

ROBERT PATON

42nd or Royal Highland Regiment



1782 Born In the Parish of Barronnie¹ in or near the town of Glasgow by service record
1784 Born by death certificate - Father John

NB Statement of service has service from 1 Jan 1804

¹ "BARONY, locating Barony on a map can be a somewhat perplexing business - for you will almost certainly fail to locate it on any modern map! Today, what was Barony parish has long been eaten up by the city of Glasgow. In the past it represented lands which were to the north of the city and which were, in those days, more rural - they included Maryhill, Lambhill, Bishopriggs, Kelvinside, Possil, Balornock, Springburn, Provanmill, Millerston, Dennistoun, Garthamlock, Carntyne, Calton, Barlanark, Shettleston, Tollcross and Barrachnie. (Some of these cross parish boundaries).

Military General Service, 5 clasps, & Waterloo pair 42nd.
Foot, 3 times wounded Corunna, Toulouse & Waterloo



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Medal Description

Military General Service, 5 clasps, Corunna, Salamanca, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Waterloo, original clip & straight suspension

Robert Paton, 42nd. Foot, (Patoun on Waterloo)

3 times wounded Corunna, Toulouse & Waterloo

Copy discharge papers where named as Patton but signed by the recipient as Paton.

From Baronie, Glasgow, enl. 1804, discharged too pension Kilmainham, 1821, being ruptured, rheumatic & worn out. Wounded in the head at Corunna, in the left arm at Toulouse and in the right thigh at Waterloo.

Whilst clearly entitled to the Toulouse clasp the medal roll shows disallowed absent sick and would appear to be a misinterpretation of his wound and presence at that place.

A particularly fine 42nd pair.

1 Apr 1804 "Robt Patton) Mustered in No.4 (also muster for No.7) Capt John Frasers² Coy 1st Bn RH at Weeley Barracks, age 19 yrs. Identified as "Hosier". Former service 3 yrs Fencibles

54

Effective List & Description Roll of No. 4 Captain John Fraser's Company 1st Bn 42nd Reg^t Weeley Barracks 1st Apr 1804

No	Names	Age	Stature	Description		Where Born		Trade	Former Service	Inlisted			Remarks
				Complexion	Hair	County	Parish			By whom	When	Where	
	(Postscript)												
40	Donald McLeod	30	5 7	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao
	William Nicoli	17	5 3/4	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao
	Hugh Patterson	18	5 1/2	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao
	Robert Patton	19	5 4	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao
	W. L. Patton	24	5 7 1/2	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao

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Effective List & Description Roll of No. 7th Captain John Fraser's Company 1st Bn 42nd Reg^t Weeley Barracks 1st Apr 1804

No	Name	Age	Complexion	Eyes	Hair	Where Born		Trade	Former Service	Inlisted			Remarks
						County	Parish			By whom	When	Where	
	Andrew Mac	18	5 7	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao
	Robt Nicoli	20	5 6 1/2	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao
	Robt Patton	19	5 4	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao	ao

Parishes



LANARKSHIRE

1. Govan with Gorbals

² In John Frasers Coy for MGS Roll, John Campbells (2nd Coy on muster rolls) for Waterloo. At Quatre Bras - Their commanding officer, Lieut. Colonel Sir Robert Macara, was killed on this occasion a lance having pierced through his chin until it reached the brain; and within the brief space of a few minutes, the command of the regiment devolved upon three other officers in successions Lieut. Colonel Dick, who was severely wounded, Brevet Major Davidson, who was mortally wounded, and Brevet Major Campbell, who commanded it during the remainder of the campaign

2. Glasgow Royalty
3. Barony

Fencibles

Three years of service in some Fencible unit likely from 1801-1803

William Paton, Breadalbane's Fencibles and Fencible info (Researcher Chris Paton) ³



SERVICE

In the spring of 1803, war was again declared with France, and the 42nd was sent to the south of England to be in readiness to oppose Bonaparte's threatened invasion. At this period a 2nd Battalion was added to the establishment, and joined the 1st Battalion at Weely Camp, Essex, in November 1804. The two battalions remained together until September 1805, when the 1st embarked for Gibraltar.

1804 Weeley Barracks, October - Plymouth to Gibraltar

1 Jan 1804 Enlisted age 19 years for unlimited service by Colonel? Stirling at Weely

Sept/Oct 1805? Embarked for Gibraltar?
1806 Gibraltar

1807 Gibraltar

14 Aug 1808 The 42nd were garrisoned at Gibraltar and set sail for Lisbon on August 14th 1808. Strength of the battalion 943. The 42nd having set sail from the rock with a good wind which meant that Cadiz was soon sighted. They were then becalmed for about eight days. *"We were thence 16 days in going to the mouth of the Tagus. We lay to till next day. Our vessels cruised about for two days and we then got orders to land at Fort Cascaes about two miles from the mouth of the Tagus"*. (much quoted anonymous private)\

Sailed to Portugal with a strength of 826. Of this number, 583 were Highlanders, 231 Lowlanders, seven Englishmen

(17/21 Aug Battles of Roleia/Vimeiro)

(30 Aug Convention of Cintra, The **Convention of Cintra** (or **Sintra**) was an agreement signed on 30 August 1808, during the [Peninsular War](#). By the agreement, the defeated [French](#) were allowed to evacuate their troops from [Portugal](#) without further conflict. The Convention was signed at the [Palace of Queluz](#), in [Queluz](#), [Cintra](#), [Estremadura](#).)

Sept 1808 Landed at Lisbon from Gibraltar . Dench sailed on 12 Sep with Russians.

When Lieutenant General John Moore assembled his army to march into Spain this strong 1st battalion was **brigaded** with 1/4th, 1/28th and four Coys of 5/60th all under MG William **Bentinck**.

Moore in his diary states that the French posts were withdrawn during the night of September 1st/ 2nd and *"yesterday (2nd September) the forts St Julian, Bugio and Cascas (sic) were taken possession of by the 42nd and the Buffs, which regiments, the first from Gibraltar, the other from Madeira, happened to be off Lisbon on their passage to join the Army"*.

The anonymous private remembers there *"was a French regiment and we relieved their guards; our Colonel receiving from the hands of the French Colonel the keys of the place. This Regiment of the enemy marched for Lisbon to join the rest of the French Army."*



He further describes the garrison as very strong but in bad condition to hold out for long and a miserable place for soldiers that had lived off the fat of the land in Gibraltar. There were no proper barracks or blankets, which made the beds even harder.

17 Sep Sir John Moore arrived in Queluz where the whole of the British Army was expected to concentrate with the exception of the Lisbon garrison. "LG. **Fraser's Division** and mine marched to this camp yesterday (Sept 17th). It is the intention to assemble the whole army here with the exception of Gen. Hope's division, which remains in Lisbon. Sir H Burrard is to command the camp; it was chosen for no other reason but convenience and discipline." As the 42nd was to march from Lisbon as a part of **Fraser's Division** it must have arrived at **Queluz** either **on September 17th or soon after**. In the words of the anonymous Private states "*in a few weeks we marched from this wretched fort for Queluz where the British Army was encamped. Our stay here was not long. I was delighted with the camp as the weather was fine and we had our provisions served out regularly and good.*"

This does not correspond with a British Army Officer's description of the camp: -"*What with the great heat, the cold nights, the eating of fruit and the drinking of young wine, the health of the army became so much impaired that typhus and dysentery broke out and spread rapidly, affecting even the inhabitants of villages lying close to the camp. The pestilential stench of our slaughterhouse refuse also contributed somewhat to the trouble; while, in addition, a huge hospital was installed in one of the wings of the castle, not far behind and below our stores depot, and separated from it only by a long ditch which was used as a latrine by the dysentery patients and was not five hundred yards away. Infection was bound to occur*".

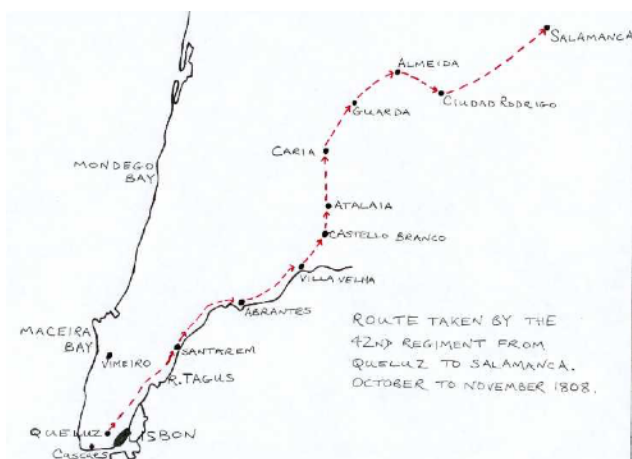
9 Oct Much of the illness was caused by excessive drinking so it was with great relief that Sir John Moore issued a general order on 9 Oct; "*The troops under Lt. Gen. Sir John Moore will hold themselves in readiness to move on the shortest notice. Lt. Gen. Sir John Moore will take an early opportunity of inspecting the several corps of the army*".

The Anonymous Private relates that, "*I think we were there about three weeks when we got orders to hold ourselves in readiness to march into Spain*". This ties into an arrival at Queluz of around 17 Sep.

18 Oct 1808 Departure date. The 42nd was in Bentinck's Brigade which was a part of Fraser's Division. The first regiment to leave Queluz was 2/52 which left on October 11th and most were in motion by October 18th.

The route taken was:

Queluz.....Santarem⁴.....Abrantes.....Villa Velha.....Castello Branco.....Guarda.....Almeida.....Ciudad Rodrigo.....Salamanca.



⁴ (Camino heads west to Tomar from the Tejo after Golega just before Abrantes)

7 Nov 1808 The 42nd left Guarda on the morning of the 7th November with the 4th Foot. The 28th and 5th were behind them on the road.

Moore and the head of the column reached Salamanca on the 13th November. It took the 42nd about a week to reach Salamanca from Ciudad Rodrigo. The rear of the column could not have come in till several days later.

The total length of the march was around 280 miles.

23 Nov 1808 Moore was at Salamanca with six infantry brigades and one battery. Baird lay at Astorga with four brigades and three batteries, but there were still a few battalions on the march from Galicia. Hope, with Moore's cavalry and guns, was near the Escorial. Lord Paget with Baird's cavalry was between Lugo and Astorga.

In general it was a deplorable situation as it was clear that the army would require ten days more to concentrate. Indeed the twelve days from 23 Nov to 4 Dec were wasted by the non-arrival of the cavalry and guns without which Moore could not move forward.

THE DECISION FACING MOORE

Sir John Moore faced a choice. Should he persist in his concentration and then, if successful, take an active part in the campaign, or should he order each fraction of the British forces to retreat at once towards some safe base?

The decision depended upon the movement of French troops in the next few days and upon what Spanish troops existed to co-operate with the army if it should commence active operations.

Moore was determined to take no unnecessary risk with the forces committed to him. He knew full well that he had the only British field army available and that no such second force existed. Moore also had severe doubts as to the ability of any Spanish army to adequately support his manoeuvres and his men were not there to take on the French as a sole force.

Moore's state of mind can be judged from a letter written to Castlereagh on November 27th "Madrid is threatened; the French have destroyed one army (Blake's), have passed the Ebro and are advancing in superior numbers against another (Castanos) which from its composition must retire or be overwhelmed. No other armed force exists in this country. I perceive no enthusiasm or determined spirit among the people. This is a state of affairs quite different to that conceived by the British Government when they determined to send troops to the assistance of Spain. It was not expected that these were to cope alone with the whole force of France: as auxiliaries they were to aid a people who were believed to be enthusiastic, determined and prepared for resistance. It becomes therefore a question whether the army should remain to be attacked or retire from a country where the contest is become unequal."

The decision to retreat was finalised when on November 28th Moore was brought the news of the defeat of Capstans at Tudela. He didn't lose a moment in dictating orders of retreat to the whole army.

42nd AT SALAMANCA

According to the anonymous private the 42nd "were thirty two days in Salamanca". Moore had rearranged the brigades in his own force so that on the 1st December the 42nd were a part of Bentinck's brigade along with 1st/4th and 1st/50th. The 1st/28th had been replaced by the 1st/50th.

BAIRD'S COLUMN

Baird received Moore's instructions on 30th November and immediately began to retire. Leaving the cavalry and light brigade at Astorga to cover his retreat he fell back to Villafranca, fifty miles on the road to Corunna.

HOPE'S COLUMN

Hope also received his letter on 30th November requesting him to make forced marches by Penaranda and Ciudad Rodrigo to join his chief unless French troops blocked his path. Fortunately no such danger occurred. Hope eventually pulled in to Alba de Tormes where he was only fifteen miles from Salamanca. Here, he received orders not to push for Ciudad Rodrigo but to turn north to join the main body of the army.

WHY DID MOORE ABANDON THE RETREAT?

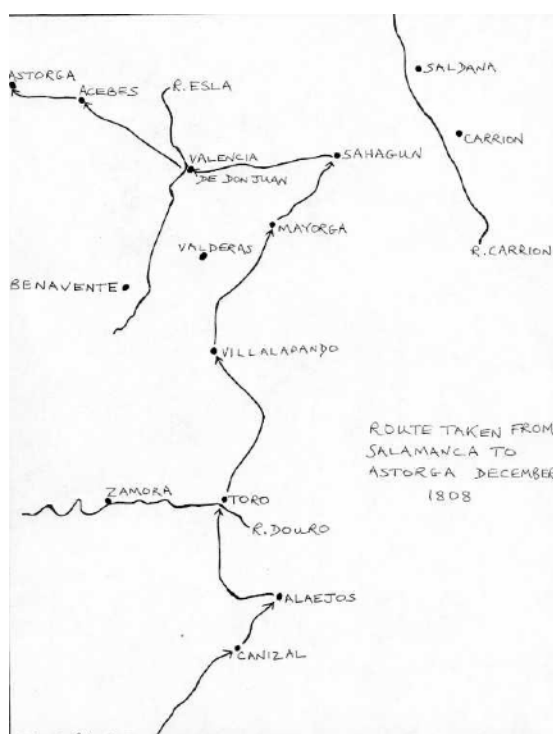
Moore himself did not retreat to Almeida. He still hoped to join up with Hope if the French did not press him. On December 4th the junction was made. Hope also brought news that all French columns were trending south and there was no move to Salamanca. In addition, Moore had received reports of the Madrid populace resolving to defend itself.

Somewhere between 8 pm to midnight on December 5th he made up his mind to countermand the retreat. So on December 6th Sir David Baird was ordered to return to Astorga.

THE NEW PLAN OF OPERATIONS

Despite hearing of the fall of Madrid on December 9th/10th Moore remained committed to moving against French communications in the Valladolid area. Even if he could not save Madrid, Moore could at least distract the enemy from an attempt to push further south, and give the Spanish armies time to rally.

THE INITIAL MOVE FROM SALAMANCA



On December 11th Moore's infantry began to move forward. That day the reserve division under General E Paget and Beresford's brigade of Fraser's division marched for Toro where they found Lord Paget with Baird's cavalry ready to cover their advance. These troops were to form the left hand column on the advance on Valladolid.

The next day December 12th Hope's detachment from Alba de Tormes and the brigades of Bentinck (42nd a part), Hill, Fane and Charles Alten from Salamanca which formed the right hand column marched for Alaejos and Tordesillas.

In front of them was Charles Stewart's cavalry brigade, which on the same evening at Rueda captured a French cavalry patrol, bar one man. Moore came up from Salamanca on December 13th to Alaejos where he overtook the infantry.

THE INTERCEPTED DISPATCH

An intercepted dispatch was brought, on December 14th, to Moore at Alaejos. This gave him Napoleon's plan of action and evidence of the dislocation of the greater part of his army. Most important of all Moore discovered that his own positions and designs were wholly unsuspected. Napoleon believed him to be retreating to Lisbon.

From the dispatch it seemed that Soult was about to move forward into Leon where he would be isolated on the Carrion and a great distance from his Emperor. His strength was half that of

Moore's and defeat would be almost certain if the British Army moved against him as he advanced.

A severe defeat would ruin all of Napoleon's plans. Moreover the area where Soult might be looked for – Carrion, Sahagun and Mayorga – was remote from Madrid unlike Valladolid which was the original focus of attack. It would be several days before the French could interfere.

15 Dec 1808 THE CHANGE OF PLAN

Accordingly on December 15th the whole army suddenly changed direction from eastward to northward. The left hand column of infantry crossed the Douro at Zamora, the right column (42nd) at Toro. Baird was directed to move to Benavente.

The cavalry, screening the march of both, went northward from Tordesillas to the banks of the Sequillo pushing its' advance parties right up to Valladolid capturing 100 dragoons and their colonel. They disrupted the communications between Burgos and Madrid to such effect that Napoleon believed Moore was moving on Valladolid and planned accordingly.

CONCENTRATION OF THE ARMY

Four good marches (December 16th – December 20th) carried Moore's infantry from Zamora and Toro to Mayorga.

The right hand column (42nd) moved from Toro via Villalapando and the left from Zamora via Valderas.

The weather was bitterly cold and the roads were frozen which paradoxically favoured movement, as the mud was frost hardened. A little snow fell but the troops marched well and there were few sick or stragglers.

At Valderas Baird's Corps from Benevente joined the main body and by December 20th the entire army for the first time was concentrated at Mayorga.

REARRANGEMENT OF THE ARMY

When the army had concentrated Sir John Moore rearranged all its' units. He formed it into four divisions and two independent Light Brigades.

The 42nd was a part of Sir David Baird's Division, still in Bentinck's Brigade, along with 1st/4th and 1st/50th.

The total number of men for the army as a whole was around 26000.

SAHAGUN 19th December 1808 (42nd PUA 880 at Sahagun)

Whilst at Mayorga Moore discovered Soult hadn't moved. One division was at Saldana, the other at Carrion. The Light Cavalry Brigade lay in front as a screen, with its HQ at Sahagun, only nine miles from the English Advanced Pickets at the Abbey of Melgar Abaxo.

Lord Paget, Cavalry Commander, surprised the French at Sahagun in what has been described as "The most brilliant exploit of the British Cavalry during the whole six years of the war". A hundred and seventy prisoners were taken whilst many were killed and wounded.

The scared survivors rode back to give Soult notice that the enemy was upon him and might close in next day. Moore's Infantry following in the wake of Pagets' Horse reached Sahagun on the evening of the 21st and it was almost their last step on the advance.

The General allowed one day's rest to enable rear Divisions to close up to the Van so that all might advance on Saldana and Carrion in a compact mass. He intended to deliver his much-desired blow at Soult upon the 23rd.

However, Moore resolved to give his men 48 hours at Sahagun. The Army was told to rest, as long as daylight lasted on the 23rd, and to march at nightfall so as to appear in front of the bridge at Carrion at dawn on the 24th. Attacked at daybreak Moore hoped that Soult would find no time to organise his retreat and would thus be forced to fight.

The 42nd was quartered in the Great Benedictine Convent at Sahagun (passed on Camino). The Anonymous Private records that in the convent "We found a great store of flour concealed". This was used to make cakes.

As soon as Bentinck's Brigade reaches Sahagun the army is re-arranged, Moore having joined with Lieutenant General David Baird who had come in from Corunna, 1/28th is transferred elsewhere as are those four Companys of 5/60th but 1/50th is added in their place, they are still under Bentinck

THE DECISION TO RETREAT

On the afternoon of the 23rd Moore received intelligence that all French forces in the direction of the Escorial were turning north and crossing the Guadarrama. Napoleon had turned north and was hastening across the mountains to overwhelm the British Army.

At nine p.m. Moore countermanded his advance on Carrion when the leading Brigades had already started. Utterly puzzled and much disgusted they returned to Sahagun.

Outside the Benedictine Convent Sir David Baird told the men of the 42nd to hold themselves ready for a retreat at dawn. When he had spoken the Highlanders stood for several moments transfixed and as one of their officer's wrote afterwards;

"Everything showed that Sir John Moore had adopted the glorious determination to attack the enemy, and no decision could have been more eagerly embraced by his whole army. Everyone seemed animated with the same spirit, and the enthusiasm that glowed in this handful of Britons is perfectly indescribable. We were to move in two columns at 8 o'clock that night and by break of day we should be close to our foes who no doubt from their strong position would give us a warm reception.

At the appointed hour our men were under arms and in the most cheering spirits. The artillery were on the road, the baggage collected, the necessary arrangements made for the wounded in the Convent. All with impatience awaited the moment for attack.

The spirit that ran through our ranks was the most impetuous ever witnessed. Every heart beat high, every breast was buoyant for victory, and every countenance demonstrated the eagerness with which they awaited the order to advance. Our Grenadiers had reached the foot of the Convent stairs when, astonished and struck with dismay, we heard Sir David Baird gives these heart rending orders. "Go back to your Quarters and be ready to march in the morning",

For several moments the men stood transfixed and at length their disappointment broke out into a murmur and every countenance lost its high wrought anxiety. Indeed the effect of this counter order on our soldiers was most extraordinary and from the greatest pitch of exultation and courage at once a solemn gloom prevailed throughout our ranks. Nothing was heard on every side but the clang of firelocks thrown down in despair which before they had guarded as their dearest treasure and from the high order they were in had placed in them implicit confidence. The reasons for abandoning so grand a design, when glory seemed calling on our Commander to obey and receive a victory so decidedly within his reach did not transpire until next morning"

24th Dec 1808 THE START OF THE RETREAT

At noon on the 24th Moore started off in two columns. Baird's Division marched by the northern road to Valencia de Don Juan (sth of Leon off Camino) where the Esla is passable by a ford and ferry. Hope and Fraser took the most southern route by Mayorga and the Bridge of Castro Gonzalo on the way to Benavente. There is some evidence from the Anonymous Private, Sir John Moore's Diary and Hibbert's book to suggest that the 42nd started the retreat on the 25th.

The reserve division under E Paget and the two Light Brigades remained at Sahagun for twenty-four hours to cover the retreat. Meanwhile the five Cavalry Regiments were ordered to press in closely on Soult and to keep him, as long as possible, in doubt as to whether he was not himself to be attacked. This worked as the Marshal made no move for two days so the English Columns were unmolested for these vital forty-eight hours.

Again the Anonymous Private records: *"The ground was covered with snow. Our first day's march was to Villamanon a distance of four leagues and a sore day's march it was in account of the deepness of the roads. We came to a large river two miles from Villamanon when we stopped a few hours till all the baggage was got over in a boat. We forded it thus. There had been a pretty strong flood in the river, which was now from three to four feet deep. At the ford we had to fix our ammunition on the top of our knapsacks to prevent it from getting wet in fording the river: this was very disagreeable work at that inclement season. Though we doffed our hose and sheen and kilted our kilts above our weams all of us did not escape a ducking".*

THE RETREAT ON ASTORGA

The crossing of the Esla by Baird's Division referred to above was made on the 26th December at Valencia de Don Juan. As the river was rising the ford was indeed dangerous and a sudden thaw

on the 24th had turned the roads into mud and loosened the snows. However, the guns and baggage crossed without loss, as did some of the infantry with the rest using the two ferryboats. Fortescue mentions the Division as being halted at Acebes (sth of Orbigo) on the 29th and then uniting with Hope and Fraser at Astorga on the same date. Baird's march was wholly unmolested by the French who were being successfully held back by Moore's rearguard under the two Pagets and by the Light Brigades under Crawford and Alten. These reached Astorga on the 30th December thus effecting a concentration of the whole British and Spanish Armies.

AT ASTORGA (fully back on Camino)

Everyone thought that Moore would make a stand at Astorga. This was because Astorga was the gateway to the mountains of Galicia and there were in addition stockpiles of military equipment that could have been used.

The town itself could not have been defended but the area behind it was ideal country where a position could have been held against the French. Here the steep and forbidding Galician Mountains are traversed by only two passes. The one to the north called the Defile of Manzanal, which was the longer and easier, when compared to the shorter and more rugged pass to the south, called the Defile of Foncebadon (Foncebadon). (cruz de Ferro Camino)

The two Defiles could have been fortified and held against superior numbers. To turn out the British Troops would have been a very difficult task. The only other way into Galicia was by Puebla de Sanabria but it was far away and almost impassable at mid winter due to the poor roads and deep snow.

MOORE ORDERS THE RETREAT

Therefore, Sir John Moore proposed to fall back at once to the coast, as fast as he could, and trusted that the French would not be able to follow further than Villafranca, due to a lack of food. This retreat was ordered on the 30th December and the Divisions of Baird, Hope and Fraser pushed on towards Villafranca.

The main body of Moore's army had left by the 31st following the road to Manzanal with the exception of the Light Brigades of Crawford and Alten who were sent towards Orense and Vigo via Foncebadon in order to cover the left flank. Four hundred sick were left behind in Astorga along with a pile of equipment. The French did not enter Astorga until January 1st – thirty six hours after Moore had left.

THE BREAKDOWN IN DISCIPLINE

From the moment the retreat began the discipline in many Battalions ceased altogether and the evacuation of Astorga was carried out in a great state of disorder.

The news of further retreat exasperated the men and thousands got loose in the streets breaking into houses, maltreating inhabitants and pillaging stores. Rum was a great attraction and many were left behind dead drunk.

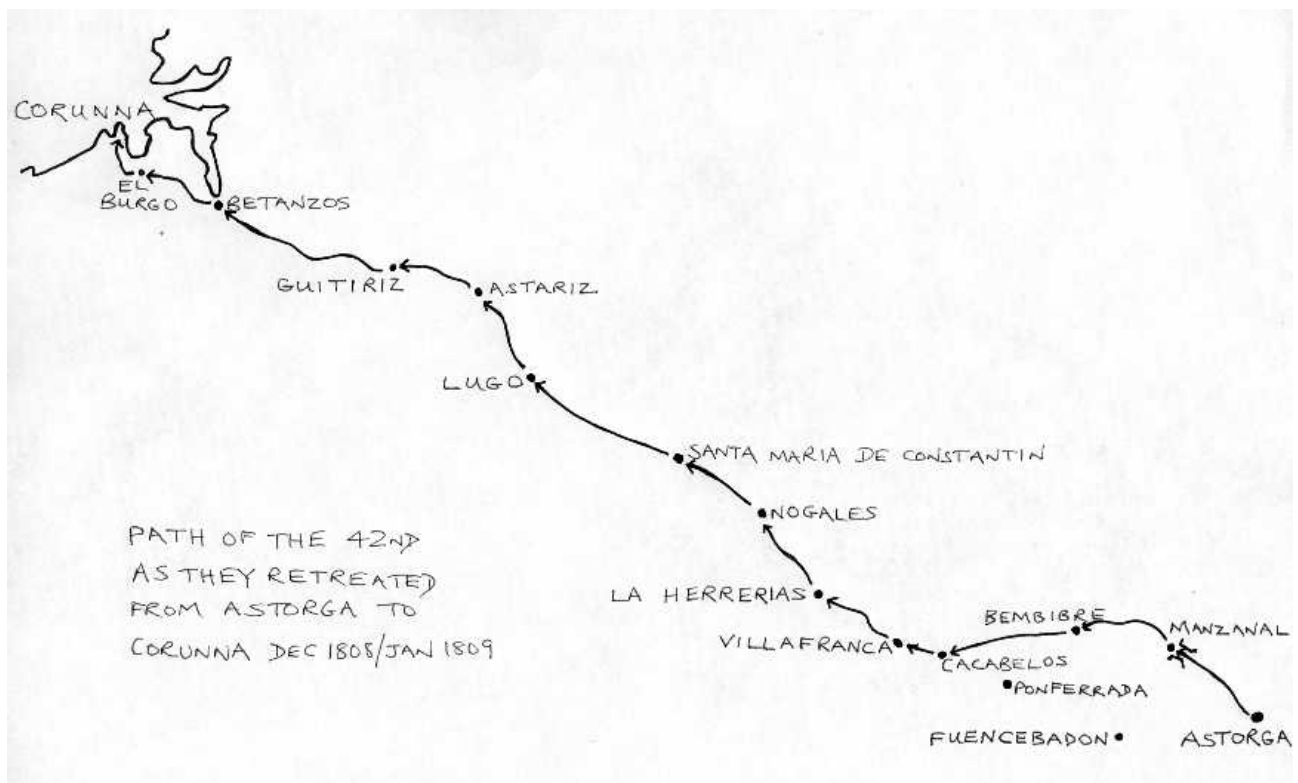
The terrible rain of the last week was turning into snow as the column began its long uphill climb across the ridge of the Monte Teleno (Toleno) towards the uplands of the Vierzo.

On leaving Astorga on December 30th the 42nd along with the rest of Baird's Division faced a long twelve mile pull up a serpentine ascent through the Manzanal Pass across the ridge of Monte Teleno, and then a seven miles drop down to the valley of the Vierzo.

The rain had given way to the snow and conditions were appalling. The road was knee deep in slush and fatal to wagons and draught animals. The route through the villages of Combarros, Manzanal and Bembibre was soon littered with derelict baggage, wagons and amongst them the exhausted stragglers dying from cold and dysentery.

Retreat in these conditions tested the Regiment to the utmost and in Regiments where the officers were weak and incompetent discipline broke down. There were according to Oman about a dozen regiments, which behaved thoroughly well and came through the retreat with insignificant losses. The 42nd was one of these.

However, it wasn't all good news. As the Anonymous Private reports at one point "*There were a great many of the 42nd who got drunk and some of them lagged behind in the line of march and became prisoners to the French. When our day's march was over there was a drumhead Court*



Marital held, and twenty-four tried and flogged. But our Colonel was enraged on account of being severely reprimanded that day by Sir John Moore on the line of March".

The Division containing the 42nd reached Bembibre which was the first place beyond the Manzanal Pass on December 31st and it was here that the serious indiscipline began. The village was a large local depot for wine and many hundreds made their way to the vaults and cellars. As the anonymous Private recalls: *"About five o'clock we reached a few miserable dwellings inhabited by horror struck and famished peasantry. Close to them we halted and piled our arms in the snow. There appeared neither wood nor water near us to cook our scanty morsel. Impatient to satisfy the urgent demands of nature the men pulled down doors, carried away chairs, carts etc from the isolated houses of the helpless natives."*

When the Divisions marched off next morning the place resembled a battlefield with nearly one thousand men women and children lying dead drunk in the main street. Although the rearguard tried to rouse as many as they could, many were left.

French Dragoons entered Bembibre around two o'clock on 1st January 1809. Many were massacred as the Dragoons set about the drunks with their sabres. Those that did escape and caught up with the rearguard were in a horribly mutilated condition, and served as a timely reminder as to what could happen when indiscipline strikes.

The 42nd reached Villafranca on January 1st (back on Camino from Cacabelos) and scenes almost as bad were about to occur. Villafranca was Moore's most important depot. It contained fourteen days rations of biscuits for the whole army, an immense amount of salt beef and pork and some hundreds of barrels of rum.

The Private of the 42nd records: *"My shoes at this time were torn in pieces by the roads; but I had contrived to lash them to my feet with strings stripped from parts of my dress. Two days biscuits and three days of salt beef and pork were served out to us man by man; but there was no time for shoes and spirits to be given us though there was plenty of both in the store."*

As there was no transport to move the stores Moore ordered most of it to be destroyed by burning. The troops however, broke into magazines and looted.

Again our Private provides us with a description; *"There were a great many of the men who got shoes, but it was by forcing their way into the store and breaking the casks in which the shoes were packed up. When I saw this I endeavoured to get a pair; but the crowd was so great, I could not get near the entrance, and I could not tarry for the bugle was sounding the fall in. The Provost*

then came with his Guard of Horse and cleared the store. In a short time, notwithstanding our wretchedness, and wants, and bleeding feet, all that was in the store was destroyed."

On the morning of January 3rd at Villafranca Moore paraded the army and had one man shot before them for plundering a house in broad daylight and striking an officer. The troops were then marched past the corpse before marching on towards La Herrerías. (Cebreiro just nth of here and where Camino heads west)

Again many were left behind after getting at the rum barrels and when the rearguard passed through on the night of 3rd/4th January they found the road before them strewn with one continuous line of wreckage.

VILLAFRANCA TO LUGO

Beyond Villafranca the Corunna road went through the defile of Piedrafita by which it reached the head waters of the Nava River and then climbed the spurs of Monte Cebreiro (Camino heads west) to come out onto the bleak upland plain of Lugo.

These fifty miles contained the most difficult and desolate country in the whole of Moore's march and was the scene of more helpless and undeserved misery than any other section of the retreat. It was not merely drunkards and marauders who now began to fall to the rear, but steady old soldiers who could not face the cold, the semi-starvation and the forced marches. Moore hurried his troops forward at a pace that, over such roads, could only be kept up by the strongest men. On the morning of the 4th January Baird's Division was at Nogales preparing to move at dawn towards Santa Maria de Constantin. Sir David Baird was still in bed when George Napier an Aide de Camp of Moore arrived with orders from the General to halt at Lugo and assemble there. Sir John had received reports, at around 3 a.m. on January 4th, from his Engineers which determined that Corunna was to be his port of embarkation. The transports were ordered from Vigo to Corunna and in the meantime the army would be halted at Lugo, rested, and discipline restored and if necessary battle offered to the enemy.

Baird now committed a cardinal sin in allowing the orders to go forward to Fraser by a Dragoon who got drunk and lost the dispatch. This led to Fraser's troops continuing towards St Jago de Compostelia and then having to return to Lugo at the cost of four hundred stragglers.

On January 5th Moore compelled the whole army to execute a forced march of 36 continuous hours. It was as if Moore now doubted the discipline of the army and wanted to reach the sea as quickly as possible.

It was on Monte Cebreiro that the wagons containing the sick and wounded were left. It was here that the many women and children accompanying the army suffered terribly. The French treated those women who survived abominably.

As the men gained the highest point the red uniforms of those soldiers, who lay dying from fatigue and cold, picked out the road below. The great part of the baggage train was lost between Villafranca and Lugo, as was the military chest, containing twenty five thousand pounds, when it was thrown over a precipice.

As the reserve drew towards Lugo as dawn approached on January 6th it fell in with Hope's and Baird's Divisions. The main body of the army was drawn up on the bleak uplands east of the town.

LUGO (Camino) TO CORUNNA

The Lugo position was very strong. On the right it touched the unfordable river Minho whilst on the left it rested on rocky and inaccessible hills. All along the front there was a line of low stone walls forming the boundaries of fields and vineyards. Below it there was a gentle down slope of a mile, up which the enemy would have to march to attack.

Sir John Moore hoped that Marshall Soult would fight as he felt that there could only be one outcome. However, Soult was far too canny to move against such a formidable line. Between January 6th to 8th he considered himself too weak and was content to wait for reinforcements. Moore now knew that the retreat had to be pursued to the finish, as to wait or attack were no longer options. So the evening of the 8th January was spent in destroying stores and preparing for retreat. Five hundred exhausted and injured Cavalry and Artillery horses were shot, a number of Caissons knocked to pieces and the remainder of stores of food destroyed.

Bivouac fires were to be left burning to mislead the enemy that the army was still present and the men were to slip quietly away along routes carefully marked with sheaves of corn and where guides would be placed so as to ensure the troops reached the Corunna road in sequence. Unfortunately, just as the evacuation was taking place a violent rain and sleet storm began. This blew away the markers and left the guides in total darkness. As a result several Battalions spent the night wandering round and round to such an extent that in the morning they found themselves



Sir John Moore during the retreat to Corunna: Battle of Corunna, also known as the Battle of Elviña, on 16th January 1809 in the Peninsular War: picture by R. Beavis

still close to Lugo.

The Anonymous Private provides a description of what happened to the 42nd. "We stopped on this ground on which we offered the French battle all day. About 8 o'clock at night we received orders to put on large fires to make the enemy believe we were still encamped. At 9 we commenced our retreat again and marched all night and next day till 2 o'clock. We then halted at a small village wherein there were some stores of rum and blankets. We had a great deal of rain and sleet that day."

The village referred to above was that of a dirty, miserable looking place called Guitiriz (Guitoriez). The 42nd here experienced a particularly severe and violent storm. Sir David Baird the Divisional Commander had taken shelter in the Inn and had given permission for the men to break up and take shelter. This was a fatal error, as the men could not be got together again when the time to start had arrived. Bentinck's Brigade to which the 42nd belonged left an enormous proportion of their men behind. The main body of Moore's army moved as a disorderly mob between Lugo and Betanzos. There was more dispersion, disorder and marauding in this march than in any other during the whole retreat. The fatiguing retreat was continued through part of the night January 9th to 10th, and on the following morning all of the regiments reached Betanzos. The reserve, which had not lost its bearings, halted a mile or two east of the town to cover the arrival of hundreds and thousands of stragglers.

Again the Private of the 42nd describes the Regiment's progress; "We tarried here till about 9 at night and then took the road again. This was a constant march and on this day I was reduced to my bare feet. I cared not if I fell into the hands of the French. I was harassed out of my very life. Still I continued on the line of the march with the Regiment for four hours.

I would be marching and sleeping, literally walking asleep. I often thought that if I could get a convenient place I would lie down and take a nap and let the consequences be what they might. By this time there were not three hundred men with the Regiment out of the one thousand that entered Spain. Many had fallen a sacrifice to the hardships of fatigue, hunger and disease on the line of march and many more had been taken or massacred by the French who pursued us.

We continued our march until 11 a.m. the next day (January 10th) when we reached Betanzos. All that came of our Regiment to this town was one hundred and fifty. We had not an officer to carry the colours as all had fallen behind but while a man was left the 42nd's colours would be safe."

Oman quotes another Regiment from Manningham's Brigade of Baird's Division arriving at Betanzos with only nine officers, three sergeants and three privates.

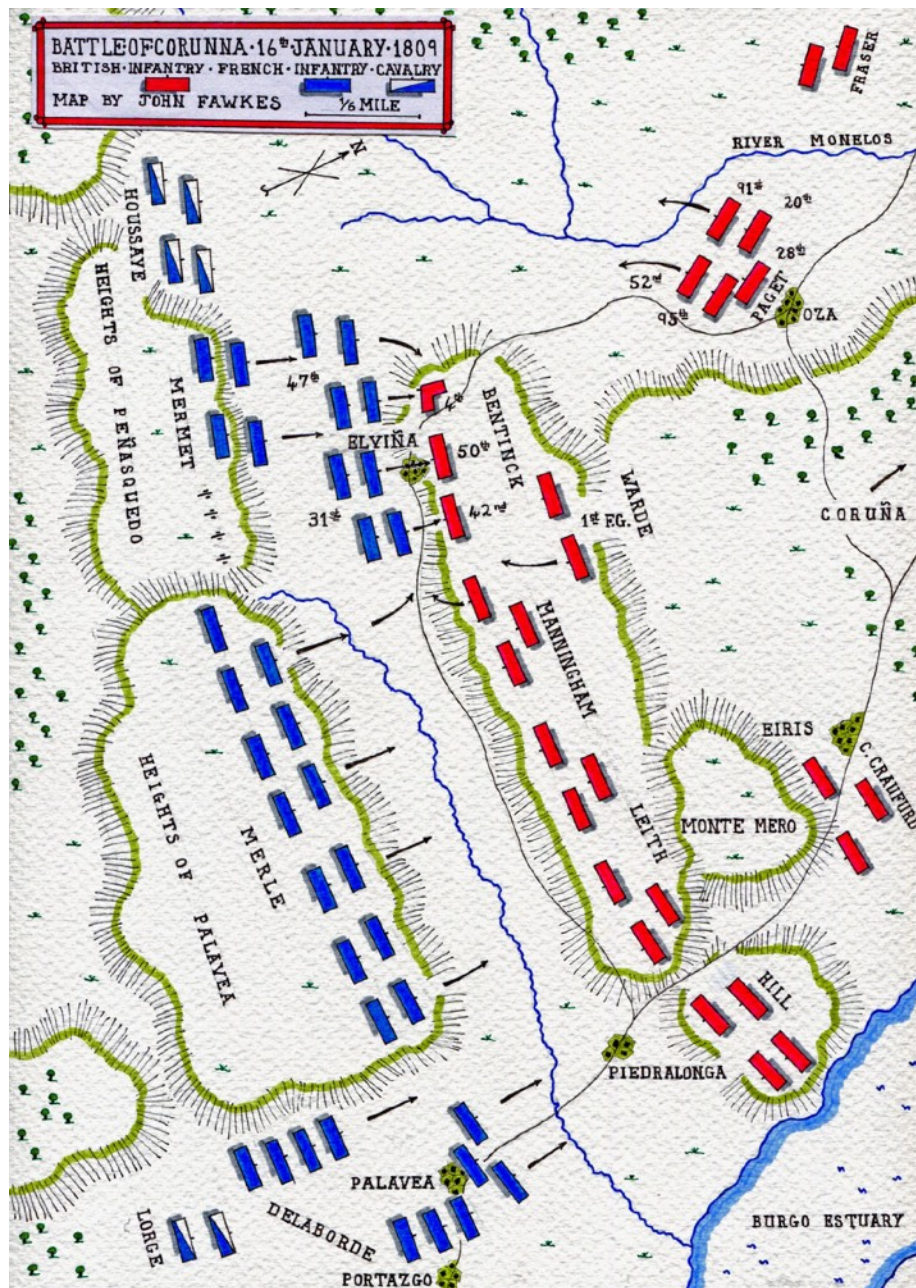
The army rested and fed itself on the 10th and resumed the march on the 11th. The weather was mild and dry and the coastland climate a pleasant change from the mountains. More stores were destroyed at Betanzos.

The 42nd Private states: "The army left Betanzos at 9 a.m. However, I stayed as part of the guard detailed to assist in destroying stores. All were thrown in the river. We arrived in Corunna by the afternoon."

Moore was there to watch the army come into Corunna, which they began to do in failing light at 3 p.m. He had reached Corunna but his troubles were not over. The transports had not arrived from Vigo, by the 13th, due to contrary winds. Therefore, the army commander ordered the landward front of Corunna to be fortified and the seaward batteries to be disarmed.

The 42nd were quartered in a convent in the town.

THE BATTLE OF CORUNNA



The Ground

The ground to the south of Corunna rose in a succession of parallel ranges which ran from east to west, being bounded on the east by the estuary of El Burgo.

The first of these was Monte Mero, which lay about two miles from Corunna. Its' maximum height was 400 feet and declined in altitude from east to west along a front of 1½ miles.

A mile to the south of Monte Mero were the heights of Palavea and Penasquedo with an average height of 600 feet stretching from east to west for about two miles and was prolonged to the north west by Monte de Mesoiro.

Monte Mero and the heights of Penasquedo were covered with rocks and large patches of gorse, which made the ground both difficult and blind. The private of the 42nd noted that, "the ground on which both the French and British were to fight was very bad for making an engagement being very rocky and full of ditches."

On the western side the two ranges were connected by a low neck about 150 feet high and here stood the village of Elvina. Elvina contained a cluster of scattered houses each surrounded by dry stone garden walls thus forming a labyrinth of narrow ways.

The British Position

Sir John Moore did not have enough men to occupy the heights of Penasquedo so he fell back on Monte Mero. His left flank was protected by the estuary of El Burgo though on the right the ground was open and easy for a turning movement which if successful would cut him off from Corunna. In addition the greater height of the ridge of Penasquedo allowed the enemy to dominate Monte Mero through long-range artillery fire.

Moore's first line from Elvina to the estuary along the slopes of Monte Mero consisted of the Divisions of Hope (ten battalions) and Baird (eight battalions) each with two brigades in line and one in reserve.

Bentinck's Brigade (42nd, 50th, 4th) of Baird's Division rested its right on Elvina and extended eastward where the line was continued by Manningham's Brigade (3rd Battalion Royals, 26th, 2nd/81st) with the Guards under Warde in the rear.

Leith's Brigade was deployed on the west of the road to Corunna to the left of Manningham and the line was then prolonged further by Hill's Brigade (Queens, 14th, 32nd) which was stationed between that road and the estuary. Crawford's Brigade (36th, 71st, 92nd) concealed in the rear of Hill's Brigade between Eiris and the tidal water completed the distribution of Hope's Division.

Sir John Moore's weak point was his right flank. Accordingly Paget's reserve (20th, 28th, 52nd, 91st, Rifle Corps) was massed further north about the village of Oza to the right rear of Baird; and Fraser's Division, made up of Fane's Brigade (36th, 79th, 82nd) and Beresford's Brigade (6th, 9th, 23rd, 2/43rd), was drawn up still further to the right rear on the heights of Santa Margarita. Six out of the nine guns were on Monte Mero.

The troops were brought up to their fighting ground on the 15th January although preparations had begun on the 14th for the inevitable battle. The Private of the 42nd states that on the afternoon that the fleet came into harbour (14th January) "we were busied in erecting huts".

The French Position

When the French stragglers had arrived by the 15th they moved forward and seized the heights of Palavea and Penasquedo overlooking the British position.

Soult decided to attempt the manoeuvre that Sir John Moore expected, which was to assault the western end of the line where the Heights were least formidable and at the same moment to turn the Monte Mero by a movement round its extreme right through the open ground.

Because Baird's Division was within cannon shot Soult ordered ten guns to be dragged up to the western most crest of the French position and to be placed above the village of Elvina facing Bentinck's Brigade.

Soult's force was superior to Moore's. His plan was to contain the British left and centre with Delaborde's and Merle's Divisions while Mermet and the baulk of the cavalry attacked Moore's right seizing the western end of the Monte Mero and pushing in between Baird's flank and Corunna. If this movement succeeded the British retreat would be compromised. Delaborde and Merle could then assail Hope and prevent him from going to the rear and two thirds of Moore's army would be captured.

The Part Played By the 42nd

The battle began around 1.30 to 2 p.m. on the 16th January 1809. The 42nd were under the command of Battalion Colonel James Stirling in Bentinck's Brigade and was probably around eight hundred strong. The Anonymous Private refers to the fact that: "On the morning of the 16th of January we could see the French getting into very large columns. About 10 a.m. they advanced with a few cannon in front of the Brigade to which I belonged. Our men did not mind this till about 12 o'clock when a few shots were fired from the enemy's battery. Some of their balls fell among our huts and we were then soon under arms. Five minutes sufficed. We had two field pieces at the right of our Brigade."

At about 2 p.m. Soult gave the order to attack. The battery opposite Elvina began to play upon Baird's Division. Mermet was to carry Elvina and turn the British right; Merle was to support him by attacking the British centre; and far away on the British left Delaborde was to take Piedralonga. Mermet's Division was in motion and five hundred Voltigeurs swarmed forward to assault Elvina. At their head was General Jardon "a crabbed, foul mouthed, hard drinking old soldier who talked the French of the canteen and could hardly write his name". Bentinck's Brigade was ready for them with the 4th on the right, 50th in the centre and the 42nd on the left.

Thus Bentinck's Brigade was at once seriously assailed. Not only did the balls of Soult's main battery sweep its lines but also a heavy infantry attack was in progress. The 42nd suffered heavily from this bombardment – "a few of the 42nd were killed and some were wounded by the grapeshot. We had then not moved one inch in advance or retreat".



42nd Highlanders the Black Watch at the Battle of Corunna on 16th January 1809 in the Peninsular War: picture by Harry Payne



Sir John Moore encouraging the Black Watch at the Battle of Corunna, also known as the Battle of Elvina, on 16th January 1809 in the Peninsular War

In many accounts of the battle there is a reference to a soldier of the 42nd being hit by an artillery shot. This comes from the "Life of Sir Charles Napier" by Sir W. Napier – "Meanwhile a second shot had torn off the leg of a 42nd man, who screamed horribly and rolled about so as to excite agitation and alarm with others. The General said, "This is nothing, my lads; keep your ranks; take that man away; my good fellow don't make such a noise, we must bear these things better". He spoke sharply but it had a good effect for this man's cries had made an opening in the ranks". The French 31st Brigade on coming before Elvina parted into two columns, the left of which went through the village while the right rounding its eastern side advanced up the hill against the 42nd. The Highlanders had so far been engaged in a confused fight with the swarming skirmishers of Mermet with both sides taking advantage of the shelter of the enclosures. "The French columns soon formed their line and advanced driving the picquets and flankers before them while their artillery kept up a close cannonade on our line with grape and round shot."

All the stress of the first fighting fell on the three battalions of Bentincks Brigade on the hill above Elvina. However, the time was now coming for more serious fighting and with Baird the Divisional Commander having been disabled by a cannon shot the army commander Sir John Moore was on the spot to direct it.

There is probably a degree of poetical licence in the various words ascribed to Sir John Moore at this time. The Anonymous Private records that Sir John came in front of the 42nd and said "There is no use in making a long speech, but 42nd I hope that you will do as you have done before". Sir John Moore then rode off the ground in front of the 42nd. "Sir John did not mention Egypt but we understood Egypt was the meaning of his expressions as Bonaparte's Invincibles were the last the 42nd were engaged with. Sir John was thirty yards in front of the regiment when he addressed us. I heard him distinctly. Our Colonel gave orders for us to lie on the ground at the back of the Height our position was on; whenever the French were within a few yards of us we were to start up and fire our muskets and then give them the bayonet.

They came up the hill cheering ", with their normal cries of En Avant! En Avant! Tuez! Tuez!, "as if there were none to oppose them we being out of their sight. When they came up to the top of the hill all the word of command that was given was "42nd , Charge!"

Private Gunn of the 42nd recalled that "On standing up a strange sight met one's gaze; close to us was advancing a line of sturdy Frenchmen, too close in fact for our volley to have full effect. Both sides were, I think, taken by surprise, but our opponents more so, for all that were able to do so went to the right about, pursued by us down the hill."

The Anonymous Private similarly provides a description of that instance. "In one moment every man was up with a cheer and the sound of his musket, and every shot did execution. They were so close upon us that we gave them the bayonet the instance we fired."

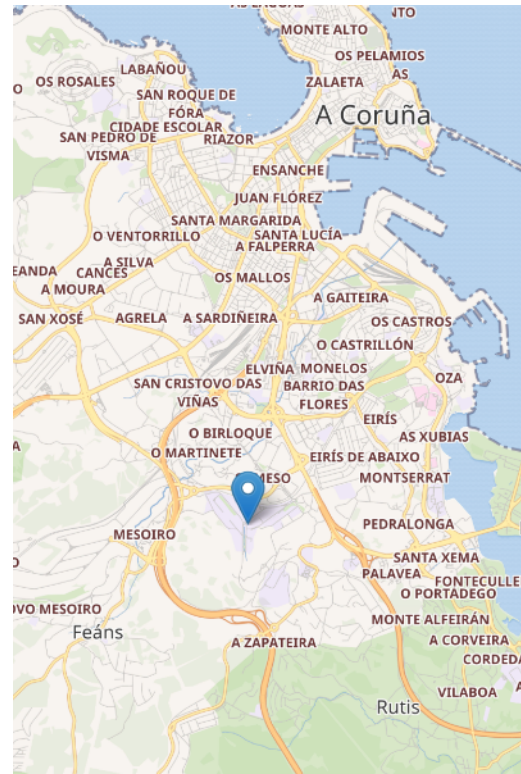
We followed them down to the valley and stopped not for general or commanding officer. When we had driven them in upon their other columns we ourselves retreated, but not pursued, and took advantage of a ditch that was in the valley from which we kept up a constant fire on the enemy to dark. All the time I was in that ditch I was up to the knee in mud."

Fortescue summarises the action as follows "The Highlanders strove forward, poured in one volley and charged with the bayonet. There was a short but desperate conflict between the two regiments and then the French gave way and ran down to the foot of the hill, cruelly maltreated, while the Highlanders halted behind the wall."



The Elvina position was vital. As the French reinforcements came up they pushed the 42nd back to the edge of the village but there the 42nd took up a strong position behind walls and ditches from which they could not be removed. As the French fought to break the 42nd's hold on the position Napier commanding the 50th waited impatiently on the ridge above. At last he decided to take the advice of his second in command, "You cannot be wrong to follow the 42nd". The 50th also came to a halt besides the 42nd at the edge of the village. Moore now brought up the guards to replace the 42nd and 50th. It is said that when they appeared the 42nd's Light Company whose ammunition was spent began to retire thinking they were to be relieved. Moore sent them forward again saying "My brave 42nd, join your comrades ammunition is coming you have your bayonets".

However, Forbes in his history of the regiment quotes a letter from Major General James Stirling written in 1830. "As soon as the Regiment had given their fire and driven the enemy with the bayonet to the bottom of the ravine, Sir John directed me to halt the corps and defend that position; and turning myself round to him when he gave the order, I saw him, at the moment struck to the ground from off his horse and I immediately sent a party to carry him from the field."



The Grenadiers and 1st company not hearing my word of command to halt continued the charge a little in advance as did the Light Company also; when I was ordered by Lord William Bentinck commanding the Brigade to recall them and form them in line with the Regiment; and in that position, as directed by Sir John Moore the Corps continued in close action with the enemy till night put an end to the contest."



Shortly after Moore had rallied the Highlanders, as indicated above, he was struck by a round shot on the left breast and shoulder. The shock hurled him from his horse. Sir John raised himself into a sitting position with his uninjured arm and continued to follow, with his eyes, the 42nd in action. He was borne back to Corunna in a blanket by six men of the Guards and 42nd where he later died and was buried.

In this part of the field both sides had had more than enough. The losses of both had been very severe and the survivors thought more of keeping themselves under cover than of fighting. The Battle of Elvina was at an end and as night fell both parties withdrew from the village by mutual consent.

The 42nd's Private concludes "We stopped in the ditch till about 8 p.m. when we retreated to our old position where we stayed till 11 p.m. when we received orders to retreat to Corunna and embark. We left behind two men of a company to keep up large fires that we had kindled to deceive the enemy."

LOSSES OF THE 42nd.

Fortescue: 6 officers and 144 men (150 total).

Oman: 39 rank and file killed, 111 wounded including 6 officers (150).

Keltie: 36 rank and file killed, 1 sergeant killed, 6 officers wounded (Captains Duncan Campbell, John Fraser, Maxwell Grant, Lts Alexander Anderson, William Middleton, Thomas MacInnes) 1 sergeant and 104 rank and file wounded (148).

Linklater: 35 killed, 111 wounded (146).

The retreat was more deadly as ninety nine men were marked "missing".

The 42nd embarked on 17th January 1809 for Plymouth and Portsmouth.

The march to Corunna apparently does little to reduce the numbers in 1/42nd although perhaps a good number of these men are in poor condition, we are expected to see something like 800 line up for action on 16th January 1809 when Moore has to fight with his back to the sea. Bentinck Brigade has a position on sloping ground overlooking the village of Elvina, they are set out across the hill with 1/50th at the left 1/42nd in the centre and 1/4th to the right, the Light Company of 1/50th is in the village as the day begins. Marshal Nicholas Soult has had a strong battery of ten guns placed on ground opposite Bentinck's line which is able to bring down its fire clear of the village and, as day breaks and his infantry send forward a dense swarm of tirailleurs to attack Elvina village the battery comes into action against the units on the hill. The Light Company of 1/50th being heavily outnumbered is gradually tumbled out of Elvina whilst Baird who has been close by Bentinck has his left arm smashed by a cannonball which effectively puts an end to his involvement this day and seems to end his active military career too.

When the enemy has cleared the village and its regiments are able to form for another attack they come up the slope in eight columns of battalions during which time it is most likely that Moore has also arrived to monitor this move.

Enemy troops on the extreme right are also approaching to the right of 1/4th who Moore then orders to throw back its own right to cover this move. Meanwhile 1/42nd and 1/50th have advanced far enough down to meet their opponents and begin a long to medium range musket duel, there is a succession of low stone walls between these duellists which neither would relish climbing to get at the other.

(John Moore was born in Glasgow, the son of [John Moore](#), a doctor and writer, and the older brother of Admiral Sir [Graham Moore](#).)

Moore can see that very little is to be gained in this stand off so, he orders Colonel James Sterling, commanding 1/42nd and Major Charles Napier of 1/50th to charge down and over these obstacles to get to close quarters with the bayonet. It seems that it is short range musket volleys which actually do the trick but, having shaken those before them 1/42nd and 1/50th run them down the hill into the village and its surroundings with 1/42nd pulling up outside of its buildings and 1/50th rushing in, chasing out its occupants and even coming out at the other side. Some time later as a result of a vigorous counter-attack the remnants of 1/50th come back up the hill leaving their Major Napier wounded and in the hands of the enemy, Moore has called up two battalions of the Guard to reinforce 1/42nd who were standing alone across this hill which is still receiving the attention of the ten gun enemy battery.

Once again the enemy mount an attack up the slopes towards Bentinck's positions; we are not told just where the stone walls are but obviously in this encounter they do not feature as an obstacle. Exchanging fire and getting the better of it the Guards battalions begin to push back the enemy, it is at this time that a cannonball crashes into Moore's shoulder leaving nothing but a huge mortal wound, as he sinks down his last order is that 1/42nd should get forward with the Guard battalions to complete the job.

This they do and, as the day is by now well spent [as are the opposing forces] the battle dies down into sporadic isolated actions.

There is nothing left to do now but to retire back down to the docksides and wharves where the newly arrived transport ships have been steadily loading aboard as much equipment as is movable and now the sick and injured all mixed up with the paraphernalia of the army. The battalion has lost 39 men killed and 117 wounded this day, more will die as they are shipped back to Plymouth in England, other to die at home whilst the bulk of the survivors will be made ready for another campaign in another land; Within this casualty list we see that Major Archibald Campbell is one of those who will die of wounds back in England, Captain Duncan Campbell expiring while still on board ship, Captains John Fraser and Maxwell Grant, Lieutenants Alexander Anderson, Duncan McInnes and William Middleton count amongst the wounded.

21st January 1809 (landed at Plymouth, England)

Disembarked 757

Monolith at Elvina and location, see below⁵

Moore was buried wrapped in a military cloak in the ramparts of the town. Although the historian Napier attributes the funeral monument to [Marshal Soult](#), it was erected by orders of the Spanish commander, the [Marquis de la Romana](#), when he returned to Corunna after the French abandoned Galicia.



⁵ [https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=File:Monolito Moore \(Front\).jpg¶ms=043.332694 N -008.412056 E_globe:Earth_class:object_type:object_&language=en](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=File:Monolito_Moore_(Front).jpg¶ms=043.332694_N_-008.412056_E_globe:Earth_class:object_type:object_&language=en)

The Burial of Sir John Moore after Corunna (1817)

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,
As his corse to the rampart we hurried;
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot
O'er the grave where our hero we buried.

We buried him darkly at dead of night,
The sods with our bayonets turning;
By the struggling moonbeam's misty light
And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we wound him,
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest
With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,
And we spoke not a word of sorrow;
But we steadfastly gazed on the face that was dead,
And we bitterly thought of the morrow.

We thought, as we hollowed his narrow bed
And smoothed down his lonely pillow,
That the foe and the stranger would tread o'er his head,
And we far away on the billow!

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's gone
And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him,
But little he'll reck, if they let him sleep on
In the grave where a Briton has laid him.
But half of our heavy task was done
When the clock struck the hour for retiring;
And we heard the distant and random gun
That the foe was sullenly firing.

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,
From the field of his fame fresh and gory;
We carved not a line, and we raised not a stone,
But left him alone with his glory.

ancient bridge over the River Mero in the O Burgo suburb.
It was across this bridge – perhaps 120 yards long, two-
soldiers wide – that much of Sir John's army tramped on
January 11 1809. The spot where Sir John had been hit. It's
on what is now Corunna's university campus, near the sports stadium, and marked by a monolith
erected on the orders of French commander Marshal Soult. Back in the centre, the house where
Sir John died. Across from the port, near the obelisk on Canton Grande, it has grown into the
Banco Popular



Walcheren

Having been sent on that abortive campaign across the English Channel to the Low Countries this battalion is made to suffer the full force of the swamp fevers prevalent in the high summer of 1809, when the call is finally made to evacuate the sorry remnants of this army 1/42nd would record its return to England with no more than 200 men Present under Arms. It will be some time before this battalion is able to move anywhere at all!

The 1st Battalion was next employed in the expedition to Walcheren, and on its return home in September 1809, it had only 204 men fit for duty out of the 758 who had sailed from England barely six weeks before.

Back to the Peninsula

On the 20th April 1812, the 1st Battalion arrived from England, and, on joining Lord Wellington's army, received into its ranks those men of the 2nd Battalion who were fit for service ; the officers, staff, etc., of the 2nd Battalion being sent home to recruit. The 2nd Battalion was disbanded at Aberdeen on the 24th October 1814.

1/42nd land at Lisbon and march up to the army.

1/2/42nd

No figures being given.

It is hardly necessary to observe that Brigadier Stopford goes off again, this officer has a command problem, no one is gazetted for a while but it can with confidence be expected that the ever-present Blantyre will do the work in his absence.

Meanwhile Badajoz is being put under siege, battered and stormed, 1st Division is far away in Estremadura with Graham keeping any enemy force about that theatre well out of contention.

Early in April a new unit joined, this was 2/58th, not really new at all but one of those 2nd batt's which had been brought to the country in 1809, found wanting and sent down to Lisbon, having languished there for almost two years they probably brought to the brigade about 400 men.

During this time out of the real fighting arm of the forces a new Brigadier arrives, Major General William Wheatley and at the same time 2/42nd is ordered to draft its rank and file into 1/42nd and its surplus officers and any infirm men are sent home to recruit.

1/42nd

Eventually Graham's Corps is recalled to the main army to take its part in the upcoming campaign about Salamanca, Graham himself however, suffering from near blindness bows out leaving 1st Division in the hands of Major General Henry Campbell. So it is that in mid July of 1812 Brigadier Wheatley will have in hand 2/24th, 1/42nd, 2/58th, 1/79th and a Company of 5/60th a large brigade by any standard, all in 2nd Brigade 1st Division. We can expect 1/42nd to show very good numbers at:

Salamanca 22 Jul 1812

15th July 1812 (about Salamanca)

PUA 1079

When the serious fighting develops by the village and hills of the Arapiles a week later it is the Light Company which goes forward into the village early in the piece and has the only contact with the enemy that day so far as 1/42nd are concerned.

Not much contact here either, losing only 3 men wounded all day. It is a matter of conjecture as to the non-performance / conduct of the Divisional commander Henry Campbell this day, his orders to advance against the enemy to the left of Major General Henry Clinton's 6th Division being so much delayed as to be of no use whatever to that battered Division in its fight with General Ferey. As it turned out then, no work for Wheatley's well filled [2500 bayonets] battalion formations on 22nd July!

Taking off his victorious troops to gather in the Capital, Madrid Wellington saw fit to leave behind those men whose battalions had suffered large losses and, those others that were seen to be less than able to march "regularly" in the field.

Amongst these last were 1/42nd, still weakened by the Walcheren fevers and, still not able to stand hard marching.

Burgos

It is not to be too long however before Wellington returns, marching north and picking up 1/42nd and others at Cuellar on his way up the Grande Chausee to Burgos where they come to a halt before its castle stoutly defended by the enemy garrison.

Wheatley falls ill with typhus and rapidly dies so that Colonel James Sterling of 1/42nd takes up the Brigade as they are drawn in to the investment of Burgos Castle. As early as the night of 19th September 1/42nd are involved in an abortive escalade of the outer walls, using only the two flank Companies, they suffer some 204 men KILLED AND killed and wounded from these two units

In May 1812, the Black Watch's 1st Battalion re-joined Wellington's army. Holmes was among hundreds of men drafted into it from the 2nd Battalion, which then returned to Scotland. The 1st Battalion were held in reserve at Salamanca (clasp) on 22 July 1812, but suffered terribly during the Siege of Burgos from 19 September to 21 October. Ordered to capture an outerwork known as the San Miguel Hornwork, the 42nd launched a night attack before the artillery bombardment had started. The Battalion was spotted by the French in the moonlight and sustained 200 casualties.

amongst whom are Captain Donald Williamson mortally injured Lieutenants Dugald Gregorson and Peter Milne killed, Captains George Davidson, William McKenzie, Archibald Menzies, Lieutenants Hugh Fraser, James Stewart, William Lorimer and Volunteer John Lane all wounded.

20th September 1812 (at Burgos castle)

PAB 872

This figure is on the generous side and takes into account that in order for the battalion to lose so many from its elite companies they must have numbered well in excess of 100 men each when the escalade was mounted. Equally it follows that these two flank companies now had effectively vanished. No matter, the battalion numbers decreased steadily for the next month by reason of their work in the trenches close to the enemy, Ensign Cullen has been killed here and Lieutenant Ranold McKinnon and Ensign John Orr both wounded, the weather was foul, as was to be expected in the late autumn so that when the siege was abandoned in late October 1/42nd could have mustered no more than;

23rd October 1812 (after the siege at Burgos)

PAB 657

From this time until late November the army retreats back, both down country and eventually westward to the safety of the Portuguese frontier, Sterling manages to protect his men enough to

keep together at least 1/42nd but is less fortunate with those two 2nd battalions of 24th and 58th which have slipped down to insupportable numbers. When the army is yet again re-cast during early December these two are amalgamated into a 3rd Provisional Battalion and transfer elsewhere, to take their place Sterling is given a new unit 1/91st a battalion which had landed at Corunna with a brigade of Guards marching all the way down to Ciudad Rodrigo and joined Sterling's Brigade by 14th December, this was yet another ex Walcheren battalion.

So it is that we see 1/42nd and its comrades moved en-bloc into 6th Division as its 1st Brigade, they now are composed thus; 1/42nd, 1/79th, 1/91st and a Company of 5/60th and will go into winter quarters having survived the retreat to the Agueda to show:

29th November 1812 (behind the Agueda)

PUA 613

The army generally has now a long period of rest to recover its numbers although when we are given a glimpse of early spring figures 1/42nd do not appear to be faring too well at all,

26th April 1813 (in cantonments in Portugal)

PUA 520

However by the time that the army is stirring itself to go on full offensive in a great sweeping march northward which will bring them face to face with Joseph and Jourdan at the Zadorra River in front of Vittoria things have changed dramatically, obviously a very large draft of new men have joined, so:

21st June 1813 (after the battle at Vittoria)

PUA 850

Major General Edward Edward Packenham has the Division but his task this day is to stand guard over the baggage train well to the rear of the action so a non-event for Sterling's men who only reach the city and its massive pile of looted treasure at the end of the next day. No doubt the "camp-ladies" of the train would mix with the abandoned ex-mistresses of the enemy and their afrancesado's to negotiate with the soldiery as to the ownership of this vast heap of liberated wealth.

It is recorded that those "details" of the army that were left to guard the interests of His Majesty King George became hopelessly involved in these transactions to the extent that a significant number of their officers were 'passed over' when the next round of promotions were gazetted! Clinton had returned to take back his Division as all of this was taking place and would be pleased to receive orders to march on Pamplona having gone some little way beyond Vittoria by 26th June.

Sir Denis Pack meanwhile has left his long time charge of an Independent Portuguese Brigade and on 2nd July takes 1st Brigade 6th Division [as a newly made up Major General] from Sterling who reverts back to his battalion having held the brigade since Wilson died almost a year earlier. Eventually marching up to Pamplona by 5th July there they stay for just a few weeks as a part of the beleaguering force; which has closed off that fortress city. When others have several defensive battles in the Pyrenean Passes Clinton's men are only to be seen in reserve but, Clinton goes off ill, Pack moves up to take the Division and Sterling gets back the 1st Brigade, just in time for some rather confused counter-marching about the hills going from Santesteban on country tracks to finally come up the Sorauren road in time to meet a Division of the enemy under General Conroux coming down. A little after midday of 28th July Sterling's Brigade is in line just south of this village facing into a hollow basin with the enemy on its northern rim. As it turns out this is a very good killing ground over which each of the contestants shows sufficient intentions to warn the other that it will only be by some serious bloodletting that any ground will be gained.

Having stood their ground whilst the battle raged on elsewhere the CIC orders a cannonade to be mounted as the day wears on, this comes to very little excepting perhaps to allow Sir Denis to get himself shot in the head, go to the rear and, next day the ever available Packenham takes up the Division.

Pyrenees 25 Jul - 2 Aug 1813

28th July 1813 (after the first battle at Sorauren)

PAB 825

There follows a day of movement without contact with the enemy, however, this is not for Sterling's men who will remain before Sorauren village so that on 30th July when the CIC goes on the offensive there they are again, this time beyond the open ground but still outside of the village. The movements of others have brought more artillery to bear on the enemy hereabouts as also to put pressure on their flanks and rear, this has the eventual effect of forcing those much-battered defenders to retire as best they can to join what becomes a general retreat from the whole front. These concerted attacks on all sides have not put 1/42nd to any great harm and indeed their only casualties for the whole day's work is one man killed and seven wounded all, more than likely from the Light Company. Packenham, the "utility commander" bows out leaving the Division to another very mobile leader Major General Charles Colville; who will manage to hold the position for about two months during which time 6th Division will remain remarkably free from any real contact with the enemy. During all of this "down time" Pack recovers from his wounds and returns to pick up 1st Brigade it is at this point that Colonel Sterling decides he has had enough of wars and

their many ups and downs with perhaps some regrets as to his own promotional chances, goes off down to the coast and retires the service. It can be expected that Lieutenant Colonel Robert Macara will pick up the command of 1/42nd as they come into line for the crossing of the Nivelle in November when we see accurate battalion figures for the last time, so:

Nivelle - 10 Nov 1813

10th November 1813 (at the Nivelle crossing)

PUA 814

By now Colville has gone elsewhere and finally Clinton comes back for the rest of the duration of the war, likewise Pack will hold the brigade also to the end. On the Nivelle 6th Division are only in support of others so that Pack's Brigade will collect but a handful of casualties, recorded in a composite brigade total but probably no more than 25 men killed and wounded of whom we must count Captain Mungo Macpherson and Lieutenant Kenneth McDougall both wounded. The next action comes for 6th Division when they are called to cross the river Nive, this on 9th December, it has already rained persistently throughout late autumn and although neither the river itself nor the enemy defenders are much of a hindrance the waterlogged countryside certainly is.

Completing their duty this day they will halt along the right bank of the Nive the brigade recording just 54 killed, wounded, and prisoners we can perhaps award 1/42nd a 15 man portion, a rather violent one perhaps, Captain George Stewart and Lieutenant James Stewart both amongst the dead.

Nive - 9-13 Dec 1813

9th Dec 1813 (after the crossing of the Nive)

PAB 795

Although the period following the various actions fought in front of Bayonne up to 14th December is recorded in the "history" as being one of winter quarters implying a rest and recuperation the pause was merely one of necessity brought on by the foul weather, which turned all the roads into mud-rivers and the fields to lakes. By mid-January we are given figures that suggest that 1/42nd do not rely as much on returned convalescents as it might, sickness taking its toll remorselessly, so:

16th January 1814 (cantonment south of Bayonne)

PUA 706

It was to be business as usual as soon as the temperature fell below freezing, hardening the ground enough to begin to march again. This time the march took the army eastward manœuvring

Marshal Nicholas Soult's field army ever away from the Biscay coast and the great supply centre Bayonne, we see Clinton's 6th Division tramping on and mostly in rear of 3rd Division until the enemy turn and stand at a strong position to the north of Orthez, it is now late in February 1814 and Pack's Brigade will only get into the action as other brigades have been seriously engaged for some time. Having perhaps picked up an appreciable number of new men since January 1/42nd could well be:

27th February 1814 (at Orthez)

PUA 820

When orders are given to close with the enemy defensive line ahead Pack has 1/42nd well to the fore whilst units of 3rd Division have already made contact some way to their left. The ground is hardly conducive to an attack in line at any point so that when those men on the left who have had the use of a battery of guns to assist their advance are assailed by a charging squadron of French Chasseurs these cavalymen, having been deflected by steady musketry, sweep away, some falling on the column of 1/42nd. We are not told how effective this clash is only that it also is warded off and that the general push forward right across the field sends off the defenders in retirement which develops into a disorderly retreat before much harm can be done to 1/42nd. Later, as the day is becoming spent Pack has his brigade marching along the Sallespisse road in pursuit of the flying enemy when they are brought to a halt by troops left in this village to slow the chase, it is here that 1/42nd will receive the greater part of their casualties this day. Major William Cowell of 1/42nd is sent forward with the brigade's Light Companies with the task of bundling out this rearguard unit. The defenders put up a short but stubborn defence during which Cowell is seriously wounded but, the village is cleared and the advance goes on. The concentric fire of two enemy field batteries well placed behind the bridge over the Luy River at Sault de Navailles once more halts further advance so that, when the enemy engineers contrive to blow up this bridge that puts paid to that!

Casualties for 1/42nd are Lieutenant/Adjutant John Innes and 4 men killed, Major Cowell, Captain James Walker, Lieutenants James Brander, Duncan Stewart and 40 men wounded and 11 men made prisoner, these perhaps in that charge of cavalry early in their involvement, so:

27th February 1814 (after the battle at Orthez)

PAB 760

The next two months going from late winter into very early spring are, in the foothills of the Pyrenees, a time of foul wet weather, the army is on the move most of this time with occasional brushes with an enemy who is just as anxious as they are to keep moving too! Having had many fruitless attempts to cross the broad waters of some of the rivers that fall out of the southern

massif Wellington is compelled to delay his intended attack on Toulouse even, unknowingly, until the Emperor Napoleon, many miles away in Paris, has abdicated his throne. This turn of events whilst unfortunate for Napoleon will be much more so for a very large number of the men of 1/42nd who are about to terminate their military careers entirely. The battle that took place at Toulouse on 10th April 1814 would see the Black Watch standing at:

Toulouse 10th April 1814

PUA 750

The course of the proceedings this day are well told as to Marshal William Carr Beresford's great looping march and advance to the base of Mont Rave using 4th & 6th Divisions to mount an attack climbing the hillside after having squelched its way along the eastern rain-soaked valley for as much as two miles. Pack's Brigade has, so far, been closest to the Ers river by the left hand so, has avoided to a great degree the incoming enfilade fire from the enemy batteries ranged along the heights to the right so that we could expect 1/42nd to still be full in number when the real test began. Their Divisional column upon swinging and pivoting on its right would find 1/42nd on the left of the rear line, Pack having got 1/79th on the right and 1/91st in the middle of this line. Douglas' Portuguese are in their front and Major General John Lamberts' men to the fore. When General Taupin's Brigade comes at 4th & 6th Divisions and are repulsed so decisively it is only 1/79th that has any work to do and these men merely to come into square when Pack sees enemy cavalry hovering about on the hill edge to the far right. No serious casualties yet then. Beresford is able to establish his two Divisions on the top of the hill but must await the arrival of his artillery, which only slowly drags its guns up onto the undulating summit. During this time Pack has been ordered to bring his brigade forward into front line, the hilltop would not hold the whole brigade so that 1/79th and 1/42nd were set out using the shelter of a sunken road from which to debouch when the order came. Immediately behind stood 1/91st in support, Douglas had 12th Portuguese Line to the left rear of 1/42nd and 8th Portuguese Line, who must have been partly over the edge of the hill looking slightly north-west with 9th Caçadores in support rear too. Having got his guns up and a supply of ammunition the attack was resumed with Pack bringing on his men with some energy, the enemy have been given a breathing space which translates to a heavy fire, first of cannon and then as the range closes, concentrated musketry, the Scots Brigade are equal to the challenge and press forward although suffering heavy loss.

Trenches, redoubts and barricaded stone houses are all entered fought over and won with a measure of open ground being taken beyond these obstacles, Colonel Macara will have gone down early, he was seriously wounded hereabouts the enemy still able to bring on fresh troops in a series of counter-attacks, this eventually against men who were by now not only totally disordered but fatally thinned in number. The whole brigade is thrown back losing most of the hard won gains in the process and tumbling into the cover of their start point, the sunken road. This is about the end of the serious fighting for 1/42nd, their dead and injured lay all about the field between the road and the various trenches and redoubts up ahead, Pack although wounded yet again is still in command and has only 1/91st close by, these reserves are brought on, formed up and go on to push back the enemy who naturally enough are themselves well spent and are running out of new men.

The pattern of attack and counter-attack, more subdued on each occasion leaves 1/42nd behind in the sunken road nursing their wounds, first Douglas Brigade and then Lambert's are used to keep up the contest but all by now are beyond making a decisive end to the battering so that the fight comes down to thin lines of skirmishers picking off those who still presented any sort of easy target. Spending the night in the sunken road the next day would be one of retrieving bodies and discovering wounded comrades, the enemy had gone from the Mont' during the late evening so that there would be no more fighting to do for 1/42nd in this war. It is just as well, Captain John Swanson, Lieutenants William Gordon, Ensigns John Latta and Donald McCremmen with 50 men lay dead, Captain John Henderson, Lieutenants James Watson and Donald Farquharson mortally wounded to die later, Captain Alexander Mackenzie, Lieutenants William Urquhart, Robert Gordon, Alexander Innes, Donald Mackenzie, Charles McLaren, Thomas McNiven, Thomas Munroe, James Robertson, Alexander Stewart, Roger Stewart, Alexander Strange, Alexander Stuart, Ensigns Colin Walker, James Geddes, Mungo Macpherson, John Malcolm and no less than 339 of their men lay wounded, a good number of these latter to also die later and a single officer [Ens' Malcom] had been taken prisoner, he, more than likely would be found in the city when the army marched in during the 12th April, so:

10th April 1814 (after the fight on Mont Rave, Toulouse)

PAB 336

PS: The Black Watch, no more or no less different from any other of the numerically strong fighting Regiments by their Royal appellation suffered from a similar fault to be found within

BATTLES OF QUATRE BRAS AND WATERLOO



Landing at Ostend, the 42nd, under Col. Sir R. Macara, marched to Brussels, and was brigaded with the 3rd Battalion 1st Royals, the 44th, and the 92nd, with Sir Denis Pack as Brigadier.

28 May 1815 At Ghent to march to Brussels same day

The 42nd were quartered in Brussels, having 39 officers and more than 500 men, commanded by Lt-Col Robert Macara KCB. They were in Picton's 5th Division, brigaded with the 3rd Btn Royal Scots, 2nd Btn 44th and the 92nd under Sir Denis Pack. Leaving Brussels in the early hours of 16 June they marched south through the Forêt de Soignes, stopping for 2 hours at Waterloo and marching on to Quatre Bras along the road that went past La Haye Saint and La Belle Alliance. When they arrived after 3pm the battle had already started. The battleground of Quatre Bras contained the Wood of Bossu to the west, fields of wheat and tall rye grass. Picton's division was placed south of the Namur-Nivelles road and southeast of the Charleroi-Brussels road with Pack's brigade on the right. Marshal Ney who commanded the French sent two columns into the valley east of Gemioncourt to threaten the Brunswickers, so Wellington, at 4pm, ordered Picton's men to advance against the columns. They fired at and charged the French who fell back in disorder. The 42nd and 44th almost captured Gemioncourt Manor but it was too strongly held.

The Brunswick Hussars found themselves in trouble when they were counter-attacked by French Chasseurs. The 92nd opened their ranks to let the Hussars through but the

pursuing Chasseurs a Cheval followed and attacked the 92nd from the rear. Wellington was almost killed by a Chasseur officer but some soldiers acted quickly and cut down the assailant. The 42nd and 44th were unsure whether to fire on the cavalry as it was difficult to see who was who through the long grass. It was at this point that French Lancers of Werthier's brigade appeared and attacked the Highlanders. A square was hastily formed but not quickly enough to prevent a lancer squadron getting inside. A desperate fight took place with most of the lancers being bayoneted. They in turn speared many highlanders, most notably the CO Lt-Col Macara who took a lance under the chin which penetrated his brain. Command passed to Lt-Col Dick who was soon wounded, then Brevet-Major Davidson who was mortally wounded, then Brevet-Major Campbell who commanded for the rest of the campaign. The 44th also had a hard fight with the lancers and Ensign Christie performed heroics to save the Colour. The two depleted battalions had to combine to form a single square for defence but they were short of ammunition and had to beg for more off Halkett's brigade who had recently arrived. The 42nd, with the rest of the army, took up positions near Waterloo the following evening, 17th June. During the battle on the 18th the regiment was on the left of the line behind La Haye Sainte. In the early part of the fighting they had to face heavy enemy artillery fire and later in the day some subsidiary attacks. The battalion took part in the general advance when the French army finally broke. Their casualties were 5 men killed, 6 officers, 39 rank and file wounded.

For Officers 42 at Waterloo⁶

APPENDIX V.—LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE 42ND ROYAL HIGHLANDERS WHO SERVED
AT QUATRE BRAS AND WATERLOO, 1815.

REGIMENTAL STAFF.		CAPTAINS.	LIEUTENANTS.	ENSIGNS.
Lt.-Col.	Sir Robert Macara, K.C.B. (killed). ¹	Archibald Menzies (wounded). ⁴	Donald Chisholm (wounded).	George Gerard (killed). William Fraser.
Major.	Robert Henry Dick, Bt.-Lieut.-Colonel (wounded). ²	George Davidson, Bt.- Major (wounded). ⁵	Duncan Stewart. ⁸ Donald M'Kenzie. ⁵	A. L. Fraser. Alexander Brown.
Adjutant.	James Young (wounded). ³	John Campbell, Bt.- Major. ⁶	Hugh Andrew Fraser (wounded). ⁹	Alexander Cumming. ¹⁶
Qr.-Master.	Donald M'Intosh (wounded).	Mungo M'Pherson (wounded). ⁷	John Malcolm. ¹⁰ Alexander Dunbar. ¹¹	
Surgeon.	Swinton M'Leod.	Donald M'Donald (wounded).	James Brander. ¹² Roger Stewart.	
Ass.-Surg.	Donald M'Pherson.	Daniel M'Intosh (wounded).	Robert Gordon (killed). James Robertson.	
"	John Stewart.	Robert Boyle (wounded).	Kenneth M'Dougall. Donald M'Kay. Alexander Innes. ¹³ John Grant. ¹⁴ John Orr (wounded). ¹⁵ George Gunn Munro (wounded).	

¹ Son of the Rev. Mr Macara, of Fortingal, Glenlyon, Perthshire. Capt. 42nd [from half-pay 94th (late) Scotch Brigade], 9th July 1803; Major, 14th Nov. 1803; Lieut.-Col., 16th April 1812. Served with the 42nd in the Peninsula, and received the war medal with clasps for Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse (wounded), and a cross and clasp for having commanded the regiment in five general engagements. He was also made a K.C.B. Colonel Macara was killed by the French Lancers at Quatre Bras, as he was being carried, dangerously wounded, from the field; his relatives received a Waterloo medal in commemoration of his services.

On the summit of the hill of Tor Alvic, on the Duke of Richmond's estate of Kinrara, a large cairn has been erected to the memory of Sir Robert Macara and other Scotch officers and men who fell in the Peninsula and Waterloo campaigns.

² Ens. 75th, 22nd Nov. 1800; Lieut. 62nd, 27th June 1802; Capt. 78th, 17th April 1804; Major 42nd, 14th July 1806; Brevet-Lt.-Col., 8th Oct. 1812; Lt.-Col. 42nd, 18th June 1815; Maj.-Gen., 1857; Colonel 73rd, 1845. This officer served in the Peninsula with the 42nd, and received medal and two clasps for Busaco, Fuentes d'Onor, and Salamanca. After the death of Col. Macara at Quatre Bras, he succeeded to the command of the regiment, and received the medal and a C.B. for Waterloo. In 1825 he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to George IV., and was subsequently made a K.C.B. and K.C.H. Sir Robert Dick was killed at the battle of Sobraon on 10th Feb. 1846.

³ Ens. 42nd, 17th Oct. 1805; Lieut., 25th May 1808; Adjutant, 31st March 1814.

⁴ Lieut. 42nd, 10th Feb. 1803; Adj., 9th July 1803; Capt., 5th June 1805; Major, 18th June 1815; retired, 25th Dec. 1828. Severely wounded at Quatre Bras.

⁵ Capt. 42nd, 25th Sept. 1807; Bt.-Maj., 4th June 1813. Mortally wounded at Quatre Bras. Major Davidson's widow was granted a pension of £100 per annum.

⁶ Brother of Sir Guy Campbell, Bart., Lieut. 42nd, 19th Sept. 1804; Capt., 3rd Dec. 1807; Bt.-Maj., 12th April 1814; Lt.-Col., 18th June 1815. Served with the 42nd in the Peninsula, and received medal and one clasp for Orthes and Toulouse. Created a C.B. after Waterloo. Died at Marseilles, 31st March 1841.

⁷ See Appendix IV. (A).

⁸ Ens. 42nd, 15th June 1805; Lieut., 1st Jan. 1807; Capt., 3rd Aug. 1815; half-pay unattached, 26th Dec. 1826. Captain Duncan Stewart served with the 42nd in the Peninsula and France, and was present at the battles of Salamanca, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, and Orthes (wounded); in the Waterloo campaign of 1815, severely wounded at Quatre Bras (war medal with 5 clasps). Appears on half-pay list in 1807.

⁹ Lieut. 42nd, 8th Feb. 1809; Capt., 12th Dec. 1822; Major, 3rd Dec. 1829. Exchanged to half-pay unattached, 4th May 1832.

¹⁰ Lieut. 42nd, 14th Dec. 1809. Afterwards a Captain and Bt.-Major 42nd. Died in 1829.

¹¹ Lieut. 42nd, 25th Jan. 1810. Died at Inverness, 15th Feb. 1832.

¹² Lieut. 42nd, 2nd May 1811; Capt., 25th Sept. 1817; Major, 8th April 1826; Lt.-Col. unattached, 15th Aug. 1826. Eldest son of John Brander, of Pitgaverty House, Elgin. Was a J.P. and D.L. for co. Elgin. Died 1854.

¹³ Ens. 42nd, 19th July 1810; Lieut., 15th Oct. 1813; Lieut. half-pay unattached, 24th Nov. 1828. Lieut. Innes served with the 42nd in the Peninsula (war medal and one clasp) and in the Waterloo campaign (medal). He was subsequently appointed a Military Knight of Windsor, and died in 1875.

¹⁴ Lieut. 42nd, 18th Feb. 1812. Retired on half-pay in 1821, and died 13th June 1827.

¹⁵ This officer entered the army from the Militia, and accompanied the 42nd to the Peninsula, and was present at Salamanca, the siege of Burgos, storming of St. Michael, the retreat to Burgos, and at all the actions in the Pyrenees. He was wounded at Burgos, and again severely at Waterloo. On the reduction of the army after Waterloo, he joined the 94th, or Scots Brigade, and on a further reduction, was appointed to the 8th Royal Veteran Battalion. Capt. Orr was Superintendent of the late Scottish Naval and Military Academy for thirty years. He died on 7th Dec. 1879. (From Dalton's *Waterloo Roll Call*.)

¹⁶ Retired on half-pay, 26th Aug. 1819.

Note.—All officers, N.C. officers, and men who survived the battle of Waterloo received the medal, and were allowed to reckon 2 years' service towards pay and pension.

The **six officers had already been wounded at Quatre Bras, and were wounded again at Waterloo.** They were;

Captain Mungo Macpherson, Lt John Orr, Lt George Gunn Munro, Lt Hugh Angus Fraser, Lt James Brander, and QM Donald Macintosh.

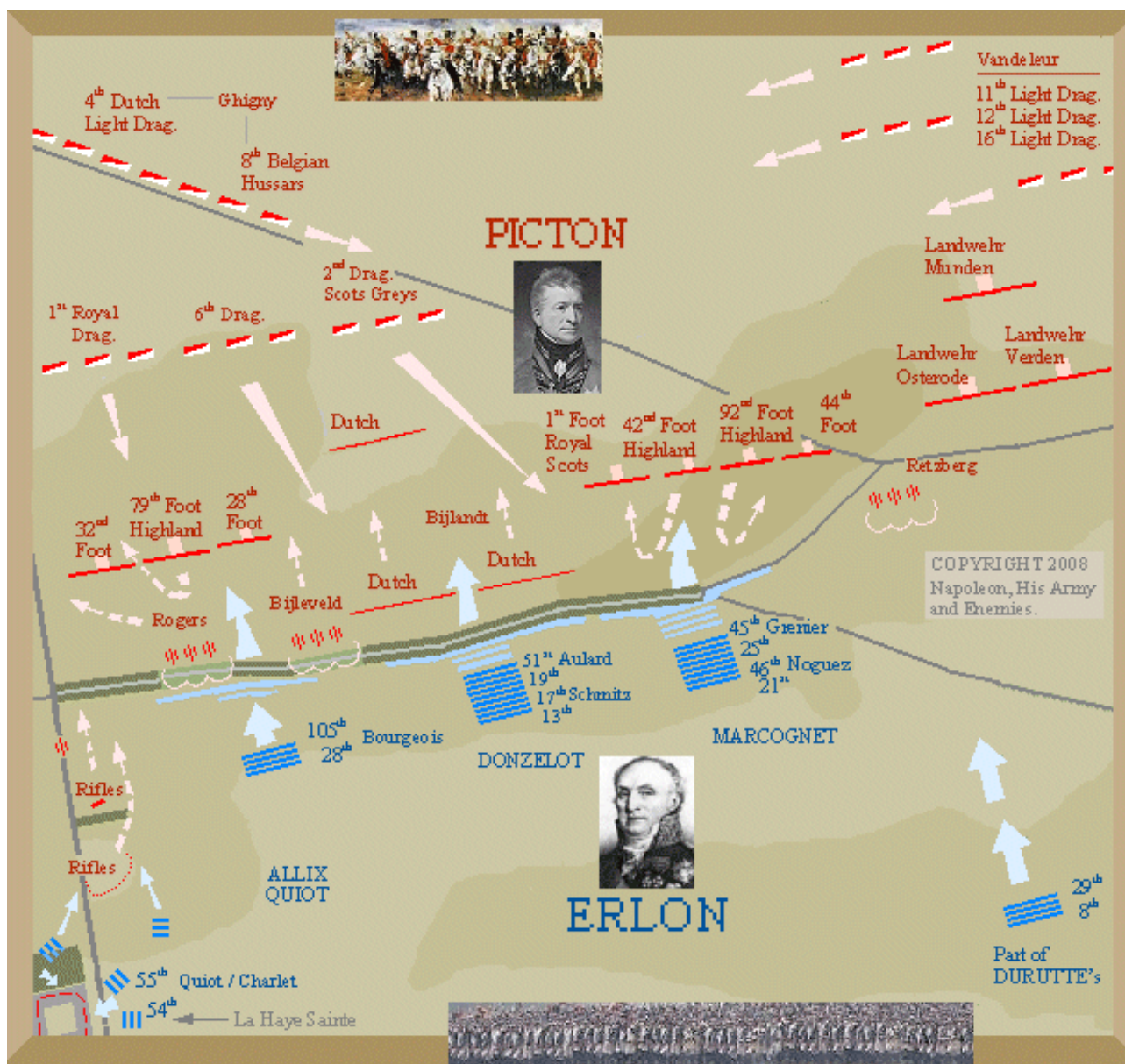
The CO was Brevet-Major Campbell. After the battle they went on to Paris where they stayed until the end of 1815 at which time they returned to Edinburgh.⁷

After spending several months in the vicinity of Paris, the Royal Highlanders embarked at Calais and landed in England on the 19th December 1815.

In the spring of 1816, the regiment marched to Edinburgh, from whence it was moved to Glasgow. From 1817 to 1825 it was stationed in Ireland, and in the latter year went to Gibraltar, the depot companies returning to Scotland.



⁷ A JCollins Waterloo medal - Waterloo Medal roll for this Regiment record three John McLean's, all Privates, one serving in Captain John Cambell's Company, one in Captain Mungo McPherson's Company and one in Captain John Stirling's Company. GVF £3,250 SOLD Mullen's Roll records John with MGS Cor Sal Pyr Ort TI - "This was one of the men who carried Sir John Moore to the grave at Corunna" Another John MGS Eg Tal



7 Jan - 24 Mar 1815 Received from 2nd Bn

2	6	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1
2	7	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1
2	8	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1
2	9	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1

25 May - 24 Jun 1815 Muster not showing as wounded. Note James Pauton in 9th.

2	6	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1
2	7	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1
2	8	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1
2	9	Colleton Robert	25 May	24 June	31	7	18	1	Dr. Duncanson	1815	1

25 Jun - 24 Sep 1815

Muster "duty" so not severely wounded

2✓			8	Patterson John	25 June	24 Sept	22	4	2	13	3	Depot at 13a
2✓		140	9	Patten Robert	25 June	24 Sept	22	4	2	13	3	duty
2✓			460	Pelton Lewis	25 June	24 Sept	22	16	2	6	4	ad. Pay sum added Dec 10. Vm
2✓			1	Pensile John	25 June	24 Sept	22	6	2	6	4	Remitted sum

DISCHARGE

7 June 1821 Discharged Royal Hospital Kilmainham and to pension . 22 years on enlistment = 1782 birth

THESE ARE TO CERTIFY,

THAT Private Robert Patton born in the Parish of Barrow in or near the Town of Glasgow in the County of Lowland was enlisted for the aforesaid Regiment at Widley in the County of Essex on the 1st Day of January 1804 at the Age of Twenty two years for Unlimited Service

THAT he hath served in the Army for the space of Seventeen Years and One Hundred and fifty one Days, after the Age of Eighteen, according to the subjoined

STATEMENT OF SERVICE.

In what Corps.	Period of Service.		Serjeant Major.		Qr. Mast Serjeant.		Serjeant.		Corporal.		Trumpeter or Drummer.		Private.		Service prior to the Age of Eighteen to be deducted.		Total Service.		
	From	To	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	Yrs.	days	
<u>42nd Regt</u>	<u>1st January 1804</u>	<u>10th June 1821</u>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	<u>17</u>	<u>161</u>	"	<u>17</u>	<u>161</u>
<u>Waterloo</u>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	<u>2</u>	"	"	<u>2</u>	"
<u>Total of Service.</u>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	<u>19</u>	<u>161</u>	"	<u>19</u>	<u>161</u>
<u>In East or W. Indies.</u>	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

sd. THAT by Authority of The Commander of the Forces dated 7th June 1821

Authority, and Cause of Discharge. HE IS HEREBY DISCHARGED in consequence of being Ruptured, Rheumatic, & worn out

Suffered from the Watkinson Fever - has been ruptured for the last three years and greatly subject to Rheumatism for the last twelve months, was wounded in the Arm at Corunna, on the left arm at Fontenoy - and on the right Thigh at Waterloo

*Phaulkley
Glasgow 42nd Regt*

1821 Married Scotspeople

PATON	ROBERT	MARGARET HANNAH/ FR4112 (FR4112)	08/06/18 21	622/	160 26	Barony
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Margaret born 1820 or earlier for birth of Janet in 1840, Census says born 1806-13 so possibly married at 14 years

In 1830 Glasgow was dominated by cotton textiles and related industries like bleaching, dyeing, chemicals and textile engineering. It had a sophisticated support system of collieries, brickworks and quarries, a good transport system of roads and canals and the beginnings of a railway network. Cotton spinning was the leading sector. There were many hand-loom weavers but power-looms were being introduced both in single-purpose factories and in integrated spinning and weaving concerns. After 1850 spinning declined in importance but power-loom weaving of fancy muslins and high-quality shirtings continued to expand up to the First World War.

1848 Medal Issue

1841 **Census**, Fishill (Firhill) Road

1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Fishill Road, Barony, Lanarkshire, Scotland

Add to tree

Print

More actions

Household members (3 people)

Copy to clipboard

First name(s)	Last name	Sex	Age	Birth year	Birth place
Robert	Paton	Male	50	1791	Lanarkshire, Scotland
Margaret	Paton	Female	35	1806	Scotland
Janet	Paton	Female	1	1840	Lanarkshire, Scotland

1851 **Census** Residence Woodside Row, 10, Barony, Blythswood, Lanarkshire
 Note Rob was identified as a Hosier⁸ (Holier mis spelling) in his 1804 muster and from Lanark.

Assuming Woodside Row became Woodside Road the east end of which has now disappeared? Is this north Blythswood?

1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Woodside Row, 10, Barony, Blythswood, Lanarkshire, Scotland

Add to tree

Print

More actions

Household members (6 people)

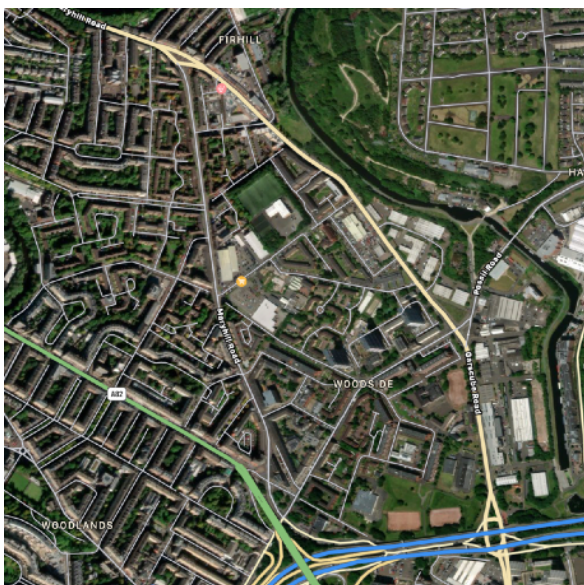
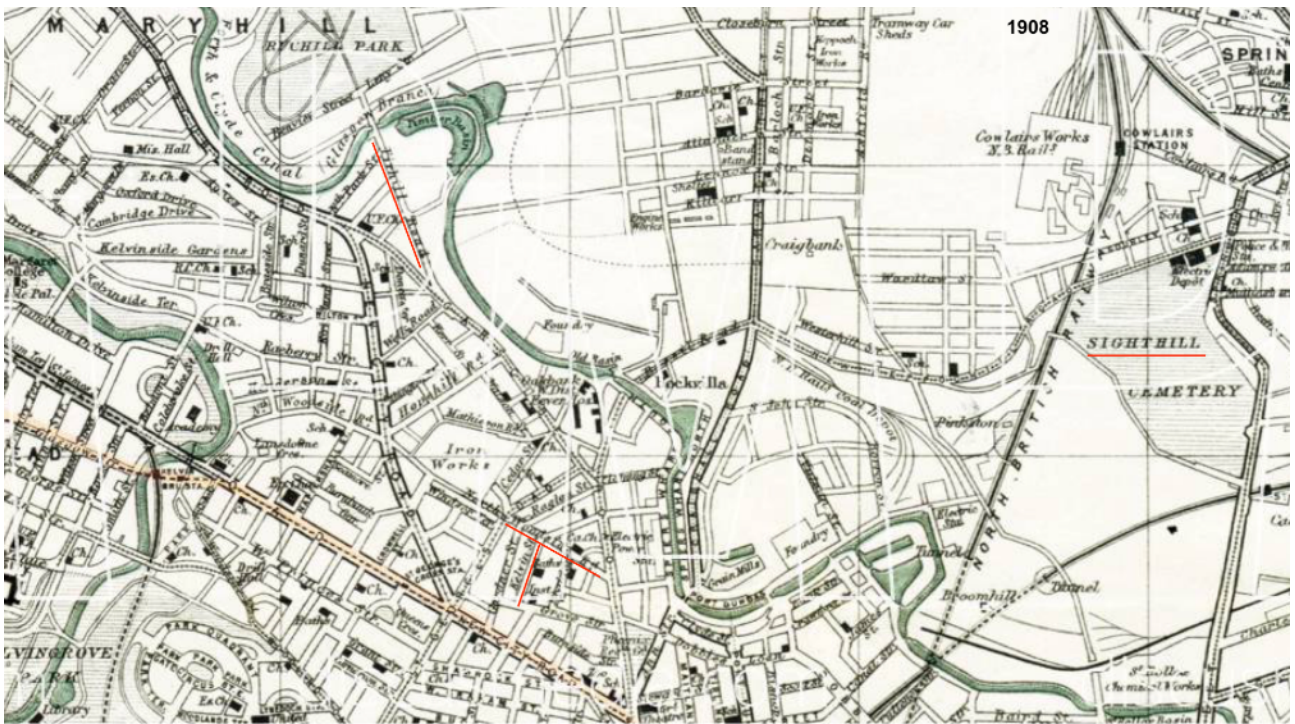
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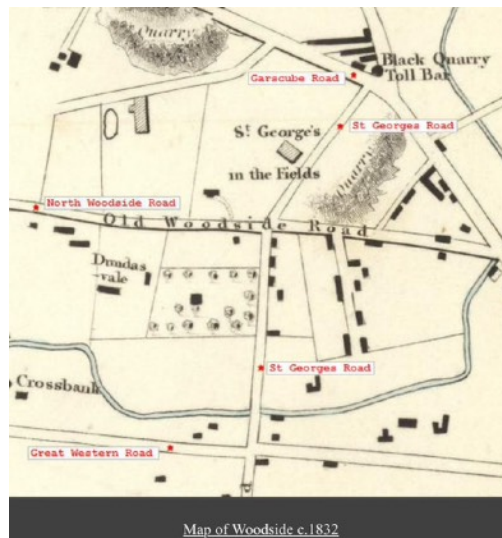
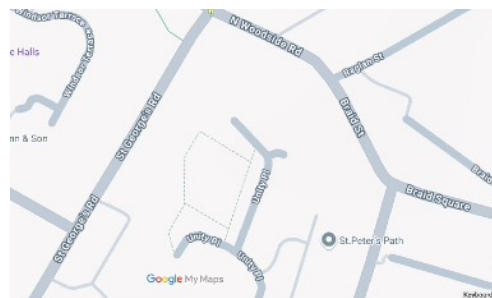
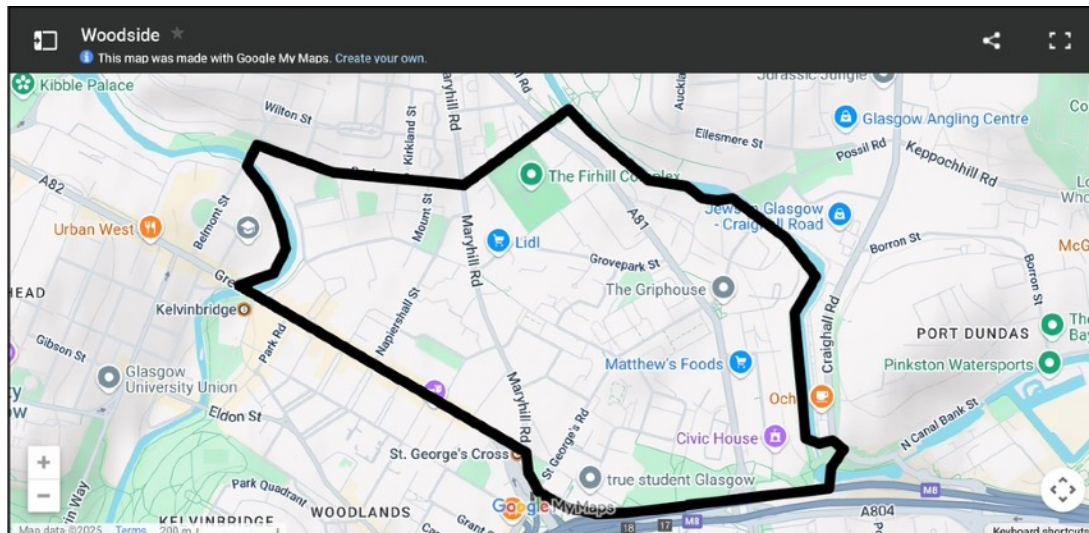
First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Birth place
Robert	Paton	Head	Married	Male	67	1784	Journey man holier	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
Margaret	Paton	Wife	Married	Female	38	1813	-	Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland
Janet	Paton	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	11	1840	Scholar	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
John	Gebbie	Lodger	Married	Male	42	1809	Coal miner	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
Jean	Tennant	Lodger	Married	Female	30	1821	Steam loom weaver	Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
Mary	Glass	Lodger	Married	Female	61	1790	-	Ireland

Woodside⁹ is a [district](#) in the [Scottish](#) city of [Glasgow](#) and also forms some of the most southern part of the much larger district of [Maryhill](#).

⁸ A "journeyman hosier" refers to a skilled worker who has completed an apprenticeship in the craft of hosiery and is authorized to practice independently.

⁹ Joseph Connery, the father of [Sean Connery](#), was born in the district in 1902.





As people from around Scotland migrated to the cities in search of employment, Woodside quickly developed into an industrial heartland, right on the edge of Scotland's largest city. Tenements to house the workers soon covered the fields, and **shops** and **schools** sprung up to serve the rapidly expanding population. During the 1840s, the Great Famine drove thousands of Irish migrants to the West of Scotland, and many settled in Woodside with its many **local employment opportunities**. The original church of St George's in the Fields, shown in the old map, opened in 1824. It was destroyed by fire in 1884 and replaced by the present church in 1886.

Pension Records

42 Regiment of Foot													
NAME	Rate	Date of Admission	Residence	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854
John Watson	10	10 th Sep 31	London	✓			starting 1/2			* reported in Dec 1854			head rest 1/2
James Findlater	10	10 th Sep 31	London	✓									
Robert Paton	10	10 th Sep 31	London	✓									

Regt. or Number	Rate of Pension	Date of Admission to Out-Pension	Rank	Name of Pensioner	Pension whether permanent or temporary	Date of Decease	Age at Decease	Remarks
3rd Foot	9 th	1 Mar: '50	Pt.	John Watson	Perm.	1858	50.	
1 st Foot	1	9 th Aug: '33	C.	James Findlater	✓	15 th	68	
42 nd	1	June 21	P.	Robert Paton	✓	1 st	73	

- Prior 1858

Margaret deceased by Roberts death certificate, alive in 1851
- 1 June 1858

Deceased at age 73 years, WO 22 128. 1862 Glasgow 1st
- 2 Jun

Buried

Burial Record

National Records of Scotland, district of Milton. Note that appears to have been living at 10 Kelvin Street Glasgow at this time. This is off Grove Street which ran just south of Woodside Road???

Part 123	1858	St. 74	John Paton	tailor	Sighthill Cemetery	Robert Henderson	1858
Robert	June	June	Farmer	Livingston	Glasgow	14 Fleming Street	June 3 rd
	1858		deceased	as certified by		Present	10 Kelvin Street
Attesting Minister	John A.M.		Paton	George Mac Gregor	as certified by		
(Married)	10 Kelvin Street		Married name	who saw deceased	10 Kelvin Street		James Smith
	Glasgow		deceased	May 31 st			Hughes

From the Burial records in Sighthill

2 in 10th Row N. Plot (I assume this means 2nd grave in 10th row in North Plot)

Wednesday 2 2 David Sutherland 53 10
 " 3 2 in 10th Row N. Plot 20
 " 4 14

Wife of David Sutherland 10 Rel
 Son of Margaret Paton Sandy
 Daughter of Thomas Arthur

Date of Order.	No. of Register.	NAME OF DECEASED.	PROFESSION.	RELATIONSHIP.
1858				
May 31 st	15465	James Miller		Son of John
		Mary Douglas		Daughter of John
		Margaret Gardener		
		Joseph Mayler		Son of John
June 1 st		Margaret Gaggie		Daughter of John
2	15470	Sarah Sutherland		Wife
		Robert Paton		Son





Example of naming Waterloo medal



The Medals

For the **MGS**, Frasers Coy since joining in 1804, probably denied Toulouse bar because he did not appear on muster because of his wounding. Only one Robert Paton on the DNW roll (5 bars), no Patoun's. Phot 181 "sick absent".

42 nd Regiment of Foot													
No.	Names and Rank.	Hoop or Company.	Coruna	Bureau	Frederic d'Or	Guindard Rodriguez	Salamanca	Regiment	Naville	Nave	Orbes	Toulouse	Palavra Petate
67	Mitchell William			A	A	X	A	A		A	A	A	
61	W. Ray Miller		A				A	A		A	A	A	
15	David James	1004 1004 1004			A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
19	Patterson William	Capt. 1004 1004	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
19	Paton Robert	Capt. 1004 1004	A			A	A	A	A	A	A	X	
14	Petrie James	1004 1004 1004	A			A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
15	P.	1004 1004 1004	A				A	A	A	A	A	A	

25,600 applications for the MGS

448 medals issued to 42nd

For **Waterloo**, in Campbells Coy, as Patoun, one other Patoun, an Edward Patoun in the same company, 42nd Foot, medal not recorded, brother?

Captain & Lieut. Colonel John Campbell's Company.						
No. of Description	Rank.	Names.	Effective and belonging to the Corps.		REMARKS, explanatory of the Reasons and Duration of Absence, and Causes of broken Periods of Officers and Men; also specifying the precise Dates of Appointment of Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers, and of Inlistment of Recruits, and the Dates on which each Officer and Man ceased to be effective as belonging to the Corps	
			Periods.			
			From	To		
1	Captain	John Campbell	Sept 20			
2						
1	Lieut.	John Malcolm				
2		Andrew L. Fraser				
1	Ensign					
2						
1	Serjeant Major	Finlay King				
2						
	37	John Nicolson				
	38	Robert Patoun				
	39	Lewis Patoun				

Total Waterloo about 37,638 issued of about 6,200 recorded

In 42nd at Waterloo 526 men of 118 known medals to 42nd Regiment

