



VIII

THE COLOURS

The Colours are the focal point of all that has made the Regiment great. They are consecrated symbols embodying the loyalty, spirit and traditions of the Regiment to which they belong.

The origin of the symbols can be traced to the dim beginnings of history. Over 5000 years ago in India there was a "Cult of the Standard". In the time of Julius Caesar standards were made of metal, but with the advent of the Christian era they were made of cloth, silk or damask.

Early Military Flags were of two types: the personal flag borne in feudal armies when service was rendered to the immediate overlord, and the national or standardised flag as borne by the National or standing armies. The personal aspect was abolished by George III in 1743 when a clothing warrant stated "No Colonel shall put his arms, crest device or livery in any part of the appointments of his Regiment". The same warrant directed the "number of the rank of the Regiment" to be painted in the centre of the

regimental or second colour thereby inaugurating the regimental aspect. Varying numbers of colours were carried by the Regiments until 1751 when it was decreed that only two colours would be carried in future — The King's (or Queen's) and Regimental.

The purpose of the standard was to serve as a rallying point in the field of battle. When his distinctive insignia was held aloft the troops knew the position of their leader. To lose the standard often meant that one's leader was lost. Therefore the importance of "keeping the flag flying" was very great.

With introduction of more modern weapons the casualty rate amongst Colour and Standard Bearers was very high. So high was the mortality rate amongst colour bearers during the Crimean War that in subsequent European wars British Colours were not carried. The Colours were last carried in battle at Laings Nek on 26th January, 1881, in the first Boer War.

The Queen's Colour is a reminder to all ranks of their loyalty and duty to their Sovereign and their Country. The Regimental Colour is the symbol of Regimental tradition and of the duty owed by each member to the Regiment. Battle Honours are emblazoned on the Colours.

In earlier days the Colours were trooped through the ranks of the regiment prior to an engagement so that they could be recognised by all ranks as a rallying point during the course of the battle. To-day the Trooping of the Colours through the ranks of the Regiment is continued as a Ceremonial Movement only, so that all members of the Regiment may pay due homage to the Queen and to the traditions of the Regiment.

Before being presented, the Colours are always consecrated at a religious ceremony on parade when God's blessing on them is asked. This dates back to the battle of the Standard in 1138 when the Yeoman of Yorkshire, fighting the Scots, took with them consecrated banners from York Cathedral, and fought so fiercely to save the banners that they defeated heavy odds.



HISTORICAL NOTES

EIGHTH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

FORMATION

The Eighth Battalion of The Royal Australian Regiment was officially raised at Enoggera, Brisbane, on the 8th August 1966. The present Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel J.O. Langtry, DCM, the Regimental Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class One G.J.C. Lee and one hundred and fifty ex-members of the First Battalion of The Royal Australian Regiment, which had just returned from Vietnam, were included amongst the foundation members. At 8.00 a.m. on the eighth day of the eighth month 1966, the General Officer Commanding Northern Command, Major-General T.F. Cape, CBE, DSO, reviewed the Inauguration Parade.

UNDER COMMAND 6 TASK FORCE

On the 2nd December 1966, a parade at Enoggera was reviewed by the Commander 6 Task Force, Brigadier R.L. Hughes, DSO, to mark the occasion of the Eighth Battalion coming under command of 6 Task Force. The Battalion remained under command 6 Task Force until September 1967.

PREPARATION FOR SERVICE IN MALAYSIA

Early in 1967 the Eighth Battalion was warned for service in the Far East Strategic Reserve. Battalion training for this role was completed by the Battalion's first birthday on the 8th August 1967. In fact, the birthday celebrations themselves were limited to a post exercise party in the Rockhampton training area, Queensland.

FAREWELL PARADE

Following a brief leave period, a Farewell Parade, reviewed by Brigadier R.L. Hughes, DSO, was held at Enoggera on the 1st September 1967.

MOVEMENT TO MALAYSIA

The Battalion moved from Brisbane to Malaysia between 24th August 1967 and 6th November 1967 by sea and air.

UNDER COMMAND 28 BRIGADE

On 16th October 1967, the Battalion officially came under command of the 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade. Brigadier P.L. Tancred, OBE, the Commander, reviewed a parade by the Eighth Battalion at Canberra Lines, Terendak Garrison, on 24th November 1967.

ASSOCIATION WITH OLDER EIGHTH BATTALIONS

On the 11th November, Remembrance Day, a parade has been held each year to mark the association of the present Eighth Battalion with the 2/8th Battalion (AIF) Association and the Eighth Battalion (1914-1918) Association. This tradition commenced in 1966 when Colonel J.E.M. Hall (Retired), representing the 2/8th Battalion Association, attended the parade at Enoggera and presented to the new Eighth Battalion a replica of the silver bugle which the Eighth Battalion (1914-1918) had presented to the then new 2/8th Battalion in 1939.

ALLIANCE EIGHTH BATTALION THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT AND THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT

In early November 1966 the Battalion were hosts to the visit to Australia by the Third Battalion of The Parachute Regiment ("The Red Devils"). Subsequently Her Majesty The Queen approved the official alliance between the Eighth Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment and The Parachute Regiment on the 8th December 1967. Recently, in July 1968 the Second Battalion of The Parachute Regiment visited the Eighth Battalion at Terendak during the Second Battalion's brief stay in Malaysia.

ALLIANCE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT — ROYAL MALAY REGIMENT

Her Majesty The Queen approved the alliance between The Royal Australian Regiment and The Royal Malay Regiment on 9th May 1966. Since the Eighth Battalion's arrival in Malaysia, there have been many friendly exchanges between the Battalion and Battalions of The Royal Malay Regiment. In particular, a close bond has been formed with the Eighth Battalion The Royal Malay Regiment.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Foremost amongst the distinguished visitors to the Eighth Battalion at Terendak was The Right Honorable J.G. Gorton, the Prime Minister of Australia on 13th June 1968.

ON PARADE

Colonel Commandant

Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD, KBE, CB, DSO

Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Colonel J.O. LANGTRY, DCM

Adjutant

Captain D.F. PAUL

Regimental Sergeant Major

Warrant Officer Class One G.J.C. LEE

THE COLOUR PARTY

Ensign to the Queen's Colour

Lieutenant J.B. WILSON

Ensign to the Regimental Colour

Second Lieutenant G.T. EVERETT

Escorts

Warrant Officer Class Two W.R. EVERETT, MBE

Sergeant J.R. KENNEDY

Sergeant L.E. FIELDING

Officers Attending the Colours

Maj A. CLUNIES-ROSS

Maj M.C. MULES

NUMBER ONE DIVISION

Division Commander — Major V.N. MURPHY

Division Officers — Second Lieutenant I.V. SMITH

Second Lieutenant W.E. COX

Right Guide

— Warrant Officer Class Two E.F. MILLER

NUMBER TWO DIVISION

Division Commander — Captain J.E. ROBISON

Division Officers — Lieutenant P.A. SIBREE

— Second Lieutenant B.D. DARR

Right Guide

— Warrant Officer Class Two N.E. RICHARDSON

NUMBER THREE DIVISION

Division Commander — Major T.J. WILKINSON

Division Officers — Second Lieutenant I.A. BLOODWORTH

Second Lieutenant K.J. JONES

Right Guide

— Warrant Officer Class Two R.A. COLEMAN

NUMBER FOUR DIVISION

Division Commander — Captain R.J. DAVIS

Division Officers — Second Lieutenant W.A. JUCHA

— Warrant Officer Class Two A.R. MAXFIELD

NUMBER FIVE DIVISION

Division Commander — Major P.H. PRITCHARD

Division Officers — Second Lieutenant D.R. GORDON

— Warrant Officer Class Two K.J. HEBBLEWHITE

NUMBER SIX DIVISION

Division Commander — Captain A.J. BEER

Division Officers — Second Lieutenant R.J. SAVAGE

Second Lieutenant P.J. LAUDER

Right Guide

— Warrant Officer Class Two K.D. STOCKLEY

NUMBER SEVEN DIVISION

Division Commander — Major D.E. HOLFORD
Division Officers — Lieutenant E.J. CULPITT
Second Lieutenant D.T. BOLDEMAN
Right Guide — Warrant Officer Class Two A.H. MORRIS, DCM

NUMBER EIGHT DIVISION

Division Commander — Captain K.A. ANDERSON
Division Officers — Lieutenant C.J. McINTYRE
Lieutenant R.D. LOFTUS
Right Guide — Warrant Officer Class Two D.J. JUILLERAT

THE BAND AND DRUMS

Band Master — Warrant Officer Class Two G.A. PARHAM
Drum Major — Staff Sergeant K.R. BENSON

ORDER OF PARADE

On the occasion of the Presentation of Colours to the Eighth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, by Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD, KBE, CB, DSO.

1. Troops holding ground march onto the Parade Ground.
2. Colonel D.S. THOMSON, MC, The Regimental Colonel of The Royal Australian Regiment arrives at the Saluting Base.
3. Distinguished Guests arrive and are received by Colonel THOMSON.
4. Eighth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment marches on, preceded by the Battalion Band, and forms up on the inspection line in Review Order.
5. Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD, KBE, CB, DSO, arrives at the Saluting Base.
6. Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD inspects the Battalion and the Band.
7. The Commanding Officer leads the Battalion in a Service of Dedication in which all members re-affirm their allegiance to their Queen and Country.
8. The Colour are Consecrated, Blessed and Dedicated by representatives of the Chaplains-General.
9. Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD presents the Colours to the Colour Party.
10. Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD addresses the Parade.
11. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J.O. LANGTRY, DCM, replies.
12. The Colours are marched into the Battalion to a General Salute and the National Anthem.
13. The Battalion marches past and advances in Review Order.
14. Lieutenant General SIR REGINALD POLLARD departs.
15. The Battalion marches off Parade.

THE CONSECRATION SERVICE

When all is ready, the Commanding Officer shall say:

Forasmuch as men at all times have made for themselves signs and emblems of their allegiance to their rulers, and of their duty to uphold those laws and institutions which God's providence has called them to obey; we, following this ancient and pious custom, and remembering that God Himself led his people into Israel by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day, are met together before God to ask His Blessing on these Colours, which are to represent to us our duty towards our Sovereign and our Country. May they never be unfurled, save in the cause of justice and righteousness; and may God make them to be, to those who follow them, a sign of His presence in all dangers and distresses, and so increase their faith and hope in Him. Who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

The Commanding Officer and the Troops shall then say:

C.O.: To the Service of God and the hallowing of His Holy Name:

ALL: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

C.O.: To the love of our Queen and Country, and to the welfare of mankind;

ALL: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

C.O.: To the maintenance of honour and sanctity of man's plighted word:

ALL: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

C.O.: To the protection of all those who pass to and fro on their lawful occasions;

ALL: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

C.O.: To the preservation of order and good government:

ALL: We dedicate ourselves afresh.

C.O.: To the hallowed memory of our comrades, whose courage and endurance add undying lustre to our emblems:

ALL: We dedicate our Colours.

C.O.: In continual remembrance of our solemn oath and in token of our resolve faithfully and truly to keep it to the end:

ALL: We dedicate our Colours.

The Troops will be called to attention, the spectators standing, gentlemen removing headdress. The Commanding Officer shall then say to the Chaplains:—

Reverend Sirs, on behalf of the Eighth Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment we ask you to bid God's blessing on these Colours.

Each Chaplain on the Parade will then in turn move forward to Consecrate, Bless or Dedicate the Colours.

Chaplain B. ASHWORTH, representing the Chaplain General, Church of England, laying his hand on the Colours, shall say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do consecrate and set apart these Colours, that they may be a sign of our duty towards our Queen and our Country in the sight of God, Amen.

Chaplain W.J. MCKEOWN, representing the Roman Catholic Chaplain General, blessing the Colours, shall say:

Bless, O Lord, these Colours which we bless in Thy Name, that those who follow them, may be ever mindful of Thy Presence, guided by Thy Will, and guarded by Thy Providence.

Making the Sign of the Cross over the Colours he continues:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

The Colours are now sprinkled with Holy Water.

Chaplain D.W.G. HOLMES, representing the Chaplain General, Protestant Denominations, laying his hand on the Colours, shall say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do dedicate and set apart these Colours, that they may be a sign of our duty towards our Queen and our Country in the sight of God, Amen.

The Troops will be stood at ease.

Then all on Parade shall say together:

O Lord our God:

Who beholdest all the kingdom of the earth; have regard unto our land: that it may continue a place and a people: who serve Thee to the end of time.

Grant that all who live beneath our flag: may be so mindful of its crosses: that they may work for the good of others: according to the example of Him Who died upon a cross in the service of men.

Let Thy gracious favour rest on all: who shall follow the Colours now about to be committed to our trust. May our courage ever rest on our sure confidence in Thee. May we show self-control in the hour of success: and patience in the time of adversity.

May our honour lie: in seeking the honour and glory of Thy great name: through Jesus Christ: our Lord. Amen.

And also:

The Lords Prayer.

Spectators may now resume their seats.

MUSIC FOR PRESENTATION OF COLOURS

MARCH ON:

Begone Dull Care.

GENERAL SALUTE:

Cavalry Brigade.

INSPECTION MUSIC:

Infantry Song.

Westerling Home.

Highland Cradle Song.

Greensleeves — Skye Boat Song.

MARCH PAST:

Let's Go.

Waltzing Matilda.

ADVANCE IN REVIEW:

British Grenadiers.

GENERAL SALUTE:

Cavalry Brigade.

MARCH OFF:

Eagle Squadron.

NOTICE TO SPECTATORS

1. Lieutenant General Sir Reginald Pollard KBE, CB, DSO, arrives on the parade at 8.30 a.m. It is requested that all guests be seated by 8.10 a.m.
2. It is customary to stand, and for gentlemen to remove their hats on the following occasions:
 - a. During the playing of the National Anthem.
 - b. During the Consecration of the Colours by the Chaplains.
 - c. During the March Past, when the Colours pass the immediate front of a spectator.
3. The following is for the guidance of guests attending the parade in uniform:
 - a. During the playing of the National Anthem all ranks stand to attention and salute.
 - b. All ranks salute when the Colours pass during the March Past.