

1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE COLOURS OF THE 43RD AND 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY 1741 - 1954

This article is in continuation of that by S. M. Milne in the chronicle, 1895.

The manner in which Campaign and Battle Honours (formerly called Honorary Distinctions) were awarded for the Kaiser's War is described in the 1923 chronicle, and for Hitler's War in the 1957 chronicle.

43RD

Up to and excluding the time of suspended animation, when the 43rd and 52nd, on amalgamation, became officially the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, the 43rd had had eleven stands of Colours, Sovereign's and Regimental, namely:

First	1741	These dates are conjectural
Second	1749	These dates are conjectural
Third	1764	
Fourth	1774	
Fifth	1783	
Sixth	1795	
Seventh	1802	
Eighth	1818	
Ninth	1827	
Tenth	1847	
Eleventh	1887	

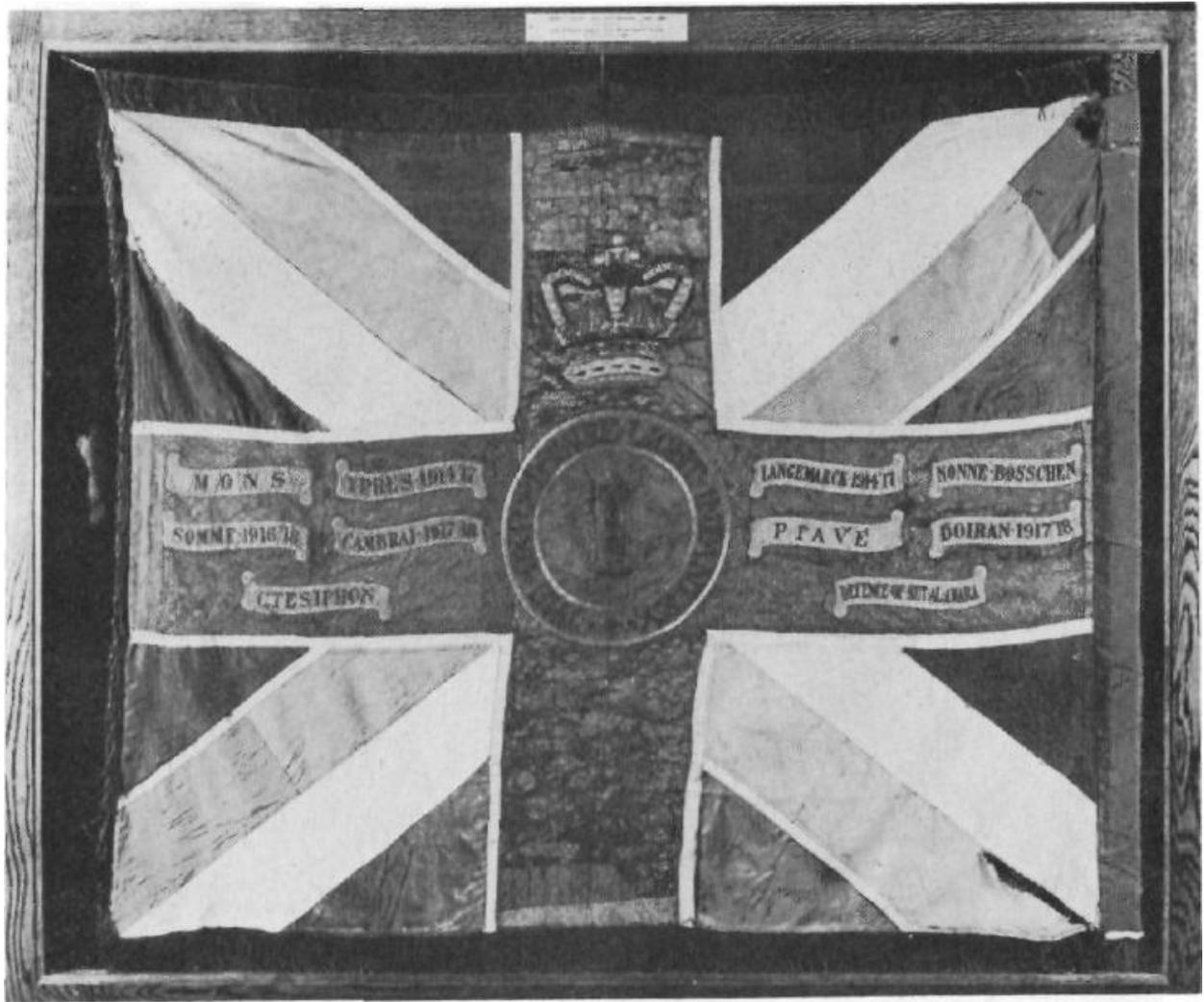
The fate of the sixth and earlier stands of Colours is not known, but the discovery of the seventh is described in the 1903 chronicle. These Colours, lately in the possession of G. A. Todd, Esq., of Swanage, a descendant of the Matthews family, have been presented to the Regimental Museum.

The eighth stand is in the Royal United Service Institution in Whitehall, and in view of what is going to happen to that museum the Regiment should have a prior claim on these Colours.

The ninth stand was given to the Colonel of the Regiment in 1847, and when he died in 1850 it is presumed these Colours were laid up in his private chapel on his estate of Langford Lodge, Co. Antrim. When the Pakenham family sold the property some years ago, the Colours remained there till 1961. Fortunately no faculty existed for their presence in the chapel, so their removal to the Regimental Museum was simply accomplished. All this was made possible by Major D. J. Wood of the Regiment and the Rev. A. Guthrie, M.C., M.A., the Rector of Killead.

The tenth stand was presented in 1847 and the occasion is described in the 1898 chronicle. These Colours were laid up in St Mary's Church, Monmouth, on the 20th October 1887. When the writer inspected them in 1938 there was nothing left by which to identify them. The eleventh stand was presented in 1887 and the ceremony is described in the 1908 chronicle. On both these occasions the Colours were consecrated by former officers of the Regiment. The supersession of the eleventh stand is described in the 1954 chronicle. This stand is now in the Regimental Museum.

1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
COLOURS OF THE 43RD AND 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY 1741 - 1954

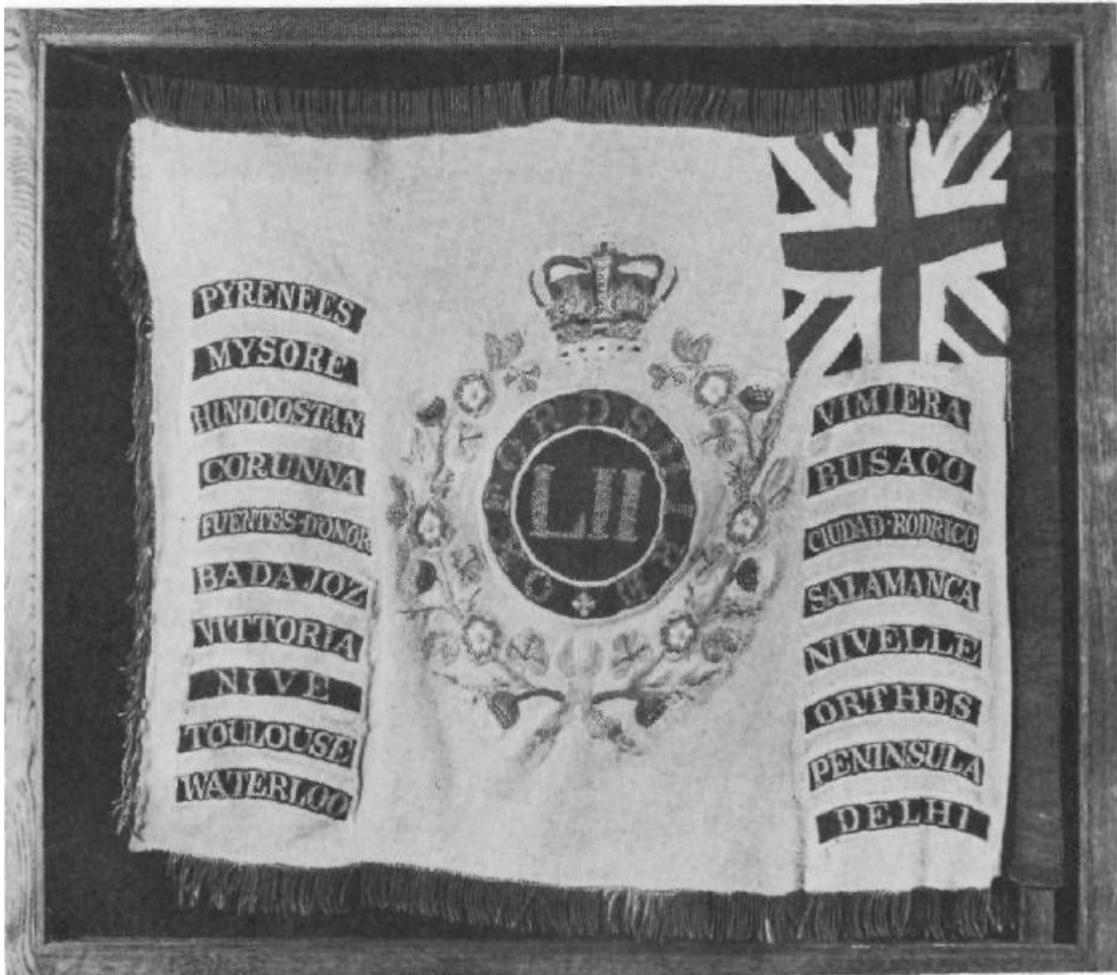


1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
COLOURS OF THE 43RD AND 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY 1741 - 1954



Royal Colour
The 52nd (Oxfordshire Light Infantry)
Regiment
1868-1954

1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
COLOURS OF THE 43RD AND 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY 1741 - 1954



Regimental Colour
The 52nd (Oxfordshire Light Infantry)
Regiment
1868-1954

1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
COLOURS OF THE 43RD AND 52ND LIGHT INFANTRY 1741 - 1954

52ND

Up to and excluding the time of suspended animation, when the 43rd and 52nd, on amalgamation, became officially the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, the 52nd had had seven stands of Colours, Sovereign's and Regimental, namely:

First	1757-1779
Second	1779-1798
Third	1798-1818
Fourth	1818-1823
Fifth	1823-1852
Sixth	1852-1868
Seventh	1868-1954

The last-mentioned stand was taken into use at Limerick and was carried to the end of the separate existence of the 52nd, having thus some eighty years' service.

These Colours are probably unique in the army, in that they were not of the 1881 or "battalion" pattern, as were the 43rd's contemporary Colours (presented in 1887); but they were the Regimental Colours of the old 52nd Light Infantry, bearing the number LII instead of the Battalion number II, and were carrying only the purely 52nd honours earned by that Regiment, eighteen in all.

No record can be found of the disposal of the first two stands. Of the third stand, which was carried in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, there was little silk left on the pikes. During the great battle the King's Colour became missing and was found the next morning by a Serjeant of Mercer's troop of Horse Artillery, when the wounded were being brought in. The Colour was beneath the dead body of Ensign W. Nettles who carried it, and who was killed about 7 p.m.

What remained of this, the third stand of Colours, was replaced in 1818 by the fourth, carried till 1823 and then apparently cut up for distribution among officers then serving; for in 1949 a "portion" of these Colours was presented to the Regimental Museum by the late Brigadier-General Eden, who would have inherited it from his great-great-uncle, General Sir James Fergusson.

Then came the fifth stand, reported on in 1851 as "very much tattered and torn," and so taken out of service and given to Lord Seaton's family on replacement in 1852, but not before fragments of the silk had been distributed among officers as in the case of the previous stand. A small piece of this silk, for 57 years in the possession of the late Lieut.-Colonel C. K. Crosse, has now been given to the Regimental Museum. The Regiment received its new Colours, the sixth stand, at Dublin in 1852, and carried them until 1868, when they were replaced, without presentation ceremony, as the Regiment was about to go abroad.

The 1852-68 Colours were also given to the second Lord Seaton, and by his son, the third Baron, to the Royal United Service Institution. Later, in 1948, what remained of the 1823-52 and the 1852-68 stands came back to the Regiment and are now in the Regimental Museum.