

Extracts from "Records of the 90th Regiment", by A. M. Delavoye, Captain 56th Foot (late 90th L.I.), Publ. 1880:

## **RECORDS OF THE 90th REGIMENT, LIGHT INFANTRY**

The end of the last century, remarkable for the overthrow of the French Monarchy, found England with a small army scattered over the face of the globe, and but ill prepared for the war which was declared by the French Convention in February, 1793. The unnecessary atrocities which had accompanied the rise of the Republic, and the persistent endeavours of the French to force their democratic principles upon the other nations of Europe, made the war, to a certain extent, popular in England; therefore, when it was found necessary to increase the army by the formation of new regiments, no difficulty was experienced in obtaining recruits; but, as is usual on the sudden augmentation of the peace establishment, the bounties demanded were enormously high.

Of the new corps, six were raised in Scotland; letters of service were granted to the Duke of Gordon, the Duke of Argyle, Lord Seaforth, Lieutenant-General Stewart Douglas, Sir James Grant, of Grant, and Mr. Thomas Graham, of Balgowan, who, on his return from Toulon, whither he had proceeded as a volunteer with the force under Admiral Lord Hood, had solicited permission to raise and command a regiment. This was reluctantly granted, owing to the king's dislike to give high commands to individuals who had had no previous military training, nor had held commissions in the army.

The required authority, however, once obtained, Mr. Graham commenced his levy with an energy which proved both his loyalty and his taste for the profession he had adopted. Recruiting parties were sent into various districts in Scotland and England, the head-quarters of the regiment being established at Perth, whence, on being appointed Colonel-Commandant (of his regiment), on the 10th of February, 1794, Mr. Graham, with a view to rousing the military spirit of his native county, issued the following address:-

To the Inhabitants of the County of Perth

Being desirous that the regiment I have undertaken to raise, and which I am to have the honour to command, should bear the name of a county I am so much attached to, I have obtained His Majesty's leave that it should be called 'The Perthshire Volunteers.' While I flatter myself that the corps will prove worthy of so distinguished a name, allow me to hope that it will find in the spirit of the young men of the county, and in the zeal of the recruits, that preference and support which may make up for the want of the extensive influence which patronizes the other corps now recruiting. I need not assure all able-bodied volunteers that they will be

received by the Commanding-Officer, at the head-quarters at Perth, with the greatest attention, and will meet with the most liberal treatment.

I am, with sincere regard,  
Your devoted servant,  
THOS. GRAHAM.

Colonel Graham's influence in Perthshire, and his liberality in other parts of Great Britain, enabled him to parade at Perth, on the 13th of May, 7 Officers and 746 non-commissioned Officers and men, for the inspection of Lieutenant-General Lord Adam Gordon, the Commander-in-Chief in Scotland, who expressed himself highly pleased with the condition of the regiment, which was composed of:

Highlanders	95
Lowlanders	430
English	165
Irish	56
Total	746

Being one of the first of the new levies reported as complete, the "Perthshire Volunteers" became the 90th Foot, and Lord Moira, who was greatly interested by Colonel Graham's exertions and zeal, obtained the King's leave that it should be enrolled as a Light Infantry Battalion, and as such it was equipped and drilled. While quartered in Perth the conduct of the regiment was most exemplary, its good behaviour being due to the strict, yet just, system of discipline which, introduced by Colonel Graham, has ever since been maintained.

In February, 1794, Brevet-Major George Moncrieffe, of the 11th Foot, was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel into the 90th, the Majority being offered by the Commandant to Captain Rowland Hill, afterwards Lord Hill, of the 53rd Foot, whom he had met at Toulon, where his conduct and gallantry had rendered him conspicuous. At the same time Captain John McNair was appointed Pay-master, and in that capacity, as in all others, proved himself to be an invaluable officer.

The vacancies in the 90th were given to officers -,who could raise a certain number of recruits, or were obtained by purchase, the sums paid becoming the property of Colonel Graham, who, however, from his desire to oblige his friends and to obtain officers of known character and ability, frequently gave away commissions, thereby entailing on himself a heavy loss.

By the 24th of June, the strength of the regiment had been increased to :29 Sergeants, 43 Corporals, and 1042 men, Major Hill becoming the second Lieutenant-Colonel, and Captains Mackenzie and Houston the Majors. The success attending the levy of the first battalion so elated Colonel Graham that he offered to raise a second of 1000 men, this offer being eagerly accepted; notwithstanding the competition of innumerable recruiting parties, he was able in August to report its completion, and gave the command to Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Alexander Hope.

Being now anxious to test the capabilities of the corps he had organized, Colonel Graham requested to be sent to one of the camps formed in the South, and, accordingly, about the end of June he received orders to proceed to Southampton, to form part Of the army encamped on Netley-common, commanded by Lord Moira.

On the 27th June, the 90th embarked at Kinghorn, in Fife, on board the following transports

The Aid.-Lieutenant-Colonel Moncrieffe, Lieutenant Napier, Ensign Francis Eddins, Surgeon Russel, 217 N.C.O. and men, and 32 women.

The Disco Bay.-Captain Lord Henry Murray, Ensign Thomas Webster, 192 N.C.O. and men, and 25 women.

The Alliance.-Lieutenant Fortescue, Ensign Cartwright, Ensign McDonald, Assistant-Surgeon Anderson, 83 N.C.O. and men.

The Mary.-Captain Mackenzie, Lieutenant Graham, 180 N.C.O. and men.

The Sally.-Ensign Drummond, Quarter-master David Hopkins, 139 N.C.O. and men, and 22 women.

On the 29th July, the regiment arrived at Netley camp, 'where it was joined with several parties of recruits and those officers who had been absent on duty. While in the camp it was announced in orders that the 90th would be among those regiments to be employed on service, when the Commandant took occasion to recommend to all classes the most unremitting attention to every point of duty and the most strict and prompt obedience, expressing his determination to make the conduct and character of individuals of every rank the only title to indulgence or promotion, as far as it depended upon him to give or recommend it.

On the 6th November, the regiment marched to Winchester, where it was inspected by the Earl of Moira, who expressed his satisfaction at its appearance, and added that it afforded him great pleasure to be able to make so favourable a report of its state to His Majesty.

During its stay at Winchester, colours were presented to the 1st battalion-the anniversary of the King's birthday, the 4th of June, being chosen for the purpose. Colonel Graham, who presented them, addressed his Corps in the following terms:-

Officers and fellow soldiers I have chosen to deliver the Colours of the Regiment into your custody on this day, because I wish that it should be marked in every man's remembrance by its being the anniversary of the birth of our gracious Sovereign. The sentiments of loyalty to your King, and attachment to these Standards, blended together with happy enthusiasm on this day of national joy, will for ever remain engraven on your hearts. The defence of these colours is a sacred trust that I need not dwell on; the honour of the regiment is in your hands, and depends on the exertion of your attention, perseverance, and courage. Courage, however, is the growth of the soil of Britain; cowardice and slavery are alike unknown in these isles, for the bravery of her sons is cherished and confirmed by the fostering hand of freedom. When I look then on this

chosen band, can I doubt that the truest spirit of heroism pervades its ranks, Who amongst you would not devote himself to death rather than abandon these banners, and who of you would not be ready to spill the last drop of his blood in defence of that constitution which equally secures the rights of the people and the throne of the King!

I entertain no such doubts; on the contrary, I am sure that if I have the honour of leading you into the field against the enemy, I shall have more occasion to temper your ardour than to animate your courage. But I am most anxious that courage should be tempered and directed by the most perfect discipline, and I trust that none who think themselves worthy to belong to the 90th Regiment will grudge the pains necessary to attain to that perfection. You must be distinguished not only in appearance, but in reality. It is highly gratifying to me to be at the head of a body of men on whose exertions as good soldiers I can rely, as I do with confidence. Accept my thanks for your past conduct; we shall soon be in company with other troops; let it be your constant object to excel. I wish not only to be proud of you, but to owe you my gratitude and affection.

The 90th was inspected on the 5th of July by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who conveyed to Colonel Graham his orders to thank the officers and men, in his name, for the handsome appearance they made. Shortly after the regiment moved to Nursling camp, whence it marched to Southampton, there to await the departure of the expedition to cooperate with the French Royalists, of which it was to form part.

After several delays the troops were embarked on board the ships commanded by Commodore Warren the land forces being under the command of General Doyle, and the expedition, accompanied by the Comte d'Artois, started on the 18th of August for the coast of France, where it was proposed to land the regiments of French emigrants with a view to their joining the forces of General Charette, one of the royalist leaders, in La Vendée.

The first rendezvous was in Quiberon Bay, and the intention was to land the troops and stores on the peninsula of Noir Montier, but on arrival it was found that the stores, etc., would, if landed, be exposed to the attack of the overwhelming force which the Republican Generals could bring forward at that point. General Charette having also explained how dangerous it would be for him to expose his troops on an open beach were he to advance in the direction of Noir Montier, it was decided to seize upon l'Isle Dieu, and thence to throw supplies on to the main land as opportunity offered. On the 29th of September, the garrison of the island surrendered to the Galatea, Anson, Concord, and La Trompeuse frigates, and the troops, divided into two brigades, were immediately landed. Colonel Anson, of the 12th Foot, commanded the 1st Brigade, and Colonel Graham the 2nd, consisting of the 78th and 90th Regiments. During the two months that the island was occupied, good roads were made from La Bourg St. Sauveur to such bays and other places as offered favourable opportunities of landing to the enemy, the fortifications were

repaired, and every preparation made to resist an attack. The Republicans, however, contented themselves with preventing General Charette from obtaining any of the supplies brought for him, and the British brigades being far too weak to assist him by any offensive movement they were recalled at the end of November.

Early in December the troops were successively embarked, and the transports sailed from l'Isle Dieu for Quiberon Bay. An accident which happened to the ship in which was a wing of the 90th, under Colonel Graham, is best described in his own words:-

"Captain Sir Edmund Nagle, commanding the Artois frigate, was appointed to see everything removed from the island, and as I had command of the rear-guard he offered me a passage in his ship. It blew very fresh, with a heavy sea along the coast towards Quiberon Bay, so that we had only a foresail set in order to keep astern of the convoy. On coming near Quiberon Bay two lights were discovered, which were supposed by Sir Edmund and the pilot to be for the purpose of directing the ships round the east end of the island of Houat, and so as to keep clear of the Cardinal rocks that lie off the S.E. end of that island. These lights, however, were intended for the purpose of marking out the anchorage to the transports, but no communication had been made on this subject to Sir E. Nagle. The consequence had nearly proved fatal to us all. About 7 o'clock in the evening, while we were at dinner in the Captain's cabin (a number of the officers of the 90th Regiment in company), the first Lieutenant came down to announce that we were close in upon the shore at the back of the island of Houat. The mainsail was dropped as quickly as possible and the helm put down, but the ship had scarcely got way enough when breakers ahead made it indispensably necessary to put the ship about, when there was but little chance of her staying.

Her head, however, did come round to the wind, and Captain Nagle came back into the cabin wishing us all joy of our narrow escape, which he said was entirely owing to the perfection of the Artois.

Very soon after this, and while standing out from the land close-hauled, we struck on a reef, and after three severe blows the swell fortunately carried us over. Much damage had been received, however, and the water, which was heard gushing in, soon rose to a considerable height, and could hardly be kept under with all the pumps going. Four hundred men of the 90th Regiment, being on board, gave great assistance. At daybreak we stood back and got into Quiberon Bay. On examination by the carpenters of the fleet it was considered impracticable that anything effectual could be done to improve the condition of the ship, and Admiral Harvey determined to send her immediately home - the Melampus frigate, Captain Sir Richard Strachan, having orders to keep company with the Artois, and afford ever assistance in his power."

Three hundred men of the 90th, with a proportion of officers, were withdrawn and distributed on board of other ships. I had received such marked attention from Sir Edmund Nagle that I accepted his invitation to remain on board. Three days after we sailed from Quiberon Bay we fell in with some English frigates, which from the signals not being seen, owing to thick weather, obliged us to clear for action. The night following it came on to blow very fresh, and we had a good deal of damage done to our sails and rigging, and lost our main-top-gallant mast. In addition to these untoward circumstances we lost sight of our friend the Melampus, and were thus left alone with a foul wind and a heavy swell. We never got an observation, but, from calculations, supposing that we had got sufficiently to westward to clear Ushant, we stood northward, with scarcely any sail set, as the wind increased as we opened the chops of the channel.

Under these circumstances it was thought advisable, when the day closed, to lay to for fear of running foul of the Lizard Point; but at midnight we discovered we were quite on the other side of the channel, having distinctly made out the three Casquet lights off Guernsey. This was a great relief to Sir Edward Nagle's mind, and we accordingly shaped our course for Spithead; on rounding the east end of the Isle of Wight we discovered the Melampus frigate working up towards St. Helens. We were all most happy to get on shore after this disagreeable voyage..... The frigate was afterwards ordered into dock, when it was found that a considerable piece of rock had been broken off and was still sticking in the ship's bottom, providentially with such a hold as saved her from immediately going to the bottom."

On its return to England the 90th proceeded to Poole, where it arrived on the 1st of January, 1796, and where orders were received for it to hold itself in readiness to go out to St. Domingo, to join Sir Ralph Abercromby. It was, however, shortly afterwards decided to abandon that expedition, and in March, the regiment returned to Southampton, whence, on the 12th of April it sailed for Gibraltar, which was reached on the 13th of May. The second battalion was at this time employed to act as marines on board the fleet, and thus seeing no chance of being engaged on active service with his regiment, Colonel Graham accepted the appointment of British Commissioner with the Austrian army in Italy, where he remained until the end of the year.

Lieutenant-Colonel Moncrieffe, in the absence of the Commandant, assumed command of the regiment, having as his second, Lieutenant-Colonel Rowland Hill. Early in the year, Major Kenneth MacKenzie had gone to Portugal with General Sir Charles Stuart, where, with the local rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, he was appointed to command a battalion formed of the flank companies of the regiments composing the British army in that country, which was disciplined by him as a battalion of light infantry (on the model of his own regiment). So highly did Sir

Charles Stuart approve of the system of that corps, that he made it the school of instruction for the whole army under his command.

Intelligence of the stirring events which were startling the civilized world was brought to Gibraltar by the ships which were continually arriving, and helped by the contrast to the daily round of garrison duties more wearying to the different corps quartered there. Nothing of any importance happened to the 90th until the middle of 1798, when, a French force having seized upon Malta, in May, a counter-expedition was organized at Gibraltar - it was generally supposed for the recapture of the former stronghold. Colonel Graham, who had returned to England at the beginning of the preceding year, at once prepared to rejoin his regiment, his movements hastened by a letter which he received from General O'Hara, the Governor of Gibraltar, dated

Gibraltar,  
the 30th of September, 1798,

My dear Colonel,

I very sincerely rejoice at the prospect of seeing you again upon this rock, and talking over the recent unfortunate events of this cursed war. You will find your regiment in good order in every respect, and sincerely consider with much satisfaction they are to be employed upon this secret expedition. They are themselves perfectly happy with having you once more, at their head, and I am perfectly confident when tried they will answer your most sanguine expectations. May this expedition, to whatever part of the globe you are going, succeed fully and amply is the earnest wish of your most

Faithful and obedient servant,  
CHA. O'HARA

COLONEL GRAHAM.

General Sir Charles Stuart, who was appointed to the command of the expedition, directed Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie (90th Regt.) to proceed at once from Lisbon to Gibraltar, to superintend the embarkation of the stores and to carry out the duties of Deputy Adjutant-General. About the 19th of October, the troops embarked, the 90th going on board the Calcutta. The other regiments composing the force being the 28th, the 42nd, the 58th, two companies R.A., and one company Royal Military Artificers.

General Orders.

H.M. Ship Leviathan,  
20th October, 1798.

No. 1.-The corps are to be brigaded as follows:

The 28th and 90th Regts. will form the first brigade under the command of Brigadier-General Stewart, to which will be attached 69 rank and file of the Royal Artillery and 23 rank and file of the Royal Military Artificers.

The 42nd and 58th Regts., under the command of Brigadier General Oakes, will form the second brigade, to which will be attached 70 rank and file of the Royal Artillery and 24 rank and file from the Royal Military Artificers.

Detachments will be made in the following proportions from the above Regts. to form a reserve under the command of Colonel Graham, 90th Regiment, to which will be attached 46 rank and file from the Royal Artillery and 15 rank and file from the Royal Military Artificers, viz.- The flank companies of the 28th Regt. completed to 50 rank and file each.

The 42nd flank companies and as many companies of the battalion as will form a detachment of 350 rank and file.

The 90th flank companies and as many companies of the battalion as will form a detachment Of 300 rank and file.

Regimental Orders:-

On board the Calcutta,  
25th October, 1798.

Colonel Graham has had much satisfaction in receiving a very favourable report of the conduct of the 90th Regiment at Gibraltar from his Excellency the Governor, and from Colonel Moncrieffe.

No regiment raised during this war has had equal opportunities, before meeting the enemy, of acquiring all the advantages which a thorough knowledge of a soldier's duty gives to old regiments. Much, therefore, will be expected of the 90th Regiment, and Colonel Graham entertains no doubt of their justifying and confirming by their behaviour in this expedition the high character they have already obtained.

He flatters himself that it is unnecessary for him to assure the Regiment that no other command could have been more agreeable to him, and in considering the last General Orders, by which he is appointed to the command of the reserve, he feels very sincere pleasure in the reflection that that corps is to be composed in part of a considerable detachment of the 90th Regiment. He cannot conclude without most earnestly pressing upon the mind of every officer and every soldier of the regiment the strictest attention to the important precepts contained in the Rules and Regulations of the 18th instant, issued by the Commander-in-Chief, and the explanatory observations contained in the General Orders of the 20th instant.

To gain distinction, to stamp in indelible characters the reputation of the 90th Regiment, the conduct of every man belonging to it must be equally distinguished by implicit obedience to superiors, by the most determined enterprise, and by the most punctual execution of every military duty.



Agreeable to the General Orders a detachment to join the reserve will be prepared, consisting of the following officers and companies, with the sergeants and drummers belonging to them:-

Lieutenants Edden, Preedy, Colberg, Carter, Wright, and Holland.

Lord Ruthven's Company.

Captain McNair's Company

Captain Cholmondeley's Company.

Major Mackenzie's Company.

These Companies are to be completed to 75 rank and file each, and the above-mentioned officers will be posted to them as follows:-

Lieutenants Edden and Carter to Lord Ruthven's Company.

Lieutenant Preedy to Captain Cholmondeley's Company.

"Rules and Regulations for the guidance of the army when in the field, issued by Sir C. Stuart, on board H.M.S. Argo, Octr 18th, 1798.

Lieutenant Wright to Captain McNair's Company.

Lieutenants Colberg and Holland to Major Mackenzie's Company.

G.O. No. 1.

H.M.S. Leviathan, at sea.

Octr. 26th, 1798.

From some unforeseen circumstances relative to the order of disembarking the troops, the reserve, as mentioned in the order No. 1 of the 20th inst., will not be established previous to landing; the officers, therefore, and companies named to compose that corps will land with their respective regiments, and the distribution of the artillery and artificers will be, for the present, as hereafter stated.

G. O. No. 3.

Order of disembarkation:-

1st Division of the 28th Regiment and one captain, one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one drummer, and 30 rank and file of the Royal Artillery, with two light six-pounders

2nd Division.- 800 men of 90th Regiment, including officers, non-commissioned officers and drummers, and one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one drummer, and 30 rank and file from the Royal Artillery, with two light six-pounders.

3rd Division.-The remainder of the 90th Regiment, part of the 42nd Regiment, and one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one drummer, and 30 rank and file of the Royal Artillery, with two light six-pounders.

4th Division.- The remainder of the 42nd Regiment and 400 men of the 58th Regiment, including officers, non-commissioned officers, and drummers; and one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, one drummer, and 30 rank and file of the Royal Artillery, with two light six-pounders.

5th Division.- The remainder of the 58th Regiment, the remainder of the Royal Artillery and the Royal Military Artificers, with two 5-1/2-inch

howitzers and such stores as will be particularly specified to the heads of the following departments, viz., Engineers, Artillery, Deputy commissary General of Provisions, and Inspector General of Hospitals.

Regimental Orders:- On board the Calcutta,  
28th October, 1798.

The Commander-in-Chief having signified that, on account of some unforeseen circumstances relative to the disembarkation of the troops, the Reserve cannot be established previous to landing, and having directed that two companies of the 90th Regt. shall meanwhile be completed to 100 rank and file each, the 3rd, Lord Ruthven's, Company, under the command of Lieutenant Edden, and the 7th, Captain McNair's Company, under the command of Captain Napier, are to be immediately completed to that number, and it being necessary that every man of those two companies should be capable of undergoing the fatigue of the most active service, Lieutenant Edden and Captain Napier are directed to choose (each respectively for the company under his command) four men from each of the other companies of the regiment, which will enable them to draft from their companies respectively some of the least active men belonging to them, so as, on the whole, to complete these companies to 100 rank and file each, and the men so drafted from these two companies will be equally distributed among the remaining companies of the regiment.

The fleet anchored off the north-east side of the island of Minorca on the 6th of November, and on the following day the landing was effected in the Bay of Addaya, with the greatest regularity and despatch, and was promptly followed up by movements, described in the following despatch, which in a very short time brought about the surrender of the island.

Ciudadella, Novr. 18th, 1798.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you that His Majesty's forces are in possession of the Island of Minorca, without having sustained the loss of a single man.

As neither Commodore Duckworth or myself could procure any useful information relative to the object of the expedition at Gibraltar, it was judged advisable to despatch the Petrel sloop of war to cruize off the harbour of Mahon for intelligence, where, after remaining a few days, she joined the fleet near the Colombrites, without having made any essential discovery. So circumstanced, it was agreed to attempt a descent in the Bay of Addaya, and the wind proving favourable on the 7th instant, a feint was made by the line-of-battle ships at Fornelles, and boats were assembled for that purpose under the direction of Captain Bowen,

Captain Polden, and Captain Pressland. Previous to the landing of the troops, a small battery at the entrance of the bay was evacuated by the enemy, the magazine blown up, the guns spiked, and shortly after, the first Division, consisting of eight hundred men, was on shore. A considerable explosion to the westward indicated that the Spaniards had also abandoned the works at Fornelles. Nearly at the same moment two thousand of the enemy's troops approached in several different directions, but were repulsed with some loss on the left, while the guns of the *Argo* checked a similar attempt on the right flank, and the post was maintained until the debarkation of the different divisions afforded the means of establishing a position, from whence the enemy's troops would have been attacked with considerable advantage, had they not retired in the beginning of the night.

The strength of the ground, the passes, and the badness of the roads in Minorca are scarcely to be equalled in the most mountainous parts of Europe; and what increased the difficulty of advancing upon this occasion was the dearth of intelligence, for although near one hundred deserters had come in from the Swiss regiments, and affirmed that the remaining force upon the island exceeded four thousand men, no particular account of the enemy's movements was obtained. Under this uncertainty it was for a few minutes doubtful what measure to pursue, but as quickly determined to proceed by a forced march to Mercadel, and thereby separate the enemy's force by possessing that essential pass, in the first instance, and from thence advancing upon his principal communications to either extremity of the island, justly depending upon Commodore Duckworth's zeal and exertions to forward from Addaya and Fornelles such supplies of provisions and ordinance stores as might favour subsequent operations.

To effect this object, Colonel Graham was sent with six hundred men, and by great exertion arrived at Mercadel a very few hours after the main force of the enemy had marched towards Ciudadella, making several officers and soldiers prisoners, seizing various small magazines, and establishing his corps in front of the village.

The persevering labour of 250 seamen, under the direction of Lieutenant Buchanan, during the night having greatly assisted the artillery in forwarding the battalion guns, the army arrived at Mercadel on the 9th, where, learning that Mahon was nearly evacuated, a disposition was instantly made to operate with the whole force in that direction, and Colonel Paget was detached under this movement with three hundred men to take possession of the town. Upon his arrival he summoned Fort Charles to surrender, and made the Lieutenant-Governor of the island, a Colonel of Artillery, and one hundred and sixty men prisoners of war; he removed the boom obstructing the entrance of the harbour, and gave free passage to the *Cormorant* and *Aurora* frigates

which were previously sent by Commodore Duckworth to make a diversion off that port.

But these were not the only advantages immediately resulting from this movement - it favoured desertion, intercepted all stragglers, and enabled the different departments of the army to procure beasts of burthen for the further progress of His Majesty's arms.

Having ascertained that the enemy's troops were throwing up works and entrenching themselves in front of Ciudadella, it was resolved to force their position on the night of the 13th instant, and preparatory to this attempt, Colonel Paget, with two hundred men, was withdrawn from Mahon; Colonel Moncrieffe (90th) was sent forward with a detachment to Ferarias; three light twelve-pounders, three five-and-a-half-inch howitzers, and ninety marines were landed from the fleet ; when, in consequence of its having been communicated to Commodore Duckworth, that four ships, supposed of the line, were seen between Majorca and Minorca, steering towards the last-mentioned island, he decided to pursue them, and requested that the seamen and marines might re-embark, and signified his determination of proceeding with all the armed transports to sea. But weighing the consequences which would result to the army from the smallest delay on the one hand, and the advantages to be reasonably expected from a spirited attack on the other, it was thought advisable to retain them with the army, and on the 12th inst. the whole force marched to Alpinz, and from thence proceeded on the 13th to Jupet - Colonel Moncrieffe's detachment moving in a parallel line on the Ferarias road to Mala Garaba. These precautions, and the appearance of two columns approaching the town, induced the enemy to retire from their half-constructed defences within the walls of Ciudadella, and in the evening of the same day a small detachment, under Captain Muter, was sent to take possession of the Torr  den Quart, whereby the army was enabled to advance on the 14th, apparently in three columns, upon Kane's, the Ferarias, and Fornelles roads to the investment of the town at daybreak, occupying ground covered by the position the enemy had relinquished. Thus situated, in want of heavy artillery, and every article necessary for a siege, it was deemed expedient to summon the Governor of Minorca to surrender, and the preliminary articles were immediately considered, but doubts arising on the part of the enemy, whether the investing force was superior in number to the garrison, two batteries of three twelve pounders, and three five-and-a-half-inch howitzers were erected in the course of the following night within eight hundred yards of the place, and, at daybreak, the main body of the troops formed in order of battle considerably to the right of Kane's road, leaving the picquets to communicate between them and Colonel Moncrieffe's post. This line, partly real and partly imaginary, extended four miles in front of the enemy's batteries, from whence two eighteen-pound shot

were immediately fired at the troops ; but a timely parley, and the distant appearance of the squadron, occasioned the cessation of hostilities, and renewed a negotiation which, through the address of Major-General Sir James St. Clair Erskine, terminated in the capitulation.

The zeal, spirit, and perseverance of both the officers and men of the different regiments under my command have eminently contributed to the success of the expedition, and authorize me to represent their services as highly deserving His Majesty's most gracious approbation.

I have the honour to be, etc., etc.,

CHS. STUART.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY DUNDAS.

The reduction of Minorca once completed, Colonel Graham obtained leave of absence, and proceeded to Sicily, there to employ himself in the service of its legitimate monarch. The command of the regiment was again assumed by Colonel Moncrieffe, the troops being actively employed in placing the island in a state of defence. In May, 1799, the state of Sir Charles Stuart's health rendered it necessary for him to return to England, the chief command devolving on Major-General Sir James St. Clair Erskine.

General Orders.

Mahon, May 2nd, 1799.

As the state of the General's health does not permit him at present to command the army with that activity which the service may require, he resigns that important trust to Major-General Sir James St. Clair Erskine, with full confidence that under his care, both the officers and men will be directed in a manner to maintain the high opinion which the King has formed of their services.

If their good conduct was so conspicuous as to be judged worthy of his Majesty's distinct approbation upon the reduction of the island, the orderly behaviour and discipline of the troops at the outposts, the unparalleled efforts of the forces at Fort George, with the indefatigable labour of the several departments employed at the different fortresses is an equal and no less eminent proof of their zeal and spirit, and the General trusts that when he lays before the King an account of the extraordinary efforts whereby this important possession is enabled in four months to meet and resist the most daring attempts of the enemy, His Majesty will feel a superior degree of satisfaction in having troops so determined to defend the territory they have obtained, as they were firm and resolute in effecting the conquest.

Impressed with these truths, though the General cannot refrain from expressing his sincere regret at leaving the army, he feels a degree of pleasure in leaving an opportunity of laying their just representation at the feet of His Majesty, and he cannot help entertaining hopes that his

health will once more enable him to direct their proceedings upon some future and no less important occasion.

On the 2nd of May, Captain McNair was appointed Deputy Judge-Advocate of the army in Minorca, and about the same time Lieutenant-Colonel Hill obtained leave of absence and returned to England.

Colonel Graham having satisfactorily concluded his duties in Naples, was appointed to the command of the troops who were sent to wrest Malta from the French, with the rank of Brigadier-General. Soon after his arrival on that island he applied for the 90th Regiment to be sent to him, receiving the following reply from General Fox, who was commanding at Minorca.

Mahon, 2nd February, 1800.

Dear Sir,

I am honoured with your private letter of the 12th Decr., the contents of which I conceived it necessary that Mr. Dundas should be acquainted with, and being aware that you were in the habit of correspondence with him, I enclosed it to him in a private letter from myself. As Mr. Dundas has received my letter from Gibraltar, and from hence upon my arrival, before the Constance left England, in which I fully stated to him that I did not think myself authorized to detach troops from hence, I am to presume my intentions were approved of, or the Constance would have brought an order to detach them. You may be assured, should I receive such an order, not a moment's time shall be lost in sending them, and if it is left to me, and the numbers can be brought to agree, the 90th Regiment shall be sent. In the event, I shall send Brigadier-General Moncrieffe with it, who is perfectly aware that, as senior Colonel, and your being appointed a Brigadier-General, he will be entirely under your command.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,  
Your faithful and obedient servant,  
G. FOX.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL, GRAHAM,  
etc., etc., etc.

The 90th was not sent to the assistance of its gallant chief, Colonel Moncrieffe proceeding alone to Malta, there to assume command of a corps of Maltese, which had been raised by Colonel Graham.

The state of the 90th Regiment on the 23rd of March, 1800, was as follows:-

Officers and men doing duty with the regiment in Minorca.

1 Lieutenant-Colonel, Lyde Browne.

2 Captains, Alex. Murray and the Honble. Mark Napier, 16 subalterns, 1 adjutant, 1 quarter-master, 1 surgeon, and 1 assistant-surgeon, 51 sergeants, 22 drummers, and 748 privates.

Colonel Thomas Graham, Brigadier-General to the forces serving in Minorca.  
Lieutenant-Colonel George Moncrieffe, Brigadier-General to the forces in Minorca.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rowland Hill, absent on leave.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie, Deputy Adjutant-General to the forces in Minorca.

Captain John McNair, Deputy judge-Advocate to the forces in Minorca.

Captain Thomas Bligh St. George, Brigade-Major to the forces in Minorca.

Captain John Graham, Aide-de-Camp to the Earl of Chatham.

Captain James Lord Ruthven, recruiting.

General state of casualties, 90th Regiment, from April 1796, to April, 1800:

Dead	In Gibraltar	44	
	In Minorca	50	
		---	94
Discharged	In Gibraltar.	2	
	In Minorca	1	
		---	3
Deserted	In Gibraltar	8	
	In Minorca	4	
		---	12
Invalided from Gibraltar		40	
Left in Gibraltar		12	
Invalided from Minorca		9	
		---	61
Drafted in Gibraltar		67	67
On Furlough	From Gibraltar	9	
	From Minorca	4	
		---	13
Total casualties in Gibraltar and Minorca			250

General state of men joined the 90th Regiment from April, 1796, to April, 1800:

1796	From 2nd battalion, Gibraltar	35	
	From Hospital, England	12	
	Recruit	1	
		---	48

1797	Recruits	23	
	From 2nd battalion	31	
		---	54
1798	Recruits	20	
	From 37th Regiment	3	
	From 70th Regiment	9	
		---	32
1798	Recruits in Minorca		3
1799	Recruits in Minorca	8	
	From Furlough in ditto	3	
		---	11
1800	Recruits in ditto	3	3
			---
Total	joined in Gibraltar and Minorca		151

In April, the officers of the regiment were gratified by a most unexpected piece of good fortune. Captain McNair had, when in London some time before, taken a ticket in one of the State lotteries in the name of the regiment, and on looking through the papers of March he came upon the following announcement in the Times newspaper of the 27th (Thursday):-

"The ticket, No.34,925, drawn a prize of £20,000, was purchased by Geo. Leckie, Esq., of Artillery-place, Finsbury-square, for Captain John McNair, of the 90th Regiment, now at Gibraltar, and was chequed with its counterpart at Guildhall by Mr. Leckie, in order to ascertain its validity and render it negociable."

Captain McNair, in a letter to Colonel Graham, thus alludes to this most gratifying event.

Minorca, 5th May, 1800.

Dear Sir,

You will have observed in the papers of the 27th March that £20,000 prize in the lottery belongs to the 90th; we anxiously look for an official notification of it; 7/85 shares is your proportion of it - perhaps sixteen-hundred pounds. A grand expedition to the Mediterranean is much talked of, but nothing certain is known respecting it; there is not any appearance of movement in this island. Since Colonel Stuart's return Colonel Mackenzie has applied to return to the Regiment and been refused - it is to be regretted.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,  
Yours most faithfully,  
JOHN McNAIR."

BRIG.-GENL. GRAHAM,  
etc.,etc.



The expedition mentioned in the foregoing letter was that of Sir Ralph Abercromby, which left England in May, and was accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Rowland Hill, who, hearing that the 90th was to be actively employed, immediately proceeded to rejoin. Captain McNair in a letter, dated May 26th, says, " Our good fortune in the lottery is confirmed."

In June, Sir Ralph Abercromby arrived at Minorca with troops to form an expedition, and Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie was requested to continue in his situation on the staff, but, as the 90th Regiment was to form part of the expedition, he resigned his staff appointment and rejoined. On the following day he was appointed by Sir Ralph Abercromby to command a secret expedition with the flank companies of the army, to be embarked on part of Lord Keith's squadron, but the arrival of orders from England, in the course of the night, put a stop to it. About the 25th of June, the 90th went on board H.M.S. Alkmaar, and proceeded with Sir Ralph Abercromby to Genoa, with a view to make a diversion in favour of Austria, then at war with France, and hard pressed by her armies.

Suchet commanded and held Genoa obstinately against the Austrian General Ott and Lord Keith with the British fleet, till compelled to capitulate on the 5th of June; the issue of the battle of Marengo, however, caused its restoration to the French, and the troops, under General Abercromby, arrived too late to be of service.

On the 4th of July 200 men of the 90th were sent on board the Pallas and 100 on board the Zephyr transports. While at Leghorn, Colonel Rowland Hill rejoined and assumed command of the regiment.

Leghorn, 11th July,  
4 o'clock in the morning.

My dear Sir,

We are this moment ordered to sail for Minorca, so there is only time to go on board the Admiral's ship with your letters, which Lord Keith has promised to forward the very first opportunity. You will of course hear all that has passed here. I am rejoiced to hear the 90th is in so fine order.

I have the honour to be,  
Your sincere and much obliged,  
R. HILL.

COLONEL GRAHAM.

Sir Ralph Abercromby inspected the regiment on the 6th of August, at Minorca, where the whole of the troops were actively preparing for service.

Minorca, 7th August, 1800.

Dear Sir,

I only received your letter of the 15th July two days ago; I wrote to Mr. Buller yesterday, agreeable to your request, about the prize in the lottery. I have sent by the Pegasus three boxes for you, I suppose from

England. Our clothing is making up with every possible expedition, and I hope will be finished before we can leave this island. The army of the expedition is brigaded anew; the 42nd, 90th, and De Rolle's form one brigade, under General Oakes, in General Moore's Division; Colonel Paget commands a brigade in General Hutchinson's Division. We are still in the lazarette and uncommonly healthy; three other regiments are with us. I am just setting off for Ciudadella to attend a General Court Martial, but I shall write you by very first ship.

I have the honour to be,  
Dear Sir, yours most faithfully,  
JOHN McNAIR.

BRIGADR.-GENL. GRAHAM.  
etc., etc., etc.

Despatches from England were received on the 25th of August by Sir R. Abercromby, and on the 27th the troops, amounting to 9,000, embarked for Gibraltar, which was reached on the 11th of September; while there, the army was augmented by the arrival of Sir James Pulteney with 12,000 men. The whole force thence proceeded to Cadiz, off which place the fleet arrived on the 4th of October, and anchored about four leagues from the shore.

The army was divided into wings, the right was commanded by Major-General Hutchinson, and the left by Major-General Morshead. On the 5th, the reserve of the right wing made a feint by hovering about the shore, but did not leave their ships. On the 6th, they were ordered to land, and part embarked in the flat boats, but were obliged to return to their ships, a sufficient number of boats not having been sent to convey them on shore. On the 8th, they were again ordered to land, and to be on shore before eight o'clock in the morning, but the wind being high, and dead on shore, together with a very heavy sea, the signal was made from the Admiral to hoist in and secure the flat boats, which was immediately done, and by eleven o'clock the fleet put to sea, appearing off Gibraltar about midnight on the 11th of October, and finally anchored in Tetuan Bay early on the 12th. On the 14th, a severe gale of wind began to blow from the eastward, which so increased in violence that it became necessary for the fleet to stand out to sea. On the 20th, most of the scattered ships were anchored off Cape Spartel, the rendezvous, Sir Ralph Abercromby joining the fleet on the 21st. After waiting for a favourable wind for some time, on the 27th a start was again made for Tetuan Bay, which was reached the following day.

On the 24th, the following general order was published, which was carried into effect on arrival at Tetuan.

G. O.

October 24th, 1800.



On the 8th of November, the whole sailed from Tetuan Bay, Sir James Pulteney going to Lisbon with the corps under his command, while Sir Ralph Abercromby and his troops steered for Malta and Minorca; the former place was reached by one division on the 10th, the remainder following in about a fortnight.

The 90th remained at Minorca until the 16th and arrived at Malta on the 20th, when it disembarked and went into barracks.

It being now determined to interrupt the French in their occupation of Egypt, and orders being received by Sir Ralph Abercromby to that effect on the 25th of October, every preparation was made by the troops, during their stay in Malta, for the anticipated struggle.

G.O.

Malta, December 11th, 1800.

The army under the command of Sir Ralph Abercromby is to be considered as forming two lines and a reserve.

The 1st line will consist of the brigade of Guards, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd brigades of the line.

The 2nd line will consist of the 4th and 5th brigades of the line.

The corps under Major-General Moore will form the reserve from which a battalion or adequate corps will occasionally be taken to cover each flank of the army.

The expedition left Malta, in two divisions, for Marmorice Bay, a magnificent landlocked harbour on the coast of Karamania, in Turkey; the first sailed on the 20th and arrived on the 29th, the second reached the Bay on the 5th of January, 1801.

On arrival, the sick were landed, and the regiments were also successively disembarked while the ships were cleaning, and the whole army was frequently exercised to those manoeuvres they were shortly to practice before the enemy in landing.

On the 8th of February, commenced the most violent thunder and hail storm ever remembered, and which continued two days and nights intermittingly. The hail, or rather the ice, stones were as big as walnuts. The camps were deluged with a torrent of them, two feet deep, which, pouring from the mountains, swept every thing before it. The scene of confusion on shore, by the horses breaking loose, and the men being unable to face the storm or remain still in the freezing deluge, surpasses description. The ships in the harbour were in no less disorder from drifting, loss of masts, etc., and the Swiftsure was struck by lightning. At night the firmament was, from the increasing flashes, in a state of constant and vivid illumination. To add to the terrific grandeur of this concussion of elements, signal-guns of distress were frequently heard, and the howlings of wolves, jackalls, etc., re-echoed through the mountains at the back of the camp in the intervals, whenever the thunder ceased. It is not in the power of language to convey an adequate idea of such a tempest.

Every effort was made to procure horses for the cavalry and artillery, and mules and camels for the stores, but the Turks, who had promised much, gave but little, consequently the cavalry was only in part mounted, and then badly. The Captain Pacha, who was to have joined with a flotilla of gunboats, did not keep time, and only a few gunboats came round; it then became evident that the Turkish contingent would not be ready.

G. O.

February the 16th, 1801.

As nearly as circumstances will permit, the dis-embarkation of the army will take place in the following order:-

1st. The infantry of the reserve with ten pieces of Light Artillery.

2nd. The brigade of Guards.

3rd. The remainder of the first line with six additional pieces of Light Artillery.

4th. The infantry of the second line.

5th. The mounted detachment of cavalry of the reserve and Brigadier Finch's brigade.

6th. The dismounted part of the same brigade.

7th. The pioneers of the army, the horse detachment of the artillery, and such additional pieces of ordnance and ammunition as may be wanted.

The Commander-in-Chief has much satisfaction in observing the behaviour of the troops in their transactions with the inhabitants during the stay of the army at Marmorice.

The army embarked on the 20th of February, but it was not until the 23rd that the fleet could weigh anchor, when it sailed with a very fresh breeze. The number of vessels was such, about 175 sail, as to require a complete day for the whole to assemble in the roads.

A great misfortune was the total want of information respecting Egypt. Not a map to be depended upon could be procured, and the best draft from which information could be formed, and which was distributed to the generals, proved ridiculously incorrect.

Sir Sydney Smith was the only officer who knew anything of the locality of the coast, and he certainly, as far as he had seen, gave perfect information. Colonel Rowland Hill was by him furnished with a map, which was found invaluable in the subsequent operations.

On the 1st of March, the leading frigate made the signal for land, which proved to be the coast near Arab's Tower, and on the next morning the whole fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay.

The state of the weather was such as to prevent the possibility of landing, but on the 7th, the weather having moderated, Sir Ralph Abercromby went in a boat to reconnoitre the shore. The wind continuing to moderate, and the swell of the sea subsiding, on the morning of the 8th, at two o'clock, the first division of the army, consisting of the reserve under the orders of Major-General Moore, the brigade of Guards, under Major-General Ludlow, and part of the 1st brigade, the whole amounting to about five thousand five hundred men, under the command of Major-General Coote, assembled in the boats, the remainder of the 1st and 2nd brigade being put into ships close to the shore, that a support might be given after the first landing was effected. At three o'clock, the signal was made for their proceeding to rendezvous near the Mondovi, anchored about gun-shot from the shore; but the extent of the anchorage was so great that the assembling and arrangement of the boats could not be completed till near nine o'clock.

At nine, the signal was made for the boats to advance, which they did swiftly and with regularity, notwithstanding the heavy fire which was brought to bear upon

them by the enemy's artillery advantageously posted on the sand-bills which skirted the beach, and also from the Castle of Aboukir. Undismayed by the hail of shot with which they were greeted, the men leaped on shore the moment the boats grounded, and forming up as they advanced, stormed the heights, which were in some parts very steep, and drove the French battalions before them, who, finding that the British were in full possession of the ridge, retreated behind the rear sand-bills, whence, for about an hour and a-half, they kept up a desultory fire. In the meantime the boats returned for the remainder of the army, which was all landed before night.

The French loss amounted to three hundred men and eight guns; that of the British to five hundred men.

As soon as the whole force had landed, a position was taken up about three miles distant from Aboukir, with the right resting on the sea, and the left on Lake Maadie. On the 12th, Sir Ralph Abercromby moved the army to Mandora Tower, about four miles, where it encamped in three lines. A body of French cavalry skirmished the whole way with the advanced guard, but no serious opposition was made.

On the 13th, the army marched to attack the French who were posted on a ridge of hills, the approach to which was perfectly open, and afforded a clear field of fire to their numerous artillery. As Sir Ralph Abercromby determined to turn their right, their left being refused, the English army marched in two lines and columns of regiments from the left, the reserve covering the movement on the right, and keeping parallel with the first line.

It had not advanced far out of the wood of date trees in front of Mandora Tower, before the enemy left the heights on which they had been formed, and moved down by their right, commencing a heavy fire of musketry and artillery upon the advanced guards of the British columns. The 92nd Regiment led the left, and the 90th the right column, under Colonel Rowland Hill. The advance of the advanced guard, consisting of the flank and two battalion companies, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Mackenzie, had only moved forward a short distance when the enemy opened fire, and a strong cavalry corps was observed preparing to charge; the advance was joined by the rest of the regiment, which forming up, as if on parade, awaited the onset of the French cavalry.

The 90th, wearing helmets at that time, was mistaken by the enemy for a body of dismounted cavalry; anticipating an easy victory over those whom they imagined would be fighting under difficulties, they charged boldly on, led by General Bron, and were allowed by the 90th to approach to within a few yards, when a withering volley broke their ranks, and a second forced them to retire - those who were carried forward by the impetuosity of the charge were bayoneted as they came up. The determined front shewn by the 90th on this occasion, was the means of saving Sir Ralph Abercromby from being made prisoner. He had had his horse shot under him, and was nearly surrounded by the enemy's troopers when he was rescued by a party of the regiment which moved forward to his assistance. Colonel Hill was struck from his horse early in the action by a musket bullet which

hit the rim of his helmet, and wounded him in the head. Colonel Mackenzie took command of the regiment, which, on the retreat of the French cavalry, was formed up with the remainder of the brigade by Major-General Craddock.

The army now formed in two lines, the reserve continuing in column on the right, the Guards in rear of the right of the second line as a support to the centre, and General Doyle's brigade moving in rear of the left in column. In this order the army pushed on with the greatest vigour, preserving always the strictest regularity of formation. The French kept up a constant fire of musketry and artillery, but did not afterwards oppose in line. As the army continued to advance, the French were compelled to quit their position, and retreat over the plain into their own lines on the heights before Alexandria. Sir Ralph Abercromby, wishing to follow up his success, and by a coup de main to carry the important position the French had now retired on, advanced across the plain, ordering General Hutchinson, with the second line, to move forwards to the left, and secure a projecting rising ground ; General Moore was directed to the right, that both flanks might be assaulted at the same time. The first line remained in the plain rather to the right. General Hutchinson advanced upon the green hill, and occupied the whole of it. The enemy now opened fire from all their field artillery and heavy ordnance, General Hutchinson's column found some shelter from the inequalities of the ground, and the reserve was protected by the broken surface of the soil on the right. The centre remained totally exposed.

Whilst Sir Ralph Abercromby reconnoitred, the army continued under the most terrible and destructive fire from the enemy's guns to which troops were ever exposed. The work of death was never more quick, nor was greater opportunity offered for destruction. The French, no longer in danger, had only to load and fire; aim was unnecessary; the bullets could not but do their office and plunge into the lines. For several hours did the English remain patiently suffering this exterminating fire. At length Sir Ralph Abercromby deemed it prudent not to attempt the forcing of the heights, and the army was, therefore, withdrawn at sunset, still marching as if on parade, and occupied the position it had won.

The loss of the English was about 1,100 men killed and wounded. The French did not suffer so much, but above 500 of them were put hors de combat. The casualties in the 90th were as follows:-22 rank and file killed; 8 Officers, 11 Sergeants, 203 rank and file wounded. The names of the officers wounded were Colonel Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel Vigoureux, Captains Austin and Edden, Lieutenants Jisdell, Cartwright, and Wright, Asst.-Surg. Lamerte.

The next day the Commander-in-Chief published the following order:-

Camp, four miles from Alexandria,  
4th March, 1801.

The Commander-in-Chief has the greatest satisfaction in thanking the troops for their soldier-like and intrepid conduct in the action of yesterday; he feels it incumbent on him particularly to express his most perfect satisfaction with the steady and gallant conduct of Major-General



Craddock's brigade, and he desires that Major-General Craddock will assure the officers and men of the 90th Regiment that their meritorious conduct commands his admiration. To the 92nd and Regiment of Dillon an equal share of praise is due, and, when it has been so well earned, the Commander-in-Chief has the greatest pleasure in bestowing it.

The army, independently of its severe military duties, was now incessantly and most laboriously at work in constructing the batteries, bringing up the guns, and forming a dépôt of heavy artillery and ammunition. The Captain Pacha, with the remainder of the cavalry, arrived on the 17th, and on the same day Aboukir Castle surrendered, it having been blockaded since the 13th.

Sir Ralph Abercromby's despatch, referring to the landing in Aboukir Bay and to the battle of Mandora, was not received until the 9th May.

Camp, before Alexandria,  
March 16th, 1801.

Sir,

Although it was not originally my intention to have commenced the operations of the British army in Egypt on the side of Alexandria, yet circumstances arose which induced me to change my opinion. We were much longer delayed on the coast of Asia Minor than we had at first any reason to apprehend, and we were ultimately obliged to sail for Marmorice in a very imperfect state of preparation. I am fully sensible of the exertions of his Majesty's Ambassador at the Ottoman Porte, as well as of the Quarter-Master-General and the other officers who were sent forward to provide for the necessities of the army. Our delays originated from other causes. For a considerable time previous to our sailing the weather was extremely boisterous and the winds contrary. The moment that it became practicable to sail with so large a fleet, Lord Keith put to sea; we left Marmorice on the 22nd of February, and came in sight of Alexandria on the 1st of March.

On the 2nd, the fleet anchored in Aboukir Bay. Until the 7th the sea ran high, and no disembarkation could be effected; on that day every arrangement was completed, and on the 8th, the troops forming the first division, got into the boats early in the morning; they had, in general, from five to six miles to row, and did not arrive at the point of landing till ten o'clock. The front of disembarkation was narrow, and a hill, which commanded the whole, seemed almost inaccessible. The enemy were fully aware of our intention, were in force, and had every advantage on their side. The troops, however, notwithstanding their being exposed to a very severe cannonade, and under the fire of grape shot, made good their landing, ascended the hill with an intrepidity scarcely to be paralleled, and forced the enemy to retire, leaving behind him seven pieces of artillery and a number of horses.

The disembarkation of the army continued on that and the following day.

The troops which landed on the 8th, advanced three miles the same day; and on the 12th, the whole army moved forward, and came within sight of the enemy, who was formed on an advantageous ridge, with his right to the canal of Alexandria, and his left towards the sea.

It was determined to attack them on the morning of the 13th, and, in consequence, the army marched in two lines by the left, with an intention to turn their right flank.

The troops had not long been in motion before the enemy descended from the heights on which they were formed, and attacked the leading brigades of both lines, which were commanded by Major-General Craddock and Major-General the Earl of Cavan.

The 90th Regiment formed the advanced guard of the front line, and the 92nd of the second ; both battalions suffered considerably, and behaved in such a manner as to merit the praise both of courage and discipline. Major-General Craddock immediately formed his brigade to meet the attack made by the enemy; and the troops changed their position with a quickness and precision which did them the greatest honour. The remainder of the army followed so good an example, and were immediately in a situation not only to face, but to repel the enemy.

I have the honour to be, etc.,  
RA. ABERCROMBY.

Captain McNair in a letter to Colonel Graham, dated the 17th of March, thus describes the battle of Mandora.

Near Alexandria, 17th March, 1801,

Dear Colonel,

With the most heartfelt satisfaction I congratulate you on the unparalleled gallantry of your regiment in the action of the 13th inst. The Commander-in-Chief was pleased to say we had gained immortal honour; we proved to our own army and also the enemy how futile the attempts of the most determined cavalry is on infantry that meet them with resolution. Col. Mackenzie, who commanded three companies for the support of the light company which was in front, behaved with singular coolness and most determined heroism. I had Mr. Wright wounded badly, and twenty-nine men killed and wounded of the light company; tho' unavoidably a good deal scattered, they individually stood firm to the cavalry and bayoneted some of them; I had five men cut with sabres, but none killed. Col. Vigoureux was wounded early in the day, and Colonel Hill soon after; our wounded in general are doing well. The fire the cavalry received from the regiment when formed, and their

charge, astonished the whole army.... Captain Napier was not touched; his company suffered severely.

In haste, I have the honour to be,  
Dear Sir,  
Yours most faithfully,  
JOHN McNAIR.

Colonel Hill, after the action of Mandora, was taken on board the Foudroyant, the flagship of his friend Lord Keith, from which, when partially recovered from his wound, he wrote to Colonel Graham the following letter:-

Foudroyant, Aboukir Bay,  
April 4th, 1801.

My dear Sir,

Although the surgeons have desired me not to write (in consequence of the wound I have received in my head), yet I cannot resist this opportunity of sending you a few lines to give you some little account of your regiment. The public despatches will give every public information, therefore what I am able to say shall be confined principally to the 90th. We anchored here on the 2nd of March, the landing was gallantly made near Aboukir on the 8th; our brigade, Major-General Craddock's, was not engaged; in the evening we marched about two miles in the country and remained quiet till the 12th, when the whole army moved forward about three miles, and we perceived the enemy strongly posted on high ground near three miles in our front. It was then agreed to attack him next morning; accordingly the whole of our army was under arms at daybreak; the 90th was ordered to lead the first line, and the 92nd the second. About seven the whole marched in column of companies, the left in front; the light company was advanced and was furiously attacked by the cavalry, but McNair, his officers and men, were steady and firm, and gave them such a reception with musketry that many were killed and others thrown into the greatest confusion. I instantly formed line on the left, and the whole regiment was engaged. The enemy was on commanding ground, and kept up a very heavy fire of grape and musketry.

We advanced and drove the French from the first position. I then, with the bugle-horn, halted the regiment and ceased firing, and, correcting our line, advanced with the greatest regularity to the second hill, where we were opposed with a very heavy fire; we had nearly gained the height, when I was wounded and fell from my horse, and carried out of the field. The enemy continued to retreat till he arrived at his present position. I am convinced it will give you great pleasure to hear that your regiment behaved well, I shall, therefore, not only give you my opinion of the 90th, but likewise inclose you the orders given out in consequence of the

action of the 13th instant. Every officer of the regiment behaved so extremely well, that I cannot particularise anyone; when I mention officers, I am sure I may include non-commissioned officers and men, for I am certain every individual showed the greatest bravery. Col. Mackenzie's merits you are well acquainted with I know; but at the same time, I think it is my duty, as well as my inclination, to represent him to you as a most deserving and valuable officer, his conduct on every occasion has been for the good of the regiment and the service.

Our loss has been very great; I have not yet got an exact return, but hope to have one before the Flora sails, and will inclose it you. My wound, thank God! is not much; my helmet saved my life; a ball struck me in the front, just on the peak, which is covered with brass and resisted the ball so much that it did not enter my head, but flattened the helmet, which made a small wound, but violent contusion. I suffered a great deal of pain for some days, but am now much better; my right eye is very weak, and I must, by the advice of the surgeon, remain some days longer on board this ship with your friend, and mine, Lord Keith.

Colonel Vigoureux's wound is in the knee, and I am afraid is bad; the surgeons say there is little chance of his recovering without the loss of his leg. Capts. Edden and Austin are slightly wounded. Messrs. Cartwright, Wright, and Lamerte, I hope, are not in danger. Your friend, Genl. Hope, is in the cabin with me, he has lost the fore finger and part of the next on the right hand, he seems to suffer pain, but I understand he is doing well. Genls. Moore and Oakes are both wounded in the leg, neither of them dangerously.

Your much obliged  
and very sincere,  
R. H."

On the 20th, a column of infantry and cavalry was perceived passing over the ground adjacent to Lake Mareotis into Alexandria, and an Arab chief sent in a letter to Sir Sidney Smith, acquainting him of the arrival of General Menou, with a large army, and that it was his intention to surprise and attack the British camp the next morning. The intelligence so forwarded, though not fully credited, was true, for at 4 a.m. on the morning of the 21st, the French columns moved forward to the attack, General Menou's plan being to make a feint against the British left wing, and occupy its attention while the main part of his army forced their centre, and wheeling round to the right drive the British troops into Lake Maadie. This plan, though able, was not carried out, for General Craddock's brigade prevented any forward movement against the left; while Generals Moore and Oakes defeated all attempts made upon an old Roman camp, which formed a main feature on the right. Towards the end of the battle the English regiments lacked ammunition, and General Menou, finding that every one of his movements had failed, and that the British lines had suffered no serious impression to justify the hopes of an eventual

success, determined on a retreat, and retired in good order under the heights of their position.

In this action the 90th had one man wounded, the total British loss being 6 officers and 233 men killed, 60 officers and 1,190 men wounded, 3 officers and 2 men missing. On the ground were found 1,700 French killed and wounded, 1,040 of whom were buried two days after on the field of battle.

The conduct of the troops cannot but excite wonder in military men, of whatever nation they may be. Surrounded, partly broken, without ammunition, still to continue the contest, and remain conquerors, is an extraordinary evidence of intrepidity, discipline, and inherent good conduct. This splendid victory was clouded by the news which passed from corps to corps at the end of the struggle, that the noble old chief, who had posted them so judiciously and led them so gallantly, was dangerously wounded. Ever foremost in the fight, he was struck in the thigh by a bullet early in the morning, but continued walking about and directing the battle until the retreat of the enemy's columns assured him that the victory was his, then he acknowledged the severity of his sufferings and allowed his wounds to be dressed. He was taken on board the *Foudroyant*, and placed in the same cabin as Colonel Hill, who, with the deepest sorrow, saw him sink gradually until the 28th, when he breathed his last, mourned for by every soldier in the army he had so gallantly commanded.

While on board ship, Colonel Hill had an interview with the Captain Pacha, who presented him with a sabre, a gold box, and a handsome shawl, as a testimony of admiration of the gallant manner in which he had led the 90th Regiment on the 13th.

On the death of Sir Ralph Abercromby, the command devolved upon Lieutenant-General Hely Hutchinson, who began by fortifying and strengthening his position. Colonel Spencer, with a small force, was sent on the 2nd of April to endeavour to obtain possession of Rosetta, which place he captured on the 8th, the French retiring on El Hamed.

In order to secure the left and part of the front of his army, General Hutchinson gave orders to cut through the canal of Alexandria, and so let the waters of the sea into the dry bed of Lake Mareotis. The men set to work with pleasure, an eye-witness observing,- Never did a working party labour with more zeal; every man would have volunteered with cheerfulness to assist. Four cuts were made of six yards in breadth, and about ten from each other, a little in advance of the farthest redoubt, but only two could be opened the first night. At seven o'clock in the evening the last fascine was removed, and joy was universal. The water rushed in with a fall of six feet, and the pride and peculiar care of Egypt, the consolidation of ages, was in a few hours destroyed.

On the 13th, in consequence of this inundation, the 18th, 79th, 90th, and a detachment of the 11th Light Dragoons marched to support Colonel Spencer. Colonel Rowland Hill joined the 90th the next day at El Hamed, where it remained until the 5th of May, when a force, composed of the brigades of Generals Craddock and Doyle, and four thousand Turks under Caia Bey, and twelve field

pieces, moved forward under the command of General Hutchinson. After advancing twelve miles, the army encamped, remaining stationary until the 8th, when it took possession of El Aft, a strong position on the canal which had been evacuated by the French the night before. The next morning the army moved towards Rhamanieh, and when within about four miles of the place, was attacked by the French cavalry and light troops, the remainder of their forces being advantageously posted near the town. General Hutchinson imagining that the enemy might endeavour to retreat on Alexandria, advanced with General Craddock's and General Doyle's brigade in line, that the canal might be completely gained, inclining to the right as he approached the canal, refusing his left, to rest that flank upon the Turks.

The French cavalry, when they saw the army advancing, deployed into line, taking post between Lacana and Mehallet Daout, so as to menace in flank and rear any movement made across the canal. During this deployment two British guns cannonaded them. General Hutchinson seeing the movement of the enemy's cavalry, determined now to wait until Colonel Stuart, who had proceeded towards Dessong, might be enabled to erect batteries which must force the enemy to leave their camp. In the meantime a smart fire was kept up by the French sharpshooters upon our line, to check which, flankers from each regiment were sent out to cover the front. At night-fall all firing ceased, and the men, tired with the excessive fatigue of the day, lay down to rest on the ground. A considerable time before daylight the whole were under arms. As soon as day dawned, the troops moved to occupy their appointed positions, previous to the attack. While these movements were going on, an officer with a flag of truce came out from the fort and offered, on the part of his commander, to surrender it at discretion. According to General Hutchinson's despatch, one hundred and ten men marched out of the fort; the remainder of the French force, amounting to about four thousand infantry and eight hundred cavalry, retreated in the direction of Cairo, whither General Hutchinson determined to follow them. Accordingly, on the 11th of May, the army advanced, halting in the evening on the banks of the Nile, at Shibraghite, about twelve miles distant from Rhamanieh. The next morning the troops marched to Kaf Haudrig, at which place they remained on the 13th to enable the gunboats to come up.

On the 14th, the columns pushed forward to Shabour, on the 15th to Zowaff, and on the 16th to Algam, where, on the 17th, news was brought that a considerable body of the French was advancing to a point on the Nile about a league in rear of the English head-quarters. It proved to be a convoy of 600 French, with 400 camels, coming from Alexandria. They surrendered to General Doyle, who, with some cavalry, had moved off to intercept them. The army remained at Algam until the 1st of June, when it moved to Mishlee, Colonel Stuart with his force keeping pace on the opposite bank, where it remained until the 4th, when it marched to Lochmas, advancing the next day to Verdam.

The sickness of the troops now increased to an alarming degree, there being at this time one thousand who had returned to Rosetta or were in two days afterwards in such a state as to render expedient the establishment of an hospital camp on the

point of the Delta. Notwithstanding the sufferings to which they were exposed, the British troops pushed on with determination, their spirits rising more and more as they neared Cairo. On the 7th, they were at Erhou; on the 9th, at Burtos ; on the 15th, at Tinash; and on the 16th, encamped at Shubrah, a suburb of Cairo, where they remained until the 21st, when the English army advanced to within a mile and a-half of Giza, encamping in two lines with their left on Dochi, and the right on Zaneen. Night and day the troops were occupied in dragging up the heavy guns and requisite ammunition, and every preparation was made for an attack, when early on the 22nd, a French officer from Giza, with a flag of truce, was brought in to the General. He came from General Belliard to require that an English officer might be sent to a conference he proposed. Accordingly General Hope met a French Colonel of Engineers, Touissard, near Giza, the result of their meeting being that the French General Morand visited General Hope the next morning to arrange for the evacuation of Cairo, and the return of its garrison to France. The articles were definitely agreed to on the 26th, and the capitulation was signed the following day.

The capitulation of Cairo crowned the daring march which General Hutchinson's judgment planned, and his resolution persevered in. Its conquest secured Egypt, and, without the most improbable misfortunes, the speedy fall of Alexandria.

Camp near Cairo, July 13th, 1801.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Hely Hutchinson, K.B., has received His Majesty's orders to return the general officers and soldiers of the army his thanks for the brilliant services they have rendered their country, and for the manner in which they sustained and increased the honour of the British name and the glory of the British arms. You landed in Egypt to attack an enemy, superior in numbers, provided with a formidable body of cavalry and artillery, accustomed to the climate, flushed with former victory, and animated by a consciousness of hard and well-earned renown. Notwithstanding these advantages, you have constantly seen a warlike and victorious enemy fly before you and you are now in possession of the capital. Such are the effects of order, discipline, and obedience; without which, even courage itself must be unavailing, and success can be but momentary. Such, also, are the incitements, which ought to induce you to persevere in a conduct, which has led you to victory, has acquired you the applause of your sovereign, the thanks of parliament, and the gratitude of your country.

To such high authorities it would be superfluous in me to add my testimony, but be assured your services and conduct have made the deepest impression on my heart, and never can be eradicated from my memory. During the course of this arduous undertaking, you have suffered some privations, which you have borne with the firmness of men and the spirit of soldiers. On such painful occasions, no man has ever felt

more sensibly than I have done. But you yourselves must know that they are the natural consequences and effects of war, which no human prudence can obviate ; every exertion has been made to diminish their extent and duration - they have ceased, and I hope are never likely to return.

Nothing now remains to terminate your glorious career but the final expulsion of the French from Egypt, an event which your country anticipates, and a service which, to such troops as you are, can neither be doubtful nor difficult. The prevalence of contrary winds has prevented the arrival of ships from England with money.

Your pay has been in arrear, but this inconvenience is now at an end, and everything that is due shall be put in a course of payment, and discharged as soon as possible.

J. H. HUTCHINSON.

At the same time as the publication of the above, the following message was communicated to the troops:-

May 18th, 1801.

By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled,  
RESOLVED,

That this House doth highly approve of, and acknowledge the distinguished regularity, discipline, coolness, and valour displayed by the non-commissioned officers and private soldiers of the army serving under the command of the late Sir Ralph Abercromby, K. B., in the memorable and brilliant operations in Egypt, and that the same be signified to them by the commanders of the several corps, who are directed to thank them for their distinguished and exemplary conduct.

While in camp near Cairo, the officers and men of the 90th were gladdened by a letter from their Colonel, who wrote to Colonel Rowland Hill from London.

May 23rd, 1801.

Dear Hill,

I rejoice to hear you are doing so well, and sincerely congratulate you on the conduct of the regiment, which I never doubted would distinguish itself, though certainly the occasion was the most trying possible, and its behaviour has established its reputation for ever. I am extremely hurried, and have only time to request you will assure them all of the pride and satisfaction I have felt on this glorious occasion.

With the best and sincerest wishes,

I remain,

Ever most truly yours,

THOS. GRAHAM.



This letter was soon after followed by Colonel Graham in person. On his arrival in England from Malta, hearing of the gallant deeds of his regiment, he quickly made arrangements for rejoining it, and on the 22nd of July issued the following order:-

22nd July, 1801.

Though Colonel Graham took the first opportunity to express to the officers and men of the regiment, when under arms this morning, the sense he entertained of their conduct, yet, desiring that his acknowledgment may be known to every individual belonging to it, and that it may stand recorded, he cannot refrain from repeating it to them in orders.

The applause of the late Commander-in-Chief given in general orders, after the action of the 13th of March, has stamped the character of the regiment. The impartial judgment of that great officer, himself all eyewitness of their steadiness and intrepidity on that trying occasion, can never be questioned, and it must ever afford the most heartfelt gratification to those who merited such a distinction. Colonel Graham is aware that after such a testimony, nothing he can say can add to their satisfaction; but having been prevented, by circumstances, from sharing in their glory, he assures them that he most sincerely participates in all their feelings, and those of exultation must be mingled with regret for the loss of so many brave men as fell on that day. It is impossible on remarking on the circumstances of an action where the most determined valour would not have been sufficient to prevent confusion without the aid of the most perfect discipline, not to request the field officers, who have during Colonel Graham's absence maintained and improved that system, to accept his sincere and cordial thanks for their unremitting exertions. The regiment will feel the loss of one of them (Lieutenant - Colonel Mackenzie) promoted in another corps, but His Majesty's gracious attention to the merit of the regiment in filling up the vacancies in succession will be an additional incitement to all to exert themselves, and the 90th Regiment will ever support the high character they have so justly acquired.

During the night of the 10th, the French evacuated Cairo, but it was not until the 15th, at daybreak, that they gave up possession of Giza, and with the allied army began their march for Rosetta. The Turks preceded, the British army followed; then the French, numbering 14,200 men, with flanking parties of their own cavalry on the left, and the English cavalry, with two beydoms of mamelukes, closed the rear. Owing to the sickness of Generals Hutchinson and Craddock, General Moore commanded the army.

At Déronite, the French passed the English in order to be ready for embarkation. The real effective state of their army was then ascertained, as the principal English officers posted themselves at a narrow pass to see them file by. They could scarcely, however, credit their own sight when they beheld so large an army, with fifty pieces of artillery and its complement of ammunition, defile before them. It was now that, connecting this unexpectedly formidable power -with the rising of the Nile, which at this time began to reach the top of its banks, the true importance of the capitulation was acknowledged.

On the 28th, the armies encamped at El Hamed, and on the 31st, the first division of the French, marched to the point of embarkation. Their departure occupied ten days, the divisions of shipping sailing as soon as each was ready.

The army was redistributed on the 9th of August, the 90th forming part of the 3rd Brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General Hope, which joined the camp at Alexandria on the 11th; General Hutchinson resumed command on the 15th, and expressed his intention of immediately besieging Alexandria; General Hope's brigade moving into the front line on the following day. The siege was vigorously carried out, and on the 30th, General Hope went into the town to sign the capitulation. On the 3rd of September, the 90th took possession of one of the gates of the city, and the Egyptian campaign was terminated. The garrison of Alexandria, from a return furnished by General Menou, amounted to 10,528 men of all ranks.

Colonel Graham left Egypt for Constantinople on the 6th of September, and before his departure, was presented with a sabre taken at Mandora.

Camp before Alexandria,

16th August, 1801.

Sir,

It is highly gratifying to my feelings to have the honour, at the request of the officers of the Ninetieth Regiment in Egypt, to present to you in their names a Damascus sabre - taken in the action of the thirteenth of March last, when the French cavalry (so much celebrated in Europe) charged your regiment, and was so gallantly repulsed by it alone, although in a situation the most advantageous for the enemy - in testimony of the high sense they entertain of the great obligations they are under to the zealous patriotism and military abilities displayed by you in establishing that systematic order and discipline in the regiment, that has enabled it, under circumstances the most trying that, perhaps, ever presented themselves to a corps, to acquire Honourable laurels to itself, and to contribute to the glory of the Empire.

I have the Honour to be,  
With highest respect and regard, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
R. HILL, Lt.-Col. 90th Regt.  
and Colonel."

COLONEL GRAHAM,  
90th Regiment.

The 90th Regiment was inspected by General Hope on the 8th, who, at the conclusion of the inspection, said to Colonel Hill

Sir, - Considering the service your regiment has gone through, it is impossible a regiment can be more complete than the 90th is at present; I have minutely inspected into every part of it, and it is with pleasure I tell you that the whole corps does you and the officers the greatest credit.

The first division of the French troops left Egypt on the 14th, and were followed by the remainder as fast as ships could be procured for their transport. The English regiments embarked as soon as possible, some proceeding to Gibraltar for further service, others to Malta.

For their services in the campaign, each regiment was allowed to carry in their colours the emblem of a Sphinx, and to have the word "Egypt" inscribed.

The whole of the officers present in Egypt received gold medals from the Sultan, to perpetuate the services rendered to the Ottoman empire, those of the 90th being:-

Colonel Rowland Hill.  
Major John McNair.  
George Vigoureux.  
Captain Mark Napier.  
Francis Eddins.  
William Cartwright.  
William Austin.  
Lieutenant Andrew Wood.  
Richard Butler.  
Horner Tisdall.  
Samuel Colberg.  
John Patterson.  
Thomas Webster.  
Anthony Power.  
Thomas Wright.  
John Hales.  
Richard Butler.  
Benjamin Preedy.  
William Scholey.  
Adjutant Dolittle.  
Surgeon James Anderson.  
Asst. Surgeon M. Lamerte.

On the 21st of September, the 90th marched from Alexandria and embarked on board the Europa for Malta, at which place the regiment arrived on the 9th of

October, remaining in quarantine until the 15th, when it landed and took up its quarters in Fort Manuel.

G. O. Hd.-Qrs., 17th October, 1801.

No. 1. - The infantry of the line to be divided into three divisions, under Major-Generals Coote, Craddock, and Villette, until further orders, who will take immediate superintendence and inspection of them.

2nd Division-Major-Gen. Craddock.

27th Regiment.

30th do.

35th (two battalions).

90th do.

The following regimental order describes the uniform worn by the officers and men of the regiment at that date.

Regimental Order. Octr. 27th, 1801.

As General Fox intends to inspect the regiment on Thursday morning, Colonel Hill desires every officer will exert himself for the good appearance of the regiment, and take care that the men's arms, accoutrements, and clothing are clean and in good order, that the blankets are well washed and neatly folded up, that the men's hair is well tied and dressed at the sides, and that the officers themselves are properly regimentally dressed. Uniform-jacket, red waistcoat, and buff breeches, long gaiters, helmet, and regimental sword and feather. This regulation of dress to be strictly observed at all times till further orders. The officers are likewise desired to wear powder.

During the stay of the 90th in Malta, Colonel Hill exerted himself to ensure the comfort and happiness of all under his command. The accompanying order shews fully how deep an interest he took in the welfare of the noncommissioned officers and privates.

Regimental Order. 17th November, 1801.

The plan adopted in Minorca for the Serjeants to mess together was so respectable and advantageous, that Colonel Hill is desirous of establishing it again, and, in order to put it on the most comfortable footing, every encouragement and assistance will be given. The internal regulation of the mess will be formed by its own members, but subject to the inspection and approbation of the commanding officer of his regiment. Colonel Hill is likewise anxious to reestablish a school, and he promises every encouragement to those who are desirous of improving themselves by so useful an institution. The school and mess will commence immediately; Corporal Anderson, who is appointed Lance

Serjeant, will instruct the scholars in reading, writing, and accounts. Assistant-Serjeant-Major McFarland will superintend the school, and likewise give his assistance in the management of the Serjeant's mess. Serjeant McFarland's conduct on all occasions has been so meritorious, that the commanding officer regrets he cannot be more actively employed; but although Serjeant McFarland from the wound he has received will for some time be prevented from doing his duty in the field, yet Colonel Hill is convinced that his example and services will be of advantage to the regiment, particularly in the situation he is now placed. On the 26th of November, the 90th moved from Fort Manuel to Fort St. Elmo, where it remained during the rest of the stay in the island. In December, the regiment was startled and annoyed by a rumour that the men were to be called on to volunteer for some of the older regiments, with a view to the reduction of the corps. In consequence of these reports, Colonel Hill applied to General Fox, the officer in command of the forces in the Mediterranean, from whom he received a letter distinctly contradicting them.

Head-Quarters, Malta, 12th Dec., 1801.

Sir,

General Fox being informed that a report has been circulated that the men of the 90th Regiment would be allowed to enlist in the older regiments, I am directed by His Excellency to say that such report is without any foundation, and that the reason of the 90th not being included in the number of regiments allowed to enlist men from the ancient Irish Fencibles, is that the 90th being looked upon as a national regiment, the recruiting of it is to be confined as much as possible to North Britons.

I have the honour to be,  
etc., etc., etc.,  
(Signed) J. HOPE, D.A.G."

At this time a compliment was paid to the regiment by the selection of one of the noncommissioned officers for promotion to the rank of Serjeant-Major in another corps.

R.M.O.

Malta, 13th Decr., 1801.

Colonel Hill has made the following promotions:

Serjeant Goddard to the Light Infantry, vice Serjeant Millar promoted to be Serjeant-Major in the 8th Regiment.

On the 25th of February, 1802, the 90th embarked on board the Alexandria frigate, and the Orpheus and Ranger transports for conveyance to England. After a long and rough voyage, the regiment landed at Chatham on the 15th of April, and

proceeded at once by march to take up quarters at Chelmsford, where it remained for a few months. About the middle of the year, the 90th marched from Chelmsford to Fort George, in Scotland, under the impression that on arrival it would be disbanded. The unsettled state of Europe at that time, however, rendered it necessary to increase rather than reduce the army, and orders were received for recruiting parties to be sent out both in England and Scotland. The regiment was now raised to its full strength, and on the 23rd of March, 1803, proceeded from Fort George to Belfast, where it arrived on the 29th.

On the 21st of August, the 90th marched from Belfast to Athlone. While quartered there, Colonel Hill was appointed a Brigadier-General, and was ordered to proceed to Loughrea.

Before retiring from the regiment which he had so long ably commanded, the officers presented him with the following address

Athlone, 1st September, 1803-

The officers of the 90th Regiment in expressing to Colonel Hill their unfeigned and heartfelt pleasure on learning of his appointment of Brigadier-General to the forces, must, at the same time, assure him that his resigning the command of the regiment fills them with sentiments of the most lively and deep regret. On their taking their farewell of an officer who has ever stood so high in their estimation, they feel themselves called upon to declare that the discipline he maintained in the regiment has ever gained it the distinguished praise and approbation of all the General Officers they have ever served with - a discipline so tempered with mildness that must have endeared him to every individual in the regiment, as well as his attention to their individual interests.

But their gratitude and private feelings must now give way and be subordinate to the public service, and it is only left for them to indulge the hope that it may be their good fortune to serve under his command, and eventually in his brigade.

They are proud to think and reflect on the distinguished honours they gained in Egypt, when he gloriously fell wounded at their head, and hope under his command they may acquire additional glory in future and no less important services.

They finally beg leave to assure him that their best wishes for his welfare and happiness ever attend him and that in every honour he may acquire, they will, though absent, always participate.

Signed in the name, and at the request, of all the officers of the 90th Regiment.

RUTHVEN,  
Major, commanding the 90th Regiment.

From Athlone the 90th proceeded to Ballinasloe on the 9th of September, whence, after a sojourn of a few weeks, it moved in three divisions to Tuam,

where, on arrival, it was inspected by the Commander of the Forces in Ireland, and the next day the following order was published by Brigadier-General Hill.

Divisional Order.

Tuam, 1st November, 1803-

After the very high manner in which the Commander of the Forces was pleased to express his approbation of the appearance and discipline of the 90th Regiment yesterday, any encomium of Brigadier-General Hill is unnecessary, yet he cannot miss the opportunity of requesting Major McNair's, the officer's, and regiment's acceptance of his warmest thanks for their steady perseverance in discipline, and to assure them that it will ever afford him sincere satisfaction to bear testimony of their good conduct.

By order of Brigadier-General Hill,  
(Signed) EDWARD CURRIE,  
Brigade-Major.

The regiment remained at Tuam until the 11th of April, 1804, when it was ordered to Dublin, where, shortly after its arrival, it received a most gratifying proof of the estimation in which it was held by the inhabitants of the district in which it had been lately stationed.

Regimental Orders.

Dublin, 1st May, 1804.

The commanding officer has much satisfaction in directing the following address from the principal inhabitants of Tuam to be inserted in the orderly books of the regiment, and he has no doubt that the 90th will always support the character they have justly acquired.

At a meeting of the principal inhabitants of Tuam, Sir Thomas French, Bart., in the chair; it was unanimously agreed that the following address be signed by the chairman and presented to Major McNair, commanding the 90th Regiment.

Sir,

We feel it highly incumbent on us to express our great regret at your removal from this garrison, though it affords us an opportunity of publicly declaring that the conduct of both officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates of the 90th Regiment during the time they were quartered here, was such as has engaged the warm wishes and attachment not only from us, but from all ranks in this town and neighbourhood.

Resolved,-

That the above address, with Major McNair's answer, be published in the Dublin Evening Post.

(Signed) THOMAS FRENCH."

Answer

Sir,

I have the honour of acknowledging, with high consideration, the receipt of an address from the principal inhabitants of Tuam, and have to request that you, as chairman of the meeting, will be pleased to signify to the members thereof, that the officers of the 90th Regiment are highly sensible of the honour conferred on them by the good opinion of gentlemen whose urbanity and polite hospitality they will have sincere pleasure in holding in grateful remembrance.

I receive with great satisfaction such honourable testimony of the propriety of conduct of the noncommissioned officers and privates of the regiment during their residence at Tuam, at the same time I gratify my own feelings in saying that they experienced every friendly attention from the inhabitants of all ranks of the town and neighbourhood.

I have, etc., etc.,

(Signed) JOHN McNAIR,

Comdg., 90th Regiment.

When on the staff in Ireland, Colonel Graham had many opportunities of superintending the management of his regiment, and particularly interested himself in its training as a Light Infantry battalion.

Regimental Orders.

Tuam, 29th Jan., 1804.

Colonel Graham is always highly gratified by seeing the 90th Regiment. He is proud of his attachment to it, and he feels confident that the same spirit which has raised its character so high will ever maintain it unsullied.

In an open country, the readiness and precision with which every movement, under the immediate guidance of the officers, is performed, would give the bravery of the regiment every advantage that could be wished for, but in meeting an enemy in a broken and enclosed country, such as Ireland is from one end to the other, every means should be taken to prevent victory costing the lives of more gallant men than is necessary. To obtain this important object, the regiment ought not only to be perfect in Light Infantry movements which are so peculiarly adapted to the circumstances of service in this country, but as great extension may be often necessary, and as on these occasions the attention of the officers cannot be given to every man's conduct, the soldiers must learn how most to annoy the enemy with the least risk to themselves. In time of action they must individually possess themselves, maintaining that coolness which distinguishes true courage, so as to be able to take advantage of any favourable circumstance that will enable them to advance under cover, at the same time paying a strict obedience to any signals that may



be made them by their superiors. By much practice across the country a knowledge of ground will be acquired both by the officers and men; they will individually become acquainted with the nature of this kind of service, and on all occasions, knowing what is best to be done, will acquire confidence so as not to be too anxious if separated for a short time from their comrades; officers are expected to be unremitting in their exertions to become perfectly masters of every part of their duty, and on their intelligence and activity the instructions of the men must depend relative to the objects which are recommended as so necessary and important. This instruction must be given on the spot; it is scarcely possible to explain by any general rule what must vary according to the circumstances of the moment; but the leading principle that should govern the conduct of all officers in the command of detachments, great or small, is to prevent their men being exposed in close order to the fire of an enemy that is not seen. It is evident that a few men scattered along and covered by a fence will successfully maintain their ground against an infinitely greater number drawn up in close order and remaining stationary in the middle of the field, for their fire is ineffectual, while every shot from the fence must strike a collected body. An extended line must therefore, always cover the front of the main body till a favourable opportunity offers of advancing rapidly and charging the enemy. The skirmishers must avoid, too, as much as possible, remaining stationary in an open situation, but will gain ground from a flank under cover where it can be found, or, if necessary, advance to the front in extended line with as much rapidity as possible from one fence to another.

Colonel Graham need not recommend it to the commanding officer to lose no opportunity when the weather will permit of carrying on the usual instruction of the young officers and recruits, and the important exercise of Light Infantry movements across the enclosures. He will be extremely anxious to receive information of the progress of the regiment, and he requests that on the back of the weekly states sent him, a memo. should be made of the days of such practice, noticing if any of the officers are absent, and why.

(Signed) THOS. GRAHAM.

On the 8th of August, orders were received from London directing that a second battalion should be formed from the men to be raised under the Defence Act, in place of that drafted into the Navy as marines in 1796.

On the 20th of October, the 90th (1st batt.) marched from Dublin to Youghal, whence it embarked on the 26th of January, 1805, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel John McNair, for service in the West Indies. On arriving at Barbadoes in March, the regiment was detained on board the transports for upwards of three weeks to be in readiness for immediate service, and then proceeded to St. Vincent, where it was quartered.

In the first year of its service in the West Indies, i.e., from the 11th of April, 1805, to the 11th of April, 1806, the regiment suffered very severely from the climate, no fewer than eight officers and 136 men falling victims to it.

In September, 1806, Lieutenant-General Bowyer inspected the corps.

General Order,

18th September, 1806.

Head-Quarters, St. Vincent.

The Commander of the Forces having completed his inspection of the troops, barracks, hospitals, and fortifications at Fort Charlotte and Dorsetshire hill, takes the earliest opportunity of expressing his approbation of the high order and condition in which he has found the whole to be, and it affords him great satisfaction to have it in his power in the execution of the most pleasing part of his duty to report to His Royal Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, the system established for carrying on the duties and discipline of this garrison by his Excellency Lieutenant-General Beckwith, as well as the soldier-like appearance of the troops in general, particularly the 90th or Perthshire Regiment, which he has no doubt, whenever opportunity offers, will add fresh laurels to those it has so gloriously gained in Egypt.

(Signed) ADOLPHUS HUMBER,  
Depy. Adjt.-General."

During the years 1807 and 1808, the 90th remained at St. Vincent, performing the duties of the garrison to the satisfaction of all. The strength of the regiment was kept up to its full complement, as, although the West Indian islands had been comparatively quiet for the past few years, still, the war with France continuing, the troops forming their garrisons might at any moment be called upon to act either in attack or defence.

In the latter part of 1808, it was decided that the Island of Martinique should, if possible, be wrested from the French, and as Sir George Beckwith, the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in the Windward and Leeward islands, had a large body of troops at his disposal, no doubts were entertained of his ultimate success.

Before leaving the island, the following letters were received by the 90th Regiment, and prove that the conduct of the corps had been most exemplary during its stay at St. Vincent.

Letter from Sir Charles Brisbane, Governor of St. Vincent.,

Government House  
12th January, 1808.

Sir,

I beg leave, before your departure from this island, to express the very great regard and respect I entertain for you, the officers and men, and

every person attached to the 90th Regiment, and to signify my sincere and best wishes for your success and prosperity in every arduous undertaking. The very correct and proper line of conduct by which you and the corps have regulated themselves since their arrival in this island, merits the warmest acknowledgments from every inhabitant in this colony, and I sincerely hope that your military career may be crowned with glory and receive the well-merited approbation of your king and country.

CH. BRISBANE.

LIEUT.-COLONEL McNAIR,  
Comdg. 90th Regiment.

12th January, 1809.

The Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly to Lieutenant-Colonel McNair and officers of the 90th Regiment.

Gentlemen,

Permit us, previously to your departure from this colony, to pay our tribute of acknowledgment for the exemplary discipline evinced during your residence in this island, and of our high esteem of your conduct as a corps and as individuals.

With a high military character already obtained under the lamented Abercromby, you have united and blended the qualities of good and peaceful citizens; nor can we forbear now declaring that since you have been in the colony, no instance has occurred of a deviation from the laws of the country.

Our regret at parting with so distinguished a regiment is lessened by the assurance of the success and honour that awaits it, and we shall look forward with solicitude for your glory and speedy return.

(Signed) E. SHARPE.

Speaker.

St. Vincent.

At a meeting of His Majesty's Council, held at Kingston, on Wednesday, the 18th of January, 1809.

Present :-

The Honourable Henry Haffey, President.

Charles Grant.

Joseph Warner.

John Roach Dasent.

William John Struth.

Resolved,-

That the thanks of this House be conveyed through the President to Lieutenant-Colonel McNair and the officers of the 90th Regiment for the high discipline they have preserved in that regiment during the time in

which they have remained in this colony, and also to the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment for the peaceable and orderly manner in which they have demeaned themselves during the same period, by means whereof the internal security of the colony has been preserved; and the inhabitants confiding in the distinguished valour and courage heretofore displayed by the regiment in the plains of Egypt, have relied upon the successful exercise of the same in repelling any hostile attack on the sovereignty of this island.

By command,  
(Signed) M. REILLY,  
Dy. Clerk of the Council."

Council Chamber,  
January 18th, 1809.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you a copy of the Resolution of the Council passed this day.

I feel particular satisfaction in making this communication to you, in a small degree of pride, having had the honour of being on the most intimate terms of friendship with your very correct and much distinguished regiment from the period of your arrival at Barbadoes in April, 1805. The sentiments of the Council coincide with those of the whole community, and if the service of the 90th Regiment should be required to act against the enemy, with solicitude we shall look forward for your return with addition to the very high military character you have acquired.

I remain, etc., etc.,  
(Signed) HENRY HAFHEY,  
President of the Council.

To LIEUT.-COLONEL MCNAIR,  
Comdg. 90th Regiment.

On the 28th of January, the army, formed in two divisions, commanded respectively by Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost and Major-General Maitland, sailed from Carlisle Bay and landed on the Island of Martinique on the 30th.

The first division, consisting of between six and seven thousand men, landed at Bay Robert on the windward coast, without opposition, and, notwithstanding the difficulties of the country, occupied a position on the banks of the Grande Lézar River before daybreak on the 31st. The second division, in which was the 90th Regiment, disembarked near St. Luce and Point Solomon, on the morning of the 30th, meeting with no resistance, and marched at once to Anse Ceron, and on the following day to Rivière Sallée. On the 2nd of February, the division moved to Lamantin, where the main body of the enemy's militia was overtaken, and where it

surrendered, the men agreeing to disperse and return to their plantations. From Lamantin, General Maitland advanced, on the 3rd, to within gun-shot of Fort Dessaix. Batteries were at once constructed, and opened fire that night on Pigeon Island, which surrendered on the 4th. On the 5th, the troops marched to La Coste, and, uniting with the first division, completed the investment of Fort Royal on the west side.

Camp la Coste, Febry. 8th, 1809.

Sir,

I have every reason to be highly satisfied with the troops I have the honour to command; neither officers nor soldiers have failed in exertion, and in bearing the great fatigues of the march with exemplary fortitude.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

FRED. MAITLAND, Maj.-Gen.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL BECKWITH,

Commanding the Forces, etc., etc., etc."

On the 9th, the town of St. Pierre was taken possession of by the troops of the second division, and the next day the French hospitals in the town of Fort Royal were seized by 300 men of the 90th Regiment.

Camp la Coste, Feb. 10th, 1809.

Sir,

Lieutenant-Colonel McNair, commanding the 5th Brigade, was detached last night at twelve o'clock, with three hundred men of the 90th Regiment, for the service you had desired relative to the enemy's hospitals.

What was ordered has been well performed.

F. MAITLAND, M. G.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL BECKWITH.

General Order.

Febry. 12th, 1809.

The Commander of the Forces having committed to Major-General Maitland to adopt such measures as should appear to him most effectual to take possession of the hospitals in the town of Fort Royal, and to place all the sick and wounded officers and men, as also the medical department serving there, on their parole, the General desires to express his approbation of the able arrangements made by the Major-General for the execution of this important object upon the 9th inst., and to assure Lieutenant-Colonel McNair, the officers, and men of the 90th Regiment, that their exertions on this service afforded the General great satisfaction.

Divisional orders by Major-General F. Maitland:

Martinique, 22nd Feby, 1809.

The Major-General is perfectly sensible of the good order and discipline observed by the several corps of the second division; he has particularly noticed the merit of the 90th Regiment. The quickness with which they got under arms last night and advanced is a proof of the discipline of the regiment, for which the Major-General returns his best thanks.

The operations were now confined to the bombardment of Fort Dessaix and the reduction of Fort Royal, to which places the whole of the enemy's regular forces had withdrawn.

General Beckwith's despatch, announcing the surrender of both the above-named strongholds, gives an account of the means by which this brief yet brilliant campaign was brought to a close.

Head-Quarters, Martinique,  
Feby. 28th, 1809.

My Lord,

In my letter of the 15th instant I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship the details of our operations to the 11th preceding; from that period until the 19th, we were incessantly employed in the construction of gun and mortar batteries, and in the landing cannon, mortars, and howitzers, with their ammunition and stores, in dragging them to the several points selected by the engineers, and in the completion of the works, and in mounting the ordnance

The enemy during the interval fired upon our encampments with shot and shells, but fortunately with little effect, and his picquets, when pressed, constantly fell back under the protection of his works. On the 19th, at half-past four in the afternoon, we opened from six points upon the enemy's fortress with fourteen pieces of heavy cannon, and twenty-eight mortars and howitzers, and the cannonade and bombardment continued with little remission until noon of the 23rd, when the French General sent a trumpet with a letter to our advanced posts, near the Bouillé Redoubt, in front of attack. In this communication, General Villaret proposed, as the basis of negociation, that the French troops should be sent to France free from all restriction as to future service; but this being inadmissible, the bombardment recommenced at ten at night, and continued without intermission until nine o'clock of the 24th, when three white flags were discovered flying in the fortress, in consequence of which our fire from the batteries immediately ceased.

It is with the most heartfelt satisfaction I have now the honour to report to your Lordship, for His Majesty's information, that, supported by the talents of the General Officers, the experience and zeal of all the other officers, and the valour and unremitting labour of this army, the

campaign, notwithstanding incessant rains, has been brought to a glorious conclusion in the short space of twenty-seven days from our departure from Barbadoes.

The command of such an army will constitute the pride of my future life. To these brave troops conducted by Generals of experience, and not to me, their King and country owe the sovereignty of this important colony, and I trust that by a comparison of the force which defended it and the time in which it has fallen, the present reduction of Martinique will not be deemed eclipsed by any former expedition.

After the embarkation of the French troops, I shall have the honour to command the eagles taken from the enemy to be laid at the King's feet.

Captain Preedy of the 90th Regiment, one of my aides-de-camp, has the honour to be the bearer of this despatch. He is an officer of service, and I beg leave to recommend him to His Majesty's favour, and to your Lordship's protection.

I have the honour to be, etc.,  
GEO. BECKWITH, Com. Forces.

After the embarkation of the French garrison, the British troops were stationed in different parts of the island awaiting the arrival of transports. The greater part of the force returned to the several islands from which it had been collected; the 90th Regiment, amongst others, being retained by Sir George Beckwith as a temporary garrison for the captured island.

Camp, Point Negro,  
Martinique, 7th April, 1809.

Sir,

As General Beckwith retains the 90th Regiment and you, the time of our separation is very nearly arrived; it is a satisfaction to me to express to you my good opinion of yourself and your regiment; the steadiness and discipline of the 90th is conspicuous, and is in the highest degree creditable to you and to them. I request you will accept my best thanks, and with best wishes to you and the regiment,

I have the honour to be, etc.,  
F. MAITLAND."

LIEUT.-COL. McNAIR,  
90th Regiment.

The following complimentary and highly gratifying messages from Parliament were published in the orderbooks of the regiments which had taken part in the capture of Martinique.

Veneris, 14 die Aprilis, 1809.

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente,-

That this House doth highly approve and acknowledge the distinguished services of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the army serving under Lieutenant-General George Beckwith, in the attack upon the Island of Martinique, and that the same be signified to them by the commanders of the several corps, who are desired to thank them for their gallant behaviour.

Ordered,-

That Mr. Speaker communicate the said resolutions to Lieutenant-General Beckwith.

I. LEY,  
C. S. D. Dom. Com.

Die Luna, 17 Aprilis, 1809.

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, that this House doth highly approve and acknowledge the distinguished services of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers in the army serving under Lieutenant-General George Beckwith, in the attack upon the Island of Martinique, and that the same be signified to them by the commanders of the several corps, who are desired to thank them for their gallant behaviour.

GEORGE ROSE, Cler. Parliamentor.

The inhabitants of Martinique being quite willing to submit to the mild and easy rule of their conquerors, but little time was necessary for arranging the government of the island; and after garrisoning the different forts, the regiments which had been retained for the preservation of order were withdrawn, the 90th returning to St. Vincent, where it was inspected on the 21st of October,

General Order.

St. Vincent, 21st October, 1809.

Brigadier-General Orde feels peculiar pleasure and satisfaction in expressing in general orders his high approbation of the discipline of the 90th Regiment, evinced this day under his immediate inspection.

Their manoeuvres were performed with great exactness in quick and slow time. Their firings were close and excellent, their wheelings regular, and their distances well preserved.

Major Napier, commanding the regiment (pro. tem.), merits the Brigadier-General's warmest thanks. To Major Burrell his thanks are equally due, and likewise to every officer in the regiment. Brigadier-General Orde will not fail to report the regiment to the Commander of the Forces in strong and flattering terms.

The capture of Martinique was but the forerunner of a larger and still more important conquest. The Island of Guadaloupe still remained in possession of the



French, who had lately strengthened the numerous works by which it was guarded, and had received considerable reinforcements.

At the end of the year, Sir George Beckwith, by a despatch from the Earl of Liverpool, dated the 2nd of November, received the King's orders to attack the island, and immediately concentrated his forces at Dominica.

The army was formed into five brigades, which were arranged in two divisions and a reserve. The first division, commanded by Major-General Hislop, was composed of the third and fourth brigades; the second, commanded by Brigadier-General Harcourt, comprised the first and second brigades, and the fifth brigade formed the reserve.

The third brigade, commanded by Brigadier-General Maclean, consisted of five hundred Light Infantry, five hundred men of the 90th Regiment, including their flank companies, and four hundred men of the 8th West India Regiment, including their flank companies.

The second division sailed from Dominica on the morning of the 26th of January, 1810, and anchored at the Saintes. The first division, with the reserve, sailed in the course of the afternoon, and anchored on the 27th at Isle Gosier Grande Terre, and early in the morning of the 28th, proceeded across the bay to St. Mary's, in Capesterre, in the smaller vessels of war, other craft, and flat boats, where a landing was effected without opposition in the course of the day, and in the afternoon the first division moved forward, the third brigade proceeding to Capesterre.

On the 29th, the first division marched to the Bannaniers River, where it took post. On the 30th, it advanced by the strong pass of Trou-au-Chien, which was not defended, and the head of the column reached Three Rivers about eleven o'clock, pushing back small detachments of the enemy.

The French seemed inclined to defend the heights D'oilet, and other places which they had strengthened with field artillery, but in the afternoon they abandoned all their posts with precipitation, leaving their ordnance behind.

In order to obtain provisions for five days from the fleet, the first division remained at Three Rivers until the 2nd of February, when it moved forward and seized the heights of Palmiste. On the morning of the 3rd, the first division crossed the River Gallion in one column at the only practicable pass; the fourth brigade taking post in the centre, about a mile from the bridge of Vozière, on the river Noire; and the third brigade, occupying M. Pelletier's house and estate, where the enemy abandoned a magazine of provisions. By this distribution of the forces the communication between the town of Basseterre and the enemy's camp was intercepted. The right of the first division now rested on the buildings of the above-mentioned estate, and the left extended towards the ravine which separated it from the enemy's position at the park.

A strong picquet having been placed in a redoubt evacuated by the enemy at this point, about 5 o'clock in the evening attention was drawn towards the right by a heavy fire of musketry in the woods, between Morne Hoel and the post occupied by the enemy on the same heights, as well as from the quick fire he kept up from

his batteries commanding the road towards the bridge of Vozière. The York Light Infantry, supported by the flank companies of the 90th Regiment, were ordered forward to divert the enemy's attention from what proved in the end to be a movement against his left by the reserve, and having advanced close to the enemy's posts, maintained their position through the night.

The second division landed near the River du Plessis on the 30th, and marching immediately towards the enemy's right, inclining to his rear, excited his alarm to such a degree, as to induce him to abandon his defences at Three Rivers and Palmiste, where he was already threatened by the first division.

The enemy was now in position behind the River Noire, with his left extended into the mountains, and secured by abattis and stockaded redoubts.

On the 4th, the river was crossed by the reserve, and the left flank of the enemy was successfully assailed, to the utter confusion of the French Chief, General Ernouf, who instantly had white flags hoisted at his own quarters, and other places in token of surrender.

On the 5th, a capitulation was agreed upon, which was ratified on the morning of the following day, when General Beckwith issued his general order.

Head-Quarters, Beau Vallon,  
Guadaloupe, Febry. 6th, 1810.

The capitulation of the Island of Guadaloupe and its dependencies was signed by the commissioners on both sides last night, and ratified this morning at 8 o'clock by the Admiral and Commander of the Forces.

The enemy are prisoners of war, to be sent to England, not to serve until duly exchanged.

Thus, by the general exertion and co-operation of the fleet and army, has been effected the important conquest of this colony in nine days from the landing of the first division, and with a loss which, however to be lamented from the character and merits of the parties, is comparatively small from the nature of such a service.

The Commander of the Forces also returns his public thanks to the officers of all ranks for their meritorious exertions, and to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers for the cheerfulness with which they have undergone the fatigues of a march, difficult in its nature, through the strongest country in the world, and the spirit they have manifested upon all occasion to close with the enemy.

Extract from the despatch of Lieutenant-General Sir George Beckwith, K.B., to the Earl of Liverpool, dated Guadaloupe, February 9th, 1810

When the uncommon strength of this country, generally, is considered, and the nature of the enemy's position, which had been selected with great attention, covered with redoubts and furnished with artillery, I trust the advance of one column of the army without a single

field-piece, and of the other equally unprovided, until within range of the enemy's principal works, will be held by military men a bold and arduous enterprise, where the defence possessed a force, in the first instance, of 3,500 men, notwithstanding which the campaign terminated in eight days.

I hope the services of this army will be honoured with His Majesty's approbation, and the confidence of their country.

Captain Wilby (90th Regiment), one of my aides-de-camp, who was entrusted with the eagles taken from the enemy at Martinique last campaign, has the Honour to be the bearer of this despatch, and of the eagle of the sixty-sixth Regiment, which has fallen into our possession on the present occasion, to be laid at the king's feet.

I beg leave to recommend this officer to His Majesty's favour and your Lordship's protection for the rank of Major in the army.

I have the honour to be, etc.,

G. BECKWITH,

Commander of the Forces.

After the capture of Guadaloupe, the Islands of St. Martin, St. Eustatius, and Saba surrendered to the fleet, and the French and Dutch had no longer dominion over any part of the West Indies. Their duty over, the troops returned to their respective stations overjoyed at having been able, in these distant colonies, to emulate the gallant deeds of their comrades in Europe. The 90th returned to St. Vincent, whence, in 1811, Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Napier returned home to assume command of the second battalion, which was then quartered in Ireland.

In April, 1812, the Island of St. Vincent was visited by an earthquake, descriptions of which were given in letters received from the island, dated May 17th. On the 28th, 29th, and 30th of April, the island was visited by an earthquake, and at the same time one of the mountains vomited forth large quantities of lava. Strong detachments of the 90th Regiment stationed at Olivia, and close to the mountain whence the fluid first issued, had a most miraculous escape. The barracks in which they were quartered were completely demolished by stones falling on them, the arms and clothing totally destroyed, but most fortunately not an European perished. Upwards of twenty negroes who did not desert their huts fell victims to the awful visitation. The 90th Regiment (upwards of 1,000) are in good spirits, and the island is considered healthy.

The 90th had ample occupation for some time after the catastrophe in assisting the inhabitants to repair the damages which it had occasioned.

The strength of the two battalions of the regiment numbered at this time 2,144 men, composed of English 1,097, Scots 538, Irish 485, and foreigners 24.

At the end of 1813, orders were received directing the 90th to proceed to Canada in the following year. This news, naturally gratifying to the regiment, was the source of unfeigned sorrow to the inhabitants of St. Vincent, who, from its lengthened stay, had begun to look upon the corps as part of the community.

Determined that their friends should not leave without some memento of their sojourn and of the friendly feelings with which they were regarded, on the 26th of September, the Committee of both Houses of Legislature waited on Colonel McNair at Fort Charlotte, when the following address was delivered by the Honourable Edward Jackson:-

Colonel McNair,

We are deputed, as a Committee of the Council and Assembly of this Island, to wait upon you to communicate the thanks of both Houses, unanimously voted to you, the officers, and privates of the 90th Regiment, for the very meritorious and exemplary conduct of the corps during a period of upwards of eight years' residence amongst us. As a mark of the high sense they entertain of your individual merits, we are desired by the Legislature to request your acceptance of a sword; to the other officers of the regiment we are directed to offer the concurrent thanks of the Legislature, and to present a piece of plate for the use of their mess, and we beg they will inform the committee in what shape they would prefer it, that the necessary orders may be given to forward the same with the least possible delay to the regiment.

In common with the other inhabitants of this Island, permit us, Sir, to regret the loss we shall sustain by your removal, but, convinced as we are that your going into more active service will but add the laurels of America to the palms of Egypt, we sacrifice our private feelings to the general cause, and sincerely hope that health, happiness, and honour may follow your colours wherever they are displayed.

(Signed) E. JACKSON.

JOHN ROSS.

Wm. HEPBURN.

Address of the Merchants of St. Vincent to Colonel McNair, and the officers of the 1st battalion, 90th Regiment -

We are deputed by the mercantile body of St. Vincent, to express to you their sincere regret at your departure from this colony, and to assure you of their lasting esteem and attachment, in token of which, they request your acceptance of a piece of plate, value one hundred guineas.

It is a pleasing reflection that during a period of nearly nine years, such has been the harmony and friendship that have prevailed between every individual of the 90th Regiment and all ranks of the community, that no one solitary act of disagreement has occurred between them from their first arrival to the present day. Much as it may be attributed to the well-known good order and military discipline of the regiment, they cannot fail to observe that it strongly marks its moral character, which,

while it beams peace and harmony to its friends, makes it more to be feared by its enemy.

We shall hear of the welfare and success of the 90th Regiment with the highest satisfaction, well assured that in their destined place of active warfare, the Sphinx's Head will be entwined with additional laurels to those already so nobly won.

We sincerely hope that you will have a pleasant and prosperous passage to the shores of America.

(Signed) W. BASSNETT CROPPER,  
JAMES GRANT.  
C. PANNETT.  
JAS. STECL.  
J. DALZELL.

Prior to the embarkation of the 90th, on the 5th of May, 1814, Sir George Beckwith issued the following farewell order

General Order. Barbadoes, 5th May, 1814-

The Commander of the Forces desires to express his approbation of the long and respectable West Indian service of Brevet Colonel McNair, commanding 1st battalion, 90th Regiment, and of this corps now proceeding to North America, and wishes the officers and soldiers a favourable occasion of maintaining that just reputation which they possess in the army.

(Signed) H. BERKELEY,  
D. A. G.

The regiment arrived at Quebec on the 20th of June, at Montreal on the 29th of the same month, and at Kingston on the 8th of July, whence, after a stay of three months, it commenced its march for Upper Canada on the 13th of October. On its arrival at Fort George, the 90th at once crossed over to Fort Niagara, in the United States territory, which it occupied until the 22nd of May, when, hostilities having ceased, the fort was given up, and the regiment returned to Fort George, from which it marched on the 1st of June, on its way to England.

After an uneventful voyage, Spithead was reached on the 3rd of August, where despatches awaited the regiment, ordering it to Ostend to form part of the army of occupation in France, and conveying the gratifying intelligence that the Prince Regent had conferred on the 90th the distinction of Light Infantry.

Horse Guards,  
1st May, 1815.

My Lord,

I have had the honour to lay before the Comr.-in-Chief your Lordship's letter of the 18th ultimo, and am directed to state in reply, that

H.R.H. the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to approve of the 90th Regiment, or Perthshire Volunteers, being formed into a Light Infantry corps, and of the clothing, arming, and drill of the regiment being the same, in all respects, as the 43rd, 51st, 52nd, 68th, 71st, and 85th Regiments.

I have, etc.,  
(Signed) H. CALVERT.  
A. G.

GENERAL LORD LYNEDOCH,  
G.C.B.,  
Colonel, 90th Regiment,  
Grafton Street.

On the 9th of August, 1815, the 90th Light Infantry disembarked at Ostend, and pushing forward immediately on arrival, reached the camp of St. Denis, near Paris, on the fourth of September, and next day was attached to the 7th division.

Extract from general orders, dated Paris, the 17th of September:-

The 9th, 57th, 81st, and 90th are to be the 16th British brigade."

The 15th and 16th British brigades will be formed in the Plaine de Sablons, facing the road leading from Porte Maillot to St. Denis, tomorrow morning at half-past seven for the inspection of the Field Marshal.

The regiment moved into quarters at Garches on the 30th of October, where it remained until the spring 1816, when it marched to Calais, embarking on the 1st, and landing at Dover on the 2nd of June, whence it marched the following day for Plymouth, where it arrived on the 30th.

In 1817, the second battalion was disbanded, the first battalion being made up to its full strength.

Horse Guards, 19th March, 1817.

Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you, by direction of the Commander-in-Chief, that the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and in the behalf of His Majesty, to grant permission to the 90th Regiment of Light Infantry, or Perthshire Volunteers, to bear on its colours and appointments, in addition to any other badges or devices which may have been heretofore granted to the regiment, the words 'Mandora', 'Martinique' and 'Guadaloupe', in commemoration of the services of the regiment when leading the right column of the army in its advance on Mandora on the 13th March, 1801, in the capture of Martinique on the 8th of February, 1809, and of Guadaloupe on the 3rd of February, 1810.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) HARRY CALVERT.  
Adj.-General.  
Officer Commanding  
90th Regt. of Light Infantry,  
or Perthshire Volunteers,  
Plymouth Dock.

New colours were received by the regiment in May, the old ones being presented to Lord Lynedoch. (They are now in the possession of James Maxtone Graham, Esqre., of Cultoquhey.)