

Gerald BRAZIL 1876 - 1951

Gerald BRAZILL was born on 13/12/1876 in BELFAST, Co ANTRIM, the son of John BRAZIL (variously spelt BRAZILL) and Jane WOOD.

John BRAZIL (1843 – 1882) was born in St Michael's parish, Limerick, County Clare (now in the Republic of Ireland) and was a career soldier in the British Army (1860 – 1880), serving in Australia and New Zealand (2nd Maori War). Hand-written across his Service Records is 'Alias SHEEHAN' – so further research is required.

John and Jane had four children, another 'John' (b 1874), Harriet (1875 – 1951), **Gerald (1876 – 1951)** and Algernon George (1879 – 1952).

Gerald was attested into the 15th Hussars (a British Army Cavalry Regiment) on 02/01/1891, when he was fourteen years and two months old.

He 'signed up' for twelve years, and his occupation on enlistment was given as 'Drummer'. Of interest in this regard is that his father John's occupation on enlistment was given as 'Musician' – a separate document in relation to John is available.

Gerald served 'at home' for the next eight years, before being deployed to India on 21/09/1899, where he remained for the next three years. He was discharged on 12/03/1903 with the rank of Corporal, having served twelve years, sixty-nine days.

In the 1881 Census, Gerald (aged 4) was living with the (verified) BRAZILL family at 1 Village Terrace, Tranmere, Birkenhead Lancashire.

Gerald is not found in the next Census of 1891 (probably due to his military service, but research is ongoing).

By the 1911 Census, Gerald is found employed as an 'Attendant' in the Staffordshire County Lunatic Asylum. For more information on the establishment, please follow the link;

<http://www.countyasylums.co.uk/st-georges-stafford-staffordshire/>

At the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, Gerald re-enlisted in the British Army and attains the rank of Sergeant in the Welsh Horse – a Cavalry Regiment raised on the outbreak of hostilities.

Although Gerald's WW1 Service Records do not appear to exist (a great many records were destroyed due to enemy action during WW2), several other records have survived, including medal awards records, Court Results & newspaper reports; as can be seen on the following pages.

In summary, Gerald's military service is as follows; 1891 – 1903 – 15th Hussars (Private, Lance Corporal, Corporal - Trumpeter), then on re-joining the Army at the outbreak of WW1, he served in the 1/1st Welsh Horse (Sergeant and by the below press report, a Drum Major), the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (Sergeant) and latterly the Labour Corps, attached to the Egyptian Labour Corps (2nd Lieutenant).

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The following is a copy of a press report from 1915;

THE ILLUSTRATED POLICE NEWS.

June 3, 1915.

LONDON POLICE CHARGES.

LAMBETH.

" FOR HER SAKE."

Gerald Brazill, thirty-eight, a trumpet-major in the Welsh Horse, surrendered to his bail, and was charged, on remand, before Mr. Chester Jones, with having, on February 4, 1914, feloniously intermarried with Alice Maud Turner, his wife Lydia being then and now alive.

The prisoner, who is stationed at Melton Camp, Suffolk, was last week arrested on a warrant charging him with this offence.

Detective-sergeant Bissill stated that when the warrant was read to him the prisoner replied, " I knew I was doing wrong, but I did it for her sake. She promised to stand by me. I am sorry for it now."

Questioned by Mr. Percy Robinson, who defended, the officer said he understood that the prisoner was formerly in the army, and retired with an excellent character. He rejoined the service on the outbreak of war. He believed the prisoner told him that he had a testimonial from Colonel De Crespigny.

Lydia Brazill, of Coton-fields, Stafford, stated that on November 17, 1906, she was married to the prisoner at the registry office at Halifax, Yorks. He left her in October, 1912, but she heard from him down to January, 1913.

Mr. Robinson: Did you answer a letter you received in January, 1913.—Witness: Yes.

Alice M. Turner, of Peabody-buildings, Rosendale-road, Herne-hill, stated that on February 4, 1914, she went through the ceremony of marriage with the prisoner at the Hampstead registry office.

Mr. Chester Jones committed the prisoner, who reserved his defence, for trial at the Central Criminal Court, but released him on his own recognisances in £25.

On 15/06/1915, Gerald pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court (The Old Bailey) and was sentenced to two days imprisonment, without hard labour.

Another newspaper report of the time provides further details of Gerald's 'situation' and indicates there are children from the relationships he had with both women.

**A WELSH HORSE NON-COM. CHARGED
WITH BIGAMY.**

Gerald Brazil, a Trumpet Major of the Welsh Horse, recently pleaded guilty, at the Old Bailey, with bigamously marrying Alice Maud Turner. The prosecuting Counsel said prisoner was married first in 1906, and lived with his wife down to 1912, when he deserted her, leaving her and the children chargeable to the parish. In 1914 he went through the ceremony of marriage with Turner. He was arrested and sentenced to a short term of imprisonment for desertion, and then the bigamous marriage was discovered. At this time he had joined the Army, and both women had claimed the separation allowance.—Detective-sergeant Fiesell told the Court that until he joined the Army in August last, prisoner was employed as a Bandman at various theatres. He was formerly a boy trumpeter in the Hussars and rose to the rank of Trumpet-Major.—Mr Curtis Bennett said accused, after his release from prison, returned to the first wife at Stafford and then rejoined Turner and lived with her at Diss.—Alice Turner said she first made prisoner's acquaintance in London in 1913, when he was employed as a musician at music halls. He never told her he had been married before. Witness lived with him until he enlisted in the Army. About three months after she married him she discovered that he was already married.—Mr. Bennett said prisoner entered the Army in 1886 and was made Trumpet-Major at Delhi, at the Durbar. The first marriage was an unhappy one. The second woman, finding herself in trouble, Counsel said, prisoner, for the purpose of saving her name, went through the ceremony of marriage with her.—Lieut. Boyd Harvey, of the 1st Welsh Horse, stationed at Melton Camp, Woodbridge, said accused was an excellent soldier with a rank just below Sergeant-Major.—The Judge: Is your regiment fully equipped and ready to go to the front?—Witness: Yes, Sir.—The Judge: It is not worth while sending this man to gaol. The sentence will be a nominal one of two days, which will mean his immediate discharge. (To prisoner): You must do the best you can for these two women, who are more or less dependent upon you.—Prisoner: Thank you, my lord.

As yet, none of the children have been identified. Enquiries are on-going.

Lieut. BOYD-HARVEY has been identified as John Julian BOYD-HARVEY and an image has been obtained – see below;

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Lieut. BOYD-HARVEY (late of the Glamorgan Yeomanry) appears to have joined the 1/1st Welsh Horse at its inception in 1914. As can be seen from the press report above, he was certainly engaged on Home Duties at Diss, Norfolk and was more than likely deployed with the Regiment on the Gallipoli & Dardanelles campaign in 1915.

Some interesting photographs of the formation of The Welsh Horse can be found at the following website: <https://www.peoplescollection.wales/collections/536783> I wonder if Gerald is amongst any of the group portraits?

At some point however, BOYD-HARVEY joined the Royal Flying Corps and an internet search indicates he was a pilot. His service records are also not available online – another casualty of the bombing during WW2, when many were destroyed.

J J BOYD-HARVEY must have really had a taste for ‘thrills’, as by the 1939 Census just prior to WW2, he is living in Wimbledon (with his second wife) and is described as a ‘Manager and motorcycle competition driver’. In the margin is a note that says ‘RAF Officer’ (the Royal Air Force was formed from the Royal Flying Corps in 1919). Further results on ‘open source’ show his involvement in motor sports throughout the 1920’ and 1930’s. Quite a chap!

Back to ‘our Gerald’: - His marriage to ‘Lydia’ has been confirmed by reference to BMD records online. He married Lydia WINDLE (1880 – 1949) in 1906, in Staffordshire.

Gerald’s marriage to Alice Mary TURNER is also found in the records for the first quarter of 1914 at Hampstead, London, where his name is given as Gerald F BROZEL (an intentional ‘error’!? I do wonder!).

Lydia BRAZILL is last traced in the 1939 Census records, shown as being ‘married’, working as a housemaid and living (alone) at 26b JOHNSON ROAD, BIRMINGHAM. She died in 1949 (If this record is for the right Lydia).

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Gerald BRAZILL had an address in 1920 (from his medal card records) of 29 WINGBY AVENUE, LIVERPOOL and is next found in the 1939 Census records (erroneously transcribed as BRAZELL – but with the same DOB), but he is now living at 13 SUDELEY STREET, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX (just three streets back from the seafront); where he is shown as an 'Orchestral Musician' and his marital status is 'widowed'. There was a Playhouse in Sudeley Place, Brighton - adjacent to where Gerald lived.

For further information, please go to the following links;

http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk/page_id_10591.aspx

<http://www.brightonfilm.com/cinemas/Continental.htm>

Records indicate that a 'Gerald Brazill' died aged 74 in Nuneaton, Warwickshire in the fourth quarter of 1951 – it is not yet confirmed that this is 'our' Gerald.

Alice Mary TURNER is not further traced (without a DOB) and a copy of the marriage certificate would provide further details.

Amongst a number of old family photographs given to me by my late father, is the one reproduced below.



The military uniform matches that of the 15th (The Kings) Hussars for the end of the 19th Century. Who is the individual in civilian dress? I have no idea!

The photographers 'W H JACOB' of Sandgate & Hythe are very well known and there are a great of images to be found online.

There now follows an excerpt from the 15th Hussars Regimental History From April 1891 to November 11 1903.



XVth (The King's) HUSSARS JANUARY 1881 TO JANUARY 1913

By COLONEL H. C. WYLLY, C.B.

In April 1891 Lieut.-General Sir F. FitzWygram was appointed to be Colonel of The King's Hussars. By Army Orders dated December 1, 1891, the establishment of the 15th Hussars, which had been fixed at 498 non-commissioned officers and men and 325 horses, was raised to 603 non-commissioned officers and men and 350 troop horses.

On June 9, 1892, the Regiment commenced its march from Cahir and out-stations to the Curragh for the summer drills - the Head-quarters arriving there on the 15th; it remained here until September 12, when it began its move to Dundalk and Belfast.

While encamped at the Curragh the eight troops were, under Army Orders dated July 1, amalgamated into four squadrons under the squadron system devised by Major-General G. Luck, C.B., at that time Inspector-General of Cavalry:

E and F Troops formed A Squadron.
C and D Troops formed B Squadron.
G and H Troops formed C Squadron.
A and B Troops formed D Squadron.

Of the above, B squadron was quartered at Belfast, the others with Head-quarters at Dundalk.

In June 1893 Colonel Bullen succeeded Colonel Beck in command.

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On June 11, 1894, The King's Hussars commenced their march from Dundalk to Dublin, where the Head-quarters arrived on the 14th and took up quarters in Marlborough Barracks.

While here stationed the Regiment incurred the loss of a young officer, recently joined, 2nd Lieut. de la Poer Beresford, who sustained injuries from a bullet wound due to the accidental discharge of his revolver, from which he succumbed on December 31.

By Army Orders of October 1, 1894, the establishment of the Regiment was raised from 603 non-commissioned officers and men and 350 horses to 658 non-commissioned officers and men and 410 horses.

During the whole of its seven years' service in Ireland the Regiment was fortunate in maintaining the most friendly relations with the civil population. The troublous days of the early eighties had given place to a period of comparative political quietude, and, although at varying intervals the troops were confined to barracks or moved into a disturbed district for precautionary purposes, on one occasion only did anything occur in the nature of an actual collision.

This was while stationed at Cahir, when E Troop, under Captain Beauclerk and Lieutenant Aspinall, received orders to proceed to Cashel with instructions to locate a prohibited meeting which it was known it was the intention to hold in secret somewhere in the neighbourhood. The rendezvous was discovered by a N.C.O.'s patrol, upon which the troop proceeded with all haste to the spot, accompanied by a resident magistrate. On reaching the scene the mob was discovered in fierce conflict with a small body of local constabulary, and shillelagh and baton were being freely used by the respective antagonists. On the troop breaking into a gallop to clear the street, the rioters at once took to their heels and sought security behind the railings of an adjoining cemetery; while, with the assistance of the police, Messrs. Dillon, O'Brien, and other faction-leaders were arrested, and conducted on cars under escort to Cashel, where they were handed over to the civil authorities.

Early in July 1896 the Fifteenth proceeded by squadrons to Aldershot from Ireland by steamer and rail via Holyhead and Willesden, and, having spent the drill season under canvas in Bourley Bottom, moved into the South Cavalry Barracks on August 25, and here, with the 3rd Hussars and the Carabiniers, formed the 1st Cavalry Brigade under Major-General Hon. Reginald Talbot, C.B.

In May 1897 Colonel Bullen relinquished the command and was succeeded by Lieut.-Colonel Gordon.

On June 22 The King's Hussars were present at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Celebration in London. One squadron under Major Mundy took part in the procession, the remainder of the Regiment assisting in lining the streets. The Fifteenth had marched to Hounslow on the 21st, where they formed part of the large cavalry concentration camp, and returned to Aldershot on the 23rd.

The following officers received the silver medal presented by Her Majesty in commemoration of her Jubilee:

Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, commanding the Regiment.
Major Frith, Brigade Major, Cavalry Brigade, Aldershot.
Major Mundy, Captain Aspinall, Lieutenants Kennard, Balmain, Cresswell, and **Courage**.
(Lieut. Courage has signed an entry in Gerald Brazil's Service Record)

The Regiment also took part in the Royal Review at Aldershot by Her Majesty on July 1.

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The sojourn of the Regiment at Aldershot was marred by an unfortunate fatality to Second Lieutenant Molyneux, who was thrown from his horse, while out riding, and killed instantaneously.

In August of this year the Regiment-Head-quarters and 3 service squadrons- marched to Bulford Camp, near Salisbury, via Old Basing and Andover, and there joined a large mounted force of 8 cavalry regiments, 2 horse artillery batteries, and 2 companies of mounted infantry assembled for drills under Lieut.-General Sir George Luck, K.C.B., formerly commanding the 15th Hussars. At the end of the month the Fifteenth left Bulford to take part in the autumn manoeuvres, forming part of the independent cavalry brigade of the Northern Army, thereafter moving to their new destination-Head-quarters and 2 squadrons to Shorncliffe and 1 squadron to Chatham: this last rejoined Head-quarters in March 1899.

On December 21, 1898, a letter was received by Lieut. - Colonel Gordon from Count Deym, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, forwarding, as a present from His Majesty the Emperor of Austria to the officers of the 15th Hussars, a facsimile in gold of the large gold medal with which eight officers of the Regiment were decorated for their gallantry at the battle of Villiers en Couche on April 24, 1794.

On the morning of September 21, 1899, the 15th Hussars left Shorncliffe for Southampton, where they embarked on H.M. hired transport *Simla*, Captain Dowell, R.N.R., for conveyance to India.

The names of the officers were as under:

Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, in command.

Major de Crespigny. (*Who was later mentioned in the press report re Gerald BRAZILL's bigamy Court appearance in 1915*)

Captains Hodgson, Peyton, D.S.O., Tagart, Kennard, and Balmain.

Lieutenants Bald, Pilkington, Knowles, Cresswell, Hon. W. Nugent, Walker, **Courage**, and Hon. H. Edwardes.

Second Lieutenants Learmonth, Barrett, Ritchie, and Hubbersty.

Captain and Adjutant Hambro, Lieutenant and Quartermaster Bell, and Lieutenant and Riding-Master Richer.

The total of each rank embarking was 22 officers, 2 warrant officers, 48 staff sergeants, sergeant-majors, and sergeants, 30 corporals, 403 privates, 43 women, and 30 children. Ten non-commissioned officers and men, with 10 women and 10 children, came out in the following transport, the *Dilwara*.

One man, Lance-Corporal Lyons, of the band, was drowned during the voyage.

About this time the relations between Great Britain and the Transvaal Republic, which had been strained for some months past, seemed likely to develop at last into the outbreak of hostilities.

While the Regiment was still on the high seas in the course of its transport to India, the keenest excitement was experienced by all on board, by whom it was almost unanimously expected that each port of call might bring orders from home directing their destination to be changed to what it was now obvious must soon become the base of operations in South Africa. However, to the bitter disappointment of all concerned, these expectations were not realized, and the Regiment landed at Bombay on October 13, and proceeded thence via Deolalee to Meerut, which was reached on the 22nd, and where the Fifteenth relieved the 11th Hussars, under orders for Egypt.

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Notwithstanding their misfortune in being prevented by circumstances from taking part in the campaign of 1899 - 1902 as a complete unit, the 15th Hussars were not unrepresented in that struggle.

No sooner had war been declared than reservists commenced to flock to the Colours, and before long the mounted units of the British Army were being hastily mobilized at the Cavalry depot which at that time was at Canterbury. The veterans of the 15th Hussars were in almost every instance posted to the 8th Hussars, though a certain number were scattered among other regiments and various remount depots. The majority, with whom we are chiefly concerned, after a short period of inactivity at the Curragh, found themselves forming a strong percentage of the ranks of the King's Royal Irish, when that regiment disembarked at Cape Town in the beginning of March 1900.

With this corps they fought at Doornkop and Diamond Hill, and, after the fall of Pretoria, made a second advance along the line of the Delagoa Railway, taking part in the actions of Rietvlei and Belfast, and eventually fighting their way into Barberton, having occupied the townships of Bethel, Ermelo, and Carolina in attaining this objective ; the 8th Hussars were then employed in the Western Transvaal, but during the later stages of the war, the Eastern Transvaal to the borders of Zululand was the principal scene of their operations, though some part of the 8th Hussars was for a time employed in the Orange River Colony.

The 15th Hussars have every reason to be proud of those of their veterans who represented them during the war, as they gained the highest opinion of Colonel Clowes and the officers of the 8th Hussars, and many of them attained to high position in the Regiment of their enforced adoption.

Of those serving with the Regiment at the time, it goes without saying that there was not one who left a stone unturned in his effort to escape from India, and throw in his lot with the men at the front. Of those who were successful in attaining their object, Colonel Gordon was appointed to the temporary command of the 17th Lancers, but before many weeks had elapsed he found himself at the head of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, which he led with characteristic dash and brilliancy until forced to relinquish his position owing to ill-health.

There can be no doubt that the constant strain of this strenuous period on a constitution of which Burmah and West Africa had already taken toll, laid the seeds of that debility which culminated in his death at a comparatively early age from a severe attack of pneumonia after a few days' illness. A gallant soldier and a genial comrade, his name will long be remembered by those who served with and under him.

Major Peyton, D.S.O., obtained an appointment as second in command to the regiment of mounted infantry raised by Colonel Thorneycroft, whose name is so well known in connection with the action at Spion Kop ; while Captain Tagart, fresh from the Staff College, took the field as Brigade-Major of the 4th Cavalry Brigade.

Lieutenants Hambro and Knowles both embarked from India with the 16th Lancers, the former being unfortunate enough to be left with the Base Details, while the latter was attached as an Assistant Signalling Officer to the Head-quarter Staff.

Lieutenant Lord Kensington acted in the capacity of A.D.C. to General Leslie Rundle in his command of the " starving " eighth division; and Captain Ernest Bald, at a rather late period in the campaign, accepted the Adjutancy of the Bushveldt Carabiniers, and effected wonders in restoring the discipline of that redoubtable band at a time when it was somewhat in need of reorganization.

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Of those officers of the Regiment who had already passed into retirement, the first to seek and obtain re-employment was Major F. C. Meyrick, who raised and commanded the 5th Imperial Yeomanry, composed of units from Northumberland and Shropshire; he was seconded in the Adjutancy by Captain W. C. Anderson, and was fortunate in having with him three other old comrades in Sergeant-Majors Bevan, Harris, and Pendry.

Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Holland soon found himself second in command of the combined Irish Horse and Duke of Cambridge's Own, while Captain Frederick Dalgety became Adjutant of the Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry.

Another Yeomanry corps gained the services of Captain Percy Coke; and Captain R. L. Aspinall, who landed at Port Elizabeth with the 3rd Yorkshire Regiment, was seconded for service with the 8th Hussars, in which he commanded a squadron composed of Lancer details, and subsequently acted as permanent galloper to the G.O.C. Cavalry Division.

Two young officers, F. H. Sykes and H. E. Norton, served in the war and later on were gazetted to the Regiment.

Among other N.C.O.'s who did duty with the Imperial Yeomanry, or with corps raised in the country, were Sergeant-Majors Foakes, Ward (Lord Roberts's Body-guard), Coles, and Rush.

In the summer of the year 1900 Lieut.-Colonel Reginald Cockayne-Frith, while in command of the Cavalry Depot at Canterbury, was the victim of a fatal carriage accident. It had been evident that Lieut.-Colonel Frith, who had attained his rank at the early age of thirty-five years, was marked for a distinguished career had it not been unfortunately brought to so premature a conclusion.

A capable squadron leader, he passed successfully through the Staff College, and was appointed Brigade-Major to the 1st Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot. After a subsequent period in the Intelligence Department of the War Office he was specially selected as Commandant of the Cavalry Depot at Canterbury, and though disappointed, in consequence, of taking part in the South African War, he loyally and skilfully carried out the work of mobilizing the Cavalry Reservists, a task requiring energy combined with tact.

A mural tablet was placed to his memory in Canterbury Cathedral by past and present officers of the 15th Hussars, as a token of the affection and esteem in which they held him.

305 N.C.O.'s and men, who had served in the 15th Hussars at one time or another, are known to have taken part in the war. Of these 230 were reservists, 68 were men left in England when the Fifteenth went to India in September 1899, and the remaining 7 either went from the Regiment in India or served with Imperial Yeomanry: 248 were in the ranks of the 8th Hussars; 10 served with the 10th Hussars; 8 with the 14th Hussars; 24 with Remount Companies; and the remainder with various units.

The casualty list of 11 is surprisingly small: 1 man was killed in action, and 1 died of wounds; 3 were wounded, and 6 died of enteric fever.

There were probably a few other old Fifteenth N.C.O.'s and men who served in some capacity or other, but it is impossible to trace them.

In January 1900 the Regiment proceeded to the Camp of Exercise at Pur for a fortnight.

In the next year the following letter was received from the War Office:

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**WAR OFFICE,
August 21, 1901.**

20
No. 15th Hussars
29

"Sir,

"I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to inform you that the King has been pleased to approve the word 'The' to the title of the Regiment under your command, which will now become 15th ('The King's') Hussars instead of 15th ('King's') Hussars.

"I am,

Sir,

*"Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) "J. H. LAYE,
"D.A.G."*

On December 13, 1901, A and B squadrons-strength, 7 officers, 196 other ranks, and 222 horses-proceeded to Lucknow for duty on the departure of the 3rd Hussars to South Africa; this detachment rejoined Head-quarters on April 12, 1902, on being relieved at Lucknow by the 5th Dragoon Guards from South Africa.

In January the Head-quarters of the Fifteenth and the two remaining squadrons had proceeded by march route to Badipur Camp near Delhi for manoeuvres, returning to Meerut on February 1.

On July 16 Colonel Gordon completed his period in command, and was placed on half-pay, **Lieut.-Colonel de Crespigny** being appointed in his place.

In the middle of November, the 15th Hussars-strength, 14 officers, 445 other ranks, and 415 horses-left Meerut to engage in the largest manoeuvres that had ever taken place in India; these were held in the country immediately to the south of Delhi, and covered a period from November 24 to December 22. The Regiment was in the 4th Brigade of the 2nd Cavalry Division, Southern Army. At the conclusion of the manoeuvres The King's Hussars marched to a standing camp at Alipur, where they remained until January 12, 1903, taking part in all the different ceremonies connected with the Great Durbar, being brigaded with the 4th Poona Horse and the 9th Bengal Lancers.

When, on December 29, their Excellencies the Viceroy Lord Curzon and Lady Curzon, and their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught made their state entry into Delhi, a captain's escort was furnished by the Fifteenth for the purpose of escorting H.R.H. the Duke of Hesse whilst taking part in the procession. The officers with the escort were: Captain L. E. Kennard in command, Lieutenant Hon. J. D. Y. Bingham, and Second Lieutenant F. H. Sykes; and H.R.H., to mark his appreciation of the services of the escort, presented the First Class of the Order of Philip to Captain Kennard, and the Second Class of the same Order to the subaltern officers of the escort.

The Regiment provided one trumpeter - No. 3537, Lance Corporal S. Smith - as one of the Heralds on the occasion of the Durbar, when His Majesty King Edward VII. was proclaimed as King-Emperor of India. The trumpet used was presented to the Regiment, and is preserved in the Officers' Mess in company with one that was sounded on the proclamation of her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, as Empress of India.

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On January 12 1903, the Regiment returned to Meerut, which was visited a week later by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught; on their departure for Bombay the Fifteenth provided an escort of 109 of all ranks mounted on Arabs. The escort was commanded by **Lieut.-Colonel de Crespigny**, the other officers being Lieut.-Colonel Peyton, D.S.O., Major Hodgson, Captain Pilkington, Lieutenants Barrett, Ritchie, Charrington, and the Hon. J. D. Y. Bingham.

In August of this year Sergeant D. Ginn and Corporal Shoeing Smith O. R. Cuthbert of the Regiment, left India for service in Somaliland - the former being employed on the Supply and Transport, the latter at the Remount Depot, Berbera - returning in August and September 1904 respectively. Both received medals with one clasp.

On November 11, 1903, **Lieut.-Colonel de Crespigny** relinquished the command, in which he was succeeded by Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel Peyton, D.S.O.

This history of the Regiment continues up until 11 November 1913. On 29/10/1909, the Regiment left India for South Africa.

There is an extensive section on uniform and weapons of the Regiment, and as Gerald Brazill was a Trumpeter, it is perhaps interesting to note the following;

September 25, 1811. On that day a General Order stated;

“That in consequence of the nature of the duties to which trumpeters and buglers are unavoidably exposed on service, and the inconvenience attendant upon their loss in action, which is ascribed to the marked difference of their dress, their clothing may be of the same colour as that worn by their respective regiments; and that the distinction which it is necessary to preserve between them and the private may be pointed out by the lace.”

Pistols: As previously stated, the privates originally carried pistols, but they were discontinued in May 1839, except for officers, sergeant-majors, and trumpeters, who were authorized to retain one pistol each.

CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY, TYRELL OTHER WILLIAM; was appointed second lieutenant in the 15th Hussars on July 2, 1879, became lieutenant on July 1, 1881, captain on August 24, 1888, adjutant on December 17, 1889, major on March 11, 1896, lieutenant-colonel on August 17, 1902, colonel on May 19, 1907, and retired from the service on May 12, 1909. He was A.D.C. to the G.O.C. North British District from September 1887 to February 1888; in charge of Cavalry Records, Canterbury, and staff officer for Imperial Yeomanry from May 1905 to May 1909.

He served with the 15th Hussars in Afghanistan in 1880, receiving the medal; in the Boer War of 1881; and in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being present at Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir, and receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

COURAGE, ANTHONY; was appointed second lieutenant in the 15th Hussars on December 9, 1896, became lieutenant on March 23, 1898, and captain on October 10, 1903. He was appointed adjutant of the Fifteenth on December 17, 1901, and was adjutant of the Dorset Yeomanry from September 1906 to September 1911.

NOTES ON SPORT

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PIGSTICKING

There is no record in the Regiment of Pigsticking prior to the year 1899, although it is well known that the Regiment took a keen interest in the sport during its stay at Meerut, from 1873 to 1877, and there were few meets of the Meerut Tent Club which were not attended by several spears from the 15th Hussars.

The Kadir Cup of 1874 was won by Major White; on his g.a.h. MO, Major White's other horse Hindoo being also in the final. Major White again won the Kadir Cup in 1876, with his b.a.h. Joe ridden by Mr. Preston.

On the return of the Regiment to Meerut in 1899 all officers entered into the sport of Pigsticking with zest, and again there were few meets in the Kadir which did not contain a large contingent from the 15th Hussars.

In 1901 Captain Balmain was elected Honorary Secretary of the Meerut Tent Club. During the seasons 1901-1903 Lieut.-Colonel Peyton, Capt. Kennard, Capt. Hambro, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Bingham, Mr. Charrington obtained many first spears. In the Kadir Cup of 1902 Capt. Barrett was in the final, with his horse Chase-me-Con, and it was through bad luck that he was unable to obtain first spear.

Mr. S. H. Charrington succeeded Capt. Balmain as Honorary Secretary of the Meerut Tent Club in 1903. In the same year, Mr. Charrington rode the winner of the Hog Hunters Cup, Major-General Sir E. Locke-Elliot's horse Badger.

The Kadir Cup of 1904 was won by Mr. Livingstone-Learmonth, on his horse El Dorado.

The Regiment on its arrival at Muttra found itself in one of the best Pigsticking centres in India. Major Kennard took over the duties of Honorary Secretary of the Muttra Tent Club.

The result of the season 1904-1905 at Muttra was 241 boars killed.

The Kadir Cup of 1906 was won by Mr. Ritchie on Bobs; Capt. Livingstone-Learmonth was in the final with Boxer. Mr. Wells won the Pony Hog Hunters Cup on his pony Solace.

During 1905-1906 223 boars were killed; Mr. Muir then succeeded Major Kennard as Honorary Secretary of the Tent Club, and the result of his first season, 1906-1907, was 114 boars, and during 1907-1908 a total of 157.

The Kadir Cup of 1909 was won by Lord Kensington (late 15th Hussars) on Twilight, Lord Kensington's second horse Acorn, ridden by Capt. Livingstone-Learmonth, and Jeypore, owned and ridden by Mr. Godman, being also in the final heat.

The last season at Muttra, 1908-1909, yielded 224 boars.

BIG-GAME SHOOTING

The Game Book in the Regiment only dates from the year 1899; it is a very full and interesting record of big-game shooting in all parts of India, Burma, and Africa, many record heads having been obtained by officers in the Regiment. A rough estimate of some of the big game shot while the Regiment was in India would be: 16 Tiger, 6 Elephant, 15 Barasingh, 18 Leopard, 62 Ibex, 12 Markhor, 4 Ovis Ammon, 7 Bison, besides innumerable trophies of all other game to be obtained in India.

Gerald BRAZIL 1876 - 1951

In South Africa also, every kind of game that is to be found in that Continent finds a record in the Regimental Game Book.

Capt. Charrington and Mr. Wells during the early part of 1910 in British East Africa obtained a bag of 148 head (Capt. Charrington 86, Mr. Wells 68), including 36 different varieties of game.

Towards the end of 1910 Mr. Godman in Portuguese East Africa shot a total of 63 head, including 26 different varieties of game.

Major Bramwell, Capt. Livingstone-Learmonth, Mr. Muir and Mr. Brace all obtained very good bags in different parts of South Africa.

Other sports of all kinds have always been most popular in the Regiment among all ranks, although no records have been kept, yet in all parts of the world where the Regiment has served, the Regimental Football, Hockey, and Cricket Teams have always given a good account of themselves, and there are many victories to their credit.

Boxing has always been very popular in the Regiment, and while in India the Boxing Club was in a most flourishing condition, containing many members who could be relied upon to put up clean and plucky fights.

Gerald BRAZIL/BRAZILL/BRAZOL/BRAZELL certainly had an interesting life!

Kevin Parry

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