

THIRD (FIRST TASMANIAN IMPERIAL) CONTINGENT.

PAID by the Imperial Government; the Tasmanian Government acting as agents. This was a corps, consisting of one Squadron of Imperial Bushmen, of the same character as those already specified. For pay, equipment, qualification for enrolment, etc., see New South Wales Imperial Bushmen. The engagement was for twelve months or the duration of the war. This Contingent gained the unique distinction of having won two Victoria Crosses.

Establishment was—1 captain, 4 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 1 quartermaster-sergeant, 5 sergeants, 1 farrier-sergeant, 2 buglers, 107 rank and file.

DEPARTURE AND RETURN.

The Contingent left on 26th April, 1900, consisting of—5 officers, 117 others, with 133 horses. Two officers, 4 others, died or were killed; 2 officers, 20 others were struck off in South Africa; 1 officer, 1 N.C.O. were commissioned in the Imperial Army; 4 officers were promoted from the ranks; 4 officers, 88 others returned.

PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lieutenant A. A. Sale, to Captain, February, 1901.

Lieutenant G. G. E. Wylly, *D.C.*, received an Imperial Commission.

Lance-Corporal G. A. Douglas received an Imperial Commission.

Trooper J. P. Egan was commissioned in South African Field Force.

Corporal L. S. E. Page, promoted Lieutenant, 5th December, 1900.

Corporal R. L. Williams, promoted Lieutenant, 8th February, 1901.

Sergeant A. Stocker, promoted Lieutenant, 10th April, 1901.

Sergeant H. R. Reynolds, promoted Lieutenant, 12th April, 1901.

Sergeant G. Shaw, promoted Lieutenant in 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent.

Trooper L. H. Laughton, promoted Lieutenant in 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen's Contingent.

Trooper W. K. Barwise, promoted Lieutenant, "E" Company, 1st Australian Commonwealth Horse.

Sergeant E. W. Stephens, promoted Lieutenant, "C" Squadron, 8th Australian Commonwealth Horse.

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

SERVICE.

Embarked at Hobart on the troopship *Manhattan* on 26th April, 1900; arrived at Beira on 28th May, and proceeded to Durban, arriving on 3rd June. From thence the troops, which included the 4th South Australians and the 4th Western Australians, were sent to Port Elizabeth, where they disembarked on 19th June. These three Contingents formed together the corps known as the 4th Imperial Bushmen, under Lieut.-Colonel J. Rowell, of South Australia.

About the middle of June, operations were commenced encircling the Boers who were in the Wittebergen or Brandwater Basin; a mountain stronghold in the North-East Orange River Colony. Rundle, with the VIII. Division, and Brabant, with the South African Colonial Division, were holding the line from the Senekal eastwards to the Basutoland border. Clements and Paget, on the middle frontier west, were about Lindley, the south-west point of the Boer stronghold. These masses of men either could not live, or were not allowed to live, on the country; hence huge convoys of supplies were required to be sent from the railway.

On 23rd June a very large convoy left Kroonstadt for General Paget's Force at Lindley. The escort was commanded by Colonel Brookfield, 14th Imperial Yeomanry, and consisted of 200 of that corps, 114 other Yeomanry, 400 Imperial

Bushmen (namely, two Squadrons South Australians, one Squadron Western Australians, and one Squadron Tasmanians), 27 of Rimington's Guides, 93 Prince Alfred's Guards, 2 guns 17th Royal Field Artillery, 4 guns City Imperial Volunteer Battery, half-battalion of Yorkshire Light Infantry, and the 3rd East Kent (Buffs) Militia. The Australians were considered as one Regiment, under Colonel Rowell.

On the morning of the 26th June, Theron's scouts suddenly attacked the convoy near Eland's Spruit, but they were driven off. In the afternoon, near Swartz Farm, Piet De Wet attacked. The Australians were ordered to dismount, and advancing with great dash, the enemy was again driven off. On the 27th, the convoy marched 18 miles; the escort being engaged practically all day. Near Lindley, the traction engines stuck in the spruit. The 4th were the rearguard, and were hotly pressed by the enemy who endeavoured to cut off the Tasmanians forming the rear screen, but the City Imperial Volunteer Battery did good work; and Colonel Brookfield, having sent fresh Squadrons to Colonel Rowell's assistance, he was able to keep the Boers off the convoy.

Next day Lindley was reached. In a despatch to General Kelly-Kenny, commanding in the Orange River Colony, the Chief of the Staff said that Lord Roberts was of opinion that the convoy had been conducted with skill and foresight, that no precautions were neglected, and that the behaviour of the troops was creditable to all ranks. "His Lordship is glad to observe that, besides the regular troops employed, the Militia Battalion, the Corps of Imperial Bushmen, the Imperial Yeomanry and the City Imperial Volunteers, distinguished themselves on this occasion."

Colonel Brookfield and most of his troops now joined General Paget's command. After doing some work about the Bethlehem-Winburg district, they formed part of the escort which took the Boer prisoners from Wittebergen to the railway. On the 14th August, the Contingent entrained for Pretoria; and, on the 16th, they marched past Lord Roberts, who was very complimentary. On the same day they marched out to join General Paget, under whom they were during the next three months, to see hard marching and stiff fighting. "We were constantly under the fire of the enemy; pretty well every day brought its contribution of experience in the shape of small engagements." (*On the Veldt*, by Captain R. C. Lewis, Hobart, 1902).

On 20th August, the Contingent was put into the Mounted Brigade of Colonel Hickman, under whom they acted, until he left the Column in December. He almost invariably asked them to act as his advanced guard when he expected to fight the enemy. On the 1st September, 20 men of the Squadron, under Lieutenant G. G. E. Wyllly, went out after cattle; they were surrounded and retired with difficulty. Trooper Brown was killed, and Lieutenant Wyllly and four others were wounded.

It was on this day that Lieutenant Wyllly and Trooper J. H. Bisdee both earned the Victoria Cross. Lieutenant Wyllly's conduct was thus officially recorded:—"Although wounded, this officer, seeing that one of his men was badly wounded in the leg and that his horse was shot went back to the man's assistance, made him take his (Wyllly's) horse, and opened fire from behind a rock to cover the retreat of the others, at the imminent risk of being cut off himself."—(*London Gazette*, 13th November, 1900). Colonel T. E. Hickman, D.S.O., considered that "the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Wyllly saved Corporal Brown from being killed or captured; and that his subsequent firing to cover the retreat, was instrumental in saving the other men from death or capture." Lieutenant Wyllly subsequently obtained a commission in the South Lancashire Regiment, and was wounded on the night of the 7th January, 1901, when the Boers fiercely attacked the posts on the railway about Belfast. He was appointed an aide-de-camp to Lord Kitchener.

Bisdee's achievement is recorded as follows:—"On the 1st September, Private Bisdee was one of an advanced scouting party, passing through a rocky defile near

Warmbad, Transvaal. The enemy, who were in ambush, opened a sudden fire at close range; and six out of the party of eight were hit, including two officers. The horse of one of the wounded officers broke away and bolted. Private Bisdee gave the officer his stirrup-leather to help him out of action; but finding that the officer was too badly wounded to go on, he dismounted, placed him on his horse, mounted behind him, and conveyed him out of range. This act was performed under a very hot fire and in a very exposed place."—(*London Gazette*, 13th November, 1900.)

On 4th November, the South Australians and Western Australians joined Colonel Hickman, and the Regiment was together again. At Rhenoster Kop, 29th, the Tasmanians were escort to the guns. In December, Captain Lewis was invalided with enteric, and the command devolved upon Lieutenant Sale, under whom the Squadron, much reduced in numbers, took a prominent part in the pursuit of De Wet, through and out of Cape Colony. Captain Lewis rejoined before the march to Pietersburg took place. After the town was occupied (8th April, 1901), the Tasmanians being the first to enter, Captain Sale, with a small troop galloped to a ridge beyond; he was shot by a Boer concealed in the long grass, a few paces to the left; and Lieutenant Walter, going to his assistance was mortally wounded.

On 25th April, Sergeant Stocker gained great distinction for his share in the capture of 35 prisoners. In May, the Squadron operated under General Plumer, through the Eastern Transvaal to Bethel and Piet Retief.

Operations, and Corps or Columns served with, may be summarized thus:—
Operations Eastern Orange Free State, including actions at Lindley, Bethlehem, Twin Hills, and Slabbert's Nek, under General Paget.

Present at capture of Prinsloo's laager.

Operations in North-East Transvaal, around Sybrant's Kraal, Warmbad, Nylstroom, Rhenoster Kop (29th November, 1900), under General Paget.

Operations in Western Transvaal, Rustenburg, Selon's River.

Operations in Cape Colony, commencing February, 1901, to check De Wet's raid, under General Plumer.

With General Plumer to Pietersburg, April, 1901.

The Squadron embarked in the transport *Britannic* at East London on 7th July, 1901, and arrived in Tasmania on 5th August; having visited *en route* Albany, Adelaide, and Melbourne. Disbanded 14th August.

WAR SERVICES AND HONOURS.

Lewis, Captain R. C.—Operations east of Orange River Colony North-East Transvaal, Western Transvaal, and Cape Colony, between June, 1900, and June, 1901, including actions at Lindley, Bethlehem, Twin Hills, Slabbert's Nek, Wittebergen, Sybrant's Kraal, Warmbad, Nylstroom, and Rhenoster Kop. Despatches, *London Gazette*, 16th April, 1901. D.S.O. Queen's Medal with three clasps.

Perkins, Lieutenant R.—Operations and actions as stated. Despatches, *London Gazette*, 16th April, 1901. D.S.O. Queen's Medal with three clasps.

Wylly, Lieutenant G. G. E.—Operations and actions as stated. Despatches, *London Gazette*, 13th November, 1900. D.C. Queen's Medal with three clasps.

Sale, Captain A. A.—Operations and actions as stated. Mentioned in Commander-in-Chief's Despatches, 8th March, 1901. Killed in action at Pietersburg, 9th April, 1901.

Walter, Lieutenant C. H.—Operations and actions as stated. Killed in action at Pietersburg, 9th April, 1901.

Page, L. S. E., *Williams*, R. L., *Stocker*, A., and *Reynolds*, H. R. (Lieutenants).—Operations and actions generally as stated. Queen's Medal with three clasps. Lieuts. Page and Williams returned to South Africa in October, 1901, and were commissioned in the Cape Colony Field Force.

Nominal Roll.

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
OFFICERS.		
Lewis, Richard Charles ..	Captain, Officer Commanding	
Perkins, Raymond ..	Lieutenant	
Wylly, Guy Geo. Egerton ..	" ..	Wounded, 1.9.00
Sale, Arthur Arnold ..	2nd Lieutenant	Died from wounds at Pietersburg, 9.4.01
Walter, Crosswell Herbert ..	" ..	Killed in action at Pietersburg, 9.4.01
N.C.O.'S AND MEN.		
117. Shegog, William Lowry ..	Troop Sergeant-Major	
1. Townley, Percy James ..	Quartermaster-Sergeant	Regimental Staff
2. Cracknell, William ..	Sergeant	
3. Stephens, Ed. William ..	" ..	<i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
4. Shaw, George ..	" ..	Wounded at Warmbad. <i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
5. Nettlefold, Arthur Wm. ..	" ..	Invalided to Tasmania
6. Summers, Mervyn Alfred ..	" ..	Invalided to Tasmania
7. Shaw, James.. ..	Farrier-Sergeant	Invalided to Tasmania
8. Stepnell, Joseph ..	Corporal	Invalided to Tasmania
9. Page, Louis Sydney Eccles ..	" ..	<i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
10. Reynolds, Hubert Ross ..	" ..	Sergeant. <i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
11. Brown, Edward Stanley ..	" ..	Wounded at Warmbad and invalided
12. Lester, Harold Joseph ..	" ..	Invalided to Tasmania
13. Williams, Robert Llewellyn ..	" ..	<i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
14. Ward, William Henry.. ..	Bugler	Invalided to Tasmania
15. Turner, Charles Arthur ..	" ..	
16. Adams, Angus Robert ..	Trooper	Promoted to Sergeant
17. Blackaby, Henry ..	" ..	
18. Bellette, Ernest Amos.. ..	" ..	
19. Brown, Albert Melton.. ..	" ..	
20. Brownell, Eric Lindsey Douglas ..	" ..	Corporal for gallantry. Commander-in-Chief's despatches, 8.7.01; invalided to Tasmania, returned with 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen
21. Brumby, Lewis Berkley ..	" ..	Lance-Corporal. Sergeant-Major at camp in Cape Town
22. Brewer, William John Colin ..	" ..	Promoted Sergeant
23. Butcher, Louis George ..	" ..	Invalided to Tasmania
24. Bisdee, John Hutton ..	" ..	Invalided to Tasmania. Returned as an officer of 2nd Imperial Bushmen. Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 13.11.00. <i>U.C.</i>
25. Berwick, William ..	" ..	Invalided to Tasmania
26. Bull, Allan Thomas ..	" ..	
27. Bridley, Walter McIntosh ..	" ..	Made prisoner, but escaped
28. Barwise, William Kenyon ..	" ..	<i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
29. Burbury, Leslie Douglas ..	" ..	
30. Brown, Godfrey Hugh ..	" ..	Made prisoner; died of wounds at Warmbad, 20.9.00
31. Bostock, Daniel William ..	" ..	
33. Cliff, James ..	" ..	

Nominal Roll—*continued.*

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
N.C.O.'S AND MEN— <i>continued.</i>		
34. Crawford, Reginald Calder ..	Trooper	
25. Campbell, William James ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
26. Clark, Peter	"	Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 16.4.01. D.C.M.
27. Costello, Albert Edward ..	"	
28. Chester, Alfred Victor ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
29. Cooper, Joseph	"	Wounded at Warmbad; invalided to Tasmania
40. Crosby, Edward Barclay ..	"	
41. Davis, Herbert Frank ..	"	Lance-Corporal. Promoted Ser- geant
42. D'Alton, Frank	"	
43. Davis, William Walter ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
44. Dawes, William James ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
45. Dudfield, James	"	
46. Douglas, Gordon Adye ..	"	Lance-Corporal. <i>Vide</i> " Pro- motions "
47. Eddy, William Lawrence ..	"	
48. Egan, James Patrick	"	Made prisoner, 9.3.01; afterwards rejoined. <i>Vide</i> " Promotions "
49. Fleming, Percy James ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
50. Fergusson, Benjamin Thomas ..	"	
51. Firth, Albert Alex. Crossley ..	"	Wounded at Warmbad
52. Groom, Francis Arthur ..	"	Despatches, <i>London Gazette</i> , 16.4.01. D.C.M.
53. Geeres, Leslie Harry	"	
54. Gerrand, James	"	Promoted Sergeant
55. Gardiner, Arthur Joseph ..	"	
56. Garrott, Edgar Albert ..	"	
57. Guest, Robert William ..	"	
58. Green, Richard	"	
59. Griffin, James	"	
60. Gleeson, Denis	"	
61. Hays, Albert Ernest	"	
62. Herbert, Lewis Arthur ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
63. Harradine, Edward Francis ..	"	
64. Heyne, Charles	"	
65. Haiz, Albert Xavier	"	
66. Hamilton, Henry Wm. Vere ..	"	
67. Humphreys, Robert	"	
68. Hodgkinson, Walter Frank Cecil ..	"	Made prisoner, 19.3.01; after- wards re-joined
69. Hutton, Leonard	"	
70. Itchins, Henry Gabriel ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania
71. Johnstone, Clarence Albert James	"	
72. Johnson, Alfred	"	
73. Jackson, Charles Albert ..	"	
74. Keogh, Peter	"	
75. Kenworthy, William	"	
76. King, Charles George	"	
77. Litchfield, Arthur Frederick ..	"	
78. Lawrence, Owen Effingham ..	"	Invalided to Tasmania, and re- turned to South Africa
79. Laughton, Louis Horace ..	"	<i>Vide</i> " Promotions "
80. Lawford, William	"	
81. Lette, Louis Frances John ..	"	Died of enteric at Pretoria, 18.10.00

Nominal Roll—*continued.*

No. and Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
N.C.O.'S AND MEN— <i>continued.</i>		
82. Luttrell, Darcy	Trooper	Invalided to Tasmania
83. Littlejohn, Mervyn James	"	
84. Muckle, Robert	"	
85. McClelland, William	"	
86. McLeod, Albert Arthur	"	
87. McLaren, Percy .. ..	" .. ..	.. Killed in action near Bronkhurst Spruit, 22.1.01
88. McGuillan, Andrew	"	
89. Mace, Trevor Ellis	"	
90. Maguire, William Alfred	"	
91. O'May, Sydney Robert	"	
92. Pilsbury, William George .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania
93. Rye, Edward John	"	
94. Shields, James Robert	"	
95. Simpson, Charles .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania
96. Simpson, Walter John	"	
97. Simpson, Arthur Whitfield	"	
98. Skinner, Harold	"	
99. Smith, Norman Banks .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania
102. Stocker, Archie .. ..	" .. ..	.. Sergeant. Special mention in General Plumer's despatches, 8.5.01. D.C.M. <i>Vide</i> "Promotions"
101. Storey, Cameron Richard	"	
103. Taylor, George Ernest .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania; returned with 2nd Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen
104. Viney, Arthur Edward .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania; awarded pension
105. Wright, Andrew .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania
106. Williams, Herbert Mouat	"	
107. Ward, Kenny .. ..	" .. ..	.. Promoted Corporal
108. Weber, Gustav Henry .. ..	" .. ..	.. Promoted Corporal
109. Whitmore, John William	"	
110. Wyatt, Robert Oliver .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania
111. White, George	"	
112. Willoughby, Samuel .. ..	" .. ..	.. Wounded at Warmbad
113. Whelan, William Patrick	"	
114. Wadley, William Isaac .. ..	" .. ..	.. Died of disease, 18.4.01
32. Walton, Thomas .. ..	" .. ..	.. Invalided to Tasmania
115. Westbrook, Charles Walter	"	
116. Walters, George Albert	"	
100. Walker, —	"	