



The King's Royal Rifle Corps Association

Eminent Riflemen

No. 1 - HRH The Duke of York

The Duke of York was born on the 16th of August 1763. From his earliest age, His Royal Highness was destined to the profession of arms, the study of which, together with the acquirements of the French and German languages, formed an essential part of his education. His first commission in the army was that of Colonel, dated 1st November 1780 and shortly afterwards he was appointed to the command of the Horse Grenadier Guards, and in October 1784, to that of the Coldstreams.

When the French invaded Holland in 1793, the Duke of York, now a General officer, was appointed to the command of an English expedition that landed on March 1st, and following the enemy into the Netherlands, he defeated them at the battle of Tamars. After taking Valenciennes, His Royal Highness co-operated with the Austrian and Prussian armies, and assisted the Dutch at the battle of Lincelles.

In the following April the British cavalry distinguished themselves at Villers-en-Couche and on the 26th His Royal Highness defeated the enemy with great slaughter at Troixville. On 10th May, the Duke again won a signal victory at Tournay, and soon afterwards returned to England. In February 1795, His Royal Highness was appointed Commander-in-Chief, and on the 23rd of August 1797, Colonel-In-Chief of the 60th, in which regiment, throughout the remainder of his life, he took the greatest interest.

In 1799 he was again ordered to Holland, and on the 2nd October fought the battle of Bergen, in which the rifle company of the 6th Bn, 60th took part. At the conclusion of the Peninsular war, and also after the battle of Waterloo, His Royal Highness received the thanks of Parliament. In 1824, the Duke took the 60th Regiment under his special patronage, and its title was changed to "The Duke of York's Own Rifle Corps and Light Infantry." He also inspected the 1st Battalion at Chatham, wearing its uniform as Colonel. With a brief interval in 1809-11, His Royal Highness retained the office of Commander-In-Chief, with distinguished credit and success, until his death in 1827.