

The Kaffrarian Rifles were under the command of their commanding officer, Colonel V.G. Lewis M.C. and other Units under their respective C.O.'s I should mention that there was a very fine turn-out of ex-servicemen under Squibs Ogilvie.

The salute was to be taken by the Hon. Colonel of the Kaffrarian Rifles Brigadier Charles Crewe and I had been detailed to act as his A.D.C. I duly met him on his arrival at the grounds and escorted him to his dais on which, as he was a very old and sickly man, a deck chair had been placed. Before carrying on he sat down for a few minutes and spoke to me saying he would tell me when he was ready. He then stood up, straight as a poker and began to advance towards the troops. As he moved forward to take the salute the Colonel gave the order 'GENERAL SALUTE PRESENT ARMS'. As one man the order was carried out. It was a very fine show worthy of the Guards. The band struck up the usual tune. The Brigadier stood for a moment and then took the salute. He then moved forward to inspect the parade followed by myself, very self-conscious on such an occasion. The Colonel immediately moved forward with his Adjutant to meet the General but, unfortunately, he had forgotten to give the order to Order Arms. There was the whole parade standing at the present, Officers with swords at the salute and this is alright for a short time but is a terrible strain if left too long. Colonel Lewis, who had noticed the omission should, I think, have given the command to Order Arms. Unfortunately, he and Klerk did not see eye to eye and here was an opportunity to show him up. He immediately left his post, a wrong move I should think. Anyway, I spotted this hot headed little man marching up with his sword, at the salute seeing red. I spotted this movement and drew Klerk's attention to the omission and he then gave the order. The inspection went off very smoothly and as the Brigadier passed each Unit they were given the order to stand at ease and much to their relief. One had to have had the experience to being on such a parade to realise the strain. Very often men are overcome and faint.

After the inspection the General returned to his dais and sat down for a few minutes, meanwhile the men on parade were taking it easy. Then came the speech.

He then stood up and delivered his address which lasted about twenty minutes. When he had finished he turned to me and said 'It is rather disappointing when after delivering a talk on the significance of the occasion.' He was quite right but he did not know that I standing next to him was the only one to hear the speech which he read.

The loudspeakers were either faulty or had not been switched on. I bet there was hell to pay by the authorities later. However, I don't think the old man ever knew the reason. His paper, The East London Daily Dispatch, however, made amends by publishing his speech in full, either from his notes, or there may have been a reporter very close by.

Colonel Sir Charles Crewe was Hon Colonel of the Kaffrarian Rifles from 1903 until his death in 1936. The Kaffrarian Rifles serving with the Colonial Division under General Sir E.Y. Brabant during the Anglo Boer War did at one stage fight under the command of Colonel Crewe. The main action under his command being against de Wet at Takaberg on the 29th January 1901 where the Kaffrarian Rifles lost six men killed.

Before going further I will again touch on the Jubilee parade by quoting the report that appeared in the E.L. Daily Dispatch. "Jubilee Celebrations of King George VI - 26th May 1935.

Oxford Street was /