

2018/7-196

Lodge GLITTERING STAR No.322
of

A.F. & A. Masons of Ireland.

1759 - 1994



Worcestershire Regiment.
300 years service to the Nation
1694 ~ 1994

FARRINGTON'S REGIMENT.

The 29th Regiment of Foot (now known as the Worcestershire and Sherwood Forest Regiment) was originally raised by Colonel Thomas Farrington of the Coldstream Guards under a Royal Warrant dated 16th February, 1694 and was known as "Farrington's Regiment" in accordance with existing practice of calling Regiments after their Colonel.

This year, 1994, the Regiment will have served our sovereign's and country for 300 years, no mean achievement when you recall the changes taken place in that time span.

The background to raising of the Regiment is given in some detail below.

"On the Meeting of Parliament in November, 1693, King William III., attributing the want of success in the late campaign against Louis XIV. to the insufficiency of our forces, demanded that the army and navy should be augmented, upon which the House of Commons voted that the establishment of the former should be increased to 23,121.

On Warrants being shortly after issued for the raising of 10 Regiments of Cavalry and 15 of Infantry, the command of one of the latter was, on the 6th February, 1694, given to Colonel Thomas Farrington, of the Coldstream Guards."

Arms for Colonel Farrington's Regiment of Foot.

A Regiment of Foot, to be forthwith raised, Commanded by our Trusty and Wellbeloved Coll. Thomas Farrington, consisting of twelve Companies, and one Company of Grenadiers, each company of sixty private men, three Corporals, three Sergeants and two Drummers, beside Commission Officers, Our Will and Pleasure, therefore is.....

Each Company of Infantry (the Grenadier excepted) consisted of 14 Pikemen and 46 Musketeers. Each foot Soldier carried a sword, and each Pikeman a pike of 16 feet long; each Musketeer a musquet, with a coil of bandolier for the barrels of the musquet were about four feet long, and carried a ball, 11 of which weighed a pound. The grenadiers were armed with firelocks, and to have used cartridges, to have slings, sword, bayonet, and pouch, with Grenades. They had also hatchets with which after firing and throwing their Grenades, they were, on the command "Fall on," to rush upon the Enemy. Until the reign of William III, hats with very wide brims and feathers were worn. The inconvenience of such brims being felt, first one, and then two sides were turned up. About the reign of Queen Anne a third side was turned up, or cocked. Captains carried pikes; Lieutenants partizan; Ensigns, half pikes; Sergeants, halberds.

On leaving Norwich about the middle of June, Farrington's Regiment marched to Portsmouth, and whilst there we find that John Wright, Esq. "took the Oath" and received the Commission of "Captain-Lieutenant," he thus became the senior Subaltern, who commanded the Colonel's Company. The Colonel daily pay of that time was as follows:- as Colonel 12s. as Captain 8s. making one pound in total. The pay of a Lieutenant was 4 shillings a day; that of a Sergeant, 1.6d; Corporal, 1s. and a Private soldier 8 pence a day. Leaving Portsmouth in October, the Regiment took up quarters in various towns in Dorsetshire, Somerset, and Devonshire. In December 40 men marched from Norwich to join the Regiment, which in the meanwhile had been concentrated at Exeter.

In that year too, 1694, a yearly deduction of one day's pay was first introduced, to be made from all Ranks, and this was applied towards the purchase of Land, the building of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, and the better maintenance of such superannuated and disabled Officers and Soldiers as should be provided for therein.

300 YEARS SERVICE

Worcestershire Regiment

"Best possible example of a British County Regiment and that is saying a lot," so wrote Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks.

"There was nothing showy or flashy about them, they were sound all the way through, the sort of regiment with which to plug a gap or retrieve a desperate situation if things went wrong in battle."

For 300 years the 29th Foot seem to have taken part in nearly all the famous wars fought by the British Army in order to maintain the balance of power in Europe. Nor did they confine their activities to land battles, but also played a prominent part acting as "MARINES," when, on "The Glorious 1st of June in 1794," the British Fleet under Lord Howe defeated the French.

Later on, two-thirds of the battalion were lost during the battle of Albuhera, fought in 1811. The Duke of Wellington, who was not given to paying undeserved compliments sent this dispatch from the Peninsula on 12th September, 1809:

"I wish very much that some measure could be adopted to get some recruits for the 29th Regiment. It is the best regiment in the Army, has an admirable internal system and excellent non-commissioned officers, but for want of a second battalion and somebody to attend to its recruiting, it is much reduced in numbers by the losses in the actions of Rolicca and Vimeiro in the Expedition to the North of Portugal and at Talavera."

Then came the Sikh Wars and the Indian Mutiny, when the 29th again distinguished themselves.

It is rare for individual units to be singled out for special praise by the commander in Chief but Wellington's tribute was repeated in the 1914 - 1918 war by Sir John French, when the 2nd battalion undoubtedly saved the B.E.F., at Gheluvelt, when he wrote:

"The rally of the 1st Division and the capture of the village of Gheluvelt at such a time was fraught with momentous consequences. If any one unit can be singled out for special praise it is the WORCESTERSHIRE."





Lodge "Glittering Star," No. 322

A. F. & A. Masons of Ireland

1759



It is not too much to claim that the work of the Military Lodges played some part in tempering the Regiments of the British Army into the incomparable weapon they were, and are. Once within the portals of the Regimental Lodge, where all external distinction of Rank were laid aside, a man's self-respect was fostered, and a mutual regard and even affection was encouraged between officers and men which built up the Esprit de Corps, the Pride of every Regiment.

It was the Irish invention of the Warrant, which made the erection of travelling lodges possible. There is little doubt that, to the soldier Mason the Warrant of his Lodge held a place in his heart, second only to the Colours.

While at Kilkenny, Ireland, a Warrant No. 322 from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, dated 3rd of May 1759 was issued for a Masonic Lodge in the 29th Regiment of Foot.

Being warranted in the Regiment, the Lodge is not affiliated to any District or Province, as in the case of Garrison Military Lodges, or Stationary Lodges. It is directly under the jurisdiction of Grand Lodge, and all communications are with the Grand Lodge Secretary direct, or via the army agent.

Except for two or three occasions when the Lodge went into suspended animation due to world wars, it has remained an integral part of the Regiment ever since.

The "Lodge Glittering Star" over its long history (now in its 235th year) has had many notable highlights, I add just a few for your interest.

MASSACHUSETTS

Lodge Glittering Star No. 322 L.G. had a major hand in forming the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1768. (Under the Grand Lodge of Scotland) with Worshipful Brother Joseph Murray, who in 1775 was killed at Bunker Hill, the first battle of the War of Independence. He was appointed Provincial Grand Master with jurisdiction over Ancient Masons in Boston, New England and within 100 miles. He duly installed his Officers at Masons Hall, Green Dragon Tavern Boston, on 30 December 1768 when the Master and Warden of Lodge 322 L.G. were there. Captain Jeremiah French was elected and installed as S.G. Warden; Captain Anthony Molesworth as J.G. Warden, both officers were from the 29th Regiment of Foot.

Glittering Star's part in this was recognised on the Bicentenary Installation Ceremony which took place on Saturday 26th April, 1959 at the Regimental Headquarters, The Worcestershire Regiment, Norton Barracks, Worcester, when a solid silver 24" gauge was presented by Massachusetts Grand Lodge. W.Bro. J.W. Seabrook was installed as Master, and over 300 attended. Among the notable guests were; Deputy Grand Master of Ireland; Irish Grand Secretary; Rt W.Bro. Major General Sir Allan H.S. Adair, Assistant Grand Master of the U.G.L. of England & the Grand Chaplain. The Rt Hon the Lord Salton, Past G.M.M. of Scotland.





THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR DEGREE.

Philip Crossie, the distinguished Masonic historian and writer of Dublin has stated that brethren from "Glittering Star" were responsible for the introduction of the "TEMPLAR MASONRY" in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1765, and later at Boston.

The TOWER of LONDON.

On the 3rd June, 1938 Lodge Glittering Star held the first and only Masonic Lodge meeting in the Tower of London. The First Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment was then in Garrison in the Tower. At that time Field-Marshal Sir Claud Jacob, G.C.E., was Constable of the Tower and Colonel of the Regiment. He was also a Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of England and an Honorary Member of Glittering Star. A special medal was struck to commemorate the meeting. On that occasion Bro. Rt. Hon. The Earl of Donoughmore, M.W. Grand Master of Ireland opened the Lodge and was supported by the presence of Bro. Rt. Hon. Lord Saltoun, P.G.M.M. of Scotland, and Bro. General Sir Francis Davies, Deputy Grand Master of England, and Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire.

FREEMASONRY IN THE FORCES.

Military Lodges date back to 1732, when the First Foot, the Royal's, was issued with a travelling Warrant No. 11 by the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Since then a total of 561 Warrants have been issued to the British Army:-

Irish	214
Antient	103
Scottish	34
Local	116
Military	42 (including the 3 ships Warrants.)
U. C. Lodge.	51
Total	561

Of the many thousand of Masonic Lodges spaced around the world, there are only now two "Travelling Military Lodges," left, the other being St. Patrick's Lodge No. 295 I.C. dating back to 1758, and held in the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. Over the past year both Lodges have worked together, and Glittering Star has had the honour to assist in passing and raising a number of St. Patrick's members.

Many "Worcestershire & Warwickshire Masons," have helped to keep this Lodge remaining active and we owe a great deal to the untiring work of our Past Masters, V.W. Bros; Jim Bate; Ray Leadbeater; Bill Stringer; Arthur Lambert, and Charles Strimpton.

To end with it is a matter of conjecture the part to be played by Freemasons in general, and Lodge Glittering Star in particular, in the Armed Forces of the Crown. May I conclude these few short items of history of the Lodge, by quoting from a letter written to the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion in 1948.

"It is certain that any organisation which had connected existence within the Regiment for nearly 200 years must be an Influence of Good."



200 years ago.

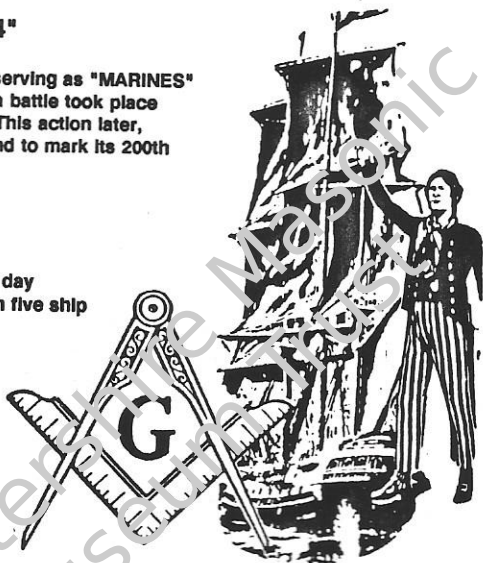
The "GLORIOUS 1st of JUNE, 1794"

In the year 1794, when the 29th Regiment were serving as "MARINES" on board Lord Howe's Channel Fleet, a great sea battle took place between the British ships and the French Fleet. This action later, became known as "The Glorious 1st of June," and to mark its 200th anniversary, when the 29th had the honour to

"Borne on Badge as embellishment
The NAVAL CROWN."

I once again relive for a few moments, that great day in the regiments history. The 29th was on duty on five ship being; H.M.S. Brunswick, Ramillies, Alfred, Glory and Thunderer, all first ratings of 74 guns but for Glory which had 98. From the Log of H.M.S. Alfred,

"Had two ensigns shot away with the staff, six men wounded. The Rattler brought orders for us to take possession of a demasted French ship. Sent an officer on board, and found her to be the "Vengeur," of 74 guns. Holsted out all our boats to save her people. She began sinking in about an hour. Got out 213 men, when she went down with the rest at 7. Took "La Juste," of 80 guns, in tow after action."



100 years ago.
1894.

1894, saw the Regiment at Kamptee. The lodge lost no time in finding quarters with which to work. The cost in central India being cheaper than at Poona, the monthly subs was reduced from Rs.3 to Rs.2. Apparently the system of levying fines did not meet with general approval and Bye-Law 9 related to fines was cancelled.

It is recorded that "An Excellent Master's" certificate was forwarded from Lodge Horeb, and presented to Bro. Norton, by the W.Master. The name Brother Carleton, S.D. is recorded many times in the minutes, I shall not dwell on the reason here. W.Bro. Carleton died in 1950, and to mark his long association with the Lodge his three sons presented the lodge with the "Carleton Jewel" which today is worn by the Master. They presented the Lodge with their father's G.L. Certificate & Past Master Certificate. At the time of the BI-centenary (1959) all three sons were members of 322. I.C.

The last meeting at Kamptee was held on 29th September and the Regiment moved on to Rangoon, holding its first meeting there in the November.



IRISH FREEMASONRY

Irish Freemasonry is the second eldest Grand Lodge in the World, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland was the first to issue ambulatory warrants to Regiments in the British Army. After the Battle of Waterloo (1815) Military Lodges began to die out, but there are still two working under the Irish Constitution.

By 1760 at the latest, the Irish ritual had assumed very much the form as is in use today. Up to 1875 Irish Lodges installed their Masters on two occasions each year, on the two days of St. JOHN. Glittering Star, Installation is on St. Patrick's Day. Since that date there has been only one Installation, on or after 27th December. Some of the other points of difference in the two Constitutions (although the substance of the systems is of course, the same) include:-

1. In Ireland all Officers (with limited exceptions) in Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodges, are filled by Election not by appointment.
2. England does not have a Grand Lodge of Instruction.
3. All Irish Grand Lodge Officers are either Rt. W. or W. W.
4. Ireland still has Overseas Provinces. (Districts in England since 1865)
5. The term "Installation" applies in Ireland not only to the Master, but to both Wardens; the other officers being "proclaimed."
6. With the exception of the Instructions to the New Master, which are restricted to a concave of Installed Masters, the entire Installation is carried out in Open Lodge in the First Degree.
7. No brother can be installed (if elected to an office) without written approval of Grand Lodge.
8. No one who is maimed, or lame, or defective can be admitted as a candidate except by Dispensation.
9. When the Initiate is restored to light, his attention is drawn to the attitude of the Brethren gathered round the Altar. On the one hand he sees hands stretched out in welcome and fellowship; on the other backs turned in indifference, working tools snatched up as hostile weapons, and drawn swords etc. A warning of what he might expect (symbolically) if he fail to keep his undertaking.
10. The Steps or distinctive modes of progression, are unknown in Irish Masonry.
11. The English "Joining Bro." is in Ireland "Affiliated."
12. An Affiliating Bro. P.M. takes precedence immediately after the W.M. of the year in which he affiliated, and not placed at the bottom of the roll as in England.
13. An Irish Lodge's secretary must be a P.M. except by special dispensation.
14. Minutes when confirmed are signed by the secretary as well as by the W.M.
15. Tracing Boards are NOT used in Irish masonry workings.
16. Ireland forbids the printing of books of ritual.
17. Irish Aprons are invariably worn UNDER the jacket; this is because candidates are "Clothed" while still clad for the ceremony.
18. No Royal Arch Jewels may be worn in a Craft Lodge, nor Craft Jewels in a Chapter.
19. All Charges are read.

This beautifully cut Seal on the Warrants and Certificates of G.L., from circa 1773 to 1806, being a thin layer on red wax placed between a small square of paper and the document and then embossed in a steel press.



