

## WHEN SENTRIES STOOD IN PERTH STREETS

# A Quaint and Picturesque Aspect of the City

## HISTORY OF THE ENROLLED GUARD

**I**T IS a long time since Perth streets were graced with immaculately uniformed members of the Enrolled Guard, who stood straight and stock-still at various points along the route from the old jail to Government House. They were a quaint and picturesque band and gave to the city a martial touch that has long since disappeared.

There are among us still, however, some who will remember them well, who, when they are recalled to mind, will still be able to hear the cries of "All's well" started by No. 1 sentry and echoed by others all along the route.

In the following article the story of the Enrolled Guard is traced by one who is an authority on such history of the State.

(By C.C.T.)

**W**HEN the abolition of the Pensioner Force took place on November 10, 1880, the authorities were faced with the position of providing guards for the convict establishment and magazine at Fremantle; a guard at Government House, Perth, and an orderly for the Governor.

From a list of 70 of the Pensioner Force a total of 40 men were selected, consisting of one sergeant-major (T. McCarthy, of the 18th Foot Regiment), 3 sergeants (Jas. Cunningham, Thos. Minnorgan and William Latimer), three warders (Sergeants R. Donohue, P. Quinn and J. Litton), five corporals and 37 privates. This number was added to in April, 1885, when three more

to in April, 1885, when three more pensioners were taken on to form a guard over the magazine at Perth. The commandant was Captain M. S. Smith, the Commissioner of Police at the time, formerly of the 44th Foot, who had retired from the army in 1867 after a service of 13 years. His service included the Crimean and China wars.

For the maintenance of the force, which was called the Enrolled Guard, a sum of £4000 was provided by the Imperial Government, which grant was to cease on the 31st March, 1887, when the guard was to be disbanded.

**T**HE rates of pay were: Sergeant-major, 5s. 6d.; sergeants, 4s. 6d.; corporals, 4s.; warders, 4s.; and privates 3s. 6d. per diem respectively. Captain Smith as commandant of the guard re-

6d per diem respectively. Captain Smith as commandant of the guard received £100 per annum in addition to his pay of £400 per annum as Commissioner of Police. The pension drawn by these men ranged from 8d to 2s 6d per diem, the average being 1s 6d per diem, and their ages from 43 to 55. Quarters and medical attendance for themselves and their families were provided, whilst the uniform was similar to that of the Pensioner Guard, with the exception of the buttons and mountings, and consisted of chaco, cloth tunic, trousers, serge tunic and serge trousers and greatcoat. The men were entitled to a chaco once every three years; cloth and serge tunic every other year; cloth trousers every year, serge trousers every other year and a greatcoat once in five years, whilst the estimated annual cost of the uniform per head was £4. Arrangements were made for these uniforms to be supplied by the War Department from their Pimlico Clothing Establishment.

On April 21, 1885, arrangements were made to transfer the whole of the ammunition at the Fremantle magazine to the one at Perth, with the exception of twelve boxes of Snider ball cartridges, which were to be stored at the Barracks, Fremantle, whilst the powder belonging to the Volunteers and Merchants remained at the Fremantle magazine.

AS the term for which this Enrolled Guard was brought into being was approaching its end (March, 1887) a recommendation was made to the Imperial authorities that the pensioners comprising it should be given the same consideration as those who had served in the Enrolled Pensioner Force by having their pensions increased according to their length of service. It was stated on their behalf that although they were nominally a civil guard they had performed exactly the same duties as when attached to the enlisted Pensioner Force under the command of Colonel Edward D. Harvey.

A further recommendation was that a grant of £2000 should be made by the Imperial Government in order that the guard on its disbandment might receive a sum equal to one month's pay for each year or portion thereof which its members have served.

The force at Fremantle was in the immediate charge of the sergeant-major. The prison guard which consisted of one corporal and six privates, mounted

the prison guard which consisted of one corporal and six privates, mounted duty daily at 9 a.m. and all available men paraded for inspection at the same time. The sergeant-major had to visit the prison guard twice a week during the daytime and twice weekly at night, and also to visit the magazine on similar occasions—the latter being guarded by warders who were on the same rating for pay as corporals. With respect to the Government House Guard at Perth the instructions issued respecting the mounting of the guard were practically similar to the ones at Fremantle, and it consisted of one lance-corporal and three privates, who mounted duty at 9 a.m., whilst a corporal with the rank of lance-sergeant, acted as Governor's orderly.

For the purposes of discipline the members of the guard were sworn in as police constables.

THE Perth Guard was housed at the barracks and water for their domestic requirements was drawn from a well in the yard which was 75 feet deep. It was evidently at this well that a lorry some few years ago had a narrow escape from disaster when the wheels crashed through the surface.

The commandant of this old guard died in April, 1887, a few days after its disbandment, when making final preparations to visit England.

No longer is heard the cry of the sentry at the jail, "No. 1; all's well," to be taken up and repeated by the one at Government House, "No. 2; all's well," and echoed by the sentry at the magazine, "No. 3; all's well." Their voices were strong and on a calm night could be heard echoing over Perth.

There were no disturbing influences such as noisy trams, motor vehicles and wireless sets in those days to mar the quiet of the night. No longer will be heard the command of "Gee-r-round arms!" and no longer will the boys of Perth play tricks on the sentries by imitating the commands of the sergeant on his rounds!



An artist's impression of Perth's river-front as it was in the early 'eighties.