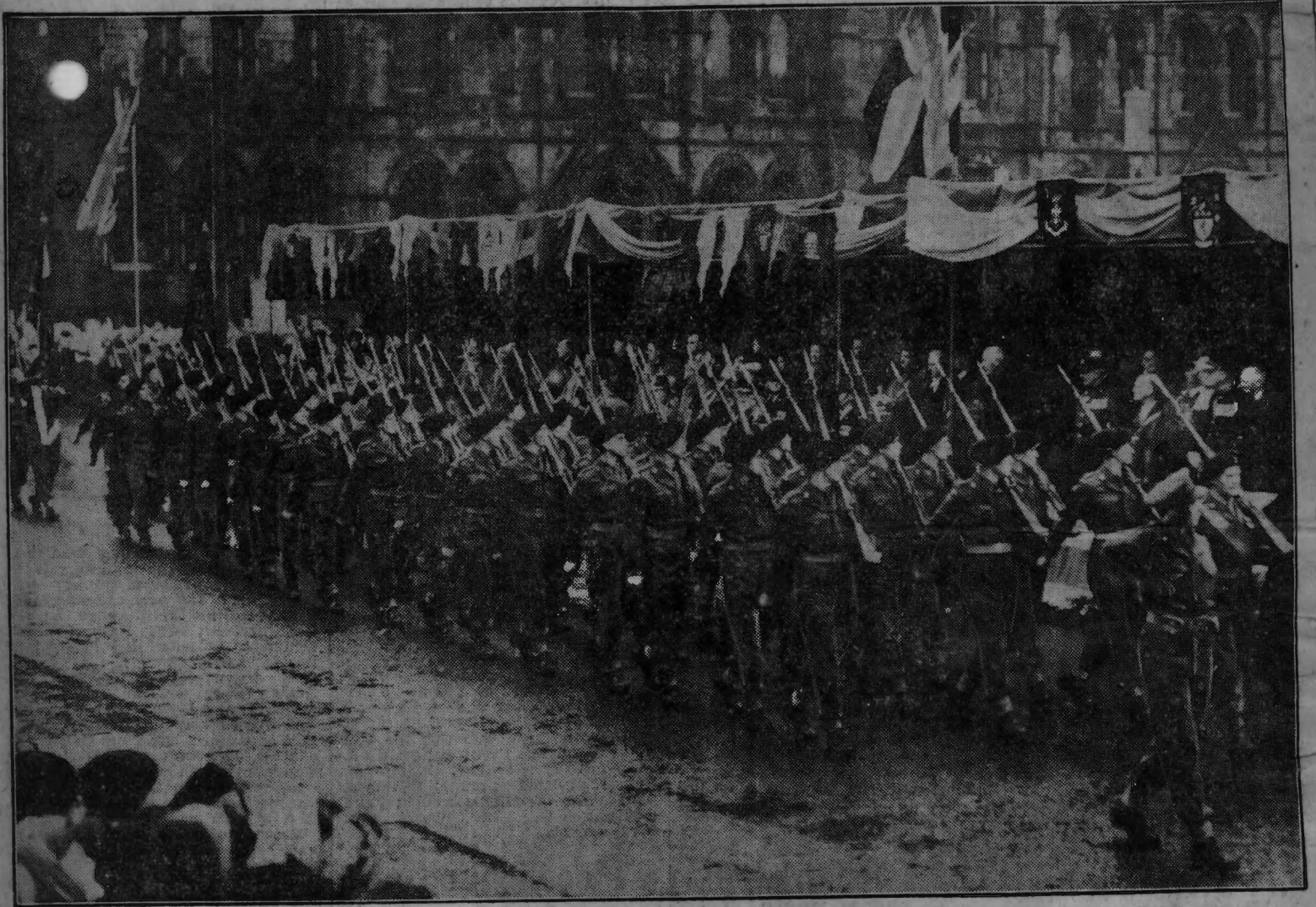


The Green Howards march in Middlesbrough



With Colours flying and bayonets fixed The Green Howards march past the saluting base at Middlesbrough on Saturday. (A Yorkshire Post picture.)

Five towns present a Princess's portrait to the Regiment

From our Middlesbrough correspondent

A portrait of Queen Alexandra when she was the young Princess of Wales was presented to The Green Howards at a lunch in Middlesbrough Town Hall on Saturday in the name of the five towns—Middlesbrough, Richmond, Bridlington, Beverley and Scarborough—who have conferred the Freedom of their boroughs on the Regiment.

The Lord-Lieutenant of the North Riding, Sir William Worsley, who made the presentation, said that 12 years after arriving in England in 1863, Princess Alexandra became Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment and held the office for 50 years. During that time she inspired all ranks of the Regiment which bore her name—Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment.

A story about the picture was told by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General A. E. Robinson, when he accepted the gift. "We have always wanted a portrait of Queen Alexandra," he said, "so I wrote to the Comptroller of the Royal Household asking if there was a picture the Queen could lend the Regiment as a memory of her great grandmother."

Queen Mary's search

His letter was sent by the Comptroller to Queen Mary, who did not know of a portrait but had found among her belongings a very beautiful photograph of Queen Alexandra. However, she thought that as good portraits could not be taken from photographs, it would be better to paint the new picture from one that was in the private breakfast room at Windsor Castle.

"It shows what a wonderful lady Queen Mary is, and what an interest she takes in things like that," said General Robinson.

It was most appropriate that the portrait was being handed to the Regiment on this particular occasion, because Middlesbrough Town Hall was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1889 when the Princess was Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment.

General Robinson also referred to the close link between the Regiment and the townspeople. The Borough produced a very large proportion of the Regiment's men, and Middlesbrough had played no small part in achieving for The Green Howards the highest Regular recruiting figures of any English County regiment.

Regiment's V.C.s

Lieut.-Colonel M. W. T. Roberts, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, proposing the toast of "The Town of Middlesbrough," said the representation of Middlesbrough men in his Battalion was just over 40 per cent. The toast was acknowledged by Alderman T. Meehan, one of Middlesbrough's two surviving Freemen.

The Mayor, Alderman L. Taylor, presided at the lunch, and the guests included the Archbishop of York (Dr. Cyril Garbett) and Middlesbrough's two Green Howard V.C.s, ex-Private Tom Dresser (1914-18) and C.S.M. Stanley Holts (1939-45). Young soldiers of the Regiment stood behind the head table guarding the Regimental Colours.

As a climax to the week, which has marked Middlesbrough's centenary

of incorporation, there followed a march past of The Green Howards. Through three miles of main streets, with cheering crowds all the way, 500 men under the command of Lieut.-Colonel A. D. Miller (1st Battalion) marched as privileged Freemen, with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and bands playing. The band of the 1st Battalion was at the head of a long column, almost every man of which—by special order of the Richmond depot—was a native of Middlesbrough.

Malayan ribbon

It was the first time in regimental history that all the Battalions had been at home in the Northern Command together. Each was represented by a detachment. After the band of the 1st Battalion came the Colour party followed by a 100 strong detachment of the Battalion. The mauve and green of the Malayan service ribbon was being proudly worn. Next came the Colours and 100 men of the recently formed 2nd Battalion, and following them detachments from the Regimental Depot and the Boys' Battalion.

The second band was of the 4th Battalion (T.A., Middlesbrough), which was accompanied by a Colour party and detachment, behind which came cadets of the 1st and 4th Tees-side Battalions and the standards of The Green Howards Association. Mechanised detachments from the 2nd Battalion brought up the rear.

Abroad in April

At the gaily decorated saluting base flanking Victoria Square in Albert Road, the 1st Battalion band played the parade through to the tune of "Bonny English Rose." The Mayor took the salute, with the Lord-Lieutenant of the North Riding and Major-General Robinson.

Commanding Officers of all Battalions of The Green Howards attended the first annual dinner of the Middlesbrough branch of The Green Howards' Association on Saturday night. The Mayor described the Regimental parade earlier in the day as the greatest event of its character in Middlesbrough's history. General Robinson, responding to the toast of "The Regiment," said the 1st Battalion would be embarking in April for Graz, in Austria, and the 2nd Battalion would also be leaving the country in the same month for Suez. During the evening he decorated ex-E.S.M. E. T. Hughes, of Middlesbrough, with the Meritorious Service Medal recently awarded to him.

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Crowds out to greet the Green Howards

FLAGS AND BUNTINGS were displayed and crowds gathered in Middlesbrough to welcome men of the Green Howards on their ceremonial parade through the town this afternoon as a climax to the town's Centenary celebrations.

Long before the march was due to start, eager spectators gathered along the route from the Cenotaph at Albert Park to the gaily-draped saluting base at Victoria-square.

This is the first time in history that all Battalions of the Regiment have been in the Northern Command area at the same time, and 500 men, representatives of each battalion, arrived in the town to take part in the parade, under the command of Lieut.-Col. A. D. Miller of the 1st Battalion.

The men included young National Servicemen and Regular soldiers of the 1st Battalion who are already veterans, for they wore the mauve and green ribboned Malayan service medal to mark their part in the campaign against the terrorists.

Cadets there, too

Others who arrived in the town were men of the newly-formed 2nd Battalion, due for service in Egypt in the spring; Territorials (4th Battalion) from Middlesbrough and district; Army Cadets and men from the Green Howards' depot at Richmond.

The Colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalions were brought into the town by Colour Parties and armoured and mechanised detachments roared through the streets.

Before assembling for the march, representatives of the Regiment attended a civic lunch in the Town Hall, while the main body of troops lunched at St. Barnabas' Church Hall, Linthorpe.