

f. a. # 62
MC 24, F 38

EYRE PAPERS, 1841-1859

Major-General Sir William Eyre, 1805-1859

William Eyre, the younger son of vice-admiral Sir George Eyre, was born at Hatfield, England, on 21 October, 1805. He entered the army in 1823, as an ensign in the 6th regiment of foot, and rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel commanding the 73rd in 1847. He served with distinction in the Kaffir wars of 1847 and 1851, and as a reward for his services was promoted to colonel, created a Commander of the Bath, and appointed an Aide de Camp to the Queen in 1853.

Following the outbreak of the Crimean War, Eyre commanded the second brigade of the 3rd division under Lord Cathcart, and was present at the battles of Alma and Inkerman. He succeeded to the command of the third division, with the rank of major-general, in December, 1854, and remained in the Crimea until the conclusion of the war. On the 5 July, 1855, Eyre was created a Knight Commander of the Bath, and on 3 June, 1856, with the local rank of lieutenant-general, he was appointed to the command of the forces in Canada. Eyre served as Commander-in-Chief in Canada for three years, and during the absence of the Governor General, Sir Edmund Head, he administered the country from the 20 June to the 2 November, 1857. The privations and hardships of the Crimean winter having destroyed his health, Eyre resigned his command in July, 1859 and returned to England where he died on the 18th of September of that year.

The Eyre Papers, consisting of the military and private papers, journals, letter books and order books of Major-General Sir William Eyre, K.C.B.; the Venerable John Eyre, Archdeacon of Nottingham; Colonel Henry Eyre; and Dr. C.R.B. Eyre are on deposit in the Public Record Office, London. In 1955 the Public

Folios

- 97-104 1856. Another Copy of folios 89-96.
- 105-131 1854. Narrative of the failure of an attempt to establish a Great National Institution... (viz. a school for officers' children) by Major R. Lachlan, Montreal, 1854.
- 132-133 31 July, 1857. Report from a Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Hudson's Bay Company, Session 2, 1857. Incomplete.
- 134-174 April, 1857. Return to an address of the Legislative Assembly, of Charters, Leases, etc., granted to the Hudson's Bay Company. Printed.
- 175-176 1858 and undated. Press Cuttings from the Evening Mail, London.
- 177-200 1857 and undated. Addresses and copies of addresses to Gen. Eyre.
- 201-202 10 December, 1856. Copy of a letter from the Deputy Adjutant General's Office to Major-General Trollope, Commanding Quebec.
- 203-229 1857. Drafts and Copies of Letters from Gen. Eyre.
- 230-231 24 October, 1857. Letter from Lt.-Col. Coffin to Major Robertson, Gen. Eyre's Aide-de-Camp.
- 232 14 August, 1857. General Order No. 2 on the need to wear Uniform at all times.

BOXES

11.

of the Forces
Commander-in-Chief, British North America. 170 folios.

Folios

- 1-8 18 April, 1845. Copy of Instructions of the Office of Ordnance in London for the Headquarters Board of Respective Officers, and the Ordnance Storekeeper at Montreal.
- 9-10 4 Nov., 1845. Lord Cathcart's General Order No. 1 on Fatigue Parties.
- 11-12 1857. Two extracts from Acts relating to Volunteers and Pensioners.
- 13-16 29 Jan., 1856. The Queen's Regulations on the award of the Victoria Cross. Printed.
- 17-128 1856-1858. Reports, returns, letters and memoranda to and from military authorities on the state of Barracks, Troops, Defences etc.
- 129-138 1858. Letters and copies of letters between Gen. Eyre, Colonel Rollo and Major Robertson on Robertson's resignation from his position of Aide-de-Camp.
- 139-170 1858-1859. Letters and memoranda on Stores, Riots and Defences.

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of the Forces
Commander-in-Chief, British North America. 296 folios.

Folios

- 1-12 4 Oct., 1847. Copy of a report on the Red River Settlement by Captain H.C.B. Moody, R.E.

Folios

- 13-14 15 Sept., 1846. Two Plans: Upper Fort Garry and Lower Fort Garry.
- 15-83 1856-1857. Correspondence (and copies of correspondence), memoranda (and copies of memoranda) etc., on equipping and transporting the detachment of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment to be sent to the Red River Settlement.
- 84-141 1857-1858. Letters and copies of letters from the Red River Settlement and correspondence and memoranda relating to the conditions experienced by the Detachment of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment stationed at the Settlement and during the journey there.
- 142-148 22 Jan., 1858. Letter from Lt. Col. Bradford concerning the character of Major Seton, commanding the detachment at Red River.
- 149-152 22 June, 1857. Letter from Col. de Rottenburg to Gen. Eyre regarding a Court of Inquiry on the conduct of No. 1 Volunteer Rifle Company of Montreal.
- 153-162 Oct., 1858. Confidential Report of the Half-Yearly Inspection of the 17th Regiment of Foot.
- 163-170 Oct., 1858. Confidential Report of the Half-Yearly Inspection of the Royal Artillery stationed at Quebec.
- 171-184 1857-1859. Letters to Gen. Eyre relating mainly to military matters.

Folios

- 185-215 1856-1859. Miscellaneous Returns, Memoranda and drafts of letters.
- 216-258 1856 and undated. Letters and Returns relating to New Brunswick.
- 259-262 1856. Returns relating to Nova Scotia.
- 263-296 1856. Addresses from the inhabitants of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

BOXES

13

Commander ^{of the Forces} in Chief, British North America. 353 folios.

Folios

- 1-28 1854, 1856. Correspondence and copies of correspondence regarding the garrisoning of Fort Mississagua, Niagara, and relating to its condition and accomodation.
- 29-90 1855-1857 and undated. Orders, Regulations and Publications, etc. relating to the Canadian Militia.
- 91-353 1856-1859. Drafts and copies of letters and memoranda mainly to the War Office, Horse Guards subordinate Commanders in Canada and the Governor General.
(Includes a letter of 24 June, 1856 written to Lord Panmure from London before embarkation for Canada.)

14

Commander ^{of the Forces} in Chief, British North America. 111 folios.

Folios

- 1-9 1857. An Address (and a copy of it) from the Mechanics Institute, Brantford, Ontario and miscellaneous Memoranda.

Folios

- 10-40 1856-1858. Miscellaneous correspondence, private and military.
- 41-42 27 April, 1857. Warrant authorizing General Eyre to hold Courts Martial.
- 43-44 20 May, 1857. Circular from the Colonial Office on the administration of oaths of allegiance in the Colonies.
- 45-51 1858. Copy of correspondence concerning the status of Mr. Goldie, Acting Naval Agent at Quebec.
- 52-77 1856-1858 and undated. Miscellaneous returns and memoranda including:
- (a) Journal of a journey from Quebec to the Red River Settlement (1857) kept by Ensign A.M. Armstrong.
 - (b) Confidential memorandum (undated) re. constitutional practice in Canada drawn up by the Governor General.
- 78-81 1857. Two letters to General Eyre in his capacity as administrator.
- 82-111 1857. Report of Commissioners appointed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the Artificial Propagation of Fish. Printed. (Inscribed "To His Excellency Sir Edmund Howe (sic), Governor General, Toronto, Canada, with Mr. Geo. Baty Blake's compliments.")

BOXES

15

of the Forces
Commander-in-Chief, British North America. 190 folios.

Folios

- 1-5 March, 1858. Correspondence and copies of correspondence relating to Gen. Eyre's pay as Colonel of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment.
- 6-20 Oct., 1858. Correspondence relating to the removal of the Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment from Toronto to Kingston. (with two enclosures dated 7 August and 6 October, 1855.)
- 21-27 1858 and undated. Miscellaneous Memoranda.
- 28-29 8 Jan., 1859. Letter from the Governor General on vigilance to be exercised against filibusters.
- 30-33 1858. Copy of a letter from the War Office concerning the discharge of Pensioners from military service.
- 34-40 March, 1859. Report from the Major General Commanding the Royal Engineers on certain Regulations affecting the Corps and various repairs carried out in Canada (with marginal comments in pencil by General Eyre).
- 41-71 1857-1858. Letters and Memoranda from the Military Secretary and Quartermaster General at Montreal.
- 72-139 June - December, 1857. Letters and Memoranda from Quartermaster General's Office, Montreal, drafts of memoranda for the Quartermaster General and a Commissariat Departmental Order about fuel consumption.

Folios

- 140-141 December, 1857. Private letter from Col. Holdsworth to Gen. Eyre.
- 142-169 Undated. Chronological list of French and English Governors and Administrators of Canada, 1612-1857.
- 170-190 1858. Statistical Returns of Troops, Stores and Posts occupied in Canada prior to their transfer to the Provincial Governments in 1856.

BOXES

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of the Forces
Commander-in-Chief, British North America. 332 folios.

Folios

- 1-27 1856-1857. Letters and copies of reports from and to the Assistant Adjutant General relating to desertion in Canada.
- 28-47 1856-1857. Letters from Horse Guards, Treasury, War Office, Military Departments in Canada; and two returns relating to stores and desertion.
- 48-49 3 April, 1857. Statistical information about the town of Sorel. Printed.
- 50-249 1856-1859. Miscellaneous correspondence (including letters to, among others, Major Robertson, A.D.C.).
- 250-253 1855. Copy of an Act relating to the transfer of Ordnance Lands etc. in Canada. (Cap. XCI. Assented to 30 May, 1855.)

Folios

- 254-259 1856. Copy of an Act supplementary to the above Act.
(Cap. XIV. Assented to 19 June, 1856.)
- 260-281 1856. Copies of correspondence and a memorandum
relating to the transfer of Ordnance Lands in Canada.
- 286-287 1857. Statistics of Crime in the City of Montreal,
1856. Printed.
- 288-332 1857 and undated. Letters from and copies of letters to
the Assistant Adjutant General, Montreal.

BOXES

17

of the Forces
Commander-in-Chief, British North America. 93 folios.

Folios

- 1-25 1856. Report (with Maps and Plans) of Col. R.T. Ford,
R.E., on the defensive potentialities of N.W. New
Brunswick (with Gen. Eyre's memorandum showing the
lines the Report should follow).
- 26 1856. Table showing time and number of men required to
cut varying quantities of wood.
- 27-57 1858. Lists of questions addressed to (and reports
received from) the several branches of the War Depart-
ment in Canada.
- 58-77 1856-1858. Papers relating to a new plan of conducting
and
financial business of the Treasury/War Office abroad
and to military stores and barrack departments.

Folios

- 78 Undated. Cutting from a Canadian newspaper on the shooting of a suspected deserter in Griffintown by Lieut. Tryon, 39th Regiment.
- 79 1857. Cutting from the Evening Mail, London, on the terrain in Persia.
- 80-93 1856-1858. Abstracts of Accounts with Messrs. Cox & Co. (with pencilled calculations by Eyre).

BOXES

18

of the Forces
Commander-in-Chief, British North America. 257 folios.

Folios

- 1-23 1856-1859 and undated. Memoranda of pay and allowances in Canada.
- 24-27 1855-1856. Letter from a Mr. Richard Eyre requesting an opinion on his son Lieut. Eyre, late of the 44th Regiment for the purpose of claiming the cost of the Commission: with a copy of General Eyre's reply.
- 28-38 Jan., Feb., 1859. Copies of letters concerning the conduct of Dr. James Barry, Inspector-General of Hospitals.
- 39-154 Oct., 1856-Sept., 1858. Letters from Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor-in-Chief.
- 155-253 1856-1858 and undated. Letters and circulars, official and private, from the Horse Guards.

Folios

254-257 1857 and undated. Miscellaneous memoranda.

BOXES

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Commander ^{of the Forces} in Chief, British North America. 230 folios.

Folios

1-23 1856-1857. Private Accounts with Major Robertson, A.D.C.

24-52 1856-1857. Copies and Drafts of Reports and Letters to Lord Panmure, the Governor General and the Military Secretary, Horse Guards.

53-56 Mar.-April, 1859. Two private letters from the Governor General, on referring to Gen. Eyre's resignation.

57-80 1856-1858. Papers relating to the water supply of the Jesuit Barracks, Quebec.

81-85 16 Jan., 1859. Private letter from Lt. Col. Bradford describing the circumstances leading to the use of the Bathurst Street Barracks by Imperial troops.

86-91 1857. Miscellaneous press cuttings, etc.

92-97 1857. Three Addresses to General Eyre as administrator.

98-100 1859. Two drafts of letters to the Horse Guards from General Eyre concerning his departure for England.

101-120 1858 and undated. Papers of Lieut. Bryan Cooke, A.D.C.

121-122 1858. Letter from Capt. George Hunt, Volunteer Militia Rifles, concerning the attendance of Militiamen with arms at Religious and Political meetings.

Folios

- 123-125 1858. Drafts to the Governor General.
- 126-168 1858. Copies of confidential memoranda from the Horse Guards, Copies of Inspection Reports and correspondence relating thereto.
- 169-177 1859. Letters and an address to General Eyre concerning his retirement.
- 178-179 1858. Memorandum on the cost of cabins from Quebec to England.
- 180-183 1858. Notes on the Red River Settlement by Mr. A. Moncrieff.
- 184-222 1857-1858. Letters and Papers concerning Government Cottage and land at Sorel.
- 223-230 1859. Papers relating to the conduct of Dr. Barry, Inspector General of Hospitals, towards the Dean of Montreal.

BOXES

20

Commander ^{of the Forces} in Chief, British North America. 60 folios. (filmed only to folio 60.)

Folios

- 1-5 1857. Address of congratulation (and copy) to General Eyre as administrator on visit to the town of Brantford.

Folios

- 6-7 Undated. Address from the Provincial Agricultural Association.
- 8-14 1858. Account by Ensign Persse of a journey of a detachment from Quebec to Fort Garry.
- 15-19 1858. Account by Ensign Onion of a similar journey from York Factory to Fort Garry.
- 20-22 1857. Circulars from the War Office and the Horse Guards.
- 23-33 1857; 1858 and undated. Copies of letters, drafts, etc. to Military authorities in Canada and to the Horse Guards.
- 34-39 1858. Correspondence with the Governor General and the Military Secretary, Horse Guards, about the expediency of removing the Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Regiment from Toronto to Kingston.
- 40 Undated. Plan of an encampment.
- 41-46 1858-1859. Miscellaneous letters and copies of letters.
- 47 1859. Account of Major Whitmore, A.D.C.
- 48-49 19 May, 1859. Medical certificate recommending General Eyre's immediate return to England.
- 50-51 10 May, 1859. Copy of a Farewell Address from the Officers of the Active Volunteer Militia Force of Montreal.

Folios

- 52-53 1859. Copy of a Farewell Address from the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Montreal.
- 54-60 1848-1859. Envelopes addressed to Eyre and Lady Eyre.