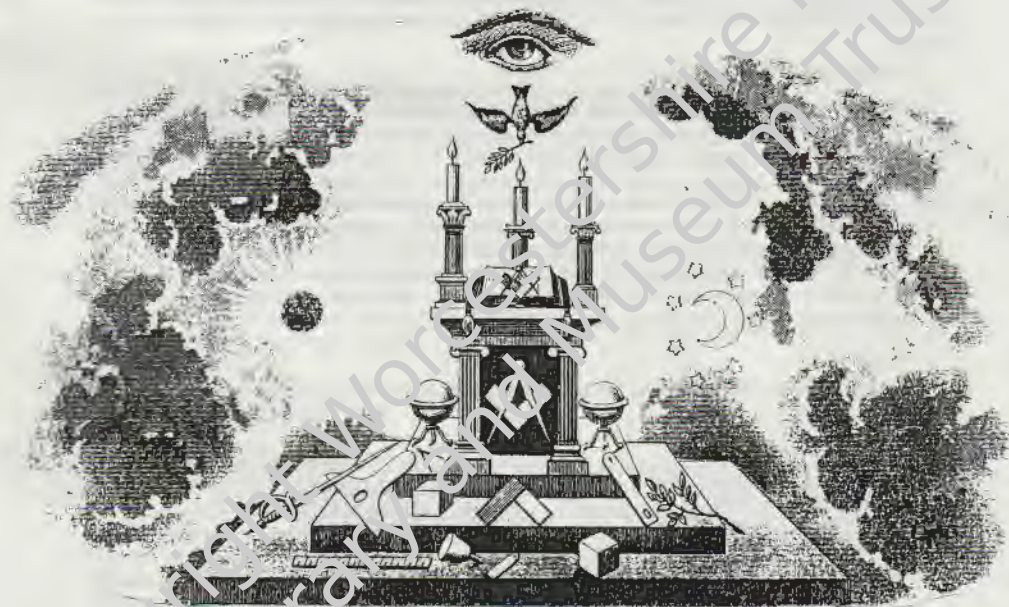


LODGE "GLITTERING STAR" No 322



# 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 1704," the British Fleet under Lord Howe defeated the French.

Later on, two-thirds of the battalion were lost during the battle of Albuera, 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 measures 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 Rolica and Vimara 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 was in a suspended animation due to world wars, it has remained an integral part of the Regiment ever since.

The "Lodge Glittering Star" over the long (and very long in its 236th year) has had many notable highlights, I add just a few for your interest.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Lodge Glittering Star No. 322 W.M. had a major hand in forming the Provincial Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1768. (Under the Grand Lodge of Scotland) with Worshipful Brother Joseph Warren, 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 New England and within 100 miles. He duly installed his Officers at Mason's Hall, Green Dragon Tavern Boston, on 30 December 1768 when the Master and Warrant of Lodge 322 L.C. were there. Captain Jeremiah French was elected and installed as S.W. Warden; Captain Honsonby 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 Allen H.S. Adair, Assistant Grand Master of the U.G.L. of England & the Grand Chaplain. The Rt Hon the Lord Selton, Past G.M.M. of Scotland.





## THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR DEGREE.

Phillip Croesle, the distinguished Masonic historian and writer of Dublin has stated that brethren from "Glistening 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 Glistening 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.B., was Constable of the Tower and Colonel of the Regiment. He was also a Past Senior Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England and an Honorary Member of Glistening 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 England. Since then a total of 581 Warrants have been issued to the British Army:-

Irish	214
Antient	14
Scottish	34
Local	176
Modern	48 (including the 3 ships Warrants.)
U. K. Lodges	41
Total	581

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. 206 I.C. dating back to 1756, and held in the 4/7th Royal Dragoon Guards. Over the past year both Lodges have worked together, and Glistening 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 going active and we owe a great deal to the untiring work of our Past Masters, V.W.Bros; Joe Tate; Ray, Lea (beater); Bill Slinger; 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 Glistening 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."



## A DIP FROM OUR PAST.

Installation meeting 13th March 1937.

Seventy-six Brethren attended the Installation of Bro. W. J. Harrison, at Farnborough, on 13th March 1937. There were two deputations; the first from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, led by Rt. W. Bro. Wallace G. Craig P.G.D. (Eng). They were warmly received and cordially greeted. The second, from the Grand Lodge of Ireland, consisting of Rt. W. Bro. John Holliday, PSGD, Rt. W. Bro. Major C.H. Inwood, OBE MC., Past Grand Master for India, V.W. Bro. E.G. Sercombe, PSGD. They rightfully demanded admission, and were received with ceremony.

R.W. Bro. Holliday conveyed to the Worshipful Master, the cordial greetings of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Earl of Donoughmore, K.P. etc.

Bro. W.J. Harrison had the honour of being presented as "Master Elect" by the two Continuing Officers of Grand Lodge present, who were members of 322. He received the benefit of Installation from W. Bro. T.A. Stephens.

On this occasion, a magnificent banner was presented to the Lodge. Minute No. 17 records:-  
*"Brother F.J.A. Horan, in an excellent speech, asked the Worshipful Master to receive a banner, as a mark of his appreciation to the lodge for admitting him to membership". The banner was received with due ceremony, consecrated by the chaplain and placed in position behind the chair of the Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master thanked Bro. Horan for his splendid gift.*

The high standard of ritual continued throughout 1937, nine meetings were held, with an average attendance of forty. The Labour included no less than sixteen degrees & ceremonies. At the request of Lodge "Forbes, No. 67 S.C." Bro. H.K. Ross was crafted and raised.

Towards the end of the year a heavy blow was struck when W. Bro. Captain M.E. Newman, on whom the brunt of maintaining the life blood of the Lodge had been largely dependent for some years, received posting orders for India. At the October meeting he received a Jewel for his service as Master in 1926 and 1935. A sub-committee was appointed to see that W. Bro. Newman received some token of the Brethren's appreciation of his selfless service to the Lodge.

Minute No. 16 of the Meeting held in November records:-

*"The Worshipful Master presented to V. Bro. Newman a gold watch, subscribed for by the Brethren as a token of their regard for his valued services to the Lodge. The Worshipful Master said how sorry the Brethren were that duty had deprived the Lodge of the services of their Secretary at a time when the Lodge was progressing so favourably."*

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This Year at our Installation Meeting at Dudley on 22 March, we shall be honoured by the present of Rt. Worshipful Brother Michael W. Walker, BSc., HDE, Grand Secretary. We shall install as Master of the Lodge, W. Bro. Captain R.D. Gee TD.

May all who visit our Lodge take with them the warmth, love and friendship and joy which our Lodge members try to obtain in our ceremony.





**Rear row**

V.W.Bro. E J. Bate, A.M., K J G. Piers, Deputy G.M. R. E. Fenelon V.W.Bro. D. Wilson,  
W.Bro. Col. G.K. Gilbert, P.I.G.W. (G.L.B.G.)

**Front row**

V.W.Bro. M.J. AJ Darlison, M.W. Lord Donegal, PGM. W. Master of 322 W.Bro. W.E Stokes  
Grand Master Darwin H. Templeton, CBE, F.C.A., V.W.Bro. R. Mack.

**VISIT TO GRAND LODGE**

The Grand Lodge visit in 1996 was once again a short one, going out on Wednesday and returning on Friday. Although short, it was very enjoyable with 12 members attending and five Brethren from St. Kent's Lodge No. 6082, Stourbridge joining us for the usual meetings of the Grand Masters Lodge and Grand Lodge. Two great things happened in Grand Lodge which must be recorded.

The Grand Master appointed our beloved Secretary to Past Grand Sword Bearer, and W.Bro. Mack to the same rank, on behalf of St. Patrick's Lodge and W.Bro. Bill Cooper was appointed Hon. Past Master. Hearty congratulations to all, on behalf of the Lodge.

The second event, was the presentation to Grand Lodge of the Past Grand Masters Collar and Jewel. The jewel was purchased, from the widow of M.W. Bro. James T. Miller, Past Grand Master of Illinois, by St. Patrick's Lodge No. 295, and Lodge Glittering Star. No.322.

The Collar and jewel was processed around Grand Lodge by our Worshipful Master William E. Stokes, escorted by VW. Bro. E J. Bate, VW Bro. D. Wilson (295) W.Bro. Darlison and W.Bro Mack and the Grand Organist played "Royal Windsor." The collar and Jewel was presented to the Grand Mater by W.Bro. Darlison ( for presentation see rear). The Grand Master thanked the two Lodges for the magnificent gift and invested M.W. Bro. The Lord Donegal, Past Grand Master.

## 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 differences 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 Lodges, 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 V. V.
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 "Johann 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 secretary must be a P.M. except by special dispensation.
14. Mirrors when confirmed are signed by the secretary as well as by the W.M.
15. Tracking 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 Certificate of G.L. from circa 1770 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.





**THE JAMES T. MILLER JEWEL  
PRESENTED BY  
St. Patrick's Lodge No. 295 &  
Lodge Glittering Star No. 322.  
at Grand Lodge of Ireland, Dublin,  
on 6th June 1996.**



This jewel is presented by the above lodges to be worn, as an heirloom jewel, by the Immediate Past Grand Master. It epitomises the three great principles on which the order is founded, **Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.**

**Brotherly Love**, in as much as it serves as a fitting memorial of James T. Miller, a distinguished and dedicated mason who was the Grand Master of Illinois in 1991/1992. It also illustrates the fraternal affection which the craft, particularly the last two traveling lodges, have for our Grand Master and Past Grand Master.

**Relief**, because the money raised to purchase the jewel has gone to the widow who has, through no fault of her own, found herself in straightened circumstances.

**Truth** of the universality of our order, 295 was in Germany when the money was raised, 322 was in England, the jewel was made by an English mason in Birmingham, James Miller was born in Greece but had become an American citizen and Grand Master of the American State. The jewel is now presented with great affection to the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

