

D Company	124
E "	118
F "	110
G "	140
H "	119
Total	995

Strength of battalion on December 31st, 1910:—

Officers, 29; Establishment, 29.

Other ranks, 986; Establishment, 986.

2 Medical Officers, 2 Chaplains, 1 Adjutant (Captain E. M. Atkinson). 8 Instructors stationed as follows:—

Chesterfield	Colour-Sergeant J. A. Sturges.
Chapel-en-le-frith ..	" M. L. Jackson.
Ashbourne	" O. Wain.
Bakewell	" E. Pullen.
Wirksworth	Sergeant J. Turner.
Staveley	Colour-Sergeant W. J. Keery.
Clay Cross	Act. Sergeant-Major J. Shepherd.
Whaley Bridge	Colour-Sergeant W. Seaton.

A FEW NOTES CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF THE 6TH BATTALION NOTTS AND DERBY REGIMENT

The Volunteer Force in Derbyshire was raised in 1859, in pursuance of a requisition to the then Duke of Devonshire, signed by a great number of influential gentlemen. His Grace took immediate steps for the enrolment of volunteers.

As a result Derbyshire ranks sixth in order of precedence in the Volunteer Force. Until the Volunteer Battalions took the uniform of their county regiment, and to act as a constant reminder of this fact, the officers wore the figure 6 on their head-dress.

Companies were raised in Derbyshire as follows, and numbered accordingly:—

- (1) Derby.
- (2) Sudbury (2 Companies).
- (3) Chesterfield.

- (4) Derby
- (5) Derby
- (6) Buxton.
- (7) Chapel-en-le-frith.
- (8) Ashbourne (1½ Companies).
- (9) Bakewell.
- (10) Wirksworth.
- (11) Matlock.
- (12) Butterley.
- (13) Belper (1½ Companies).
- (15) Derby.
- (16) Ilkeston.

During 1860 the companies were formed into three provisional battalions as follows:—

1st Battalion under Lieut.-Colonel Sir Thomas Presley.

- 1st Derby.
- 4th Derby.
- 5th Derby.
- 12th Butterley.
- 13th Belper.
- 15th Derby.
- 16th Ilkeston.

2nd Battalion under Major Lord Vernon.

- 2nd Sudbury (2 Companies).
- 8th Ashbourne (1½ Companies)
- 10th Wirksworth.

3rd Battalion under Major Lord G. H. Cavendish.

- 3rd Chesterfield.
- 6th Buxton.
- 7th Chapel-en-le-frith.
- 9th Bakewell.
- 11th Matlock.

As organised above, the Volunteers were reviewed in Chatsworth Park on October 24th, 1860, by Lieut.-General Sir George Wetheral, K.C.B., and this event may be taken as the real birthday of the present Territorial Battalion. It

was the first Battalion Parade, and all ranks turned up in uniform, and properly armed. The three Volunteer Battalions were brigaded for the occasion under Major the Marquis of Hartington, Chatsworth Rifles, the late Duke of Devonshire. It is interesting to note the strength of the different companies at that time, of those now forming part of the 6th Battalion Notts and Derby Regiment.

3RD BATTALION

	Officers.		N.C.O.'s		Rank and File.		Total.
3rd Chesterfield	3	..	5	..	82	..	90
6th Buxton	3	..	4	..	45	..	52
7th Chapel-en-le-frith	3	..	5	..	28	..	36
9th Bakewell	2	..	5	..	82	..	89
11th Matlock.....	3	..	4	..	64	..	71
							338

Shortly after the organisation of the battalions as above a company was raised at Clay Cross, and given the number 17, and the half-company which had been raised at Whaley Bridge, part of the Chapel-en-le-frith Company, became a separate company, and received the number 18.

No. 6, Buxton Company, did not survive very long, and disappeared off the scene. In the same way the two Sudbury Companies could not be maintained. The changes led to a reconstruction of the battalions. The 2nd Battalion was wiped out, and the two South Derbyshire Companies, Ashbourne and Wirksworth, were added to the North Derbyshire Battalion. That is our present battalion.

A few years later an independent company was raised at Hartington, received the number 21, and in 1874 another was raised at Staveley, and numbered 22.

During the above period the battalion was an administrative battalion, that is, each company was treated absolutely as a separate unit. It clothed itself without reference to the other companies of the battalion, and the Colonel had no control over it in any way, except when on a battalion parade. It was an independent unit in every respect.

Colonel J. C. Cavendish was appointed to command the

battalion in the year 1869, and gradually brought the different companies to adopt something approaching uniformity. The original grey uniform which most of the companies had adopted gave way to scarlet with blue facings in the 'sixties, and in 1872 some of the companies provided themselves with overcoats.

In 1873 the battalion took part in the manoeuvres at Cannock Chase. This event marked the commencement of a new era in the battalion. It demonstrated the necessity for better clothing, higher training, and more serious treatment of the force.

The officers felt that the old disjointed battalion was no use as a fighting unit.

As a first step they decided to go into a small regimental camp. This, the first camp, took place on Calton Pastures, near Bakewell, in June, 1874. It was a step in advance, and there has been a camp every year since.

Soon after this the officers applied to have the Administrative Battalion made into a consolidated battalion. This was accomplished in the year 1879.

In 1880 Captain Mayhew became Adjutant of the Battalion. Captain Mayhew was a most capable and energetic officer, and he at once set to work to put the battalion into shape. He established an orderly-room at head-quarters, proper standing orders were prepared, camps were organised on sterner lines, and some attempt at central control was accomplished. The battalion has never looked back since.

In 1881 the battalion took part in the Review by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in Windsor Park.

About the same time the introduction of the Territorial system had led to an alteration in the name of the battalion, from the 3rd Derbyshire Rifle Volunteers to that of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, the Sherwood Foresters, Derbyshire Regiment, and the assimilation of the uniform to that of the line battalion, the blue Austrian knot being specially permitted to be worn, upon the abolition of the blue cuffs and collars. By special permission the scarlet kersey coat was allowed to take the place of tunics. Another result of the adoption of the Territorial name was to destroy the old numbering of the companies. The companies received alphabetical numbering instead.

During the South African War the battalion, which for some years had been over its establishment, was allowed to raise three additional companies, another company being raised at Chesterfield, one at Buxton, and a special Cyclist Company was formed. The battalion thus organised remained so until Mr. Haldane's Territorial scheme was adopted, when several companies were disbanded, and a new organisation of eight companies, 29 officers and 997 other ranks, was allowed.

The South African War gave some of the battalion an opportunity of seeing active service, and 3 officers and 125 N.C.O.'s and men went out to South Africa, to join their regular battalion, or to serve with the Imperial Yeomanry.

The battalion has been very fortunate in its commanding officers. Colonel J. C. Cavendish, who has had a great deal to do with making the battalion an efficient unit, was in command from 1869 to 1897.

The names of the commanding officers since its commencement are as follows :—

1859-69. Colonel Lord G. H. Cavendish.
 1869-97. Colonel J. C. Cavendish, A.D.C., V.D.
 1897-1900. Colonel E. Hall, V.D.
 1900-1904. Colonel H. Brooke-Taylor, V.D.
 1904 to present time. Lieut.-Colonel G. M. Jackson.

J. M. C.

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7TH BATTALION NOTES

SO far as the Robin Hoods personally are concerned the past year has been principally conspicuous by the absence of any notable events, with the exception possibly of the fact that the battalion attended its first divisional camp as a unit of the Territorial Force, and, so far as is known, the first camp of this sort when the division was one that permanently existed as regards organisation and administration.

On January 1st, 1910, out of a total establishment of 1013 officers and other ranks, the battalion had a strength of 27 officers and 954 other ranks, exclusive of attached and Permanent Staff.

At the end of the year, December 31st, 1910, the corresponding strength was 28 officers and 866 other ranks, which shows a decrease of 88 N.C.O.'s and men, principally due to the fact that only two new squads of recruits were called for, and their numbers fell a long way short of counterbalancing the large number of discharges, totalling some 183, due to different causes, as stated. Increase of strength during the year 1910 :—

Recruits enlisted for the first time	89
Men enlisted having previous service	..	6

Total	95
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Decrease during the same period :—

Discharged on termination of engagement	
or on attaining the age limit 121
Discharged on joining Royal Navy 1
Discharged on joining Regular Army 12
Discharged on joining Special Reserve	... 14
Discharged for other causes 35

Total	183
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