

FIRST (MOUNTED INFANTRY) CONTINGENT.

IN the Western Australian *Government Gazette* of 13th October, 1899, appeared a notification that His Excellency the Governor in Council had been pleased to sanction the formation of a Company of Infantry, with an establishment of 1 captain, 3 lieutenants, and 125 other ranks, for service with Her Majesty's Imperial Forces in South Africa. The period of engagement to be for one year, but this was subsequently extended (*Western Australian Government Gazette*, 19th October, 1900). Men between the ages of 20 and 30 were qualified for enlistment. There was a Machine Gun Section.

PAY.

For officers, upon the same scale as in other States; for warrant officers, N.C.O.'s, and men, as follows:—Company sergeant-major, 9s. per diem; sergeants 8s.; corporals, 7s.; paid lance-corporals, 5s.; privates and buglers, 4s. 6d.; 2s. 6d. per diem to be retained as deferred pay and handed over on completion of engagement, but forfeited in case of desertion or dismissal for misconduct, and for every day on which actual pay was forfeited.

It was stipulated also that pay and allowances were to be considered as in full; and that any payments made by the Imperial Government to members of the Contingent for service in South Africa, would be deducted therefrom.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

Uniform consisted of khaki drill jacket (2), drill trousers (3), F.S. hat, and forage-cap (glengarry). Greatcoat, ankle-boots, and blue guernsey were also provided, together with the following kit:—1 tin blacking, 1 pair braces, 1 set brushes, 1 button-holder, comb, knife, fork, and spoon, holdall, clasp-knife and lanyard, canvas kit-bag, razor and case, 3 flannel shirts, 3 pairs woollen socks, 1 piece soap, sponge, 2 towels.

Arms and equipment.—M.L.E. rifle and bayonet, infantry valise equipment and entrenching tools.

Regimental transport was provided.

DEPARTURE AND RETURN.

The Contingent went away on 7th November, 1899, consisting of 5 officers, 125 others, with 17 horses, 2 maxim guns, 1 spring-cart, and 2 wagons. Two officers, 4 others, died or were killed; 4 were struck off in South Africa; 5 officers, 115 others, returned to Australia. Two promotions from ranks.

PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Captain H. G. Moor, promoted Major, 14th October, 1899.

Lieutenant F. M. W. Parker, promoted Captain, 1st January, 1901.

Lieutenant H. F. Darling, promoted Captain, 5th Contingent, 11th December, 1900.

Lieutenant J. Campbell, Captain, 11th December, 1900; to 6th Contingent, 8th March, 1901.

Major G. F. McWilliams (Medical Staff), promoted Lieut.-Colonel, 12th December, 1900.

Sergeant A. J. B. Brown, promoted Lieutenant, 22nd April, 1900. Captain, 5th Contingent, 25th June, 1901.

Sergeant G. G. W. Hensman, Lieutenant, 1st January, 1900.

Lance-Corporal A. E. Maley, became Lieutenant (6th Contingent), 8th March, 1901.

Lance-Corporal J. F. Messer, Lieutenant, 5th Contingent, 11th December, 1900.

Private N. Sherard, commissioned Lieutenant, 5th Contingent, 11th December, 1900.

Private F. W. Bell, commissioned Lieutenant, 6th Contingent, 8th March, 1901.

Private G. A. Moris, commissioned Lieutenant, 6th Contingent, 21st August 1901.

For promotions of N.C.O.'s and men, *vide* nominal roll.

SERVICE.

The Contingent left Albany on the 7th November, 1899, in the transport *Medic*, together with Victorian, South Australian, and Tasmanian units, and arrived at Cape Town on 27th November. These companies were there formed into "The Australian Regiment," and were joined subsequently by a Company from New South Wales. On 1st December, the Regiment entrained for De Aar to join the Kimberley Relief Force; and were employed on the lines of communication between De Aar and Modder River. On 1st February, 1900, the Western Australian Company was converted into Mounted Infantry at Naauwpoort, as were also the others.

For details of service between November, 1899, and April, 1900, when the Regiment was broken up, *vide* 1st Victorian Contingent, under "Australian Regiment." Reference may be directed to General Order, 10th February, 1900, quoted therein, with regard to the gallant defence of a kopje at Slingsfontein (afterwards known as "West Australia Hill") by Captain Moor, with Lieutenants Darling and Hensman, 2 sergeants, and 23 rank and file, against 300 or 400 of the enemy. Mention should be made of Private Krygger's gallantry. After Lieutenant Hensman had fallen mortally wounded, this soldier, under very heavy fire, endeavoured to build a sangar or wall round his officer, as a screen.

Subsequently the 1st Western Australians participated in operations in the Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Cape Colony, including actions at Johannesburg, Pretoria, Diamond Hill, Wittebergen, Vet River, Zand River, Waterval Onder, and Colesberg, and many skirmishes. They were with General Clements' Column (as part of the Australian Regiment); with Major-General Hutton's Column on advance from Bloemfontein to occupation of Pretoria; and with Colonel De Lisle's Column, from capture of Pretoria to departure from South Africa.

"At Diamond Hill, 12th June, 1900, the New South Wales Mounted Rifles were ordered to support the 6th Mounted Infantry battalion, and the 1st Western Australian Mounted Infantry were held in reserve. About 2 p.m. the advance began, under cover of the pom-pom fire, which was directed on the Boer gun. As soon as De Lisle saw that the battalion had gained a footing on the hill, he brought the pom-poms under shelter of the wall of Rhenosterfontein Farm, at a range of 1,400 yards, and let go the New South Wales Mounted Rifles. Leaving their horses under cover of the dead ground, the Australians came on to the attack in column of troops, the men being opened out at intervals of 30 yards, with 50 yards distance between troops. Extended in this way, the 350 men of the corps created the appearance of a much larger force, and as they swarmed over the crest of the hill with fixed bayonets, the Boers, without waiting for the attack, retired to a second position, some 1,200 yards away. Darkness was just closing over Diamond Hill when the Boers beyond opened a furious fusilade all down the line; the 2nd Coldstream Guards responded with equal energy. The sound as of a *feu de joie* was heard over the whole field. But this was the end; for the English had captured the key of the Boer position."—*Times* History of the War.

On the 27th June, a post on the railway near Roodeval station was attacked, but the enemy were repulsed by a detachment of the Shropshire Light Infantry with the 1st Western Australian Mounted Infantry, with the aid of a 15-pr. gun on an armoured train.

Ridley's Mounted Infantry Brigade, including the 1st Western Australians, formed part of the force which Sir Archibald Hunter led into the north-east Orange River Colony, with a view of surrounding, if possible, the enemy under De Wet, and Prinsloo, in the Wittebergen, or Brandwater Basin, as the district was more generally called. On the night of the 15th July, De Wet, with about 1,600 men and some guns, escaped from Slabbert's Nek. General Broadwood, with the 2nd Cavalry Brigade and Ridley's Mounted Infantry, were sent in pursuit. The Boers succeeded in cutting the railway line. On 22nd July, General Knox, at Kroonstad, wired to the General in Command, Central Transvaal, the following from General Broadwood, sent by despatch-rider to Honingspruit, and telegraphed from there to Lord Kitchener:—"Have followed commando since 16th July. Had sharp fight at Palmietfontein on 19th July; prevented from pursuing by darkness. Eight dead Boers found. Our casualties—Killed, Major Moor, Western Australian Mounted Infantry, and four men; wounded—Lieutenant Stanley, 10th Hussars, Lieutenant Tooth, Australian Contingent, and fourteen men." Major Moor's death was a heavy loss to the 1st Western Australians. His fine leadership had brought his corps into great prominence, considering their small number. There were, besides him, one killed, six wounded.

In the fighting at Stinkhontboom, 24th July, there were several casualties. At the relief of Colonel Hore at Eland's River, 16th August, the first troops to ride in and receive the thanks of the garrison were De Lisle's Western Australians, here scouting in front of Lord Kitchener's force, which comprised six regiments of regular cavalry. De Lisle's corps reached Pretoria on 28th August, and were thereafter employed in the Central Transvaal. At Waterval Onder, 3rd September, Lieutenant Darling and four men were wounded. On the 15th October, the 1st Western Australians were inspected by Lord Roberts in Pretoria, and were complimented on their work.

On 13th December, 1900, the Contingent left Cape Town in the transport *Orient*, and arrived at Albany on the 29th. Disbanded on 29th March, 1901.

WAR SERVICES AND HONOURS.

Moor, Major H. G. (Captain, Royal Artillery).—Served in Rhodesian Campaign, 1897. Medal. Operations and actions in Transvaal and Orange Free State. Killed in action, 19th July, 1900.

Parker, Captain F. M. W.—Operations in Transvaal, Orange Free State and Cape Colony, between December, 1899, and December, 1900. Actions at Johannesburg, Pretoria, Diamond Hill, Vet River, Zand River, and Colesberg. Despatches, *London Gazette*, 19th April, 1901. D.S.O. Queen's Medal with four clasps.

Darling, Lieutenant H. F.—Operations and actions as stated, and in Natal. Slightly wounded, 3rd September, 1900. Subsequently promoted Captain and appointed to the command of the 5th Contingent, 11th December, 1900. Operations in Eastern Transvaal, including actions at Belfast and Rhenoster Kop. Despatches, *London Gazette*, 16th April, 1901, and 29th July, 1902. D.S.O. Queen's Medal with four clasps.

Campbell, Lieutenant J.—Operations and actions as stated. Commanded Maxim Gun Section. Promoted Captain, and appointed to command of 6th Contingent, 8th March, 1901. Operations in Eastern Transvaal. Mentioned in Commander-in-Chief's despatches, 8th July, 1901. Queen's Medal with four clasps.

Hensman, Lieutenant G. G. W. (Sergeant, 1st November, 1899; Lieutenant, 1st January, 1900).—Operations and actions as stated. Specially mentioned in Commanding Officer's despatches, 25th February, 1900. Died at Rondebosch, 12th March, 1900, of wounds received at Slingsfontein, 9th February, 1900.

Brown, Lieutenant A. J. B. (Lance-Corporal, 1st November, 1899; Corporal, 15th February, 1900; Sergeant, 17th March, 1900; Lieutenant, 22nd April, 1900).—Operations and actions as stated. Subsequently appointed to 5th Western Australian Mounted Infantry. Adjutant, 5th and 6th Western Australian Mounted Infantry, and promoted Captain. Operations in Eastern Transvaal. Despatches, *London Gazette*, 8th July, 1901, and 31st September, 1902. D.S.O. Queen's Medal with four clasps.

McWilliams, Lieut.-Colonel G. F. (Medical Staff).—Operations and actions as stated. Queen's Medal with clasps.

Nominal Roll.

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
Moor, Hatherly George ..	Major (Captain R A.)	Killed in action at Palmietfontein, 19.7.00
Parker, Francis Maitland W. ..	Lieutenant ..	
Darling, Herbert Frederick ..	" ..	Slightly wounded at Waterval Onder, 3.9.00
Campbell, John	" ..	
Hensman, Geoffrey Gordon William	" ..	From Sergeant, 1.1.00. Died of wounds (Slingsfontein, 9.2.00) at Cape Town, 12.3.00
Brown, Arthur J. Bessel ..	" ..	From Sergeant, 22.4.00
McWilliams, George Frederick ..	Major (Medical Staff)	
Fraser, John Arthur	Sergeant-Major (Warrant Officer)	Specially mentioned by C.O. in despatches, 24.1.00; 25.2.00, and 24.6.00

N.C.O.'s AND MEN.

41. Edwards, Percy M.	Coy. Sergeant-Major	Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 27.9.01 D.C.M.
38. Lessey, Barton Scobell ..	Sergeant ..	Dangerously wounded at Palmietfontein, 19.7.00. Specially mentioned by C.O. in despatches, 7.6.00, 25.2.01; invalided to Australia; and awarded pension
112. Unkles, Samuel John	" ..	
75. Barry, John	" ..	Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 27.9.01. D.C.M.
118. Copeland, Thomas	" ..	
56. Vernon, John George Warren ..	Corporal ..	Sergeant, 25.10.00
119. McWhirter, Samuel George ..	" ..	
60. Tratham, John Edwin	Lance-Corporal ..	Specially mentioned by C.O. in despatches, 25.2.00; Corporal, 17.3.00; captured at Vaal River, 29.5.00; recaptured at Pretoria, 7.6.00
80. Hamilton, Thomas	" ..	Broken ankle through horse being shot at Wagenfontein, 20.8.00; Corporal, 25.10.00. Invalided to Australia, and awarded pension

Nominal Roll—*continued.*

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
N.C.O.'s AND MEN— <i>continued.</i>		
124. Sherrifs, George H.	Corporal	
88. Callicot, William	"	Burmese War, 8.7.88. Invalidated to Australia, arr. 3.6.00
79. Loane, George	"	Invalidated to Australia, arr. 31.9.00
106. Maley, Albert Edward	Private	Lance-Corporal, 17.3.00. <i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
78. Bayley, George Stanley	Lance-Corporal	Specially mentioned by C.O. in despatch, 25.2.00
101. Gifford, Graves	"	Injured through falling from horse in action, Slingsfontein, 9.2.00; three ribs broken previously at Enslin
90. Mitchell, Charles	"	
4. Burley, Johnston Edward	Private	Lance-Corporal, 1.1.01. Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 27.9.01. D.C.M.
87. Campbell, Edward Robson	"	Lance-Corporal, 15.2.00
35. Day, Leo	Lance-Corporal	
99. Messer, James Farquharson	Private	Lance-Corporal, 25.10.00. Dangerously wounded at Diamond Hill, 11.6.00. <i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
63. Smith, Michael Patrick	Lance-Corporal	
86. White, William Richard	"	
18. Bishop, George Neville	Corporal	Quartermaster-Sergeant. Died from sunstroke and fever, De Aar, 14.2.00, result of exposure, Slingsfontein, 9.2.00
15. Attwood, Joseph Sidwick	Private	
26. Allingham, John	"	
49. Austin, Richard	"	
38. Allen, Phillip	"	
81. Ashmore, Thomas	"	Slightly wounded at Palmeitfontein, 19.7.00
97. Ansell, James	"	Slightly wounded, Slingsfontein, 9.2.00. Invalidated to Australia, arr. 24.9.00
3. Baird, Herbert Matthew	"	
8. Bell, Frederick W.	"	Dangerously wounded, Palmeitfontein, 19.7.00. <i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
24. Body, Charles Sydney	"	
28. Balding, Frank	"	
44. Bowden, Albert Charles	"	
50. Bedwell, Alexander	"	Captured at Vaal River, 29.5.00; recaptured at Pretoria, 7.6.00
65. Baker, Arthur Herbert	"	Severely wounded, Achterlang, 4.3.00. Invalidated, 30.7.00
66. Brown, Walter	"	
104. Bird, John	"	Slightly wounded, Slingsfontein, 9.2.00
110. Birch, Walter Richard	"	
111. Brown, Frederick Simon Cecil	"	
2. Cobb, Charles	"	
5. Clare, Sydney George	"	Captured at Bethlehem, 9.7.00; released by Commandant Oliver, 12.8.00

Nominal Roll—*continued.*

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
N.C.O.'S AND MEN— <i>continued.</i>		
11. Clarke, George	Private	
16. Cullen, John	"	
27. Clarke, George Francis	"	
29. Campbell, Charles F.	"	Invalided to Australia, arr. 24.9.00
30. Collett, Murray William	"	Killed in action at Palmeitfontein, 19.7.00
37. Coward, John	"	
52. Corkill, Robert	"	Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 27.9.01. D.C.M.
68. Cunningham, Edward Joseph	"	
74. Cunningham, James Michael	"	Corporal. Severely wounded at Slingersfontein, 7.2.00. Invalided to Australia, arr. 18.6.00; awarded pension
96. Conway, Michael	"	Corporal. Killed in action at Slingersfontein, 9.2.00
43. Davis, Evan	"	
54. Dickman, Charles	"	Slightly wounded at Palmeitfontein, 19.7.00
67. Davies, William	"	
76. Dunn, Graham	"	
77. Dunn, John	"	
115. Douglas, Alexander	"	
17. Ekert, Harry	"	
36. Edwards, Frederick Francis	"	
13. Force, Harold	"	Dangerously wounded at Waterval Onder, 3.9.00; died of wounds, 14.9.00. Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 19.4.01; recommended for D.C.M.
51. France, Levi	"	Wounded at Slingersfontein, 9.2.00
71. Fosberg, Carl Alfred	"	
109. Ferguson, Charles	"	
114. Ferguson, John Maxwell	"	
58. Gellatly, Arthur Vivian	"	Slightly wounded at Waterval Onder, 3.9.00
59. Green, Arthur	"	Captured at Vaal River, 29.5.00; released at Pretoria, 7.6.00. Invalided to Australia, arr. 24.9.00
64. Golden, Thomas Sydney	"	
91. Groser, Arthur Wentworth	"	Invalided to England
121. Geale, Alfred	"	Injured by horse falling on him, —.8.00
6. Hutchinson, Thomas	"	
23. Hart, Nathaniel	"	In hospital with fever, Bloemfontein, 9.6.00
19. Jones, George	"	Invalided to Australia, arr. 31.7.00
84. Jones, Philip John	"	Invalided to Australia, arr. 31.7.00
93. Johnstone, George	Bugler	
48. Kenny, Stephen	Private	
57. Kay, Martin Bulmer	"	
61. Kelly, Albert Edwin	"	Invalided to Australia, arr. 31.7.00
94. Krygger, Alexander	"	Specially mentioned by C.O. in despatches, 10.2.00 and 17.2.00. Invalided to Australia, arr. 20.8.00

Nominal Roll—*continued.*

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
N.C.O.'S AND MEN— <i>continued.</i>		
105. Kidd, Thomas Arthur..	Private	
1. Love, Alexander	Missing. Rejoined
12. Lowe, George	
42. Leigh, Charles	Slightly injured at Tygerfontein, 25.10.00
53. Loughton, Herbert	
7. Mountjoy, Adam	Captured at Vaal River, 29.5.00 ; recaptured at Pretoria, 7.6.00
22. Marshall, George	Slightly wounded at Palmeitfontein, 19.7.00
25. Morrison, Alexander	
31. Moris, George Augustus	<i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
47. McSwain, Malcolm	
46. Murray, William Alexander	
82. Minchin, Joseph Henry	
83. Millis, William Checkley	
92. McComb, David	Slightly wounded at Waterval Onder, 3.9.00
116. McFarlane, Thomas	Severely wounded at Zand River, 11.5.00. Invalided to Australia, arr. 31.7.00
102. Monger, Lionel	Severely wounded at Waterval Onder, 3.9.00
113. Moore, Godfrey	
107. North, John	Wounded slightly at Erste Fabritan, 4.5.00
32. O'Connell, John	
39. Pye, Robert S.	
122. Paul, George Henry	
9. Robinson, Arthur	
85. Richardson, James	
103. Reynolds, John	
123. Reynolds, Henry Victor	
14. Saunders, David	
34. Spreadbury, Arthur	
40. Scott, Charles	Severely wounded at Vet River, 9.5.00. Invalided to Australia, arr. 31.7.00
62. Sherrard, Norman	<i>Vide</i> "Promotions." Invalided to England, 1.9.00
69. Smith, James Arthur	
70. Shannon, Thomas	
89. Sweeney, Alexander	
108. Shaw, Septimus Lachlan	
117. Shaw, David John	
72. Teare, John Samuel	Slightly wounded at Palmeitfontein, 19.7.00
75. Thompson, Alfred	
120. Trebilcock, Henry	
10. Watson, Thomas Frederick	In hospital, Cape Town, with enteric, 9.6.00
20. Williams, Frederick	
55. Wheeler, George	
95. Wark, Alexander	
98. Wauchope, Robert	
45. Yeo, John Charles	