

CAVALRY REGIMENTAL SUMMERIES

Here is a brief overview of some of the regiments and uniforms you may be wearing and representing.

17th Lancers:

The Warhorse Foundation presents the famous British 17th Lancers as they were in 1879 in South Africa during the Zulu Campaign. The 17th Lancers were established in 1759 after the Seven Years War with France while in Canada in memory of the death of the victorious General Wolf; the 17th Light Dragoon unit's motto was "Or Glory" with a skull logo... implying Death or Glory; it has remained since.



The regiment fought for the British with distinction in the American Revolutionary war for 8 years and later served in India in 1808 for fourteen years. In 1823 they were renamed the 17th Lancers and listed as light cavalry. In 1854 the regiment was in the Crimean where it participated in the most famous cavalry charge, memorialized in Lord Tennyson's Poem – The Charge of the Light Brigade. “ Half a league, Half a league, Half a league onward. All into the valley of death rode the Six Hundred. Cannon's to the right of them, Cannons to the left of them, Stormed at with shot and shell, boldly they rode and well...All in the Valley of Death, rode the six hundred.

145 17th Lancers began the charge on that fateful day, and only 38 survived...

Today, you see the Lancers as there were in the Zulu War in 1879 in South Africa. If you recall the Michael Caine Movie “Zulu”.. The lancers were part of the reinforcement and fought in the final victorious battle.

The 17th Lancers returned to South African and fought in the Boer War in 1900 and extensively in the Great War and were later amalgamated in 1927 with the 21st Lancers. This unit fought meritoriously in many WW2 theaters and continues to serve today in Nato and as allies in the Persian Gulf.

Scots Greys 1815:



The Scots Greys are England's Oldest Cavalry line Regiment, formed in 1678 and their motto is "Second to None" and has won over 88 battle honors. The Northern British Second Dragoons are traditionally a heavy cavalry regiment.

The 1815 uniform features the signature bearskin as they wore in their famous charge at Waterloo against Napoleon. They captured an eagle from the French 45th line infantry.

Their battle campaigns include:

Marlborough's Wars) 1702-1713

War of the Austrian Succession 1742-1748

The Seven Years War 1756-1763

Napoleonic Wars 1793-1815 with the famous charge at Waterloo.

Crimean War 1854-1856 the successful charge of the Heavy Brigade

India

Magdala Expedition 1868

Second Afghan War

AFGHANISTAN 1879-80

South African Boer War

First World War 1914-1918 in France and Flanders

Second World War 1939-1945 in Many campaigns with distinction

The Gulf War 1991

And recently fought in Iraq for the city of Basra.

WHAM also features the Greys in the Victorian era with pith helmets.

Queen Dragoon Guards



These are also heavy cavalry during the Victorian era. WHAM portrays the QDG as they were at the Zulu campaign in 1879, red jackets with pith helmets.

The Dragoon Guards were present at the Battle of Ulundi, when, as the Zulu attacks faded, they joined with the 17th Lancers in a dramatic charge from the British square to harass the retreating Zulus.

The major distinction is the dark blue pants.

British Life Guards:

This regiment is the protector for the royal family since 1660. They have fought They are still active today protecting the Queen of England. WHAM presents the Life Guards as they were in Egypt in 1885 in the red dress uniform and pith helmet. The Life Guards rides on black horses, WHAM is using remounts currently in different colors.



Note the white breeches.

(Excerpted from Regimental Histories) The Life Guards, the senior regiment of the British Army, were formed at the restoration in 1660 from a group of eighty Royalists who had gone into exile with King Charles II after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester (1652). They first saw action at the Battle of Sedgemoor in 1665 (the Monmouth Rebellion) and subsequently in both the Jacobite Wars and during the war of Austrian Succession (1742-46).

They were redesignated the 1st and 2nd Life Guards in 1788, a period from which the majority of today's state dress originates, and formed the front charging line of the Household Cavalry Brigade at the Battle of Waterloo (1815), staging the famous charge against the French Cuirassiers that saved the British centre from being overrun.

During the nineteenth century, the Life Guards served in Egypt, as part of the Household Cavalry Regiment, taking part in the romantic Moonlight Charge at Kassassin and also in the Sudan and South Africa.

During the First World War, the Regiment saw action at Mons, Le Cateau, The Marne, Ypres, Loos, Poelcappelle, Passchendale and most notably at Zandvoorde where the Life Guards lost two complete squadrons. During the Second World War, the Life Guards contributed men to both Household Cavalry Regiments, the second of which was described by General Brian Horrocks as "the finest armoured car regiment I have ever seen".

They landed at Normandy in July 1944 and spearheaded the Guards Armoured Brigade advance through France to liberate Brussels and became the only forces to make contact with the Polish Free Forces during the advance to the bridge at Arnhem.

Reformed as The Life Guards after the war, the regiment saw service in the Canal Zone, Aden and Oman against the dissident tribesmen, including the assault with the SAS on the Jebel Ahkter and in Cyprus, Malaya, Singapore and Borneo.

Since the early seventies, the Regiment has undertaken seven tours of Northern Ireland and a number in support of the United Nations Forces in Cyprus. The entire regiment was deployed to the Gulf in 1990 and took part in the land war finishing up astride the Kuwait City Basra highroad.

During defence review in 1991, the Regiment was reduced to two reconnaissance squadrons based in Windsor in a unionised regiment with The Blues and Royals and one squadron committed to mounted ceremonial duty in London. The regiment has recently had squadrons on operational deployments with the UN and Nato in Bosnia.

Scottish Horse/ Scottish Yeomanry

Scottish Volunteers created a volunteer cavalry regiment during outbreak of the Boer War in South Africa in 1899. Several varied volunteer troops were formed and later reformed into larger regiments. Scottish Yeomanry was first and later on, the Scottish Horse which was formed by Scotsman in South Africa and enhanced more volunteers from the Bonnie-land.

There fought with great distinction during the entire campaign and later served in WW1.



1900 Scottish Yeomanry

Prussian Ulans: 1900



Ulans 1900

Ulan is a Polish Style cavalry that was adopted by the Prussians during the Napoleonic era 1795-1815. These light cavalry carried a lance 9-10 feet in length and had a unique mortar board hat called a Tschapka. The Prussian Ulans fought against Napoleon in many campaigns including at Waterloo. They also were in the German unification wars of 1864 and 1866 against Austria as well as the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. The Ulans also

were in the thick of it in WW1 protecting the flanks in France and on the east against the Russians. In the opening months of the war, there were many cavalry clashes.

Bavarian Chevaulegers 1812, 1870, 1900, 1918



The Bavarian Chevauleger is a regiment that was formed in 1682. WHAM presents the 2nd Bavarian Chevaulegers currently in four time periods, Napoleonic 1870, 1900 and 1918. (A 1682 impression is under construction.) Originally a Cuirassier and dragoon regiment, they became a light cavalry regiment adapting a French style during its alliance with Napoleon. They also carry a lance and fought in many campaigns including the Battle of Moscow as well as rising up against Napoleon in 1813-15. They have a unique helmet with a bearskin roll on top called a raupen-helm meaning caterpillar. It was scaled down in 1870 and later converted to spike helmet called the picklehalben.

Allied with Austria, they fought against the Prussians in 1866 and later with the Prussians in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71. They also served with great distinction on the western front in WW1 in many battles, including Verdun, Somme, Ypres, Flanders etc. The regiment officially ended in 1918. WHAM has participated in German with Chevauleger ceremonies, escorting the Prince of Bavaria.

American Dragoons 1777



Light Cavalry had an important role in the Revolutionary War of Independence. Dragoons performed many services including scouting, patrolling, supply and message escorts, mounted and dismounted skirmishers. Mounted troops were very difficult to raise, and very expensive to maintain, and there were rarely more than 800 Continental Light Dragoons available at any time during the conflict. WHAM portrays the 2nd Dragoons in 1777 with the newly designed Betsy Ross 13 star flag. The 2nd Dragoons served under Washington in many skirmishes and battles.