

Our Researcher, Daphne Byrne has submitted the following extract taken from
"The Inquirer and Commercial News" Wednesday, April 6, 1887(held at Battye Library)

*THE DISBANDMENT OF THE
ENROLLED GUARD.*

Shortly before noon on Thursday 49 members of the enrolled guard left the Barracks, preceded by the band of the Perth Volunteers, and proceeded to Government House. His Excellency, Lady Broome and a number of other influential people were in attendance to meet the men, who were drawn up in a line in front of the house. After some military exercises had been gone through, His Excellency (Sir F.N.Broome) addressed them as follows:- Captain Smith, non-commissioned officers and men of the Enrolled Guard: As you know, this is the last day you will parade in Her Majesty's uniform and with arms. Your disbandment brings to a close the existence of any Imperial troops in this part of Her Majesty's Empire, and your places will be occupied here, as they are in other parts of Australia, by a fine corps of volunteer troops which are represented here to-day by the band of the Perth Rifles. They have come to do honor to you to-day, and to them we must in future look to supply the places of her Majesty's regular forces. I am sure everyone will regret that your services are being brought to a close, and I myself regret that you will no longer mount guard at Government House, where there has been an Imperial guard for the last half century. As your commander-in-chief in this colony I think I may say that you have under your commandant, Captain Smith, for the last five years done good service to the country and have performed honorably and well the duties allotted to you. On your disbandment this day you will fall back into the ranks of civil life, where already so many of your comrades - pensioners of the Crown - have preceded you, and you will become part of the general public of this colony. I feel sure that you will, in private as well as in military life, continue those habits of good behaviour which have made your career on the Enrolled Guard honorable. I am glad to think that some of you have more or less substantial pensions, but on the other hand I am sorry that there are others who are not so well off as I should wish to see them. I have written strongly to the Imperial authorities to see if we cannot obtain some addition to your pensions in consideration of your five years additional service in this colony, and I can only hope that

my appeal will be successful. It will now be the duty of those requiring it to get some civil employment, and I shall be pleased to give to any of you any assistance that lies in my power. Some of you have for some time past occupied the barracks, and you will be permitted to continue to occupy them. I shall, I say again, be glad to assist an old soldier as far as means will allow me. You must not, however, depend solely upon the Government. You are soldiers and men, and you must try to get employment for yourselves. This is your last parade, and I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you again in uniform bearing arms, and I will therefore now wish you health and happiness in the future. To render the occasion less melancholy than it might be, I beg to ask you, after your parade, to partake of dinner in the ball-room of Government House. Once more I wish you and your families long life and happiness in the future.

Captain Smith, addressing His Excellency, said:- On behalf of the Enrolled Guard permit me to address to your Excellency a few words. On the last occasion you inspected the guard I seized the opportunity of explaining who and what the men were, and therefore suffice to say now that these men are the representatives and remnants here of England's old army - an army organised and armed somewhat different to the army now, but one that has performed many doughty deeds in sustaining the honor of Old England. I think these men are worthy of consideration on the part of the colony, for it is well known that a by-no-means insignificant portion of the population is composed of the children and grandchildren of the pensioners who came to this colony. Many of the sons of these men have volunteered and enrolled themselves in what will be the future army of Western Australia. I shall be sincerely glad if everything that can be done may be done to enable these old men to pass the evening of their lives in comparative comfort. Your Excellency has always taken an interest in these men, and on this the last time you will have an opportunity of inspecting them permit me to address you in the words of the Roman Gladiator, *Morituri te salutem.*

Three cheers were then given for the Queen, His Excellency and Lady Broome.

The guard and those present were then photographed and the guard were marched into the ball-room, where they were hospitably