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Essex Yeomanry Cavalry  
1830-77

# ESSEX REVIEW

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## A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SERVICES OF THE WEST ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY 1830-77

BY GERALD O. RICKWORD



WEST ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY, 1846.  
By J. Harris, after H. Martens

*By courtesy of John H. Burrows & Sons Ltd., Southend.*

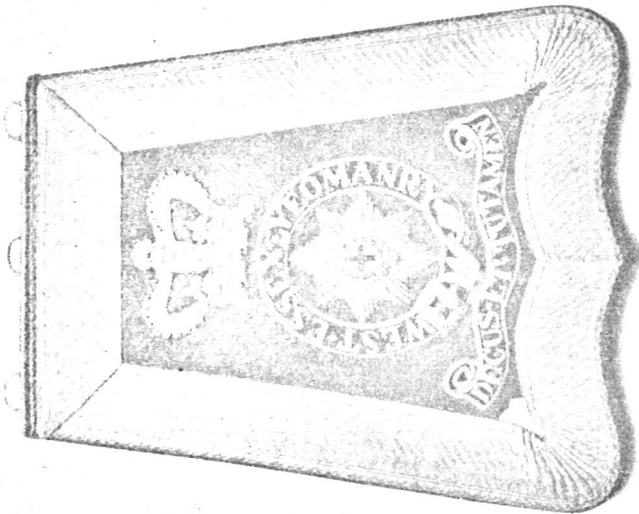
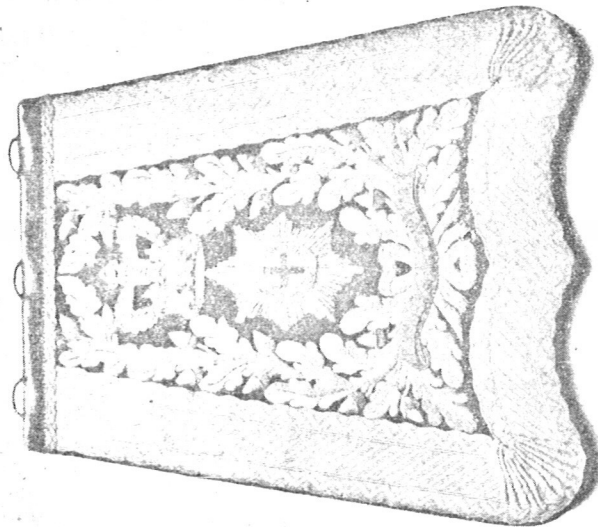
THE 164th (Essex Yeomanry) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, after winning imperishable fame in two world wars, is now being re-formed as the 304th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. The unit was raised in November, 1901, under the command of Lieut.-Col. R. B. Colvin,<sup>1</sup> of Monkham, Waltham Abbey, as a regiment of Imperial Yeomanry, when a link with the former West Essex Yeomanry Cavalry was formed by the appointment of Capt. W. Brown as quartermaster. This officer, on the latter regiment being disbanded in 1877, enrolled in the Loyal Suffolk Hussars, Y.C., and was transferred to the new Essex cavalry regiment on its formation. At the same time the Waltham Abbey Town Band, which was formed from the regimental band of the West Essex and continued to wear its uniform, enlisted *en bloc*.

The West Essex Y.C., which succeeded the many troops and corps of Volunteer Cavalry, raised during the Great French War and disbanded by 1828,<sup>2</sup> was formed 'at the instigation of the late Lord Melbourne and the Duke of Wellington'<sup>3</sup> in December, 1830, 'for the protection of the Government gunpowder mills at Waltham Abbey, and the small arms manufactory at Enfield Lock.' In view of the conversion of the present regiment into artillery after the First World War, it is of interest to note that from 1851 until 1876 a demi-, and later a complete, battery of

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards Brigadier-General Sir Richard Beale Colvin, K.C.B., who died 17 January, 1936. His father, Beale Blackwell Colvin, High Sheriff of Essex, 1848, held a commission in the West Essex from 1831-43.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. James Stuart Dobson, 'for many years a most zealous yeomanry officer,' died at Harlow in August, 1858, and was buried with full military honours by the West Essex, he having been appointed to that corps on its formation, after previous service in Col. Montague Burgoyne's Essex Union Legion Cavalry.

<sup>3</sup> William, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, was Home Secretary, and the Duke of Wellington Prime Minister up to his resignation on 15 November, 1830.



field artillery formed an integral part of the regiment, which in 1874 was officially designated the Essex Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry.

Although not called upon to make the sacrifices demanded of the present regiment, the soldier-like bearing and efficiency of the West Essex invariably merited and received the commendations of inspecting officers, and a short abstract of their services is deserving of being placed on record.

#### *In Aid of the Civil Power<sup>4</sup>*

On the night of April the 1st, 1831 (a few months after the corps was raised), a riotous mob set fire to some hay stacks in the immediate vicinity of the Government gunpowder mills at Waltham Abbey, when a detachment of the corps was called out in aid of the Ordnance Officers, and conveyed the Government engines, as well as those belonging to the town of Waltham Abbey to the fire, which they eventually extinguished after 4 or 5 hours' exertions, and restored order, although the mob had rekindled the fires two or three times after they had been extinguished by the members of the Yeomanry Cavalry and Ordnance Officers. For these services the corps received the thanks of the Master-General and the Board of Ordnance, as well as of Colonel Moody<sup>5</sup> and the Ordnance Officers at Waltham Abbey; and likewise the official thanks of the directors of the Sun Fire Office, by whom the hay stacks in question were insured: and during that year, at subsequent periods, detachments of the corps were called out to 3 or 4 other fires caused by incendiaries and evil disposed persons in the neighbourhood of Waltham Abbey, and also to one that occurred at Copt Hall, near the town of Epping.

On the 12th of June, 1848, the corps was called out in aid of civil power, at Waltham Abbey, upon the occasion of the second great Chartist demonstration, when it was brigaded with a strong detachment of the Royal Artillery, under the command of Col. Wilford,<sup>6</sup> of that corps, who was especially sent down from Woolwich for the defence of the town and Ordnance gunpowder works at Waltham Abbey, as well as the Government *small arms* manufactory at Enfield Lock, for which the Essex Corps of Yeomanry received the thanks of the Magistrates of the district, the Ordnance Officers at Waltham Abbey, as well as those of Col. Wilford, upon whose especial requisition the services of the Essex Yeomanry Cavalry were called upon by the local authorities.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> From their first raising in 1794, the Yeomanry Cavalry was liable to be called out for the suppression of riots and tumults, County Police not being instituted in England until 1830-40, by the Police Act of 1856 the Force was made compulsory.

<sup>5</sup> A list of the Chief Officers of the Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey (*E.R.* vol. 20<sup>1</sup>) shows Mr. C. Wilks as 'Storekeeper' from 1825 until 14 October, 1831, being succeeded by Mr. James Wright as 'Deputy Storekeeper' the following day. Lieut.-Col. T. Moody, C.R.E., described as 'In charge of the Royal Gunpowder Manufactory,' held that position from 13 October, 1832, until 1 July, 1840, when he was designated 'Inspector of Gunpowder.' On 27 November, 1845, he was succeeded by Capt. A. T. Tulloh, R.A., who, in September, 1853, was appointed Superintendent, Royal Carriage Department at the Royal Arsenal, and died a Lieut.-General and C.B. in 1885.

<sup>6</sup> Edmund Neal Wilford, posted to Gibraltar in October, 1848, was appointed Governor, Royal Military Academy, 1856, and died in 1881.

<sup>7</sup> At the time of the Fenian outrages in the 1860s, the policy of employing Yeomanry Cavalry in support of civil authority was changing (although the liability to render this service continued up to the passing of the Territorial Force Act in 1908); and in January, 1868, when an attack on the Government factories at Waltham Abbey and Enfield Lock was threatened, a detachment from the depot of the 49th Regiment (now 1st Batt. Royal Berkshire Regiment) at Colchester Camp was despatched for the protection of these important buildings.

Probably the last occasion on which Yeomanry Cavalry was called on on this duty was at Exeter in November, 1867, when the Royal 1st Devon Regiment were requisitioned after nearly every provision shop in the city had been looted.

*Royal Guards of Honour and Escorts*

On 27 June, 1841, the West Essex 'formed a Guard of Honour and Escort for his Royal Highness Prince Albert from Lea Bridge to Wanstead and back, upon the occasion of his Royal Highness laying the first stone of the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead.' This duty was memorable, as the West Essex was 'the first Corps of Yeomanry Cavalry in England who had the honour of escorting His Royal Highness, or that had been seen by him.'

On 27 June, 1843, the corps performed similar duties for the King of the Belgians<sup>8</sup> 'from Lea Bridge to the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead, and back, upon the occasion of the opening of the Institution, when his Majesty attended and officiated in the place of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, at that time confined by illness.'

On 27 June, 1844, the corps again attended on Prince Albert 'from Lea Bridge to the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead, and back, upon an official visit to the Institution.'

On 5 and 7 July, 1847, 'the corps furnished two Guards of Honour (with Escorts ready in case of need) on both days at Tottenham and Bishop's Stortford, at the especial request of the Adjutant-General and his Grace the Duke of Wellington, upon the occasion of Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert's visit to Cambridge, for his Royal Highness's installation as Chancellor of the University.'

No regular troops being 'at hand,' the Iron Duke, then Commander-in-Chief, applied to Capt. George Palmer, commandant of the West Essex, 'at a few hours notice' for guards to be mounted at Tottenham and Bishop's Stortford stations. Driving from Buckingham Palace, escorted by Lancers, the royal party was greeted at Tottenham station of the Eastern Counties' Railway by a crowd of 3,000 persons, and passed under a triumphal arch to a temporary pavilion erected for their reception, the Yeomanry lining the station and its approaches. After being received by the chairman of the Company, George Hudson, a successful York draper, who by his enterprise in railway development had earned the title of the 'Railway King,' the royal travellers took their seats in the special train, and proceeded on their way to the University town, making a short halt at Bishop's Stortford station.

On the royal party's return on 7 July, the Corps was again posted at Tottenham station, their band playing the National Anthem as the special train steamed in at about 4.30 p.m. After

<sup>8</sup> Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, consort of Princess Charlotte of Wales, daughter of George IV, who died in 1817. He became King of the Belgians in 1830.

the Queen had been 'pleased to express herself much gratified with the arrangements for her reception at the railway station and the manner in which her journeys along the line had been conducted'—it was her first experience of travel on 'the Eastern Counties' Railway' of Thackeray's scorn—the royal *cortège* escorted by a troop of Life Guards proceeded to Buckingham Palace.

That these services were more than a mere display of military pomp will be appreciated when it is recalled that two attempts on the Queen's life had been made in 1842, and two more were made in 1850.

The West Essex furnished an escort on 21 April, 1856, on the occasion of Prince Albert (he was designated Prince Consort by letters patent next year) visiting Colchester to inspect the newly formed 'Camp' and review the garrison, and to receive an address of welcome from the Mayor and Corporation. The inspection was arranged at short notice, and the Mayor (Mr Joseph Cooke), thinking it desirable to have a cavalry escort (no regular mounted regiments being stationed at Colchester at that date), 'made a communication by electric telegraph' to this effect to Col. Palmer of the West Essex at Nazeing Park, near Waltham Abbey, on Saturday, the 19 April. The colonel was confined to the house by illness, but promptly telegraphed to Capt. John Bramston, then at Oxford, and to his son, Lieut. Palmer, who was in London, necessary instructions, 'and then ordered Sergeant-Major Gray to march across from the neighbourhood of Waltham Abbey to Chelmsford, about 27 miles; collecting there, on his route, one and twenty members of the Corps.' At 8 a.m. on Monday the party with their chargers entrained at Chelmsford and proceeded to Colchester. The Prince arrived at about 11.20, where a guard of honour of the 11th (North Devon) Regiment, and a mounted escort of about 200 gentlemen, farmers and tradesmen were stationed. With 'glashing sabres' the West Essex escorted Prince Albert to the Town Hall to receive the address, and from thence to the camp, and later to Wivenhoe Park, where the 88th Connaught Rangers, the West Suffolk, East Norfolk, West Essex, and Essex Rifles Regiments of Militia were paraded. After the review, the Yeomanry Cavalry attended the Prince (who paid a visit to the Essex Asylum on the way) to the railway station, 'all which duty they performed to the satisfaction of the military authorities and H.R.H. Prince Albert.' Capt. Bramston then marched the escort to the Cups Hotel, where a 'handsome luncheon' had been ordered by the Mayor, and at 6 p.m. the party again entrained, and from Chelmsford 'marched across country to their homes, some arriving in the neighbourhood of Waltham Abbey between 11 and 12 the same night.'

*Service without Pay*

In 1838 the Whig Government, 'with a view to effect a reduction in the public expenditure,' ordered the disbandment of eighty-four troops of yeomanry, including the West Essex. 'This corps was maintained entirely at the expense of the officers and private members, from 1st April, 1838, to January, 1843, they being induced to volunteer their gratuitous services . . . at the suggestion, and upon the strong recommendations of the late Sir Robert Peel<sup>9</sup> and General Lord Hardinge.<sup>10</sup> Foremost in 'tendering' their services upon receiving through Captain Palmer notification of the decision of the Home Secretary (Lord John Russell) were Serjeants Tolbut, Smith and Copeland: and on the 9 and 10 October in the same year the Troop assembled at Nazeing and was officially inspected by Lt.-Col. John Hall, 1st Life Guards, acquitting themselves 'in a manner which justly won the approbation of that officer.' In the succeeding years, up to 1843, when in January the Troop was again placed on pay, and later in the year assembled for eight days' permanent duty at Waltham Abbey, it, in addition to regular drills, mustered for two days each year for inspection by a field officer of a regular cavalry regiment. During this period of 'gratuitous service' the West Essex, as stated above, acted as escort to Prince Albert when, in June, 1841, he laid the foundation stone of the Wanstead Orphanage.

(To be continued.)

*Sir Humphrey Mildmay: Royalist Gentleman*, by Philip Lee Ralph. This book, of considerable Essex interest, has just been published by Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, price \$4.50.

The author is to be congratulated on his successful portrayal of the social and political life of an English country gentleman between 1633 and 1652. The book is based on a diary kept by Sir Humphrey and now in the British Museum, Harl. MS. No. 454; Mr. Ralph's scholarly interpretation of this record forges another link in the history of Essex and supplements the *Brief Memoir of the Mildmay Family* by Lt.-Col. Herbert A. St. John Mildmay published in 1913.

A copy of Mr. Ralph's book which was reviewed at some length in *The Times Literary Supplement* of 1 November, 1947, has been presented to the Essex Record Office by Mrs. M. Hopkirk of Danbury.—F. W. S.

<sup>9</sup> Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850), the Conservative leader then in opposition.

<sup>10</sup> Henry, 1st Viscount Hardinge (1785-1856), the distinguished soldier, secretary at war, 1828-30, and from 1841-44.

## NEW HALL, BOREHAM

THE mansion of New Hall, Boreham, which appears on the cover of this issue, was built by Henry VIII soon after 1518, on a quadrangular plan, with a gatehouse, great hall and chapel. The north range, which still survives, was rebuilt in Elizabeth's reign by Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Sussex, and about 1538 the rest of the house was pulled down and remodelled to correspond with the north range. The whole house is therefore a good example of Elizabethan and imitation Elizabethan work. Unfortunately the oldest part of the building was severely damaged by enemy action in 1943.

The property, which from pre-Norman times was called New Hall to distinguish it from the manor of Old Hall in the same parish, has had a varied history. Originally given by Harold to the canons of Waltham Abbey, it came into the possession of the Crown in the sixteenth century, when Henry VIII acquired it by exchange from Sir Thomas Boleyn, and made it his summer residence, calling it 'Beaulieu.' It remained in the possession of the Crown till 1573, when Elizabeth granted it to Thomas Ratcliffe, one of whose successors sold it to the court favourite, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. When his son was proclaimed a traitor during the Civil War, the estate was sold, and Cromwell bought it for 5s. At the Restoration the Duke recovered the property and sold it to the Duke of Albemarle, when it became again a court playground, Nell Gwynn filling the role taken a century and a half before by Ann Boleyn. After several subsequent changes of ownership, it was finally purchased in 1798 for the present occupiers, the Regular Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, a community following the same Augustinian rule professed by the original owners, the Regular Canons of Waltham Abbey. A flourishing school is now carried on in the building by the nuns.

There is an excellent brief history of the house and its associations in the *Essex Review*, vol. xvii, pp. 57-66 and 121-132.

H. G.

To complete for binding vol. lii of the *Review*, the Essex Archaeological Society require a copy of the issue of January, 1943. Will anyone who has a spare copy, please, communicate with the Rev. G. Montagu Benton, Fingringhoe.

**Discovery at Colchester** A bronze statue of Mercury found in Cheshunt Field, Gosbecks Farm, Stanway, has been presented to the Colchester and Essex Museum by the Trustees of the Ward-Tomlinson Estate. One of the most important Roman works of art ever found in this country, the figure is



unusually large, being nearly twenty-two inches high, few cult figures being more than half that height, and provides almost irrefutable evidence that the great Gallo-Roman Temple, some three miles outside the walls of Camulodunum and only a few hundred yards from where it was found, was dedicated to Mercury or some British equivalent.

## A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SERVICES OF THE WEST ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY 1830-77

BY GERALD O. RICKWORD .

(Continued from p. 6)

### *Praise from the Duke of Wellington*

In addition to these citations (with the exception of the last) from a report made to Lord Panmure, Secretary at War, in accordance with an official circular of 18 May, 1855, the West Essex had the distinction of furnishing an escort to the Duke of Wellington on one occasion.

At a regimental dinner held in July, 1843, Captain Palmer, the Commandant, in giving the toast of 'The Duke of Wellington, and the Army and Navy,' laid particular stress on the name of the Iron Duke in the words 'with whom you have appeared on the same field . . . and who was pleased to remark that you were the most soldier-like yeomen he ever saw.'

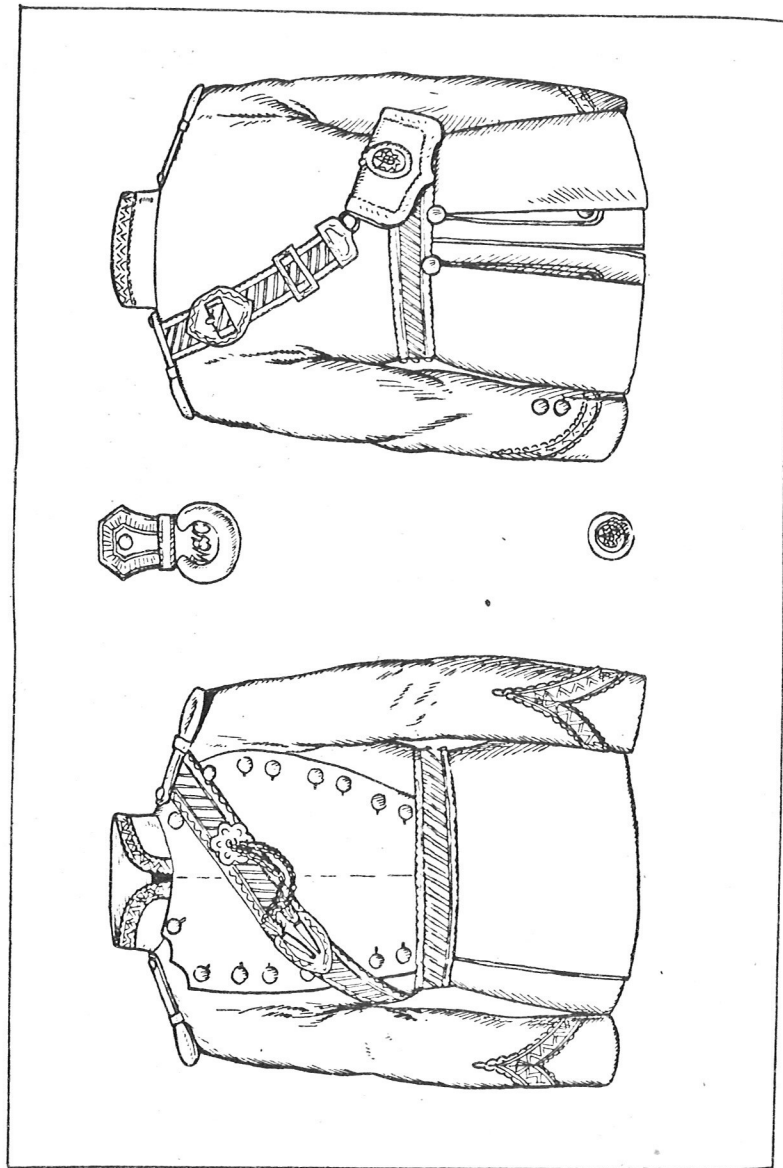
Later, in an Order dated 16 October, 1867, fifteen years after the death of the great soldier, Lt.-Col. Palmer, in recalling the past services of the regiment, referred to this occasion when the West Essex furnished a guard of honour and escort to the Duke at a review of the South Herts Y.C. in Hatfield Park. The Duke, never lavish in giving praise which made his words the more valuable, 'expressed himself highly pleased with your smart and soldierlike appearance and efficiency in the field.'<sup>11</sup>

### *Commanding Officers*

GEORGE PALMER, junr., gazetted Captain Commandant 8 February, 1831; Major Commandant 23 July, 1852; Lieut.-Colonel Commandant 1 February, 1860; retired with permission to retain his rank March, 1868.

Born 22 July, 1799, the eldest son of George Palmer, Esq., of Nazeing Park, near Waltham Abbey, M.P. for South Essex, 1836 to 1847, he was educated at Harrow School, and engaged in a mercantile career in the City, and was for many years a Director of the Australian Mining Company; Master of the Mercers Company, 1866 and 1881; a Verderer of Epping Forest, J.P., and High Sheriff of Essex, 1863. He died 26 April, 1883, and was buried at Nazeing. His military interests were evinced at an

<sup>11</sup> It is to be regretted that despite a careful search of all possible sources of information and enquiries made in all likely quarters, the date of this duty cannot be discovered—it was but a minor incident in the life of a great and busy man. A quotation from 'the London Press' in a provincial newspaper suggests this review of the South Herts took place in October, 1837, but subsequent issues of the journal do not report the event.



TUNIC, WAISTCOAT AND BUSTLE, c. 1850, AT WEST ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY, 1830-77

early age by his election on 8 January, 1819, a member (No. 1684) of the Light Horse Volunteers of London and Westminster, a crack corps originally raised in 1779, and re-formed on the outbreak of the French Revolutionary War in 1794, from which he resigned 3 April, 1828.

ROBERT WILLIAM HAMILTON, J.P. and D.L. of Essex, of Holyfield Hall, Waltham Abbey (who married Charlotte, daughter of Lt.-Col. Palmer), gazetted Lieut.-Colonel Commandant, 1868; and retired September, 1870.

He served in the Eastern campaign of 1854-5 with the Grenadier Guards (in which he was commissioned Ensign and Lieutenant 27 May, 1853), was wounded at the battle of the Alma, and was present at Balaclava, Inkerman and the Siege of Sebastopol (medal with four clasps, the Sardinian and Turkish medals, and 5th Class of the Medjidie): promoted Lieutenant and Captain 18 June, 1855, he sold out 23 July, 1861.

SAMUEL BOLTON EDENBOROUGH, J.P., of Thrift Hall, Waltham Abbey, gazetted Cornet 1 February, 1841; Lieutenant 26 July, 1843; Captain 23 July, 1852; Lieut.-Colonel Commandant September, 1870.

Senior director of the Imperial Bank, chairman of the Local Board of Health, a member of the Burial Board, a trustee of Leverton's School and Charities; he died from the effects of an accident in October, 1873.

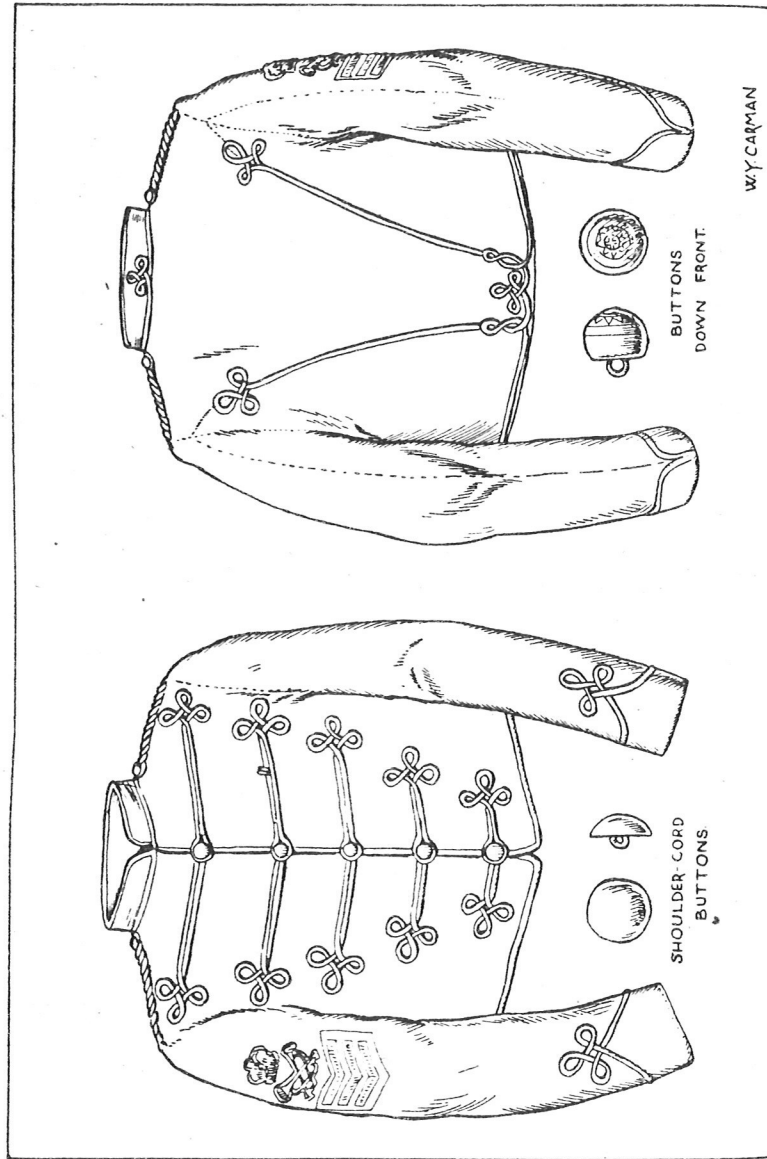
JOHN GLAS SANDEMAN, M.V.O., F.S.A., son of George Glas Sandeman, Esq., of Hayling Island, Hants., gazetted Major 18 June, 1869; Lieut.-Colonel Commandant February, 1874; and retired June, 1875.

He served with the 1st Royal Dragoons in the Crimean campaign, and was present at the battles of Balaclava (Charge of the Heavy Brigade), Inkerman and Tchernaya, and the Siege of Sebastopol (medal with three clasps, and the Turkish medal). His commissions were Cornet 10 June, 1853; Lieutenant 18 May, 1855; Captain 23 October, 1857. He retired 23 August, 1859; was a member of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms; Hon. Lieutenant R.N.R., and died at Hayling Island 7 December, 1921, aged 86.

THOMAS DUFF CATER, gazetted Lieutenant October, 1860; Captain July, 1863; Major July, 1874.

#### Adjutants

WILLIAM COESVELT KORTRIGHT, of Fryerning, Ingatestone, gazetted Lieutenant 23 July, 1852; Adjutant with rank of Captain 18 January, 1853.



TRUMPET-MAJOR'S JACKET, 1870. AT OAKLANDS HOUSE MUSEUM, CHELTENHAM.

Commissioned as Cornet, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers 25 April, 1842 ; Lieutenant 24 October, 1846 ; he retired the following year. His regiment served throughout the First Sikh War, and was engaged at the battles of Punniar, Maharajpore and Sobraon.

ROGER DAWSON UPTON, gazetted Adjutant 1863, and continued to serve up to the disbandment in 1877.

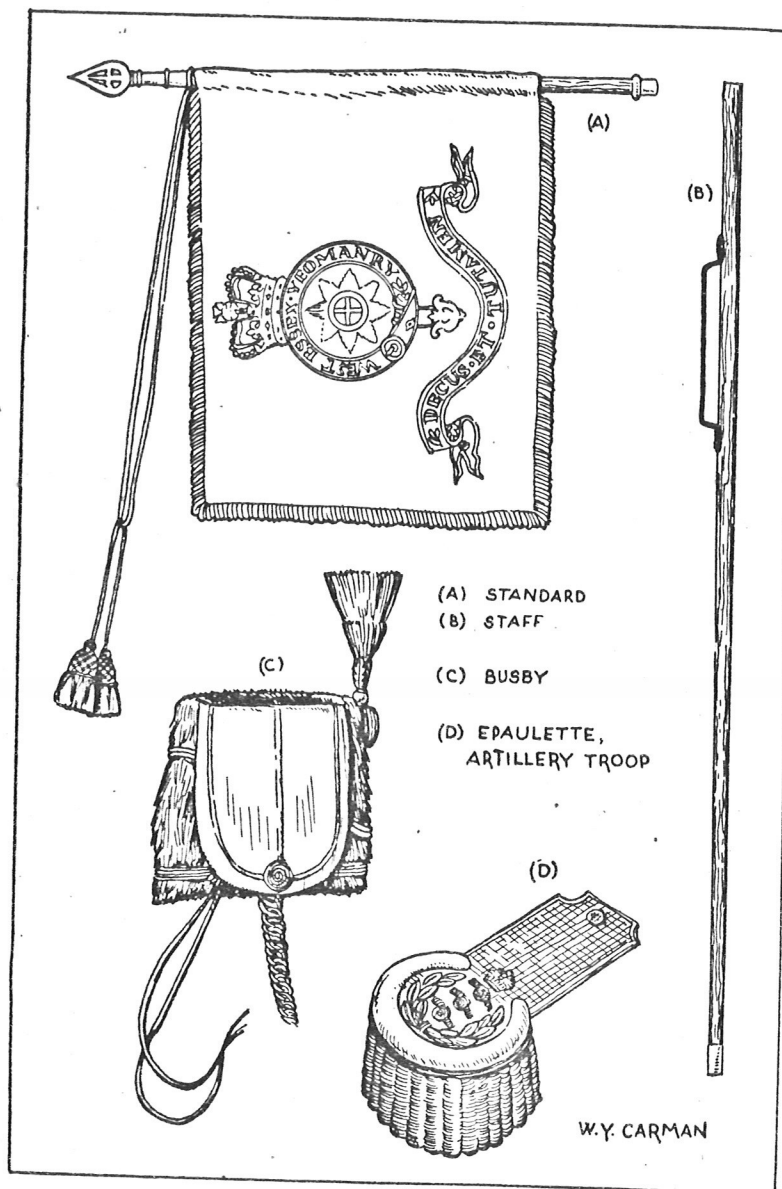
Commissioned as Cornet, 9th Lancers, 23 January, 1852 ; Lieutenant 12 October, 1854 ; he retired 1862. He served with the 1st West India Regiment at the capture of Sabajee on the Gambia in June, 1853 ; and with his regiment during the Indian Mutiny. He was present at the battle of Budlekeserai (horse shot), Sieges of Delhi and Lucknow, the campaigns in Oude and Rohilcund, and various actions, the pursuit to Mahomdee and passage of the Gogra at Fuzabad. (Medal and clasps.)

*Uniform, Arms and Equipment*

At the time the West Essex was being formed the 'Sailor King,' William IV, had but recently ascended the throne, and on 2 August, 1830, had ordered that the whole army, with the exception of the Blues, the artillery and rifle regiments, should be clothed in scarlet, even changing the time-honoured white facings of the Navy to the same colour. As the royal tailor also 'expressed a wish that the newly raised yeomanry should be dressed in scarlet and silver' (lace), it is probable the corps was clothed in scarlet, changing to blue at some date subsequent to the regular light dragoons being ordered on 29 June, 1840, to revert to that colour. Among those corps raised in 1830-1, and clothed in scarlet were the Dorset, Flintshire and Norfolk Y.C. The blue uniform adopted in 1794 by the Warwickshire Regiment was changed to scarlet in 1834, and reverted to blue in 1857.

The earliest known representation of the uniform of the West Essex is depicted in the well-known colour print by J. Harris after H. Martens, published as No. 7 of Forre's Yeomanry Costumes in 1846. This shows a blue coat of light dragoon pattern with plain breast (lapels of regimental facing colour having been abolished in the regular cavalry in 1829), scarlet collar, cuffs and turnback to the tails. Officers wore silver lace, other ranks white tape. White leather shoulder belt with patent leather pouch with the badge of the Star of the Garter surmounted by a crown in white metal, this badge also being displayed on the patent leather sabretache. Trousers of Oxford mixture with a single scarlet strip. Tall broad-topped shako with white over red plume, brass Maltese cross with regimental button in the centre, surmounted by a crown. Blue cloth shabraque (or saddle-cloth) with silver lace or tape border edged scarlet, and





RELICS OF THE WEST ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY, AT OAKLANDS HOUSE MUSEUM, CHELMSFORD.

white sheep-skin seat-cover. The band wore scarlet shakoes with a white plume, the negro kettle-drummer (a former Coldstream Guardsman) appearing in all 'the pomp and circumstance' of a blue Zouave jacket with gold lace, crimson undercoat and trousers, white mitre-shaped turban with gold lace, and crescent, and upright red plume. In Court and evening dress, the officers wore silver and scarlet girdles, and a silver stripe edged scarlet on the trousers. Pouches and sabretaches of scarlet cloth on red morocco, decorated with silver lace; red velvet cap to crown, blue silk ground to motto scroll with silver thread lettering, the Garter badge with red silk-worked cross, and blue silk garter. In the more ornate specimen, illustrated on p. 2 (the earlier pattern), the foliage is worked in silver thread with foil-tipped acorns. In undress, blue caps were worn, those of the officers having drooping peaks. White duck trousers, which, although abolished in the regular cavalry in 1843, were continued for some years longer in the regiment for summer wear.

Arms consisted of swords and flint-lock pistols, but, as in other yeomanry corps, a certain number of men in each troop (varying from eight to twelve) carried carbines. In 1850, the whole corps was armed with this weapon, described four years later as 'rifled carbines.'

In 1852, Lord Hardinge was appointed Master-General of the Ordnance, and set about remedying the deplorable deficiency existing in that department. At his suggestion and aided by Major Dickson, R.A. (later Sir Collingwood Dickson, G.C.B., V.C.), Inspector of Gunpowder at Waltham Abbey (July, 1852, to February, 1854), a demi-battery of field guns was attached to the West Essex.<sup>12</sup> A colour lithograph by F. W. Woodhouse, showing the regiment in action against the Herts Militia at Ware in June, 1853, represents the yeoman-gunners clothed like the dragoon troops, but in August, 1854, it was reported that the artillery section had been furnished 'with new helmets.' No specimen of this 'helmet' is known to exist, but several experimental types were being tried at this time.<sup>13</sup>

The Dress Regulations, 1855, abolished the coatee in the regular cavalry and substituted the tunic; that of the light dragoons having five rows of cord looping across the breast. The new tunic was adopted by the yeomanry cavalry, with certain regimental deviations of pattern, as circumstances dictated, or the period for re-clothing regiments became due, although some corps retained the older style of uniform up to the outbreak of war in 1914.

<sup>12</sup> Permanent duty had been carried out at Brentwood in 1847 and 1848, when the West Essex derived 'great instruction and advantages from brigading with a portion of the honourable East India Company's artillery,' stationed at the Company's depôt at Warley.

<sup>13</sup> The Field Batteries, Royal Artillery, were issued with a new pattern shako in November, 1854, which was withdrawn almost immediately afterwards, and in the following June they received busbies.

The North Shropshire Y.C. was clothed in the new tunic in 1855, the sister regiment, the South Salopian, in 1862, but when the West Essex made the change is not known. A blue tunic of this corps with scarlet collar and cuffs and, instead of cord loopings, a blue plastron (or breast-covering), is preserved at Holly Trees Museum, Colchester. The adoption of this tunic took place *circa* 1859, as in November of that year the addition of 'a small number of Lancers'<sup>14</sup> was commented on in the Press, and notices of the new arm regularly appeared up to 1865. This was probably confined to the lancer troop, the regulation light dragoon tunic being single-breasted, but it is possible the whole regiment wore it, the yeomanry cavalry being a law unto themselves in matters of dress. Neither has evidence come to light that the lance-cap was worn as in the Long Melford (Suffolk) Troop, the South Bucks and other yeomanry regiments.

As head-dress (other than the problematical lance-cap) the West Essex would wear either the straight-sided shako (introduced in 1846 in the regular service); the smaller pattern on the French model (not unlike the postman's shako worn up to 1933), issued to the regular light dragoons in 1857;<sup>15</sup> or a helmet in appearance not dissimilar to that now worn by the Household Cavalry, but of leather or black japanned metal, with falling plume. A helmet of this description was issued to the Staffordshire Y.C. in 1850, although the South Salopian Regiment adopted one of German silver in 1853.

In 1870, a radical change was made by the issue of a blue hussar *jacket* (although the regular hussars had worn the tunic since Crimean days in accordance with Regulations). This jacket had five loopings of white cord across the breast, and was seamed and edged with white cord, scarlet collar and cuffs. A tall black fur busby with scarlet bag, white cord boss in front, white cap-lines, a scarlet under white plume, and chain chin-strap. An undress jacket with ten buttons, plain scarlet collar, piped with white cord down the front and round the edge; plain blue cuffs with two regimental buttons.

#### Standards

Guidons for light cavalry and standards for the heavy were carried by each squadron in the regular service up to 1858, when by Royal Warrant the number was reduced to one to each regiment. A *standard* of the West Essex is preserved at Chelmsford Museum. It is of crimson silk with silver thread fringe, crimson and silver cords and tassels, and measures

<sup>14</sup> The prowess of Napoleon's Lancers led to the re-introduction of the lance in the British service in 1816, the 9th and other Light Dragoon regiments being so armed, and re-named Lancers. The yeomanry was not slow in following the example of the regulars, the Cheshire Y.C. having a lancer troop with the peculiar Polish *chapska*, or lance-cap, from 1820 to 1838.

<sup>15</sup> During permanent duty in September, 1861. Lt.-Col. Palmer remarked that the regiment might be 'mistaken for very fine Frenchmen, as they dressed so much like the National Guard,' which suggests this type of head-dress was worn.

20½ inches by 26 inches from the brass spear-headed staff. Painted thereon is the Star of the Order of the Garter on a blue ground, surrounded by a blue garter edged gold, with the lettering WEST . ESSEX . YEOMANRY in scarlet and gold; surmounted by a crown in gold with crimson cap; and beneath on a blue scroll edged gold, the motto DECUS . ET . TUTAMEN in gold letters.<sup>16</sup>

During the annual training in June, 1848, it was reported that Capt. Palmer presented 'a new banner to the second squadron.'

(To be continued)

**Albys, Stapleford Abbots.**—Albys, which is shown on the cover of this issue, was built mainly in the early seventeenth century. Its design has been attributed to Inigo Jones, apparently, however, without foundation. Remains of an earlier building can be seen in the east and south ranges which, for the most part, date from the late sixteenth century. In the Essex Record Office there is a map of the manor of Albys in which is included a fine architectural drawing of the north elevation of the house. There have been certain alterations made to the house: an inscription in one of the bedrooms says that it was 'repaired, sashed, and beautified by Sir John Abdy, Bart., 1754,' but it can be seen from the drawing (reproduced as frontispiece) that the house has changed little between the seventeenth century and the nineteenth. In more recent years, however, it has been less kindly treated, a brick water-tower having been built on to it.

The manor and estate of Albys was part of the endowment of a chantry founded in Wivenhoe church in 1413. The manor was leased, in 1545, to William Luter, but, three years later, it was included in a grant of charity lands made by Edward VI to Walter Cely. When Walter Cely died, the property went to his son, George, and then passed through various hands, coming to Sir Thomas Edmonds, treasurer to the king's household, in 1614. As Sir Thomas owned Albys until his death in 1639, it was under his ownership that the house was rebuilt. The first member of the Abdy family to own Albys was Anthony Abdy, alderman of London and sheriff, 1630-1; he bought it, on the death of Sir Thomas Edmonds, from Sir Thomas's grandchildren and co-heiresses. The estate passed from Anthony to his second son, Robert Abdy, who was created a baronet in 1660, and it was to him that John Kersey dedicated his map. The family lived at Albys for nearly three hundred years.—P. M. S.

<sup>16</sup> Whether the regiment continued to carry a standard or standards after its conversion into hussars in 1870, the practice having been abolished in that service by General Order, 1834, is unknown, but the sturdy independence of the yeoman makes it possible.

The writer is indebted to Mr. W. Y. Carman for the sketches illustrating the uniform made, by permission, at Oaklands House Museum, Chelmsford, and Holly Trees Museum, Colchester.

distinguished clientele, and is mentioned in several biographies and books of memoirs of the period.

10. Henry Walker, born 19 July, 1800, but only survived a few days.

A picture, idealised by poetic licence, of Overhall in the early years of the last century, can be found in some verses written by Dr. Mason Good, the grandfather of John Mason Neale, the hymnologist, after a visit to the Walkers in 1806. They are reproduced here from the now rare 'Memoirs of Dr. Mason Good' by Olinthus Gregory (1828):

#### GESTINGTHORPE, ESSEX, 1806

Sweet shades! Where peace and virtue dwell,  
And heav'n an altar finds,  
And science scoops his hermit cell,  
And Taste his wild walk winds.

Sweet, lovely scenes! As Eden fair,  
As Eden free from taint;  
Whose flowers perfume th' ambrosial air,  
Th' enamell'd lanscape paint.

Mansion! where ready friendship turns  
His hospitable hinge;  
Welcomes the London guest—but spurns  
The London bow and cringe.

Sick of the World's fantastic sway,  
Its nonsense and its noise;  
O! for one solitary day,  
Be mine your gentler joys.

Here let me cool my maddening brain,  
Here purify my heart;  
Though short my stay—in dreams again  
I'll meet you when we part.

\* \* \*

Reprints of 'A Brief Summary of the Services of the West Essex Yeomanry Cavalry, 1830-1877,' by G. O. Rickword, may be obtained from the publishers, High Street, or the author, 15, Creffield Road, Colchester, 2s. 6d. or 2s. 9d. post free.

## A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE SERVICES OF THE WEST ESSEX YEOMANRY CAVALRY 1830-77

GERALD O. RICKWORD

(Continued from p. 95)

### *Disbandment of the Regiment.*

THE reorganisation of the army to meet changing conditions of warfare was the problem facing Mr. Edward Cardwell on taking office as Secretary for War in the Gladstone Government in 1868. Among other matters, the utility of the Yeomanry Cavalry came under discussion, and the disbandment of the force was again seriously considered, but owing to strong opposition by experienced and practical officers, including Lt.-Col. T. G. A. Oakes, 12th Royal Lancers, later an Inspector of Cavalry, and Lt.-Col. Sir Henry Edwards, Bt., 2nd West Yorks Y.C., wiser counsels prevailed, and fresh conditions of service were introduced in 1870. A few years later, during the Disraeli Administration, a special committee on the force expressed the opinion that 'artillery and unmounted troops'<sup>16</sup> should no longer form part of the establishment of a yeomanry regiment, whose functions should be exclusively those of Light Cavalry. Acting on War Office instructions received in January, 1876, the two artillery troops (D. and E.), of the West Essex, were informed of this decision at a parade at Waltham Abbey by Major Duff Cater, who in a farewell speech said: 'By your attention to drill and instruction, you have always been a pattern to the rest of the Regiment, and have elicited from inspecting officers the very highest praise, and from the higher authorities the most favourable report for your efficiency and good conduct.'

This reduction, amounting to eighty men, and a falling off in numbers due to the widespread agricultural depression, was most marked when the regiment assembled for permanent duty at Chelmsford on 29 June, 1876, only about seventy of all ranks

<sup>16</sup> The enthusiasm attending the Volunteer Movement of 1859 and the formation of Rifle Corps throughout Britain, led to a revival of activity in the Yeomanry Cavalry, and Lord Ailesbury, Lt.-Col.-Commandant, Royal Wilts Y.C., who had been considering the practicability of attaching a number of unmounted riflemen to each squadron, put his scheme into operation. The riflemen, armed with long rifles and bayonets, and dressed as the mounted yeomen, but without spurs, were carried on long carriages (not unlike Irish jaunting cars) drawn by two horses. It is possible Lt.-Col. Palmer was attracted by this experiment, as at the annual training of the West Essex in 1861 it was reported 'some dismounted riflemen' were present in addition to three squadrons of cavalry and six six-pounder guns. No further reference having been found, it is probable the project was abandoned. The unmounted men attached to the Royal Wilts, although favourably commented on by inspecting officers, were disbanded in 1876.

being present. At the conclusion of the training Col. T. G. A. Oakes, Inspector of Cavalry, Eastern District, reported that 'it is as good a regiment as he could wish to see, save that it was weak in numbers.'

Notwithstanding great efforts to remedy this state of affairs, recruits were not forthcoming and in September the disbandment of the regiment was ordered to take effect from the close of the military year, i.e., 31 March, 1877. Thus after forty-five years of loyal and efficient service the Essex Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry turned their swords into ploughshares, and ancient market-towns and village greens were no longer enlivened by the clang of arms, and 'smart appearance and the neatness of the uniform'<sup>17</sup> of the county regiment, which was 'to fall forgotten, in a multitude.'

Table showing (A) the year; (B) the month; (C) the place of assembly of the regiment when called out on Permanent Duty (i.e., training); and (D) the Inspecting Officer.

A	B	C	D
1831	—	—	No inspection reported.
1832	5	Waltham Abbey	Col. Sir Geo. Scovell, K.C.B.
1833	6	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. Hon. W. L. L. FitzG. de Roos, Brigade-Major of Cavalry.
1834	—	Waltham Abbey	General Thomas Grosvenor.
1835	9	Waltham Abbey	The Marquis of Salisbury, South Herts Y.C.
1836	6	Romford	Lt.-Col. Sir Henry B. Wyatt, 1st Life Guards.
1837	5	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. Sir Henry B. Wyatt, 1st Life Guards.
1838	10	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. J. Hall, 1st Life Guards.
1839	8	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. J. Hall, 1st Life Guards.
1840	10	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. J. McDouall, 2nd Life Guards.
1841	—	—	No record of inspection can be traced.
1842	8	Chelmsford	Major C. Hall, 1st Life Guards.
1843	6	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. J. Hall, 1st Life Guards.
1844	6	Romford	Lt.-Col. G. Smith, Royal Horse Guards (Blue).
1845	6	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. J. J. Whyte, 7th Hussars.
1846	6	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. J. C. Trent, Royal Horse Guards (Blue).
1847	6	Brentwood	Lt.-Col. L. D. Williams, 2nd Life Guards.
1848	5	Brentwood	Lt.-Col. L. D. Williams, 2nd Life Guards.
1849	6	Waltham Abbey	Major-Gen. R. B. Fearon, C.B.
1850	6	Chelmsford	Major I. W. Jones, 11th Hussars.
1851	7	Waltham Abbey	No inspection reported.
1852	8	Brentwood	Lt.-Col. R. Parker, 1st Life Guards.
1853	5	Stratford	Major the Hon. H. Pitt, R.H.G. (Blue).
1854	7	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. F. C. Griffiths, late 10th Hussars, Commandant at Cavalry Depot, Maidstone.
1855	7	Waltham Abbey	Major G. Howard Vyse, 2nd Life Guards.
1856	7	Brentwood	Lt.-Col. F. C. Griffiths, Commandant, Cavalry Depot, Maidstone.

<sup>17</sup> An opinion expressed by Lt.-Col. R. Bateson, 1st Life Guards, at the inspection in September, 1870, when the regiment was newly clothed à la Hussarde.

A	B	C	D
1857	8	Training not authorised	{ The Earl of Verulam, South Herts Y.C., inspected that regiment with the Honourable Artillery Company and the West Essex at Nazeing Mead on 3 Aug.)
1858	9	Nazeing Common	Lt.-Col. R. Parker, 1st Life Guards.
1859	9	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. M. F. Martyn, 2nd Life Guards.
1860	8	Training not authorised	{ (The regiment was present on 4 August at a combined Volunteer parade at Hylands, Chelmsford, when Major-Gen. Wood, Commandant, Colchester Camp, was the Reviewing Officer.)
1861	9	Chelmsford	Major T. W. White, 16th Lancers
1862	9	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. C. Sawyer, 6th Dragoon Guards.
1863	9	Wanstead	Lt.-Col. Earl of Mount Charles, 1st Life Guards.
1864	9	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. Earl of Mount Charles, 1st Life Guards.
1865	9	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. Lord Geo. Manners, R.H.G. (Blue).
1866	9	Waltham Abbey	Lt.-Col. R. Palmer, 2nd Life Guards.
1867	10	Chelmsford	{ Col. F. W. J. Fitzwigram, C.B., 15th Hussars. Lt.-Col. P. W. L'Estrange, C.B., R.H.A.
1868	9	Waltham Abbey	{ Lt.-Col. R. Parker, 1st Life Guards. Major G. H. A. Forbes, D.A.A.G., R.A.
1869	9	Waltham Abbey	{ Col. Sir Roger Palmer, 2nd Life Guards. Capt. J. S. Stirling, R.A.
1870	9	Chelmsford	Lt.-Col. R. Bateson, 1st Life Guards.
1871	9	Chelmsford	{ Major-Gen. Freeman Murray, Cmdg. Eastern District.
1872	9	Chelmsford	Inspecting Officer failed to appear.
1873	9	Chelmsford	{ Lt.-Col. T. G. A. Oakes, C.B., Inspector of Y.C. for District.
1874	9	Chelmsford	{ Col. T. G. A. Oakes, C.B., Inspector of Auxiliary Forces.
1875	—	—	'Permanent duty dispensed with, owing to the resignation of Lt.-Col. Sandeman, and other unavoidable circumstances.'
1876	6	Chelmsford	Col. T. G. A. Oakes, C.B., Inspector of Cavalry, Eastern District.

Errata, p. 1, last line, for 1851 read 1852.

p. 3, note 7, line 7, for 'called on on this duty' read 'called out on.'

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**Capt. Allen Taylor, Freshwell Volunteer Cavalry, 1803** (E.R., xxvii, 47).—While not fully answering the question of the identification of this officer, it is of interest that a mural tablet in Wimbish Church is to the memory of Allen Taylor, Esq., late of Wimbish Hall, magistrate and D.L. of Essex, and Commandant of the Freshwell Hundred Troop of Yeomanry, who died 24 April, 1830, aged 85.—G. O. R.