

# **1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers**

**in the**

## **Anglo-Boer War 1899–1902**

**by**

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# Introduction

**1. Outline of the 1st Battalion's involvement in the war.** The 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers arrived in South Africa on the 17th November 1899, one month after the declaration of war, and left on the 14th January 1903, eight months after the war ended. Their involvement in the war falls into three phases:

November 1899 to April 1900	The campaign in Natal, leading to the relief of Ladysmith
May 1900 to September 1901	Highly mobile warfare in the western Transvaal, west and south-west of Pretoria and Johannesburg
September 1901 to May 1902	Blockhouse duties, mostly on the Rivers Vaal and Valsch, in the area south and south-west of Potchefstroom, in south-western Transvaal and northern Orange Free State <sup>1</sup>

**2. Formation.** The battalion left England as part of Major-General Geoffrey Barton's 6th Fusilier Brigade, whose units were:

2nd Battalion 7th Royal Fusiliers  
2nd Battalion 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers  
1st Battalion 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers  
2nd Battalion 87th/89th Royal Irish Fusiliers

The Brigade was broken up in June 1900 at Krugersdorp.<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Battle Honours.

The 1st Battalion earned two battle honours, borne on the Regimental Colour:

Relief of Ladysmith  
South Africa 1899–1902

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Volunteer Battalions were awarded the honour South Africa 1900–02.<sup>3</sup>

**4. 'Battles and Operations Present at'.** Under this heading the casualty roll (see bibliography) lists the following battles and operations at which the battalion was present:

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1. See A.M. Boreham's *Recollections of Army Life from 1898 to 1914* (RWF Mus 274), pages 38 and 41–4 for a good description of blockhouse life.

2. See *Regimental Records* II, page 243.

3. Note the difference in date from the 1st Battalion. This honour was transferred to the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Battalions when the Territorial Force replaced the Volunteers in 1908. In 1922 the rules were changed, which resulted in all battalions in a particular regiment having identical battle honours on their colours.

<b>Battle or Operation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Colenso	15 miles south of Ladysmith, Natal	15 December 1899
Hussar Hill	3 miles south-east of Colenso, Natal	14 February 1900
Hlangwane	2 miles north-east of Colenso, Natal	19 February 1900
Pieters	7 miles south-south-east of Ladysmith	27 February 1900
Rooidam	40 miles north of Kimberley, OFS	5 May 1900
Relief of Mafeking	Northern Cape Colony	17 May 1900
First de Wet Hunt	South of Potchefstroom, Transvaal	July–August 1900
Frederikstad	17 miles north of Potchefstroom	21–25 October 1900
Wildfontein	20 miles west of Ventersdorp	24 March 1901
Platberg	15–20 miles north of Klerksdorp	22 April 1901

**Note:** Distances are as the crow flies.

### 5. Campaign Medal – Bars to the Queen’s South Africa Medal

Of the twenty-six bars issued, men of the Regiment were eligible for the following:

<b>Bar</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
Cape Colony	All	11 October 1899 – 31 May 1902
Natal	All	11 October 1899 – 17 May 1900
Relief of Ladysmith	1st Bn	15 December 1899 – 28 February 1900
Tugela Heights	1st Bn	14–27 February 1900
Relief of Kimberley	2 MI	15 February 1900
Paardeberg	2 MI	17–26 February 1900
Orange Free State	All	28 February 1900 – 31 May 1902
Driefontein	2 MI	10 March 1900
Relief of Mafeking	1st Bn Det	17 May 1900
Transvaal	All	24 May 1900 – 31 May 1902
Johannesburg	2 MI	31 May 1900
Diamond Hill	2 MI	11–12 June 1900
Wittebergen <sup>4</sup>	1st Bn Det, 2 MI	1–29 July 1900

The ‘State’ bars were issued to men who received no bars for any other actions in the area. See *British*

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4. According to *Regimental Records*, Vol. II, page 245, Major H.T. Lyle DSO, 2nd Lieutenants Hughes and Price, with 92 rank and file, took part in General Sir A. Hunter’s operations around Wittebergen, which resulted in the surrender of Prinsloo with 4,140 men and 3 guns.

*Battles & Medals*, Spink 1988, pages 188–92 for a more detailed explanation.

The number of men of 2 MI who received bars were one officer and between 22 and 32 ORs.

**6. The Militia.** The complete militia battalions of several regiments were sent to South Africa. This did not happen to the Royal Welch Fusiliers who did, however, send 15 officers and 345 men from the 3rd and 4th Militia Battalions to the 1st Battalion, and, possibly, other units.<sup>5</sup>

**7. The Volunteers.** Eight officers and 366 other ranks from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Volunteer Battalions served in South Africa with the 1st Battalion, as formed Volunteer Companies.<sup>6</sup>

**8. Mounted Infantry (MI).** A mounted infantry section of one officer and 25 was formed, and served with the 2nd Battalion MI. Its numbers rose to 50 or 60.<sup>7</sup> An account about the MI starts on page 30.

**9. Casualties.** No two sets of figures agree on the number of deaths. The Roll of Honour in this document contains the names of seven officers and 172 other ranks. The war memorial in St Giles's Church, Wrexham contains the names of 171 (7 & 164) all ranks. The Holme list<sup>8</sup> has a total of 154 (6 & 148) names. Major-General Maurice, in the official *History of the War in South Africa 1899–1902*, Vol IV, Appx 17 gives the following details; the total deaths being 117 :

Casualty	Officers	Other Ranks	Total
Killed or died of wounds	5	42	47
Died of disease	1	69	70
Wounded	17	145	162
Captured by the enemy	1	42	43
Missing		3	3
TOTAL	24	301	325

*The Times History of the War in South Africa*, Vol VII, p 22 has slightly different figures. Howel Thomas in his history of the regiment, page 274–5 also has different figures, particularly other rank deaths from disease, which he gives as over 100. He also states that of the prisoners only 19 were captured in the field. The remainder were 'invalids captured in trains derailed by the enemy.'<sup>9</sup>

**10. Cemeteries.** Those who died are buried in the following cemeteries. The number buried in each is also shown. I am particularly grateful for the assistance of the South African National Monuments Council (NMC) and Mr Steve Watt in compiling this list and also the Roll of Honour. In the 1960s some of the more outlying graves/cemeteries were moved to more central sites in order to ease maintenance.

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5. The 3rd Battalion was embodied from 8 December 1899 to 5 July 1901, and the 4th from 11 May to 17 October 1900 – see the monthly *Army List*.

6. See Howel Thomas's *A History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers . . .*, page 273 for both the militia and volunteer numbers.

7. The precise movements of this section and the MI battalion(s) with which it served, have yet to be determined. There are references to it in *Regimental Records*, Vol. II, pages 229, 245, 276, 288, 298–9 – the last referring to our men being with 7th Bn MI. Several members were decorated.

8. An unpublished typescript compiled by Norman Holme in 1987 under the title *1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers Casualty Roll – South Africa, 1899–1902*. It is thought to have been compiled from his card index, also in the RWF archives.

9. See *Regimental Records*, Vol. II, page 245 for an account of one such incident.

The NMC list which contains 166 names, has details of the original place of burial.<sup>10</sup>

Bloemfontein, President Brand Cemetery . . . . .	1	Klerksdorp Old MC, Transvaal . . . . .	1
Bloemfontein, Bayswater GoR . . . . .	2	Koffiefontein MC, Orange Free State . . . . .	1
Boshof MC, Orange Free State . . . . .	6	Kraaipan Siding, Northern Cape Colony . . . . .	2
Bothaville GoR, Orange Free State . . . . .	2	Krugersdorp GoR, Transvaal . . . . .	14
Britstown, Cape Colony . . . . .	1		
		Ladysmith, Tin Town Cemetery, Natal . . . . .	1
Cape Town, Maitland GoR, Goodwood . . . . .	6		
Cape Town, Wynberg, St John's . . . . .	2	Mafeking . . . . .	1
Chieveley, Natal . . . . .	5	Mooi River, Natal . . . . .	2
Clouston, Colenso, Natal . . . . .	4		
Colesberg Military, Northern Cape Colony . . . . .	1	Newcastle GoR, Natal . . . . .	1
De Aar GoR, Cape Colony . . . . .	3	Pietermaritzburg, Fort Napier, Natal . . . . .	3
Diamond Hill GoR [50 km east of Pretoria] . . . . .	1	Potchefstroom GoR, Olien Park, Transvaal . . . . .	35
Elandslaagte Naval Cemetery, Natal . . . . .	4	Rietfontein, Transvaal . . . . .	1
Estcourt, Natal . . . . .	2		
		Springfontein, Orange Free State . . . . .	1
Germiston, Primrose GoR, Johannesburg . . . . .	8	Tugela Heights, Onderbroek Spruit, Natal . . . . .	6
Johannesburg, Braamfontein GoR . . . . .	8	Ventersdorp MC, Transvaal . . . . .	3
Kimberley West End Cemetery GoR . . . . .	29	Location not yet known . . . . .	17
Kimberley, Gladstone . . . . .	1		

The South African National Monuments Council have erected central memorials, with names inscribed, in the larger cemeteries. There is some doubt as to how many individual gravestones have survived to this day. Where one is believed to exist, this is shown by the letter G in the **Buried at** column in the Roll of Honour. It would be most helpful if visitors to cemeteries would check this information.

**11. The Regimental Goat.** The goat went with the battalion to South Africa. Regimental Records show that he accompanied the battalion as far as Frere. His subsequent movements were:

10 December 1899	Left Frere for the General Depôt, Pietermaritzburg
25 March 1900	'Rejoined the battalion for duty' at Modder Spruit

There are no further references to the goat, but it is presumed that he died before mid-August 1900, because Regimental Records state that 'On the 26th February [1903] HM The King signified his gracious acceptance of the goat brought home from South Africa by the 1st Battalion (this goat had been purchased on the 20th of August 1900 for the sum of £2 near Krugersdorp) ...'. See the article *A Stay of Execution* in the 1999 regimental journal for the story of his arrival in England.

**12. Document Contents.** This document consists of:

- ▶ A chronology of the battalion's movements and actions
- ▶ A list of individual honours and awards
- ▶ A note on the Mounted Infantry
- ▶ A Roll of Honour
- ▶ A select bibliography
- ▶ Maps

10. The South African National Monuments Council list, forwarded under their letter 9/4/1/4/1 dated 18 February 2000, is a computer print-out with the following headings – Name, Rank, Number, Place of action, Place of death, Date of death, Cause of death, Place of burial, Previous place of burial (if applicable), Memorials.

# 1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers

## Boer War Chronology

Numbers in square brackets [ ] refer to page numbers of *Regimental Records* Vol. II  
Numbers in round brackets ( ) refer to page numbers of Lt Salt's diary – see bibliography  
Numbers in curly brackets { } refer to page numbers of 2nd Lt Kyrke's letters – see bibliography

### 1899

- 8 October Order received at **Pembroke Dock** to mobilise for active service in South Africa [228] (1)
- 9–20 October Reservists mobilised and joined [228] (1–2)
- 22 October Left Pembroke Dock for **Southampton** [228] (2–3)
- 23 October Sailed aboard s.s. *Oriental*.<sup>11</sup> [228] (4–6) {1}. Called at St Vincent, Cape Verde Islands 31 Oct, (8–10) {9} and Cape Town, 13–14 Nov. (10–11) {11}
- 17 November Disembarked at **Durban**. Entrained for **Mooi River**. Lt F.A. Stebbing and 43 ORs (Salt says 93) dropped off at Pietermaritzburg to form Divisional base [229] (12–13) {22–26}
- 22–26 November In action in Mooi River area [229] (14–23) {27–34}
- 26 November Marched from Mooi River to **Estcourt** – 23 miles in 7 hours [229] (24–25) {35–39}
- 9 December Marched to **Frere** – 11 miles [229] (35) {53–5}
- 11 December Night march with 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers and half 2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers to seize a ridge beyond **Chieveley** [229] (39) {56–7}
- 15 December **Battle of Colenso**. Attempt to cross the River Tugela at Colenso commenced. 6 Brigade moved in direction of **Hlangwane** to protect the right flank. Vain attempt to rescue guns of Royal Artillery. Three men wounded. [230–1] (42–6, 48–9) {59–68}
- 17 December Brigade encamped near Chieveley Station [231] (49–61) {69–73}

### 1900

- January Based in Chieveley Camp. 'Constant demonstrations against Colenso'<sup>12</sup> [233] (61–83) {78–112}
- 14 February Advance on and capture of **Hussar Hill** – RWF and RF advance guard. One killed, eight wounded [233–4] (94–5) {113–}
- 15 February RWF seized a wooded spur about one mile east of Hussar Hill [234] (97)

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11. See A.M. Boreham's *Recollections of Army Life from 1898 to 1914* (RWF Mus 274), pages 9 to 12 for a good description of the voyage to South Africa and life on board ship for the private soldier.

12. See *Regimental Records*, Vol. II page 239 for a map of the area between Chieveley and Ladysmith, covering the operations during February 1900.

18 February	Further advance. One killed, six wounded. Severe water shortage led to the drinking of contaminated water, causing, later on, a severe outbreak of enteric fever (typhoid), killing Lt Salt and several men [234] (99) {124–6}
19 February	<b>Hlangwane Hill</b> occupied unopposed [234–5] (99–100) {127–9}
21–22 February	<b>River Tugela</b> crossed to cover bridge construction [235] (101–2) {130}
23 February	RWF and RF occupied <b>Horse-Shoe Hill</b> <sup>13</sup> in darkness [236] (103) {131}
24 February	In daylight the exposed position was completely overlooked by the Boers. Battalion pinned down by enemy fire all day and that night [236–7] (103–6) {132}. Lt-Col C.C.H. Thorold, Lt F.A. Stebbing and seven men killed. Lt C.C. Norman and 31 ORs wounded. Lt G.E.S. Salt recommended for the DSO for gallantry. <sup>14</sup>
27 February	Boers withdrew from the <b>Tugela</b> [237] (107–8) {136}. The Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Welch were not with Barton's 6th Brigade when they stormed Pieter's Hill, but were with Major-General N.G. Lyttleton's 2nd Division – see Gillings pp 34–5.
3 March	Battalion took part in the formal entry into <b>Ladysmith</b> [237] (109) {138–9}
12 March	Now in 10th Division, the Fusilier Brigade marched to <b>Modder Spruit</b> – 5½ miles north-east of Ladysmith [238] (112–3) {141}
15 March	Two officer and 100 reservist reinforcements arrived. Also 114 all ranks of the [?1st] Volunteer Company. Battalion strength now 31 officers and 1,200 ORs [238] {142}
14 April	Battalion left Ladysmith by train for <b>Durban</b> {158}. Embarked for <b>Cape Town</b> 15 April, arriving 19th {158–62}. Disembarked 25 April {167} and entrained for <b>Kimberley</b> – arrived 28 April. To Dronfield Camp – 6 miles north [240] {170}
	Draft of 100 arrived. Strength 27 and 1,099. 225 sick left in Natal and Cape Town – mostly enteric fever and dysentery [240]
	Flying column formed for the relief of <b>Mafeking</b> . Twenty-five from RWF commanded by 2 Lt H.V.V. Kyrke [240] <sup>15</sup>
1 May	Capt P.R. Mantell to command Battalion vice Capt A. Gough – sick [240]
4 May	Advance northward started. Action at <b>Rooidam</b> 5 May. RWF and RF attack and capture Boer position. Capt R.G.B. Lovett and seven men killed. Capts Mantell (Commanding) and W.G. Braithwaite (Adjutant) and 14 ORs wounded. [240–2] {195}
7–14 May	Battalion remained at <b>Fourteen Streams</b> [242]
15 May	Advance on <b>Christiana</b> , Transvaal. Town surrendered 16 May [242]
22–25 May	Battalion marched north to <b>Taungs</b> . North again by train 25th to <b>Vryburg</b> [242]

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13. Now more usually known as Wynne's Hill West.

14. He died at Modderspruit on 3 April of enteric fever. The recommendation for a DSO thus became a mention in despatches.

15. See his *Letters from the Front. Boer War 1899–1901*, pages 172 to 194 (Mus 4812) for his account of the relief of Mafeking.

27 May–4 June	Battalion marched from Vryburg, north-east to <b>Lichtenburg</b> [242]
7 June	2 Lt Kyrke's detachment rejoined, having taken part in the relief of <b>Mafeking</b> [242–3] {198}
10–14 June	Battalion marched to south-east to <b>Potchefstroom</b> [243] {200–2}
22 June	Battalion moved north-east by train to <b>Krugersdorp</b> as part of garrison [243] {203}
24 June	Lt-Col Sir Robert Colleton arrived to command the Battalion <i>vice</i> Capt Gough [243] {204}
6–12 July	D and F Companies to <b>Potchefstroom</b> [243] {205–8}
13 July	Five officers and 106 ORs left to join 2 RWF in Hong Kong [243] {211}
18 July	<b>The First de Wet Hunt</b> . <sup>16</sup> A force of D and F Companies and two companies RSF, under Major A.P.G. Gough, to <b>Potchefstroom</b> [243–4] {218–34}
7 August	Action at <b>Tygerfontein</b> , south-east of Potchefstroom. Major Gough's force captured a strongly held ridge, the <b>Tygersberg</b> and positions beyond. Two killed and seven wounded [244–5] {224–8}
	Battalion formed a section of Mounted Infantry (Lt W.M. Kington & 25). Later increased to 50 or 60 [245]
28 September	Draft of 102 all ranks joined at Krugersdorp [245]
5 October	A force (including RWF 900 strong, and RSF) left Krugersdorp northward to secure passage of the <b>Crocodile River</b> at <b>Mulder's Drift</b> on the Pretoria road. [245–6] {255–6}
7–9 October	Battalion took part in attack which captured strong Boer positions in area of <b>Tweefontein</b> (8 Oct) and <b>Dwarsvlei</b> (9 Oct). 2 Lt Williams-Ellis and one OR were killed and two officers and eight ORs wounded [246–8] {256–9}
10 October	Brigade forced march south-west to <b>Brandvlei</b> (10th) – <b>Bank</b> (11th) – <b>Welverdiend</b> (13th) [248] {259–62}
15 October	Brigade capture <b>Buffelsdoorn Pass</b> [248–9]
16, 17 October	Force bivouacked at <b>Deelkraal</b> [249]
18 October	Force advanced westward in 'a running fight' to <b>Frederikstad</b> [249–50] {262}
20 October	A force, including three RWF companies, reconnoitred south of Frederikstad towards <b>Potchefstroom</b> . <sup>17</sup> Several casualties. L Cpl James awarded the DCM [250–2] {263–4}
21–24 October	<b>Frederikstad</b> <sup>18</sup> attacked by large Boer force under De Wet [252–4] {264–6}

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16. See *The Times* history, Vol IV, page 432 for a map.

17. See *Regimental Records*, Vol. II pages 250-2 for an account of this action. Note the error in both the official and *The Times* histories of the war, which confused it with Major Lyle's convoy escort duty north towards Welverdiend.

18. See *The Times* history, Vol V, page 12 for a map of the battalion's dispositions.

- 25 October Continued fighting at **Frederikstad**. Successful counter-attack by Barton's force. 'The Boers fled in all directions'. Casualties during six days were twelve ORs killed, and three officers and 33 ORs wounded [254–5] {268–9, 272}
- 28 October 1st Volunteer Company (3 and 31) left for home, 'having performed a year's excellent service' [255] {270–1}
- 13 November Battalion moved south from Frederikstad by rail and road to **Potchefstroom** [255] {278}
- 14 November Column of all arms including 1st RWF marched south-west on **Klerksdorp**, which was occupied on the 16th. Returned to **Potchefstroom** on the 18th [255–6] {278–81}
- 20 November Major-General Barton made a memorable farewell speech, before handing over command to Major-General Babington [256] {281}<sup>19</sup>
- 26 November Pte Tubbs' vain attempt to rescue a trooper from River Mooi earned him the Royal Humane Society's medal [257]
- 26–28 December Column of all arms, including 1 RWF (less F and B Coys at **Tygerfontein**) marched north-north-west from Potchefstroom to **Buffelsdoorn** (19 miles); to **Witpoortje** (27th, 19 miles); to **Ventersdorp** (28th, 18 miles) [257]

## 1901

- 2–4 January Colleton's RWF column (less 70 rear party) marched north-east from Ventersdorp to **Modderfontein**; then to **Mooi River** (3rd, 10 miles); then to **Rietfontein** (4th, 13 miles) [274]
- 5 January Skirmishing towards **Blauwbank** [274]
- 6 January Returned to **Ventersdorp**, arriving on 9th [275]
- 24–25 January Column marched north-north-east some 40 miles in 24 hours to **Vlakfontein** to come to the aid of another column [275]
- 28 January Further advance eastward against slight opposition to **Naauwpoort**. Remained there six weeks [275]
- 7–8 March Gruelling march of 44 miles in 30 hours, south-west to **Ventersdorp** to go to the aid of RNF in Lichtenburg earned Lord Kitchener's thanks [277]
- 15 March Force marched from Ventersdorp west-north-west to **Koppiesfontein** – **Putfontein** 16th – **Doornhoek** 17th. Then south-east to **Nicholas Water** 18th – **Geduld (Patience)** 19th – **Hartebeestfontein** 20th – **Palmietfontein** 23rd
- 23–25 March Left Hartebeestfontein northward for **Geduld** and **Palmietfontein**. Skilful deployment to protect transport convoy (200+ wagons) from over 400 Boers attacking in area of **Rietfontein** and **Vaalbank**.<sup>20</sup> Finally reached **Ventersdorp** on 25th [277–80]

19. 2nd Lt Kyrke's last letter in this manuscript is dated 4 December 1900.

20. This action is listed under Wildfontein in the list of battles and operations – see pages 2 and 3. See *The Times History*, Volume V, pages 226–7 for an account of this action on 24th March 1901.

- 1–21 April Left Ventersdorp. Several convoy escort duties in the area north, west and south of Ventersdorp [many places not yet found on map]. Based at **Brakspruit** 14–19 Apr. Then **Lapfontein** 20th and **Syferkuil** 21st. Stayed there to 6 May [280–2]
- 22 April Successful defence by Major H.T. Lyle and an empty convoy escort (some 400 strong) against attack by 700 Boers under Smuts from the **Platberg**, near **Brakspruit**, north of **Klerksdorp**. A running fight resulted in 75 Boer casualties, but none from RWF [281–2]<sup>21</sup>
- 6–15 May Force moved from **Syferkuil** to **Geduld**. Then in a wide sweep [many places not yet found on map] in the area west of **Klerksdorp**, reaching there on 15 May [282]
- 20 May Battalion went by train to **Potchefstroom** [283]
- 23 May Some 500 Boers attacked a convoy near **Witpoortje**. One killed and 12 wounded [283–6]
- 18 July Lieut H. de B. Edwards and 10 men almost succeeded in capturing Commandant Jan Smuts near **Naauwpoort**. Congratulatory telegram from Lord Kitchener. Lieut Edwards was awarded the DSO and Sergeant Cottrill the DCM.<sup>22</sup> Ptes Duglord and 2990 Davies were made King's Corporals. [286]
- 15 September Battalion mounted infantry left to operate in the **Gatsrand** [288]
- 25 September Battalion left **Potchefstroom** [288]
- 26 September Battalion (18 & 509) based at **Scandinavia Drift**, erecting barbed wire fences and guarding the blockhouse line eastward towards **Reitzburg**<sup>23</sup> [288]
- 21 October Battalion HQ and three companies, plus detachments, moved to **Wit(te)rand** to construct a line on the **Rhenoster River** [291] – completed 20 November [292]
- 22 October Draft of three officers and 83 ORs arrived [291]
- 27 October 2nd Volunteer Company Royal Welch Fusiliers (2 & 56) arrived [291]
- November Blockhouse duties [292]
- 3–13 December Battalion left **Wit(te)rand**, moving in stages south-west to **Yzer Drift** to establish a line on the **Vaal River** [292–3]

## 1902

- 24 January Column moved to **Middelburg**. Then **Doornhoek** (5 Feb) and **Bothaville** (13 Feb) manning blockhouses on the **Valsch River** [296]
- 20 March Column marched west to **Palmietfontein**, then **Modderfontein** (22nd) and **Strydfontein** (1 Apr) [297]

21. See *The Times History*, Volume V, page 229 for an account of this engagement for which Major Lyle was mentioned in despatches, and the troops were praised for their 'excellent morale and fighting quality'.

22. Later Captain Joseph Cottrill DSO DCM.

23. See *Regimental Records*, Vol II, pages 288–91 for the purpose of blockhouse lines. The battalion spent the remainder of the war on these duties. See A.M. Boreham's *Recollections of Army Life from 1898 to 1914* (RWF Mus 274), pages 38 and 41–4 for a good description of blockhouse life.

11 April	Blockhouse line completed on <b>River Vaal</b> as far as <b>Commando Drift</b> . HQ established on 12 Apr at <b>Junction Post</b> . Several Boer attempts to cross the river from the Transvaal side [297]
31 May	Peace concluded at Vereeniging
13 June	3rd Volunteer Company Royal Welch Fusiliers (2 & 36) left for home [298]
30 June	Battalion left for <b>Klerksdorp</b> [298]
7 July	First 100 reservists left for home. More later [298]
17 September	Battalion concentrated in <b>Potchefstroom</b> [298]
22 October	Draft of one officer and 80 ORs left to join 2nd Battalion in India [298]

### 1903

6 January	Battalion entrained for Cape Town – picking up two officers and 101 ORs of the 7th Battalion Mounted Infantry at Bloemfontein. [299]
12 January	Battalion arrived <b>Cape Town</b> and embarked on the <i>Ortona</i> . Sailed 14th [299]
4 February	Battalion disembarked at Southampton – strength 11 & 338. To Lichfield [300]
8 May	Memorial to those who had died unveiled by the Prince of Wales in St Giles’s Church, Wrexham [301]

### Chronology General Notes

1. This chronology is compiled almost entirely from *Regimental Records*, Volume II. The diary of Lt G E S Salt has also been used until it ceases on 21 March 1900, just before his death.

## Honours and Awards

(See page 17 for meaning of abbreviations)

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	SAWH page	Despatch date	London Gazette	Remarks
<b>Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB)</b>									
Colleton, Sir R A W Bart	Lt-Col					88		19 Apr 01	
<b>Distinguished Service Order (DSO)</b>									
Braithwaite, W G	Capt				?241	92		27 Sep 01	
Clegg-Hill, Hon C R	Lt					92		27 Sep 01	2 Battalion MI
Cole, A W G L[owry-]	Bt Lt- Col					120		31 Oct 02	
Dobell C M	Capt & Bt Maj					92		27 Sep 01	2 Battalion MI
Edwards, H de B	2 Lt		18/19 July 01	Naauwpoort	286	70c, 92	8 Aug 01	15 Nov 01c	
Firman, R B	Lt-Col		July 00	Brandwater Basin				27 Sep 01	?35 Coy IY. Later CO 11 IY
Gough, A P G	Major					92		27 Sep 01	
Kington, W M	Lt				?245	120		31 Oct 02	
Mantell, P R	Major					92		27 Sep 01	

### Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	SAWH page	Despatch date	London Gazette	Army Order	Remarks
Cottrell [sic], J <sup>24</sup>	Sgt	2251	19 July 01	Naaupoort	286	122		31 Oct 02	10/03	Details <i>LG</i> 15 Nov 01c
Crew, W	Pte					96			15/02	Not in Abbott
Darragh/Durragh, G E <sup>25</sup>	Sgt	2379	24 Mar 01	Vaal Bank		63c, 96	?8 May 01	23 Apr 01 9 Jul 01c	163/01	Award recorded twice in <i>LG</i>
Doodson, J	Pte					96		25 Jul 01	15/02	Not in Abbott
Evans, T	Pte	4136				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	2nd Bn MI
Fisher, E	Sgt	2351	23 May 01	Ventersdorp	?284	122		31 Oct 02	10/03	Details <i>LG</i> 20 Aug 01
Hill, W <sup>26</sup>	L Sgt	5424				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	2nd Bn MI
Hotchkiss, S	Sgt	4183				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	
Jackson, J	Pte					96		25 Jul 01	15/02	Not in Abbott
James, T	L Cpl	5483	20 Oct 00	Buffelsvlei, south of Frederikstad	251			19 Apr 01	163/01	SK 18 Apr 01 <sup>27</sup>
King, W G	C Sgt	460			?242, 247–8	96		27 Sep 01	15/02	
Marshall, J	Pte	2644				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	
Parker, E A	SM					96		27 Sep 01	15/02	

24. The correct spelling is J T Cottrill.

25. The *London Gazette* uses both spellings. Army Order 163/1901 has Darragh.

26. Later Lt & QM W Hill, killed 11 October 1915. See album 2708, page 106 for an obituary and photograph.

27. Recommended by General Barton, together with Lt-Col Colleton, for the Victoria Cross for bringing in Pte Simpson – see General Bulwer Papers, serial 55 (Mus. L 652), and *Regimental Records*, Vol. II, page 251.

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	SAWH page	Despatch date	London Gazette	Army Order	Remarks
Price, J	Pte	3822				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	
Roberts, W	Cpl	4085	24 Feb 00 <sup>28</sup>	Horse-Shoe Hill	237	22	30 Mar 00	19 Apr 01	163/01	Details LG 8 Feb 01 SK 18 Apr 01. <sup>29</sup>
Smith, J	Pte	2610				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	
Stretch, E A	C Sgt	2579				122		31 Oct 02	10/03	His biography has attached 2nd Bn MI
Taylor, C W	Sgt					96		25 Jul 01	15/02	Not in Abbott
Townsend, J	L Cpl	2771						19 Apr 01	163/01	SK 18 Apr 01
Whinyates, C	C Sgt	1430				96		27 Sep 01	15/02	

### Mentions in Despatches

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	SAWH page	Despatch date	London Gazette	Remarks
Archdale, H	Major					24	?30 Mar 00	2 Feb 01	
Barttelot, G F	Capt					48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Braithwaite, W G	Capt					24	?30 Mar 00	8 Feb 01	
						48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Cahill, T	Pte	2551				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Clark, M	Pte	649				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Clegg-Hill, Hon C R	Lt		Dec 99–Jan 00	Colesberg		9	2 Feb 00	4 May 00	MI
						52	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	

28. *Regimental Records*, Vol. II page 237 has this incident on 26 February. Salt's diary indicates that the 24th is correct.

29. Later CSM, and affectionately known as 'Cupid'. Died 12 October 1952. See *YDG* Winter 1952 page 48 for his obituary.

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	SAWH page	Despatch date	London Gazette	Remarks
Cole, A W G L[owry-]	Bt Lt-Col					113	23 Jun 02	29 Jul 02	
Colleton, Sir R A W	Lt-Col			Ventersdorp		40 61c 113	2 Apr 01 2 Apr 01 23 Jun 02	9 Jul 01c 29 Jul 02	Lord Roberts' despatch Gen Willson's despatch
Cottrell [sic], J	Sgt	2251	19 July 01	Naaupoort	286	72c 113	8 Aug 01 23 Jun 02	15 Nov 01 29 Jul 02	Name should be J T Cottrill
Coyle	Pte	2349	23 May 01	Ventersdorp	284	68	28 Jul 01	20 Aug 01	
Darragh/Durragh	Sgt		24 Mar 01	Vaal Bank		63c	8 May 01	9 Jul 01	DCM
Davies	Pte	2090	19 July 01	Naaupoort	286	72c	8 Aug 01	15 Nov 01c	Promoted Cpl by C-in-C
Delmé-Radcliffe, H	Capt					24 48	?30 Mar 00 4 Sep 01	8 Feb 01 10 Sep 01	
			22 Apr 01	Klerksdorp	281-2	62c	?8 May 01	9 Jul 01c	Gen Willson's despatch
Dobell, C M	Capt & Bt Maj					52	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	MI
Duglord	Pte	6021	7 Oct 00 19 July 01	Naaupoort	248 286	72c	8 Aug 01	15 Nov 01c	Promoted Cpl by C-in-C
Edwards, H de B	2 Lt		18/19 July 01	Naaupoort	286	70c	8 Aug 01	15 Nov 01c	DSO
Evans, T	Pte	4136				53	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	MI. ?DCM
Firman, R B	Lt-Col		July 00	Brandwater Basin				10 Sep 01	?35th Coy IY
Fisher, E	Sgt	2351	23 May 01	Ventersdorp	284	68c 113	28 Jul 01 23 Jun 02	20 Aug 01 29 Jul 02	
Gough, A P G	Capt Major					24 48	30 Mar 00 4 Sep 01	8 Feb 01 10 Sep 01	
Gregory, W	C Sgt	1836				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Grey R	L Cpl	6124	24 Oct 01	Diepdrai, ORC		79c	8 Mar 02	25 Apr 02c	MI. Promoted Cpl by C-in-C

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	SAWH page	Despatch date	London Gazette	Remarks
Hay, A	Capt		23 May 01	Ventersdorp		66c	28 Jul 01	20 Aug 01	
Hill, W	L Sgt	5424				53	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	MI. ?DCM
Hotchkiss, S	Sgt	4183				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	?DCM
Huffy, W	Sgt	3099				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Jenkins, T	Cpl	4099				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Jones, W	C Sgt	1705				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
King, W G	C Sgt	460				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	?DCM
Kington, W M	Lt						30 Mar 00c	8 Feb 01c	Acting Director of Signalling
						48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
			24 Mar 01	Vaal Bank		60c	8 May 01		No award listed. ?DSO
						113	23 Jun 02	29 Jul 02	
Kyrke, H V V	2 Lt					48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Legge, H A	Pnr Sgt	3737				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Lyle, H T, DSO	Major					48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
			22 Apr 01	Klerksdorp	281-2	62c	?8 May 01	9 Jul 01c	Gen Willson's despatch
Mantell, P R	Capt Major					24 48	30 Mar 00 4 Sep 01	8 Feb 01 10 Sep 01	
Marshall, J	Pte	2644				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	?DCM
Mellor, F R	Sgt	1055				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Mills, G	Pte	2405				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Nangle, F H	Lt					48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Parker, A	Cpl	4992				79c	8 Mar 02	25 Apr 02c	
Parker, E A	SM					48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	Later Lt-Col OBE MC DCM
Price, J	Pte	3822				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	?DCM

Name	Rank	No.	Date	Place	RR II page	<i>SAWH</i> page	Despatch date	<i>London Gazette</i>	Remarks
Ransome, R S	Hon Lt					48 113	4 Sep 01 23 Jun 02	10 Sep 01 29 Jul 02	Quartermaster
Rickman, G E	Capt					48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Roberts	Pte	2471	23 May 01	Ventersdorp	284	68	28 Jul 01	20 Aug 01	
Roberts, W	Cpl					22	30 Mar 00	8 Feb 01c	DCM
Salt, G	Lt		24 Feb 00	Horse-Shoe Hill	237	23c	30 Mar 00	8 Feb 01c	Diary pp 105-6. Died 3 Apr 00
Smith, J	Pte	2610				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	?DCM
Stretch, C	C Sgt	2579				113	23 Jun 02	29 Jul 02	Later Lt-Col DSO DCM
Thomas P	Pte	2987	23 May 01	Ventersdorp	284	68	28 Jul 01	20 Aug 01	Killed in action 23 May 01
Tomlinson, J J	Sgt	888				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Vale, G J	C Sgt	763				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Webber, R S	Capt					105	1 Mar 02	17 Jun 02	
Whinyates, C	C Sgt	1430				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	?DCM
White, Hon R, Res of Officers, late RWF	Major					54	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	
Wilkinson, G	Pte	5746				48	4 Sep 01	10 Sep 01	Killed 7 Aug 00
<b>Special Promotions</b>									
Cole, A W G L[owry]	Major							26 Apr 01	To be Brevet Lt-Col
Lyle, H T, DSO	Major					101		27 Sep 01	To be Brevet Lt-Col
Webber, R S	Capt					124			To be Brevet Major
White, Hon R, Res of Officers, late RWF	Capt					104			To be Major

## Notes

1. Awards of the DSO and DCM were normally/invariably based on a mention in despatches. Recipients therefore received the award and a mention.
2. Most of the DCM detail comes from *Recipients of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 1855–1909*, by P E Abbott, Hayward 1987.
3. See Abbott page 37 for information about DCM citations and sources.
4. See Howel Thomas pages 273–4 for a list of recipients of awards.
5. The letter ‘c’ after the page number of *SAWH* or the *London Gazette* date indicates that there is a citation.

## Abbreviations

2 Lt	2nd Lieutenant
AO	Army Orders
Bt	Brevet
C-in-C	Commander-in-Chief
Capt	Captain
CO	Commanding Officer
Col	Colonel
Cpl	Corporal
C Sgt	Colour Sergeant (equivalent to Staff Sergeant)
Hon	Honorary
IY	Imperial Yeomanry
L	Lance (prefix to Corporal or Sergeant)
<i>LG</i>	<i>London Gazette</i>
Lt	Lieutenant
MI	Mounted Infantry
ORC	Orange River Colony
Pnr	Pioneer
Pte	Private (The rank of Fusilier was introduced to replace Private in 1923)
PRO	Public Record Office, Kew
<i>RR II</i>	Cary & McCance, <i>Regimental Records of The Royal Welch Fusiliers</i> , Vol II 1816–1914
<i>SAWH</i>	<i>South African War Honours &amp; Awards, 1899–1902</i> , Arms and Armour Press, 1971
Sgt	Sergeant
SK	Recommendation for the medal, submitted to the Sovereign (King) – see Abbott and PRO WO 146/1
SM	Sergeant Major

## The Royal Welch Fusiliers

### Boer War Roll of Honour – 1899–1903

(See page 3 for a list of cemeteries, and pages 17 and 29 for abbreviations)

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
<b>Officers</b> <sup>30</sup>							
	Lt	Bate, Roger Whitley	05 12 01	Rostpan	Killed in action	Boshof M C G	3 RWF
	2 Lt	Farmer, J C <sup>31</sup>	22 10 00	Botha's Farm, Buffelshoek	Died of wounds received 20 Oct	?	
	Capt	Lovett, Richard Gordon Beresford	05 05 00	Rooidam	Killed in action	Kimberley W E	RR, Vol. II p 241.
	Lt	Salt, George Edmund Stevenson ♣	03 04 00	Modder Spruit	Enteric fever <sup>32</sup>	Elandslaagte GL	RR, Vol. II p 238
	Lt	Stebbing, Frederick Anderson	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Tugela Heights GL	RR, Vol. II p 237
	Lt-Col	Thorold, Charles Cecil Hayford	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Colenso GL	RR, Vol. II p 235. YDG S 1964, p 8
	2 Lt	Williams-Ellis, John Roger	09 10 00	Dwarsvlei	Killed in action	Krugersdorp G	RR, Vol. II p 247. Caernarfon memorial. Also in Llangyby church

30. Biographies of all officers are contained in the book, *The "Last Post": Being a Roll of all Officers . . . Who Gave Their Lives . . .*, by Mildred G Dooner: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co Ltd, London, n.d. (1903). Reprinted 1980 (Hayward) and 2002 (Naval & Military Press).

31. There is some uncertainty about this man. He is shown in Dooner's book of biographies and on the Wrexham Boer War memorial as 2 Lt RWF, but the Casualty Roll lists him as 1251 Cpl J C Farmer of the 5th Bn Imperial Yeomanry. This is partly explained by Dooner, who states that he was gazetted four days after his death, but his commission was antedated to 23 May 1900. There seems to be little doubt that he was serving with the Imperial Yeomanry when he died.

32. Writer of *Letters and Diary of Lieutenant G E S Salt*, John Murray 1902, which contains biographical details.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
<b>Other Ranks</b>							
5515	Pte	Abbott (P) J	09 05 01	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	
3949	L Cpl	Alback, W G <sup>33</sup>	? 01	Onverwacht	Died of wounds <sup>34</sup>		Not in Holme
3420	Pte	Alsop J	20 08 00	Krugersdorp	Pneumonia	Krugersdorp	
2802	Pte	Andrews A	24 02 01	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	
6199	Pte	Ashford, A	11 08 02	?Klerksdorp	Disease	Klerksdorp	G New in Watt or NMC. Not in any RWF list or memorial
3138	Pte	Aston W	24 03 01	Rietfontein	Killed in action	Rietfontein	MI. Monument unknown
5499	Pte	Averall E L	30 03 00	Ladysmith	Enteric fever	Elandslaagte	L
7357	Pte	Bailey S	23 06 00	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	2 VB
3663	Pte	Ballard T H	05 05 00	Rooidam	Killed in action	Kimberley W E	RR, Vol. II p 241
1104	Pte	Barnes S	15 07 00	Krugersdorp	Enteric fever	Krugersdorp	
5743	Pte	Barnett F	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255
6152	Pte	Bates F	04 02 01	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
5687	Pte	Baynham C	24 02 01	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	
5528	Pte	Birkett R	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Colenso	GL RR, Vol. II p 237
4149	Pte	Brien, G	27 10 01	Potchefstroom	Died of disease	Potchefstroom	
5814	Pte	Broad E	19 05 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E	G

33. Wrexham memorial has Pte W G Alback.

34. The Casualty Roll has him wounded on 7 October 1901 with 2 B[n] M I at Onverwacht, with note 'since dead'.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
7367	Pte	Brocklehurst H	09 05 00	Modder River	Died of disease	Elandslaagte	1 VB
5543	Pte	Burgess A H	16 05 00	Cape Town	Enteric fever	Cape Town, M	
6273	Pte	Cain J T	22 12 00	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	
4070	L/Cpl	Chidley T	07 07 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
3628	Pte	Cliff(e) H	12 02 01	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
4200	Sgt	Cochrane, T J <sup>35</sup>	27 11 01	Boshof	Died of disease	Boshof M C G	22 MI
4312	Pte	Cowland W <sup>36</sup>	25 03 01	Rietfontein	Died of wounds	[NMC has none]	MI. Wounded 24 Feb
2502	Pte	Cox G	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Tugela Heights GL	RR, Vol. II p 237
2831	Pte	Croucher W	30 07 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action <sup>37</sup>	Potchefstroom	
1379	Pte	Cummin(g)s N <sup>38</sup>	16 04 01	Potchefstroom	Died of disease	Potchefstroom	3 RWF
2527	Pte	Davies, Archibald P	26 05 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	<sup>39</sup>
2883	Pte	Davies H	05 10 01	Boshof	Died of disease	Boshof M C G	3 RWF
5980	Pte	Davies J <sup>40</sup>	14 02 01	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	
2753	Pte	Davies J	06 05 00	Rooidam	Died of wounds	Kimberley W E <sup>41</sup>	RR, Vol. II p 241. Wounded 5 May

35. Wrexham memorial has Cockram.

36. Wrexham memorial has W Cowlard.

37. He had been left at Frederikstad with a sapper and four natives on telegraph duty. While this unarmed party was proceeding along the line in a trolley, mending the telegraph wire, they were attacked by Boers and mercilessly shot down, although they signalled that they would surrender. When the bodies were found they were riddled with bullets, and their heads had been bashed in evidently by rocks or clubs. They could hardly be recognised. (Digest of Service, 7 August 1900)

38. Wrexham memorial and NMC have Cummings.

39. See Mus L/D 1848 for thirty of his letters and a photograph (NH)

40. One of the J Davies' is J J on the Wrexham memorial.

41. He was originally buried with Captain Lovatt and Pte W Dodd in one grave at the Mission Station Graveyard, Rooidam

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
5767	Pte	Davies S A T	10 03 01	Ventersdorp	Enteric fever	Ventersdorp G	
5696	Pte	Davies, Thomas	08 01 00	Frere	Enteric fever <sup>42</sup>	Estcourt	
2901	L/Cpl	Davies W <sup>43</sup>	28 04 00	Cape Town	Dysentery	Cape Town, M	
6274	Pte	Dawes A <sup>44</sup>	05 05 02	Elandsfontein <sup>45</sup>	Died of disease	Germiston	YDG July 1936, p 80
3038	Pte	Dawson A	01 07 00	Pretoria	Died of disease	?	Not in Watt or on Wrexham memorial
1806	QMS	Denton W	05 01 02	Bloemfontein	Died of disease	Bloemfontein GoR	3 RWF, 22 MI
7302	Pte	Deverell, Harry	08 05 00	Kimberley	Died of disease	Kimberley W E G	3 VB. Llandudno church memorial has 7303
4624	Pte	Dixon J	03 03 01	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
3652	Pte	Dodd W H	06 05 00	Rooidam	Died of wounds	Kimberley W E <sup>46</sup>	RR, Vol. II p 241. Wounded 5 May
	Pte	Dunbar J				?	3 RWF. Wrexham memorial only
3331	Pte	Edwards J (alias Evans)	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255
5847	Dmr	Edwards P	16 04 00	Mooi River	Enteric fever	Mooi River G	
2269	Pte	Edwards W	29 07 00	At sea	Pneumonia	At sea	3 RWF. Aboard s.s. <i>Custodian</i> en route to South Africa
5834	Pte	Evans E J <sup>47</sup>	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Tugela Heights <sup>48</sup> GL	RR, Vol. II p 237

42. See his letter in the *Carmarthen Journal* published on 21 January 1900.

43. Pte W Davis on the Wrexham memorial.

44. Shown as A Davies in some records.

45. Elandsfontein is 8 miles east of Johannesburg. It seems to have been a hospital. See *Y Ddraig Goch*, July 1936, page 80 for the names of eight men buried there. The cemetery is now called Germiston – Primrose.

46. He was originally buried with Captain Lovatt and 2753 Pte J Davies in one grave at the Mission Station Graveyard, Rooidam.

47. Wrexham memorial has an E S Evans.

48. Originally buried at Onderbroek Spruit, near where killed. Stone erected by Mrs Thorold – see *YDG St D 64/8*

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
4685	Pte	Evans E	09 12 02	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever		
5787	Pte	Evans E <sup>49</sup>	23 03 00	Pietermaritzburg	Enteric fever	Pietermaritzburg G	
2862	Cpl	Evans J	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Colenso GL	RR, Vol. II p 237
7496	Cpl	Evans P W	16 12 01	Elandsfontein	Died	Germiston	3 VB. YDG July 1936, p 80
1787	Pte	Evans, William	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255. 4 RWF
3796	Pte	Fallon P	09 05 00	Cape Town	Enteric fever	Cape Town, M	
5429	Pte	Fitzpatrick R	21 06 00	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
2084	Pte	Foley, James	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255. 3 RWF. Rhyl memorial
7341	Pte	Gallier J or L	30 03 01	De Aar	Died of disease	De Aar GoR	2 VB
2957	L Cpl	Garrett H M	03 02 01	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
1812	Pte	Gelder, George	12 04 01	Schoonspruit	Heart failure	[NMC has none]	4 RWF. Whilst bathing in the river
5332	Pte	Gilshon/Gelshon M	05 05 00	Cape Town	Enteric fever	Cape Town, M	
6446	Pte	Glover J	16 02 02	Vlakfontein	Killed	Boshof M C G	22 MI
862	Pte	Godfrey J J	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 251
6330	Pte	Gooding T W	16 11 01	Boshof	Died of disease	Boshof M C G	22 MI
2657	Sgt	Graham J W	08 05 00	Rooidam	Died of wounds	Kimberley W	RR, Vol. II p 241
6066	Pte	Green J	11 02 01	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	NMC has 6055
2898	Sgt	Hatton J H	12 07 00	Krugersdorp	Pneumonia	Krugersdorp	
5979	Pte	Hawkins W G	01 04 00	Modder Spruit	Dysentery	Elandslaagte L	
6140	Pte	Highfield A	23 03 01	Elandsfontein	Hepatitis	Germiston	YDG July 1936. P 80

49. Wrexham memorial has only one E Evans.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
6270	Pte	Hinks A C	13 01 02	Doornfontein	Killed in action	Kimberley W G	22 MI
7384	Pte	Holt A	17 05 00	Kimberley	Died of disease	Kimberley W E G	1 VB
5484	Pte	Horne G	11 05 00	Pietermaritzburg	Enteric fever	Pietermaritzburg G	
5213	Cpl	Hosey J	17 07 00	Between Norvals Point & Wynberg	Alcoholic poisoning	Cape Town, W	On a train
3313	Pte	Huggins M	28 04 00	Cape Town	Dysentery	Cape Town, M	
3355	Pte	Hussey J	02 06 00	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
5892	Pte	Jacobs W J	28 04 00	Ladysmith	Enteric fever	Ladysmith L	Ladysmith memorial has Jacpbs H
3455	Pte	James D	11 02 01	Vlakfontein	Enteric fever	Krugersdorp	
2402	Pte	Jenkins C	09 04 00	Mooi River	Enteric fever	Mooi River G	
5527	Pte	Jephcote W	25 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Tugela Heights GL	
7417	Sgt	Jones, Charles Vaughan	05 05 00	Cape Town	Died of disease	Cape Town, M	3 VB. Llandudno Church memorial has 7413
3611	Pte	Jones C	22 05 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
	Pte	Jones E L				?	3 RWF. Wrexham memorial only
5756	Pte	Jones G W	20 07 00	?Potchefstroom	Died of wounds <sup>50</sup>	?	Wounded and taken prisoner
1232	Pte	Jones G	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255
3288	Pte	Jones J	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 251
6366	Pte	Jones J	07 01 02	Boshof	Died of disease	Boshof M C G	22 MI
	Pte	Jones J H				?	1 VB. Wrexham memorial only
	Pte	Jones J I				?	4 RWF. Wrexham memorial only

50. A comrade, later released, states Jones died of his wounds and was buried by the Boers (NH)

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
3826	Pte	Jones R	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 255
5349	Pte	Jones R	09 05 00	De Aar	Died of disease	De Aar GoR	NMC has Jones W
7471	Pte	Jones, Thomas	16 12 01	Elandsfontein	Died (cause not stated)	Germiston	<i>YDG</i> July 1936, p 80
7469	Pte	Jones, Thomas	19 10 00	Bloemfontein	Died of disease	Bloemfontein President Brand G	2 VB. Rhyl memorial
5910	Pte	Jones W	17 07 00	Between Norvals Point & Wynberg	Alcoholic poisoning	Cape Town, W	On a train
2750	Pte	Jones W	24 05 02	Valsch Junction	Suicide	Bothaville GoR	3 RWF, 22 MI
2518	Pte	Joyce R G	25 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Colenso GL	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 237
1760	Pte	Kelly M	14 08 00	Mafeking	Either pneumonia or enteric fever	Mafeking G	3 RWF
2554	Pte	Kelly, William	08 06 02	Elandsfontein	Died	Germiston	4 RWF. <i>YDG</i> July 1936, p 80
971	Pte	Leadbetter S	05 05 00	Roodam	Killed in action	Kimberley W E	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 241
5384	Pte	Ledbrook F	05 05 00	Roodam	Killed in action	Kimberley W E	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 241
7353	Pte	Lewis J	21 04 01	At sea	Died	At sea	3 VB. NH card index and Wrexham memorial only
2625	Pte	Lloyd J T or J J	18 07 00	Krugersdorp	Enteric fever	Krugersdorp	
7554	Pte	Lloyd T	23 05 01	Britstown	Died of disease	Britstown G	2 VB
5646	Pte	Lloyd T or J	26 06 00	?Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
6015	Pte	Lockett J	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 251
5220	Pte	Lucas A	13 12 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
2823	Pte	Marlen/Mailen, Thomas	13 05 00	Kimberley/ Fourteen Streams	Pneumonia	Kimberley W E G	4 RWF

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
5808	Pte	McDermott J	18 05 00	Kimberley	Died of disease	Kimberley W E G	Not on Wrexham memorial. NMC has no place of burial
3344	L/Cpl	Miller P J	07 08 00	Tygerfontein	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	
2850	L/Cpl	Moore M <sup>51</sup>	05 05 00	Rooidam	Killed in action	Kimberley W E	
3387	Pte	Morgan G	27 10 00	Frederikstad	Died of wounds	Krugersdorp	Wounded 25 Oct. NMC has died at Bank
5843	Pte	Morgan T W	09 02 01	Donkerpoort	Died of wounds	Colesberg	Wounded 8 Feb
3049	L/Cpl	Morris A J	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255
6473	Pte	Morris E L	21 02 02	Bothaville	Accidentally killed	Bothaville	By another sentry
2778	Pte	Morris W A	08 05 00	Denbigh, Wales	?Died of wounds	? (UK)	Wounded at Tugela 17 Feb 00
821	Pte	Mott F W	02 06 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
5827	Pte	Murphy D or M	10 11 01	Charlestown	Died of disease	Newcastle	
2361	Pte	Murray B	17 06 00	?Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
1612	Pte	Nolan, John	09 10 00	Dwarsvlei	Killed in action	Krugersdorp	RR, Vol. II p 247. 4 RWF
7373	Pte	Parry H	21 07 00	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	2 VB. NMC has died 30 June
5900	Pte	Parry J	29 04 02	Bloemfontein	Died of disease	Bloemfontein GoR	
5830	Pte	Payne C	04 01 01	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
2316	Pte	Perry W	09 05 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
5721	Pte	Pike S	24 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Killed in action	Tugela Heights GL	RR, Vol. II p 237
5953	Pte	Plant G or J	01 06 00	Kimberley	Pneumonia	Kimberley W E G	
	Pte	Pooltan E J				?	Wrexham memorial only

51. See Holme card index for confusion over name change from Maurice to Moore. L Cpl F Maurice on Wrexham memorial.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
6495	Pte	Purslow H	25 10 01	Diepdraai	Died of wounds	Koffiefontein MC G	Not in Holme
4790	Sgt	Rawle J	17 07 01	Vlakfontein	Killed in action	?	
4178	Pte	Rees(e) E	03 01 00	De Aar	Died of disease	De Aar GoR	Not on Wrexham memorial
	Pte	Reilly ?G				?	3 RWF. Wrexham memorial only
1028	Pte	Riley, A	28 10 00	Frederikstad	Died of wounds	Krugersdorp	NMC has wounded at Bank station
2728	Pte	Roberts E	05 09 01	Potchefstroom	Died of disease	Potchefstroom	
7522	Pte	Roberts H <sup>52</sup>	28 12 01	Elandsfontein	Died of disease	Germiston	3 VB
7347	Pte	Roberts, Norman	16 08 00	Krugersdorp	Heart disease	Krugersdorp	2 VB. Rhyl memorial
2600	Pte	Roberts P R	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255
5707	Pte	Roberts R J	28 06 00	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
1296	Pte	Roberts T	15 11 01	Kimberley	Died of disease	Kimberley W E G	3 RWF, 22 MI
7400	Pte	Rogers A	12 09 00	Vryburg	Drowned	Kraaipan G	1 VB
2223	Pte	Rowlands L J	05 04 01	Elandsfontein	Enteric fever	Germiston	3 RWF. YDG July 1936, p 80
	Pte	Saunders W				?	Wrexham memorial only
6121	Pte	Savage S W	29 10 00	Krugersdorp	Died of wounds	Krugersdorp	Wounded at Frederikstad 25 Oct
1994	Pte	Scott J	08 07 00	Kimberley	Pneumonia	Kimberley W E G	
5821	Pte	Shipley J	06 07 00	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	
3050	Pte	Smith G H	06 04 01	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
2632	Pte	Smith J <sup>53</sup>	23 04 00	Estcourt	Enteric fever	Estcourt	

52. Name not in Holme records. Taken from NMC list and list in *Y Ddraig Goch*, July 1936, page 80.

53. On the Wrexham memorial there is a J J S Smith, who must be one of the three J Smiths on this list.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
3010	Pte	Smith J or C	11 03 01	Ventersdorp	Peritonitis	Ventersdorp G	
5674	Pte	Smith J	27 02 00	Horse Shoe Hill	Died of wounds	Chieveley GL	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 237. Wounded at Horse Shoe Hill, 25 Feb
2507	Pte	Smith J	04 09 00	Krugersdorp	Enteric fever	Krugersdorp	
5403	Pte	Smith W C	03 07 00	Kimberley	Died of disease	Kimberley W E G	
3076	Pte	Starkey J	18 07 00	Krugersdorp	Enteric fever	Krugersdorp	
6286	Pte	Starkey W	17 09 02	?Potchefstroom	Died	Potchefstroom G	New in NMC and Wall. Not in Holme or on Wrexham memorial.
5764	Pte	Stevens T	12 02 00	At sea		At sea	Holme has embarked 4 Feb. Has Natal medals
7402	Pte	Stokes G	16 04 00	Ladysmith	Enteric fever	Elandslaagte L	1 VB. L'smith memorial has Stokes E
4243	Pte	Stroud, George	09 02 00	Chieveley	Drowned	Chieveley GL	Bathing in a spruit near Chieveley <sup>54</sup>
3539	Cpl	Sullivan B	29 10 00	Frederikstad	Accident	Potchefstroom	Accidentally shot in the abdomen.
5147	Pte	Sullivan J	16 08 00	Bronkhorstspruit	Died of disease	Diamond Hill GoR G	Not on Wrexham memorial. <i>YDG S</i> 63/7
	Pte	Taylor F				?	4 RWF. Wrexham memorial only
	Pte	Thomas C or H				?	3 or 4 RWF. Wrexham memorial only
2344	Pte	Thomas C or H	02 09 01	Orange River Sta.	Died of disease	Kimberley W E	3 RWF, 22 MI
5729	Pte	Thomas T	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 255
2987	Pte	Thomas P ♣	23 05 01	Witpoortjie	Killed in action <sup>55</sup>	Ventersdorp G	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 285
3824	Pte	Thomas W	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	<i>RR</i> , Vol. II p 255

54. See 2nd Lieut H V V Kyrke's letter of 12 February 1900 for an account of his death.

55. A stretcher bearer with the rear-guard, he was noted for gallantry under fire when attending the wounded at Witpoortjie 23 May 1901.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
5295	Pte	Thom(p)son A	08 06 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
5360	Pte	Thompson J J	10 05 00	Pietermaritzburg	Enteric fever	Pietermaritzburg G	
5156	L/Cpl	Underwood E	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	RR, Vol. II p 255
5854	Pte	Vipond G or E	14 02 00	Chieveley	Died of wounds	Chieveley GL	RR, Vol. II p 234. Wounded at Hussar Hill 14 Feb
5768	L Cpl	Watkins <sup>56</sup>	30 08 02	?Krugersdorp	Died	Krugersdorp	New in Wall
2051	Pte	Watkins E	05 06 01	Johannesburg	Enteric fever	Johannesburg	
5621	Pte	Whiteside A	19 05 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
5746	Pte	Wilkinson G ♣	07 08 00	Tygerfontein	Killed <sup>57</sup>	Potchefstroom	MiD LG 10 Sep 01
5195	Pte	Williams F <sup>58</sup>	22 05 00	Springfontein	Died of disease	Springfontein G	Watt has possibly Northumberland Fusiliers. Not in NMC
3145	Pte	Williams J or W	04 02 00	Chieveley	Dysentery	Chieveley L	Ladysmith memorial has initial E
5751	Pte	Williams, Luther	13 06 00	Kimberley	Enteric fever	Kimberley W E G	
5584	Pte	Williams O	25 08 00	Kraaipan	Accidentally shot	Kraaipan G	
2096	Pte	Williams W or H	25 10 00	Frederikstad	Killed in action	Potchefstroom	
5538	Pte	Williams W	17 02 00	Tugela/Hussar Hill	Killed in action	Tugela Heights <sup>59</sup> GL	RR, Vol. II p 234
7590	Pte	Wright, Llewellyn A	05 01 02	Elandsfontein	Died of disease	Germiston	1 VB. YDG July 1936, p 800

56. There is only one Watkins on the Wrexham memorial, and that is Pte D O Watkins of 3 RWF.

57. See Mus 6410B for his last letter.

58. It has not been possible to reconcile the several men named Williams on the various lists. The Wrexham memorial has a total of seven (all Privates), three with initial W, and one with WH. Holme and Watt have only six, with differing initials.

59. YDG St D 64/8 has a photo of the grave of a Pte W Williams of E Coy (and also Pte E Evans) at Onderbroek Spruit, near where he was killed – erected by Mrs Thorold. The date of death on the stone is 24 Feb 00, so it may be a different Williams.

No.	Rank	Name	Died	Place	Cause of death	Buried at	References/Remarks
7331	Pte	Wynne, Hugh	24 06 00	Potchefstroom	Enteric fever	Potchefstroom	2 VB. Rhyl memorial. Not in NMC

### Notes

1. Where there is a contradiction about men's names, initials and units, the information on the regimental war memorial in Wrexham Parish Church has been used.
2. The Norman Holme card index contains useful notes about variations in names etc.
3. The 'Buried at' column gives the final resting place. See NMC and Watt lists for details of those originally buried elsewhere.
4. The names of almost all men are recorded on the main monument, which has been erected at each site.
5. Those men who have individual gravestones are annotated with a 'G' in the 'Buried at' column. I am indebted to the NMC and Mr Steve Watt for this information.
6. Ten of those whose place of burial is not known are men of the territorial and volunteer battalions, whose names have been taken from the memorial in Wrexham Parish Church. They are likely to have died and been buried in the United Kingdom.

### Abbreviations (See also page 17)

♣	Mentioned in Despatches
G	Individual gravestone in cemetery
GoR	Garden of Remembrance
L	Name in All Saint's Church, Ladysmith
MI	Mounted Infantry
MC	Municipal Cemetery
NMC	National Monuments Council (South African)
VB	Volunteer Battalion (The Royal Welch Fusiliers)

## RWF Mounted Infantry in the Boer War

*See page 34 for abbreviations*

1. Despite some research, it is proving difficult to determine the composition and movements of the Royal Welch detachments which were employed as mounted infantry in South Africa. *Regimental Records* give no help, and the following details are gleaned mostly from the *Army List*. The August 1902 edition lists no fewer than twenty-nine battalions, most of which had four or five companies.

2. The January 1902 *Army List* is the first to show the composition of battalions, rather than just their staffs. It shows the original RWF detachment as one of four in the Western Company of the 2nd Battalion. In addition the 22nd Battalion has its No 2 Company provided by the 3rd Battalion, plus regular details. There are also details in No 3 Company.

Date	Event	Unit	Reference
c.Oct 1899	Bn furnished a section of 30 under Lt the Hon C.R. Clegg-Hill to 2nd Bn MI, formed at Aldershot <sup>60</sup>	2 MI	<i>RR II</i> , p 229 <i>TMC</i> p 60 <sup>61</sup>
13 Nov 1899	RWF MI section disembarked Cape Town. Bn sailed on to Durban	2 MI	<sup>62</sup>
Nov 1899	Picked up horses at De Aar, and then went to Naaupost, attached to Gen Sir John French's Cavalry Brigade	2 MI	<i>TMC</i> p 60
15 Dec 1899 – 25 Jan 1900	Lt the Hon C.R. Clegg-Hill mentioned in Lt-Gen French's despatch of 2 Feb 1900 for "especially good service" at Colesberg.	2 MI	<i>SAWH</i> pp 8–9
15 Feb 1900	OC Western Company and Stretch "were the first men into Kimberley" as part of its relief force	2 MI	<i>TMC</i> p 60
17–26 February 1900	At Paardeberg as part of force which captured Cronje and about 4,000 Boers. Stretch wounded and evacuated	2 MI	<i>TMC</i> p 60
25 June 1900	Capt C.H.M. Doughty left bn "to join the Mounted Infantry". He left on 13 July to join 2 RWF	?	<i>RR II</i> , p 243
July 1900	Dobell in command of 2 MI on the Basutoland border	2 MI	<i>YDG</i> Winter 1951, p 43
12 July 1900	2 MI, under Dobell "had a brush with De Wet"	2 MI	<i>YDG</i> Winter 1951, p 43
	2 MI "broken up" <sup>63</sup>	2 MI	<i>TMC</i> p 60

60. 2 MI had two companies – Eastern and Western. The latter was formed from Cheshires, RWF, SWB and Wilts, with a DCLI machine gun section.

61. Much of the following information is taken from the biography of C Sgt (later Lt-Col, DSO DCM) E.A. Stretch, contained in *The Military Chest* article about him.

62. There is as yet no evidence for this assumption, but it would explain their presence in the northern Cape and at Kimberley in February 1900, while the battalion was in Natal.

63. This extract from Stretch's biography is not understood. He gives no date, nor does he say what happened to the elements of the battalion.

Date	Event	Unit	Reference
Sep(?) 1900	Stretch rejoined “my own battalion”.	?	<i>TMC</i> p 60
	“While at Krugersdorp General Barton decided that the battalion should form a section of Mounted Infantry (1 officer and 25 rank and file), who were mounted chiefly on captured ponies. The section was not at first officially recognised, but was so later. It was eventually increased to 50 or 60 strong and performed most useful service for the remainder of the war. Under command of Lieutenant Kington it played a distinguished part in the action of Wildfontein on the 24th of March 1901.” This second section was presumably in addition to the one with 2 MI.	1 RWF	<i>RR II</i> , p 245
Jan 1901	Lt F.C.A. Hurt left bn to join RWF section in 2 MI, in Gen Cunningham’s column, vice Lt the Hon C.R. Clegg-Hill	2 MI	<i>RR II</i> , p 275–6
24 Mar 1901	“Under command of Lieutenant Kington it [the second MI section – see Sep 1900 above] played a distinguished part in the action of Wildfontein on the 24th of March 1901.”	1 RWF	<i>RR II</i> , p 245
24 Oct 1901	L Cpl R. Grey to Cpl MiD at Diepdrai, Orange River Colony	?2 MI	<i>LG</i> 25 Apr 1902, p 2772
13 Jan 1902	Pte Hinks killed at Doornfontein	2 MI	RoH
16 Feb 1902	Pte Glover killed at Vlakfontein, near Boshof	2 MI	RoH
31 May 1902	Peace concluded		
8 Jan 1903	“. . . the battalion arrived at Bloemfontein and picked up Lieutenant [F.H.] Nangle, 2nd Lieutenant H.J. Phillips, and 101 non-commissioned officers and men from the 7th battalion Mounted Infantry, who had marched in from Modder River Station.”	7 MI	<i>RR II</i> , p 299
12 Jan 1903	“. . . the battalion arrived at Cape Town . . . and . . . embarked on the transport <i>Ortona</i> : Captain [R.E.P.] Gabbett with the remainder of the mounted infantry company and their heavy baggage also arrived on board.”	?	<i>RR II</i> , p 299

## Extracts from Publications Concerning the MI

### 1. Frederick Myatt, *The British Infantry 1660–1945*, Blandford Press 1983, pages 136–7

Another innovation of the period was the addition of a detachment of mounted infantry to every home battalion. Mounted infantry were simply soldiers who rode to battle but dismounted to fight it, and the possession of a horse (not necessarily a very good one) gave them greatly increased mobility. . . . Camel corps had been a feature of the operations in Egypt and the Sudan in the period 1882–6, and it was the success of these which finally prompted some slightly more permanent organization.

Detachments of one officer and 32 men attended 10-week courses on the subject. These were held at Aldershot, Shorncliffe, and the Curragh, and the syllabus included riding, stable duties, horse management, mounted infantry tactics, and field firing. At first the necessary horses were borrowed from local cavalry regiments but later a pool of cobs was authorized.

There was of course no intention that a mounted infantry detachment should be a permanent feature of every battalion; when courses were complete the detachments returned to their units and resumed their places in the ranks.

If mounted infantry was ever required, it was envisaged that four battalion detachments could be grouped into a mounted infantry company, and sufficient saddlery and equipment for eight of these was kept in store at Aldershot. A system of registering suitable horses for use in national emergency already existed, so that mounts could be found from that source.

### 2. *The Times History Vol II*, page 31

A distinct tactical feature of the British system lay in the tentative development of mounted infantry. . . . But it was not till 1888 that a scheme for the regular training of detachments from infantry battalions, and a system of mounted infantry drill, were drawn up by Major (now Sir E.T.H.) Hutton. On some of the foreign stations, notably in South Africa, even before the [Boer] war, one company of every battalion was regularly maintained as mounted infantry. . . .

When the South African War broke out the British Army contained not only a large body of men who had been trained as mounted infantry but, more important still, a number of keen officers who had devoted themselves to the study of mounted infantry tactics, and were burning for an opportunity to put their theories to the test. The success of the mounted forces in South Africa owes more than is sometimes realised to the long work of preparation carried on before the war by the mounted infantry enthusiasts.

### 3. Howel Thomas, *A History of The Royal Welch Fusiliers . . .*, page 272

#### THE MOUNTED INFANTRY SECTION

When the Royal Welsh Fusiliers mobilized for the South African campaign they were ordered to provide one section of Mounted Infantry. This section joined the Second Battalion of Mounted Infantry and came into action on the 21st of December, 1899, at Colesberg, where they fought under Major McCracken for seven days and nights, for the first thirty-six hours of which period they were without rations.

They then assisted the Kimberley relief column [relieved 15 February 1900]. From the 15th to the 19th of February they engaged General Cronje's rear-guard, and were present during the fighting that resulted in the surrender of Cronje and his force [27 February 1900]. At the battle of Poplars Grove [7 March 1900] they formed part of the advanced-guard of General Kelly-Kenny's division, and they also saw fighting at Driefontein [10 March 1900].

After the capture of Bloemfontein [13 March 1900] a column under General Broadwood was surprised and badly handled by a body of Boers and lost some guns [31 March 1900]; but the Mounted Infantry earned the thanks of General Broadwood for their gallantry. They were in the advance on Pretoria [occupied 5 June 1900], gaining "bars" for the actions at Johannesburg [31 May 1900], Diamond

Hill [11–12 June 1900], and Wittebergen [1–29 July 1900], and were continuously employed until the end of the war [31 May 1902], one of their achievements being the capture of Commandant Erasmus [29 December 1901].

#### **4. Regimental Records Volume II.**

*Note: All the following extracts, except page 299, would appear to refer to a second section of MI, under Lieut W.M. Kington, which operated with the battalion and was it seems in addition to the section, under Lieut the Hon C.R. Clegg-Hill and later Lieut F.C.A. Hurt, with the 2nd Battalion MI.*

##### **Page 245**

“While at Krugersdorp [summer 1900] General Barton decided that the battalion should form a section of Mounted Infantry (1 officer and 25 rank and file), who were mounted chiefly on captured ponies. The section was not at first officially recognised, but was so later. It was eventually increased to 50 or 60 strong and performed most useful service for the remainder of the war. Under command of Lieutenant Kington it played a distinguished part in the action of Wildfontein on the 24th of March 1901.”

##### **Page 257**

“On the 26th of December [1900] General Babington with a column consisting of about 500 mounted men, including 45 Royal Welch Fusiliers Mounted Infantry, 3 guns R.F.A. and 3 pom-poms, and the 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers, . . . marched to Buffelsdoorn, 19 miles west of Potchefstroom.”

##### **Page 288**

“On September the 15th [1901] Lieutenant Kington, 2nd Lieutenant Sir F.[C.R.] Price, Bart., and all the battalion mounted infantry left for Bank, to form part of a column under Colonel Hickman which was to operate in the Gatsrand. Lieutenant-Colonel H.T. Lyle, with [2nd Lieutenant A.H. Reynolds as galloper, left on the 17th to take command of the mounted troops of the column. . . .”

**Pages 290, 291, 293 and 296.** References to the battalion MI.

##### **Page 299**

“On the 3rd of January [1903] orders were received for the battalion to return home. On the 6th it entrained at Potchefstroom en route for Cape Town . . .

“On the 8th the battalion arrived at Bloemfontein and picked up Lieutenant [F.H.] Nangle, 2nd Lieutenant H.J. Phillips, and 101 non-commissioned officers and men from the 7th battalion Mounted Infantry, who had marched in from Modder River Station.

“On the 12th the battalion arrived at Cape Town at 6 a.m., and, after some delay owing to traffic on the line, embarked on the transport *Ortona* Captain Gabbett with the remainder of the mounted infantry company and their heavy baggage also arrived on board.”

#### **5. Lt Gen Sir Charles Dobell, *Two Yarns . . .*, in *Y Ddraig Goch*, Winter 1951, page 43**

It is worthy of note that by July, 1900, three captains, Bt. Major Sir Horace McMahon, Captain C. H. M. Doughty<sup>64</sup> and myself, who was Adjutant, and three subaltern lieutenants, G. F. H. Dickson, O. de L. Williams and H. Hill, all of the 2nd Battalion, had managed to get to South Africa and were employed either with Mounted Infantry or were doing duty with the 1st Battalion.

About the middle of July, when on the Basutoland border in command of the 2nd Regiment of Mounted Infantry, I received orders to proceed to Cape Town en route for China. This was due to hostilities having broken out in North China with the Boxers.

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64. Later Lt-Col C.H.M. Doughty-Wylie VC. *The VCs of Wales . . .* says he “served South Africa, 1888–1900 as OC regiment of Mounted Infantry (severely wounded at Stinkhoutboom, 24th July 1900):”

My immediate commander did his best to persuade me not to obey my order, however, as I had been allowed to get away under somewhat unusual circumstances I felt it my duty to return. On 12th July we had a brush with De Wet, who was in our vicinity with rather a strong command. The following day, accompanied by Tom Evans and Jones, two very stout Royal Welchmen who had been my groom and servant since I took command of the 2nd M.I. at Paardeburg, I left for railhead then at Wynburg. In the 2nd M.I., one Section under Lieut. The Honble. C. Clegg Hill, now Major Lord Hill, was furnished by the Royal Welch, and Colour Sergeant Paddy Stretch now Lieut-Colonel E. A. Stretch, D.S.O., D.C.M., M.S.M., was serving in it.

### Abbreviations

1 RWF	1st Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers
2 MI	2nd Battalion The Mounted Infantry
IY	Imperial Yeomanry
LG	<i>London Gazette</i>
MI	Mounted Infantry
RR II	Cary & McCance, <i>Regimental Records of The Royal Welch Fusiliers</i> , Volume II, 1816–1914
SAWH	<i>South African War Honours &amp; Awards, 1899–1902</i> , Arms and Armour Press, 1971
TMC	<i>The Military Chest</i> , Vol V, No 2, March/April 1986, pp 59–62 (Picton Publishing)
YDG	<i>Y Ddraig Goch</i> , the journal of the Royal Welch Fusiliers

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- Avray Tipping, H., *The Story of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers*. Country Life, 1915, pp 243–7.
- Glover, Michael, *That Astonishing Infantry, Three Hundred Years of the History of The Royal Welch Fusiliers (23rd Regiment of Foot) 1689–1989*. Leo Cooper, 1989, pp 95–7. ISBN 0 85052 25 44.

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65. This is the official history of the war. Each volume has its own map case containing many excellent maps, some of which show unit dispositions.

66. This book was first published in 1902 by the *Army and Navy Gazette*, with the sub-title *Officers and Men of the Army and Navy Mentioned in Despatches. Also list of Honours and Rewards. Containing all Mentions, Honours, Promotions, etc., Gazetted up to November 1902*.

Salt, G.E.S., *Letters and Diary of Lieutenant G.E.S. Salt during the War in South Africa, 1899–1900*. John Murray, 1902.<sup>67</sup>

Skaife, E.O., *A Short History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers*, Gale & Polden, Aldershot, 1924, Chapter IX.

Thomas, Howel, *A History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, late the Twenty-Third Regiment*. Fisher Unwin, 1916, Chapter XXI.

### **1st Battalion Digest of Service/Diary**<sup>68</sup>

Digest of Service May 1857 to March 1904 – RWF Mus 0287

Regimental Diary, South Africa 1st December 1901 to 14th January 1903, 38pp – RWF Mus 0288

Digest of Service 26 September 1901 to 30 June 1902 – RWF Mus 2007

### **Unpublished Diaries, Letters etc**

Anon, *Boer War Diary, 1899 to ?1901*. Manuscript. RWF Mus 3092<sup>69</sup>

Boreham, A M,<sup>70</sup> *Recollections of Army Life from 1898 to 1914*. Typescript (pages 8 to 46 refer). RWF Mus 274

Dickson Albums. Mus 2309<sup>71</sup>

Kyrke, Lieut H V V, *Letters from the Front. Boer War 1899–1901*. Typescript 290 pp. RWF Mus. 4812

National Monuments Council (South Africa) – Victims of Conflict, Royal Welch Fusiliers. Computer printout 11 pp, dated 18/02/2000

Watt, Steve A, *The Royal Welch Fusiliers List of Deaths*. Computer printout, 1999. Later published by Steve Watt in his book – see above.

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67. This book gives a vivid and detailed account of the battalion's mobilisation at Pembroke Dock, voyage to Durban, and the fighting until late March 1900, shortly before Salt died of enteric fever (typhoid).

68. These three copies of the battalion's diary appear to contain identical wording, although the period covered by each is not the same. Mus 287 is the master copy, having been written in a neat hand and dating from 1857. Mus 288 may well have been the day to day diary kept by battalion headquarters in the field. Mus 2007 seems to have been a copy sent to some higher authority, as a note on its cover incorrectly attributes it to another regiment, before being corrected.

69. The author is supposed to have been a sergeant in the regiment. Some of the entries are definitely eye-witness, but others, referring for example to Boer casualties, indicate that it was written after the event and with knowledge not available to a sergeant on the battlefield.

70. A boy drummer at the time. Later Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 2nd Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers. He won the Military Cross during the Great War and was a contributor to the battalion's history, *The War The Infantry Knew*, Jane's 1987 and Cardinal 1989.

71. Albums 6 to ?12 contain many press cuttings etc concerning the Boer War.