

Captain Faunce

[Archive]: Captain's Diary Written during Training and Forming of the Experimental Corps Rifle Brigade

Windsor: 1800

\$5500



Small oblong quarto measuring 8" x 4½". Brown leather with metal clasp. Detached but present boards, bumped corners, and some chips else good only.

A 210 page diary kept by Captain Faunce while training and forming of the Experimental Corps Rifle Brigade at Swinley Camp in Windsor in 1800. This corps would later become the legendary 95th rifles. The diary begins in July of 1800 and details events at the camp such as court martial dealings, payment to battalion, ordering goods and food, exercise and drill procedures, and details of battles, among other things. "When a man is confined for any crime he is not to be released but by order of the commanding officer...but his order was not complied with yesterday." Brigade orders dated July 20th reads, "the surgeons of brigades will make a return of every man's name that is sick, and where, which is to be signed by the commanding officer of battalions, and sent to the brigade majors by 9 o'clock tomorrow morning." Another reads, "the brigade will be ready to march off at ½ past 7 o'clock tomorrow morning, the men will be provided with 10 rounds of black cartridges."

There are extensive mentions of military units and battalions including the Kings Own Regiment, the Dragoons, and the Irish and Welsh militia enlisted in the brigades. Faunce often copies letters into his diary, usually from commanding officers and the secretary to His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York. The last entry is from August 25th, 1800 the day they went to Spain to engage in combat in Ferrol Harbor.

Horse Guards 25th June 1800
A Copy
Sir I have Received his Royal Highness in Chief Directions to Signify to you his Majesty's most gracious Approbation of your Conduct Respect to Mr. Armstrong Late Major of the 11th Regt of Foot
His Majesty Consider the Conduct of Mr. Armstrong in having Indeanor to Ground a Personal Verdict on the Evidence, which you gave in Conformity to your Duty on your Oath Before a General Court Martial as Militating Not

In 1800 Colonel Coote Manningham and Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable William Stewart raised what they called the "Experimental Corps of Riflemen." This Rifle Corps, later dubbed the Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own), would combine new artillery technology with expert marksmen to create a sharpshooting unit for the British Army. This idea that a skilled rifleman could aim and hit a specific target was made possible by the use of the more accurate Baker rifle. The infamous 95th Rifles were brought into modern popular culture with the popularity of the television show *Sharpe* starring Sean Bean based on Bernard Cornwell's novels of the same name.

An interesting and unique firsthand account of the creation of the British Rifle Brigade. [\[BTC#435692\]](#)

1 July 1861
 2 Aug 1861
 3 Aug 1861
 4 Aug 1861
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1	Captain	
3	Lieutenant	
5	Sergeants	Company
3	Drummers	
77	Present and fit for Duty	
4	Sick in Tents	
4	Sick in Hospital	
2	Sick Absent at Hospital	
1	On Commision	
1	Sick in Gen ^l Hospital	
-	Recruiting	
90	Total	
-	Sergeant	
-	Drummer	
-	Rt. File	
2	Wounded	
-	Dead	
-	Deserted	
-	Discharged	

Plur. Percent
 Rank & File
 Absent
 Wounded

Monthly Return of Capt. James G. ...
 George ...
 20th ...
 29th ...
 1st ...
 2nd ...
 3rd ...
 4th ...
 5th ...
 6th ...
 7th ...
 8th ...
 9th ...
 10th ...
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 30th ...
 31st ...

R. C. Winney Camp 5th July
1800

In the Quarter Guard tomorrow
Lieut Lecky —

In the out Guard tomorrow
Lieut Anderson

In Piquet tomorrow Winney
Capt. Bayne

In waiting for duty tomorrow
Capt. Winckley & L'Anoyl —

In the Bay all night tomorrow
In division service at a 1/4 after
11 o'clock —

It has been reported to the
Commanding Officer that some
of the subjects attend for orders
without orderly books —

Memorandum

A plume to be Brought by
every Master of a Band.

The Adj^t to Bring a plume

When there is no man.

His Majesty will see the Army
Out to morrow Morning at

10 O Clock on Wilsfield plain

In a Reverse Order When it is

Expected that the Sen^r Order
of the 24th of June Last will

Severly Display with in every

Respect

The following Additional

Circumstances & Alterations

will take place & be Observed
in the Detachments given out

Total 2 5 74

The 3 Battⁿ of 400 King's Own
Infantry Give the Adj^{nt} and 2^d
Master for the Day to Morrow
Battⁿ Orders

The Noncommissioned Officers ^{or} Drum
and Privates are to Accounted Watch
for there Pass and Reass till Sunday

to the 24th Inclusive the Officers
Commanding Companies

will after completing the
Men with Reparations Pay
their different Ballance that
May there Appear See the
Assignments to be given
In or before the 20th Instant

For the 20th Guard to march by
For Riquet this Evening ^{with}
Bayham, noted as Capt. ^{Smith} ~~Barre~~