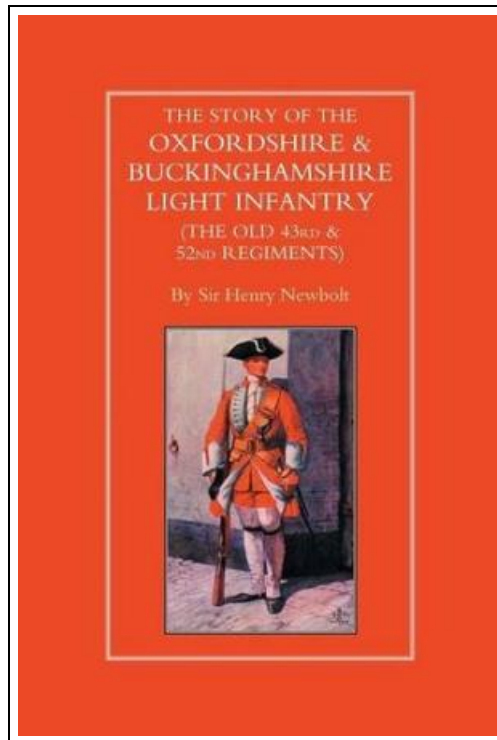


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Naval Military Press Ltd, United Kingdom, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. New ed of 1915 ed. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Some time ago I read of an officer of the old 52nd who used to strop his razor fifty-two times every morning before shaving. In1881, when the Cardwell reforms took effect, the 52nd were linked with the 43rd. The officer concerned still stropped his razor fifty-two times but when he reached forty-three he turned his head to one side and spat. It is doubtful the author had ever heard this story because his version of the amalgamation speaks of brotherhood between the two regiments.Sir Henry Newbolt was a well-known literary figure of his time, poet, novelist, historian (he wrote the last two volumes of the Official Naval History) and very much a patriot. In this book he tells the story of both regiments from their formation to the end of 1914. Each chapter covers a specific period and the fortunes of the regiments during those periods are described five of the fifteen chapters are devoted to the Peninsular War. The 43rd was raised in 1741, at first as the 54th but this was changed in 1751 and in 1782 it became the Monmouthshires. The 52nd was raised in 1755, also as the 54th, but this number, too, was changed within a couple of years and in 1782 it became the Oxfordshire Regiment. The eventual union of these two regiments seems to have been pre-destined for not only did they begin life with the same Foot number, they served together in the American War of Independence; in 1803 they were both redesignated Light Infantry under General Moore; in 1807 they went together on the Copenhagen expedition; they fought together through the seven years of the Peninsular...

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