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OUR EARLY REGIMENTS OF MARINES.

By COLONEL C. FIELD, R.M.L.I.

AUTHORITIES QUOTED.

Luttrel's "Brief Relations of Foreign Affairs."

"Tangers Rescue."

"History of Landguard Fort."—Major J. H. Leslie, R.A.

"History of the Royal Marines."—Colonel L. Edye, R.M.L.I.

"State Papers."—Various.

"Reports of Historical MS. Commission."—Various.

THERE was a great review of troops on Putney Heath on October 1st, 1684, when three troops of Guards, a regiment of Horse Guards, a regiment of Dragoons, and five Infantry battalions were reviewed by the King and Queen, and "The Colestream, my Lord Dumbarton's, and the Admiral's Battalions successively exercised, all three by beat of drum, the military postures of pike, sword, and musket; every man dextrously discharging their duties with an exact and general readiness, to the great delight and satisfaction of their Majesties and Royal Highnesses, vouchsafing all the time of exercise to grace their arms with the honour of their presence."¹

The "Admiral's² Regiment" here referred to must have presented a brilliant, not to say gorgeous, appearance, as we learn that it was

¹ Grosse's "Military Antiquities."

² The Duke of York and Albany, Lord High Admiral of England. *Vide* Note I.

dressed in yellow coats, red breeches and stockings, and wore hats bound with gold-coloured braid.

It had at this time been just twenty years in existence, having been raised in 1664 in compliance with an Order in Council which directed "That twelve hundred Land Souldjers be forthwith raysted, to be in readinesse, to be distributed into his Mats Fleets prepared for Sea Service wch said twelve hundred Men are to be putt into One Regiment Under One Colonell, One Lieutenant Colonell and One Serjeant Major and to be divided into Six Companies, Each Company to consist of Two hundred Souldjers; And to have one Captain, One Lieutenant, One Ensigne, One Drume, Fowre Serjeants, an Fowre Corporalls, and all the Souldjers aforesaid to be armed with good Firelocks; all wch Armes, Drumes and Colours are forthwith to be prepared and furnished out of his Mties Stoares. The care of all which is recomended to the Duke of Albemarle his Grace, Lord Generall of Mats Forces."¹ The Colours borne by this regiment were: for the Colonel, plain yellow; the Lieut.-Colonel, a red St. George's Cross with white edging upon a yellow ground, and the "Major's and the Company's Colour," which bore a cross similar to that upon the Lieut.-Colonel's, but with yellow sun-rays issuing from the angles upon a white ground.

It must be remembered that at this period, and for a number of years afterwards, each company in a regiment carried a Colour, and the field officers each had a company as well as the captains. The reason that yellow was chosen for its uniform and Colours was probably that it was a favourite colour of the Duke of York, for his troop of Life Guards wore yellow velvet belts and ribbands in their hats and had horse furniture of the same colour. Yellow and red were also the colours of the Royal Stuart livery. Possibly the sun-rays upon the company Colours have reference to the Royal badge of the "Sun of York."²

The connection of the Admiral's regiment with the trained bands—from which many of its men were recruited—may have been another reason for the adoption of a yellow uniform. For among the trained bands was a "Yellow Regiment," and at that time regiments were constantly referred to by the colour of their coats—as the "Blues" are to-day.³

¹ Privy Council Register, C.II., Vol. IV., fol. 264.

² "Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this Sun of York."—King Richard III., Act I, Sc. I.

³ Yellow was adopted for the clothing of British troops as far back as the year 1600, since, according to Meteren, those who aided the Dutch at the Battle of Nieuport in that year were all clad in yellow coats.

It may be, too, that the buff coat having established itself as an almost universal military dress by this time, the yellow cloth coats presented a distinctly military appearance in the eyes of the public of that day. And although we think of buff leather as being merely of a yellowish tinge, it is quite possible that it was so prepared in the 16th and 17th centuries as to assume a decided, and, perhaps, brilliant yellow colour.

At any rate the buff coats of various Cheshire officers and gentlemen who defended Chester for Charles I., appear a decided yellow (almost canary), as depicted in a stained glass window in Farndon Church, Cheshire.

Although termed "Land Souldjers" in the Order in Council, it is evident that they were specially raised for service afloat, for in the preamble to the Order it is stated that it was issued "Upon a Report From the Lords the Comttee for the Affayres of his Mat^s Navy Royall and Admiralty." Nor is this the only indication, for, though at this period almost all the few regiments then created constantly embarked for temporary service with the Fleet, none of them were entirely armed with muskets, but, as was then the custom, had a considerable proportion of pikemen in their ranks. Service afloat was evidently not popular, as in 1673 we find the Duke of Buckingham, as Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, attributing the slowness with which he is able to enlist men for the King's Service to "the maliciously disseminated Rumours of the ill-usage of Soldiers afloat." He suggests that he should be authorized to take twenty or thirty men "a-peece" out of the "3 companies of foote that are heere. For they would quickly fill them up againe with men that are willing to ly idle in towne."¹

Their duties in action would be principally to keep up a fire of small arms, and if pikes were ever required there would doubtless be plenty to hand on board, as was the case up till quite a recent date.²

Authorities do not seem altogether clear as to the special reasons which led to the formation of this regiment. Possibly the King, who, as we know, was in pretty close touch with French affairs, remembered the *Vieille-Marine* and *Royal Vaisseau* regiments formed in that country in 1627 and 1635 respectively to guard the ports and "form the garrison³ of the ships," and thought that he could so add a regiment to his small standing Army without incurring the odium which any increase in its numbers was sure to give rise to at that epoch. For so strong and violent was popular feeling against standing armies at that day in this country that its effect has even affected our military forces up to the present time, in that we have our Army, so to speak, on a yearly lease; authority to maintain it only being granted to the Government by the Army Annual Act.

But no such prejudice existed against the Naval Service, and it may well be that Charles determined to take advantage of this fact. There may have been another reason for its creation, and this was the desire to create a more or less permanent corps of officers and men for the Navy. There was no continuous service for the seamen of our Navy until half through the 19th century. When a ship paid off, her crew were discharged—their term of service was for the commission only.⁴ It may have been considered that it would be a good thing for the officers to have something to do on shore between paying-off one ship and commissioning another, and as a number of the

¹ Hist. MS. Commission, 9th Report, Appendix II., p. 449.

² In 1678, in a company of 100 men, the usual proportions were:—
60 Musketeers, 30 Pikemen, 10 Fusileers—armed with a firelock lighter than a musket—a "Fusil."

³ *Vide* Note I.

⁴ *Vide* Note II.

officers of the Maritime Regiment, such as Sir George Rooke, Captain Digby, and Captain George Churchill, afterwards served in command of ships, and even fleets, it seems possible that there was some idea of this kind present when it was decided to make this new departure. At the same time it is only fair to admit that many other officers served afterwards in the Army.

But the question of the supply of naval officers was at this time rather a moot point. There were two classes of officers, those who were good and experienced seamen but not gentlemen ("Tarpaulins"), and those appointed by family or royal interest, who were gentlemen, but had no sea experience and knew very little about their business.

This unsatisfactory and anomalous state of things continued for some time, and the creation of the Admiral's regiment may have been one attempt to remedy it. King Charles made another in 1676, when he instituted what were generally called "King's Letter Boys." These were boys of not over 16, who were to be of good family, and, entering at that comparatively early age, would have a chance of learning their profession properly.

Apparently this system failed, as we find the Marquis of Halifax, writing in 1694,¹ still referring to a popular idea that it was necessary that the officers should consist of an admixture of "Gentlemen and Tarpaulins." He gives it as his opinion that naval officers should all be gentlemen,² but says: "The Gentlemen shall not be capable of bearing office at Sea, except they be Tarpaulins too; that is to say, except they are so trained up by a continued habit of living at sea, that they may have a right to be admitted Free Denizens of Wapping." There is little doubt that he was right in his ideas, but what more than anything else militated against any system in the least approaching perfection was the scandalous custom of those times which permitted a man—or even an infant for that matter—to hold commissions in two or often more branches of the public forces at the same time. It was impossible for him to perform more than a single duty, but he drew pay for all. To quote one example only. In 1678, John Churchill—afterwards Duke of Marlborough—was commanding a brigade in Holland. He had joined the Admiral's regiment with the rank of Captain in 1672, and was now a Lieut.-Colonel in it, while his brother Charles, serving in a line regiment, and his brothers George and Jasper, who were officers in the Navy, all bore marine commissions also.

The new regiment was first quartered at Southampton, except 250 men who were at once embarked. It is probable that these had served before, if not in the regular forces perhaps in the trained bands of the City of London, and so knew something of their duties as soldiers. It would hardly have been worth while embarking absolutely raw recruits. As a matter of fact, it is supposed that the regiment was very largely recruited from the London trained bands—which, by the way, included a yellow regiment—and it is considered to be due to

¹ "A Rough Draft of a New Model at Sea," 1694.

² "A naval officer who is not a gentleman is not a good officer."—Lord Nelson.

this fact that the present corps of Royal Marines enjoys the privilege¹ of marching through the City of London with bayonets fixed, Colours flying, and drums beating. This privilege is shared with the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, the East Kent Regiment (the Buffs), and the Royal London Militia, all of which were originally recruited from the same source. Major Donkin relates² that in 1746, as a "detachment of Marines was beating along Cheapside, one of the magistrates came up to the officer requiring him to cease the drum, as no soldiers were allowed to interrupt the civil repose. The Captain commanding said: 'We are Marines.' 'Oh, Sir,' replied the Alderman, 'I beg pardon; I did not know it. Pray continue your route as you please.'" The descent of the corps from the trained bands is also commemorated by the universal nickname "Jolly" for a Marine. "Tame Jolly" was an old cant name for the citizen soldiers,³ and, according to Admiral Smythe,⁴ "Royal Jolly" was a time-honoured phrase for a Marine in contradistinction to the "Tame Jollies" or Militiamen.

The Admiral's regiment did not long continue at Southampton, as it was split up and distributed by companies not only among the principal seaport towns, but even in such inland places as Huntingdon, Norwich, Taunton, Wells, Salisbury, Windsor, and Tunbridge Wells, not to mention several others. Whether they were so located for recruiting purposes, or to preserve the peace, or for what other reason, does not appear. Possibly it was to facilitate billeting, as there were no barracks in those days—certainly it could not have been with any view to the rapid mobilization of the Fleet. An anecdote in which one of these detachments was concerned has come down to us. Its commanding officer was George Rooke—afterwards better known as Admiral Sir George Rooke, and it was stationed on the coast of Essex—possibly at Tilbury. The company lost so many men from ague that the minister of the place refused to continue burying them unless paid his usual fee. Rooke did not discuss the question with the reverend gentleman, "but the next that died he ordered him to be conveyed to the minister's house and laid upon the table in his great hall; this greatly embarrassed the poor clergyman, who, in the fulness of his heart, sent the Captain word that if he would cause the dead man to be taken away he would nevermore dispute it with him, but would readily bury him and his whole company for nothing."⁵

The Admiral's regiment bore its part in all the fierce naval engagements with the Dutch that took place between 1664 and 1680, battles in which we more nearly met our match at sea than has ever been the case before or since; but as in all accounts of such operations the

¹ Another reason has been suggested for the privilege, i.e., that it originated from Warrants issued by Charles II. to the Marines and other regiments who share it, authorizing them to raise recruits "by beat of drum" within the precincts of the City of London.

² "Military Collections and Remarks," New York, 1777.

³ Grosse's Dictionary of Wit and Slang.

⁴ The Sailor's Word Book.

⁵ "Naval Chronicle."

movements of the squadrons and ships have to be related rather than the doings of the individuals forming their crews, no special deeds of its various detachments have come down to us.

We have, however, an account of the repulse of the Dutch attack on Landguard Fort, near Harwich, which was commanded by Captain Darrell, of the Admiral's regiment. This was in 1667, when Admiral De Ruyter, having withdrawn from the Medway, appeared off the Suffolk coast.

An attack on Harwich had been looked for for some time, and besides the Suffolk trained bands and some detachments of cavalry which were encamped in the neighbourhood, the town and Landguard Fort, commanding the entrance to the harbour, had been garrisoned by six companies of the Admiral's regiment. In Harwich itself were the four companies commanded by Colonel Legge, Sir Chichester Wrey, Sir Charles Lyttelton, and Captain Edward Roscarrock, while the fort was occupied by Captain Darrell and Captain Cartwright with their companies.

The entrance to the harbour was to be blocked by "seven colliers and a ship of 20 guns, all disguised as Men-of-War, with Jack, Ensign and pendant," which were moored between Landguard Fort and Harwich, "with holes cut, ready to be sunk in case of the enemy's approach."

On July 2nd the Dutch Fleet appeared off Landguard, and its ships took up their positions to bombard it from all sides at once. Some of them were placed exactly to windward, so that the smoke of their guns swept along the beach and so covered the landing of their troops from the sight of the Marines in the fort. Captain Silas Taylor—the Keeper of the King's store at Harwich—saw the whole attack from the Dovercourt Cliffs, and the next day despatched the following account of it to Whitehall:—

"It was judged that the eight Dutch ships who sent such clouds of smoke upon the Fort out of the Rolling Grounds¹ were merely for that purpose. That they landed about Filstow² Cliffs above 2,000 men, I have reason to believe from my own guess. The Suffolk forces came to them in inclosures (viz., close order) about 4 of the clock, or 5. They spared about 400 or 500, relieved from the Main Body (that stood near the place they landed, with a strong body of pikes, which I plainly saw), to assault the forces above the hill, and with them 2 or 3 drakes,³ with which they maintained the lanes and hedges; so that the Earl of Suffolk got his ground of them in a manner but by inches, because his horse were excluded from the service.

"In the mean, a party of 300 or 400, or more, ran along the beach, in the smoke that the ships from the Rolling Ground had made, up to Landguard Fort, with scaling ladders painted,⁴ of about 20 feet long or more, hand granadoes, etc. They came briskly up, with their cutlasses drawn upon their arms, and their muskets, and came up

¹ The part of the sea just south of Landguard Point.

² i.e., Felixstowe.

³ Small cannon firing shot of about 3 lbs. weight.

⁴ (?) "Planted."

close to the Fort, whose reception to them, when discovered, was as brisk. This assault, with a continued playing of small shot, lasted about half an hour, and they were repulsed. They had got under the sand banks, which our Galliot hoy and the 'Lennox'¹ and the 'Truelove'² played upon from the water, and waited their motion, and they discerned them at this assault about 5 of the clock in the afternoon, dragging off their dead. About an hour after they tried again, but were presently discouraged, and in great disorder ran away, leaving some of their ladders, their hand granadoes, and a case of very handsome pistols; and as the ships saw them within the fort in the Salt Road, they bestowed upon them a bullet welcome.

"About 9 of the clock all was silent, and they, drawn to their body about Filstow Cliff (their boats being on ground, which caused them to stand their ground the longer), and being pressed on by the Earl of Suffolk had as much to do to keep themselves from disorder, especially could the horse but have come at them at that began (*sic*) in the woods above the cliff, about 11 of the clock at night, and lasted till about 2 in the morning; at what time, the water floating their boats, they got off to their ships, who about 6 this morning, were all under sail, and now out of sight, by reason they are shut from us by Filstow Cliff, being in Ouseley Bay; but yet, now and then, I think I hear some of their guns."

Writing again the day following, Captain Silas Taylor adds:—

"I have only this to add to Tuesday's account: that Captain Darrell, Governor of the Fort of Landguard, was wounded by a musket shot in the shoulder, but not dangerously. That towards the evening, there was sent over a strong party of several hundreds of men hence to the other side of the water, under the command of Major Legg,³ who were very welcome to the Earl of Suffolk, but the enemy were drawn off before they could come to them. Several boats laden with dead men were seen by several to put off from the shore."

The *London Gazette* of July 1st-4th that year gives the following account of the attack on Landguard:—

"At daybreak on the following day (July 2nd) they weighed, and having proceeded to the northward for some time, tacked and again stood to the south, passing the Ness towards Harwich at about 7 a.m.

"About 1 o'clock their Fleet, consisting of 47 sail with their Attenders, stood within half cannon shot of the shore towards Filstow Cliffe but out of reach of Landguard Fort, leaving 5 of their number at the Sledway; and then, manning out their boats, landed about 3,000 men at the cliff with a great stand of pikes. Near 2,000 of them marched up and made two assaults upon Landguard Fort, where they were stoutly entertained, and after three quarters of an hour's dispute in the first assault, and about a quarter of an hour's only in the second, they were forced to retire in such haste, that they left their

¹ A privateer commanded by Captain Thomas Holmes.

² A sixth-rate 16-gun frigate, with a crew of 75 men. Commanded by Captain Langley.

³ Of the Admiral's regiment.

ladders all behind them, scarcely being able to carry off their dead which is judged to be about 150 at the least. In this day's service we lost only 3 or 4 men, and as many hurt, with Captain Darrell, who has received a wound in the shoulder."¹

One of these ladders is still in the possession of Mr. Darrell-Blount, of Calehill, Kent, and bears the following inscription:—

"This Scaling Ladder forms part of a trophy of Major Darrell, who, during the Second Dutch War of the time of Charles II., A.D. 1667, in a Sally from Landguard Fort, drove off the Dutch under Admiral De Ruyter."

Though, as we have already said, we cannot expect to find much information about the special doings of the regiment in the naval battles with the Dutch, yet here and there we pick up a crumb which witnesses that they fully "pulled their pound." For instance, Captain Silas Taylor, writing of the Battle of Solebay, says: "Those marines of whom I soe oft have wrote to you behaved themselves stoutly."² The regiment lost no less than four of its captains in this action, besides three subalterns.

Sir Charles Lyttleton, at that time Colonel-in-Command, writes as follows: "The Duke lost 4 of his Capts in ye battle, I meane of his Regiment; and has put in theyre places Mr. Bagot, Lady Falmths brother, my br George, Vaughan's Lt, old Cornwall of ye House of Commons, and Mr. Churchill that was ensigne to ye King's Company. Poore Thom. Bromley was in ye 'Rll James.' His ensign was soe, but wth swimming at least an hower and more, at last was taken up and is well; only his head a little burnt and his mouth hurt; his name Wilson."³

News arriving in the autumn of 1676 that disturbances had broken out in the Colony of Virginia on account of the imposition of taxes which the colonists regarded as unjust, a provisional battalion, a thousand strong, drawn from the Guards, the Admiral's, and the Holland regiments, was formed and placed under the command of Captain Herbert Jeffreys, of the 1st Foot Guards, who was given the rank of Lieut.-Colonel. The Marines contributed a company, or rather the nucleus of one, which was to be raised to full strength by special recruiting. Captain Charles Middleton went in command. Two subalterns accompanied him, and the company was provided with a Colour, which is described as follows: "The field white waved with lemon equally mixt with ye Red Crosse quite through with J.D.Y. in cypher in gold."⁴

After a stay of nearly two years in Virginia, during which time it was engaged in no active service, the battalion was recalled. Some men seem to have remained as colonists, and twenty men of the Admiral's regiment remained another year, possibly as nucleus of a local military force.

¹ *Vide* Note III.

² S.P. Dom. Ca. II., B.310.

³ Hatton Correspondence. Vol. I., pp. 89-92. *Vide* also Note IV

⁴ H.O. Dom Entry Book, Vol. CLXIII., fol. 229.

It would appear that the Admiral's regiment, or Duke's regiment, as it was by this time generally called, was one of the first regiments to have a Grenadier company. Grenades had been in use for something like a century, and in 1652 a demand was made for a supply of these missiles to the Navy at a cost of 2s. 6d. each. But it was not till 1670 that a regular Grenadier company was formed in the French Army. In April, 1678, orders were given to form eighty men of the Duke's regiment, who had just returned from Virginia, into a Grenadier company. Evelyn, in his *Memoirs*, gives the following description of the first appearance of this new class of troops:—

"Returned with my Lord (Lord Chamberlaine) by Hounslow Heath where we saw the new-raised army encamp'd, design'd against France, in pretence at least, but which gave umbrage to Parliament.

"His Majesty and a world of company were in the field, and the whole army in battalia, a very glorious sight. Now were brought into service a new sort of soldiers call'd Granadiers, who were dextrous in flinging hand granados, every one having a pouch full; they had furr'd caps with coped crowns like Janizaries, which made them look very fierce, and some had long hoods hanging down behind¹ as we picture fools. Their clothing being likewise pyebald, yellow and red." The last sentence might certainly be taken as indicating that these "Granadiers" belonged to the Duke's regiment, since yellow and red were the especial colours of their uniform.

Tangier at this period belonged to the English Crown, being a wedding gift to Charles II. on his marriage with Catherine of Braganza. In 1680 the British garrison was hard pressed by the Moors. Four of the outlying redoubts had been taken, and the Governor, Sir Palmes Fairborne, was only too glad to obtain a four-months' truce. On news of this reaching England, it was determined to send out reinforcements at once, and, as in the case of the Virginia Expedition, a provisional battalion was formed by drawing companies from various regiments.

The Duke's Marines, of course, supplied one which was provided with a special Colour at a cost of fifteen guineas and sixpence, and which is supposed to have been somewhat like that carried in Virginia, but was adorned with no less than eighteen cyphers instead of one.

It seems probable that the regiment was further represented by the Marines from the Fleet up "the Streights," which co-operated in the fighting and landed a naval brigade under the command of Admiral Herbert, which without doubt must have included Marines as well as seamen.² The brigade, on landing, had been exercised "by an expert

¹ The Janisaries do not appear to have worn furred caps, but they wore a cap called a Zarcola, with a long strip of felt hanging down from the back as a protection against sword-cuts. Tradition asserts that this was emblematic of the sleeve of Hadji-Bekdash, a Moslem saint, who, when about to die, tore it off, and placing it on the head of a soldier, prophesied that its wearers should become the chief protectors of the Sultans.

² In some accounts they are spoken of as "seamen," in others as "Marines" and others "seamen and Marines."

old Souldier, Captain Barclay,"¹ who was appointed Major to it—received a rousing address from the Admiral and acquitted itself with such determination and bravery "that even 'the noble Admiral this age not producing a finer' was constrained in the first fight to rebuke Captain Barclay 'for suffering too forward and furious advancement, lest thereby they might fall in the enemy's ambushments.' Captain Barclay replied that 'he could lead them on, but the furies could not bring them off.'"²

The provisional (or King's) battalion landed on July 2nd, and included "a hundred and twenty of the Duke's regiment, under the command of a modest young gentleman, Captain Fawtry,"³ but it was not till September 20th that a general attack was made upon the lines of the Moorish besiegers, resulting in the capture and destruction of the most advanced of them. Fighting went on from day to day till October 26th, when the whole available British force moved out to attack the immensely superior army of the Moors which outnumbered it by 12,000 men. In spite of this disparity the British, aided by the guns of the Fleet, completely defeated the enemy, inflicting upon them a loss of 2,000 men. The Moors now judged it advisable to ask for a truce, and while the preliminaries of peace were being discussed, Captain Fawtry was handed over to them as a hostage.

It was at this time customary to call regiments by the names of their commanding officers, a practice which is somewhat a thorn in the side of historians. In accordance with this custom, when on the Duke of York becoming King James II., in 1685, his Marine regiment was handed over to Prince George, Hereditary Prince of Denmark, it became known by his name. In the following year, possibly because the Prince's taste in "fancy waistcoats" did not coincide with that of his predecessor in command, the men of the Marine regiment were clad in red coats, with yellow facings, dark grey breeches, and white stockings. When the Prince of Orange was advancing on London he sent orders to the regiment to go out of the way to Huntingdon, which direction was apparently complied with. Early in the next year it was disbanded.⁴ Some of its N.C.O.s and men were sent over to Holland and incorporated in the Coldstream Guards, then serving in that country, while its Colonel, Prince George of Denmark, was given the command of the Holland regiment (Bufs), which, according to custom, was known by his name during his term of command.

But the Marines had proved themselves too valuable not to be replaced, and in 1690 orders were issued for the formation of two large regiments of fifteen companies each—200 men to a company.⁵ The commands were given to the Earls of Torrington and Pembroke, and, as was the case in the regiment whose place they took, they were to be "all fuzillers without pikes." It does not seem quite

¹ "Tangers Rescue," p. 4.

² "Tangers Rescue," p. 8, and Edye's Hist. R.M.

³ "Tangers Rescue."

⁴ *I*vide Note V. King James' Irish Marines.

⁵ *I*vide Note VI.

clear what uniform these regiments actually wore,¹ but it was intended in the first place that "their clothes are to be blew lined with white, and to have Grenadeers' caps."² The first important engagement in which these new Marines took part was the battle with the French off Beachy Head in June, 1690, in which they must have suffered severely if the following return of losses to arms and equipment in a single company (that commanded by Captain Mitchell) is any criterion. This detachment, or the bulk of it, was on board the "Anne." It lost :—

" Firelock Musq ^{ts}	...	...	...	...	...	68
Bayonets	...	...	...	...	...	114
Cartouch Boxes	...	...	...	...	...	131
Hatchets	...	...	...	...	...	56
Granador Pouches	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drums	...	...	...	...	...	3" ³

The siege of Cork saw both regiments again in action. The fighting began on September 21st, when the Fleet, entering Queens-town Harbour, was fired on by an eight-gun battery near the entrance, which, after being subjected to a few broadsides, was captured by three boatloads of "Stout fellows who, by thick firing, obliged the enemy to quit their guns."

It is more than probable, from their selection for boat service and their evident facility in the use of their weapons, that these "stout fellows" were Marines. Wednesday, the 24th, saw the disembarkation of the Naval Brigade before Cork, which consisted of 600 seamen and Marines, with as many carpenters and gunners as could be spared from the fleet to assist in the construction of the siege works.

Whether the two Marine regiments specially detailed for the expedition were landed separately with the rest of the Army, or whether they were represented by detachments in the naval brigade does not seem to be anywhere stated, but it is related that both seamen and Marines distinguished themselves on this occasion by the readiness and cheerfulness with which they hauled along the heavy guns for the breaching batteries in the face of the opposition from the rebel Irish.

A Lieutenant Townsend, who, it seems extremely probable, was an officer belonging to the 1st Marines, and four of his men, performed excellent service as marksmen from the top of a tall round tower in the churchyard of the Cathedral of St. Finne Barre, which overlooked Fort Elizabeth, the most important of the defences of the city. He himself is said to have picked off Colonel O'Neil, the commandant of the fort, as he was directing his guns.

¹ "Rd. White, Sergt., a tall lusty fat man in a red coat with Pewter Buttons. John Fleming, Sergt. . . . in a Red Coat with blue Loops."—In notices published later of deserters from Marines. From a similar notice we find that in 1694 the 2nd Marines wore "Red lined with Green and Green Waistcoats."—Edye's Hist. R. Marines.

² Luttrell—"Relation of State Affairs," Vol. II., p. 20.

³ Vide Note VII.

About this time there was a great deal of discussion as to the proper position and duties of the two Marine regiments. It was thought by many people that they should serve as "nurseries for the fleet," so that 'the King may draw one hundred and fifty able seamen yearly out of each Regiment to encrease the stock of that useful people.'¹ The writer of this suggestion goes on to say: "It may be added to what has been said of the usefulness of the said Regiment that the whole body of seamen on board the Fleet, being a loose collection of undisciplined people,² and (as experience shews) sufficiently inclined to mutiny, the Marine Regiments will be a powerful check to their disorders, and will be able to prevent the dangerous consequences that may thence result to their Majesty's service."

The writer, from this and his further remarks, evidently had some idea that from the Marine regiments there might gradually be recruited a corps of continuous service seamen, by the selection of the most suitable men for the purpose who, "when the Grand Fleet shall be laid up," would always be instantly available to fit out and mobilize the extra ships required upon an emergency. It was by no means a bad idea if it could have been worked, but it did not turn out a success.

The Marines, however, both at that time and for a century later, were often the only men to hand to commence the fitting and rigging of ships brought forward for service,³ their seamen having to be collected and enlisted for the commission, which of course took more or less time. The Admiralty probably had some idea of this kind as regards their officers also, for such large numbers of them were embarked in some of our men-of-war between this and the end of the century that it is evident that they must have had some special work other than military to do on board.⁴ This is borne out by the fact that so many of them were naval officers in command of ships at some period of their service. The writer above quoted proposed further "that the said Regiments may have the arms, and be formed to the exercise of Grenadiers, which seems the most proper and agreeable to their constitution; for it is apparent that hand-Grenades would be of admirable effect on many occasions at Sea, and it is visible how useful they would be, as to other purposes, so particularly against the approaches of the Horse in the country of an Enemy."

In September, 1692, detachments were drawn out of the two Marine regiments to go with Colonel Faringdon's regiment to Jamaica, and in November Colonels Lillington and Norcutts were also sent to that island with 100 Marines. At the same time 500 were sent to Admiral Russell, presumably for duty afloat.

On February 14th, 1694, the following order was issued to the officers commanding the Marine regiments: "You are also Required to

¹ S.P. Dom. King William's Chest. B. 8. (September to December, 1690.)

² Vide Note VIII. at end of chapter.

³ Vide Note IX. at end of chapter.

⁴ Vide Note X.

cause your men to be frequently Exercised at the Great Guns for the better Instructing them in that matter."¹

After a service of eight years the two Marine regiments then commanded by the Marquis of Caermarthen and Sir Clowdisley Shovell underwent a considerable transformation. By an order of July 18th, 1698, the two, which must have been considerably reduced in numbers, were combined into one and placed under the command of Colonel Thomas Brudenall, and at the same time the three infantry regiments commanded by Colonels Edward Dutton Colt, William Seymour, and Henry Mordaunt, were turned into Marine regiments and placed upon the naval establishment. These four regiments had each of them a strength of 754 officers, N.C.O.s and men, so that the whole four of them together were barely stronger than one of the original regiments whose place they took.

Like the previous Marine regiments, the new establishment was made the subject of various attacks by the pamphleteers of the day, and the transference of three of them from the line gave one of their most virulent assailants the pretext for alleging that "Their Land Methods have mightily interfered with the Navy Rules, and introduced pernicious Notions into the Fleet Officers, such as Mis-ratings, false musters, and other Abuses which the Sea-Officers formerly were ignorant of." Poor innocent sea-officers, to be led astray by the "bold bad soldiery"! Had all of them entered the Service since the year 1668, when that monarch who "never said a foolish thing but never did a wise one," remarked to the Duke of York: "If ever you intend to man the fleete without being cheated by the Captains and Pursers, you may only go to bed and resolve never to have it manned."²

As a matter of fact the naval and military officers of those times were no better or worse than each other or than other people in their station of life. It requires but a short study of contemporary literature to see that most of them had their price, and all were "on the make"—generally dishonestly. However this may have been, the attacks on the Marine regiments, instigated most likely by the idea that if replaced by seamen the standing forces of the Crown would be so many the weaker, appear to have been temporarily effective, for at the close of the century it was decided to disband them. This was accordingly done, though considerable difficulty seems to have been experienced by the Admiralty in raising enough money to pay them off, so much in arrears had their pay been allowed to get.

NOTES.

NOTE I.—*French Marine Regiments*.—The quotation is from M. Loir's "*La Marine Française*." There were four regiments of Marines raised in France between 1627 and 1719. The following table, taken from "A List of the Forces

¹ Admiral Fairfax's Order Book, 1694-1706. This is the first recorded connection of the Marines with naval gunnery. Luttrell, however, records the raising of twenty-five *Bombardeers* and fifty *Gunners* for service on board the Bomb Vessels in 1694.

² Pepys' Diary, March 18th, 1668.

of the Sovereigns of Europe," published by J. Millan in 1761, gives a few particulars of these corps:—

	Raised.	Strength.	Uniform.	Facings.
6th ...	(Picardie) "La Marine," 1627 ...	4 Battalions	White	Blue
26th ...	"Royal Vaisseau," 1635 ...	3 "	White	Red
43rd ...	(Vermandois) "Royal Marine," 1669 ...	1 Battalion	White	Red
119th ...	"Swiss Marines," 1719 ...	1 "	?	?

Switzerland—a perfectly land-locked country—seems a curious place from which to recruit "Sea-Soldiers."

On December, 24th, 1669, Robert Montagu wrote to Lord Arlington from Paris that "They are as forward in raising troops here as they be (in) Holland. There is an order for raising 2 Regts. of Foot, the Regiments d'Anjou and Vermandois, both of 3,000 men apiece, besides a Company of 150 Cheveux Legers of M. d'Anjou, chosen out of the best of the old horse of other regiments, and a Company of 300 men, 200 whereof are to be gentlemen of quality, and 100 soldiers of fortune, that are to be called the Admiral's Guard, which are always to be upon the Admiral or Vice-Admiral, and out of these the King intends always to choose his Sea-Officers."

"Besides there is to be 3 Regiments of 3,000 men apiece, all seamen; 2 of the regiments the King will allow to serve in merchantmen, and 3,000 are always to be ready at home for his own service, and they shall relieve one another; one year they serve the King, and the other they have the liberty to serve in merchantmen, but all are listed as the King's soldiers."¹

The "Vermandois" was absorbed in the Army, 1671. Other Marine regiments came into being in 1685, which were known as "*Compagnies franches de la Marine*" (1690)—"*Régiments pour le service des colonies d'Amérique*" (1772)—"*Corps Royal d'Infanterie de Marine*" (1774). During the Napoleonic period there was a Marine Artillery Corps and also the "*Marins de la Garde*," who took a distinguished part in the campaigns in Germany and the retreat from Moscow. But these men were actually seamen put into a military uniform and drilled as soldiers. At the Restoration the "*Corps Royal d'Infanterie de Marine*" was re-instituted. In 1831 they became the "*Régiments de Marine*," and in 1838 the present "*Corps d'Infanterie de Marine*" was established. This has grown to considerable proportions and does not now embark for sea service, but has become a Colonial Army.

NOTE II.—*A Suggestion for a Marine Corps submitted to Charles II. by Sir Bernard Gascoigne.*—The following extract from a letter written to Charles II. by Sir Bernard Gascoigne is of interest. Sir Bernard was an Italian by birth and education, though a member of an ancient English family. He was a professional soldier, who had served under the Duke of Tuscany and had also distinguished himself in the Civil War in England. The letter is undated, but from a reference to the Dutch at Chatham must have been written subsequent to 1667. This is curious, since it almost seems to suggest a corps closely resembling the Admiral's regiment already in existence. Its officers took their own companies to sea with them, and often took command of ships as naval officers:—

"And because from the faithfulness of the seamen in time of rebellion can depend a very great benefit, being well affected, or a great ruine by being mutinous or of a contrary faction (as in the late rebellion experience did demonstrate to us), I judg a thing of a vast importance to raise some foote companies, under the name of Companies of the Sea (as they have done in France under the name of the *Régiment de Marina*), for the use of the sea, each company consisting in 150 soldiers, all mariners by profession, or at least young fellows, fitt to make a seaman, all unmarried if possible will be, which being kept in a constant pay are to be instructed in managing musketts and pikes.

¹ Hist. MS. Com. (Duke of Buccleuch's MS.), Vol. I., p. 456.

"To every one of these Companies is to be chosen for a Captain, one valiant, faithfull sea commander fit to command a Man-of-Warr, the same company one Lieutenant is to be chosen, a good foot officer, and likewise some sergeants for the same company, that have served in the foot, that this Lieutenant and Sergeants shall exercise the company when they are at leisure, in the management of the armes, and the good effect of all this will be that, whensoever His Majesty will send out a Man-of-Warr, the command of the same is to be given to one of these Captaines of the Marina, which having in his ship his owne company and his owne officers, whatsoever more pressed or voluntary marriners are upon the same, having 150 marriners of his owne faithfull to him he is sure to be able to hinder any rebellion, that the other marriners could raise, and be sure master at alle times of his owne ship, in case of civill warrs, and what I speake of one Man-of-Warr, I speake of all the others.

"And in my judgment I thinke it necessary at present to raise 20 such Companies of 150 marriners each one, which will amount to 3,000 in all, and that the same companies are to be commanded by the best, loyall and bravest sea-captaines of the kingdome.

"And to give a demonstration, that these twenty companies of seamen will very little or nothing encrease His Majesty's charges of the Navy, which he is att present obliged to doe, I say:—

"That very seldome or never happens, that for divers occasions his Majesty has not twenty Men-of-Warr at sea, upon which he employing the twenty Captaines and the twenty Companies will by experience find, that the expence will amount to the same or to very little more than that the Navy att this present cost to his Majesty; and from the establishment of these twenty Companies, His Majesty must have this important benefitt, videlicet, to be certaine in case of tumult or rebellion that all the shippes of Warr that are at sea are truely and faithfullly att his service, because being armed with honest loyall marriners and faithfull captaines, is not to be feared any rebellion amongst them, whatsoever the rest of the kingdome was in armes.

"The command of these twenty Companies are not to be given by favour or by money given to anybody, but to such Captaines, that by their personall valour and affection towards the present government doe deserve it, neither to be sold from one to one another, as they doe in the infantry, but to be given gratis by His Majesty on election."—F. Hist. MS. Commission, 15th Report, Appendix, Part II.

There is extant a letter from the Duke of Albemarle to the Commissioners of H.M. Ordnance, dated April 15th, 1667,¹ in which he asks to be delivered "30 pikes, 60 muskets with collars of bandoliers with broad belts and thirteene fire-locks, 2 halberts, one partisan, and 2 drums" to Sir Robert Holmes, Knt., and the like numbers of muskets, collars of bandoliers, halberts, drums, and one partisan "to Captain Robert Cooke, for the use of 2 *new Companies* which his Majesty has been pleased to add to the Duke's regiment of his Majesty's Foot Guards, and 'which companies' are to be commanded respectively by the aforesaid Sir Robert Holmes and Captain Robert Cooke."—As neither of these officers appear in the rolls of the Duke's (Marine) regiment as given in Colonel Edye's "History of the Royal Marine Forces," and Holmes was a Captain in the Royal Navy and the Coldstream Guards, and, as the arms to be supplied differed from those the Duke's "Yellow coats" carried, which were *all* fire-locks, it seems *possible* that this was an experiment on the lines suggested by Sir Bernard Gascoigne, for though his letter must have been written afterwards, he had probably before advocated the same system, either verbally or in writing.

NOTE III.—The following is a letter from Captain Darell to his "honoured Friend, Joseph Williamson, Esqre., Secretary to the Right Honble. my Lord Arlington," written as soon as he was able to use his wounded arm:—

"SIR,—If I had my arme as much at libertie as I could wish you should not have prevented me with your letter by which you have very much obliged me. I shall studie on all occasions to deserve so great a favour. I hope you

¹ Hist. MS. Comm., 15th Report, Appendix II., p. 307.

will excuse me for my giving you so early an intelligence as those of Harwich who were spectators. I shall not trouble you at present with reiterating unto you the passages that happened here being. I have acquainted my Lord Arlington with it. I shall be very careful in giving you notice of anything that shall happen in these parts, with this assurance (although by another hand for which I hope you will excuse me); that of all those that make profession of being your servant, none shall be with greater truth than myselfe.

"Sir, Your most humble servant,

"NATHL. DARELL."

NOTE IV.—*Battle of Sole Bay*.—Captain Carleton, in his Memoirs, states that he was present at this action on board the "London," and relates the following dreadful story: "I must not omit one very remarkable occurrence which happened in this ship (the 'Katherine').¹ There was a gentleman aboard her, a volunteer, of a very fine estate, generally known by the name of Hodge Vaughan. This person received, in the beginning of the fight, a considerable wound, which the great confusion during the battle would not give them leave to inquire into, so he was carried out of the way, and disposed of in the hold. They had some hogs aboard, which the sailor, under whose care they were, neglected to feed; these hogs, hungry as they were, found out and fell upon the wounded person, and, between dead and alive, eat him up to his very skull, which, after the fight was over, and the ship retaken as before, was all that could be found of him."

It seems more than possible that the victim of this dreadful affair was Captain Roger Vaughan, of the Admiral's regiment. This officer may well have been a man of "a very fine estate," as he had been Governor of Chepstow Castle, and at the time of his death was a gentleman of His Royal Highness's Bedchamber. Captain Carleton does not say his name was Hodge, but that that is what he was generally known by—it may well have been a nick-name. Although Captain Vaughan's Company was distributed in detachments in the "Antelope," "Triumph," and "Ruby," he himself was killed on board the "Katherine," as Major Darell, his brother officer, writes on May 28th, "Roger Vaughan lies dead on board the 'Katherine.'"

NOTE V.—*King James II.'s Irish Marines and their French Representatives of To-day*.—It is not generally known that King James II., after King William and the Duke of Marlborough had brought their campaign in Ireland to a victorious conclusion, raised—among other troops—a regiment of Marines which, strange to say, is to-day represented by the 88th Regiment of the French line. From the remnant of his Irish troops which had followed him into exile in France, he, with the assistance of the French Government, formed a little army consisting of four cavalry, eight infantry regiments, a Royal Bodyguard, and three "Free Companies." The first infantry regiment was "The Royal Regiment of Foot Guards"; the second, "The Queen's Regiment of Foot Guards"; while third on the list came "The Marines," commanded by Henry Fitz-James, Duke of Albemarle, generally referred to as "The Lord Grand Prior." The "Marines" were, apparently, Marines in name only, since King James had no ships upon which to embark them, and they were generally known as the Regiment of "Albemarle." The Lieut.-Colonel was Nicholas Fitz-Gerald; the Major, Edmond O'Madden. There were 12 Captains, 24 Lieutenants, 24 Sub-Lieutenants, 14 Ensigns, and the regiment was 1,200 strong. It was divided into two battalions, each consisting of six companies of 100 men. The other infantry regiments were of equal strength, and the whole force was reviewed by King James at Vannes in 1692, and subsequently by Louis XIV. of France at Brest. It is rather curious that, though the Irish troops had worn grey in the Irish campaign, they now insisted in being clad in red, the distinctive British colour. The regimental organization as settled by King James did not fit in with the French system, and it was eventually decided that each battalion should consist of sixteen companies of fifty men apiece, with three officers, eight N.C.O.s, one trumpeter, and one drummer. Thus the battalion contained forty-eight

¹ The "Katherine" was the only ship lost by the English, but her crew rose against their captors, regained possession of her, and brought her back to the British Fleet.

commissioned and 128 non-commissioned officers and thirty-two musicians, who were required to be shoemakers and tailors as well as forming the regimental band.

The "Marines," or "Albemarle's," fought with great distinction—as did the rest of the Irish Brigade—in France, Spain, Savoy, and Piedmont, till they had suffered such severe losses that in 1698 it became necessary to reduce the establishment and reorganize the whole force. The cavalry formed a single regiment only. The infantry, which, including an earlier Irish Brigade in the French service, amounted to twenty-six strong battalions, was reduced to eight regiments of 700 men each. In the new organization there was only one Guard regiment, which now stood fourth on the list, the "Marines" becoming the fifth regiment, and being still known as "Albemarle's." In 1702 the Brigade lost one of its regiments, "Burke's"—originally "The Regiment of Athlone," which was allowed to join the Spanish Army. In 1715 the "Marines" were incorporated with the Lee and Clare regiments and lost their special identity, the combined regiment being generally known as "Clare's," and which achieved a splendid record. Sixty years later, in 1775, "Clare's" was again combined with "Berwick's," and the name disappeared. "Berwick's," in 1791, had two battalions, the 1st being quartered at Besançon, the 2nd in St. Domingo. The regiment was now in reality more French than Irish, and at this time was the 13th of the Line. At the present day it is the 88th Regiment, though it still bears the sub-title of "*Le Régiment de Berwick*." Upon its Colours it bears the names of the Battles of Sediman, 1798; Austerlitz, 1805; Wagram, 1809; and La Moskowa, 1812. It particularly distinguished itself at Wagram, where it stormed the Austrian entrenchments at the point of the bayonet and completely routed their defenders. The Colours of the old "Berwick" regiment were green with the St. George's Cross with a white edge, and a narrow red St. Andrew's cross below it—probably the Saltire of the FitzGerald, which appears in our Union Jack. In the centre was a golden harp with a crown on either arm of the cross. Other crowns appeared on each corner of the flag which bore the motto: "*In hoc signo vinces*."

NOTE VI.—On September 12th, 1672, it was announced that a "Marine Regiment," of which Prince Rupert was to be Colonel, was to be raised for service in the fleet. Commissions as Captains were issued to the following gentlemen: Richard Le Neve, Sir Roger Strickland, John Berry, Thomas Chamberlaine, Sir William Jennings, Sir William Reeves, John Narborough, and Napthali Ball, and, as Captain-Lieutenant, to James Story. As beyond this no trace of the regiment exists, it is probable that this was another attempt to create a corps of naval officers, for everyone of them served afloat and most commanded ships. One, Sir Roger Strickland, became a most distinguished Admiral. Story, Strickland, and Reeves were specially mentioned by Prince Rupert for their conduct in the battle with the Dutch on May 28th. Sir William Reeves "brought up a Fireship, and layd himself to Leeward of Trump, and if the Captain of the Fireship had done his duty, Trump had certainly burnt." Sir William Jennings went over to France when James II. abdicated, and entering the French Navy, served in the battle off Beachy Head, June 30th, 1690.

NOTE VII.—*The Drums and Fifes*.—Drummers are a very old military institution. "Six Drumes" were issued for the use of the "Admiral's Regiment" on its formation in 1664. A MS. written about this period, or probably a few years later, by one Ralph Smith, lays down that "All capitaines must have drommes and fifes and men to use the same, who should be faithful, secrette, and ingenious, of able performance to use their instruments and office, and of sundrie languages, for often they bee sent to parley and to summon the enemy's fforts or townes, or divers other messages which, of necessitie, requireth languages." The fifers, it may be noted, were formerly called "whiffers." The following warrant indicates that the Marine regiments at the end of the 17th Century had a rudimentary band: "1693-4, March 22nd. Warrant, under the hand and seal of John Mawgridge, Esqre, His Majesty's Drum Major Generall, 'To presse or cause to be impressed from time to time, such numbers of Drums, Fifes, and Hoboyes as shall be necessary for His Majesty's service either by sea or land,' whereby Captain William Prince, of their Majesties' first Mareen Regiment, commanded by the

Rt. Hon. the Earl of Danby (afterwards the Marquis of Caermarthen), is appointed the lawfull deputy of the aforesaid Drum Major Generall, 'to impress two Drums and two Hoitboys (*sic*) for the service of his company in the aforesaid regiment': the said Captain being, however, expressly forbidden by the warrant 'to impress the listed Drums to the Trained Bands, as by a special order from His Majestie one Drum is allowed to each Company thereof this time of Warr.'—From Historical MS. Commission, 10th Report, Appendix, Part IV., p. 333.

NOTE VIII.—*Discipline Afloat in 1665*.—Of discipline, there was probably none, for Mr. Hosier, writing from Gravesend, says, referring to the "Loyall Katherine," "I desired the boatswain to call up the men (but he was sitting in his Cabbin and giving out pinte glasses of strong waters to the men, as I understood, for 12d. each), and he informed mee that hee could not find his men, there being such a thrung of men. I then went to one of the Sergts and desired him to comnd his owne company of Soldrs to muster, which accordingly hee did."—Edye's "History of the Royal Marines."

NOTE IX.—Sir William Coventry, writing from the "Royal Charles," dated April 13th, 1665, says: "The old soldiers wch have been allotted to the fleet have done wonderful good service toward the manning them, the Commanders being desirous to change those whoe goe under the name of Seamen for those Soldiers but of the new Rayseed men they are all afraid."

The services of the old soldiers in the fitting-out of the fleet seem to have been invaluable. Sir William says: "Three merchant ships have come in poorly manned, but the old soldiers supply the defect of men; from the new raised ones the commanders pray to be delivered."—Edye's "History of the Royal Marines."

NOTE X.—*Complements of Marine Officers Embarked in 1695*.—"Elizabeth," 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants; "Royal Katherine," 1 Major, 2 Captains, 3 Lieutenants; "London," 2 Captains, 5 Lieutenants; "Vanguard," 2 Captains, 1 Captain-Lieutenant, 3 Lieutenants; "Royal William," 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants. Other ships in much the same proportion.

CORRECTION.

The article in the August number, entitled "The Treaty of Tilsit and India, 1807-1843," should have been described as by Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, late I.A.