

of colonel and those who were generals in France accepted the posts of colonels of battalions. There is the old story of one of these generals (not an O'Connell) who applied for confirmation of his rank as general. When asked what his religion was he replied, "Sir! I am of the religion of major-generals." He got his promotion—poor chap!

Dan Charles Count O'Connell, Count Dillon and Count Walshe, though generals in the French service, died as colonels in the British service, and Maurice Charles Philip was the only Kerry-born officer of the French Irish Brigade to win through to the rank of lieutenant-general in the British service.

Thus we see him a captain in Count Dan Charles O'Connell's Regiment (4th) of the Irish Brigade. This brigade was, after a few years disbanded and its personnel packed off to the West Indies, many of them to die of yellow fever. It was said, with what truth is not known, that the Irish regiments were too quarrelsome at home. Maurice Charles Philip was placed, like many others, on half pay on 12 May, 1800, however, he obtained a company of the 1st West India Regiment and served with it at St. Lucia, and was afterwards Brigade Major in Surinam until that colony was given up at the Peace of Amiens.

In May, 1803, he was detached with 5 companies to Grenada and went thence with the whole regiment to Dominica. Here he quickly became brigade major to Sir George Prevost, who at the time was Brigadier commanding in the West Indies. Maurice Charles Philip was appointed acting major of the 5th Battalion of the West Indies Regiment.

This was the time at which Napoleon had his tens of thousands of troops encamped at Boulogne in an attempt to invade England, and his strategy was to make an attack on the West Indies and so draw off the British Fleet and British troops as a preliminary to a general assault on England. This happened, and an attack was made on Dominica. Brigadier Prevost, in his despatch of 6 May, 1805 (which is to be found in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1805) describes the conduct of O'Connell (who in the turmoil of the moment found himself in command of his regiment and a light company of the 46th) as follows: Early in the day the command of the troops devolved on Major O'Connell, his senior officers having been shot. "Major O'Connell received the command and a severe wound at the same moment, but the pain of the latter would not induce him to forego the honour of the former, and he remained at the head of his men, animating their courage, still gaining fresh ground and resisting the repeated charges of the enemy who attacked him in overwhelming force. Too much praise cannot be given to this officer who at length succeeded, about 2 o'clock in the day, in driving the enemy back to their ships, with the loss of their general and a vast number of their officers and men." Major O'Connell received 3 wounds in this battle. One ball in the hip was never extracted and yet, without waiting to get these wounds dressed, he anticipated the enemies next move, and by forced marching, led his tired men—what Prevost calls "his own corps and the precious remains of the 46th," right across the island and was ready to meet the French when they landed—as he had guessed they would—at Le Rosseau. A sharp engagement took place and the French were beaten back to their ships with great slaughter. Brigadier Prevost generously and justly ascribes the merit of these decisive little victories of 22 Feb., 1805, to the gallantry and skill of Major O'Connell, whom he states he intended to send home with the despatches announcing the news, but found he could not spare him, and so had to send a junior officer.

These battles saved the West Indies from French invasion and were the beginning of the end of Napoleon's strategic defeat which ended at Trafalgar on 21 Oct., in 1805.

Recognition came fast: He was confirmed in the rank of Brevet-Major as from 1 June, 1805. The House of Assembly voted him a sword valued at 100 guineas. This sword was worn at the pageant which accompanied the opening of the great Sydney bridge in 1932, by his great-grandson, Richard Stuart O'Connell. They also voted him a service of plate. The Patriotic Committee of Lloyds voted him presents and rewards to a similar amount. Prevost was created a baronet, to date 6 Dec., 1805. In 1806 O'Connell returned to England, and at the first levee he attended was highly complimented by the King. The Duke of York promised that he should be included in the next batch of Knights of the Bath, an honour not out of proportion to the services he had rendered. However, it was another 28 years before a knighthood came his way, and this is not surprising considering the religious notions of the times. However, he was transferred from the West Indian Regiment and became a major of the 73rd Regiment, to date 15 Oct., 1806.

This gave Maurice his opportunity and he decided to make the Scottish 73rd into a "rattling good show" but a Kerry one. He got in a bunch of Kerry men. His cousin, Dick Leyne (afterwards to lead the regiment into Paris after Waterloo had wiped out his senior officers) joined him from the Kerry militia, with 400 strapping lads from Kerry, his nephew, Francis Eager, with 50 more. Francis afterwards was adjutant of the regiment and died a captain in the corps in Ceylon (probably in the Kandian war of 1814). Ensign Wm. Raymond, of Tralee, also joined with 50 men and several other Kerry officers, soon bringing the regiment up to establishment, and it is said to a high state of efficiency and discipline. Certainly O'Connell was given the Freedom of the City of Perth, but whether then or later is not known. The reason given was "that the authorities of Perth had never imagined that such good feeling caused by excellent discipline could exist between townfolk