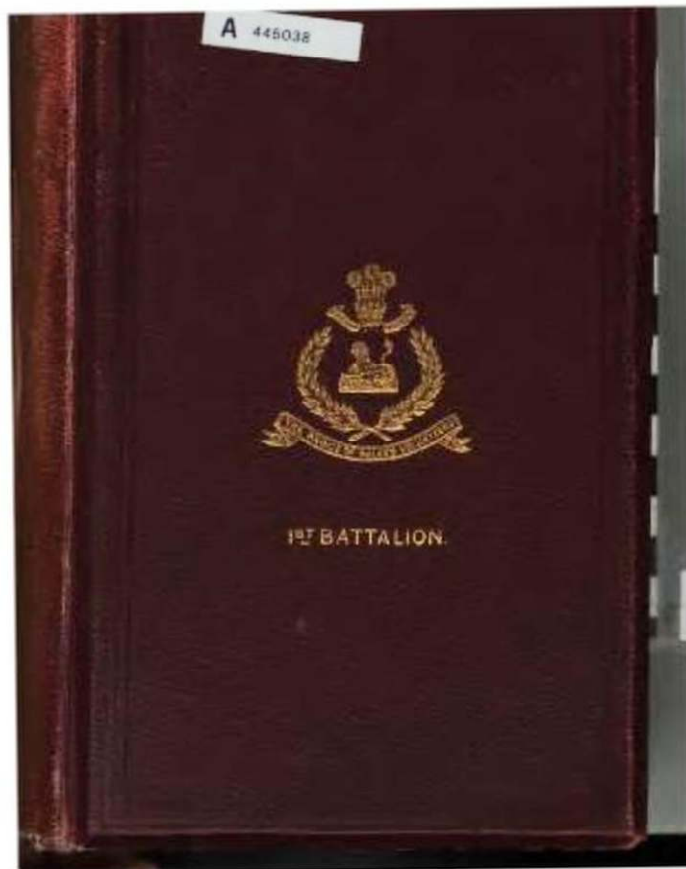


**Extracts From
The Official History
of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire)
Regiment of Foot**

Covering the period 1800 to 1823

“The 40th may in truth be considered at present the very finest Regiment in the Army.”



The Official History of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot

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The Official History of the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot

Foreword

This is the story of perhaps the foremost infantry regiment of the British Army during the Peninsular campaign through to Waterloo (1808 to 1815).

This book has been produced in honour to my ancestor George Whyborn (various spellings, originally an Anglo-Saxon name, Wigbeorn, meaning 'brave in battle') from Bampton, Devonshire, who joined this regiment at Bristol in 1808 (when aged about 18) and was posted to Europe in 1811. He then served as a private in the Peninsular, the New Orleans campaign and at Waterloo before being posted to Paris and then Glasgow (1817) where he married. He was retired from the army at Chatham in 1823, prior to the regiment being posted to New South Wales. He was a shoemaker by trade, a very useful skill in the art of footslogging. He died at his hometown in Devon, in 1854, aged about 64, having received his Waterloo Medal (1848) and being on an official pension since 1823.

The text of this book is a faithful reproduction of sections of the regiment's Official History, mainly from the 1808 to 1823 period. As such, the spellings, grammar and conventions used at the time of writing and compilation (1894 and earlier) have not been changed. Wherever "R.H.R.S." is mentioned in footnotes, those are the initials of the compiler of the 'Official History', Captain R. H. Raymond Smythies.

This reproduction was necessitated by the poor state of many pages in 'The History', rendering the scanned document difficult to read in many places.

The details that make up these extracts from the 'Official History' were taken from the Regimental Record Book and numerous other sources which have been expressly stated in the text.

My contribution and variation is only in respect of the layout of the text, employing changes in typeface and indentation, a different system of footnotes, and a contents page at the front. I have also added a few notes (in square parentheses) in the text and a map of the Peninsular War Campaigns in an Appendix.

John Lerwill, editor

Birmingham

2012