

VI.—PICTURE BOARD DUMMIES AT RABY AND
CALLALY CASTLES.

By R. S. FERGUSON, M.A., LL.M., F.S.A., chancellor of Carlisle.

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In December, 1890, I read a paper before the Royal Archaeological Institute on the two well-known picture board dummies, representing two grenadiers, which occupy positions on the main staircase of the County hotel, Carlisle. I showed that these figures represented grenadiers of the 2nd or Queen's regiment of Foot, now the Royal West Surrey regiment.¹ In writing of these picture board dummies I dealt with them as evidence of the uniforms, equipments, and positions at drill of the British army at particular dates, as milestones in military history, and not particularly as specimens of picture board dummies. Kind friends, however, sent me photographs and descriptions of other dummies, which I put upon record in a paper read before the Royal Archaeological Institute in December, 1894.² Further information continued to come in, and in April of this year I laid before the Royal Archaeological Institute a third paper,³ which has just found its way into print. Among the many friends who interested themselves in the subject was our energetic secretary, Mr. Blair, who sent me photographs and drawings of picture board dummies at Raby and Callaly castles with a request that I would write an account of them for this society. This I readily consented to, and, beyond mere mention of their existence, I have excluded them from the papers I laid before the Instituté.

Into the general subject I do not propose to go, beyond quoting a sentence from a paper by Mr. Syer Cuming in vol. xxx. of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*:—

Among other old whimses which sprang up during the period indicated (the seventeenth century), was that of depicting different devices on flat boards shaped according to the contour of the subject represented, and placed in such situations as would most readily lead the beholders to believe that they were gazing on realities instead of mere artistic deceptions. Holland appears to have been the natal land of this tricky conceit, which found a ready reception in England and manifested itself in a variety of forms and ways.

The deception was much increased by these figures being made

¹ *Archaeological Journal*, vol. xlvii. pp. 321-333.

² *Ibid.*, vol. lii. pp. 1-24.

³ *Ibid.* vol. lv. p. 183.

feather-edged from the back to the front. Thus, when placed a few inches from a wall, they cast a shadow which might well be mistaken for that cast by a living person.

There are four picture board dummies at Raby castle. Two of them represent grenadiers, but the figures are so dark that they photograph but badly, and the details are difficult to make out. The following is a detailed description of the grenadier:—

No. I.,⁴ a grenadier, total height to top of the tuft or pompon of his mitre-shaped cap, seven feet. His cap is less in height than those of the Carlisle grenadiers, being only one foot two inches against their one foot five inches. He is dressed in a long broad-skirted red coat, piped or edged with white, now turned by age or varnish into yellow; it is double breasted, with two rows of ten or twelve buttons each running from the shoulders to the waist, but whether of white or yellow metal cannot now be discerned. Some (or all) of them are set at the ends of loops of lace. The coat buttons over on the left breast, but the lappets are turned back, showing the facings of dark blue or black (as Mr. Blair describes them)—no doubt dark or royal blue, denoting a royal regiment. There is a well-marked seam down the front of the coat. The cuffs are of the colour of the facings; they are much smaller than those of the Carlisle grenadiers, and, like them, have an ornamental band of broad white lace, but in the shape of a parallelogram, on the front of the cuff. Above the left cuff (the right is invisible being turned backwards) are five or six buttons set on a piece of lace going up the sleeve to the elbow; these have on each side of them a loop of lace, thus rather resembling a palm branch. There are no pockets in the skirts, as is the case at Carlisle. Below the waist belt the skirts are open, showing the red under-waistcoat, and below that the dark blue breeches. The lappets of the coat, turned back at the neck, show there again the red under-waistcoat. A white cravat is round the man's neck, but its ends are concealed by the under-waistcoat.

He wears long white leggings or gaiters coming high up the thighs,⁵ buttoned up the sides, and strapped under the feet.⁶

The mitre-shaped cap, one foot two inches high, is of cloth, but the colour is difficult to make out. It has a red flap or frontlet over the brow. The colour of the tuft or pompon is not to be made out. On the frontlet is the figure of a white galloping horse, the white horse of Hanover. Round the edge of the frontlet is the motto, *NEC ASPERA TERRENT*.

⁴ This description is written from a very dark photograph and a coloured sketch by Mr. Blair, F.S.A., hence the details are difficult to make out.—R. S. F.

⁵ An old man, until quite recently employed at the castle as a joiner, has (if I remember right) told me that the legs were repainted by the duchess' order not very long ago. I believe they were then in very bad condition. Probably, however, the old pattern was copied.—B.

⁶ The Carlisle grenadiers wear stockings. It is clear that during the last half of the seventeenth century and the early part of the eighteenth the English army did not wear leggings or gaiters over their stockings; but by the middle of the eighteenth century they had adopted long white leggings or gaiters coming high up the thighs, buttoned up the sides, strapped under the feet, and gartered under the knees with black garters. In 1767 the mitre-shaped caps and the white leggings were superseded by bear-skin caps and black leggings.—R. S. F.

Above the frontlet is a star like unto the star of the Order of the Garter, with a red cross in its centre, and a motto of which the last letter, N, is alone to be made out. It is probably the last letter of ICH DIEN. Above the star is a crown.

The accoutrements consist of waist belt of buff leather, with plain buckle in front; slings from the front and side carry the sword and bayonet. A buff leather cross belt passes over the left shoulder, under the waist belt, and carries a large leather pouch on the grenadier's right side, so that it cannot be seen whether it is plain or bears the royal cypher and crown, as on the pouches of the guardsmen in 'The March to Finchley in 1745.' A plain buckle is in the cross belt a little above the waist belt, and the cross belt has upon it what resembles the whistle now carried by officers of rifles, or it may be something connected with his fusil.

The arms consist of a fusil without sling, socket bayonet, and short basket-hilted sword. The details of the fusil cannot be made out.

Three royal regiments, *i.e.*, regiments with dark blue or royal facings, have the white galloping horse as their badge, with the motto NEC ASPERA TERRENT, namely, the VII. (Royal Fusiliers), the VIII. (the King's), and the XXIII. (the Royal Welsh Fusiliers), but the last alone bears the motto ICH DIEN. We may therefore set this figure down as that of a grenadier of the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers, of about the middle of the last century; certainly later than the Carlisle grenadiers, say latter part of the reign of George II., in whose reign the white horse of Hanover was first put on the frontlets of the grenadiers' caps instead of the colonel's crest or badge.

Of No. II.⁷ I cannot at present write so full an account; the photograph is very dark, and Mr. Blair has only given me a pencil sketch. The original figures themselves are, I understand, so dark that the details can hardly be made out. The same description will almost serve for him as did for No. I., with the following differences:—His cross belt goes over his right shoulder, and his 'grenada pouch' hangs on his right side, well to the front, so that it can be seen that it has on it the royal cypher G R under a crown and something above the crown. The cross belt has upon it no whistle or jigger, or whatever the object may be that is upon the cross belt of No. I. The sword and bayonet (if there are both) hang from the waist belt on the right side. Mr. Blair does not name the colour of the facings, but he marks the frontlet of the mitre-shaped cap as 'yellowish,'⁸ and from his sketch I gather that No. II. has a plastron of buff.

This man may possibly belong to the Buffs (3rd Foot). The date would be the same as that of No. I, possibly a little earlier. No history is known of these figures. Lord Barnard thinks they have been

⁷ No. II. is, I should say, not the work of the same artist. It is inferior in style and very indistinct. I should not be surprised if it were a mere fancy sketch intended as a pair to No. I.—B.

⁸ I have no information as to what else may be on his cap. The Buffs carry a white horse, that of Kent.—R. S. F.

a long time at Raby castle. It would be interesting to ascertain if any member of the Vane family served in the Buffs or the Welsh Fusiliers in the first half of the last century.⁹



PICTURE BOARD DUMMY, CALLALY CASTLE.

One of the other two dummies at Raby represents a peasant woman with a basket of fruit. She is five feet 6 inches in height, wears a red

⁹ Henry (second earl of Darlington) was gazetted captain and lieut.-colonel, Coldstream Guards, in February, 1749. His uncle, Hon. Gilbert Vane, served in the 1st regiment of Foot Guards from 1732 to 1745, when he was appointed colonel of the earl of Berkeley's regiment of Foot.—B.

hat or cap, and two rows of beads round her neck. The colours of her dress are now so black that it is impossible to make them out. The figure of the man is five feet ten inches in height. He wears a slouch hat, a long brownish grey coat open so as to show a white or whitish shirt, knee breeches and stockings, and has round his waist an apron or cloth, in which he carries a live (very lively) goose. It is an interesting figure, and I have no doubt that it is intended to represent one of the Irish dealers, who bring over in the autumn to the north of England large flocks of Irish geese for sale to the farmers, who fatten them up for Christmas in the stubbles. I exhibit photographs of these two figures and also coloured sketches by Mr. Blair, but these two figures and the two Raby grenadiers would profit much by being put into the hands of a competent picture restorer.¹⁰ The Raby dummies are all feather-edged from back to front.

I also exhibit a photograph¹¹ and a coloured sketch by Mr. R. Blair, F.S.A., of a picture board dummy, the property of the late major A. H. Brown of Callaly castle in Northumberland. It stands three feet two inches in height, is feather-edged from back to front, of canvas glued on board, and represents a partridge-plump little Dutch girl in a rich costume, holding in her left hand a small green parrot with a red head. Her underskirt is richly embroidered. Parti-coloured flowers—some roses, others woodbine—adorn her green overskirt, bodice, and cape, which last has a narrow white binding. Her cap, falling collar, and cuffs are all of rich lace. A gold chain passes four times over her left shoulder, and other chains are round her wrists. Her hair is tied up upon the top of her head with red ribbon under her cap, and her feet, small for her stout little person, are encased in white shoes. Her hands are well formed and well painted. Take her in all, she must represent a very well-to-do and important little personage, one quite sensible of her own position. I do not know of any history attaching to this charming dummy.

¹⁰ The four figures were restored by a picture cleaner last year, but the result is not satisfactory.—B.

¹¹ See representation of this on preceding page.