Augustus was accumulating *bric-à-brac*, King Frederick William was busy perfecting the formidable Army which, under the leadership of his son, was a few years later to wrest Silesia from Austria, and to raise Prussia to the first rank among the nations of Europe. The virtue of the Prussian military system, initiated by the Great Elector, and developed and perfected by his successors, has raised the princes of the House of Hohenzollern from the petty rank of Electors of Brandenburg to the Imperial throne of United Germany.

There is another Royal House in Europe which has, like that of Hohenzollern, raised itself from the chieftainship of a petty principality to the kingship of a great and united nation. The House of Savoy has elevated itself to power and fortune by the warlike genius of its princes, and by their devotion to the military art. The opposite ends of Europe have re-echoed with the fame of their exploits; the fields of Flanders witnessed the triumph of Emmanuel Philibert at St. Quentin, and the name of Eugene of Savoy was a terror to the Turks by the banks of the Danube and beneath the walls of Belgrade. But it was chiefly the care which they bestowed upon the training and organisation of their military forces that ensured their fortune and success. During the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, Italy was the common battle-ground of the Armies of the three great military Powers of France, Spain, and Germany, and her fertile fields and fair cities were alternately the prize of the victor of the day. It was only by the exercise of the greatest political sagacity and the highest military talent that the princes of the little buffer State of Savoy, exposed to the shocks of a continuous warfare waged by the rival great Powers across its frontiers, could maintain its independence and its integrity; but so ably did they play their part, and so well were they seconded by their gallant and efficient little Piedmontese Army, that the prize for which the mighty monarchs around them had so long contended fell into their hands, and the iron crown, to gain possession of which the blood and treasure of Spain, France,

and Austria had in turn been poured forth in vain, was placed upon their brows, to the admiration of Europe, and amid the acclamations of a United Italian nation.

The national Army of Italy dates its creation back only to the year 1860; but at its head still stand the veteran regiments of the Piedmontese Army, the heavy cavalry of Nizza, Piemonte Reale, and Savoia, the infantry regiments of the Grenadiers of Sardinia, of the King, of Piedmont, of Aosta, of Cunco, of the Queen, of Casale, of Pinerolo, of Savona and Acqui, whose origin can be traced back to the first institution of Standing Armies in Europe. The old Piedmontese Army might well be called, in the words which the late Lord Sandhurst applied to another famous body of troops, the steel head of the lance which defends Italy; and its strenuous career and glorious traditions have been lately commemorated in the graphic and minute historical account of one of its most famous corps, from the pen of Major Domenico Guerrini, entitled "*La Brigata dei Granatieri di Sardegna*," of which the following brief summary is here presented to the readers of the JOURNAL.

Charles Emmanuel II., Grand Duke of Savoy, and titular King of Cyprus, revived the obligation of service in the général levy, or national Militia, which had fallen into disuse in feudal times, and organised the force in permanent territorial regiments. The only regular soldiers in the Grand Duchy at the time of his accession were some companies of gentlemen-at-arms, and Swiss halberdiers, who acted as his body-guards, and some regiments of foreign mercenaries; but he resolved to possess a Standing Army recruited from among his own subjects, and in 1659, just one year previous to the origin of the present British Army, he raised a regiment of foot guards of twelve companies, and several other regiments of infantry. They were all recruited by voluntary enlistment; the strength of the companies varied from seventy to one hundred men, according to circumstances, the colonel's company being kept at a higher strength than the others; the officers of each company were a captain, lieutenant, and ensign, the companies belonging to the colonel and lieutenant-colonel being commanded by captain-lieutenants, or, in modern *parlance*, brevet captains. The regimental staff was composed of a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, a sergeant-major, an adjutant, a chaplain, and a surgeon.

The field officers and the captains were only the leaders of their men; the sergeant-major was the instructor of the regiment, and seems to have been chiefly responsible for its training and discipline. We find the Grand Duke issuing an order that the colonel should be present with his regiment for at least four months in the year. The Guards received higher pay than the Line, and their officers had a step of Army rank superior to their rank in the Army, a practice that obtained in all the Armies of Europe, and survived in the British Army until late in the nineteenth century. The old company muster-rolls show that most of the men in the Regiment of Guards were Piedmontese, only a few being Savoyards, and still fewer foreigners, mostly Frenchmen. A curious practice prevailed of distinguishing each soldier by a *nom de guerre*, in addition to his real name. Most of these names were fanciful, such as "*Passe-partout*," "*Sans Souci*," "*La Liberté*," "*La Violette*," "*Prêt-à-boyre*" (not a bad nickname, the last, for the proverbially thirsty Grenadier); others were place names, such as "*Turin*," "*Castiale*," etc., and some were abbreviations or transmutations of the family name, such as "*Bruno*" for

Le Brun. These *noms de guerre* are constantly repeated throughout the regiment, but never twice in the same company.

Young men of good family were allowed to enrol themselves as privates in the Guards, without serving in the ranks or doing duty in time of peace, but were liable to be called to the colours when their services were required. They provided their own arms and uniform, and their status seems to have been much like that of the *Ein Jahr Freiwilliger* in the German Army to-day. They were called Volunteers, and probably many of them served with the hope of obtaining a commission. A Grand Ducal ordinance fixes their number at 10 per company, or 200 per regiment, as there were at that time twenty companies in it. This custom must soon have fallen into disuse, for after the end of the seventeenth century we hear no more of these Volunteers.

The Grand Dukes were often called on to appease quarrels and settle disputes about rank and precedence between the Regiment of Guards and the gentlemen-troopers of the Company of Bodyguards. In 1664, the Grand Duke regulated the precedence of all the corps, and gave the regiments, which had till then borne the names of their colonels, permanent titles. The six regiments of Piedmontese infantry were ranked and named as follows: the Guards, Savoy, Aosta, Montferrat, Piedmont, and Nice. There were also four foreign regiments.

The Regiment of Guards, now called the Grenadiers of Sardinia, boasts of having been engaged during the two hundred and fifty years of its embodiment in more than one hundred and twenty battles and combats, very few of which we shall be able to notice in this brief account. Its first essay in arms was inglorious and unsuccessful. The era of religious wars was not yet over in Europe, and the Grand Dukes were champions of the Catholic cause.

The Waldenses had three times risen in arms against their persecuting sovereigns, and had at length been granted freedom of worship. But these pious folk were not at all inclined to exercise the same toleration towards the faith of their Catholic neighbours, and continual quarrels between them resulted in 1664 in another appeal to arms. The Grand Ducal troops invaded the valleys; and the Guards were repulsed with loss in an attack on the village of Angrogna; but in fact their discomfiture was due as much to the difficulties of the ground as to the courage of the defenders. A peace was soon afterwards patched up on the basis of "forget and forgive," and things went on quietly for a few years more.

The eyes of all Christendom were now turned towards Crete, where the Venetians had gallantly held the town of Candia against the repeated assaults of the Turks, whose army had been encamped under its walls for twenty consecutive years. The noble youth of all the countries of Europe who desired to win their spurs, and the soldiers of fortune who sought a field for their talents, all betook themselves to Venice to embark for Candia, and the Grand Duke Charles Emmanuel on his part sent a brigade of two thousand regular troops, who were accompanied by many noble and gallant volunteers. They arrived in Candia in 1665 just as the Turks had opened regular approaches against the ramparts for the third time. Every resource known to the engineering skill of the time was employed by both the assailants and the defenders; and the siege of Candia may be said to have formed the school of military engineering which produced Vauban and Cohorn.

The siege was pressed closely and vigorously without intermission for three years; the glacis was honeycombed with the Turkish trenches till it resembled a gigantic labyrinthine rabbit-warren, while the ramparts were reduced by the springing of mines to a heap of smoking ruins. Morosini finally obtained an honourable capitulation, the Grand Vazis being only too glad to get possession on any terms of the place, before the walls of which 70,000 Turks had fallen. The survivors of the Savoyard Brigade, reduced to a few hundreds, returned home, and as a reward for their heroism were all enrolled forthwith in the Regiment of Guards, which hence considered itself entitled to count the defence of Candia among its battle honours. In 1680 the Grand Duke Victor Amadeo II. divided the Regiment of Guards into two battalions: the large regiments of twelve to twenty companies were found too large for a tactical unit, which henceforth became the battalion; sometime later a grenadier company was added to each battalion. The war of sieges which had been inaugurated in Europe by the siege of Candia, gave rise to the employment of grenadiers, who were furnished with grenades to search out the trenches and covered ways, and with hatchets to hew down the palisades. They took the place of the old *enfants perdus*, and were first instituted in the French Army, which was at that time admittedly the model for all Europe. In the Piedmontese Army the grenadiers were at first formed in squads of six men picked from each company for their intelligence, strength, and activity; they were mustered and paid in their own companies, but on parade they formed a separate body under selected officers. In line they formed on the flanks; in column, as advance and rear guards; in square, they were divided into four sections occupying the angles. Diagrams of all the formations and evolutions of the company, and of the battalion are given in Major Guerrini's book, with all the instructions and regulations of the period relating to parades and duties. The review exercise of the grenadiers consisted in firing three volleys, fixing bayonets, and making three lunges with the bayonet; then they slung their muskets, in three motions; handled their grenades, three motions; prepared the fuse, two motions; handled their matches, two motions; blew up their matches, two motions; lighted the fuse and threw the grenade, four motions; replaced their matches, two motions; and drew their sabres, two motions. They then made a charge as if attacking the enemy, sword in hand. Soon after their first institution, all the grenadiers of a battalion were united in a permanent company, which was recruited by men picked from the battalion companies, while the officers were selected by the colonel from the whole body of officers of the regiment. For battles or assaults, the grenadier companies were often separated from their regiments and formed into provisional battalions. As late as 1817 all the grenadier companies of the British and native infantry regiments of the Bengal Army were thus formed into special battalions for the campaign against the Mahrattas and Pindarris.

The officers and sergeants of grenadier companies were armed with fusils and bayonets instead of the half-pikes and halberts carried by those of the battalion companies. It has been said that the reason for the grenadiers wearing "furred caps with coped crowns like Janissaries" was the difficulty of slinging their muskets over the ordinary wide-brimmed hat; they were the first soldiers who saluted by raising the hand to the cap, all other troops saluting by pulling off

their hats. The Army of Savoy had long been distinguished by blue sashes or ribbons. The first uniform worn by the Guards on their formation in 1659 was a wide-brimmed beaver or felt hat trimmed with gold lace, and a loose blue coat with gilt buttons and scarlet lining; in fine weather the lapels were turned back and the cuffs turned up, showing the scarlet lining. The long waistcoat and knee-breeches were scarlet and the stockings blue. A broad buff leather bandolier was worn over the left shoulder, and a similar waist-belt, worn under the coat carried the priming flask and the sword. The armament was a matchlock musket, which was soon after changed to a flint-lock and bayonet. Military uniform was at first simply the civilian dress of the period, of a uniform cut and colour; and in the days of Marlborough the soldier wore a practical and comfortable dress, unhampered by the conventions afterwards imposed by the military foppery of the eighteenth century. King Louis XIV. had introduced a uniform dress into the French Army in 1658, and the Grand Duke Victor Amadeus of Savoy followed his example in 1681, clothing the Piedmontese Army in blue, with facings of different colours for the different regiments. The regiment of Guards retained its former uniform, the button-holes and pocket-flaps of the coat and vest being trimmed with gold lace or yellow braid.

The same dress continued to be worn with but little alteration for more than a century, up to the time of the French Revolution. Coloured plates of all the different costumes of the regiment are given in Major Guerrini's book. The cocked hat altered its shape but slightly during the whole of the eighteenth century: it was edged with lace and bore a blue cockade. The grenadiers had bearskin caps with brass front-plate. The belts were changed from buff to white, and the lace and buttons from gold to silver. Grenadiers and cacciatori (chasseurs) were distinguished by lace of a Vandyke pattern. White waistcoats and kneebreeches were worn in summer, and "spatterdashes," or long gaiters, of white linen or black cloth, according to the season. The officers wore blue sashes tied round the waist, under the coat, with gold stripes in them varying in number according to the rank of the wearer.

In 1672 the Grand Duke Charles Emmanuel commenced an unjustifiable and, as it turned out, an unprofitable war against the neighbouring Republic of Genoa, and the Regiment of Guards took part in the campaign in the Ligurian Alps, being engaged in six battles or combats between June and October, when the brief war was terminated without advantage to either side.

In 1685 King Louis XIV. of France revoked the edict of Nantes, and banished all his Protestant subjects from his dominions; and he called on the Grand Duke Amadeus II. of Savoy, whom he regarded and treated as his vassal, to adopt the same intolerant policy. The Grand Duke was unwilling to comply, but he dared not quarrel with his overbearing neighbour, and the Piedmontese troops were ordered to co-operate with the French Army, under Marshal Catinat, in expelling the Waldenses from their native valleys.

The mountaineers defended themselves after their usual fashion, and many officers and soldiers of the Guards were killed or maimed by the rolling rocks, which served the Waldenses for artillery; but the odds were too heavy against the gallant mountaineers, and they were finally obliged to abandon their homes and seek an asylum in free Switzerland.

But *Le Grand Monarque* had sown the wind, and he was soon to reap the whirlwind. His ambition and his arrogance had alienated all his allies and roused a deep-seated feeling of resentment throughout Europe, and one of the first signs of the coming storm was the return of the Waldenses in arms to recover their deserted homes, instigated by the agents of the Protestant Powers and aided by many Huguenot refugees, conspicuous among whom was Marshal Schomberg, who afterwards commanded the British Army in Ireland, and was killed at the battle of the Boyne. The French King again called on the Piedmontese Army to support the troops of Marshal Catinat; but Victor Amadeus had secretly joined the coalition which was preparing against France, and he connived at the enterprise of the Waldenses. However, he dared not show his hand openly as yet, till he was assured of support from Spain and Austria; his troops, therefore, ostentatiously took the field against the Waldenses, but always failed somehow to locate their positions or to intercept their movements. The French complained bitterly of their lukewarm allies, and Louis soon divined how matters stood, and arrogantly ordered the Grand Duke to receive a French garrison into the citadel of Turin; the answer was a declaration of war.

Marshal Catinat at once transferred the field of his operations to Piedmont, and established his head-quarters within the Grand Duke's territories, that he might subsist his Army at the expense of the enemy. His command was insufficient for offensive operations, as the bulk and the flower of the French forces were already employed against King William in Flanders, and the Piedmontese had been reinforced by an Austrian and a Spanish contingent. Victor Amadeus' object was to free his dominions from the presence of the enemy, and he gave battle to the Marshal at Staffarda. The battle was long and bloody; the Piedmontese Guards repulsed the attacks of the French dragoon regiments of Languedoc and Montgomery, and a subsequent one made by the three battalions of the Cambresis regiment of infantry; but the left wing of the Grand Duke's Army being broken and turned, the whole had to fall back. The retreat was made in good order, covered by the Austrian cavalry under Prince Eugene. The defeat at Staffarda was considered by the Piedmontese almost as a victory, for they had held their ground for eight hours against the French Army, which was at that time looked upon as invincible. Since its victories over the Spaniards at Lens and Rocroy, it had succeeded to the position of *facile princeps* among the Armies of Europe, and its prestige stood as high as that of its successor, the Army of the Empire, did a hundred years later, till it was shattered at Blenheim by Marlborough and Eugene.

The spell laid upon European warfare by the engineers who defended Candia had not yet been broken by the genius of Marlborough, and for two years after the battle of Staffarda, the campaigns in Piedmont were confined to manœuvring in a series of endless marches and counter-marches, threatening and relieving petty fortresses and ravaging the enemy's territory. Marshal Catinat maintained his hold on the Grand Duke's territory, while the allied troops made incursions into France, where they laid waste the frontier districts in revenge for the French devastation of the Palatinate.

In 1693, the fourth year of the war, the Grand Duke laid siege to Pinerolo: the outworks were carried after desperate fighting, in which the grenadiers of the Guard Regiment lost half their number

killed and wounded; the ramparts were hotly cannonaded and the town bombarded, when Catinat, having obtained reinforcements, advanced to its relief with 77 battalions, 48 squadrons, and 26 guns. "In a few days, Sire," he wrote to King Louis, "I hope, please God, to be able to give you good news"; and five days later he announced to the King his victory at La Marsaglia. The Grand Duke, who did not know of the reinforcements that had reached the Marshal, gave him battle with only 25,000 allied troops against 40,000 French. The Guard Regiment was in second line on the right wing, under the command of Prince Eugene, and suffered heavy loss in vain attempts to retrieve the fortune of the day. The Grand Duke abandoned the siege of Pinerolo and remained strictly on the defensive during the three remaining years of the war, while Catinat wasted the country at his pleasure. But the French King, hard pressed by more powerful enemies, concluded peace with the Grand Duke in 1696, and withdrew his armies from Piedmont, only stipulating that the country should be considered neutral and should not afford passage to the troops of Spain or Austria during the remainder of the war, which was soon after terminated by the Peace of Ryswick. But this peace proved but a hollow truce, and in 1701 the disputed succession to the Spanish Crown became the pretext for again lighting up the flames of war. This time Spain was the ally of France, and the Grand Duke of Savoy found himself between the devil and the deep sea in the shape of the French Army of Catinat and the Spanish Army which garrisoned Lombardy, and which prevented the Austrians from coming to his assistance. He therefore elected to take part in the war on the French side, and a Piedmontese contingent, including the Regiment of Guards, joined the Army of Catinat, which marched to reinforce the Spaniards in Lombardy. The Grand Duke was made commander-in-chief of the allied army, but the French marshals under him ignored his orders, and acted on instructions received direct from Louis XIV. It is therefore not surprising that the operations were unsuccessful. Prince Eugene, with an inferior army in point of numbers, held his own throughout the campaign, and at Chiari repulsed the attack of the allies. Next year he again gained the advantage in the battle of Luzzara. The Grand Duke's Regiment of Guards was closely engaged in both these battles. At the conclusion of each campaign we find the Grand Duke handing over a lump sum to the captain of each company to be expended in recruiting his command up to full strength, so as to be ready to take the field in April. And on one occasion the captain of the Grenadier company of the first battalion received three times as much as the others, in consideration of the heavy losses sustained at Castrezzato, in some affair of which no other record has come down to us. In the casualty lists of these campaigns we find the number of deaths from disease half as much again as the casualties in action, and the losses from desertion three times as many as those from all other sources put together.

Victor Amadeus was secretly watching for an opportunity to change sides and return to his old alliance with Austria and Great Britain, and in 1703 he only sent six battalions and nine squadrons to open the campaign with the Franco-Spanish Army of Marshal Vendôme, in Lombardy. By this time the French saw very well which way the cat was going to jump, and the Marshal, having assembled his army at San Benedetto, ordered a general parade. The Piedmontese troops found themselves surrounded by the French and

Spaniards, and were ordered to ground their arms. Resistance was useless in the face of the odds against them, and they were all made prisoners, including one battalion of the Guards, and were marched under an escort of French troops to Pavia. But Vendôme, with a hostile Savoy between him and France, was no longer able to hold his own against the Austrians, and fell back to the frontiers of Piedmont. Prince Eugene had gone off to join Marlborough on the Danube, but his successor, Count Stahremberg, advanced by forced marches to the assistance of the Grand Duke. So many of the Piedmontese soldiers escaped from their captivity in Pavia and rejoined their colours, that Vendôme had the remainder of them embarked for France. The second battalion of the Guards, which had been made prisoners at San Benedetto, was now re-formed with the men who had escaped from Pavia, and was made up to strength by the incorporation of 192 Irishmen in it; it is not stated whence these came, but it is very likely that they were some of James II.'s Irish soldiers, some thousands of whom had been sold or presented to the Emperor by King William III. A third battalion was also added to the Regiment of Guards, and this new battalion soon gained its first laurels in a dashing expedition made from Susa to harass the French invaders of Savoy. An army, under Marshal de Tessé, had been sent by the French King to invade Piedmont by way of Mont Cenis, and it had already occupied Savoy. The Piedmontese from Susa surprised the French post at Chiaromonte, killing 100 Frenchmen, capturing 60, and putting the rest to flight; but they were repulsed in a subsequent attack on Chambéry, which they found too strongly held. The French operations were only interrupted for a time, and they eventually laid siege to Susa, while Marshal Vendôme, on his side, with 57 battalions and 60 squadrons, laid siege to Vercelli, the garrison of which consisted of 13 battalions, including the 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Guards, and 600 cavalry. Victor Amadeus, at the head of 24,000 of his own troops and of the Austrians, in vain endeavoured to interrupt the operations. Vendôme had enough troops to keep him at bay, and to push the siege at the same time. The town was furiously assaulted and defended, an officer of the Guards, the *Cavaliere de Châtillon*, throwing a grenade with his own hands during one of the assaults had both his hands blown off by its premature explosion.

After two months of incessant bombardment and assault, the French effected a lodgment on the ramparts, and the garrison capitulated with the honours of war, and were made prisoners and sent into France. Susa had also fallen, and the two French Armies united and besieged La Verrua, where the Grand Duke had formed an entrenched camp. The 1st Battalion of the Regiment of Guards formed part of the defenders of La Verrua, which made a most heroic resistance from the middle of October to the middle of April; but the French stuck to their guns, and pushed the siege all through the winter. They forced the Grand Duke's little army to retire to Chivasso, and finally the defenders of Verrua were constrained by famine to surrender the heap of ruins to which it had been reduced by bombardment and mines. All the three battalions of the Guards were now prisoners of war; but with the headquarters and some details that were left, with retired officers of the regiment re-called to service, and with Militiamen and recruits, the Grand Duke formed two new battalions. He had entrenched himself at Chivasso, whither Marshal

Vendôme followed him, after he had allowed his troops a brief repose after the fatigues of their winter's siege.

An attack on the Piedmontese camp was repulsed with great loss to the French; the two new battalions of Guards on this day charged a French column of infantry with the bayonet and routed it, the French leaving 140 men dead on the field. Vendôme then began to proceed to the attack by regular approaches, and after forty days of open trenches and much fighting the Grand Duke abandoned the camp and fell back on Turin, where the two new Guard battalions took over the barracks of the regiment. The French Army followed, and laid siege to the city; but thinking the season too far advanced to prosecute such a serious enterprise, they raised the siege and retired into winter quarters.

Victor Amadeus was now in desperate straits; Turin was almost the only part of his dominions that remained to him, and he had only 8,000 foot and 6,000 horse, part his own troops, and part Austrians, left to defend it. However, he did not lose heart, but occupied all the winter in putting the city into the best possible posture of defence. In May, 1706, the French Army appeared again before the walls. The splendid story of the five months' siege of Turin, the feats of arms of the besiegers and the besieged, the devotion of the Piedmontese sapper Micca, and the relief of the beleaguered city by the Imperialist Army of Prince Eugene, are eloquently narrated in detail in Major Guerrini's pages.

The defeated French Army fled to Susa, and the victors occupied the rest of the year in clearing Lombardy of its Spanish garrisons, the Regiment of Guards being employed in the siege and capture of Pizzighettone. Next year Prince Eugene led the Austro-Piedmontese Army to the invasion of Provence, but though his operations were aided by the Dutch and English fleets, he besieged Toulon in vain. But the French were obliged to call off their troops from the frontiers of Piedmont to defend Toulon, and the Grand Duke seized the opportunity to recover Susa and all the places which the enemy had so long occupied within his borders, but they still remained in Savoy. Their expulsion thence was the object of the campaign of the next year (1708); in which the regiment of Piedmontese Guards, which had taken a foremost part in the sieges of Turin and Toulon, again distinguished itself at the capture of Fenestrella and at the combat of Cesena, where one of its Grenadier companies, along with two other Grenadier companies, one Austrian and the other Prussian, and some other troops to the aggregate of 400 men, resisted for two hours the attacks of 3,000 French soldiers, and finally retired in good order, leaving 150 of their number killed and wounded on the field. This incident gives one some idea of the composite character of these old Standing Armies, in which nationality counted for nothing, and the inspiring sentiment of the soldier was fidelity to his flag. For the four remaining years of the war, the operations were confined to the frontier, all the efforts of Victor Amadeus to bring matters to a crisis being foiled by the skill of the Duke of Berwick, who was charged with the duty of maintaining a strict defensive in this quarter, while the fortune of the war was being decided on the Rhine and in Flanders.

The Peace of Utrecht in 1713 stripped Spain of all her possessions in Italy. Austria gained Lombardy, Naples, and Sardinia, and the bold Grand Duke of Savoy, who, with his little principality, had borne the brunt of the battle, received as his recompense the island of

Sicily and the title of King. Our regiment now became a corps of Royal Guards, and its first battalion, 8 companies strong, accompanied its sovereign as his escort to Palermo, when he went to take possession of his new kingdom. The Sicilians, whose one political idea seems to have been hostility to the Government, whatever it might be, hailed his arrival and the departure of the Spaniards with acclamations; but when, six years later, a large Spanish fleet and Army arrived to recover the island, they went over to the invaders and aided them to assail the feeble Piedmontese garrisons. The ambitious Cardinal Alberoni cherished the vain dream of restoring the decaying power of Spain, and he sent a great armament to surprise the island of Sicily and restore it to the Spanish crown. The battalion of Guards had been left in the island by the King as a guard to the Viceroy, and it was employed in that duty at Syracuse, but detachments of it were at other places, and shared in the disasters of the brief campaign in which the Spaniards over-ran the island. A captain of the Guards named Marelli was commanding the garrison of Palermo in virtue of his Army rank of lieutenant-colonel. He had signalised himself by his bravery in the French war, but he surrendered the citadel of Palermo after what was considered an insufficient defence. He and his men were embarked as prisoners on a Spanish ship, which was taken at sea by an English cruiser, and carried into Syracuse. The unlucky Marelli was brought before a court-martial by the Viceroy, was convicted of cowardice in surrendering to the enemy and was shot.

General Andorno, the colonel of the Guards, was in command of the garrison at Messina, and distinguished himself by a gallant defence; but the brief war was put an end to by the arrival of the Austrian Army of Naples to the assistance of the Piedmontese. They drove the Spaniards out of the island, and kept it for themselves! giving the King the island of Sardinia in exchange, which he was fain to accept, and change his title to that of King of Sardinia. The battalion of Guards was brought back to Italy with the rest of the Piedmontese troops.

Europe now enjoyed an unwonted interval of peace, and the Guards were condemned to an inglorious repose for thirteen long years.

In 1733, a disputed succession to the throne of Poland brought on another general European war. The rival candidates were the Elector Augustus of Saxony, son of Augustus the Strong, supported by Austria; and Stanislaus Leczniski, son-in-law of Louis XV., whose cause was espoused by France. Spain eagerly seized the opportunity of regaining her lost possessions in Italy, and took the side of France. Both combatants courted the alliance of Charles Emmanuel III., the King of Sardinia; but France and Spain gained him to their side by promising him the crown of Lombardy as the prize of victory, and appointing him generalissimo of their Armies in Italy. Accordingly, he took the field at the head of his Guards, and a mighty Army of Piedmontese, French, and Spaniards combined. It was observed at the siege of Pizzighettone, where the Grenadiers of the Guards marched shoulder to shoulder with Frenchmen to the assault of the outworks held by Germans, that twenty-five years before they had marched beside German allies to assail the same outworks defended by Frenchmen. After the capture of Pizzighettone, the victorious allies entered Milan, where they were received with joy by the citizens, while the Austrians retired into the castle. The inhabitants feasted and fêted

the invaders, while they were besieging the citadel; the first salvo from the breaching batteries gave the signal for the commencement of the dance at a grand ball, which the veteran Marshal Villars, now eighty years of age, opened by dancing a minuet with the Princess Trivulzio; and the wags of the camp said that the Marshal had given two balls at the same time, one to the aristocracy of Milan, and the other to its citadel. The officers divided their time between the trenches and the opera; but they were presently able to give their undivided attention to social pleasures, for the Castle soon surrendered. The Spaniards marched away to pursue their own plans for the re-conquest of Naples and Sicily, and when the campaign of 1734 opened, the Austrian Army, under Mercy, was more equal to its opponents. The two armies were manœuvring in the neighbourhood of Parma when the dangerous illness of his Queen re-called Charles Emmanuel to Turin; and Mercy, hearing of his absence, immediately attacked the allied Army. The Austrians had almost gained the day, when the situation was saved by the desperate resistance of a brigade composed of thirty-six companies of Grenadiers, of which seven were Piedmontese, including one of the Guards. The Regiment of Picardy, the *doyen* of the French Army, shared the glory of the stand made by the Grenadiers. The fall of Mercy, killed by a cannon-shot, put a further check to the Austrian success, and both Armies bivouacked on the field of battle; but the Austrians, discouraged by the death of their general, withdrew during the night, and it was only the dawn that apprised the allies of their victory. Charles Emmanuel hurried back to rejoin his Army and improve the success. He followed up the retreating Austrian Army, and encamped with his Guards on the field of San Benedetto, where thirty years before they had been disarmed by their French allies, and which was now again to prove disastrous to them. Königseck, who had succeeded Mercy in command of the Austrian Army, observing the slack watch kept by the French, surprised their camp, and drove them before him in confusion; Marshal Broglie escaping in his nightshirt. The Piedmontese Guards, in trying to cover the flight of the French, lost 10 officers and 325 men, cut off and captured by the enemy. The whole Army rallied under the protection of the guns of the fortress of Guastalla. Königseck, elated by his success, attacked them there, and a battle was fought, which ended in the repulse of the Austrians with the loss of 9,000 killed and wounded; the allies lost 6,000.

The next year, 1735, the Spaniards rejoined from their conquest of Naples, and the Austrians, hopelessly outnumbered, were forced back from point to point till they were driven into the Tyrol. But the French were now tired of the war, from which they could gain nothing, as Augustus of Saxony was firmly seated on the throne of Poland; they therefore made peace with Austria over the head of Charles Emmanuel, who got nothing for his pains, while Naples and Sicily were made into a kingdom for a Spanish Royal prince.

When the war of the Austrian succession broke out a few years afterwards, the French had reason to repent of their scurvy treatment of King Charles Emmanuel III.; he, with King George II., of Great Britain, were the only allies who ranged themselves on the side of the Empress-Queen Maria Theresa against France, Spain, Prussia, Bavaria, and Naples.

A large Spanish Army was landed in Italy to gain back Lombardy, and was joined by the Neapolitan forces. To oppose them, the

Austrians had only 17 battalions and 9 squadrons, but Charles Emmanuel led to their aid his own Army of 24 battalions and 24 squadrons, and the Empress-Queen invested him with the supreme command. He had the double task of defending her possessions in Italy against the Spaniards and Neapolitans advancing from the south, and of safeguarding his own frontiers in the west, and he hurried from one scene of action to the other, taking his Regiment of Guards with him. They called it a *Guerra di gambe*, or "war of legs." But the Spanish generals were a feeble folk, and the inferiority of their soldiers counterbalanced their superiority in numbers. The Spanish Army that two centuries before had been the first in Europe was now the last.

In 1743, a combined Army of 30,000 French and Spaniards attempted the conquest of Savoy, to whom the King could only oppose 15,000; but his native mountains helped him, and the invaders, caught as in a trap in the gorges near Casteldelfino, were routed with great slaughter, and with the loss of 12 guns. The Guards did yeoman service that day. In 1744 the attempt was renewed, and the invaders forced a passage at Pietralunga at a fearful cost; but they were repulsed again from the fortress of Cuneo. But next year they changed their plan of campaign, and invaded Piedmont by way of the Riviera; the Genoese aided them, and a Spanish Army came up from the south to join hands with them. The King could not make head against their superiority of numbers, and could only delay their operations by harassing them, while they occupied his towns and slowly made their way towards Turin. By the end of the year, half of Piedmont was in their possession, when, as usual, both Armies went into winter quarters. But in 1746 the aspect of affairs entirely changed. King Frederick of Prussia had concluded a peace with the Empress Maria Theresa, and 30,000 Austrian troops were marched from Silesia into Italy. The tide of war was completely turned, and the King chased the invaders by the way they had come along the Riviera, and followed them into France, while the Austrians drove the Spaniards southwards as far as Piacenza. In 1747, the King wanted the Austrians to join him against the French, who were the most formidable of all the enemies, while they preferred to employ the bulk of their forces in the reduction of Genoa. One battalion of the Guards was with the King, the other joined the Austrians in the siege. The French, in order to effect a diversion in favour of their useful but feeble ally, sent one Army to invade the Italian Riviera, and another to occupy Savoy. The King hastened to oppose the latter, and to make head against the combined attacks he re-called all his Piedmontese troops from the Austrian camp before Genoa. The 2nd Battalion of the Guards then rejoined the 1st Battalion in the entrenched camp at Assietta in Savoy, where the King had assembled 8,000 men. Here they were attacked by 20,000 French under Lieut.-General de Belleisle, who had sworn to gain the marshal's bâton that day, or perish in the attempt. The Piedmontese position proved impregnable, and Belleisle, seeing his men driven back time after time with heavy loss, himself seized a colour and led them in person to a fresh assault, and he had actually planted his flag on the enemy's breastwork when a soldier of the Piedmontese Guards shot him dead, and that attack was repulsed like the others. In spite of the fall of their leader the French renewed their fruitless efforts with unavailing gallantry till nightfall, when they fell back to their camp,

leaving 5,000 killed and wounded round the enemy's works. The loss of the Piedmontese was less than 300!

The French Army then fell back across the frontier, and the King hurried off to defend the Riviera, where the enemy had already occupied Nice. To reward the Regiment of Guards for their conspicuous services at Assietta, the King granted a gratuity of one month's pay to all ranks.

This was the last serious action in the war of the Austrian succession, which was terminated the following year by the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. Charles Emmanuel received as his recompense some towns and territory taken from the Republic of Genoa. After the war, Spain made no further attempts to recover her lost supremacy in Italy, and the latter country enjoyed an unwonted and unbroken period of peace and tranquillity for more than forty years.

The Kings of Savoy, during this long peace, did not neglect the arts of war, and were constantly busy in increasing and improving the efficiency of their Army. In 1751, two light field guns, with a detachment of 25 sub-officers and men to serve them, were given to each battalion of the Guards. The gunners wore the regimental uniform, but with blue kneebreeches and waistcoats instead of scarlet. The battalion guns continued to be employed by the Piedmontese infantry up to the end of the century.

The attack and defence of fortified places had ceased to be the principal object of strategy, and the special siege equipment of the Grenadiers was now discontinued; their hatchets were taken away from them, and given to a squad of pioneers, which was formed in each regiment of infantry; this is probably the reason why the pioneers of European Armies continued to wear the peculiar dress of grenadiers for more than a century. The grenades were also laid aside, or made over to the engineer corps.

The ingenious Mr. Brydon, in his letters from Sicily and Malta, written to William Beckford, Esq., in 1770, describes the review of a Swiss regiment in the service of Naples which he witnessed at Palermo that year. After observing that the parade movements were performed with a steadiness and precision only to be equalled by British or German troops, he goes on to say:—"The Grenadiers were furnished with false grenades, which produced every effect of real ones, except that of doing mischief. The throwing of these was the part of the entertainment that seemed to please the most; and the Grenadiers took care to direct them so that their effect should not be lost. When a number of them fell together among a thick crowd of the nobility, which was commonly the case, it afforded an entertaining scene enough, for they defended themselves with their hats, and threw them very dexterously upon their neighbours. However, we saw no damage done, except the singeing of a few wigs and caps; for the ladies were there in as great numbers as the gentlemen." From this passage it appears plain that grenades continued to form part of the armament of grenadier companies in some at least of the Armies of Europe as late as the year 1770.

The highest unit of organisation in the Piedmontese Army in peace-time was the regiment. At the commencement of a war or campaign the regiments were assembled in brigades, as was the custom in all the other Armies at that time, and as is still the case in our British Army to-day. These provisional brigades were formed of three or four regiments, and were not designated by a numerical title,

but took their name from the senior regiment composing them; as the Guards' Brigade, the Savoy Brigade, the Piedmont Brigade, etc. But in 1774 King Victor Amadeus III. entirely re-organised his Army, forming all his infantry regiments, native and foreign, into four permanent brigades for peace and war. Each brigade had four regiments; the 1st Brigade comprised the Guards, the Regiment of Piedmont, the German Regiment Royal Allemand, and the Swiss Regiment of Berne. The regiments had hitherto had two battalions of ten companies each. The King now re-organised them in three battalions of four companies each, with two extra grenadier companies, which were attached to the second and third battalions, as these were on the flanks in line, and in front and rear of the column. The brigade thus consisted of 12 battalions, and corresponded to our present infantry divisions. The Militia were similarly organised to form a second line to the Regular Army. Each brigade was commanded by a major-general, or by a colonel with the rank of brigadier-general. To compensate the officers for the loss of company commands, as the number of companies in each regiment had been reduced from twenty to fourteen, the number of field officers was increased from three to seven. Each battalion was commanded by a major, each double company by a first captain, and each company by a second captain. The evident evils of this organisation were the infinite subdivision of authority, and the undue lengthening and, therefore, weakening of the chain of command and responsibility; and though theoretically perfect on paper, it did not work well or smoothly. In 1786 a new re-organisation took place. The regiments were again formed in two battalions, and the number of companies reduced from fourteen to twelve. Each battalion had four companies of Fusiliers and one of Grenadiers; a light infantry company of Cacciatori or Chasseurs was for the first time attached to each regiment, and also a dépôt company. On mobilisation, the light companies were detached from their regiments and formed into provisional battalions of light troops.

Desertion was rife in the Piedmontese, as in other Armies of the time; and as the right of sanctuary still existed in the churches there, the deserters took refuge in them, and waited their opportunity to escape altogether.

The Kings for long had negotiated with the Popes with a view to putting a stop to this state of things, but the heads of the Church were very tenacious of its privileges. At last, in 1776, the Pope was prevailed on to consent to sanctuary being denied to deserters from the Army. However, as the right was still retained for offenders guilty of other crimes, the concession only made matters worse; for the soldier who wanted to desert committed some other crime in order to qualify for the right of sanctuary. Finally, in 1779, the King prevailed upon the Pope to refuse the right of sanctuary altogether to soldiers.

But a storm was rising that was soon to sweep away the authority of both Pope and King, and the old social and political systems of Europe were soon to crumble under the shock of the French Revolution. The Piedmontese Army was rusty from forty-four years of continuous peace, its generals and colonels were superannuated, the King was feeble and unwarlike. Before the Austrians could arrive to his assistance, Savoy was overrun by the Republican Armies.

The 1st Battalion of the Guards took part in the brief and disastrous campaign. For the next, all the grenadiers and chasseurs of the Army were formed into provisional battalions; the two grenadier companies of the Guards were joined with those of the regiments Asti and Casale in a battalion of six companies; the Guards' chasseur company formed a battalion with seven chasseur companies of the Line. Thus the Guards' Regiment was split into three different bodies, often employed on distant theatres of operations. The grenadier and chasseur companies were embarked at Oneglia for Toulon, the gates of which had been opened by the French Royalists to the English seamen and marines, and a motley garrison of British, Spanish, Piedmontese, and Neapolitan troops were thrown into the city for its defence. Here the Piedmontese Guards fought shoulder to shoulder with English soldiers in several gallant sorties and assaults, and were highly complimented by Lord Mulgrave for their bravery. Here, also, they first encountered their future conqueror, Napoleon Buonaparte. They were the last troops to evacuate Toulon when the unfortunate city was abandoned to Republican vengeance. Meanwhile, the war in the Riviera was carried on, languidly by the Austrian generals, and vigorously by the French under the leadership of Masséna; but without any decisive result, until the conclusion of peace between Spain and France set the Army of the Pyrenees free to reinforce the Army of Italy, of which at the same time Buonaparte assumed the command. In one decisive campaign, he finished the war, which had been dragging on for four years, so far as Piedmont was concerned. General Colli and his Army laid down their arms, the King took refuge in the Island of Sardinia, and the Cisalpine Republic was proclaimed in Turin.

The Piedmontese troops were incorporated in the French Army under the Tricolour flag. All the regiments were broken up and reformed in three demi-brigades, numbered, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Piedmontese. Some of the Guards followed the King to Sardinia, others went off home, the rest were incorporated in the new formations. The French had a special spite against the regiment on account of its aristocratic character, and its loyalty to the monarchy, and General Grouchy, who was charged with the re-organisation of the Piedmontese Army, incorporated the Guards with a regiment of pioneers and a newly-raised regiment of light infantry, neither of which corps bore a high reputation. The new corps was numbered the 1st Piedmontese Demi-Brigade, and under the French flag it earned many laurels during a brief but glorious career:

In 1799, while Napoleon was absent in Egypt, Field-Marshal Suvaroff, at the head of an Austro-Russian Army, swept the French generals from the face of Italy and entered Turin in triumph. He proclaimed the restoration of the King, and the re-establishment of the Royal Piedmontese Army, and made a commencement by forming two companies of Guards with old officers and soldiers of the regiment who were on the spot. After he left, the Austrian General Melas continued the re-constitution, and had already formed one battalion of each of the four senior regiments, viz., the Guards, Savoy, Montferrato, and Piedmont, when Marengo totally changed the situation: the Austrians were again driven from Italy, the French were triumphant, the Piedmontese regiments were again dissolved.

Soon afterwards, the whole of Northern Italy was united in one kingdom, with Napoleon's step-son, Eugene Beauharnais, as Viceroy;

and eventually the Papal States were subjected to his government, while the kingdom of Naples was ruled by Napoleon's brother-in-law, Joachim Murat, so that the whole country was under French rule.

There is no doubt that under this *régime* Italy was better governed, and her people enjoyed more liberty than had been the case since the days of the Roman Empire; and the French rule sowed the seeds of national unity which later bore such abundant fruit. The Tricolour became a symbol of liberty and unity to the Italian people, and later on they adopted it unanimously as their national flag.

But for a time all things went back into the old groove, and it was as if the French Revolution had never been. In 1814, the empire of Napoleon was tottering to its fall, and the British Government signed a convention with the King of Sardinia for the formation of a Royal Piedmontese Legion of 3,000 men, the ranks of which were entirely filled by Piedmontese prisoners of war taken from the French by the British in the Peninsula and elsewhere.

On the 29th May that year, King Victor Emmanuel I. entered Turin, which had been for some time in possession of the Austrians. They were not at all anxious for his return, having views of their own as to the disposal of his dominions, but the British Cabinet insisted upon his restoration to the full rights and possessions of the House of Savoy. He immediately ordained the re-constitution of the Royal Piedmontese Army on the old basis. The Regiment of Guards was to be reformed in two battalions of six companies each: one of grenadier, one of chasseurs, and four of fusiliers. The conscription established by the French was discontinued, and the regiment was to be recruited by voluntary enlistment, as of old. On the 23rd November the new colours of the regiment were solemnly consecrated by Cardinal Solaro in the church of San Carlo at Turin. But recruits came in but slowly, and when Napoleon suddenly returned from Elba in the spring of 1815 the 2nd Battalion of the Guards had to be incorporated with the 1st to form a single field battalion. It was arranged that 15,000 Piedmontese were to co-operate with 85,000 Austrians invading France through Savoy; but Waterloo had already been fought and won before they had commenced operations. The French at first assumed the offensive and drove the Piedmontese back beyond the frontiers; but when the Austrians came up the tables were turned, and the French were in their turn driven back to Lyons and beyond. The Piedmontese Guards took part in the assault on Grenoble, and garrisoned the town after its capture. When the brief campaign was over, the regiment returned to its quarters in Turin.

Meanwhile it had become evident that the old methods of Army administration were no longer applicable to altered conditions, and it was useless to try to tread the old paths. Victor Emmanuel I. found himself obliged to have recourse to the French method of conscription to fill the ranks, and he, moreover, adopted the Prussian system of short service and a Reserve. Voluntary enlistment was still encouraged, but the cadres were filled up with conscripts. The liability to serve lasted for eight years, but the men were dismissed on perpetual furlough as soon as trained, while their places in the ranks were taken by a fresh batch of conscripts. The old national Militia force was abolished, and all its men were made liable to service in the Regular Army. On mobilisation, each company, battalion, or other unit, was divided into two, the cadres being then filled up from the Reserves. Each regiment on the peace establishment thus formed

a brigade of two regiments on the war establishment; the strength of the Army was doubled on mobilisation, and the old Regiment of Guards became the Brigade of Grenadier Guards.

The King was naturally desirous of filling the ranks of his Guards with the tallest and finest men in the Army; he therefore ordered that the Reserve of the Guards' Regiment should be formed in the first instance from the grenadier companies of the dissolved Militia regiments. These soldiers, though they were proud to serve in the Royal Guards, were equally proud of being grenadiers, and protested against being drafted into fusilier companies.¹ The King was pleased with their military pride, and, to satisfy it, ordered that the Regiment of Guards should be made a grenadier corps. All its companies thenceforth assumed the bearskin cap and the dress and equipment of grenadiers.

This feeling of military pride engendered by belonging to a picked body of men was strikingly illustrated in an occurrence that had happened fifty years before in the Army commanded by Sir Hector Monro in India. Some native grenadiers were among a batch of Bengal sepoy sentenced to be blown from guns for the crime of mutiny. While they were being tied to the guns, they addressed the officer who was superintending the execution, begging that, as they were grenadiers, and entitled to take the right of the line, they might be attached to the guns on the right of the battery. Their request was granted, and from their proud position as grenadiers on the right of the line they were blown into eternity.

The uniform of the Regiment of Grenadier Guards was now a bearskin cap, with brass front-plate, and white cords and tassels, and a blue and white hackle feather at the left side; a blue coat with red collar, cuffs and shoulder-straps, the breast braided with broad brandebourgs of white braid; white serge knee-breeches, and long black cloth spatterdashes. The lace and buttons were silver; the accoutrements were white cross-belts with brass breast-plate; the arms were musket and bayonet, and sabre.

There was now another regiment of foot guards called the *Cacciatori Guardie*, or *Chasseurs of the Guard*. This was originally the Regiment of Sardinia, raised for the war of the Austrian succession in 1744 by the Duke of San Pietro, and recruited from the Islands of Sardinia and Corsica; its depôt was always kept in the Island of Sardinia, and one of its battalions was generally in garrison there. Its uniform was white with black velvet facings and gold lace and buttons. During the disastrous war against the French Republic, the Regiment of Sardinia was associated with the Regiment of Guards in the successful defence of the Col d'Anthion. It escaped the fate which overtook the rest of the Piedmontese Army in 1798, owing to its being quartered in the Island of Sardinia, where it acted

¹ The term "fusilier" was used in the Piedmontese, as in the French Army, to signify an ordinary soldier of the battalion companies, not of the grenadiers or chasseurs. In Germany it meant light infantry; and in England it was synonymous with grenadier, the regiments in which all the companies were equipped and dressed as grenadiers being called fusilier regiments. The fusil in France and Piedmont signified the ordinary flint-lock musket; in English it meant a lighter and shorter fire-lock such as was carried by the officers and sergeants of grenadier companies, and latterly by some light infantry regiments.

as a guard to the exiled King, and therefore King Victor Emmanuel I., on his return to Turin, made it a Guard Corps, under the title of Cacciatori Guardie. It continued to have its depôt in Sardinia, and as the conscription had not been extended to the island, it was still recruited by voluntary enlistment, and was incapable of expansion on mobilisation; it was, however, brigaded with the Grenadier Guards, and was finally incorporated with them in 1860, transferring to them its old territorial title.

The Italians had not forgotten the large measure of individual liberty which they had enjoyed under French rule, and in 1820 an agitation for constitutional government was commenced throughout the peninsula. In Piedmont the movement infected the Army, and in 1821 matters came to a crisis between the King and the party of reform. The Regiments of Guards, both Grenadiers and Chasseurs, stood loyal to their Royal master; and three companies of the former were introduced into the citadel of Turin to overawe the garrison, consisting of artillery, engineers, and a battalion of the Line, who were suspected of favouring the Liberal cause. But by a clever piece of treachery the arms of these three companies were sent to the armourer to be stripped, on the very day that the other troops in the citadel mutinied. Some of the non-commissioned officers of the Guards were certainly implicated in the conspiracy, and it was one of their sergeants who slew with his sabre the fort major and a colonel of artillery who attempted to suppress the mutiny. Matters came to such a pass that the Royalists evacuated Turin, and the King abdicated in favour of his brother Charles Felix, who established himself at Novara, where the Guards rallied round him; but the trouble was ended in the usual way by the intervention of an Austrian Army, which put down the constitutional movement and re-established the old state of things.

Charles Felix appointed as his Minister of War the Marquis Philip Paolucci, of Modena, who had been an officer in the Guards during the war against the French Republic, and after the capitulation of the Piedmontese Army had sought his fortune in foreign lands, as did most of his brother officers. He entered the service of Russia and rose to high command; he was at one time Governor of Riga, and commanded a Russian Army which opposed the left wing of *La Grande Armée* under Marshal Macdonald in 1812. He now returned to give the benefit of his talents and experience to his native land, and he applied himself to the task of augmenting the strength and expanding the resources of the Piedmontese Army. In 1830, the King, Charles Felix, died childless, and was succeeded by a distant cousin, Charles Albert, Prince of Carignan, of a collateral branch of the House of Savoy, descended from a son of Emmanuel Philibert, the victor of St. Quentin. He inherited the military instincts of his ancestors, and, moreover, he adopted a liberal policy, and put himself at the head of the Italian national movement, which was destined to raise his dynasty to the throne of a united Italy, and to make their kingdom into a great Power in Europe. He extended the period of service with the colours to two continuous years, and the period of liability to military service from eight to sixteen years, of which half were to be passed in the Active Army and its Reserve, and half in the Militia or Territorial Reserve. He established the cadre of a depôt battalion in each regiment, which was destined to train the recruits, and to feed the field battalions in time of war. He also commenced the custom of

assembling the troops in masses for the practice of manœuvres on a large scale. On his accession some changes were made in the dress of the Army.

The Grenadier Guards now wore a bearskin cap with a gilt grenade in front, and red cords round it with tassels hanging down to their shoulders, without any plume. The white brandebourgs were taken off the coatee, but red woollen wings were added to it. Grey trousers were worn instead of kneebreeches and gaiters. The drum-major and musicians wore huge busbies with blue and white plumes, and red and white busby-bags, blue coatees, richly laced with silver, and crimson trousers with silver stripes. The cymbal players were negroes, dressed in fantastic Turkish costumes. Ten years later the blue coatee was changed to a double-breasted tunic, and the cross-belts were laid aside with the sabre and bayonet that they carried, for a white waist-belt with a sword bayonet.

In 1836, Captain Alessandro Lamarmora, of the Grenadier Guards, formed the first corps of Bersaglieri in the Piedmontese Army, and a sergeant of the Guards, Giuseppe Vayra, was the first man who appeared in the uniform of the new corps for the approval of the King.

In 1838 the colours of the regiment, which had been consecrated by Cardinal Solaro in 1814, being worn out, Her Majesty the Queen Consort, Maria Theresa, embroidered with her own hands new colours for the Grenadier Guards, and these were solemnly consecrated by the Cardinal Archbishop Tadini, at Genoa, where the regiment was then stationed. These were the last blue colours of Savoy borne by the alferi, or ensigns, of the Grenadiers, for in 1848 they were laid aside for the Italian Tricolour, hoisted by King Charles Albert as the signal for all Italians to unite in driving the Austrian foreigner from Italian soil. It is worthy of notice that to every people over whom the French Tricolour had once floated, it served thereafter as the symbol of liberty.

For this campaign, the Brigade of Guards was formed in two mixed regiments; the two battalions of the Grenadiers having become four on mobilisation; the 1st Guards' Regiment was composed of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of Grenadiers and the 1st Battalion of Chasseurs; the second regiment included the 2nd and 4th Battalions Grenadiers, and the 2nd Battalion of Chasseurs. This formation was not satisfactory to the Chasseurs, who complained that the identity of their regiment was lost, by being merged in that of the Grenadiers. As the war went on, Reserve battalions were formed for all the regiments from the men of the Second Reserve, and some of these Reserve battalions were afterwards united to form a third regiment of Guards. After the conclusion of the war, the new regiment was dissolved by the dismissal of the Reserve men to their homes.

The Guards were several times hotly engaged in the brilliant opening of the campaign of 1848; at the combat of St. Lucia they crossed bayonets with and broke a battalion of Italian Grenadiers in the Austrian ranks; at Goito, when the Piedmontese line was broken by the impetuous assault of the enemy, young Victor Emmanuel led the Guards forward to retrieve the day, crying: "Ame le Guardie, per l'onore di Casa Savoia!" At Custozza they captured an Austrian colour, which may now be seen in the Royal Armoury at Turin.

But the King's advance was checked by the fortresses of the Quadrilateral, behind which the old veteran, Field-Marshal Radetsky, awaited his reinforcements; and by the time Peschiera had surrendered, the Austrian Army advanced with superior numbers from

Mantua and Verona. Charles Albert was out-generalled by Radetsky, his Army was outnumbered, the wave of popular enthusiasm was spent, the inevitable re-action set in. The Piedmontese Army fell back through Lombardy as rapidly as it had advanced, and in the next campaign it was reduced to defending its own frontiers against the Austrian invasion. At Novara the Guards were in reserve, and the Grenadiers fired no shot that fatal day; but the Chasseurs were sent forward in a vain attempt to retrieve the lost fight, and suffered heavily. That same night Charles Albert abdicated in favour of his son Victor Emmanuel; King Ferdinand of Naples had quelled the revolution there with the aid of his four regiments of Swiss; the French had sent an Army to replace the fugitive Pope on his throne; and all things went on as before in Italy for ten years more.

But in 1850 the Piedmontese Minister of War announced that the maintenance of ancient prerogatives and exceptional privileges was incompatible with modern political ideals and with the democratic spirit of the age, and that therefore the distinction between Guards and Line was annulled, and the exclusive privileges of the former abrogated. At the same time, along with other military reforms, the numbers of battalions in each regiment of infantry was increased from two to three. The Brigade of Guards of two regiments of Grenadiers and one of Chasseurs of two battalions each was therefore now reformed in two three-battalion regiments with the title of Brigade of 1st and 2nd Regiments of Grenadiers of Sardinia, and this title and formation it has retained to this day.

In 1855 King Victor Emmanuel threw in his lot with the allies against Russia, and sent a Piedmontese Army to the Crimea. One battalion was drawn from each of the twenty infantry regiments of the Army, with five battalions of Bersaglieri and ten batteries of field artillery. The force was organised in 2 divisions of 2 brigades each, and a reserve brigade, each brigade consisting of 4 battalions of the Line, 1 battalion of Bersaglieri, and 2 batteries. The two battalions of the Grenadiers of Sardinia were brigaded with two battalions of Savoy and the 1st Battalion of Bersaglieri and the 1st and 4th Field Batteries, and formed the Reserve Brigade. In that capacity they were present at the battle of the Chernaya, but the Russians were repulsed without their services being called into requisition; however, on their return to Turin, General Cialdini promised them that they should soon be consoled for their disappointment.

And accordingly, in 1859, the Grenadiers gloriously celebrated on the field of battle the 200th anniversary of their regimental formation as the Regiment of Guards of the Grand Duke of Savoy in 1659. King Victor Emmanuel resumed the enterprise of his father, declaring that his sole ambition was to be the first soldier in the army of a united Italy; and the French and Piedmontese troops were once more allied against the Austrians in Lombardy. At Magenta the Grenadiers were in reserve, and the hasty retreat of the enemy gave them no opportunity of joining in the battle; but at Solferino they had a full share in the unsuccessful attack of the Piedmontese Army upon Benedek's corps, strongly posted on the heights of San Martino.

The next year was the *Anno Glorioso* of the accomplishment of Italian unity. Garibaldi and his thousand had landed at Marsala, and had pursued their victorious career till they were face to face with the Bourbon Neapolitan Army on the Volturno. The Pope had raised an army of 20,000 mercenaries and volunteers from all the

Catholic countries of Christendom—Swiss, French, Austrians, Belgians, and Irish—and it was proposed to send it to the help of the King of Naples. Victor Emmanuel and his Minister, Cavour, made this a pretext for invading the Papal States, and the Army of the Church had to face northwards to meet the new foe. In this campaign the Brigade of Grenadiers formed part of the army corps commanded by General della Rocca. They carried the ramparts of Perugia by storm, and received from the King two silver medals with suitable inscriptions to be suspended by blue ribbons from the spear-heads of the colours of the two regiments, to commemorate their valour on this occasion. As the stormers were entering the town, the drum-major of the 2nd Regiment was killed by a shot fired by a priest from the window of his house. The priest was tried by drum-head court-martial, and though there appeared to be some doubt whether he himself had actually fired the fatal shot, he was not given the benefit of the doubt, but was shot the next day.

The Brigade was next employed at the siege of Ancona, in which fortress General Lamorcière and the remnant of the Papal forces had taken refuge after their disastrous defeat at Castelfidardo. The Grenadiers were among the troops who carried the outworks by a vigorous assault, which led to the surrender of the town. From Ancona they proceeded by forced marches to the assistance of the Garibaldians on the Volturno, who could not advance in face of the numbers opposed to them; but on the arrival of the Piedmontese Army the Neapolitan troops evacuated the line of the Volturno and fell back under the guns of Gaeta. Here the advanced brigades of the Piedmontese attacked them without waiting for their main body to come up, and won a brilliant victory at Mola di Gaeta. The Brigade of Grenadiers again signalised itself by its valour on this occasion, and its colours were again decorated by the King: those of the 1st Regiment with a gold medal, and those of the 2nd Regiment with a silver one.

The Piedmontese Army now became the nucleus of the Italian National Army, and the Grenadiers of Sardinia furnished large drafts to form the new brigades of Grenadiers of Lombardy, of Tuscany, and of Naples.

In 1866 the Italians were again upon the war-path, this time to redeem Venice from the power of Austria. The King of Prussia had attacked the Kaiser, and the head of the House of Savoy, with the political astuteness of his race, seized the opportunity to advance the interests of his country. The Italian Army crossed the Mincio, and the Brigade of Grenadiers was hotly engaged all through the disastrous day of Custoza, under the burning sun of an Italian June and the murderous fire of the Austrian artillery. They lost that day 15 officers and 80 men killed, 21 officers and 300 men wounded, and 2 officers and 300 men made prisoners. Three of their officers received gold medals for feats of conspicuous valour done that day.

In 1871, among other changes in the organisation of the Army, mostly prompted by an unavoidable necessity for economy, the designation of Grenadiers was suppressed for the Brigades of Lombardy, Tuscany and Naples, and their regiments were converted into regiments of the Line. The Grenadiers of Sardinia, however, were permitted to retain their old distinction, but all the differences of dress and equipment which had hitherto distinguished the Grenadier corps were abolished; the only difference between their dress and that

of other regiments of infantry now is, that they have a grenade ornament on the "cheppi" or shako, and instead of the red piping of the other regiments, their tunics have scarlet collars and cuffs with a loop of silver lace or white braid on the collar.

The Duke of San Pietro who had raised and commanded the regiment of Sardinia, which afterwards became the regiment of Cacciatori Guardie, left by his will the sum of 100,000 Piedmontese lire to the regiment, the annual interest of which, amounting to about 4,000 lire was to be expended in the maintenance of the band, in dressing the drum-major, in regimental charities, and in the performance of an anniversary service to commemorate the testator. When the Chasseurs of the Guard Regiment were amalgamated with the Brigade of Grenadiers, they brought this bequest with them, and its benefits are still enjoyed by the Grenadiers of Sardinia.

The Brigade is now quartered in Rome where they have a military museum in their barracks containing many objects of interest connected with the life and history of the regiments which compose it; old stands of colours and old arms, uniforms, and badges; pictures illustrating battle scenes in which the regiments took part, and costumes formerly worn; portraits of all the colonels and of many other officers, including four who served as Volunteers in the late Abyssinian campaign, and were killed at Adowa; the cap of an officer pierced by an Austrian bullet; the sword of an Austrian officer killed in single combat by an officer of the Grenadiers; and many other relics and trophies too numerous to mention. There is a marble statue representing a Grenadier throwing his grenade, and the sword-knot of the late King Humbert, presented as a memento to the brigade by his present Majesty, is kept enclosed in a handsome casket as a precious relic of the beloved and lamented monarch.

The 1st and 2nd Regiments of Grenadiers of Sardinia each consists of three battalions of four companies each, and a regimental dépôt company, which is expanded into a dépôt battalion on mobilisation. The strength of each regiment on a peace footing is 60 officers and 1,200 men; on a war footing, 76 officers and 2,800 men.

The history of these ancient and noble regiments is the history of modern Italy; since their first formation in 1659, there has hardly been a war waged or an expedition undertaken in the peninsula but they have played a conspicuous part in it, and they have now been fortunate in finding in Major Domenico Guerrini an historian worthy of their renown. Italy has now enjoyed a long interval of peace; but whoever has seen these fine regiments of Grenadiers of Sardinia on parade or on the march must be convinced that the Italian sword has not rusted in its scabbard.

That they may long continue to wear the laurels gathered on so many fields of battle, and that they may in the future abundantly add to them from fresh fields of fame; must be the prayer of every soldier in Europe.