

Basalt is black in colour due partly to the proportion of augite in its composition, whilst trachyte is light and reddish in colour due to its large proportion of felspar. Andesite (so named as having been found extensively in the Andes) comes in between these two extremes.

Dolerite is composed of felspar and augite; diorite of felspar and hornbende.

NOTES ON EARLY BUTE VOLUNTEERING.

By R. D. WHYTE.

[Read 12th January 1915.]

When the Seven Years' War began in 1756, Britain was totally unprepared for the great struggle. Only three regiments were fit for service in England, while the Militia had on former occasions proved its inefficiency. The threat of an invasion in 1756 led to the re-organisation of the Militia, and in 1758 the Militia Bill was altered to permit the enrolment of volunteers in the ranks of the militia. Twenty years later volunteers, as substitutes for militiamen, were formed into separate companies. Then in 1794, after the outbreak of the war with France, volunteers were again enrolled. Three years later the volunteer movement reached Bute. Blain records that in the beginning of 1797 the noblemen, freeholders, and other heritors of the County of Bute having met, resolved to form such number of volunteer companies as might be found necessary in the then critical state of affairs. It was reported to the meeting that a considerable enrolment of volunteers had already taken place on the estates of the Marquis of Bute and of the Duke of Hamilton, and that a company of volunteers had already been raised in the Burgh of Rothesay. The meeting thereupon resolved to offer to Government the formation of two other volunteer companies to consist of 70 men each—thus making three companies for the County—one in Rothesay, one in the landward part of Bute and in Cumbræ, and one in Arran. The meeting further resolved that in the event of such companies being called into active service the County would make reasonable provision for the families of such persons enrolled in them to whom assistance might be necessary. The Government intimated

that they wished the raising of volunteers to be limited to the principal towns on the sea coast, and consequently the idea of raising companies outside Rothesay was given up. The Rothesay Company was commanded by Alexander May, Factor to the Marquis of Bute, the Lieutenant being Ninian Bannatyne, Merchant. The only other piece of information given by Blain about this company is that the members had two days' pay per week. In the Town Council Records appears this entry, "On 'hearing of the brilliant victory of the British Fleet, under Sir 'John Jervis over the Spanish Fleet off Cape St. Vincent (14th 'February 1797), the Magistrates having judged it necessary to 'invite the newly enrolled Corps of Rothesay Volunteers to 'meet with them and the Council to celebrate that important 'victory, paid the Tavern Bill then incurred, £5, 13s. 4d."

In the following year armed associations, for purely local defence, were formed throughout the country. Archibald Moore, the Sheriff Substitute, took up the matter in Bute, and was able to submit to the meeting of the Lieutenancy on 30th April 1798, 106 names of persons who agreed to "be armed, arrayed, trained, 'and exercised without pay or gratuity for defence of the island 'of Bute against invasion and for the purpose of preserving 'internal peace." This offer was accepted by Government. Mr Moore, although very lame, was appointed Commanding Officer, and the battery at the Museum was formed under the direction of Col. Hay. It mounted five guns and was furnished with magazine, stores, and guard room, at an expense, including flag and flagstaff, of £250. The company clothed themselves at a cost of about £650, and Mrs Moore, the mother of the Commanding Officer, presented a stand of colours. The officers were:—

Major—ARCHIBALD MOORE, Sheriff Substitute.

Captain—ROBERT DUNCAN, Merchant.

Lieutenants—{ JOHN M'KAY, Merchant.
 { ARCHIBALD SHARP, Merchant.

Ensigns—{ ARCHIBALD BANNATYNE, Merchant.
 { ROBERT STEWART, Merchant.

During their training the Company received from Government one day's pay in the week, but when in 1801 there were threats of an invasion the members agreed to give their services in any part of the military district, they were rewarded by two days' pay in the week. This company was armed and drilled as artillery and infantry. During two months in summer the old and new companies were drilled twice a day in Roslin Park.

I may add that four of the guns of this Battery still stand in front of the Museum, the remaining one being at Kerrycroy. In 1887, the War Office in going over the stores discovered that these old guns were still in Bute, and they ordered them to be returned to store, but after some negotiations between the Town Council and War Office, the latter on 29th May 1888 handed the guns over to the Town Council as a free gift.

The Peace of Amiens, signed in March 1802, brought the war to an end, and following on this 340,000 volunteers were disbanded. The Rothesay Artillery Company (which apparently survived the original company) was exercised for the last time in April 1802, and the Roll shows that at the last parades there were present three officers and 67 non-commissioned officers and men. But although the Volunteers had been disbanded an Act passed on 22nd June 1802 enabled the services of Volunteers to be retained, and any person serving in the Volunteers and attending at least five days muster and exercise of his corps was exempt from enrolment in the Militia. The peace did not last long, for in May 1803 war was declared between Britain and France. On the outbreak of the War volunteers were quickly enrolled and the Volunteer Force lasted till 1814, when all, save the Yeomanry, were disbanded. The conditions of service were that the Volunteer was to serve in the military district in which he resided, but in case of actual invasion or of the actual appearance of the enemy on the coast, or the danger of invasion being imminent, then he was to proceed to any part of Great Britain. If called upon to serve out of his Military District, the Volunteer received pay at the same rates as similar ranks in the regular army. Volunteers came forward from all parts of the County. The Rothesay Company was enrolled on 3rd October

1803, and in addition three companies were raised in Arran, one in Kingarth, and one in Port Bannatyne. This Volunteer Force was wholly infantry. At first these companies were all distinct, but in April 1804 they were placed under the command of Lieut.-Col. John Campbell of Achawilling. Robert Duncan, the Captain of the old Battery Corps, was appointed Major. John M'Kay was Captain of the Rothesay Company, the other officers of that Company being Robert M'Kirdy, Alexander M'Neil, and James Bannatyne. Capt. Jameson was in command of Port Bannatyne Company, Capt. Ninian Bannatyne was in command of Kingarth Company, while the Arran Companies were commanded by Captains Stoddart, Lamont, and M'Gregor. Government allowed 1s. per day per man for training for 20 days, and also allowed £1 per man for clothing. For the period from 10th September 1803 to June 1804, the Rothesay Company received:—

For pay—67 men	£67	0	0
Uniform—67 men	67	0	0
Subscriptions raised locally for Uniform	30	3	6
	£154	3	6

and these sums practically met the amount paid to the tailors for uniforms supplied to the Rothesay Company, so that the men contributed £1 each towards the uniform. The selection of the uniform seems to have been left in the hands of the local officers, the only recommendation from Headquarters being that the warmth and comfort of the clothing should be more attended to than its show and appearance. The uniform of the Rothesay Company consisted of a red coat, white breeches, long gaiters, and a hat with worsted tuft, the officer's hat being trimmed with a long white feather. After the various companies were formed into a Battalion, they were trained in Glasgow for a month each year. When in training a Captain was paid at the rate of 9s. 5d. per day; a Lieutenant, 5s. 8d.; a Sergeant, 1s. 6³/₄d.; a Corporal, 1s. 2¹/₄d.; a Drummer, 1s. 1³/₄d.; and a Private, 1s. The travelling expenses of the Volunteers proceeding to and returning from their annual training was evidently a charge on the County funds, for the Commissioners of Supply paid "marching guineas for the "Buteshire Volunteers when on permanent duty in 1804, £298, 4s."

The number of non-commissioned officers and men at training in Glasgow in 1805 was 291. All the Volunteers enrolled do not seem to have undergone the training as the Colonel's estimate for the year ending 24th December 1805 shows that he had 398 non-commissioned officers and men under his command.

The Rothesay Company underwent their training in Glasgow for the first time from 1st to 29th June 1804. It was evidently to celebrate their return that Col. Campbell asked Dr. M'Lea for the use of the Schoolhouse for a dance on 2nd July, and as Dr. M'Lea declined to assume a right which he believed did not belong to him, the officers of the Bute companies, in opposition to their Colonel's wishes, marched their companies to Church on Sunday, 30th June, with drums beating and fifes playing, much to the annoyance of the Minister. Major Duncan, however, promised not to repeat the offence on a Sunday or any public Fast or Thanksgiving Day, and the promise was kept until Thursday, 5th December 1805—the general Thanksgiving for Lord Nelson's Victory at Trafalgar—when the Volunteers were again marched to Church to a Gaelic service (which few understood) with the fifes playing. But a General Order from the Scottish Command stopped all such practices. It is to be noted that Trafalgar was won on 21st October, so the good news evidently took some time to reach Rothesay.

Captain M'Kay of the Rothesay Company—and probably the other officers—had other troubles to contend with. The red tape of the War Office was a continual source of annoyance, and there were delays in getting the funds to meet the annual expenditure. The non-commissioned officers and men of his company in February 1805 presented Capt. M'Kay with a pair of silver cups with an inscription expressing their high regard for him. But the regard of his men could not outweigh the inconvenience of the position, and on 15th March 1805 Capt. M'Kay wrote to his Colonel resigning his commission, as the expense he was subjected to on account of the company was inadequate to his income, and any little business he had to do was materially injured by his attention to military duties. There is also an unsigned draft letter, evidently from other officers,

resigning their commissions. As the papers in my possession do not come past 1805, I cannot say what was the result of these resignations. Blain does not refer to the volunteers enrolled in 1803, while Reid simply says, "In 1803 there was an enrolment of the Companies, and in 1813 a further call was made upon 'the County.'" If, as Reid says, there was a new enrolment of Volunteers in 1813, the Force of 1803 could not have continued till the general disbandment in 1814, and it may be that it did not survive the resignation of the officers in 1805.

The 1st Bute Rifle Volunteer Corps was instituted in 1859, and the 1st Bute Artillery Volunteers in 1862, but these hardly come within the scope of this paper, and I am not competent to tell their story.

SOME LOCAL REMINISCENCES.

By M. MACKENZIE.

[Read 9th February 1915.]

The period with which I propose to deal in these reminiscences is embraced more particularly in the closing years of the eighteenth and the early years of the nineteenth century, and I shall endeavour in the course of my paper to give passing glimpses of men who were locally notable in their day and generation.

It is scarcely necessary to refer to the striking contrasts there are between the period referred to and the present, and which apply locally as well as universally. The progress made during the last 100 years of the world's history has been greater perhaps than had been achieved during the entire period previous to that from the Creation. The contrasts are therefore all the more striking.

But if there are contrasts between the period I propose to deal with and the present there are also coincidences which are none the less striking. It is a common saying that history repeats itself, and a century ago our nation was embroiled in a terrible and devastating European war just as we are at the present time and for a very much similar cause, that of protecting the weak against the strong and preventing a too ambitious and tyrannical monarch from attaining world power; a monarch who apparently would stick at nothing short of being a modern world conqueror like Julius Cæsar or Alexander the Great in ancient times.

Thanks to our powerful British Navy our country has not suffered to anything like the same extent from the effects of the present war as did our ancestors of a century ago from the war of that period. At that time Rothesay, like other parts of the