



Army Museum of Tasmania
Anglesea Barracks
HOBART

Information Sheet No 17

STAFFORDSHIRE YEOMANRY CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS. A TASMANIAN ADJUTANT.

Extract from the Mercury 17 July 1894

“This year being the centenary of the formation of the Queen's Own Royal Staffordshire Yeomanry - a fine old volunteer regiment linking the present of England with the past- the event was celebrated with great eclat at the annual training which took place at the end of May at Litchfield, Staffordshire.

Under ordinary circumstances such an occurrence would have awakened great interest in the county, but on the present occasion an additional incentive to an effective display was given by the presence of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who was received with the warmest exhibitions of loyalty by the Midlanders. For the first time the experiment was tried of brigading the Staffordshire and Warwickshire Regiments of Yeomanry together for the manoeuvres, and the result was eminently satisfactory from every point of view. The whole of the movements, as well as the march past at trot und canter at the review by the Prince of Wales, were admirably performed, and H.R.H. warmly complimented the Duke of Sutherland, Colonel Commandant of the Staffordshire Regiment, and Colonel Lord Willoughby de Broke, of the Warwickshire Regiment, on the efficiency of their regiments. The grand total of the two regiments was 586 men, and there were very few absentees at the review.

The origin of the Staffordshire and other Yeomanry Regiments should always be remembered by Englishmen. In 1794, and for many years afterwards there were not only rumors of wars, but conflicts which threatened the actual invasion of the British Isles, and which, indeed, did occur, though only of a few hours duration. These dangers wore sufficient to call together the men who formed the first regiments of yeomanry, and none can doubt that they would if they had been called upon have done their duty to their country nobly, for these men were and their successors are the

pick of the sturdy English farmers. Throughout the week the city of Litchfield which, by the by, has been the camping place of the regiment ever since its formation, was en fete, the illuminations, banquets, civic ceremonies, etc, being of a lavish description.

Among the officers of the Staffordshire Regiment is Captain C. St. Clair Cameron, to whom as adjutant a large share of credit for the smartness of the regiment is due. Captain Cameron is a son of the late Mr. Donald Cameron, of Tasmania, and concerning him the *Lichfield Mercury* of June 1, in an illustrated descriptive account of the proceedings, which includes a portrait of the Adjutant, says :

"The Adjutant, Captain C. St. Clair Cameron, of the 9th Lancers, whose portrait we give, will, to the great regret of the whole regiment, sever his connection with it at the close of the celebration of the Centenary, and after a service of five years. During the time he has been connected with the Staffordshire Yeomanry he has, as is well known in this county, done not a little to contribute to its efficiency and to its continuance in the front rank of Yeomanry Regiments. It may be said, indeed, that although there have been since the days when 'The Staffordshire Regiment of Gentlemen and Yeomanry' was first formed many adjutants who deserved well of their country, the office has never been better filled than it has been by the courteous and genial officer who is about to quit these shores to play a part in another portion of Her Majesty's dominions.

Captain Cameron a Tasmanian, and is one of the few colonials who have served in Her Majesty's Cavalry. His first commission was in the Royal Southdown Militia, and it was dated February 21, 1877. He was given his first commission in the army, on March 29, 1879, in the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, and he had served with them a few months when the disaster took place on December 11 at Kabul.¹ A call was then given to officers to volunteer to replace the casualties in the 9th Lancers, and out of about 20 who thus came forward, Captain Cameron was selected, and went at once to join his regiment at Kabul, and on his way assisted Colonel the Hon. Heneage Legge to take up a draft of 172 horses and 64 men to replace the losses of the regiment.

He also formed one of the personal escort of Sir Lapel Griffin, when the latter had his interview in 1880, as English Commissioner, with the Ameer of Afghanistan, Abdul Rahman, preparatory to handing over the government of the country to him, and who was on that occasion accompanied by the principal notables and leading tribesmen of his country. The interview took place about 40 miles from Cabul, at Zimmah, and Captain Cameron was presented to the Ameer by Sir Lapel Griffin, Colonel the Hon. Heneage Legge, brother of the Bishop of Litchfield, being also presented at the same time. After remaining some time with his regiment at Cabul he accompanied General Lord Roberts in his march for the relief of Candahar a march which stands out conspicuously even in the records of the famous exploits of the British Army.

For his services on this occasion Captain Cameron received the bronze star. Whilst he was at Candahar he was present as aide-de-camp to Sir Hugh Gough at the reconnaissance on August 31. On that occasion the 3rd Bengal Cavalry got under a very heavy fire, and Captain Cameron was sent to recall them. The enemy filled the gardens or enclosures, and there seemed a probability that the regiment would be

¹ See Information Sheet No 18 , McInnes VC or Commendation?

completely cut off. Captain Cameron had to go through the gardens in order to reach the 3rd Bengal Cavalry, and just as he got into the open a shell burst under his horse's head, but fortunately did not do any mischief, and he was able to recall the regiment. On the next day he was present at the Battle of Candahar, and he was granted the medal for the war and the special clasp for that battle.

When the campaign was over Captain Cameron was left behind in hospital for two months, being ill with typhoid fever. After his illness he served in India for six years, and then came home, and since that time, for a period of five years, has been connected with the Staffordshire Yeomanry, this being his fifth annual training. He has had in all 17 years of service, and after the celebration of the Centenary he will go back to Tasmania, and we hope that he will be able in some way to establish a Colonial yeomanry force, and be as successful and as loyally supported as he always has been by the Staffordshire Yeomanry, who will part with him with great regret. We hope this, the more because our colonies stand much in need of the means of defence, and an able officer like Captain Cameron, who has served with distinction in Her Majesty's forces, will be in a position to render most valuable and most effective service in this direction.

Captain Cameron is returning to Tasmania next month by the SS Ionic, accompanied by his wife and family, and will reside at Lowestoft for a couple of years."