

FREEMASONRY

IN THE



SEVENTH  
OR ROYAL REGIMENT OF  
FUSILIERS

## PREFACE.

The investigations resulting in the information here collected were prompted by the entry in Gould's History of Freemasonry giving a list of Regiments in which lodges were held, and the striking lack of information about the Royal Fusiliers in his book on Military Lodges.

This short review of the progress of Freemasonry in the 7th Fusiliers would not have been possible without the assistance of the following, to whom I offer my grateful thanks:

Most Worshipful Brother Reginald V. Harris P. G. M.  
Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Right Worshipful Brother A. J. B. Milborne P. D. D. G. M.  
Grand Lodge of Quebec.

Worshipful Brother E. Newton  
Assistant Librarian, United Grand Lodge of England.

Worshipful Brother George MacClinchie  
Librarian, Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Miss Dale, 2 i/c South Room, Public Record Office.

I owe a debt of gratitude also to the Secretaries and other brethren of the Lodges mentioned herein who have ferretted in their records for me.

The Grove  
Worham  
Suffolk.

Westray B. Hancock

1960.

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## THE IRISH LODGES.

Records show that two warrants were issued to the Royal Fusiliers by the Grand Lodge of Ireland:

No. 38.            10 December 1750.

No. 231.          1 April        1752.

There are no registrations for either of these Lodges.

No. 38 must have been dated originally between November 1734 and September 1735 and the issue of 1750 a transfer or reissue. However, on the evidence of W. Brother R. E. Parkinson, the acknowledged authority on the Irish Lodges, this warrant was issued, not to the 7th but to the 38th Foot. The Lodge was erased on 1 November 1801.

No. 231 was erased on 5 November the same year.

The Regiment was in Ireland, first in Dublin and then in Londonderry, from 1749 until 1755.

The number 231 was reissued in 1811 to a Lodge at Armoy which has since disappeared; it was again revived when the Carleton Lodge of Portadown was warranted in 1879.

It is interesting to note that an English Regiment still holds an Irish warrant of this period. No. 322 Glittering Star Lodge, warranted in 1759, is held in the 1st Bn. the Worcestershire Regt. the 29th Foot. This Lodge, opened in ample form by the Grand Master of Ireland, met in the Tower of London in 1938, the first masonic meeting ever held there.

## THE CANADIAN LODGES.

The Grand Lodge of the Antients formed a Provincial Grand Lodge in Lower Canada in 1791. H. R. H. Prince Edward, Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers, was appointed Provincial Grand Master with authority to issue warrants.

The earliest reference to the Regiment in Canadian Freemasonry is the appearance of six members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Andalusia as visitors in Lodge No. 241, Quebec, on 27 December 1791.

They were:	Pte. John	Fisher			
	Pte. John	Finch			
	Cpl. William	Stuart			
	Pte. John	Graber	discharged	13 January	1791.
	Sgt. George	Mansforth	- -	31 July	-
	Pte. Fred.	Bogatch	- -	24 August	-

In 1792, while stationed at Richelieu, (now Sorel), the Officers applied for and were granted a warrant for the Royal Rose Lodge No. 2, and in the following year the Other Ranks formed the Lodge of Fidelity No. 7, both on the Register of Lower Canada. The records of both Lodges in Quebec are fragmentary; in Nova Scotia they are almost complete for the period during which they were working there.

The Regiment had come to Canada from Gibraltar, where lodges were administered by the Antients' P. G. L. of Andalusia.

Prince Edward, the fourth son of George III, later became Duke of Kent and the father of Queen Victoria; hence the nickname bestowed upon the Regiment on her accession: "Dad's Old Corps".

## THE MILITIA BATTALIONS.

### THE ROYAL WESTMINSTER MILITIA.

The Regiment of Westminster Militia was formed in 1760. The title 'Royal' first appears in pay lists in 1794. The Regiment was embodied as The 3rd Middlesex or Westminster Regiment of Militia in 1797, and re-named Royal Westminster Militia in 1804.

The Regiment was stood down in 1816 and the Headquarters established at Brentford, moving to Hammersmith in 1850. Three years later the title was again changed to 3rd Royal Westminster Middlesex (Light Infantry) Militia. When the Cardwell reforms were introduced in 1881 it became the 3rd (Militia) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and was renumbered 5th on the formation of the 3rd Line Battalion in 1898.

### THE ROYAL SOUTH MIDDLESEX MILITIA.

Formed in 1853, this Regiment became the 5th (Militia) Battalion in 1881; it was renumbered 7th in 1898 and 6th in 1908.

### THE ROYAL LONDON MILITIA.

The East and West Regiments of London Militia were raised in 1794 and given the privileges of the City of London as enjoyed by the Train Bands. This is the beginning of this particular regiment, but the history of militia in the City can be traced back to the London Levies in King Alfred's army which subdued the Danes in A. D. 886.

Both Regiments were styled 'Royal' in 1804, and in 1820 they became the Royal London Militia by amalgamation. In 1881 the Regiment joined the Royal Fusiliers as the 4th (Militia) Battalion, being renumbered 6th in 1898, and 7th in 1908.

### WAR SERVICE.

The Militia were embodied during the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars for garrison duty at home; during the latter period the Royal Westminster volunteered to serve abroad; were sent to Corfu, receiving the Battle Honour MEDITERRANEAN. For the South African War they were again embodied; the 6th and 7th were stood down after a few months but the 5th Bn. again volunteered for foreign service, and were awarded the Battle Honour SOUTH AFRICA 1900 - 01.

In the Kaiser's War the 5th and 6th Bns. were employed as training units at home; the 7th, at first a Special Reserve unit, went to France in 1916, serving in the 63rd (Naval) Division until the Armistice.

In 1919 the Militia Battalions became dormant, and they were not revived for Hitler's War.

## THE MILITIA LODGES.

### THE DERWENT LODGE NO. 40.

Warrant No. 583 (Moderns) was issued to the Westminster Regiment of Middlesex Militia at Hastings on 1 July 1799.

The Principal Officers were:

Musician	James Price	Master
Sergeant	Thomas Jackson	S. W.
Musician	Tranty E. de L. Lowenfeld	J. W.

From July 1799 to March 1808 a total of 99 names were registered as members at Grand Lodge and after the Regiment had left they were still mainly military. After this the Lodge appears to have lapsed, since no new members are entered in the Lodge books for the years 1809 to 1811. However, it was evidently resuscitated for a while, as 11 new names are entered between 1812 and 1815, when the record ends. Finally the eleven remaining members returned the warrant to Grand Lodge on 29 December 1817 and amalgamated with the Derwent Lodge No. 54.

This Lodge was working in Hastings under Warrant No. 36 (Antients) dated 15 August 1754 and reissued 12 May 1813. It was renumbered 54 at the Union, 48 in 1833 and 40 in 1863; under this number it now meets at St. Leonards on second Mondays from September to May.

The Westminster Militia had moved down from Liverpool to Pevensey in June 1799, remaining in that area until it went to Horsham in 1802. In December 1803 it moved to East Anglia leaving the Lodge behind; it took Warrant No. 309 (Antients) in Colchester in 1804.

### ST. LUKE'S LODGE NO. 225.

Grand Lodge records show Warrant No. 309 (Antients) as issued to the 52nd Regiment in Jersey on 27 September 1797 and transferred to the 8th thirteen days later. Records of the Regiments concerned make these numbers and dates difficult to reconcile. The 52nd were in Madras, but the 58th were in Jersey from June 1797 until posted overseas in October 1798. The 8th were in Scotland in 1797; they were in Guernsey from August 1798 until posted abroad in June 1799. It would seem, therefore, that the warrant may well have been issued originally to the 58th and transferred to the 8th when the former unit went abroad.

The 85th Regiment was in Jersey from January to June 1799 and, after a second battalion was raised, both returned to Jersey from October 1800 till January 1801. The warrant was transferred to this regiment in 1801 and allowed to lapse the following year when both battalions went abroad.

On 20 October 1803 the warrant was reissued to the 2nd Royal Lancashire Militia at Danbury in Essex. The Lodge was named Knight of Malta, and in the Grand Lodge Library can be seen a certificate issued to

Bro. Samuel Streets, 2nd Regiment of Royal Lancashire Militia, of the Knight of Malta Lodge No. 309 dated 1804, and another issued to John Leather after the number was changed, at Plymouth in 1812.

In 1804 the 2nd Royal Lancashire took the vacant number 120; this was installed by dispensation in Lodge No. 309 and the name Knight of Malta transferred to the new warrant on 20 October 1804. On the same night Warrant 309 was, also by dispensation, installed in a new Lodge to be held in the Royal Westminster Militia, then also quartered in Lexden Camp, Colchester.

The earliest list of names in Grand Lodge records is of this date:

Sergeant	John Hewlett	Master	} R. Westminster Mil.
Sergeant	James Hamilton	S. W.	
Sergeant	John Burton	J. W.	
Lieut.	Thomas Smallwood		2/R. Lancashire Mil.
	James Abbott		
Sergeant	John Campbell		2/R. Lancashire Mil.

James Abbott did not muster with any of the seven Militia Regiments then in Lexden Camp.

The 2nd Royal Lancashire moved to Sunderland in July 1805 and did not come back to East Anglia. The Knight of Malta Lodge, after sponsoring several lodges in the North of England, paid no dues after 1814 and was erased in 1822.

The Royal Westminster left Colchester for Ipswich in November 1804 and except for short tours of duty at the F. O. W. Camp at Norman Cross, was quartered in the area Ipswich - Harwich - Colchester until it marched to Chelmsford in June 1809. The Regiment moved up to Hull in September the same year and did not return to East Anglia.

In 1805 the Lodge settled permanently in Ipswich and took the name St. Luke's; it was renumbered 393 at the Union.

On 14 June 1820, 393 absorbed the Lodge of Perfect Friendship No. 480; the Lodge has this date as 8 May. The Lodge was renumbered 272 in 1833 and 225 in 1863, under which number it now meets at Freemasons' Hall, Scane Street, Ipswich on second Wednesdays from September to June.

The Warrant is dated: -- October 1803, and is endorsed:

This Warrant was first installed in the 8th Regiment of Foot the 10th day of October 1797 and transferred from the Grand Lodge to the 2nd Regiment of Royal Lancashire Militia this present 20th day of October 1803.

#### THE LODGE OF JUSTICE NO. 147.

Warrant No. 198 (Antients) was first issued on 20 January 1777. There were only three petitioners and, after receiving two joining members in May the Lodge appears to have lapsed.

The dormant warrant was subsequently purchased and 'being presented by Bro. Parker with leave and sanction of the Grand Officers', a Lodge was formed on 21 January 1801 at the Baptist's Head, St. John's Lane, West Smithfield.

The first two minutes read:

It being granted by the Grand Officers that Warrant No. 198 be a Military Lodge in the West Regiment of London Militia, it was unanimously resolved that all officers be Military men and belonging to the said West Regiment of London Militia.

Resolved that any initiated Gentleman in this Lodge that is not a Military man be returned Five Shillings in case the Lodge is removed from London and he be certified off . . .

#### FOUNDERS.

Q. M. S. William Summers	Lodge 37	Master
Sgt. Robert Cranfield	37	S. W.
Sgt. Samuel Fleming	244	J. W.
Sgt. James Waller	166	Treasurer
Sgt. John Brown	37	Secretary
Pte. Bernard Boyle	37	
Sgt. Michael Dougherty	37	
Sgt. Edward Gardiner	193	
Sgt. William Spriggins	37	
Sgt. Murdock McLelland	244	
Pte. John Howley	37	

Strangely, Sergeant John Parker of Captain Simpson's Company who presented the warrant does not appear among the Founders.

Until 1809 officers were elected every six months. Shortly after he vacated the chair the Q. M. S. deserted on 18 September 1801. There is no record of his being caught and his Grand Lodge dues ceased from that month. Sgt. James Waller was promoted in his place.

Sgt. Gardiner, Paymaster's Clerk, was discharged on 7 November.

For some years brethren were fined for absence and for swearing. A minute of 24 June 1805 reads:

Bro. Dougherty [then Secretary] was fined the sum of One Shilling by the unanimous consent of the members present, but refused to pay. He after paid One Shilling and swore again an infamous oath that he would have another shillingworth, for which the brothers agreed to fine him One Shilling more.

In 1805 Bro. Thomas Bailey was a Gunner's Mate in the VICTORY Man of War. He was American by birth; was present at Trafalgar and paid off with a bounty of £3 on 15 January 1806.

This minute of 1 February 1807 is of interest:

It was agreed to relieve the distress of Bro. Samuel Carroll and Thomas Williams of Lodge 134 New York, America and Randall Morgan, No. 2, Mariners belonging to the EAGLE Transport, taken by a French Privateer and were liberated by belonging to the Masonic Order.

On 13 December 1813 the Lodge met to celebrate the Union, the articles of which had been signed on 25 November. It is recorded that 'the Lodge broke up at 12 o'clock in good harmony according to custom, with only a few brothers reclining from the perpendicular to a superficial flat.'

The Regiment was stationed in the City of London when the Lodge was formed, moving to Greenwich with a strong detachment at Deptford in June 1801. The following January H. Q. moved to Deptford with companies at Peckham and Camberwell. The Regiment was back in the City from April 1803 until the following February when it returned to Deptford, moving to Greenwich in July. It did not go back to Deptford again but from 1805 to 1814 it alternated between Greenwich and the City every six months or so.

Another warrant, No. 292 (Antients), was taken at Greenwich in 1812 but available records show no reason for having abandoned the old one.

The Lodge met variously in Deptford and London, mostly at the Three Jolly Potters, Church Street, Deptford up to 1852, then for 10 years at the Royal Albert, New Cross Road; from 1862 to 1897 at the Swan in Deptford High Street, then at the Ship, Greenwich until 1908 when it removed to the Cannon Street Hotel, its home for 20 years.

The number became 245 after the Union; the name Justice was taken in 1828, and the number again changed to 172 in 1832 and 147 in 1863.

In 1928 the Lodge moved to the Cafe Royal where it now meets on the fourth Wednesday in January, March, April, October and November.

Two daughter lodges have been sponsored, Sir Francis Drake 4375 in 1921, and the Deptford Lodge No. 4847 in 1926.

The Justice Lodge of Instruction is nearly 70 years old.

#### THE EUPHRATES LODGE NO. 212.

Warrant No. 292 (Antients) was first issued to Bro. James Shaw, who was the first Master, on 26 October 1795. The Lodge was named the Royal Arch Lodge of St. John of Jerusalem and met in Stockport, Lancashire. The Warrant was surrendered in 1805.

It was reissued on 16 October 1812 to a Travelling Lodge in the Royal West London Militia, to meet at the Duke of Kent, Royal Hill, Greenwich where the Regiment was then quartered.

#### FOUNDERS.

Sgt. Robert Cranfield	Robert Bidgood
Jeremiah Jarvis	Sgt. John Baker
Sgt. Richard Carpenter	Cpl. Joseph Holloway
Sgt. Thomas Chambers	Sgt. Robert Fraile
Sgt. Cook Clibbourne	George Bidgood
D. Major William Brind	Sgt. Samuel Johnson
Sgt. Richard Wickstead	Sgt. Richard Tuddenham
William James	Sgt. Peter Burn
Cpl. Henry Bradley	

The first on the list, Robert Cranfield, presumably the first Master, was the first Senior Warden of the previous Lodge, and was still the senior Sergeant in the Lieutenant Colonel's Company.

Drum Major Brind was a drummer in Captain Simpson's Company at the time the earlier Lodge was formed. He remained in charge of the Drums until they were abolished in 1836. His son was also in the Drums

and died in 1832 while still serving.

Sgt. Cook Clibbourne, (Cook was his name, not his trade,) together with Cpl. William Thompson and Ptes. William Dodman and William Willoughby, was committed to Newgate Prison on 20 March 1813 on the suspicion of felony. They were acquitted rejoined on 8 April.

Cpl. Holloway was promoted Sergeant on 3 November 1813.

Sgt. Peter Burn was appointed Schoolmaster Sergeant on 30 June 1813 and returned to duty on 4 October. This, apparently, did not suit him as he deserted a week later. Along with Pte. John King who had been absent since June, he was caught, brought back and broken. The escort sent to collect these two incurred expenses amounting to £1 14 9, which was duly entered in the Regimental Pay List.

The names of Jarvis, James and the two Bidgoods do not appear in the Regimental Muster Rolls.

James Waller, the first Treasurer of the earlier Lodge, was still Q. M. S. but he was not among the Founders of the new one.

In February 1813 the Lodge moved to the City with the Regiment and did not return with it to Greenwich. On being disembodied in 1816 Headquarters was established at the Artillery Ground, and in 1820 the East and West Regiments amalgamated to form the Royal London Militia. The Lodge continued to be closely associated with the new unit; a proposal was made on 17 January 1823 to meet in regimentals and in 1831 the W. M. and other brethren were stated to belong to it.

The Lodge was renumbered 370 at the Union, 257 in 1832, 212 in 1863.

On 29 June 1835 the Travelling Warrant was exchanged for a normal one, but there is no evidence to show when or why the Regiment and the Lodge should have parted company. The Lodge Banner bears the badge of the 60th Rifles, which was worn by the Regiment from 1873 until it became a Fusilier Battalion in 1881, but by that time the Regimental connection was already broken.

After patronising various meeting places in the City, the Lodge settled in the Holborn Restaurant, being the first lodge to meet there, in 1886. When the place was demolished recently a move was made to the Horse-shoe Hotel, Tottenham Court Road where meetings are now held on the 4th Tuesday in February, 4th Wednesday in April, 1st Friday in September and 3rd Monday in January.

## THE VOLUNTEER BATTALIONS.

### 1ST VOLUNTEER BATTALION, ROYAL FUSILIERS.

Formed originally as the 19th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers at the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, N.W. 1., in 1859, it shortly afterwards moved to Queen Square; uniform grey, facings scarlet.

It moved to St. Martin's Lane in 1863 and to Fitzroy Square eight years later; in 1878 the uniform was changed to scarlet with dark blue facings, and the number to 10th Middlesex about the same time.

Under the Cardwell reforms in 1881 the Regiment became the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers with Headquarters at Handel Street, Bloomsbury. On the formation of the Territorial Army in 1908 the title was changed to 1st (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment, (Royal Fusiliers); in 1922 to the 1st City of London Regiment, (Royal Fusiliers); in 1937 to 8th (1st City of London) Bn. Royal Fusiliers, T.A.

After the War it settled in the 9th Bn. Drill Hall at Balham under the title, at first, of 8th Bn. Royal Fusiliers, T.A., and now, amalgamated with 624 L. A. A. Regt. R. A., (the old 9th Bn.), as the City of London Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

### 2ND VOLUNTEER BATTALION, ROYAL FUSILIERS.

Raised in 1861 as the 46th Middlesex Volunteers at 5 Victoria Street, it moved to 31 Great Smith Street, Westminster in June the same year. It was renumbered 23rd in 1880 and became the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers three years later. In 1899 the Battalion moved to a new Drill Hall built by private subscription at 9 Tufton Street, where it remained until it was transferred to 213 Balham High Road in 1931.

In the Territorial Army the title was successively changed to 2nd London, 2nd City of London and 9th Royal Fusiliers. In 1947 the unit was converted to Artillery, becoming 624 L. A. A. Regt. R. A., (R. F.), T. A. and in 1961 it changed back to Infantry and was merged with the 8th Bn.

### 3RD VOLUNTEER BATTALION, ROYAL FUSILIERS.

Raised as the 20th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, uniform grey, facings scarlet; renumbered 11th in 1880, it became the 3rd Volunteer Bn., Royal Fusiliers ten years later. For many years the H. Q. was 21 Edward Street, Hampstead, moving to 209 Harrow Road, Paddington in November 1918.

In the T. A. the Battalion was numbered in series with the others but in 1938 it was converted into the 69th Searchlight Regiment, and in 1947 this was split into 625 L. A. A. and 604 L. A. A./S. L. Regiments. Both of these units were disbanded in 1955.

#### 4TH VOLUNTEER BATTALION, ROYAL FUSILIERS.

This Battalion traces its origin from the Tower Hamlets Train Bands. In 1794 the London Train Bands were reorganised on a volunteer basis; in 1860 the Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteer Corps were formed, consisting of twelve units. Eight years later 2nd and 4th Corps amalgamated and became known as 1st Corps. In 1874 1st Corps absorbed 6th and the new unit was established at 112 Shaftesbury Street, Hoxton.

In 1903 the Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteers became the 4th Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, the title being changed in the T. A. to conform with the others.

In 1935 the Battalion was converted into the 60th (City of London) A. A. Brigade with H. Q. in Bromley Road, S. E. 6; three years later the title was changed to 406 Heavy A. A. Regiment, R. A., T. A. What finally became of this unit, even the Secretary of the City of London Territorial Association does not know.

#### WAR SERVICE.

During the South African War all four Battalions sent detachments overseas; those from the 1st and 3rd served with the 2nd Line Battalion, the others with the Imperial Yeomanry and the City Imperial Volunteers.

For the Kaiser's War all four battalions were mobilised in the 56th London Division; after a few months in Malta, they went to France in December 1914, remaining there till the end of the war. During this period they all formed second and third line battalions.

By the time Hitler's War broke out the 3rd and 4th Battalions were already lost to the Regiment; 1st and 2nd had become 8th and 9th Royal Fusiliers, and both formed daughter battalions which were numbered into the Regiment as 11th and 12th.

The 8th and 9th Battalions saw active service abroad with the 56th London Division in North Africa and Italy.

