

Light Dragoons - The Making of a Regiment by Allan Mallinson.
Pen & Sword MILITARY 2006.

In spite of the use of cavalry in British warfare before the 18th century, notably during the reign of Henry VIII and the time of the Civil War, the Light Dragoons trace their origins to the raising of regiments of dragoons given the name 'Thirteen' during the Jacobean uprising under the colonelcy of Richard Munden.

From this origin nearly three centuries ago an illustrious and exciting history unfolds of courage, both human and equine, and the most dedicated service to Crown and Country.

Allan Mallinson, author of the superlative Matthew Hervey novels and former commander of the 13th/18th Hussars, tells the history of the Light Dragoons from the beginning of the 18th century through to their active engagement in Iraq in the 21st, with a deployment to Afghanistan to follow in 2007.

This is a tale of all the light cavalry regiments, eventually synthesized into the 13th/18th and the 15th/19th of the 20th century who were amalgamated into the Light Dragoons in 1992. It is the story of military actions in lands across the British Empire, such as India and South Africa, and other places too, such as the Crimea and Mesopotamia.

Mallinson writes with style and enthusiasm, understandable pride and an insider's eye for detail, and he brings alive many of the most famous incidents in which the dragoons and hussars played such a conspicuous part - often successfully, occasionally not. He also describes the camaraderie of the officers and men, their commitment to their regiment, and the several families where succeeding generations have served, often with great distinction.

Light Dragoons is a marvellous piece of military history as well as being a very real portrayal of many of the key engagements of British Imperial, and post-imperial, history.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh