
MILITARY LODGES

Military lodges with travelling warrants are now a thing of the past under the Grand Lodge of England, but the *Book of Constitutions* still makes certain provision for them. In 1815 there were four special rules for them. They were to receive a warrant only with the consent of the commanding officer of the unit concerned. They were not to initiate any inhabitant or sojourner in any town or place in which they were stationed, any person not belonging to the military profession, or any military person below the rank of corporal.

When abroad they were to avoid giving offence to the local masonic authorities. If their unit was disbanded the warrant was to be returned to Grand Lodge, and might be exchanged for a civilian warrant. In June 1914 non-military lodges were precluded from initiating serving non-commissioned officers. In March 1917, when it was said that there were only two English military lodges in existence, all restrictions on lodges admitting members of the armed forces were removed. The 1984 *Book* simply directs military lodges not to give offence to overseas masonic authorities and provides for the exchange of a military warrant for a civilian one. [RW Bro. Sir Lionel Brett, AQC. Vol 103, (1990). p. 164.]

THE MASTER-MASON-AT-ARMS

A SHORT STUDY OF FREEMASONRY IN THE ARMED FORCES

THE PRESTONIAN LECTURE FOR 1990

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As a military man, and speaking from experience, I can say that I have known many soldiers who were masons, but never a good mason who was a bad soldier.

Field-Marshal Stapleton Cotton,
1st Viscount Combermere (1773-1865),
Commander-in-Chief, Ireland (1822-5)
and India (1825-30)

INTRODUCTION

There is a tale to be told of sailors, soldiers and — in more recent times — airmen who became freemasons and who, as such, disseminated wheresoever they went the Grand Principles upon which our Order is founded. That they did so, often with lasting effect, is traceable through the many Commonwealth and foreign Grand Lodges which exist in the free world today, or through the histories of those masonic authorities which have not survived political repression.

The story, in the abbreviated form which it must here take, will for the most part deal with lodges, the first established more than 250 years ago and the most recent in 1989, which have been constituted of and for servicemen. The very early and legendary masonic and military involvements of Athelstan and Edwin, of St. Alban and the Emperor Constantine, and of the Four Crowned Martyrs — the *Quatuor Coronati* — cannot now be discussed, nor can we consider operative soldier-masons, such as the crusading knights who raised their fortresses with swords ever at hand. So we move forward to the early years of the speculative Craft.

There we find, firstly, that Sir Anthony Alexander, Master of Work and Master Gunner to King Charles I, was one of the three gentlemen admitted in 1634 to the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), now No. 1 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland. This was the first-known acceptance of such candidates into what had been a wholly operative lodge. The three freemasons then made are shown as having attended its meetings several times in succeeding years. In 1641, members of the same lodge were with the Scottish army which was engaged at Newcastle-on-Tyne. They opened a lodge and received into membership General Sir Alexander Hamilton and Quarter-Master General Sir Robert Moray. This event, although it concerned a Scottish lodge and

Scottish soldiers, was the first recorded occasion on *English* soil when non-operatives were initiated.

Only five years later, in 1646 at Warrington (then in Lancashire), Elias Ashmole— said to have been serving as a royalist captain at the time — and Colonel Henry Mainwaring, a Parliamentarian, were initiated in what seems to have been a speculative lodge. Thus we know that, long before Grand Lodges were formed, soldiers were among those who sought entry into what had been the exclusive preserve of the builders of church and castle.

It was near the end of this pre-Grand Lodge period that a sailor first comes to notice. In 1713, Vice-Admiral Robert Fairfax was made a freemason at York.

THE GRAND LODGE OF 1717

In 1717 was founded the premier Grand Lodge of England and among the early lodges constituted under its direct or indirect authority were many created at the petition of brethren in the services. The first of these was at Gibraltar in 1728, and there it continued to meet until the end of the century.

The next, at Calcutta in 1730, calls for the mention of Captain Ralph Farr Winter, a sailor in the service of the East India Company. He had been appointed Provincial Grand Master for East India and his first act as such was to constitute the East India Arms Lodge for masons who were already there, mostly in the army of the Company.

Throughout the life of the premier Grand Lodge (1717-1813), and indeed thereafter, stationary lodges arose in every country to which British servicemen were being sent to satisfy the desire of freemasons among them, and among the administrators and business men who accompanied or followed them, to practise their Craft. These lodges not only met that desire; they also, in due time, provided a means by which worthy settlers and, in many instances, worthy citizens might become members of the fraternity. From such admissions several present-day masonic jurisdictions developed. Lodges flourishing today in many overseas countries were originally formed under British warrants for sailors and soldiers, and were later instrumental in establishing local sovereign Grand Lodges.

The mention of British rather than English warrants underlines the involvement of our sister Grand Lodges of Ireland (1725) and Scotland (1736) in spreading Craft Freemasonry in this way.

TRAVELLING LODGES

As these early static overseas lodges came into being for naval and army brethren, so — from 1732 onwards — did a quite different sort of lodge. This recognized the unsettled nature of a service career and, instead of being committed to a fixed location, its warrant prescribed that it should meet within a specified army unit or, in very rare instances, on a man-of-war. While some such lodges made little or no use of the peripatetic privilege, others travelled extensively as duty carried their members eastward to India, westward to the Americas and south to the Antipodes, as well as to stations nearer home.

Shipboard Lodges

In deference to the Senior Service, we will first consider the three lodges which, however briefly, met afloat. Here must be introduced Thomas Dunckerley, whose name later crops up in so many chapters of masonic history, as a ruler over eight Craft and sixteen Royal Arch Provinces at home, and as the prime mover in several of the additional degrees and Orders. But in 1760, when we first meet him, this natural son of King George II was serving as a warranted gunner and

teacher of mathematics on HMS *Vanguard*. He was in possession, it seems, of some sort of authority from the premier Grand Lodge to 'inspect into the state of the Craft wherever he might go', and by virtue thereof he installed the first Provincial Grand Master of Canada at Quebec in June 1760.

At the beginning of that year, Dunckerley obtained a warrant for a lodge to meet on the *Vanguard*. Transferred to a larger ship, the *Prince*, he was granted for it another warrant at Plymouth in May 1762. On his next posting, to HMS *Guadeloupe*, he took that document with him and, on his retirement from the Navy in 1766, he formed under that same warrant a lodge which first worked at his 'own grace and favour' apartment at Somerset House (where he had in fact been born) and was named thereafter. By amalgamation, this survives as the Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No 4.

The third of the naval lodges, and Dunckerley was almost certainly involved in it, was established in HMS *Canceaux* at Quebec in 1762. All we know of that is that the warrant was cancelled in 1792.

We have not quite finished with Dunckerley for, two years after he had opened the Somerset House Lodge in London, we find him as Master of a lodge which we now know as London No. 108, and for that he had used the *Vanguard* warrant of 1760.

Many years later, in 1810, there was an attempt to set up a Naval Kilwinning Lodge in HMS *Ardent*, but the Grand Lodge of Scotland — often liberal in such matters — was on this occasion conservative and refused to charter it.

The Royal Marines

Although some sources seem to suggest it, it is improbable that the Royal Marines ever had *travelling* lodges. Those on a list in 1895 were clearly stationary, working or having worked in the Marine Divisions at Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Woolwich (this last was abolished in 1869). It is from these depôts that detachments were and still are found for periods of service at sea.

There were many instances in which army regiments assumed the shipboard duties of Marines, but no evidence has come to light that any of their lodges met between decks.

Army Lodges

It is extremely difficult to draw up a convenient and readable roll of the several hundred army travelling lodges which were constituted by the English, Irish and Scottish Grand Lodges. Regiments were at one time distinguished merely by number, as with the 9th Dragoons or the 33rd Foot, although less formally a few were known by the name of their colonel. County or city associations were first introduced in 1782, but it was not until 1881 that the numbers were officially dropped and that the designations familiar to us through two wars became established. Military lodges, therefore, appear under various titles in the available records.

The closing-up and renumbering of the English register adds a further complication.

This occurred at intervals up to 1863, and most significantly in 1813 when the premier Grand Lodge united with the so-called Antient Grand Lodge of 1751 and their constituent lodges were shuffled together. Scotland also renumbered its lodges from time to time.

The problems of identification by number are further compounded because the Grand Lodge of Ireland, who chartered the majority of the movable lodges, has to this day the peculiar custom of reissuing to a new lodge the number formerly held by one which has been erased from its roll. For instance, No. 300 was first allotted to a lodge in the 16th Foot, then to one in the Cavan Militia, and has since had three further incarnations in non-military lodges.

Not a few lodges formed in India, Gibraltar and America in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and probably intended to be mobile, were given warrants by local Provincial Grand Masters, mostly of the Antient persuasion. While certain of these later received Grand Lodge charters, the remainder were never officially registered at home.

One more difficulty is that neither the Grand Lodges nor their petitioners were inhibited by national considerations. English regiments wrote to Dublin or Edinburgh for warrants and Irish and Scottish regiments similarly approached the less obvious authorities for theirs. Nor was there any restriction as to the number of lodges within one unit, as can now be well illustrated.

The First Regiment of Foot

Not inappropriately, the first travelling lodge of all was in the First Regiment of Foot, later to be known as the Royal Scots. It was sanctioned by Ireland in 1732 and was for the 1st Battalion. Five years later the 2nd Battalion also started an Irish lodge and the history of this one is so curious that I shall return to it.

But in 1762 the 1st Battalion founded yet another Irish lodge, and that worked in parallel with the older one for many years but had faded out by 1814. It is sad to have to report that, while the senior lodge of the two worked for 115 years in all, it was closed in 1847 by order of the Colonel of the regiment.

The Scottish Grand Lodge at last provided a lodge for the Royal Scots in 1808, the Royal Thistle in the 4th Battalion. This was taken over by the 1st Battalion eight years later, only to suffer the same fate as the old Irish lodge.

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Let me now go back to the 2nd Battalion's lodge. In 1798 it seems to have left its perfectly good Irish warrant somewhere in Europe and, arriving in Madras, sought an English one from the Provincial Grand Master of the Coast of Coromandel. The premier Grand Lodge in London then issued for it one of theirs, under the number 574 and the name of Unity, Peace and Concord. Suspended for unspecified unmasonic conduct in 1804, its brethren were four years later redeemed by being granted another charter with the previous name and number. This proved to be an eminently successful act for this lodge travelled with the Royal Scots until 1949, then being made stationary in London where it still meets as No. 316. It was the last of the English lodges to have been with its regiment.

The 1st Foot were by no means the only regiment to have more than one lodge, and there are many more instances of the impartiality in seeking warrants to which reference has already been made. It must also be said that there have been other senior officers who were so intolerant of masonic activity among the troops under their command that they insisted upon the closure of lodges.

Warrants for Sale!

One of several lodges which existed for various periods in the 28th Foot (Gloucestershire)ⁱ came to a somewhat unusual end when the Grand Lodge of Ireland erased it in 1815 for having sold its warrant in Plymouth. One may well ask who was the purchaser, and for what purpose.

Another Irish warrant figures in a different sort of cash deal. Its original holder, Lodge 36 at Limerick, pursued an uneventful and static career from 1734 until 1781 when a woman in the town sold its warrant to a lodge in the 36th Foot (Worcestershire).

It is interesting but unprofitable to speculate upon how the lady came by it. We know *why* it was snapped up; the regimental lodge had for four years worked as No. 542 but fancied the idea

of becoming No. 36 in the 36th Foot. Surprisingly, the Grand Lodge confirmed the transaction and, as No. 36, the lodge continued for another seventy-seven years.

It was for this same lodge that the Grand Lodge made in 1831 a rather special provision. Part of the regiment was ordered to Barbados and Lodge 36 went with it. To the brethren left behind a 'dispensation' warrant was issued, enabling them also to work as a lodge until they could rejoin their distant comrades. For a while, therefore, Lodge 36 worked concurrently in two stations with two sets of officers.

It is recorded that certain of the travelling lodges, working far away from high masonic authority, issued their own dispensations. In one such instance, Irish Lodge No. 74 (one of those in the 1st Foot already mentioned) gave a copy of their warrant to local civilians in Albany, New York, 'allowing them to act during our absence or until they, by our assistance, can procure a separate warrant for themselves'. The lodge thus formed is now Mount Vernon No. 3 of New York.

The Grand Lodge of New York

The present Grand Lodge of New York is in debt to regimental lodges which happened to be there in 1781. Three static Antient lodges, largely of military membership, were joined by several travelling lodges — three Antient, one Irish, one Scottish and another working under dispensation. As had become their practice, the Antient Grand Lodge in London warranted a Provincial Grand Lodge of New York No. 219, and its first officers included John Studholme Brownrigg, a member of the Irish lodge in the 38th Foot (South Staffordshire), as Senior Grand Warden. (His namesakes — and possible descendants — played a very considerable part in English Freemasonry at home in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.) The travelling lodges had left New York before, in 1784, the Provincial Grand Lodge became the Grand Lodge but one of them, an Antient lodge in the Royal Artillery, later settled in Canada and is now Albion Lodge No. 2 of Quebec. The Irish lodge, eventually, was less fortunate; it was in 1840 one of several then working in Ireland with their regiments. They were all made to surrender their warrants when the suppression of meetings of other ranks for non-military purposes was enforced by the Commander-in-Chief there.

The Fortunes of War

Other anecdotes abound in Grand Lodge and sundry records of the uncertain existence of the travelling lodges. When a regiment moved, often at short notice, the lodge box was sometimes lost in transit. The Irish lodge in the 25th Foot (King's Own Scottish Borderers) was thus deprived of its chest in Germany and a new one was 'consecrated' at Berwick in 1763. Lodge Social and Military Virtues in the 46th Foot (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry), also Irish, was rather luckier in the American War of Independence when, it is reported, its box was captured by the opposing army. Brother George Washington himself directed its return under a flag of truce.

A warrant was particularly vulnerable to loss and damage and the Irish records note some interesting casualties. One of the earliest relates to the 22nd Foot (Cheshire), of which Robert Freke Gould says that the lodge's warrant was 'lost in the Mississippi' in 1759. It disappeared in fact in 1764, during a skirmish with an Indian tribe. At Gibraltar in 1784 the Spaniards captured the charter of the 59th Foot (East Lancashire). In the Flanders campaign of 1794 to 1795, three lodges — those of the 6th Dragoon Guards, the 28th Foot (Gloucestershire) and the 38th Foot (South Staffordshire) lost theirs to the French. Fire destroyed that of the 52nd Foot (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry) in India in 1798 and the Mutiny there in 1857 accounted for

the disappearance of the one which had for over a century been used in the 20th Foot (Lancashire Fusiliers).

Early in the nineteenth century are reported losses at sea. A ship carrying the 89th Foot (Royal Irish Fusiliers) was sunk off the Dutch coast in 1805, and in 1809 the 2nd Foot (Queen's Royal Regiment, West Surrey) had a rather similar experience, but duplicate warrants enabled both of their lodges to carry on. Especially tragic was the wreck of two troopships off the southern coast of Ireland in 1812, in which only twenty-six survived of the 389 men, women and children of the 2nd Battalion of the 59th Foot (East Lancashire).

Both the Battalion and its lodge ceased to exist.

Only two Scottish lodges are said to have lost their charters in action, both in the Seven Years' War of 1756 to 1763: Scots Greys Kilwinning and the 'Mason Lodge in General Husk's Regiment' (23rd Foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers).

Some Statistics

Under all the difficulties we have described, it will be readily understood that any statistics will be more than usually unreliable. There must also be doubts as to whether certain lodges, which are not recorded as having moved at all, were ever invested with authority to do so. It will however give some sense of scale if we note that well over 400 lodges, most of them known to have had such authority, come within the category. It can be said with assurance that more than half of them were Irish. Of the others, some thirty were Scottish and about 170 were English, this last figure comprehending those warranted under the premier and Antient Grand Lodges and, from 1813, under the United Grand Lodge, whose last travelling lodge was constituted in 1860. In compiling a very simple list of such lodges in the British army, I found it interesting to arrange them in regimental order rather than under the masonic jurisdictions which gave them birth. This list (reproduced as an appendix to this paper) demonstrates that, in relation to the regiments of the line, only a few of the longer-established regiments had had no lodge at all, and that many of them had had several.

Some Survivors

Two lodges only from that remarkable tally survive as movable, and both are Irish. St. Patrick's No. 295, now accredited to the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, dates from 1758. Lodge Glittering Star No. 322 was warranted for the 29th Foot in 1759, and that regiment is now by amalgamation the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters.

There are others, however, who for varying reasons and in many different places ceased their wandering and became stationary. The English lodge in the Royal Scots has already been mentioned as having done just that in 1949. In 1947 the Lodge of Social Friendship, which had been established by the United Grand Lodge in the Royal Irish Fusiliers at Montreal in 1844, also settled in London. An Artillery lodge formed at Perth in 1767 under an Antient travelling warrant became stationary at Gibraltar after only six years and has long been known as St. John's, now No. 115. Several other lodges which began in Gunner regiments can be found in England and as far afield as in India and Canada, now generally under local jurisdictions.

Of many other similar tales, one of especial interest tells of the Irish Lodge of Social and Military Virtues in the 46th Foot (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) which, after ninety-five years of travel, was in Canada in 1847 where — according to some sources — it settled and later became No. 1 of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. But, while it had been working in Australia some years earlier, it had been involved in the establishment at Sydney of another Irish lodge which survives

as Australian Social Lodge No. 1 of New South Wales, and through this the warrant came from Ireland in 1842 for the first lodge in New Zealand.

The Militia and the Fencibles

Regiments of Militia were raised throughout the British Isles from 1757 onwards and, like the Fencible Cavalry regiments, could serve anywhere in those islands. Of the many lodges in these units quite a number are known to have travelled. When the regiments in due course disbanded, some of their lodges obtained stationary warrants.

The Royal Cornwall Militia's lodge, formed in 1810, met variously in London, Devon, Ireland and Hampshire, returning to its present home, Bodmin, where it took a civil warrant in 1830 with the name 'One and All', that being the motto of the Duchy of Cornwall. St. Luke's Lodge in the Westminster Militia received its charter when the regiment was in East Anglia and has met since 1805 at Ipswich. Shakespeare No. 284 of Warwick is an interesting variation on the theme for it began at Norwich in 1792 as an ordinary lodge. Five years later it had somehow become the property of the Warwickshire Militia and met in sundry locations in England and Ireland until again becoming stationary in 1808.

Of the Irish lodges, Wicklow Militia No. 877 still meets under that name. That of the Leitrim Militia is now known as 'Concord'. The Fife Fencibles were disbanded in Londonderry and a sufficient number of the Scots settled there and kept their lodge going under the name of Harmony.

Two such lodges which had been constituted by Scotland survive, one as Ayr St. Paul 204 and the other as Forfar and Kincardine 225.

Some Others

No less important to this brief study are several lodges which were established in garrisons. Most have long since disappeared but the Bermuda Garrison Lodge 580 of Ireland, dating from 1924, still meets where it was formed.

A further category which cannot be overlooked comprises the lodges of local forces in other colonial countries. While it was serving in Sierra Leone in 1905, the West India Regiment obtained an Irish warrant for South Carolina Lodge 390, which worked alternately in West Africa and the Caribbean. Disbandment resulted in surrender of that warrant but a static lodge of the same name and number was almost immediately created and flourishes in Jamaica. One more of these was Babadori 157, again Irish, in the West Africa Regiment, which worked for twenty years. An evocative installation programme of 1922 carries a note that a special train would be leaving the guard room, obviously in time to convey the participating brethren to their meeting.

English lodges formed for Rector's Hanoverian Brigade and certain German regiments in the 1780s in America, and for the Royal Veterans and the Royal Military Artificers, both in 1810, catch the eye as the long lists are perused, and another which merits enquiry is Star in the East, a Scottish lodge erected in 1856 in the Crimea for what is described as the Turkish Contingent. Its life was short.

One which captures the attention is the Royal Invalids' Lodge of 1799; the title suggests a forum for elderly and gouty members of the House of Hanover, but it was not! Much earlier in the century, there were raised from out-pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, a regiment and twenty-five independent companies of Invalids. Their value to the defence of the realm must ever have been in doubt. In 1767, for example, there were on muster a major of 82 and a totally blind lieutenant two years younger. In 1782, when there was rioting at Portsmouth, the Invalids there were somewhat hampered in action by having no ammunition and by being commanded by a

colonel with a wooden leg. How the Royal Invalids' Corps at Plymouth fits into this piece of military history is by no means clear, but the masons among them purchased a two-year-old warrant from the Antient Grand Lodge. The Royal Invalids' Lodge thus formed changed its name, fittingly, to that of Charity in 1809 and, as No. 223 on our present register, it still meets at Plymouth.

Additional Degrees

Although we cannot here enlarge upon it, the rôle of the travelling lodges in practising and disseminating the Mark, Royal Arch and other degrees must be mentioned. It may well be that the early history of the present Great Priories of the Temple and Malta arises in such lodges. There is evidence that such degrees were worked well into the nineteenth century.

Not generally known is that Ireland, within the last fifty years or so, warranted travelling Royal Arch chapters associated with the lodges in the King's Dragoon Guards and the King's Royal Irish Hussars. Sadly neither the lodges nor the chapters are now working.

IMMOVABLE LODGES

Lastly we turn, in our review of lodges, to an extensive list of those which have from the outset been immovable. The Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and the Royal Air Force account for a relatively small number and these, with one or two exceptions, comprehend all members or former members of the relevant service.

There are many lodges at home and abroad, often designated 'United Service', which bring together sailors, soldiers and airmen, the earliest having been formed in Ireland in 1859. One such London lodge, Connaught Army and Navy 4323, had the distinction of being ruled permanently by the Duke of Connaught (Grand Master, 1901-39) from 1921 until his death in 1942 and, as he prescribed, it has always found its members from among commissioned officers. The Warrant Officers' Lodge 2346 of 1890 has catered for more junior ranks.

The earliest of the regimental lodges which have never travelled and which work in the United Kingdom were associated with the Volunteers (nowadays the Territorial Army), but the regular army soon entered the field. The Household Brigade Lodge 2614 of 1896 for officers and the Comrades' Lodge 2740 of 1899 for warrant officers and noncommissioned officers of the Household Cavalry and the Guards regiments were among the first. Reductions in the strength of the army have resulted in the disappearance of many famous regiments, both regular and reserve, mostly by absorption into such newly-styled units as the Royal Anglian Regiment and the Royal Green Jackets. Most of the volunteer lodges have opened their doors to civilian candidates but the continued existence, albeit on a smaller scale, of the departmental corps has enabled their lodges to retain their special character and even to increase in number. Certa Cito 8925 for the Royal Corps of Signals was the most recent addition in 1979. And, as these lines are being written, an important part of the modern army, which our early military brethren — in their wildest dreams — could not have imagined, is being masonically equipped with the Parachute Regiment Lodge No. 9315.

Those of us who recall the war of 1939 to 1945 will remember the devoted, usually more senior, citizen-soldiers who served with 'Dad's Army'. Down in Kent, the Loyal Darent Valley Lodge 6206, formed at the end of that war by brethren who had given such service, perpetuates in the initials of its name the memory of that most worthy organization, the Local Defence Volunteers, equally well known as the Home Guard.

To conclude—

In 1957 the late Brother Richard Parkinson of Ireland used words which, after slight adjustment, admirably serve to close our brief and incomplete study:

The service lodges provided a common meeting-ground for all ranks. The practice of our ceremonies, the contemplation of the good, the true, the beautiful, lifted the mind from dreariness. Discipline and training made the soldier-mason particularly apt in the work of the lodge.

The Master Mason-at-Arms of today would not disagree.

APPENDIX

TRAVELLING LODGES OF THE BRITISH ARMY

NOTES: 1 Regiments of colonial or foreign troops, with the exception of the 103rd Foot, are omitted from the list, as are details of the many lodges formed, the majority with Provincial warrants, for various local units in North America from 1759 to 1800.

2 In the cavalry, most Dragoon regiments were converted to Hussars or Lancers early in the nineteenth century, and this is indicated.

3 Names of infantry regiments are given, whether or not their lodges were still in existence when those names were officially introduced. One or two exceptions are self-evident.

4 In the interests of simplicity, only the year of a lodge's opening is shown, qualified as follows:

P warranted by the premier Grand Lodge (1717-1813)

A by the Antient Grand Lodge (1751-1813)

E by the United Grand Lodge (from 1813)

I by the Grand Lodge of Ireland (from 1725)

S by the Grand Lodge of Scotland (from 1736)

L locally by a Provincial Grand Lodge, premier or Antient.

* indicates that the lodge is still working in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, not necessarily under an original name or jurisdiction

(a) two distinct lodges were formed in the same year

(b) exact year of opening is unknown.

Life Guards	1st		1798 P
Dragoon Guards	1st	King's	1780 P
	2nd	Queen's Bays	1805 I
	4th	Royal Irish	1758 I*
	5th	Royal Inniskilling	1757 I
			1780 I
Dragoon Guards			1815 E
	6th	Carabiniers	1763 A
			1780 I
			1797 A
		7th Princess Royal's	1758 I
Other Cavalry Regiments	2nd	Scots Greys	1747 S
			1770 S

	3rd	King's Own Hussars	1785 S
			1796 S
	4th	Queen's Own Hussars	1815 I
	5th	Royal Irish Lancers	1757 I
			1758 I
			1914 I
	6th	Inniskilling Dragoons	1763 A
			1777 P
			1797 A
	7th	Queen's Own Hussars	1776 S
			1807 A
	8th	King's Royal Irish Hussars	1757 P
			1822 E
			1932 I
	9th	Queen's Royal Lancers	1760 I
			1794 A
	11th	Prince Albert's Own Hussars	1755 P
			1807 A
	12th	Royal Lancers	1755 I
			1804 I
	13th	Hussars	1752 I
			1782 I
			1791 I
			1819 L
	14th	King's Hussars	1756 I
	16th	Queen's Lancers	1803 I
	17th	Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers	1769 I
			1794 A
			1873 I
	19th	Princess of Wales's Own Hussars	1762 I (a)
			1762 I (a)
	20th	Hussars	1792 I
	23rd	Light Dragoons	1799 I
			1808 I
Artillery		Royal Horse Artillery	1809 A
		Royal Irish Artillery	1761 I
			1781 I
	Royal Artillery	1st Bn	1764 A
			1774 A
			1785 A*
		2nd Bn	1767 A*
		4th Bn	1779 A
			1781 A*
			1809 A
		4th Grn Bn	1809 A
Artillery	Royal Artillery	5th Bn	1812 A
		6th Bn	1802 A
		7th Bn	1810 I
			1813 I
		9th Bn	1812 A
			1823 I
		10th Bn	1812 A
			1813 A
	Portsmouth		1773 A
	Woolwich		1761 A

Artillery	Bengal	1798 A*
		1814 L/1828 E*
	Poona	1823 L/1833 E*
	Gibraltar	c.1800 L (a)
		c.1800 L (a)
	Nova Scotia	1784 L/1829 E*
		1815 L/1829 E*
	Québec	1787 A*
		1790 A*
	Pennsylvania	1779 L
	Jamaica	1790 A
Regiments of Foot	1st (Royal Scots)	1732 I
		1737 I
		1762 I
		1798L/1798 P
		1808 S
		1808 E
	2nd (Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey))	1754 I
		1762 I
		1799 L
	3rd (The Buffs (Royal East Kent))	1759 A
		1771 A
	4th (King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster))	1769 S
		1785 I
		1857 I
	5th (Northumberland Fusiliers)	1738 I
		1812 A
	6th (Royal Warwickshire)	(b) I
		1785 L/1829 E
		1785 I(a)
		1785 I(a)
		1817 P
	7th (Royal Fusiliers)	1752 I
		1792 L
		1793 L
	8th (King's Liverpool)	1755 P
Regiments of Foot	9th (Royal Norfolk)	1754 I
		1803 A
	10th (Lincolnshire)	1748 I
		1758 I
		1761 I
	11th (Devonshire)	1758 A
		1782 I
		1798 A
	12th (Suffolk)	1747 S
		1860 E
	13th (Somerset Light Infantry)	1768 A
		1784 I
		1787 I
	14th (West Yorkshire)	1750 I
		1759 A
		1807 A
		1810 A
		1846 E
	15th (East Yorkshire)	1754 I
	16th (Bedfordshire)	1758 I(a)

Regiments of Foot	16th	(Bedfordshire) – <i>contd</i>	1758 I(a)
	17th	(Leicestershire)	1743 I
			1771 S
			1787 A
			1802 I
			1824 I
	18th	(Royal Irish)	1747 I
			1760 I
			1806 A
	19th	(Green Howards (Yorkshire))	1747 I
			1799 P
	20th	(Lancashire Fusiliers)	1737 I
			1860 I
	21st	(Royal Scots Fusiliers)	1734 I
			1803 I
			1817 I
	22nd	(Cheshire)	1754 I
			1767 S
	23rd	(Royal Welch Fusiliers)	1751 S
			1767 S
			1788 A
			1808 I
			1809 L
			1882 I
	24th	(South Wales Borderers)	1768 P
	25th	(King's Own Scottish Borderers)	1738 I
			1819 I
			1823 I
	26th	(Cameronians)	1758 I
			1810 I
			1823 I
	27th	(Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers)	1733 I
			1750 I
		1787 I	
		1808 I	
28th	(Gloucestershire)	1734 I	
		1758 L	
		1773 I	
		1786 L	
		1809 I	
29th	(Worcestershire)	1759 I*	
30th	(East Lancashire)	1735 I	
		1776 I	
		1805 I	
		1813 L	
31st	(East Surrey)	1760 S	
		1761 S	
		1858 E	
32nd	(Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry)	1736 I	
		1754 S	
		1783 I	
		1921 I	
33rd	(Duke of Wellington's (West Riding))	1732 I	
		1761 A	
		1798 A	
		1803 L	

Regiments of Foot	33rd	(Duke of Wellington's (West Riding)) - <i>contd</i>	1816 E
	34th	(Border)	1783 P 1807 A
	35th	(Royal Sussex)	1785 I
	36th	(2nd Worcestershire)	1777 P 1778 I
	37th	(Hampshire)	1756 A
	37th	(Hampshire)	1844 E
	38th	(South Staffordshire)	1734 I 1765 I
	39th	(Dorsetshire)	1742 I 1758 I
	40th	(Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire))	1759 A 1810 I 1821 I
	42nd	(Royal Highland (Black Watch))	1749 I 1809 I 1811 P
	43rd	(Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry)	1769 S
	44th	(Essex)	1784 L 1793 I
	45th	(Shetwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire))	1766 I 1792 A
	46th	(2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry)	1752 I 1817 L/1836 E
	47th	(Loyal (North Lancashire))	1896 I 1749 I 1810 I
	48th	(Northamptonshire)	1750 I 1784 I 1806 I
	49th	(Royal Berkshire)	1760 I 1783 I
	50th	(Royal West Kent)	1763 I 1763 A 1808 A 1857 I
	51st	(King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry)	1761 A 1788 I 1801 S 1816 E 1816 L
	52nd	(2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry)	1761 I 1769 L/1770 P 1797 A 1801 A 1827 L/1830 E
	53rd	(King's Shropshire Light Infantry)	1832 I 1773 I 1804 I
	54th	(2nd Dorsetshire)	1829 L/1838 E
	55th	(2nd Border)	1743 S 1762 L
	56th	(2nd Essex)	1760 S 1765 I
	57th	(Middlesex)	1755 A

Regiments of Foot	57th	(Middlesex) - <i>contd</i>	1780 L
			1818 E
	58th	(2nd Northamptonshire)	1769 I
			1789 I
			1805 A
	59th	(2nd East Lancashire)	1754 I
			1810 I
	60th	(King's Royal Rifle Corps)	1792 L
	62nd	(Wiltshire)	1763 I
	63rd	(Manchester)	1774 I
	64th	(North Staffordshire)	1761 S
			1788 I
			1817 I
	65th	(York and Lancaster)	1784 I
	66th	(2nd Royal Berkshire)	1763 I
			1777 I
			1780 I
			1808 I
			1815 I
	67th	(2nd Hampshire)	1772 P
	68th	(Durham Light Infantry)	1790 I
			1810 A
	69th	(2nd Welch)	1791 I
			1808 I
	70th	(2nd East Surrey)	1760 S
			(b) L
			1871 I
	71st	(Highland Light Infantry)	1759 S
			1801 I
	72nd	(Seaforth Highlanders)	1759 A
			1854 I
	75th	(Gordon Highlanders)	1810 I
	76th	as an Irish regiment, disbanded 1763	1760 I
	76th	(2nd Duke of Wellington's)	1788 A
	77th	Atholl Highlanders, disbanded 1783	1780 I
	78th	(2nd Seaforth Highlanders)	1760 L/1770 P
			1801 A
	79th	(Cameron Highlanders)	1808 A
	80th	(2nd South Staffordshire)	1780 S
		c.1801 A	
		1813 L/1820 E	
82nd	(2nd Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire))	1817 I	
83rd	(Royal Irish/Ulster Rifles)	1759 I	
		1808 L	
		1817 I	
		1915 I	
85th	(2nd King's Shropshire Light Infantry)	1801 A	
87th	(Royal Irish Fusiliers)	1915 I	
88th	(Connaught Rangers)	1821 I	
		1907 I	
89th	(2nd Royal Irish Fusiliers)	1802 I	
		1811 I	
		1822 L	
		1838 L	
		1844 E*	

Regiments of Foot	90th	(2nd Cameronians)	1817 E
	91st	(Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders)	1800 A
	92nd	Donegal Light Infantry, disbanded 1763	1761 I
	92nd	(2nd Gordon Highlanders)	1805 A
	94th	(2nd Connaught Rangers)	1764 S
			1801 P
			1830 S
	96th	(2nd Manchester)	1804 A
			1818 I
	97th	Queen's Germans, disbanded 1818	1807 I
	100th	(Royal Canadians (Leinster Foot Regiment))	(b) L
	103rd	Bombay European	1834 I
	108th	(2nd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers)	(b) L
	112th	Donoughmore's	1795 I
Fencibles	1st Fencible Light Dragoons (Irish)	1799 I	
	Cornwall Regiment of Fencible Light Dragoons	1799 P*	
	Prince of Wales's Fencible Cavalry	1798 A	
	Ulster Provincial Regiment	1783 I	
	Argyllshire	1795 S	
	Breadalbane	1801 I	
	Elgin	1798 I	
	Essex	1796 I	
	Fife	1798 I*	
	Militia Cambridge	1799 A	
	Cheshire	1794 P	
	Cornwall	1810 P*	
	Royal Regiment of Cornish Miners	1807 A*	
	Cumberland	1807 A	
	East Devon	1781 A	
	North Devon	1783 P	
		1812 A	
	Durham	1813 S	
		1825 E	
	North Hampshire	1808 A	
	1st Lancashire	1776 A	
		1805 A	
	2nd Lancashire	1803 A	
	3rd Lancashire	1812 A*	
	Leicester	1761 A	
	South Lincoln	1799 I	
	West London	1801 A*	
		1812 A*	
	Middlesex, Royal Westminster	1799 P*	
	West Middlesex	1796 A	
	Monmouth	1815 P	
	Shropshire	1810 A	
	Staffordshire	1801 A	
Warwickshire	1797 P*		
Westminster	1804 A*		
Wiltshire	1794 A		
Yorkshire	1772 A		
East Yorkshire	1782 P		
North Yorkshire	1815 P		
West Yorkshire	1811 P		
Ayr and Renfrew	1799 S*		
Berwickshire	1811 A		

Fencibles	Fifeshire	1811 S	
	Forfar and Kincardine	1808 S*	
	North British (Aberdeenshire)	1799 S	
	Antrim	1796 I	
	Armach	1800 I	
	Carlow	1801 I	
	Cavan	1801 I	
	Militia Cork City	1806 I	
	South Cork	1794 I	
	Donegal	1798 I	
	Downshire	1795 I	
	South Down	1810 I	
	Militia	Dublin City	1810 I
		Fermanagh	1798 I
		Kerry	1810 I
		Kildare	1797 I
		Kilkenny	1797 I
King's County		1804 I	
Leitrim		1797 I*	
Longford		1807 I	
Louth		1809 I	
South Mayo		1810 I	
		1812 I	
Meath		1801 I	
Monaghan		1796 I	
		1801 I	
Queen's County		1797 I	
		1805 I	
Roscommon		1808 I	
Sligo		1796 I	
Tipperary		1797 I	
Tyrone		1796 I	
		1797 I	
		1808 I	
Waterford		1805 I	
West Meath	1793 I		
	1811 I		
Wexford	1803 I		
Wicklow	1796 I		
	1800 I*		

ⁱ Although the majority of the lodges had disappeared by the time (1881) that regiments were officially named and not numbered, the names then allowed (not necessarily still in use) are here given to identify the regiments with counties and towns of the British Isles. It must be emphasized however that prior to the 1881 changes regiments had borne many different subsidiary titles and nicknames after their number. The 46th Foot, for example, was first known as 'Murray's Bucks' and, from 1782, as the 46th (South Devons), becoming in 1881 the second battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.