

**William Shepherd, 'Reminiscences of 54 Years with 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia', [c. 1907]**

Transcribed by Helen Barlow

Wm Shepherd born in the City of Exeter on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1832

Enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia on the 6<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1853 at the age of 21 Years and 7 Months.

Head Quarters at the Castle of Exeter in the Yard the men drill<sup>d</sup>.

Orderly Room on the top of the Slope on the left of the Yard as you enter, and is still there.

there was a large Building under Northernhay (New North R<sup>d</sup>) for Stores Rifles Equipments &c it was also used for Band practice, it was here that the Band was first form<sup>d</sup>.

under the Bandmaster M<sup>r</sup> Pinney we had our first practice about the middle of March 1854.

Previous to this it was fife & Drums.

Our Colonel was Hugh Earl Fortescue, the Adjutant Cap<sup>t</sup> Holman

every night during training, weather permitting, the fife & Drums beat Tattoo from the Castle to the top of S<sup>t</sup> Sidwells

[end of page 1]

down High S<sup>t</sup> to the Cathedral Yard and back to the Castle again.

15<sup>th</sup> July 1854. I was appointed Drummer on the Permanent Staff of the 1<sup>st</sup> Devon.

18<sup>th</sup> December 1854 the Regiment was Embodied for Permanent Duty, on account of the Crimean War.

the Men Assembled and was billeted at the Different Public<sup>s</sup> of the City, and were call<sup>d</sup> together for Drill purposes, by the Roll of the Drum and sounding of Bugles. in Different parts of the City.

the Reg<sup>t</sup> at that time was very strong having 10 Companys. Grenadiers C<sup>o</sup> 8 other C<sup>ompy</sup> and Light Compy.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Holman having resigned Cap<sup>t</sup> E. Pitman late of the 55<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> was appointed Adjutant in his place.

the Men continued Drilling in the Yard, till the Order came for the Reg<sup>t</sup> to proceed to Newport (Mon) the Left Half on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> and the Right Half and Head Quarters and Band on the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1855.

the Men march<sup>d</sup> from Castle Yard

[end of page 2]

down High S<sup>t</sup> Queen S<sup>t</sup> to S<sup>t</sup> Davids Station to entrain for Bristol, the Band playing them to the Station that Popular Tune at that time, Cheer Boys Cheer, on account of the Regiment leaving the City, the Bandmaster M<sup>r</sup> Pinney resigned when we arrived at Bristol we soon made our way to the Steamer that was to take us across to Newport. Arriving in the Evening at Newport we proceeded to the Barracks on the Hill little more than a mile from the town.

Shortly after being there the Officers advertise for a Bandmaster and was successful in obtaining the services of Herr E. Hartman a very clever Musician and Composer. very soon after he was commission<sup>d</sup> to go to Germany for Musicians and brought over four first rate men all solo Players. on the Cornet. Euphonium. Bb Clarinett. and Eb Clarinett their name are Lincke. Hoffman. Wilkanter. Hartung and with the material that the

[end of page 3]

Bandmaster had before he very soon got a Splendid Band. After the Regiment had been at Newport for a little while it was discovered by the [illegible word] Militia Act. that the men could only be call<sup>d</sup> up for a certain number of day<sup>s</sup> in one year consequently some took their discharge and was sent home, others took the extra Bounty and was fresh sworn in, Whilst in Newport the Band received many engagements our first was at Caerleon. next to a flower show at Usk also to the opening of Crumlin Viaduct. and we were at the opening of Bute Docks at Cardiff we drove down in a Brake & 4 horses and a Jolly nice Coachman it was a splendid 12 miles run. the procession form<sup>d</sup> up and started from Bute Castle. and march<sup>d</sup> through the Streets to the Docks Headed by our Band also the Glamorgan Band, and there was a Band down from the Hills from Some Iron Works, a very excellent one its leaders name was

[end of page 4]

Mackintosh. the procession was very good all the men that had been working in the Docks, wore new White Jackets and carrying their different tools on their Shoulders. in the Evening the Devon<sup>s</sup> & Glamorgans Dined together and a very enjoyable evening was spent, the Adjutants [sic – plural] of the Glamorgans sat down with us and made himself very sociable and sang a good song. During our stay at Newport the War was in full swing. the Reg<sup>t</sup> was opened for volunteering for the Army and we gave three Ensigns (now Lieutenants) commission in the Army, for their activity in getting volunteers. their names are M<sup>r</sup> Wright M<sup>r</sup> Hall and M<sup>r</sup> Tanner. the Father of the last named Gentleman was Mayor for the City of Exeter near about that time. the Government offering a Bounty and these Officers supplemented it by giving something extra. the Canteen was open for nearly a week as an inducement. very great numbers

[end of page 5]

join<sup>d</sup> the Army. lots went into our Adjutants old Reg<sup>t</sup> 55<sup>th</sup>. during our stay in Newport the Adjutant was pretty strict on the young Non. Com<sup>s</sup> at that time it was necessary for the Drum Major. to always have his Pen Knife sharp. for the purpose of taking off Stripes. I saw three Serjeants deprived of them in one day, two for being out after the last Post. having been let out by the Serj<sup>t</sup> of the Guard. the Adjutant saw them in the Town and questioned them about their being out. they said they were on pass. he said nothing more to them, but when he return<sup>d</sup> to Barracks, he told the Serj<sup>t</sup> of the Guard to collect their Passes and let him have it first thing in the Morning.

unfortunately, the Serj<sup>t</sup> of the Guard was a Staff Serj<sup>t</sup>, naturally the passes was not forthcoming, the whole of them was placed under arrest, and tried and all three reduced to the rank of private the Reg<sup>t</sup> was form<sup>d</sup> up 3 sides of a square Prisoners and Escort the 4<sup>th</sup> Side. the Adjutant

[end of page 6]

read out the sentence and then the Drum Major was busy for 2 or 3 minutes.  
their names are Western, Holman & Way

Musquetry in those days are very different from what it is now, no such thing as Preliminary Old fashion<sup>d</sup> Musquets and round Ball, we had to go 7 miles to shoot close by the lighthouse.

Horse and Van followed the Reg<sup>t</sup> with Bread Cheese and Barrels of Beer.

as soon as we got there rested a little while, then the Shooting commence when Half the ammuniton was fired the men were served with refreshments which occupied about 1 hour.

then they commence firing off the remainder when all done.

all sorts of Games was carried on such as Running. Jumping. Wrestling.

when all over we commence our March home Band & Drums playing alternately the Men singing and with the Targets Hoisted on the Rifles as Banners it is what you may call a proper days outing I forgot to mention that the Targets was linen ones thickly coated with Whitening when a Ball

[end of page 7]

goes through it, can be easily seen by the Whitening flying off, the linen is stretched on 2 Iron Rods.

the Regiment twice a Week had a Bathing Parade one half of the Battalion 6.30<sup>am</sup> the other at 7am in the Canal about 10 minutes walk from B<sup>ks</sup>.

we remained in Newport from February untill the middle of December 1855. then the Route was in for Ireland (Limerick [closing bracket missing] the men paraded in the B<sup>ks</sup> square at 4am Dark and Bitterly Cold the Roll call<sup>d</sup> by the light of lanterns. the men march off and at the Station by 5 OClock [figure is unclear, could be 6] for a long cold ride to Birkenhead. arriving there the Band could not play the Slides of the Instruments were frozen being so Cold, got to the Steamer that was to take us to our Trooper laying in the Mersey. remaining there for the night. early next morning we was off for Kingston (Ireland) arriving there the Saturday evening we had to remain on Board for the night next Morning (Sunday) we landed and took train for Dublin, a distance

[end of page 8]

of 7 or 8 Miles form<sup>d</sup> up outside the Station the Band playing the Reg<sup>t</sup> through Sackville S<sup>t</sup> a fine S<sup>t</sup> & buildings to our Temporary Quarters Linen. Hall. B<sup>ks</sup> once inside the Great Doors closed. and no one under the Rank of Serj<sup>t</sup> was allowed out. in the Afternoon a Roll call and the men inspected by their Officers. the next morning (Monday) at 8am we started for Limerick arriving there 3.20 by the Station Clock. met there by the General of the Garrison Gen<sup>l</sup> Chatterton. also by the Depot Battalion Fife & Drums. a very strong party of them.

they Played us to our Quarters Boherbuoy Barracks a very large Building which had formerly been used as a Poor House  
Limerick a large Cathedral City. with 4 Barracks in it namely New B<sup>ks</sup>. Castle B<sup>ks</sup>  
Artillery B<sup>ks</sup> and our Boherbuoy commonly called Bo.Bee. the place was infested  
with Rats which gave us great fun.

[end of page 9]

Poultry very plentiful and cheap I myself went down to the market and brought home  
a fine large Goose the Price I paid was 2 shillings, for it.  
the Irish Girls come around every morning just before breakfast time with fried Liver  
& Onion<sup>s</sup>, which the men very much enjoyed being savoury also with Pigs Knuckles  
and Pigs Fate and occasionally with Buther Milk.  
The Band play<sup>d</sup> in Perry Square once and sometimes twice a Week.  
it is a large Green with large Gentlemens Houses around it, we often play<sup>d</sup> to Concerts  
one was in aid of Miss Nitingales fund. and one benefit concert for the Bandmaster  
Herr Hartman, also to a Grand Militiary [sic] Ball at the New Barracks.  
Our Officers used to dine at Castle B<sup>ks</sup> no Officers quarters at Bo.Bee.  
Whilst we were Stationed at Limerick Peace was proclaimed, all the Troops in the  
Garrison paraded at the New Barracks and march<sup>d</sup> through the Principal S<sup>t</sup> Pass the  
General as he sat at the window of his Hotel. then we cross<sup>d</sup> one of the

[end of page 10]

Bridges that span the river Shannon lined up on its Bank with the Artillery on the  
Right and 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia direct in the Centre of the line and fired a Feu de Joye. [?  
difficult to read]  
Shortly after I think on the 5<sup>th</sup> June we left Limerick for Cork. having been in  
Limerick a few days before Christmas 1855 till now, arriving at Cork we were  
stationed in the Barracks on the Hill with a Railway Tunnel direct underneath some  
men where [sic] in Rooms some in Huts, we remained there 7 or 8 days and whilst  
there the Reg<sup>t</sup> was inspected by Gen<sup>l</sup> Mansfield who was very pleased with the  
appearance of the men.  
the Order came at last for England, we left the B<sup>ks</sup> to march to the Quay, on our way  
we met a Reg<sup>t</sup> just going in, they Halted and came to the front, as we pass<sup>d</sup> on, it  
appears that Cork was a proper reception place for Troops about that time some from  
the Crimea, and other places, there was a Militia Reg<sup>t</sup>

[end of page 11]

I think it was the Lincoln<sup>s</sup> they had been doing duty at Malta.  
the little time we were there was 2 or 3 Reg<sup>ts</sup> in and out.  
when we arrived at the Quay there was a Steamer in readiness to take us down the  
Cove of Cork some few miles down the river to our Trooper (Germania) that was  
lying off Queenstown we remained on Board the night early the next morning Anchor  
weighed we soon rounded Spike Island and it was not far before my Stomach let me  
know that the Sea was rough it was a case with me of Mal De Mer for hours. I went  
below and made a pillow of My forage Cap.  
little later on the Weather became very Hazy Misty & fine rain so much so that you  
could scarcely see the length of the Vessel ahead of you.

at last there was a great Shout as we were rounding the Cornish Coast at a place called Senning<sup>s</sup> Cove asking them to Stop the Vessel as you all will be lost. this was

[end of page 12]

about 4.30 Friday afternoon the Machinery was reversed and the men anxious to see what was up rushed all one side of the Vessel which cause it to list a good deal the men being well under disciplined order was soon restored the Vessel was making straight for the rocks ashore so near that you could throw a Stone there. it was looking very serious having 600 men beside Women & children Baggage &c.

The Captain & Crew were Germans and the Vessel as well by its name The only thing I could say in their favour is that they had some very nice Cigars. of which a few I purchased.

when all in order again we were Piloted off the Coast and the weather became finer & clearer I heard one of our Officers say that we should pass the Lizards about 11<sup>pm</sup> and the Edystone at 2<sup>am</sup> and he was not far out of his reckoning, the night was beautiful

[end of page 13]

the Moon shone out, when day light came on it was lovely coming up the Channel. I had by this time got over my Sea Sickness and was beginning to feel that there was a vacuum [sic] in my inside, having eaten nothing since leaving Queenstown Portland was sighted about 11<sup>am</sup> on Saturday morning. between 1 & 2 OClock were Inside the Breakwater,

the first thing done a small steamer came alongside our Trooper 208. and took off 4 Companies to do duty at Portland, the remainder had to stay on board that Night, the next morning (Sunday) about 4<sup>am</sup> we saw steam getting up from the Steamer that was to come out to take us ashore.

we landed at 6 OClock and was soon in orders to March to the Barracks it was very amusing to see the people at their bed room windows when the Band struck up a lively tune Nelly Bly, & the Old folks at home Weymouth Barracks a small place

[end of page 14]

on the 17 July 1856 there was a Photo taken of those in the B<sup>ks</sup> Band & Drums and Old Colours.

as the men were drawn up to be taken there was a Pump almost in the centre and it was an eye sore, but the difficulty was got over, the Big Drummer of the fife & drums being a big Man went by the name of Curly Billy. was placed in front and completely hid the Pump Tuesday 22 July a very interesting ceremony took place the presentation of New Colours by our late Colonel Hugh Earl, Fortescue Lord Lieutenant of the County of Devon.

great preparations was being made to celebrate the event but it was cut short. our Relief was expected hourly, in fact a man was placed on the Noethe to watch when the Vessel was in sight during our stay in Weymouth our New Colonel join<sup>d</sup> us Col F Drewe of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Welsh fusileers [sic] previous to his coming the Reg<sup>t</sup> was commanded

[end of page 15]

by Major Rattery. 25<sup>th</sup> July orders orders [sic – repetition] given for the men to fall in at 2<sup>pm</sup> and at 2.30 we was on our first Days march for home, our first Halting place was Dorchester. an easy march Billeted there for the night, next morning a 15 Mile march to Bridport. stay<sup>d</sup> there till Monday morning the Sunday morning we had a Church Parade, and it look<sup>d</sup> very pretty in the Church Porch to see eleven Drums piled up one Big Drum and one Side Drum belong<sup>d</sup> to the Band, myself the Big Drummer one Big Drum and eight Side Drums of the fife & Drums. under Drum Major (Spratt) a very good Corps of Fife & Drums 22 in number the Band consisted of 26 with Band Serjt Monday 28<sup>th</sup> on the March to Axminster. Tuesday for Honiton on our way to Honiton through the Kindness of our Colonels Father E. S. Drewe there was refreshments supplied to the men by the road side which was greatly appreciated, it been very Hot and dusty on the Road.

[end of page 16]

arriving at Honiton the town was very gay with Bunting it being fair time. a Circus coming up the town, and the Militia marching down with its Band playing. the men Halted in the main Street and were told off to their Different Billets. the Officers Head Quarters was at the Clarence Hotel. now done away with as an Hotel the Band was accomadated [sic] in a large room of the premises at the rear. the Next morning the 30<sup>th</sup> we was for a 16 mile march to Exeter. assembling in the Street by the sound of the Bugle. we very quickly got on the move. Band playing after them the fife & Drums till well on the Road, then the word was pass<sup>d</sup> on to March at Ease. then the men could sing or smoke as long as they kept pretty good order. at last the Half Way House. was reach<sup>d</sup>, we Halted some little time the prisoners to the Number of 4 or 5 were call<sup>d</sup> forth to a have a private

[end of page 17]

interview with the Colonel he gave them a good lecture and they promising him, he said he did not like to take them home to their native City as prisoners released them. one was the Big Drummer of the fife & Drums Call<sup>d</sup> Burgess generally [sic] call<sup>d</sup> Curly Billy, when all in order we was off again, and it was not long before we began to meet people coming on the Road from Exeter to meet the Reg<sup>t</sup> and it continued so as we advance on the Road. at last Heavitree Bridge was reach<sup>d</sup> and a little Halt was made. Colonel gave the order for the Men to button up their Jackets. which was soon done. Band & Drums playing alternately till the Depot S<sup>t</sup> Thomas was reach<sup>d</sup>. thousands of people lined the Streets and gave the Regiment a good Welcome home this was on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 1856 on the Thursday Evening the Band gave an open Air Concert on Northernhay attended by an immense concourse

[end of page 18]

of people. by Friday all the men being sent to their homes, and by Saturday Bandmaster and the German Musicians all gone. the year following there was no Training the mens bounty being sent to them.

1858 the training was at Topsham Barracks and from some few years after. the Officers Mess was at Pratts New London Hotel. the Band under Drum Major Spratt Played during Mess in the Quadrangle of the building Marching from Topsham B<sup>ks</sup> for the purpose

1861 the whole of the Staff Serjeants and Drummers attended the funeral of our late Colonel Hugh Earl Fortescue. he being the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Devon. Died the 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 1861 we met at the Mansion Castle Hill, and the remains wheeled on a Bier across the Park to Filleigh Church throughout the Sixties still at Topsham B<sup>ks</sup>.

about 1870 the men where [sic] in Billets in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas at Public & some in

[end of page 19]

private Houses, assembling in the Yard of the Depot, and marching to the Cowick fields for Drilling.

1872 was the first time that the Reg<sup>t</sup> went under canvass, that was at Exmouth a distance of 12 miles to the Camp field, which was rather trying for the men with New Boots and some a little more Liquor in them than was good for them, but they did it. it was at this Camp that I received my first promotion to that of Corporal the Regiment was commanded by Col White Thomson

1873 the Reg<sup>t</sup> was ordered for the Manouvres [sic] on Dartmoor they were up for 6 weeks, fortnight at Egg Buckland and one Month with the Flying Column. on leaving Exeter we proceeded by Train to Plymouth met at the Station by the Band of the South Devon Militia who play<sup>d</sup> with us alternately to the Forts at Egg Buckland where we remained the fortnight

[end of page 20]

on the Monday morning (lovely morning [closing bracket missing] we went across Roborough Down for Yannadon Camp, when about a mile from the Camp. the Brigade Major came out to Escort us to our allotted [sic] place which was between two line Reg<sup>t</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

it was a Grand Sight when the two Divisions March pass before the Prince of Wales, now our King and the Duke of Edinburgh. who were at the Saluting points Directly the March Pass was over Some of the Reg<sup>ts</sup> was preparing to take their departure.

the 11<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> wanted to get to Plymouth the same evening, and our Band play<sup>d</sup> them about 2 miles on the Down. we had not travel<sup>d</sup> very far before the A. D. C. gallop<sup>d</sup> up and desired the Colonel to stop as the Prince was about to pass we Halted and came to the front and shortly after the Prince Pass<sup>d</sup> in Sir Massy Lopes carriage the Prince being his guest.

[end of page 21]

we continued on some way further and wheeled around and returned, the next morning we took our departure for home, as a rule we had very funny Weather any amount of rain some morning<sup>s</sup> fine and very likely in the Afternoon quite Misty. Dartmoor a fine Manouvring [sic] ground for Infantry, but I should say Poor for Cavalry.

1874 Training at Dawlish the men as usual assembling at the Depot for the Purpose of Clothing, in the Afternoon Marching the distance of 12 miles, to the Camp very pleasantly situated a Short distance from the town.

at this Camp I was appointed Serj<sup>t</sup> of the Band.

1875 and some few years after the men where [sic] Billeted in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas at Public and as many as could be in Private Houses and drilled in Cowick fields.

1878 I was promoted to the Rank of Serjeant of the Staff 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia which I held till 1889 when I had to

[end of page 22]

retire on account of age retiring on Pension of one Shilling per day, having served as drummer and Serjeant for 35 years. on leaving I was presented by Colonel Sir. R. W. Thomson and the Past and Present Officers with a Handsome Marble Clock and a Cheque of 10 Guineas for 35 Years faithful services to the 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia now the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devon Reg<sup>t</sup>.

1888 I think the Depot was removed from S<sup>t</sup> Thomas to the Higher Barracks assembling there and marching to the Camp field behind Topsham B<sup>ks</sup>

1887 the Regiment was presented with New Colours at the Camp, at this ceremony I was the only one on that parade that saw the Colours presented at Weymouth 1856.

1890 the Men done their training in the Camp at Barnstaple.

1891 to 1898 the Training was in the Old Camp field Topsham.

1899 at Honiton in a large field one mile from the Town on the Exeter Road.

[end of page 23]

1900 on the 11<sup>th</sup> May the Reg<sup>t</sup> was up for Permanent duty on account of South African War, and went to Salisbury Plain.

assembling at the Higher Barracks in the Morning at 2<sup>pm</sup> March to Queen S<sup>t</sup> Station took train for Porton Station 3 or 4 miles beyond Salisbury, Detrain<sup>d</sup> March<sup>d</sup> to a field adjoining the Porton Hotel, the men were served out with Bread Cheese & beer.

after a little rest we proceeded on our 6 mile journey to Bulford Camp in our Brigade we had the Cornwalls & Glosters as companions.

we were there about three Months when we had to shift to another Camp, Parkhouse some 2 or 3 miles from Bulford this Camp Parkhouse was mostly occupied by Volunteers we were there till the news came that we were for the Channel Island Jersey on the 16<sup>th</sup> October we left the Camp for Grately Station 4 miles March to take train for Southampton via Andover.

[end of page 24]

arriving at Southampton we were conducted to a large spacious building that was erected especially for Troops going and coming from the War. when the men had all taken their places, they were served out with Bread Cheese Pickles & Hot Coffee, that over we proceeded to the Steamer that was to take us across the Channel, having secured our Berths we began to make our selves as comfortable as we could for the Night, shortly after Midnight we was on the move, being rather tired I slept best portion of the way (thank<sup>s</sup> be [closing bracket missing])



Arriving at Jersey next morning between 9 & 10 O'clock when all landed the men were drawn up alongside of the Pier and regaled with Butter<sup>d</sup> Rolls & Hot Coffee, a great number of people on the Pier to witness our arrival. this on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. when all in readiness we had a 5 Mile March in front of us after leaving the town mostly up hill to S<sup>t</sup> Peters Barracks. there we stayed

[end of page 25]

for a Couple of days as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Devons was occupying the Forts we was to have on the Friday afternoon we left S<sup>t</sup> Peters for Fort Regent. (S<sup>t</sup> Helliens) just as we were entering the Fort the 3<sup>rd</sup> Devons was embarking for Plymouth. our Regt was commanded by Hon<sup>ble</sup> J. S. Trefusis Jersey a beautiful place Tobacco & Cigars very cheap not much duty on them Our Band being the only Military [sic] Band we got lots of engagements. in fact when it became known that the Reg<sup>t</sup> was coming to Jersey an engagement was entered for the 18<sup>th</sup> before we left Salisbury Plain a very good Band we had G Dean being our Bandmaster our engagements were very numerous whilst on the Island. a very enjoyable day we had when the Devon Officers play<sup>d</sup> the Officers of the Lincoln<sup>s</sup> at Gurnsey [sic] leaving Jersey by the Steamer 8am returning between 8 & 9 evening the Steam Boat services are twice daily in the summer Months.

[end of page 26]

the return Journey was particulary [sic] Jolly. we gave a tune on Board and a Sing song which amused the Passengers very much, for they all flock<sup>d</sup> where we were. on the 14<sup>th</sup> December most of the Band went home on leave to spend the Christmas returning 4<sup>th</sup> January on the Mess Night of Jan<sup>y</sup> 22 the Band playing in the Officers Ante Room in the Midst of a Selection Call<sup>d</sup> the Unfinished Symphony the Mess Steward (Serj<sup>t</sup> Jones) came and said we was to cease playing as her Majesty the Queen was dead. there was no Playing at Mess for 2 or 3 weeks. the Reg<sup>t</sup> took part with the Garrison in the reading of the proclamation in the Royal Square. at the Parish Church S<sup>t</sup> Helliens there was a grand Military [sic] Funeral service held the Band playing Choppins [sic] and Beethoven<sup>s</sup> funeral Marches there was hundreds that could not be accommodated at the Morning, service

[end of page 27]

by the Request of the Dean of Jersey the Colonel Hon<sup>ble</sup> J. S. Trefusis granted that the Band should repeat the Same at the Afternoon service. which was done. there was a Grand Service at S<sup>t</sup> Marks the Band Playing the Dead March in Saul (Handels) and a Lady sang O Rest in the Lord it was a very impressive service 26<sup>th</sup> March we unfortunately lost one of my Oldest comrades Serj<sup>t</sup> Tozer, of Bronchittis [sic] and was buried with Military [sic] honours in S<sup>t</sup> Johns Cemetry [sic] (Jersey) at the same time I was laid up with Bronchittis and very Ill so much so that the Colonel desired no one to tell me of Poor Tozers death I was not brought acquainted of it till 4 days after his Burial. the Officers were very good to me not only visiting me but sending nice things from their Mess.

Myself & Wife will always remember the Kindness (Major now our Colonel

[end of page 28]

Harding & his Lady) during my Illness.

14<sup>th</sup> July 1901 the Reg<sup>t</sup> left Jersey for home. through the Kindness of General Abidee he being the Governor of the Island and our Officers the Band was allowed to remain behind to fulfill engagements that the Bandmaster had taken. there was 4 evening a week we play<sup>d</sup> in Westpoint Park.

on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept we were alert pretty early for our departure for home on the Pier a very great number of our Friend<sup>s</sup> came to bid us farewell we gave them a tune on the Deck of the Steamer such as Auld. Lang. Syne, and the Old Soldiers one the Girl I left Behind me our Destination was Exeter via Weymouth this makes my second Embodiment for Permanent duty.

the first during the Crimean War the Second South African War.

1902 There was no Training

1903 at Honiton on the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec I completed 50 years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia

[end of page 29]

1904 Camp again at Honiton I was call<sup>d</sup> in the Officers Mess tent, and was presented by the Co<sup>l</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> E. Palk with a large frame<sup>d</sup> Photo of myself on completing 50 years with the 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia now 4<sup>th</sup> Batt Devon Regt

1905 at Honiton

1906 at Honiton it being a Big field the 3<sup>rd</sup> Somersets Camp<sup>d</sup> there the Devons the higher part Somersets the Lower part and we got on very well together. this same year an Old Colours that was presented at Weymouth 1856 was Escorted from Honiton to Exeter Cathedral there to be deposited [sic] Escorted by 100 men and Band under the command of Major Horner.

1907 the Regiment will be under the command of Colonel S. Harding

[end of page 30]

I am writing these few notes of my Service with the 1<sup>st</sup> Devon Militia, it is all done from memory, it reminds me of the very pleasant times I have had with my comrades of the Band. in fact it made me feel quite young again, I have always been treated with the greatest respect by the Officers and the Non Commision<sup>d</sup>, [sic] also by the Different Bandmasters, that I have served under. I feel now that the time is come that I shall have to give up, as much cant be expected from one that has reached to the age of 75 years, there is one thing I am proud of, that is I have never missed a Training. and I have always endeavoured faithfully to do my Duty. the Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. In conclusion I consider I have had very good Inning<sup>s</sup> having made 54 and not out.

Yours faithfully  
Serj<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Shepherd

[end of page 31]

Officers that I recollect serving during  
our first Embodiment  
1854, 5 and 6

Majors  
Marsh  
Rattery  
Maclurcan

---

Captains  
Wood  
Rayer  
Clarke  
Arnold  
Fursdon  
Webber  
Douglas  
Hogg  
Tanner Davey  
Ridgway  
Floyd  
Wyatt  
Farrant.

During my Service

Colonels  
Earl Fortescue  
F Drewe  
Sir J. D. F. Davie  
Sir R. White Thomson  
... Walrond  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> J. S. Trefusis  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> E. Palk  
S. Harding

---

Adjutants  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Holman  
E Pitman  
W. Saville  
H Skill  
Vaughan  
Batson  
Harris  
Williams  
Radcliffe  
Goodwyn

[end of page32]

Serj<sup>t</sup> Majors  
Mackdonald  
Hayes  
Hellier  
Summers  
Gullidge  
Adams  
the last three Warrant Officers

Bandmasters  
W Pinney  
Herr Hartmann  
M Spratt  
G James  
Webber  
J McDermott  
G Dean  
A Lowther

---

Since writing the above notes I have gathered further information from a cutting in the press

in 1858 the Strength of the Reg<sup>t</sup> was 778. there was 261 Absentees and the Battalion was billeted at the various Inns in Exeter

1859 Strength 512 with 275 Absentees. the Battalion was quartered at Topsham Barracks

1860. 590. Billeted In 1861. 629 Topsham B<sup>ks</sup>.

1862. 715. Billeted 1863. 754 Topsham B<sup>ks</sup>.

1864. 759. Topsham B<sup>ks</sup> 1865. 658 Topsham B<sup>ks</sup>

1866. 663. Topsham B<sup>ks</sup> In 1867. 693 Topsham B<sup>ks</sup>.

1868 in Consequence of the Fenian Scare a guard was mounted by day and night over the Ward in S<sup>t</sup> Thomas by Order of

[end of page 33]

the Secretary of State for War the Battalion was at Topsham B<sup>ks</sup> 779 Strong.

1869. 828 Strong Topsham B<sup>ks</sup> the Battalion proceeded to Plymouth by train and took part in a Brigade field day at Devonport. returning the Same Evening.

1870. 802 Strong part in Cavalry B<sup>ks</sup> remainder in Billets. In 1871. 803 strong.

Billeted in Inns and private lodgings. in this year the Crown took the command of the Militia from the County authorities. it will be noticed that the Topsham Barracks were denuded of regular troops from many years.

In 1872. 882 Strong the Men Encamp<sup>d</sup> at Exmouth. this being the first time since

1812. 1873 on 31<sup>st</sup> March the Recruits assembled at the Ward. proceeded to the Raglan Barracks at Devonport. returning on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May and were dismissed.

on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 428 men were call<sup>d</sup> up to form a Battalion for the Dartmoor

Manouvres [sic] they returned to Exeter on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and dismissed 1874 the Regiment 765 Strong Encamp<sup>d</sup> at Dawlish

the Stores at S<sup>t</sup> Thomas was removed with

[end of page 34]

with [sic – repetition] the Staff and the Head Quarters was established at the Higher Barracks.

1881 when the Regt was 628 Strong the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Devons and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Devon Militia were formed into the Devonshire Reg<sup>t</sup>

[end of page 35 – final page]