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## **An historical record of the Royal Regiment of horse guards**

**Packe, Edmund**

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### Chapter VII.

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## CHAPTER VII.

The Regiment encamped at Weymouth and Swinley—Stationed at Windsor—Silver Kettle-Drums presented—Marches into Lancashire—Two Squadrons embark for Portugal—Join the Army under the Marquis of Wellington—Subsequent operations—The Blues stationed at Logroño—Enter France, and embark for England at the conclusion of the War—Are stationed at Windsor—Four troops again embark for Foreign Service—Land at Ostend, and join the Duke of Wellington's Army—Battle of Waterloo—The Army marches to Paris—The Blues return to England—Various Occurrences to the end of the Reign of George III.—The Regiment stationed in London—Coronation of King George IV.—Cuirasses worn; the colour of the Belts changed from Buff to White—Reviews, &c. during the Reign of George IV.—Accession of King William IV.—He inspects the Regiment—Coronation of their Majesties—The King presents a Standard to the Regiment—Visit of Queen Adelaide—Conclusion.

On the death of Field-Marshal Conway (July 9), 1795 Charles, third Duke of Richmond, succeeded to the Coloneley (July 15th, 1795). In the succeeding years the Regiment occupied various country quarters: it was encamped at Weymouth in the summer of 1797, and in those of 1798 and 1799 at Swinley, near Windsor. At length (October 26, 1804), it was stationed at Windsor, and His Majesty, King George III., having at once determined that the former honours and privileges of the Regiment should be no longer withheld, it was again furnished with gold-laced clothing and appointments; and the ornamented bridle, with the other marks of distinction of which it had been deprived were ordered to be

1804 forthwith restored. The King was further pleased to mark his sense of its merits by the donation of a splendid pair of silver kettle-drums, which were presented to the Regiment by His Majesty in person on St. George's Day, 1805, the King's Troop being drawn up for this purpose within the square of Windsor Castle. Upon this occasion the following Order was issued to the Regiment by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Dorrien :—

‘ Head Quarters, Cavalry Barracks,  
‘ Windsor, 15th May, 1805.

‘ Although the late most gracious present from  
‘ the King in person to the Regiment, of a pair  
‘ of silver Kettle-Drums, was given with much  
‘ public ceremony, yet it is also proper that this  
‘ present should stand upon the records of the  
‘ Regiment, and be inserted in the Order Books  
‘ for the information of future times.

‘ On the Drums are engraved His Majesty's  
‘ arms with this inscription :—

III.

G. R.



GIVEN BY KING GEORGE III, APRIL 23, 1805.

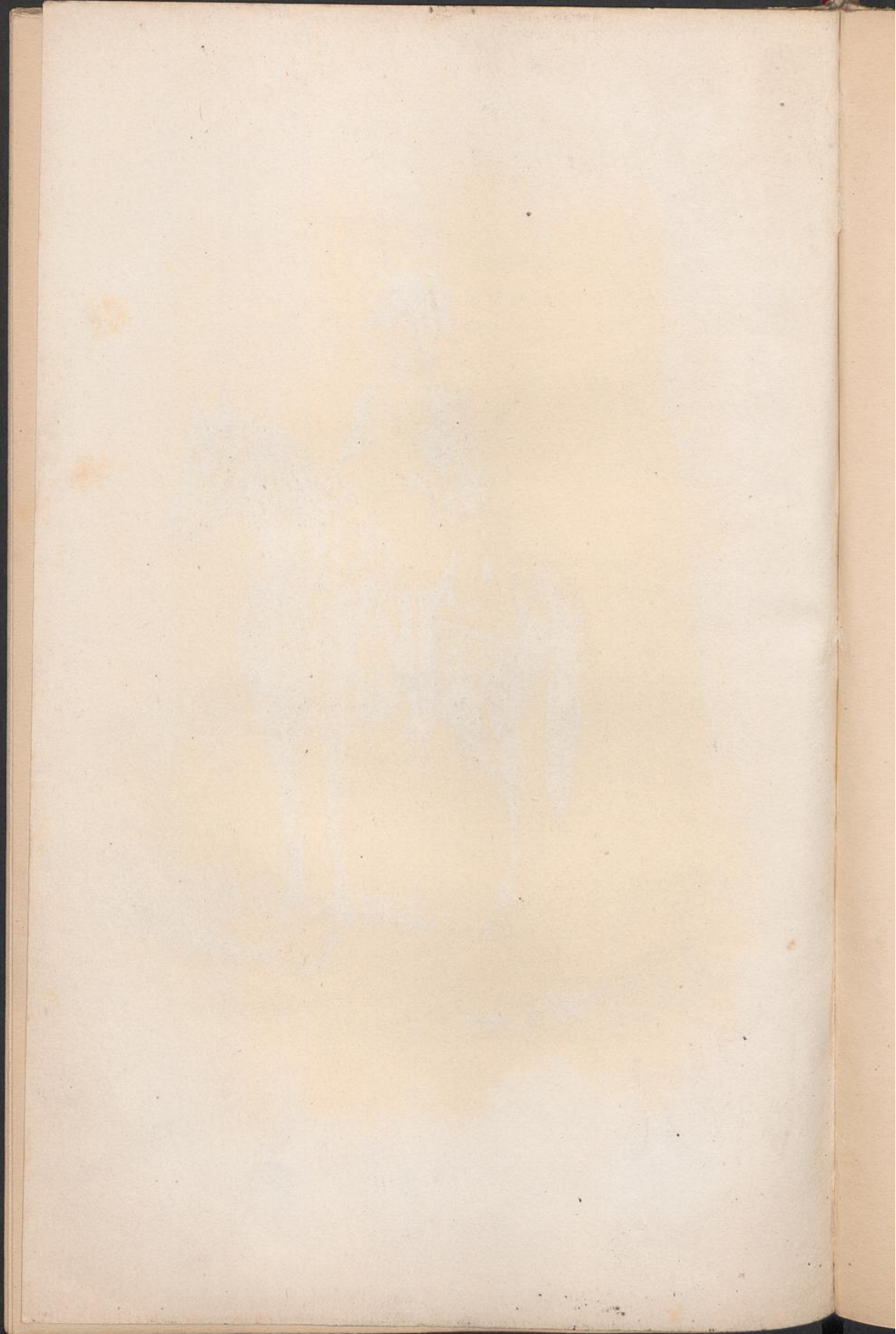
TO

HIS ROYAL REGIMENT OF HORSE GUARDS, AS A TESTIMONIAL  
OF ITS HONOURABLE AND MILITARY CONDUCT  
ON ALL OCCASIONS.



ROYAL REGT OF HORSE GUARDS. 1806.

*Scandage & Co. Litho.*



‘The Commanding Officer, while he partici- 1805  
‘pates in the satisfaction and gratitude which  
‘must be felt by all ranks in the Regiment for  
‘this distinguished mark of Royal favour, wishes  
‘to point out, that as the honourable testimony  
‘has been gained by their own exemplary con-  
‘duct, it is by the same means only that it can  
‘be preserved in full force ; that is, by the united  
‘endeavours of all ranks to deserve it, and they  
‘are bound by the call of honour and duty thus  
‘to transmit this valuable testimony unsullied to  
‘posterity.’

Till the period of his unhappy illness, His Majesty continued his attachment to the Blues, frequently wearing the uniform, and honouring the regimental parades by his presence\*. On the death of the Duke of Richmond (December 29, 1806), the command of the Royal Horse Guards was upon the day following given to Hugh, Duke of Northumberland, a nobleman whose liberality will ever be held in grateful remembrance, especially recorded as it is, by his two munificent donations of one thousand pounds each, to the

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\* Upon the death of King George III. the uniform of the Royal Horse Guards, which he had been in the habit of wearing, was presented to the Regiment by his Royal successor, King George IV. ; who, at the same time, was pleased to assure the Commanding Officer — ‘that he fully participated in his father’s feelings of  
‘attachment towards the corps, and that he entertained the same  
‘sense of its honourable character and good conduct upon all  
‘occasions.’ It is perhaps needless to add that the valued relic is carefully preserved, with every feeling of gratitude and respect.

1812 Troopers' Regimental Fund\* ; the first on the 23rd of April, 1807, and the second on the 23rd of April, 1813.

The Regiment continued at Windsor till the year 1812 ; in the spring of which, on account of disturbances in the manufacturing districts, and outrages committed by the Luddites (as the rioters who had combined for the purpose of destroying the machinery were denominated), it marched into Lancashire ; and on the 7th of May the head quarters were established at Warrington.

In the ensuing autumn, internal tranquillity being happily in great measure restored, the Government determined, by every means in their power, to reinforce the British army in the Peninsula. The Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, therefore, with the two Regiments of Life Guards, were ordered to prepare for foreign service ; and the establishment of the former, previously consisting of eight troops, was now ordered to be augmented to ten. Upon this occasion the Duke of Northumberland strongly urged his right, as

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\* This fund had been established in the year 1804, whilst the Regiment was quartered at Canterbury. By its regulations the non-commissioned officers and troopers agreed to contribute one shilling per month out of their pay. The sum arising out of this contribution being vested in Government securities, by certain appointed trustees, the interest was applied to the payment of pensions to discharged troopers, in classes, the amount of the pension being proportionate to their length of service. But in consequence of some dissensions, and the generally-expressed wish of the members of the society, an Act of Parliament was obtained for its dissolution in the year 1832, and the capital stock was divided amongst the claimants in proportionate shares.

consistent with the past usages of the corps, to 1812 appoint the officers of both the troops about to be added, whilst His Royal Highness the Duke of York, the Commander-in-Chief, insisted upon his claim, in virtue of his office, to appoint the officers of at least one of them. At length, finding his arguments ineffectual, and considering his privileges as Colonel of the Regiment, in some degree compromised by the decision, the Duke of Northumberland resigned his command, and the great Chief, whose fame was now rapidly advancing to its meridian, the Marquis of Wellington, succeeded to the Colonelcy (January 1, 1813).

In the mean time two squadrons of the Regiment, formed for foreign service, consisting of twenty-one officers, twenty-four non-commissioned officers, four trumpeters, two hundred and ninety-four rank and file, and two hundred and ninety-six horses, embarked at Portsmouth, on the 10th of November, in eight transports. The wind being unfavourable, the transports having the troops on board were detained in Stokes Bay till the 8th of November, when they sailed for Portugal: the remaining six depôt troops were stationed at Windsor. The whole of the two squadrons (with the exception of a small party on board a transport, which, being separated from the rest in a gale, did not arrive till the 23rd of December,) disembarked in the Tagus, on the 23rd of November, and marched into barracks at Belem, and from thence, on the 29th of the same month, into

1812 barracks at Luz ; having been inspected by Lieutenant-General Sir William Carr Beresford, K.B., and afterwards by Lieutenant-General Sir Stapylton Cotton, both which officers passed the highest encomiums upon the appearance of the men, and the good condition of the horses.

1813 On the 10th of January, 1813, the Regiment commenced its march to Thomar, where it arrived on the 17th. Major-General Rebow, of the Second Life Guards, having returned to England on leave of absence, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir R. C. Hill, of the Royal Horse Guards, as the officer next in rank, assumed the command of the Household Brigade, and the command of the regiment devolved to Captain Packe.

On the 6th of April a remount from England joined at Thomar, consisting of two officers, one corporal, twenty-one rank and file, and thirty-nine horses. On the 6th of May the Regiment was at Villa Mayor, Bismula, Roives, and Rovena, on the frontiers of Portugal ; and on the 11th it was inspected by the Marquis of Wellington ; on the 23rd of May it first joined the army near San Manoz. On the 4th of June the Regiment passed the Douro, near the city of Toro, and on the 19th was in bivouac near Carcamo ; from whence it marched at day-break on the morning of the 21st, and was present with the rest of the army in the decisive general action fought that day near Vitoria. But the difficult nature of the ground not allowing the cavalry to be generally engaged, all the service that could be performed was to advance

as close as possible with the infantry, in order to 1813 support them \*; in this service two horses of the Blues were killed by a cannon-shot. About nine o'clock in the evening it bivouacked in a grove about three leagues from the city of Vittoria.

General Clausel, having under his command a part of the French army which was not in the action of the 21st, approached Vittoria on the 22nd, when, upon hearing of the action of the preceding day, he retired in the direction of Tudela de Ebro. In order, if possible, to intercept his retreat, the Light, Third, Fourth, and Seventh Divisions, with Colonel Grant's and Major Macpherson's Brigades of cavalry, were moved towards Tudela; whilst the Fifth and Sixth Divisions, with the Household and General D'Urban's cavalry, marched from Vittoria to Salvatierra, in the direction of Logroño. The French General, however, by means of extraordinary forced marches, was enabled to reach Tudela in safety †.

The Royal Regiment of Horse Guards was now stationed at Logroño, where it continued till the 27th of July, when it marched to Los Arcos, and continuing its march through the following day, on the 29th arrived at the right of the British position, where it was formed in column, with two other brigades of cavalry; in the evening, retiring to a convent near the village of Badestein, it bivouacked round its walls. The Regiment was in motion by three o'clock on

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\* Despatches of the Marquis of Wellington. † Ibid.

1813 the morning of the 30th of July, and proceeded, with the rest of the brigade, to the right of the position occupied by the British army, where also were several other brigades of cavalry, forming a reserve. On this and the preceding day Marshal Soult, who had now succeeded to the command of the French army, which had been considerably reinforced and re-equipped, after its late defeat at Vittoria, made a most formidable attempt to relieve Pampeluna (then blockaded by the British), with the whole of his forces, excepting the reserve, under General Villatte (which remained in front of the British troops on the great road from Irun); when he was totally defeated, and compelled to retire, with a severe loss both of officers and men\*. During this action the Blues were again compelled to remain inactive, the battle being fought amidst the precipitous rocks and broken ravines of the Pyrenean mountains, upon ground where it was impossible for cavalry to act. On the day following the Regiment occupied Espazza and two other small villages, about a league from Pampeluna; and on the 9th of August the Household Brigade, being destined to form a corps of reserve and support for the troops blockading that fortress, marched back to Logroño, where it arrived on the 12th.

Major-General O'Loghlin, of the First Life Guards, having arrived to take the command of the brigade about the 15th of September, Lieute-

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\* Despatches of the Marquis of Wellington.

nant-Colonel Sir Robert Hill returned to the command of the Royal Horse Guards. 1813

Pampeluna surrendered on the 31st of October; but the season being so far advanced, it was not thought desirable to withdraw the Household Brigade from the quarters it continued to occupy at Logroño before the spring. The Regiment accordingly remained at Logroño and its environs till the 13th of March, 1814, when it received a route to join the army in France. On the 23rd of March it crossed the Pyrenees to Oruña, or Orogne (France), where it was joined by a remount from England, consisting of six officers, ten corporals, two trumpeters, one hundred and forty-five rank and file, and one hundred and fifty-one horses.

On the 17th of April the Regiment marched to Pompertusate, having been inspected by the Duke of Wellington on the road.

Upon the termination of hostilities the dismounted men, with the heavy baggage, were embarked at Bourdeaux for England, and the Regiment commenced its march from Lectoure on the 31st of May, and on the 23rd of July it arrived at Boulogne, two horses only being unfit for duty at the conclusion of this long march. Having embarked on that and the following day, the whole arrived at Dover on the 25th, and proceeded to head quarters, which were established at Windsor.

In commemoration of its services during the war in Spain, Portugal, and France, the Regi-

1814 ment was permitted to bear the word ' Peninsula' on its colours and appointments.

Upon the return of Napoleon from Elba, and the subsequent declaration of war, two squadrons of the Blues, consisting of twenty-two officers, nineteen corporals, four trumpeters, two hundred and thirty-two rank and file, and two hundred and thirty-horses, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Hill, embarked at Dover and 1815 Ramsgate, on the 2nd of May, 1815, for Ostend, where they arrived on the 4th, and upon disembarking marched forward to Bruges. On the 10th of the same month they occupied Leiderkirke, and other inconsiderable villages in the vicinity of Ninove, where the head quarters of the British cavalry were established.

The two regiments of Life Guards, the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, and the First or King's Dragoon Guards, were formed into one brigade, under the orders of Major-General Lord Edward Somerset, K.C.B.

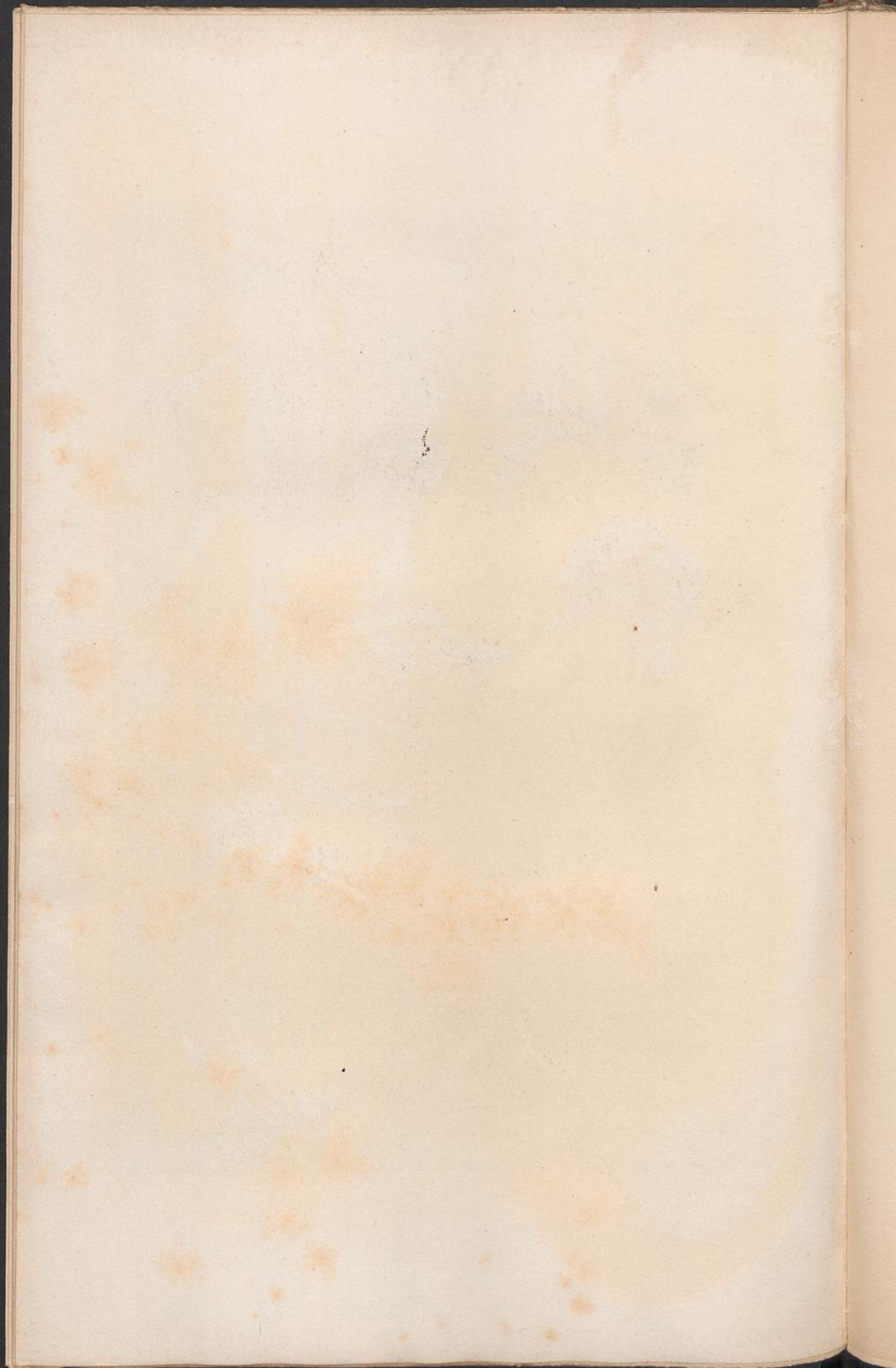
The whole of the British cavalry, and troops of horse artillery, amounting to upwards of seven thousand men, under the command of the Earl of Uxbridge, were reviewed on the 29th of May, on the plain of Grammont, by the Duke of Wellington, commanding the forces, Prince Blucher, and several distinguished personages.

On the morning of the 16th of June an order arrived for the immediate march of the Regiment, which accordingly left its cantonments, and passing through Braine Le Compte and Nivelles, after a



ROYAL REGT OF HORSE GUARDS. 1815.

*Scatchell & Co. Litho*



long day's march, bivouacked in a field between 1815 Le Quatre Bras and Genappe. On the 17th the army retired, the retreat being covered by the cavalry. Upon the enemy's advance, they were attacked by the Seventh Hussars, and afterwards by the First Regiment of Life Guards, with considerable success. The retreat was then continued, covered by the Royal Horse Guards. The French, however, confined their attack to a heavy cannonade, and in the evening the allied army having arrived at its intended position in front of the village of Waterloo, the Regiment bivouacked for the night.

The events of the following day are so well known, and the position, &c. of the armies engaged, for the most part, so generally understood, that it is unnecessary to enter into any detail upon these points; a course which, in describing the position and conduct of a single Regiment, it seems desirable, as far as possible, to avoid, lest we should appear to claim for a particular corps a greater share in the glory belonging to that memorable day than is justly its due. In this place it may be sufficient to state, that the brigade of Lord Edward Somerset was formed across, and extended to the right and left of the high road leading from Brussels to Charleroy, which intersected the British position nearly in the centre. Gradually advancing from this station, it made several charges, in all of which the French were repulsed. One of these charges was particularly remarkable for the brilliant success with which it was at-

1815 tended. In the hope of penetrating the British position, the attacks of the enemy's powerful cavalry were constantly directed against the centre; it was thus that the cuirassiers and lancers of the Imperial Guard were brought in contact with the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, near the farm of Le Haye Sainte; and it was there that those boasted victors of an hundred fights were in an instant routed, and rolled to the earth, 'in most admired disorder,' by the impetuous charge of the British Household Brigade.

This success, however, was not achieved without considerable loss. Of the Blues, Major Packe (who commanded the right squadron) and several men were killed, and more wounded; and Captain Thoyts, and Lieutenant Tathwell, their horses being shot, fell into the hands of the enemy, and were made prisoners\*.

The Duke of Wellington, in his despatch, was pleased to notice the conduct of Lord Edward Somerset's Brigade in the following terms:—

'The enemy repeatedly charged our infantry with his cavalry; but these attacks were uniformly unsuccessful, and they afforded opportunities for our cavalry to charge; in one of which Lord Edward Somerset's Brigade, consisting of

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\* These officers being sent to the rear, were detained by the enemy at Charleroy, till set at liberty by the advance of the victorious army. Lieutenant Tathwell rejoined his Regiment two days afterwards; but Captain Thoyts, having been placed under a more rigid surveillance, did not succeed in making his escape till a day or two later, and was returned missing.

‘ the Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, and First 1815  
 ‘ Dragoon Guards, highly distinguished them-  
 ‘ selves.’

The loss of this Regiment on the 17th and 18th  
 of June was as follows :—

On the 17th.—Killed, four rank and file, and  
 eight horses ; five rank and file wounded.

On the 18th.—Major Packe\*, two corporals,  
 sixteen rank and file, and fifty-four horses, killed.  
 Lieutenant-Colonel Sir R. C. Hill, Lieutenant-  
 Colonel and Captain Clement Hill, Lieutenant  
 Shawe, Lieutenant Bouverie ; Quarter-masters  
 Thomas Varley and Jonas Varley ; five corporals,  
 fifty-one rank and file, and thirteen horses,

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\* To the memory of this gentleman a monument was erected by  
 the officers of the Regiment in St. George’s Chapel at Windsor,  
 bearing the following inscription :—

TO THE MEMORY

OF ROBERT CHRISTOPHER PACKE, ESQUIRE,

SECOND SON OF CHARLES JAMES PACKE, ESQUIRE,

OF PRESTWOLD, LEICESTERSHIRE,

AND MAJOR IN THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF HORSE GUARDS BLUE.

WHO WAS KILL'D AT THE HEAD OF HIS SQUADRON

WHEN CHARGING THE FRENCH CUIRASSIERS AT THE EVER

MEMORABLE BATTLE OF WATERLOO, ON THE 18 JUNE, 1815,

IN THE XXXIII<sup>D</sup> YEAR OF HIS AGE.

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THIS MONUMENT

WAS ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

IN WHICH HE HAD SERVED MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS,

IN TESTIMONY OF THEIR HIGH VENERATION FOR

HIS DISTINGUISHED MILITARY MERIT,

AND OF THEIR SINCERE REGRET FOR THE LOSS OF A COMPANION

SO LONG ENDEARED TO THEIR AFFECTIONS BY HIS

AMIALE MANNERS AND PRIVATE VIRTUES.

1815 wounded. One corporal, sixteen rank and file, and seventeen horses, missing\*.

Moving forward with the allied armies on the 7th of July, the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards was quartered at Nanterre, a small village in the vicinity of Paris; on the 18th it was at Loucienne, where, on the 19th and 20th of the same month, a remount joined from England, consisting of ten officers, one hundred and thirty-five rank and file, and one hundred and twenty-nine horses. On the 24th, with the whole of the allied armies, it was reviewed by the Duke of Wellington, accompanied by the Sovereigns of Russia, Austria, Prussia, and France, between the Bridge of Neuilly and the Place de Louis XV. (Paris). On the 21st of August the head quarters of the Regiment were established at Colombes. On the 2nd of September it was reviewed, with the rest of the Household Brigade, the Eighth Brigade of cavalry, and one troop of horse artillery, by the Emperor of Russia, who expressed himself highly pleased with their appearance and movements. On the 22nd of September, with the whole of the allied army, it was again reviewed by the Duke of Wellington on the plain of St. Denis; and again on the 11th of October, when the British and Hanoverian army, amounting to between fifty and sixty thousand men, were reviewed upon the same ground.

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\* None of these men ever returned to the Regiment, and there is no doubt they were all killed on the 18th of June.

On the 16th of January, 1816, the Regiment, 1816 with the two Regiments of Life Guards, having been inspected by Lieutenant-General Lord Combermere on the Plain de Sablone, near Paris, commenced its march to Calais, where it arrived on the 30th of the same month ; and having embarked on the two following days, landed at Dover and Ramsgate on the 1st and 2nd of February, from whence it proceeded to the depôt at Windsor.

In commemoration of its distinguished services, on the 18th of June 1815, the Regiment was permitted to bear the word ' Waterloo' on its colours and appointments.

Military annals, in a period of profound peace, are, of necessity, comparatively uninteresting ; but as a regimental record, this work would be incomplete, were no mention to be made of several remarkable reviews and occasions of martial spectacle, when the Blues have borne a distinguished part in the parade ceremonials of the day.

On the 25th of July, 1817, the three Regiments 1817 composing the Household Brigade were reviewed upon Hounslow Heath, by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent. On the 19th of November, in the same year, the Blues were on duty at the funeral of Her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte of Wales ; and in the following year 1818 (December 2) at that of Her Majesty Queen Charlotte.

In the year 1819 (May 20), His Royal High- 1819 ness the Prince Regent having determined to

1819 receive the Ambassador for Persia with extraordinary ceremony, the Regiment was moved up to London, the whole of the cavalry employed upon that occasion being placed under the command of its Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Elley\*.

1820 On the 12th of February, 1820, it was on duty at the funeral of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; and on the 17th of the same month, at that of His Majesty King George III. In this year, on the 21st of July, the Household Brigade was reviewed by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief; and being subsequently joined by the Twelfth Regiment of Lancers, and a brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery, the whole were reviewed upon Hounslow Heath, August the 5th, by His Majesty King George IV.

An order had been issued by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, as long ago as the 24th of August, 1814, which, after fully recognizing the privileges and claims of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards to perform, equally with the two other regiments of household cavalry, the Court duties in the metropolis, directed that, when the presence of the whole brigade should not be required, one regiment in rotation should be stationed in country quarters. But during the

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\* This distinguished officer had only recently resumed his Regimental duties, having been employed on the staff of the British army since the 25th December, 1807, as Assistant and Deputy-Adjutant-General, in the Peninsula, the Netherlands, and France.

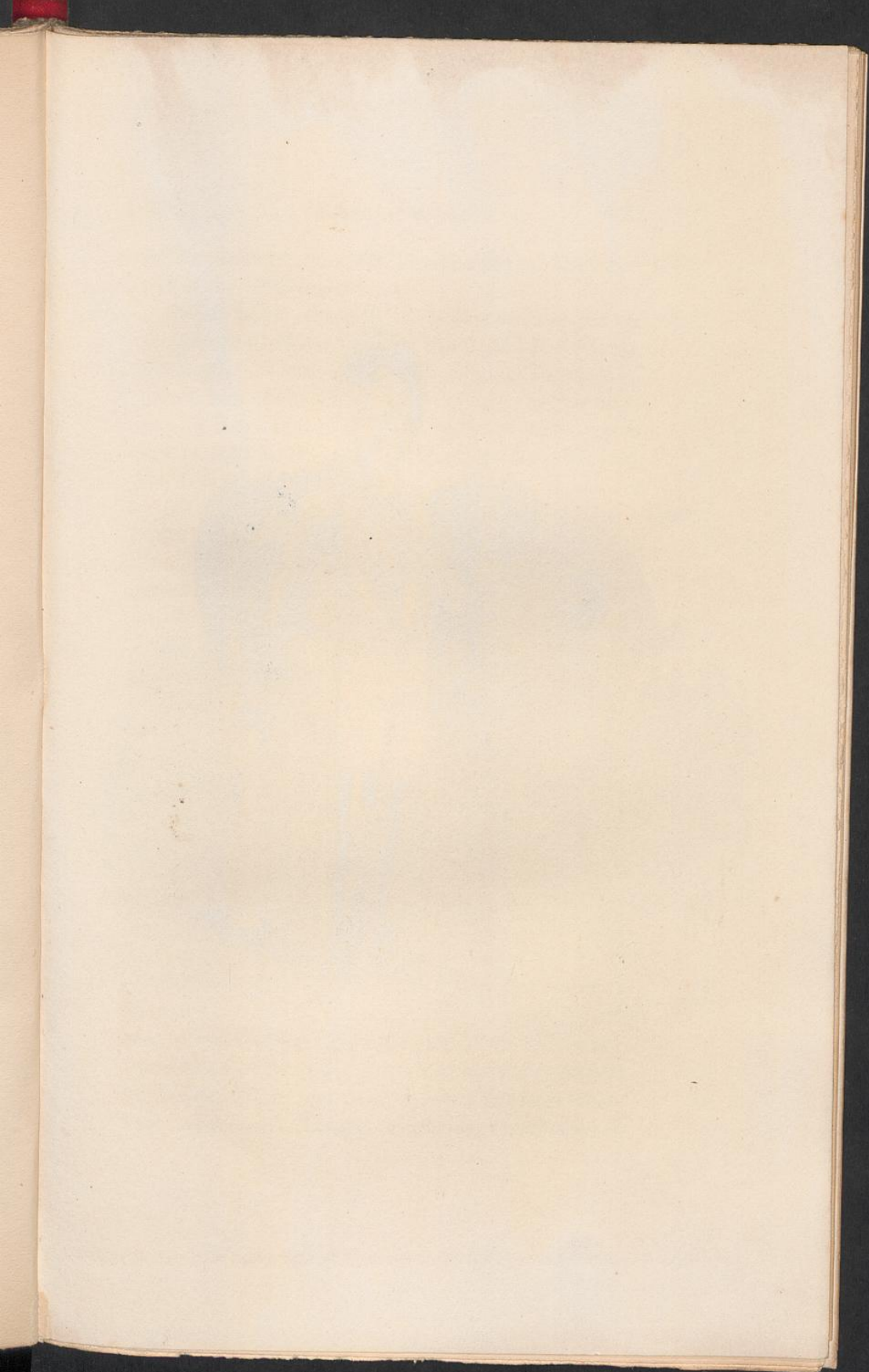
unhappy illness of the late Monarch, motives of 1821 respect appear to have suggested that the corps, 'which the King had delighted to honour,' should not be withdrawn from its attendance upon his declining years. The head quarters of the Regiment accordingly continued at Windsor till the 14th of June, 1821, when it marched into cantonments in the vicinity of London, and shortly afterwards occupied the newly-erected barracks in the Regent's Park.

At the magnificent ceremonial of the coronation of King George IV. (July 19), the Blues were present, and furnished the King's Life Guard upon the occasion. On that day the Household Brigade first appeared in cuirasses, which it has ever since continued to wear\*; and a further remarkable alteration took place in the appointments of the Blues: the buff belts, by which the Regiment had been distinguished from the period of its first establishment, were now laid aside and exchanged for those of white.

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\* On its taking the field in 1794, the Regiment was supplied with breast-plates, which also appear to have been worn in the previous campaigns in Germany and the Netherlands; but being now found to be more cumbrous than convenient, and from the length of time which had elapsed since they were last worn, having become rusty and unserviceable, they were deposited in store at Tournay, and from thence transmitted to England. As a defence for the head, however, a skull-cap was fitted on to the crown of the cocked hat, and worn throughout that campaign. Originally the Regiment was furnished with 'backs, breasts, and potts.' When the backs and potts were laid aside is not exactly known: but no part of the defensive armour appears to have been worn, except when the regiment was employed upon active service.

- 1821 On the death of Her Majesty Queen Caroline, it being decided that her body should be removed to Brunswick for interment, the funeral procession left Brandenburg House (Hammersmith) on the morning of the 14th of August, and, after much disgraceful rioting in and near London, was escorted to Harwich, the appointed place of embarkation, by a guard of Honour from the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards.
- 1822 In the year 1822 (June 1) the Household Brigade, with the Tenth and Fifteenth Hussars, the Fourteenth Light Dragoons, and a brigade of horse artillery, were reviewed upon Hounslow Heath, by his Royal Highness the Duke of York, the Commander-in-Chief.
- 1823 In the following year (July 15) the Household Brigade was again reviewed by His Royal Highness on Hounslow Heath, with the Seventh and Fifteenth Hussars, the Third Light Dragoons, and a brigade of horse artillery.
- 1825 Again in the year 1825, (June 28,) when, in addition to the Household Brigade, the following regiments were assembled upon Hounslow Heath: the First Dragoon Guards, the Second Dragoon Guards, the Greys, the Seventh Hussars, the Twelfth Lancers, together with a brigade of horse artillery.
- 1827 On the 20th of January, 1827, the Blues were on duty at the funeral of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and the Duke of Wellington being now appointed to the Coloneley of the First Foot Guards, the command of this Regiment was





ROYAL REGT OF HORSE GUARDS. 1828.

*Standage & Co, Litho.*

given (January 22, 1827) to His Royal Highness 1827  
the Duke of Cumberland.

In 1828, on the 5th of February, the Royal 1828  
Regiment of Horse Guards, the First Life Guards,  
the Second Battalion of the Grenadier Guards, and  
a battalion of the Third Guards, with the Seventy-  
second Regiment of infantry, were inspected upon  
the parade in St. James's Park by Don Miguel,  
the Infant of Portugal.

On the 27th of May, 1829, the Royal Regi- 1829  
ment of Horse Guards, the Second Life Guards,  
the Tenth and Fifteenth Hussars, with the First  
and Third Foot Guards, and a brigade of horse  
artillery, were reviewed in Hyde Park by the  
Duke of Orleans, accompanied by several distin-  
guished personages.

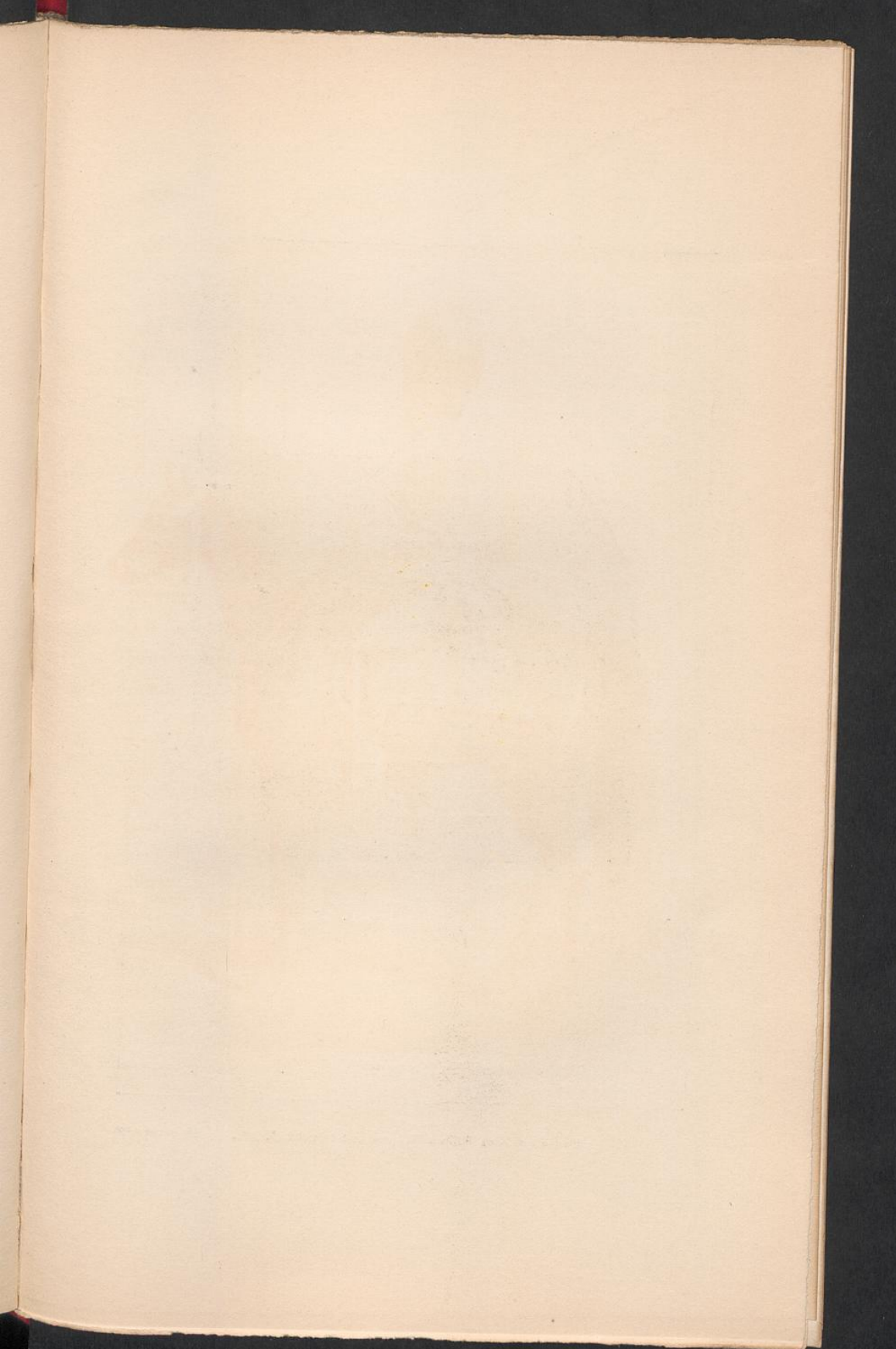
The Regiment was on duty at the funeral of 1830  
His Majesty King George IV., July 16, 1830;  
and on the 26th of the same month the House-  
hold Brigade was inspected in Hyde Park  
by the King of Wirtemberg. On the 3rd of  
August, His Majesty King William IV. was  
pleased to visit the Regent's Park Barracks,  
where the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards were  
then quartered. Here, after inspecting the First  
Regiment of Life Guards, which had marched  
from Hyde Park Barracks for that purpose, His  
Majesty proceeded to inspect this Regiment, and  
was afterwards pleased to express 'his entire ap-  
'probation of its appearance, and his high opinion  
'of its discipline and distinguished conduct upon  
'all occasions.' The parade being dismissed, all

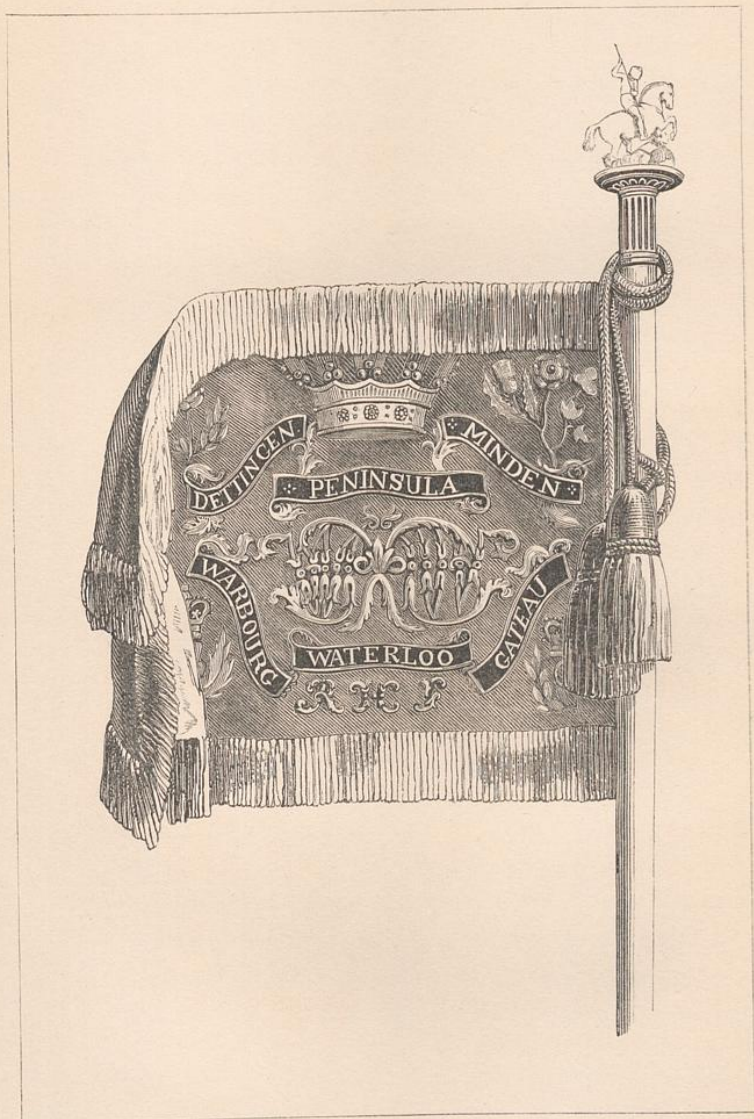
1830 the officers had the honour to be presented to the King\*.

The sole command of the Household Brigade had been hitherto vested in the Gold Stick, an office held by the Colonels of each of the three regiments, in rotation, to whom all reports, applications for leave of absence, &c. were forwarded, and through whom, the orders of the Sovereign were directly communicated. By His Majesty's command this authority was now transferred to the office of the Commander-in-Chief, and the brigade, in all the above particulars, was placed upon precisely the same footing with the rest of the British army. Upon the promulgation of this Order the Duke of Cumberland tendered his resignation as Colonel of the Blues, His Royal Highness humbly representing, in the first place, that the Gold Stick being now divested of its military command, was become a mere Court office, which, as a Prince of the Blood Royal, he could not consistently hold; and, secondly, that it was not compatible with his rank, as eldest Field-Marshal but one in the British Service, to receive the orders of an officer junior to himself. The change, having however, been decided upon, the resignation of His Royal Highness was accepted, and General Lord Hill was appointed to the Colonelcy, November 19, 1830. In this year the Troop Quarter-Masters were reduced, ceasing to

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\* His Majesty King William IV., on his Accession, was pleased to declare himself Colonel-in-Chief of the three regiments composing the household Brigade of cavalry.





Standard of King William IV., presented August 13th, 1832.

[To face page 129.]

be borne on the establishment from the 31st of 1830 December.

At the ceremonial of their Majesties' Coronation, September the 8th, in the following year, the Blues were on duty, and furnished a Guard of Honour upon the occasion. In the year 1832, 1832 the Regiment being then at Windsor, His Majesty was pleased to confer upon it a signal mark of his favour, in the presentation of a magnificent Standard; which was to be designated the Standard of King William IV., and to be borne by the King's Troop on occasions of particular ceremony. The following lively account of the presentation, and of the military display by which it was accompanied, is taken from an ably conducted periodical\*.

' On the 9th and 10th August, the following  
' troops from London were collected in the vicin-  
' ity of Windsor:—the First and Second Regi-  
' ments of Life Guards, the flank companies of  
' the First Battalion of the Coldstream Guards,  
' with a mixed brigade of horse artillery from  
' Woolwich. The Blues and Second Battalion  
' Scots' Fusilier Guards were already on the spot.  
' The battalion of flank companies, under the  
' command of Lord Saltoun, was encamped upon  
' an open spot in the Great Park, between the  
' Long Walk and Queen Ann's Ride, at a dis-  
' tance of about half a mile from either barrack.  
' The artillery were quartered at Cumberland

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\* The United Service Journal.

1832 ' Lodge. On Monday, the 13th, the Fourteenth  
' Light Dragoons marched from Hounslow to  
' Windsor to keep the ground, and returned to  
' their quarters the same day. A party of the  
' Third Dragoons was also present to assist in  
' these duties.

' On Sunday the Blues, Foot Guards and artil-  
' lery assembled on the skirt of the camp to hear  
' Divine service, under as bright a canopy as ever  
' beamed on Christian worship. Their Majesties  
' were present. The service was performed, and  
' an admirable sermon preached by Dr. Dakins,  
' the principal Chaplain to the Forces. At its  
' close the troops marched past; they did so  
' admirably. The Blues surprised us by the  
' precision with which those superb Centaurs  
' performed their work *on foot*, rivalling the  
' well-known accuracy of their infantry compeers.  
' The scene altogether, though somewhat theatri-  
' cal, was impressive and beautiful. The theatre  
' was nature's own, and the *dramatis personae*,  
' exhibiting the perfection of Art, did honour to  
' her rival's charms, and completed their effect.

' Monday the 13th of August, the birth-day of  
' Her Majesty, opened inauspiciously for the pa-  
' geant, the announcement of which had attracted  
' a vast concourse of visitors to Windsor. A  
' drenching rain fell till after nine o'clock, when  
' the weather partially cleared, the air and roads  
' being refreshed by the seasonable moisture. At  
' eleven the troops entered the Home Park, and  
' formed line with their right to the Castle, and

‘ their left towards Adelaide Cottage. The line 1832  
‘ was judiciously disposed for effect, the artillery  
‘ and cavalry being divided on the flanks of the  
‘ infantry. Lord Edward Somerset commanded ;  
‘ Lord Hill being present as Colonel of the Royal  
‘ Horse Guards. The Military Secretary and  
‘ the Adjutant and Quarter-Master-General also  
‘ attended.

‘ At twelve the King and Queen, with their  
‘ suite, and an escort of the Third Dragoon  
‘ Guards, passed along the front of the line in  
‘ open carriages, and having taken post in the  
‘ centre, the guns fired, and the troops saluted ;  
‘ at this moment the spectacle possessed interest  
‘ and animation.

‘ The troops having been wheeled inwards, and  
‘ the officers called to the front, Lord Hill placing  
‘ himself before his regiment, their Majesties,  
‘ accompanied by the Dukes of Cumberland and  
‘ Gloucester, and Prince George of Cumberland,  
‘ with the Duchess of Cumberland and Princess  
‘ Augusta, taking their station in the centre, the  
‘ standard, richly wrought in gold, and embla-  
‘ zoned with the trophies of the Blues, was con-  
‘ secrated by the Chaplain to the Forces. After  
‘ an address in which the King recapitulated the  
‘ motive of his gift, and the early origin and dis-  
‘ tinguished services of the Royal Horse Guards,  
‘ His Majesty presented the standard to Lord Hill,  
‘ who respectfully received it on the part of his  
‘ regiment. The troops then resumed line, broke

1832 'into column, and marched past in ordinary and 'quick time; the cavalry, in the highest order, 'performing that parade movement by squadrons, 'troops, and threes, at a walk and trot.'

In the evening His Majesty gave a splendid banquet in St. George's Hall, in honour of the occasion, at which all the officers of the Royal Horse Guards were present, and the company, amounting to nearly two hundred, included many of the most distinguished personages in the kingdom.

1833 On the 13th of March, 1833, Her Majesty Queen Adelaide honoured the Regiment by a visit at its barracks at Windsor, when, after an exhibition of military horsemanship, and the performance of the band in the riding-school, Her Majesty was graciously pleased to declare how much she had been gratified by all she had seen, and to mark her visit by a donation to the regimental school.

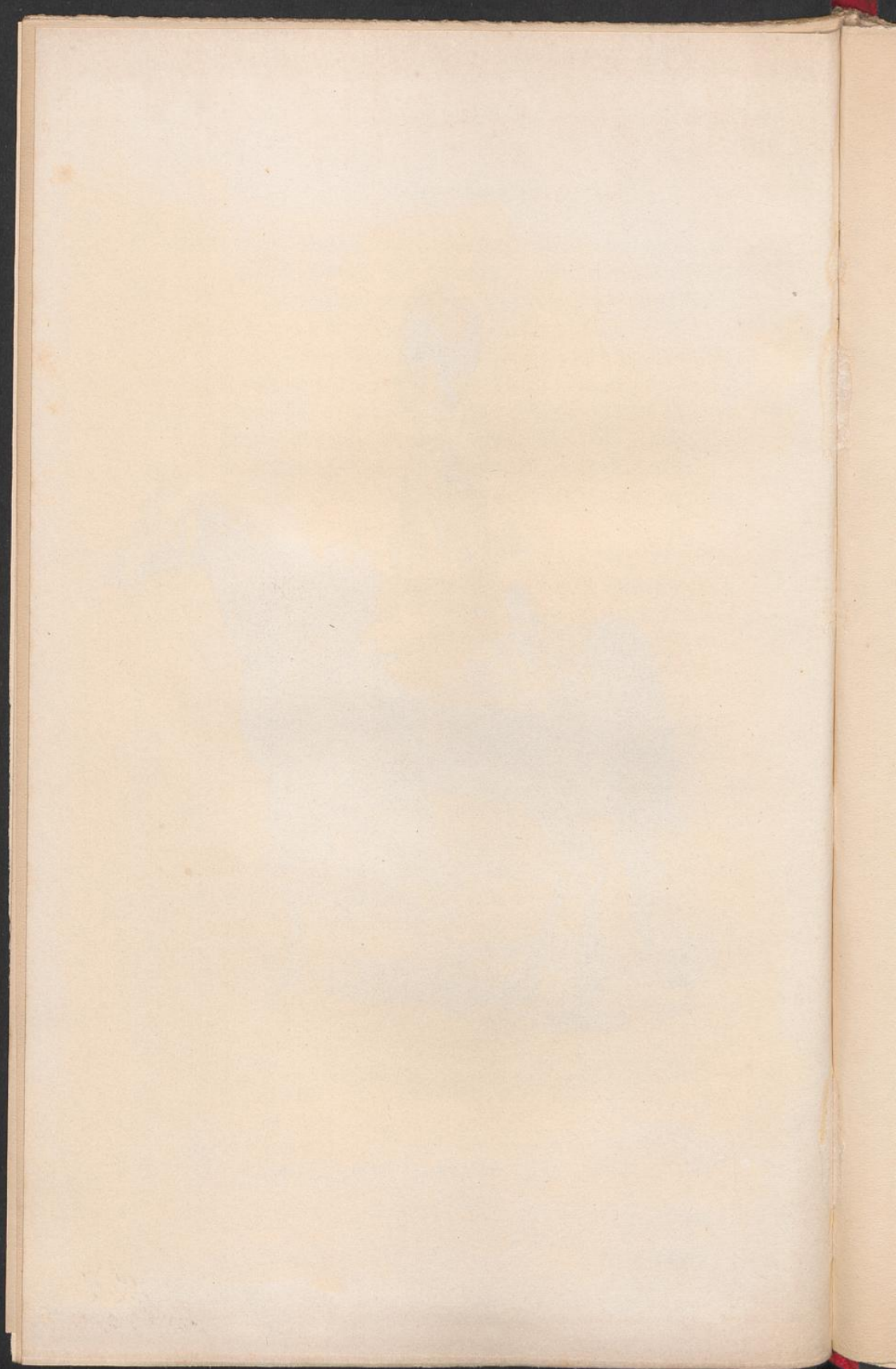
1834 On the 17th of May, 1834, the Regiment was reviewed in Hyde Park, together with the 1st Regiment of Life Guards, a detachment of Horse Artillery, and four battalions of the Grenadier, Coldstream, and Scots Fusilier Guards, by His Serene Highness, Duke Ferdinand of Saxe Cobourg.

1836 On the 18th of June, 1836, the Regiment was reviewed in Hyde Park, together with the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Life Guards, two troops of Horse, and two batteries of Foot Artillery, the



ROYAL REGT OF HORSE GUARDS. 1834.

*Standidge & Co. Litho*



7th Hussars, and three battalions of the Grenadier, 1836 Coldstream, and Scots Fusilier Guards, by the King and Queen.

The Regiment was on duty at the funeral of 1837 King William the Fourth, July the 8th, 1837, also at the coronation of Queen Victoria, June 1838 the 28th, 1838.

Upon the occasion of the solemnization of Her 1840 Majesty's marriage, 10th February, 1840, the Regiment furnished the Guard of Honour for the Queen, on her progress from St. James's to Buckingham Palace.

Upon the visit of the King of Prussia to Her 1842 Majesty, 22nd of January, 1842, he was met at Old Windsor by a Guard of Honour furnished by the Blues, who escorted him from thence to Windsor Castle, and on the 25th of January, the Regiment furnished a Guard of Honour at Windsor Castle, upon the occasion of the christening of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

On the 20th of December in the same year, on the decease of General Lord Hill, Field-Marshal the Marquis of Anglesey was appointed Colonel of the Regiment.

On the 5th of June, 1844, the Blues, together 1844 with two troops of the Royal Horse Artillery; the First Life Guards; the Seventeenth Lancers; a battery of Field Artillery; the second battalions of the Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, and Scots Fusilier Guards; and the Forty-seventh Regiment; were reviewed in Windsor Great Park by His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias.

- 1845 In June, 1845, the regiment was moved from Windsor to the Regent's Park Barracks; and on the 4th August it was reviewed in Hyde Park, with two troops of the Royal Horse Artillery; the First Life Guards; the Fourth Light Dragoons; the first and third battalions of the Grenadier Guards; and the two battalions of the Scots Fusilier Guards, by Field Marshal His Majesty the King of the Netherlands.
- 1846 On the 29th June, 1846, the Blues were reviewed in Hyde Park, with the First Life Guards; the first and second battalions of the Grenadier Guards; the first battalion of the Coldstream Guards; and the first battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards, by Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief; and in the same month were removed from Regent's Park to Hyde Park Barracks.

This narrative has now been brought down to the latest period, and the Author trusts that he may be forgiven for a little ebullition of *esprit de corps* at the conclusion; that he may be allowed to express his fervent hope that the Regiment in which it is his pride to have served, may long wear, with still increasing reputation, the laurels it has gained; that the lines of the Poet, slightly altered, may be ever applicable to the Blues, and that they may continue to the end of time,

Our England's ornament, the Crown's defence,  
 In battle brave, protectors of their Prince:  
 Unchanged by fortune, to their Sovereign true,  
 For which their manly forms are decked with blue\*.

\* Dryden. The Flower and the Leaf.



ROYAL REGT OF HORSE GUARDS. 1847

*Sandidge & C. Litho*

