

TROOPS IN REVOLT

Recorded Cases of Mutiny in
British Army.

Have Been Rare in Recent Years
Though War Office Archives Con-
tain Accounts of Uprisings
That Were Serious.

With the exception of the recent demobilization troubles, mutinies and demonstrations by soldiers of the British army have been, happily, rare in modern times, though they were not by any means infrequent in the bad old days of the British empire.

One of the most serious of these outbreaks was that which occurred in the Black Watch, over 100 years ago, in connection with which three men were shot in the moat of the tower of Lundy.

The duke of Wellington had to deal, too, with several of these outbreaks during the Peninsular war, and his methods, for the most part, were equally drastic.

It was his way, however, to deal lightly with mere petulant outbursts. Thus, when the Twelfth Lancers misbehaved in the summer of 1812 by refusing to turn out for church parade

No limit was set to the duration of the order, and the custom, as it eventually became, was continued up to 1912, when it was abolished, after having lasted exactly 100 years.

Far more serious notice was taken by the authorities of a mutiny which broke out among the Sixteenth Hussars at the Curragh camp in November, 1877. The trouble began through discontent with certain officers in connection with extra duty. No fewer than 75 of the malcontents were arrested and tried before a general courtmartial, the sentences ranging from five to eight years' penal servitude.

Very tragic was the outcome of a mutiny which broke out among the garrison of Malta in April, 1807. The malcontents seized Fort Rincón, overlooking the grand harbor, where they were besieged by loyal troops. Eventually, rather than surrender, they fired the magazine and all perished.

Phobias, however, the more dangerous instance of wholesale disaffection occurred in 1820 among the British troops then serving in India. The disaffected men had enlisted to serve in the Old East India company. Yet, when the company ceased to exist, these men, by a stroke of the pen, were incorporated into the regular British army.

They objected, and regiment after regiment refused to obey orders. In the end the government was compelled to accede to their demands, when some 10,000 men claimed their discharge, and were sent home to England.

Statistics Not Always Right.

Statistics, though often interesting, are sometimes most misleading and futile. For example, it is interesting

to know from the census bureau the number of prison commitments among the foreign-born population of the United States, but it would be most unsafe to base any generalizations on them, for the number of commitments to prison is no indication of the number of crimes committed, and there are many more criminals at large than

Behind the bars. Those in prison were not clever enough to escape. Those not caught. Those at large were able to commit their crimes and elude detection. The figures for America probably are not very different. There 85 per cent of the criminals are at large. It is fair to assume that this 85 per

ent is more intelligent than the 15 per cent that got caught. Therefore the 15 per cent for which the statistics are given is a highly selected group, and any conclusions based upon such statistics are untrustworthy as applied to criminals in general, however valuable they may be as to the comparatively small number that are in jail.

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