



Journal of the Orders & Medals Research Society

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December 2024
Volume 63 Number 4 (345)

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Registered Charity No. 1199514

Annual Subscription due 1st July: UK £25, Overseas £40, Worldwide £15.

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Cover ribbon: Coronation Medal 2023 (sanctioned 2023)

ISSN: 1474-3353

Printed by: Clanpress, 1 Dundee Court, Hamburg Way, King's Lynn PE30 2 ND



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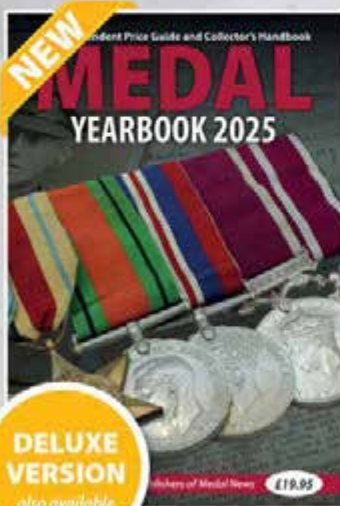
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Convention 2024 Report

After a two-year hiatus, the 2024 Convention was held in Milton Keynes and saw a major change in the type of venue usually used to host the event, moving from the hotel-exhibition venue combination used at Nottingham and London to the integrated Kents Hill Conference & Training Centre in Milton Keynes. This change allowed for all convention activities, social gatherings, and accommodation to be conveniently located within adjacent buildings, a feature that proved popular among attendees. Attendance reached nearly 300 on the day - the highest turnout since 2018 and a promising indicator of Convention's renewed appeal. There was also a significant increase in the number of dealers attending compared to 2022 with 21 dealers and 4 auction houses taking tables. We would especially like to thank Andrew Jukes for coordinating the dealer attendance.

Once again, we were delighted to welcome international friends who travelled from as far as Canada, Norway, New Zealand and the USA. The weekend kicked off with the increasingly popular and very well-attended Friday evening reception that went on until late into the evening. For Convention itself, the Kents Hill provided a suite of rooms that covered the exhibition, Society tables and refreshments and the talks. The largest room, dedicated to the medal fair, offered ample natural light and was enjoyed by members and dealers alike, along with the complimentary tea, coffee, and biscuits.

The three talks were extremely well attended and attracted a significant number of questions, so much so that one speaker did not manage to exit the room for 35 minutes after his talk ended! We are particularly grateful to Dr Will Butler of The National Archives who spoke on 'Researching 20th century military records at The National Archives', to Dr David Mason and Mr Chris Barker of the Royal Mint Museum who gave a joint presentation on 'In Recognition Of...: Medals of the Royal Mint Museum' and to Marcus Budgen, David Kirk and Christopher Mellor-Hill who provided a very engaging 'fireside chat' on the current medal market.

The judging panel, chaired once again by Richard Emsley and joined by Steve Duffy and Paul Brewster, faced the challenging task of evaluating this year's entries. Our thanks go to Richard and his panel, who dedicate their day

to this task, sacrificing time that could have been spent enjoying other aspects of the Convention. In an unusual day of results, the judges awarded Graham Wright both the Best in Show and Best First-Time Exhibitor awards while the Members' Choice award ended in a tie between David Doorne's and Stephen Grainger's exhibits. This year there were 14 entries: 1 withdrawn; 1 non-competitive; 2 Bronze; 4 Silver; 6 Gold. The following awards were made:

Best in Show – The Society's Diamond Jubilee Perpetual Challenge Cup Graham Wright: '*Special Operations in the Sinai -1882*'.

Members' Choice award - David Doorne: '*It will all be over by Christmas*' jointly with Stephen Grainger: '*From pounding the beat to striding the top corridor*'.

Best First-Time Exhibitor – The Henry Pownall Memorial Cup Graham Wright: '*Special Operations in the Sinai -1882*'.

Gold

Open Class - Owain Raw-Rees: '*Egypt - An Introduction to the Orders, Decorations and Medals of the Sultanate and Kingdom of Egypt, 1914-1953*.' David Doorne: '*It will all be over by Christmas*'.

Research Class - David Sowerby: '*12 Years' Service - The Edward VII Territorial Force Efficiency Medal to the Essex T.F. Artillery*.' Simon Eyre: '*The Service Medal of the Order of St John. The early years 1899-1925*.' Howard Williamson: '*An in-Depth Study on the 1914 Star and 1914/15 Star to British and Indian Troops*'.

Single Class - Graham Wright (FTE): '*Special Operations in the Sinai -1882*'.

Silver

Open Class - Stephen Grainger: '*From pounding the beat to striding the top corridor*' Colin Hole: '*For Ordinary People*.' Stuart Wright: '*Staffords Reunited*' and Jim Carver: '*1902 Coronation medals to West Africans*'

Bronze

Open Class – Lionel Digby: '*A Life on the Ocean Waves*'. Research Class – David Biggins (FTE): '*20 Years of Anglo-BoerWar.com research*'.

A special mention goes to James Roller who brought an extensive and remarkable non-competitive exhibit from the USA: "*Butch*" McArthur, DFC, CD: *Heroic and Tragic Personality*.

The Saturday evening featured a choice of semi-formal and informal dining options. The more formal dinner included an engaging after dinner speech by Mark Smith who shared stories from his time on the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*. Following the dinners, the attendees migrated to the bar where some excellent conversation was on offer.

On Sunday morning 20 attendees visited the Bletchley Park Codebreaking Museum. The



Gathering room and society desk



Dealers' room

guided tour was exceptional, and many participants stayed well into the afternoon to learn more about the vital work done at Bletchley during WWII.

This year marked the first time in many years that the Society itself was responsible for organising the Convention. Our dedicated team of Chris Brooks, Richard Emsley, Graham Grist, Andrew Mann, and Robin Thomas worked tirelessly, supported by professional event organiser Hannah Wells. The success of this Convention was a testament to their months of hard work and collaboration.



Right to left. Graham Wright, Richard Emsley and Robin Thomas (Best in Show)



Graham Pitchfork presents Robin Thomas with DSM



Stuart Grainger (L) & David Doorne (R) with Robin Thomas & Richard Emsley (Members' Choice)

The Highland Society of London Medal for Alexandria: some context

by Patrick Watt

IN EARLY 1827, Martin Metcalfe, clerk to the Highland Society of London, was clearing out the desk of the Society's former secretary, James Wedderburn; among the papers relating to the society's social, charitable and cultural endeavours, Metcalfe found a supply of 84 silver medals, 20 gilt medals and another 200 in copper.¹ The medals had been commissioned some 25 years earlier to commemorate the capture of the standard of the 3rd Battalion of the 21st *Légère demi-brigade* – popularised in the British press as the 'Invincibles' standard – by the 42nd (Royal) Highlanders at the Battle of Alexandria in 1801.²

This medal was discussed in detail in the pages of the *OMRS Journal* in 1989 by Paul H. Till and Philip J. Haythornthwaite. However, the present article seeks to add more context to those scholars' observations and to highlight other examples of this most interesting medal.³

The Highland Society of London was formed in 1778 when 'twenty-five natives of the Highlands of Scotland' came together to create an institution to 'promote good fellowship and social union' among London's growing Scottish community.⁴ By 1801 they numbered over 400 members drawn from among the city's aristocratic and professional classes, and included politicians, lawyers, merchants and colonial administrators as well as senior Army and Royal Navy members in their ranks. Among their cultural and charitable aims was one which advocated 'keeping up the martial spirit and rewarding the gallant achievements of the Highland corps' of the British Army.⁵ The society developed a plan to reward each of the Highland regiments in turn, in strict order of precedence. While the conduct of the 42nd Highlanders, also known as the Black Watch, at Alexandria in 1801 was marked by the award of an elaborate silver trophy and the medal here under discussion, two soldiers of the 71st (Highland) Regiment were given medals, and one a fine Highland bagpipe, for their conduct during the Battle of Vimeiro in 1808. All of these awards received significant attention in the British media and promoted a positive image of the Highlander to a British public who still associated them with the cultural stereotypes propagated after the last

Jacobite rising. The award of the Highland Society of London's Alexandria Medal can be seen, then, as part of a wider attempt to raise the profile of Highland regiments in the British national consciousness.⁶

Design of the Alexandria Medal

The initial thoughts to celebrate the actions of the Black Watch belonged to the 4th Duke of Atholl, a Perthshire peer whose estates provided many officers and men to the regiment. At a society meeting on 11 June 1801 Atholl announced that the 'feelings of gratitude and national pride' generated by the capture of the Invincibles Standard by Major James Stirling should be distinguished by the 'strongest expressions of applause'.⁷ The society's first inclination was to present the regiment with an elaborate trophy on which a medallion would be engraved. However, after consulting with 'several gentlemen of taste and knowledge' it was resolved that individual medals depicting the moment the standard was taken should be awarded as a 'more permanent commemoration'.⁸ The man tasked with furthering the project was one John McArthur, a former administrator in the Royal Navy who was involved in some of the society's other cultural projects, including the publication of Gaelic translations of the Ossian sagas. McArthur and John Mackenzie, the society secretary, consulted with noted mineralogist and horticulturalist Sir Charles Greville, who recommended that Nathaniel Marchant be the man to execute the design.

Marchant was a noted gem engraver who Greville had noted was 'unrivalled in the country'.⁹ Appointed to the Royal Mint in 1797, Marchant was, in 1801, commissioned as His Majesty's Engraver of Seals. The society decided early on that the medal should be both a mark of respect for the Black Watch's capture of the Invincibles Standard and a testament to the memory of General Sir Ralph Abercromby, the Scottish commander of the forces in Egypt who died of wounds received at Alexandria. In order to ensure a high degree of accuracy members of the society visited the general's son and obtained a print which



The Battle of Alexandria, 21 March 1801 by Robert Ker Porter (National Army Museum)

Marchant could use as a template for his design. Furthermore, the society arranged for a man in full Highland dress to attend on Marchant whenever he pleased and made enquiries to ascertain the correct uniform worn by the French regiment and the Black Watch. For his part, Marchant made attempts to liaise with an Edinburgh artist to obtain a likeness of Major Stirling and to interview the regimental officers then at Edinburgh Castle to get a clearer picture of the events of the Battle of Alexandria.¹⁰ Marchant was, however, so overwhelmed with business that he was forced to delegate the medal design to his apprentices, and the repeated delays this caused led to frustration among the society's general committee.

In early 1802 rumours began to circulate that the Black Watch had not been responsible for the capture of the Invincibles Standard. The society moved quickly to reaffirm their support for the regiment, their meeting minutes noting how they resolved that

the 42nd or Royal Highland regiment have by their heroic conduct in Egypt on the memorable 21st March 1801 nobly maintained the hereditary glory of the Caledonian name.¹¹

They immediately opened a subscription fund to finance the silver trophy and the commemorative medals which they intended to present to every officer and man of the Black Watch who had been present at Alexandria or their descendants if they had since died. Members who gave two guineas were to be presented with a silver medal while donations of five guineas were awarded

two medals, and a ten-guinea donation received three medals. Donations came thick and fast from across the global Scottish diaspora including ten guineas from John Hamilton, a former Army officer and then British Consul in Norfolk, Virginia, and £400 raised from among the Scottish communities in India.¹² By the end of 1802 over £1,100 had been raised.

In March 1802 Nathaniel Marchant presented a 'rough model' of the medal of which the committee 'generally disapproved'. They then chose to put up the design of the medal to an open competition. Mr Brown, a painter of historical sets for the London stage, submitted one sketch and Scottish miniature painter Andrew Robertson submitted two. For Robertson, this involvement with the Highland Society was motivated by the possibility of obtaining commissions for his



Andrew Robertson
(National Galleries of Scotland)

miniatures from among London's elite Scottish community. In the celebration of the Black Watch and the patronage of the Highland Society of London, Robertson sought to act 'when the nation is in a fever of admiration' and he suggested that he execute portraits of all the Black Watch officers who had been present at Alexandria.¹³ At the Battle of Alexandria Anniversary Dinner on 21 March 1802 the secretary asked Robertson to make a sketch of his medal design, at which he was 'tolerably successful given the time'.¹⁴ Three weeks later both Brown's and Robertson's sketches were returned to the artists for further amendments.

As the rumours regarding the Black Watch's role in capturing the Invincibles Standard persisted, the society resolved to interview the officers to ascertain the truth of the matter. On 9 July 1802 the then Lieutenant Colonel James Stirling wrote to the society confirming how he had captured the standard and had handed it to Sergeant James Sinclair who took up a position near to some artillery pieces. Sinclair was wounded during a French cavalry charge and when he regained consciousness, he found the standard had disappeared. In December 1802, journalist William



Major James Stirling

Cobbett, a noted Scotophobe, published an article claiming the Invincibles Standard had actually been captured by Antoine Lutz of the Queen's German Regiment.¹⁵ The society's response was to take out articles in five daily newspapers 'asking the public to suspend their opinion until an official refutation of these calumnies should appear' and immediately launched an investigation to ascertain the truth.¹⁶ There then followed a difficult period in which the society believed the first chance to refute Cobbett's allegations belonged to the regiment which itself believed that they could not act without authorisation from the Commander-in-Chief. In April, after testimony from Sir John Moore, the Duke of York refused to hold an inquiry 'because the reputation of the [42nd] Royal Highlanders was so universally established and acknowledged as to render such a measure unnecessary.'¹⁷ For their part, the society published the results of their investigation later in 1803, exonerating the conduct and claims of the Black Watch.¹⁸ On reflection, the truth, as far as it can ever be ascertained, is that once Sinclair lost the Invincibles Standard, Lutz either recaptured it as he described in his testimony in Cobbett's article or found it on the ground near Sergeant Sinclair and claimed it as his own. For the Black Watch, however, the delays caused by the investigation represented a singular affront to their honour.

Parallel to the investigation, the design of the medal continued. On 25 May 1802, Robertson, Brown and Marchant presented improved sketches alongside another by Dr James Robert Grant, an Army doctor who later became Inspector of Military Hospitals. At the same meeting the members resolved that the medal should depict the exact moment that 'the standard had been surrendered to [Major] Stirling after a severe contest'.¹⁹ It was this depiction of a ferocious contest between the French and Highland soldiers which had dominated British newspaper reports and which had become the prevailing public opinion. A typical report in the *Hull Packet* of 19 May 1801 recorded that 'the officers who bore the colours would not give them up and were killed'.²⁰ This image was not supported by Stirling's own testimony. He wrote to the society informing them that after he followed the remains of the French infantry into some ruins known as the Nicopolis, he was taken hold of by two French officers who begged for their lives:

I told them to throw down their arms and at the same time I went up to the officer that carried the Standard and took it from him without any great violence on my part or resistance on his.²¹

Rather than being taken in a fight to the death the Invincibles Standard was tamely and meekly surrendered by a defeated enemy. When Andrew Robertson made his revised design, he noted that,

the ferocity of the battle and the heroism of the 42nd Highlanders should be the features represented, especially since the facts as they actually took place are unfit for a medal to convey the intended idea.²²

Chief among William Cobbett's criticisms of the Highland Society was a belief that a medal stood the test of time as an accurate depiction of historical events. While his focus on 'truth' was erroneously placed in the claims of Antoine Lutz, had he been aware, he could have justifiably claimed that the medal was a different distortion of history.

By the end of October 1802, the committee had tired of Marchant's lack of progress and referred the matter back to Sir Charles Greville who was informed that if he could not speed up Marchant's work the design would be given to another engraver. In the short term this seems to have helped and Marchant promised that the design would be delivered by 20 January and the medals themselves some three to four months later. The Society asked for an estimate of 500-1,000 silver medals but desired that they be delivered by the start of March so that they could be presented at the Alexandria Anniversary Dinner. Five days after this order Cobbett's article was published and the society temporarily suspended production. A further delay occurred when the society's secretary, John Mackenzie, died in June 1803. At a committee meeting on 2 March 1804 the members resolved to renew their attempts to encourage Marchant's work, however, it was a further 13 months before he submitted a model which was found to be 'neither completed nor possessing that spirit nor character which the committee expected'.²³

It was at this point that Andrew Robertson became involved once more. Robertson submitted three further sketches for the medal and invited the artist Henry Singleton to prepare his own design. All three were presented to the society at a meeting on 17 June 1805. The assembled members advised that all the sketches thus far submitted, by Robertson, Brown, Singleton and Grant, be sent to the offices of Matthew Boulton in Birmingham

along with a depiction of the uniform of the Black Watch, a drawing of the field of battle, and Marchant's model. Boulton was, as many readers will know, a pioneering manufacturer who ran the Soho Mint which produced, among other things, the 1797 'cartwheel penny'. The committee intended that Boulton should evaluate the sketches and model, and select the features he liked best so that they could 'be combined into one new drawing'.²⁴ The artist Boulton selected for this task was George Frederick Pidgeon. Pidgeon recommended Singleton's sketch and returned all the designs to the society. The secretary returned Singleton's sketch to the artist and asked for a finished drawing, which was soon provided. Desiring 'an artist of high celebrity' to pass comment on Singleton's sketch, the society approached Andrew Robertson who in turn took the matter to Benjamin West, the President of the Royal Academy.

West recommended that Singleton make some amendments to his revised sketch but once they had been completed found that they were 'good for a painting but not for a medal'.²⁵ West, considering that 'the subject is interesting to the United Kingdom and is a military honour', volunteered to make a design himself. He wrote to Robertson on 15 September 1805 informing him that he had finished his drawing of

the Caledonian hero ... a modern Achilles triumphant over another hero who has only given way to superior prowess, and yields his possession of the Invincible Standard but with the last grasp.²⁶

The committee of the Highland Society of London were delighted with West's sketch and remarked that 'it's simplicity, spirit and classical correctness of design' rendered it perfect for their commemorative medal.²⁷ Despite this, it took a further two years for the society to place an order with Boulton's Soho Mint and when they did, they ordered 500 silver medals and 1,000 in bronze at the cost of 150 guineas. When Benjamin West viewed George Pidgeon's finished work in 1808, he commented that 'it surpasses any work of the kind ever attempted by a British subject'.²⁸

The society intended to present the medals, and the silver trophy, to the officers of the Black Watch at a special dinner on 21 March 1809, marking the eighth anniversary of the Battle of Alexandria. The officers, however, refused to attend. The regimental colonel, the Marquis of Huntly, informed the society that the officers felt that if the gifts had

been presented soon after the action, they would have considered it 'a particular mark of attention', however, as the society had 'suffered itself to be influenced by the writing of Cobbett and others ... they contributed to the obloquy attempted to be cast upon the regiment'.²⁹ Captain Maxwell Grant of the Black Watch, then recently returned from the Corunna campaign in Spain, wrote to elaborate that the officers 'consider it solely the prerogative of His Majesty to confer such marks of distinction and [it is] totally derogatory to their honour as military men to wear a medal of any society however respectable'.³⁰ Correspondence between the society and the regiment was suspended until 1816 when Colonel David Stewart of Garth, Highland historian, vice president of the society, and a former Black Watch officer who had been present at the Battle of Alexandria, was called upon to intercede. Knowing that the dispute had 'originated in mistake and misapprehension', Stewart liaised with the Marquis of Huntly and came 'to a complete understanding'.³¹ In a field outside Athlone in Ireland on 18 June 1817 the men of the Black Watch assembled, drank drams of whisky brought over from Scotland, and were presented with the Alexandria Trophy, which takes pride of place in their regimental museum today. The medals, as we know, were never issued.

Some notes on medal types

As Paul Till noted, there are two distinct types of medal which he termed a 'Gaelic' version and an 'English' version, according to the language of the inscription engraved on the rim. The Gaelic version was the original casting from 1808. It should be noted that the rim inscription reads: *O'n Chomun Ghaeleach do'n Fhreicaedan Dubhna XLII Rt* which can be translated as 'From the Highland Society to the Black Watch 42nd Regiment' rather than the translation of 'From the Highland Society of London to the Black Watch 42nd Regiment' suggested by Till. The second casting of the medal had 'By the Highland Society of London' inscribed on the rim in English. It should be noted, however, that there are some examples of the medal with no rim inscription, rendering a classification of the medals according to the inscription problematic.

While the silver and bronze versions are relatively common on the open market, there is also a gold medal which is housed in the Royal Collection. This medal was presented by Sir

Alexander Macdonald to the Prince Regent, later George IV, at his inauguration as President of the Highland Society of London in 1815. The society members intended it as,

a humble token of the grateful sense which our Society entertains of the gracious manner in which your Royal Highness has been pleased to countenance their endeavours, and as a pledge of



Benjamin West's original sketch and the Alexandria Trophy
(Black Watch Museum)

attachment to their Chief, which has ever been found fervent in the breast of the Highlander.³²

That medal, which can be viewed on the Royal Collection website, is of the second type mentioned by Paul Till, and was noted by



Gold Medal presented to the Prince Regent in 1815
(courtesy The Royal Collection Trust)

Laurence Brown in *British Historical Medals, 1760-1960*.³³ Colonel David Stewart of Garth, the society's vice president from 1816 noted that four medals were also presented to the sons of General Abercromby, and although he does not mention the material it is inferred that these too were gold, although they may have been of a type similar to the 'gilt medals' which Martin Metcalfe found in 1827.³⁴ There are two further gold medals in existence. The first is on display at the Black Watch Regimental Museum in Perth and is currently suspended from a gold chain and wrapped around the Alexandria Trophy (see image above); the second was presented to Colonel Stewart of Garth sometime between 1815 and 1829 and is now on display along with the rest of Stewart's medals at the National War Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh Castle.³⁵

Stewart's medal is particularly interesting in that it has been glazed and set in a gold frame with a suspension ring at the top. There is another example of this type of mounting: in 1837, the society presented a silver medal, glazed and mounted in silver to Andrew Robertson, the miniature painter who had involved himself twice in the medal's design. That medal had the following inscription on the rim of the case: 'By the Highland Society of London to Andrew Robertson Esqr (5th August 1837) for his zeal in promoting the objects of the Society'. Robertson's medal is suspended from a blue silk ribbon as is an unglazed silver medal which was presented to James Tulloch, who was elected a member of the society in 1842.

A further glazed silver medal of the second casting is on display in the National War Museum of Scotland; this medal was originally presented in a circular red leather box, lined with white silk. Most interesting is A.N. Pamm's observation in this *Journal* of 1989 which noted the existence

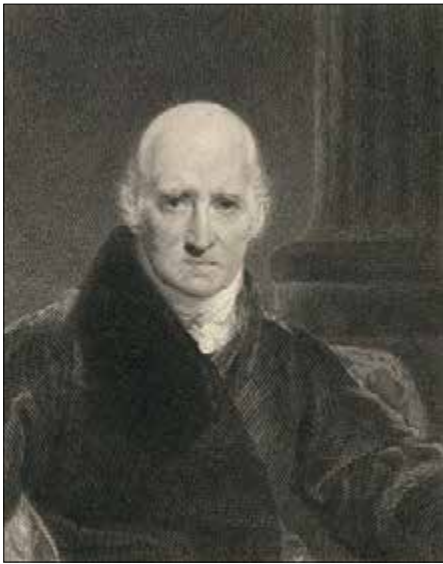
of a silver medal presented to Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm of the Black Watch on 9 May 1881. Chisholm had joined the regiment in 1842 and the society in 1843, and retired as a captain in 1855. This shows that as much as 80 years after the Battle of Alexandria, the Highland Society of



Andrew Robertson's silver medal presented in 1837
(courtesy Bonham's)

London still presented the Alexandria Medal as 'a complimentary token' and as a recognition of his services to the regiment.

This article sought to present an in-depth primary source-based examination of the complexities of designing and producing the Highland Society of London's Alexandria Medal. It has also added to Till's and Haythornthwaite's observations on the different types of medal which exist in public and private collections. Not only is the social history behind this medal incredibly interesting, the



Sir Benjamin West
(Royal Academy)

high quality of its design and execution ensures that it is difficult to argue with Benjamin West's opinion that it surpasses any work of the kind ever produced in Britain.

End notes

¹ Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland [hereafter NLS], Dep 268/2, M.S. Metcalfe to A. Macdonald, 3 February 1827

² This French unit became known in the British press as 'Napoleon's Invincibles' or the 'Invincible Legion' and the captured flag became known as the 'Invincibles standard'. However, there is no contemporary French source which mentions this nickname. See M. Dziennik and M. Newton, (2019), 'Egypt, Empire and the Gaelic Literary Imagination', *International Review of Scottish Studies*, 43, (pp 1-40)

³ Paul H. Till, 'Varieties of the London Highland Society's Nile Medal 1801', *Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society* (1989), pp 84-91; Philip J. Haythornthwaite, 'The London Highland Society's Nile Medal: A Footnote', *Journal of the Orders and Medals Research Society* (1989), (pp 260-1). For an overview of the mentions of this medal see Paul Hill's article cited here

⁴ J. Sinclair, (1813), *An Account of the Highland Society of London from its Establishment in May 1778 to the Commencement of the year 1813*, (pp 1-7). London

⁵ *Ibid* (p 23)

⁶ See P. Watt, 'The Highland Society of London, Material Culture and the Development of Scotland's Military Identity', *Historical Research*, forthcoming 2021; K. McCullough, 'Building the Highland Empire'

⁷ NLS, Acc 10615/82/12, 'Address by the Duke of Atholl', June 1801

⁸ NLS, Acc 10615/82/15, 'Draft Abstract of Proceedings concerning medal and cup for the 42nd Regiment', 29 June 1801

⁹ NLS, Acc 10615/82/15, 23 July 1801

¹⁰ NLS, Acc 10615/82/15, 7 August; 4, 5 and 12 September; 9 October 1801; 22 July 1802

¹¹ NLS, Dep 268/22, Meeting minutes, 17 February 1802

¹² NLS, Dep 268/1, Hamilton to the Highland Society, 27 November 1802

¹³ Andrew Robertson to Archibald Robertson, 1 April 1802, in E. Robertson (ed), (1895), *Letters and Papers of Andrew Robertson A.M., Miniature Painter to his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex* (p 112). London

¹⁴ *Ibid*

¹⁵ For Cobbett's original article see: *Cobbett's Weekly Political Register*, 25 December 1802 and for Cobbett's opinions on the Scottish people see: G. Pentland, 'William Cobbett's Scotophobia' in A. Ahlqvist and P. O'Neill (eds), (2013), *Celts and their Cultures at Home and Abroad* (pp 253-68). Sydney

¹⁶ NLS, Acc 10615/82/15, 27 December 1802

¹⁷ NLS, Dep 268/24, Meeting minutes, 1 April 1803

¹⁸ See Anon, *Invincible Standard. Falsehood and Malignity Detected and Exposed, in a Vindication of the Forty-Second Royal Highland Regiment, against the Pretensions of Mr William Cobbett, and the Claims of Anthony Lutz* (1803). London

¹⁹ NLS, Acc 10615/82/15, Meeting minutes, 25 May 1802

²⁰ *Hull Packet*, 19 May 1801

²¹ NLS, Acc 10615/82/6, Stirling to the Highland Society of London, 9 July 1802

²² NLS, Acc 10615/82/5, Observations by Andrew Robertson on the Medal, 25 May 1802

²³ NLS, Acc 10615/82/15, 4 April 1805

²⁴ NLS, Dep 268/24, Meeting minutes, 17 June 1805

²⁵ NLS, Dep 268/24 Meeting minutes, 22 February 1806

²⁶ B. West to A. Robertson, 15 September 1805, in Robertson (ed), *Letters and Papers of Andrew Robertson*

²⁷ NLS, Dep 268/24, Meeting minutes, 22 February 1806

²⁸ NLS, Dep 268/25, Meeting minutes, 6 July 1808

²⁹ NLS, Dep 268/25, Meeting minutes, 18 March 1809

³⁰ NLS, Acc 10615/82/17, Officers of the Black Watch to the Highland Society of London, 3 April 1809

³¹ D. Stewart, (1822), *Sketches of the Character, Manners and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland: with Details of the Military Service of the Highland Regiments*, 2 vols, I, (p 506). Edinburgh

³² NLS, Dep 268/26, Meeting minutes, June 1815

³³ L. Brown, (1980), *British Historical Medals, 1760-1960* (p 126). London

³⁴ Stewart, *Sketches* (p 506)

³⁵ Through the examination of photographs of these medals it is unclear whether they are the 'Gaelic' or 'English' type

Miniature matters

Do I or don't I (invest or not)?

Is it genuine? This question haunts discerning enthusiasts of all persuasions when seeking to add to their collections.

So, what do we look for as medal collectors? In the case of named full sized medals we do have something to go on, although these are not immune to forgery.

Are medals described as a 'group' mounted or presented as a collection of single medals (and perhaps prone to an addition from elsewhere)? Is there evidence of provenance to help us out?

For collectors of miniature dress medals the question is even trickier unless they are (rarely) named. Groups can be 'made up' but examining the quality of the stitching of the mounting often gives this away.

Does one describe a group as 'worn by', 'attributed to', or 'representative' for example? Auction houses grapple with this question all the time.

Take the example of Sir Richard Lamb 1858-1923, whose medals were auctioned recently along with those of other members of the Lamb family. The miniatures attributed to him were sold immediately following his full sized order insignia and medals along with a wealth of ephemera that provide convincing provenance, including images of Sir Richard wearing all five orders and medals.

But the unnamed miniatures are presented singly, having been removed from a display frame, so the question of whether they were worn by Sir Richard has to be asked.

The fact that the miniatures sold at almost four-times the upper estimate following some keen bidding suggests a strong belief that the miniatures were his. Yet, while two reverses show clear signs of wear, why was the group removed from its wearing brooch? And what happened to the ribbon for the Delhi Durbar Medal 1911?

To be clear, the object of this exercise is *not* to question the authenticity of this beautiful group of miniatures, but to illustrate the questions that face us as miniature medal collectors when we think about investing.



The miniature dress medals attributed to Sir Richard Lamb KCSI, CIE, K-i-H (Member of the Executive Council of the Government Of Bombay) Images courtesy of Noonans

He served his King and his God: Major Arthur Chichester Crookshank, RFA

by Richard A. Flory, California

ARTHUR CROOKSHANK was born at The Tews, St. Leonards Road, Eastbourne, Sussex on 19 July 1889, the son of Edgar March Crookshank, MD and JP for Sussex who had served as a civil surgeon attached to the Army Medical Department in the 1882 Egypt Expedition including the action at Tel El Kebir, and his wife, Harriet (née Colfox). Before the war he lived with his family at Saint Hill Estate in East Grinstead and was educated at St Christopher's School in Eastbourne; at Eton from September 1904 to April 1908; at Southsea from May to July 1908, and at The Castle, Storrington, Sussex in September 1908.



His father, Edgar March Crookshank, MD, JP¹

He was appointed a gentleman cadet, Royal Military Academy on 3 February 1909 with an order of merit of 14 and left on 23 July 1910 with an order of merit of 36 and a commission as 2nd Lieutenant, RFA on 23 July 1910. From 1910 to December 1911, he was a subaltern with 114 Battery, RFA at Colchester. He served at Pretoria, South Africa with 98 Battery, RFA and served in

India with the same battery from November 1912 to September 1914. Promoted Lieutenant, RFA on 23 July 1913 he returned to the United Kingdom in December 1914.



Gentleman Cadet Arthur Chichester Crookshank at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich in 1910²

On 23 December 1914 he went to France and was posted to 98 Battery, 1st Brigade, RFA in the 27th Division. He was wounded in the right foot, left arm and back and suffered a fractured left clavicle due to shrapnel at Ypres on 23 April 1915. Evacuated to England on the SS *Valdivia* on 24 April 1915, he was admitted to the 2nd Eastern General Hospital at Brighton. He made a full recovery from his wounds apart from a permanent loss of hearing.

He was appointed temporary captain from 26 September 1915 to 22 July 1916 and embarked for France at Southampton on 10 January 1916, arriving at Havre the next morning. On 23 July 1916 he was promoted captain, and appointed acting major from 25 September 1916 to 11 March 1917 while in command of A Battery, 175 Brigade, RFA, a six-gun battery. On 10 February 1917 he proceeded to Westcliffe to take a gunnery course, returning to his battery on 26 February 1917, and was mentioned in despatches in the *London Gazette* of 4 January 1917. On 10 March 1917 he returned to the United Kingdom and was posted to 4th Reserve Brigade, RFA. In 1917 at St. Thomas, Devon he married Harriet Dorothea



The medal group to Major Crookshank for his services during the Great War

May, daughter of the Rev. Canon Oldfield of Lincoln. For his services to his King during the Great War he received the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal with MiD emblem.

From 12 April to 24 November 1919 he served as area education officer at Belfast, and from 23 November 1919 to 5 April 1920 as Adjutant, Gunnery Instruction School, No. 2 RFA Cadet School at Exeter. Crookshank requested to resign

the service due to loss of hearing in both ears and was retired with a gratuity and transferred to the Reserve of Officers on 26 January 1921. At the time he lived at 41 Kidbrook Park Road, Blackheath, London SE3. In 1922 he lived at Old Fishbourne Farm, near Chichester. He attended Bishops' College, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire from 1928 to 1930 and during that time wrote *St. Leonard of Sussex*, a biography of the saint who was the namesake of St. Leonard's Church at Horsham.



St. Leonard's Church, Horsham³



Reverend Crookshank while Vicar of Ditchling¹

Crookshank was known to have a rather dry sense of humor which is apparent when he wrote in the preface of his book:

his work might have been expanded to twice its present size by filling the pages with footnotes to the *Domesday Book*, Bede, *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, and so forth; not to mention the Roman writer *Op. Cit.* and the female historian *Caetera Desunt*. But such things are for professors and very superior folk. The aim has been to make his life the life of a real

person without embroidery or invention, and not the chemical analysis of a handful of dry dust.⁴

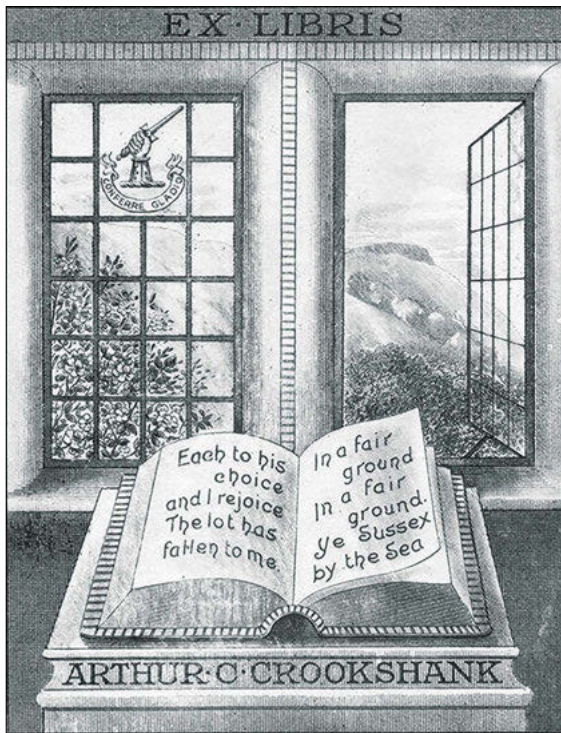
He was appointed deacon at Lewes in 1930 and priest at Chichester later the same year. From 1930 to 1934 he was curate of Eastbourne and lived at the Old Parsonage in Eastbourne. From 1934 to 1937 he served as chaplain to HM Prison, Lewes and in 1937 he was rector of West Thorney. During 1938 and 1939 he served as officiating chaplain with the Royal Air Force and was discharged from the Reserve of Officers due to age on 19 July 1939. At the time he was living in Chichester.

From 1940 to 1943 he served as officiating priest in charge of Funtington, Sussex and on 20 October 1943 he was appointed vicar of Ditchling by the Bishop of Chichester. He served in that position until his death at High Street, Ditchling, Sussex at the age of 68, leaving an estate of £5790 8s 2d to his widow, Harriet Dorothea Mary Crookshank. Based on his bookplate he must have loved his time in Sussex.

His son, 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Oldfield Crookshank, 4th Maritime Regiment, RA was killed in action while participating in Operation Pedestal in charge of the DEMS gunners on SS *Waimarama* on 13 August 1942. At 7:00am the convoy was about 120 nautical miles from Malta



The SS *Waimarama* under attack on 13 August 1942 (with the permission of Ray Agius)⁶



Vicar Crookshank's bookplate⁵

when it was attacked by ten Ju 88s which missed the *Ohio* but hit *SS Waimarama*. She disintegrated when the aviation fuel on deck burst into flame, causing the death of 24 of her crew, including 2nd Lieutenant Crookshank and six other ranks of 4th Maritime Regiment, RA.

Endnotes

¹ Image courtesy of Elliott & Fry, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia

² Image from "Corporals – Summer Term." *RMA Magazine*, Vol. XI, No. 41 (August 1910), p.33

³ Image from Wikimedia Common, which indicates that it is in the public domain under Creative Commons CC0 1.0 Universal Public Domain Dedication

⁴ Image obtained from Richard P. Symonds 4 December 2014 blog "A History of St. Leonard's Church, Horsham,

West Sussex". <http://stleonardhorshamhistory.blogspot.com> and used with the written permission of Mr. Symonds

⁵ Image obtained from the Pratt Institute Ex Libris Collection (Special Collections 202a). Johanna Bauman, Associate Director for Collections Management, Pratt Institute Libraries Special Collection indicates that they "are unable to clear copyright permissions" and that they have not been able to find out the who might hold the rights. The author has also been unable to determine the copyright holder

⁶ Image provided by, and used with the written permission of the artist, Raymond Agius

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Thank you Gail

The OMRS Committee as well as all OMRS members worldwide would like to take this opportunity to thank Gail Lees for the time and work she has put into running the Ribbon Bank since 2016, dealing with all orders and queries from around the world.

The Ribbon Bank has now changed hands and all orders etc will be dealt with by Steven Trigger so please continue to order through the website as you usually do.

Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service: Fire brigades awards

by Tony Farrell

THE COLONIAL POLICE MEDAL (CPM) was instituted by Royal Warrant on 10 May 1938 for valuable service ‘characterised by resource and devotion to duty, including prolonged service marked by exceptional ability, merit and exemplary conduct’. A multi-purpose award, the CPM (MYB 61) was also given for gallantry as well as for meritorious service – the latter category being restricted to no more than 150 awards *per annum* (though this ‘cap’ can be extended under exceptional circumstances by royal decree).

This medal is very similar in appearance to the Colonial Police Long Service Medal (MYB 274). Its reverse design of wreath and truncheon is basically identical, apart from the surrounding legend: ‘COLONIAL POLICE FORCES. FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE’. The ribbon – green with a broad dark-blue stripe edged in white – is also similar to the long service medal but with the colours reversed.

Struck from silver, the ring suspension is of the non-swivelling type. Naming styles vary, from (generally) impressed upright capitals to engraved characters in a number of styles, depending on the issuing authority. This is only to be expected with an award covering such a wide geographic area over a long period of time. The format also varies, but is usually given as rank or appointment, name, and force or colony.

The CPM for gallantry carries a reverse inscription to that effect, along with additional thin red stripes on its ribbon. In the Order of Wear, it took precedence over merit awards and could be given twice, the second award being denoted by a bar of the same pattern as used on colonial long service awards. This provision did not pertain to merit awards. The gallantry CPM has since fallen out of use, being superseded by the Queen’s Gallantry Medal (MYB 63) from 1974. The meritorious issue, however, is still available to the few remaining forces in the overseas territories,¹ with over 3,500 merit awards having been made. Confusingly, there is a distinct and very scarce subsidiary variant of the CPM for the colonial fire brigades (MYB 62). These organisations originally came under police administration rather than being separate entities, hence their connection to the CPM. Like the police award there are both gallantry and merit types. The same ribbons are used for these but the reverse

design is completely different and closely resembles that of the Colonial Fire Brigades Long Service Medal (MYB 287) – the legend reflecting either category of award (gallantry or merit), much in the same way as the police issue.



Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service, Geo VI
1937-48: Fire Brigades type
(courtesy Noonans)

The CPM is thus a conjoined award with four separate types – discounting effigy and obverse legend variations. Until 1986 the fire brigades’ awards were announced in *The London Gazette* as Colonial Police Medals – headed under either ‘For Gallantry’ or ‘For Meritorious Service’. Up to 1969, 458 gallantry awards (and nine bars) were made to both police officers and firemen.

That’s the easy bit! But attempting to determine how many of the merit medals have been awarded to firemen, since the award’s introduction, is far from a straightforward process. This is compounded by the fire-specific awards, meaning those that are readily identifiable in the gazette by rank and formation, being lumped in with the thousands² to the various police forces throughout the Empire and Commonwealth. Add to this the uncertainty of how many of the colonial fire formations were either directly under police authority, under municipal administration, or

were purely local volunteer organisations – and the waters muddy very quickly.

For example, Antigua's small fire brigade came under the auspices of the Leeward Islands Police Force and centred around the capital St John's. Fiji didn't even have a fire brigade *per se* and relied on volunteers (though it did have a chief officer in the capital Suva), whereas Hong Kong developed its own large department to provide for (what became) a heavily built-up and populated colony. When trawling through the pages of the gazette one can almost see the number of awards rising annually as quickly as the high-rise apartments in Kowloon, as the colony's fire service expanded.

There are some curious omissions. One would think that larger conurbations like Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia), Lusaka (Northern Rhodesia) or Kingston (Jamaica) would have had their own dedicated fire-fighting formations? Whilst the British South Africa Police, Northern Rhodesia Police and their Jamaican counterparts get numerous mentions, any hint as to structure or remit is notably absent from the pages of the gazette. If their fire services came under police control then there is nothing to suggest such. Many smaller colonies had arrangements (informal or otherwise) between local fire commissioners and municipal councils and did not have a full-time professional service, but one would have expected the larger colonies and protectorates to have established brigades. The history of fire fighting in the colonies is rather obscure and its evolution would make for an interesting study.

The annual Royal Mint reports do not offer much in the way of help towards calculating the number of merit medals given to firemen. Entries are vague and inconsistent, either not differentiating between the two police and fire designs, or not specifying whether the medals are CPMs or for long service: they could be more precise and useful.

The first CPMs were gazetted on 8 June 1939 and Sergeant Major Evans Cox of the Trinidad Fire Brigade was one of 34 officers to receive the CPM – and the first fireman. Firemen do not make a re-appearance until the gazette of 13 June 1946, with just four awards out of a crop of 50. The gazette of 5 June 1952 lists Edmund William Thomas Cox, Bandmaster, Quartermaster and Firemaster of the North Borneo Police Force. There is no clue as to which type of medal this rather busy policeman qualified for, who is the only firemaster mentioned in the CPM rolls. The

order in which his role of firemaster is given would suggest that it was a tertiary duty, this author's gut feeling being that his CPM is of the police variety and he is thus omitted from the roll below.

What is certain is that numbers went off a proverbial cliff edge in 1997 when the colony of Hong Kong was handed over to the People's Republic of China. Awards were averaging around 30 *per annum* in the preceding decade and this went rapidly downwards almost overnight. The Hong Kong Fire Service (HKFS) had, by far, the absolute lion's share of identifiable awards – almost 90%. Gazette pages full of CPM awardees have dwindled gradually to a handful per year, with the odd, solitary announcement continuing to the present day. However, fire awards elsewhere have become almost non-existent, with the last one appearing in 2013. From Aden to Zanzibar, the award is now confined to the dozen British Overseas Territories (BOTs) that remain, plus (since 2016) the Sovereign Base Area (SBA) Police of Cyprus. This is something of an oddity as the SBAs are not 'colonies' in the same way as, for example, the Turks & Caicos Islands, rather military bases occupied under treaty. The SBA Police receive the UK-pattern long service medal and not the 'colonial' issue, so the use of the CPM in their case is unusual. Eight of these have been awarded to date.

Quite why the CPM did not follow the Colonial Police & Fire Brigades Long Service Medal in being separated into two distinct awards (in 1956) is something of a mystery. Modern awards are more clearly defined – being titled in the London Gazette from 1986 as the Colonial Police & Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service and is reflected by the corresponding gazette entries since then, the Royal Warrant was not amended.

A Royal Warrant dated 10 April 2012 decreed a further titular change of the award to the Overseas Territories Police & Fire Service Medal. The reverse inscriptions were altered to reflect the change and the Ian Rank-Broadley obverse effigy of Queen Elizabeth II was also adopted at this time but has subsequently been changed to Jack McDermott's crowned effigy of King Charles III. Recipients are entitled to the post-nominal letters 'CPM' or 'OTPM'.

The CPM is often regarded as a colonial equivalent of the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) and Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM). This is an incorrect assumption. The CPM is subordinate in status to

both those medals. Indeed, QPMs and QFSMs can be (and are) awarded throughout the Commonwealth – it not being uncommon to see the honours going to recipients who already have a CPM.

As an aside, many years ago, the author was in conversation with the late John Tamplin regarding the dearth on the market of certain Hong Kong awards, despite numbers issued. The conclusion was that cultural aspects may well come into play, with medals either staying in the families of the recipients, or being interred with them. The list of medals given below contains the names of 271

individuals, gleaned from the thousands of names listed in over 200 notices in the London Gazette in the eighty plus years between the CPM's inception and time of writing (December 2022). It may not be definitive, due to the vagaries already addressed in this article, but it is probably not too wide of the mark and may go some way as to explain the scarcity of this medal. It is thus to be considered a partial nominal roll. The format used is not that of the entries in the London Gazette or of actual naming styles observed, rather a format devised for clarity and ease of reference: surname, initials, rank, unit and month/year of gazette entry.

The Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service: Fire brigades awards

ALLAWAY GV SDO HKFS 12/85
 AU B SDO HKFS 06/89
 AU C AD HKFS 12/73
 AYLWARD K DO HKFS 06/79
 BARNES R CONST ANTIGUA POLICE FB 06/51
 BLACKMAN DA SO BRITISH GUYANA FB 12/62
 BLAKE DH CO HKAFS 06/46
 BOEY K FO1 HKFS 06/66
 BREDBURY JA SDO HKFS 06/80
 BRUCE RH SDO HKFS 06/84
 CHAK ST A/DO HKFS 12/59
 CHAK T PF HKFS 06/69
 CHAN B AMB HKFS 12/75
 CHAN C ADO HKFS 05/62
 CHAN C ADO HKFS 06/78
 CHAN C SO HKFS 12/86
 CHAN F ADO HKFS 12/82
 CHAN H PF HKFS 06/97
 CHAN H SDO HKFS 12/86
 CHAN K PF HKFS 06/76
 CHAN K PF HKFS 06/87
 CHAN K PF HKFS 12/89
 CHAN K SUPT(AMB) HKFS 12/92
 CHAN K SUPT(AMB) HKFS 06/97
 CHAN L PF HKFS 06/93
 CHAN S ADO HKFS 12/83
 CHAN S PF HKFS 12/86
 CHAN T PF HKFS 06/91
 CHAN W SDO HKFS 06/87
 CHAN Y PF HKFS 06/91
 CHENG B PF HKFS 06/86
 CHENG C FCL1(M) HKFS 06/70
 CHENG K SUPT(AMB) HKFS 06/83
 CHENG T FO3 HKFS 06/66
 CHENG W SDO HKFS 06/71
 CHEUNG C SUPT(AMB) HKFS 06/87
 CHEUNG K SDO HKFS 06/97
 CHEUNG P PF HKFS 12/83
 CHEUNG P SDO HKFS 06/84
 CHEUNG S DO HKFS 12/73
 CHEUNG W AMB HKFS 06/73
 CHEUNG W PF HKFS 06/95
 CHEUNG Y PA HKFS 06/97
 CHIN K PF HKFS 06/92
 CHIU K PA HKFS 12/92
 CHOI C ADO HKFS 06/80
 CHOI C PF HKFS 06/97
 CHOI K SDO HKFS 06/97
 CHONG C PF HKFS 06/70
 CHOW K SA HKFS 12/72
 CHOW M PF HKFS 06/91
 CHOW P DO HKFS 12/82
 CHOW S DO(A) HKAFS 06/71
 CHOW WC SDO HKFS 06/84
 CHOY L PF HKFS 12/94
 CHU C SDO HKFS 06/97
 CHU K PF HKFS 12/95
 CHU P SDO HKFS 06/92
 CHU Y BEM PF HKFS 12/95
 CHUNG H PF HKFS 06/69
 CHUNG JA DO(A) HKAFS 12/74
 CHUNG K PF HKFS 06/82
 CHUNG K PF HKFS 12/95
 CHUNG K SDO HKFS 12/89
 COX E SGT MAJ TRINIDAD FB 06/39
 DAI C PF HKFS 06/75
 DALE SA CO MAURITIUS FB 06/46
 D'ESPAGNAC A CO MAURITIUS FS 06/49
 DOORE G SDO HKFS 06/72
 ELCOCK SM DO HKFS 12/74
 ELSWORTH HL DO HKFS 06/76
 FONG C PF HKFS 12/84
 FONG C SAO HKFS 12/78
 FONG S PF HKFS 12/76
 FONG S PF HKFS 12/77
 FRETWELL C SDO HKFS 12/80
 FUNG C PF HKFS 06/72
 FUNG F PF HKFS 12/94
 FUNG K AD HKFS 12/72
 FUNG K PF HKFS 06/84
 FUNG P FCL2 HKFS 06/67
 FUNG S SF HKFS 06/72
 GARDINER TDC DO HKFS 12/79
 GEORGE PL DO HKFS 12/80
 GODDEN JF SDO HKFS 12/86
 GOODING C FM BARBADOS FB 06/46
 HO C AO HKFS 06/76
 HO C PF(M) HKFS 06/70
 HO C SDO HKFS 06/89
 HO H PF HKFS 06/88
 HO JK SDO HKFS 06/88
 HO K PF HKFS 12/75

HO K PF HKFS 12/90
HO K PF HKFS 06/94
HO K SSO HKFS 12/94
HO K SUPT(AMB) HKFS 06/91
HO S DO(A) HKFS 12/67
HO S PF HKFS 06/85
HO T PF(M) HKFS 06/68
HODGES A DS(FO) ADEN POLICE 12/63
HODGKINS KW DO HKFS 06/78
HOLMES R ACFO HKFS 06/70
HSU K SDO HKFS 12/88
HUNG H PF HKFS 06/65
HUNG Y PF HKFS 12/84
HUTCHINS HTJ DO HKFS 12/64
IGBINOVIA D ACO1 NIGERIA FB 12/59
JACKSON F ACFO HKFS 06/69
JAMES CA INSP St LUCIA FS 06/77
JO T DO HKFS 12/75
JOHNSTON RB SDO HKFS 12/84
JONES AJ DO HKFS 06/65
KENYON H ACAO HKFS 06/74
KINGDOM M SDO HKFS 06/72
KNAGGS L SCO TRINIDAD VFB 06/49
KONG H PF HKFS 06/80
KONG H SF HKFS 06/79
KONG K PF HKFS 06/77
KWAN K PF HKFS 12/75
KWAN S DO HKFS 06/78
KWAN Y PA HKFS 06/95
KWOK J SDO HKFS 06/94
KWOK K FO2 HKFS 12/67
KWOK P PF HKFS 12/89
KWONG W PF HKFS 12/75
LAI S ADO HKFS FB 05/63
LAI Y SDO HKFS 12/87
LAM C PF HKFS 06/97
LAM C PF(M) HKFS 06/67
LAM C SDO HKFS 12/80
LAM C SDO HKFS 06/91
LAM L DO HKFS 12/75
LAM M SF HKFS 06/73
LAM P PF HKFS 12/87
LAM W PF HKFS 06/91
LANE MK DFO HKFS 06/66
LAU K PF HKFS 06/97
LAU M PF HKFS FB 06/81
LAU S ACAO HKFS 06/97
LAU S PF HKFS 12/89
LAW H PA HKFS 06/97
LEE C SO HKFS 12/73
LEE H PA HKFS 06/92
LEE K DO HKFS 12/82
LEE K PF HKFS 06/89
LEE K SDO HKFS 06/86
LEE K SF HKFS 06/83
LEE M SDO HKFS 12/94
LEE W PF HKFS 06/88
LEE W SDO HKFS 06/85
LEE Y PF HKFS 12/75
LEUNG C PF HKFS 12/87
LEUNG F PF HKFS 06/85
LEUNG F PF HKFS 12/85
LEUNG K PF HKFS 06/79
LEUNG K PF HKFS 12/88
LEUNG S PF HKFS 06/76
LEUNG S PF HKFS 06/92
LEUNG T AD HKFS 12/69
LEUNG T ADO HKFS 06/73
LEUNG Y PF HKFS 12/75
LI C PF HKFS 06/77
LI K AD HKFS 12/73
LI K DO HKFS 12/77
LI K PF HKFS 12/77
LI S PF HKFS 12/83
LI S SDO HKFS 12/90
LI W PF HKFS 12/80
LIU F PF HKFS 12/64
LO C PF HKFS 06/74
LO C SDO HKFS 06/89
LO P PF HKFS 06/93
LO S PF HKFS 06/76
LO S PF HKFS 06/94
LOH KK JSO SINGAPORE FB 05/52
LOONG K SDO HKFS 12/92
LUI H FCL2 HKFS 06/69
LUI K PF HKFS 12/84
LUI K SUPT(AMB) HKFS 12/94
LUMB A DO HKFS 06/73
LUN P ADO HKFS 06/93
MA H PF HKFS 06/97
MARCH JH DO HKFS 12/75
MARK S PF HKFS 06/73
MARTIN A DO HKFS FB 05/63
MASSON RK MBE SUPT BELIZE FB 06/54
McCARTHY JW DO HKFS 06/73
McLAUGHLIN HD DCFO CAYMAN ISLANDS FS 06/10
MO M PF HKFS 06/71
MOHAMED I AMB ATTD SINGAPORE FB 06/59
MOK L PF HKFS 12/74
MOK P PF HKFS 12/67
MOOTOO L 2ND OFF TRINIDAD FB 12/56
MOSS RH SFO1 HKFS 12/67
MOTE JFA CO FIJI FB 12/54
MURRAY EA INSP St LUCIA FB 12/60
MURRAY JG DO HKFS 12/79
NG K ADO HKFS 12/87
NG K PF HKFS 12/72
NG K PF HKFS FB 06/81
NG O PF HKFS 12/85
OCHELLO J DCFO GIBRALTAR FS 12/00
ONG KE CH DVR SINGAPORE FB 12/58
PANG T SAO HKFS 12/78
PARODY S DFO GIBRALTAR FB 12/13
PHILLIPS IM CO TRINIDAD FB 12/56
PIK Y SDO HKFS 06/92
PO C PA HKFS 06/74
PODESTA E ADO GIBRALTAR FB 06/86
PONG H PF HKFS 12/77
PULLINGER CG DO HKFS 06/84
RAHMAN A JSO SINGAPORE FB 12/56
RENIE L DO TRINIDAD FS 06/61
RILEY D SUB INSP TRINIDAD FB 06/46
SHERMAN JA CH INSP BAHAMAS POLICE (FIRE BRANCH)
06/66
SIN H PF HKFS 12/69
SIU H SF HKFS 06/73

SIU S SF HKFS 06/72
 SO K PF HKFS 12/74
 SO W PF HKFS 06/80
 SOCRATOUS D SGT CYPRUS POLICE FB 06/57
 SPOONER RC CO TRINIDAD VFS 06/60
 STAUBLE JC DC TRINIDAD VFB 06/49
 SUEN C PF HKFS 06/97
 TAI C DO HKFS 06/85
 TAM H ADO HKFS 06/74
 TAM S PF HKFS 12/90
 TAM W FCL1 HKFS 06/67
 TAM W SF HKFS 06/77
 TAM Y ADO HKFS 12/75
 TAM Y PA HKFS 12/74
 TAN BA SL SINGAPORE FB 06/59
 TANG H PF(M) HKFS 06/68
 TANG S SDO HKFS 06/86
 THORPE AE CFO SIERRA LEONE FIRE FORCE 12/53
 TSANG F PF HKFS 06/82
 TSANG K SDO HKFS 12/86
 TSE Y DO HKFS 06/93
 TSING R DO(A) HKAFS 12/72
 TSO JM AO HKFS 12/72
 TSO K PF HKFS 12/92
 TSUI W PF HKFS 06/87
 WAN N PF HKFS 06/78
 WATT H DO(A) HKAFS 12/69

WHEATLEY RA DO HKFS 06/79
 WONG B PF HKFS 12/77
 WONG H SF HKFS 12/85
 WONG K PF HKFS 12/76
 WONG LAE SO BRITISH GUYANA FB 12/62
 WONG M SDO HKFS 06/86
 WONG S DO(A) HKAFS 06/75
 WONG S PF HKFS 06/83
 WONG T SSO HKFS 06/97
 WONG Y PF HKFS 12/74
 WOO K SDO HKFS 06/80
 WU M ADO HKFS 05/62
 YAU L PF HKFS 06/65
 YAU T ADO HKFS 06/72
 YEAP K SDO HKFS 06/71
 YEUNG K PF HKFS 12/75
 YEUNG K PF HKFS 06/89
 YEUNG K SDO HKFS 06/97
 YIP L SDO HKFS 06/87
 YIU L SO HKFS 12/72
 YOUNG B ADO HKFS 12/76
 YU C PF HKFS 06/97
 YU K PF HKFS 12/75
 YUEN J DO(A) HKAFS 06/74
 YUEN K PF HKFS 12/88
 YUEN W FO1 HKFS 12/67
 YUNG P SAO HKFS 06/86
 ZACHARIADES PV AFO CYPRUS POLICE FB 12/58

Key

2ND OFF - SECOND OFFICER
 ACAO - ASSISTANT CHIEF AMBULANCE OFFICER
 ACFO - ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
 ACO1 - ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER GRADE I
 AD - AMBULANCE DRESSER
 A/DO - ACTING DIVISIONAL OFFICER
 ADO - ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL OFFICER
 AFO - ASSISTANT FIRE OFFICER
 AMB - AMBULANCEMAN
 AMB ATTD - AMBULANCE ATTENDANT
 AO - AMBULANCE OFFICER
 CFO - CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
 CH DVR - CHIEF DRIVER
 CH INSP - CHIEF INSPECTOR
 CO - CHIEF OFFICER
 CONST - CONSTABLE
 DC - DIVISIONAL COMMANDER
 DCFO - DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
 DFO - DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL FIRE OFFICER
 DO - DIVISIONAL OFFICER
 DO(A) - DIVISIONAL OFFICER (AUXILIARY)
 DS(FO) - DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT (FIRE OFFICER)
 FCL1 - FIREMAN CLASS I
 FCL1(M) - FIREMAN CLASS I (MARINE)
 FCL2 - FIREMAN CLASS II
 FM - FOREMAN
 FO1 - FIRE OFFICER CLASS I
 FO2 - FIRE OFFICER CLASS II
 FO3 - FIRE OFFICER CLASS III
 INSP - INSPECTOR
 JSO - JUNIOR SUB OFFICER
 PA - PRINCIPAL AMBULANCEMAN
 PF - PRINCIPAL FIREMAN
 PF(M) - PRINCIPAL FIREMAN (MARINE)

SA - SENIOR AMBULANCEMAN
 SAO - SENIOR AMBULANCE OFFICER
 SCO - SENIOR COMPANY OFFICER
 SDO - SENIOR DIVISIONAL OFFICER
 SF - SENIOR FIREMAN
 SFO1 - SENIOR FIRE OFFICER CLASS I
 SGT - SERGEANT
 SGT MAJ - SERGEANT MAJOR
 SL - SECTION LEADER
 SO - STATION OFFICER
 SSO - SENIOR STATION OFFICER
 SUB INSP - SUB INSPECTOR
 SUPT(AMB) - SUPERINTENDENT (AMBULANCE)
 SUPT - SUPERINTENDENT

Sources

Abbott, P.E. & Tamplin J.M.A. (1971), *British Gallantry Awards*. Seaby, London

The London Gazette

The National Archives, Royal Mint reports

End notes

¹ Once termed as Crown Colonies, in 1983 they were retitled as British Dependent Territories and, in 2002, they were again retitled as British Overseas Territories

² In addition to the 2,779 police merit awards counted in the *London Gazette* between 1938 and 1969 by Abbott & Tamplin (*British Gallantry Awards*), a further 978 have been counted since 1970 to date, bringing the total to 3,757. This is likely to be under the true total due to several missing entries, but not by much

Cotswold Branch biennial mini-convention

On Saturday 6 July, the Cotswold Branch of the OMRS held their biennial Mini Convention at the Swindon Village Hall.

This entertaining day was carefully planned and well executed, by our member Len Evans, with the assistance of other Branch members. Graham Pitchfork, arranged for the speakers and we had three very interesting and well researched talks: Jim Carver on the Nigeria Regiment, Martyn Lovell from OMRS North spoke about the Khartoum Medical School, and Roger Bragger from the Birmingham Medal Club, talked about an Airman of the Royal Flying Corps

Several members and organisations booked exhibition tables, with a very high standard of research and many superb medals, and stimulating stories on display. Thanks to all that took part.

The Western Front Association exhibited their WWI War Graves project identifying and listing all the CWGC graves in Gloucestershire. They also ran the second-hand bookstall and did great business during the day.

Nicola Nash from JCCC at RAF Unsworth exhibited many very moving artefacts, from recently discovered and excavated war grave sites, and other related material.

Len Evans displayed some medals and weapons from the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum collection, together with their publicity banners on D-Day and Onwards exhibition.

Graham Pitchfork exhibited many of his RAF medals to gallant RAF Halton apprentices.



From Graham Pitchfork's display

John Rawlinson had a huge collection regarding the Royal Marines on D-Day, including weapons, equipment, medals and uniforms

Dave Seeney provided an interesting display to a survivor of the wreck of HM Troopship *Birkenhead* in 1852, with artefacts and his South Africa medal.

Tim Ewing mounted a detailed and outstanding exhibit on medals awarded to the Gurkhas.

Dave Martin showed weapons and extensive material from the Welsh Guards and their medals.

Julius Giles exhibited several trays of miniature medals, as well as a large display of bayonets.

Brian Hill presented medals and material regarding Remount officers and O.R.s in Boer War and WW1

Rev. Paul Roberts produced a memorable display on the 48th (Territorial) Division in WW1.

Steve Lewis, Branch Secretary, showed a solitary GSM Iraq, to a Risaldar of the 10th Lancers, Indian Army, killed in the 1920 Iraq revolution with extensive and detailed research.

Henry Meadows of Dominic Winter Auctioneers, and Noonans' of Mayfair both had tables showcasing their respective auction houses.

It was very unfortunate and frustrating for Clive Hammond that his car broke down en route to the venue, and his fine display of uniforms, helmets and accoutrements did not arrive.

An optional cold lunch was provided and enjoyed by many members and our profound thanks to Mrs. Evans, for her help and assistance in organising this highly important element of the day. The weather gods were kind to us, and we had 72 guests and members attend and everyone greatly enjoyed this social occasion, with so many excellent displays and the three talks.



Tim Ewing's display to the Gurkhas

A veteran of three wars

by Andrew Wilson



Lieutenant Colonel Pepys' medals
(Author's collection)

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Guy Leslie Pepys' career was extraordinary in several manners. He served in both the disastrous Jameson Raid and the Gallipoli campaign at two extremes of age and is one of only three known recipients of the Military Cross and the British South Africa Company's medal.¹ Arthur was a larger-than-life personality whose charm was augmented by his remarkable service across four continents.

Born on 24 August 1875, Arthur Pepys was the grandson of Sir William Pepys, the 1st Earl of Cottenham and the son of Charles Pepys, PC, QC. Not wishing to follow in his father's legal footsteps, he immigrated to Rhodesia and enlisted in the Mashonaland Mounted Police (MMP) shortly after it was formed in 1894. This was a vastly different environment to his sheltered upbringing at *Chateau Bel Air* in the wealthy British expatriate community of Dinard, France.²

Arthur was to see military action soon enough, through his participation in the Jameson Raid launched on 29 December 1895. He set out from Rhodesia as a member of the MMP's 'B' Troop with Jameson's force, bound for Johannesburg to incite a revolt amongst the *Uitlanders* of the Transvaal.³ On 1 January 1896, 'B' Troop acting as advanced guard to the expedition, stumbled

upon a detachment of several hundred Boers watering their horses in a small stream. With the element of surprise totally in the British troopers' favour, they nevertheless refused to capitalise on their good fortune. It was Leander Jameson's express purpose to reach Johannesburg without bloodshed and hence the MMP were instructed to hold their fire whilst field pieces were sent forward to fire warning shots and scatter the Boers without inducing casualties. This was Arthur's first experience of combat.

The action on 1 January 1896 was the beginning of Jameson's failure. A frontal assault by the MMP, on positions incorrectly believed to have been vacated by the Boers, faltered and failed in the face of vicious crossfire from two sides. Over the next two days, Arthur and the MMP fought desperate defensive actions against determined Boer attacks. Firing their Maxim machine guns until they jammed with white hot barrels, and running low on .303 ammunition for their Lee-Metford rifles, the British surrendered after a fierce encounter at Brink's Homestead and Doornkop Ridge. Acrimoniously, the men laid down their weapons and returned to England in late January 1896 aboard the passenger vessel *Harlech Castle*.³

Arthur did not spend much time back in England, for by 24 March 1896 he was back in



A photograph of Lt Col Pepys wearing his African service medal ribbons taken in 1913

(Courtesy Chelmsford City Council)

Bulawayo at the outbreak of the Second Matabele War. Serving in 'D' Squadron of the Matabeleland Relief Force (MRF), Arthur embarked on a search and destroy mission in the Mambo Hills on 30 June 1896 to crush the Matabele and push them away from the Inyati Mission. It was over steep *kopjes* that the Battle of Ntaba zika Mambo was fought from 4-6 July 1896. The MRF launched costly assaults against prepared Matabele positions, eventually driving the latter from their entrenchments with great difficulty notwithstanding their technological advantages. Individual actions were the order of the day, with scrappy and disjointed fighting taking place

in the area's varied topography. The cave of the spiritual leader of the Matabele Rebellion, Mlimo Mkwati, was ransacked, and although the result seemed overwhelmingly in the MRF's favour, a significant proportion of the Matabele managed to make their escape.

The action at Mambo Hills and further operations at Nkantola, Ingungu Gorge, Mthabezi Valley, and Tshingengoma sealed the fate of the Matabele. Despite their pilfering of British firearms, the overwhelming firepower of field artillery, Maxim machine guns and accurate MRF rifle fire proved too much for the native warriors, who surrendered on 27 August 1897.

Serving in the Mashonaland Expedition of 1897, Arthur fought with the Rhodesian Horse Volunteers who established a network of forts close to Mashona *kraals*, using dynamite to destroy the natives' positions. This was a systematic and cold-blooded approach to a technologically inferior foe. With the surrender of Chiefs Zvimba and Mangwende on 21 August 1897, the Mashonaland Rebellion was over and Arthur had notched up another campaign's experience. Three days shy of his 22nd birthday, Arthur had fought in two wars. For his part in suppressing both African uprisings, Arthur was awarded the British South Africa Company's Medal with 'RHODESIA' reverse and clasp 'MASHONALAND 1897'. This was to be the last privately issued British campaign medal.⁶

With the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War, Arthur was called to arms and promoted to Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment. Arthur served as Railway Staff Officer in charge of entraining and detraining supplies in Transvaal, Orange Free State and Cape Colony. The Boers, who were waging mobile guerrilla



Lt Col Pepys' miniature medals
(Author's collection)

warfare, could only be kept in check by efficient British logistics and resupply. This was often disrupted by sabotage and ineptitude in equal parts, hence the importance of Arthur's role. For his service in the Boer War, Arthur was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps 'ORANGE FREE STATE', 'TRANSVAAL', and 'CAPE COLONY'. He was also awarded the King's South Africa Medal with clasps 'SOUTH AFRICA 1901' and 'SOUTH AFRICA 1902'.⁷

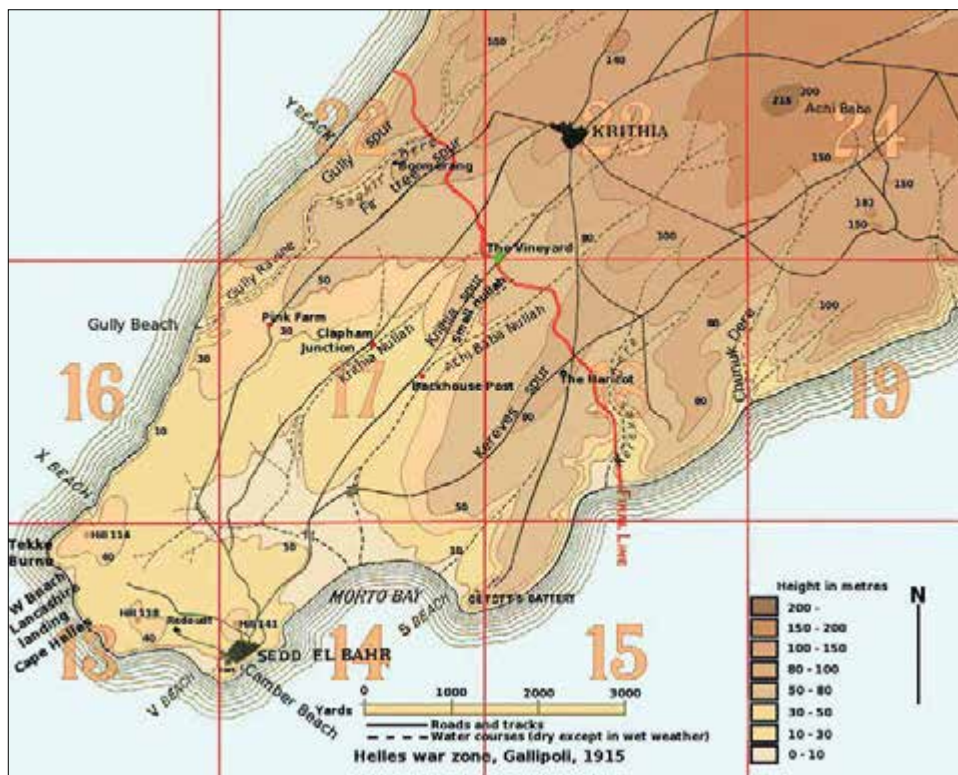
Not returning to civilian life at the end of the Second Anglo-Boer War, Arthur served with the Royal Garrison Regiment and 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment in Canada. He was promoted to Captain in 1904, and appointed adjutant of the 5th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 26 August 1905.⁷ On 20 May 1908, Arthur was transferred to the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment on garrison duty in Burma and India. During this period of peace, he qualified as a French interpreter and travelled to Karachi, Durban and Mauritius.

As a career infantryman of 20 years, having ascended the ranks by merit, Arthur was 39 years old at the outbreak of the Great War. Hastily

marrying Olive Stanley on 6 March 1915, Arthur was given command of 'X' Company, 1st Battalion Essex Regiment and embarked for Egypt on 21 March 1915. Arriving in Mudros on 16 April 1915, he drilled his company as he faced his first opportunity to see action in 13 years.

Landing from the port side of the transport *Dongola* on 25 April 1915, Arthur led 'X' Company ashore under fire at 'W' Beach at Cape Helles. Only five hours earlier, the Lancashire Fusiliers had won six Victoria Crosses on the same stretch of sand, at an incredible cost. John Burrows, the author of the regimental history, *1st Bn The Essex Regiment*, gave the following account of the day:

Captain Pepys led the way in No. 1 of the tow, next to the steam pinnace. Some rifle fire was directed upon the boat, but no one was wounded. When the first boatload was on shore the fire was fairly heavy and orders were received to man the cliff immediately and not to wait for the remainder of the Company. A few of the men were collected and Captain Pepys led them forward, leaving instructions with the second-in-command, Captain Shepherd, to let the platoon commanders know in which direction he had gone... The cliff top was soon reached and there the fire was so severe that the men had to lie down and crawl



A map of Krithia 1915
(Wikimedia Commons)

along until they came to a damaged Turkish trench. A few of the men got into the trench, but found no protection, and those who stopped outside had a better time of it.⁸

Burrows continues:

‘The three Essex companies were on land by about 10’oclock and then, as the senior officer on the spot Lieut. Colonel Godfrey Faussett ordered an advance towards Hill 138 and the position to the left of it.



The reverse engraving on Lt Col Pepys' MC
(Author's collection)

Two Essex companies participated. "X" Company got into the Turkish front line trenches but were there stayed by the fire from the enemy, who were still clinging to Hill 114 and had not yet been cleared out by the Royal Fusiliers.⁹

This was the first close-quarters combat Arthur had experienced in 18 years, since the Mashonaland campaign of 1897. A bayonet charge at 1415 hrs put the Essex Regiment in control of Hill 138, with Arthur leading his company into battle.

On 28 April 1915, the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment took part in the First Battle of Krithia which cost them 123 casualties in the face of determined Turkish machine gun and sniper fire. 1-2 May 1915 saw a series of determined Turkish counterattacks during which Arthur's timely actions saved his brigade from being outflanked. Burrows described the situation thus:

At midnight (May 1st-2nd) a heavy attack by a Turkish force 10,000 strong was made along the whole front-French on the right, 88th Brigade in the centre, 86th Brigade on the left. At one time there was grave anxiety owing to the right of the 86th Brigade being forced at Krithia Nullah, the point of junction with the 88th. The Essex were immediately ordered to fill the gap and advanced along the Nullah, taking a Turkish officer and 30 other ranks prisoner. Captain A.G.L. Pepys and "X" Company, by a gallant and timely bayonet charge, restored the line, whilst a company of the Royal Scots dealt with the Turks who had broken through. For this exploit Capt. Pepys received the M.C. ... "The last I saw of the Essex was about midnight, when they came up from the rear and went out into the darkness to drive the Turks back with the bayonet. We heard them all night on the left beyond the nullah and when light came we saw the Turks running back with the Essex after them." The total casualties were 50- killed 14, wounded 31, missing 5.¹⁰



A close-up of Lt Col Pepys' medals
(Author's collection)

Lieutenant Colonel Godfrey-Faussett, the battalion's commanding officer, was killed in a knavish display of trickery from the Turkish soldiers, who allegedly called to him in English then mortally wounded him through the abdomen on the night of 1 May 1915.

Pushing inland, Arthur and his battalion set about clearing the Fir Tree Wood on the Krithia plateau. They dug trenches from 16-19 May 1915 under heavy sniper and artillery fire. An intense Turkish assault on 29 May 1915 forced the Essex to abandon their position in the wood. Undaunted, Arthur led a counterattack the next day and was wounded in the jaw during hand-to-hand fighting. Arthur was invalided from his wound, with *The London Gazette* announcing the award of his Military Cross several days later:

From 25th to 28th April, 1915, during landing operations, for conspicuous good work; and again on 1st May, during operations south of Krithia, for gallantly capturing trenches held by the enemy and retaining possession of them.¹¹

For his tenacity at Fir Tree Wood, Arthur was mentioned in dispatches.¹² In recognition of his leadership at Gallipoli, he was promoted to the rank of major on 1 September 1915. Recovering in hospital in England, Arthur was finally able to see his wife for the first time since he left for active duty. On 13 December 1915, the couple welcomed the arrival of their son Samuel.

Refusing to sit idly, Arthur was made lieutenant colonel in command of the 44th Recruiting Area encompassing Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. He had the unpleasant task of enforcing conscription but did so with zeal and passion. Arthur raised the 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment in 1919 and took the unit to Malta in March 1920. The unit went on to fight in the Second World War. For his services in the Great War, he was awarded the Military Cross, the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal with Mentioned in Despatches oakleaf device.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Pepys passed away aged 77 on 9 April 1953, in Salisbury, Wiltshire. His obituary mentioned his gregarious demeanour:

Colonel Pepys was more than popular with both officers and other ranks, in particular his junior officers. During the latter period of his service he suffered a good deal from the effects of his war wound but despite this he was invariably cheerful, always having a good story at hand to fit the occasion.

Arthur Pepys' relinquished his life of privilege for a career in the military which afforded him glory from Rhodesia to Turkey. His medals, court mounted for wear, and complete with corresponding miniatures are a testament to the pride that he must have taken in his duties. The breadth of his service record is rarely seen, having served in conflicts almost 20 years apart, and yet still taking an active combatant role even in his final years of service.

Notes

¹ The other two groups extant are one to Major Poole, Rifle Brigade and the other to Major Alfred Ellam, 2nd Battalion West Riding Regiment

² The National Archives (TNA) WO 100/77

³ Hole, H.M. (2009), *The Jameson Raid*. Naval and Military Press

⁴ *London Times*, Nominal Roll of Prisoners Proceeding to England in Harlech Castle, 21 January 1896, p.3

⁵ ZimFieldGuide.com, Battle of Tshingengoma or Sikombo's Stronghold, available from <https://zimfieldguide.com/matabeleland-south/battle-tshingengoma-or-sikombo%E2%80%99s-stronghold>, accessed 13 May 2022

⁶ Mayo, J.H. (1897), *Medals and Decorations of the British Army and Navy, Volume II*. A. Constable, p.423

⁷ TNA: WO 76/265, p. 191

⁸ Burrows, J. (2005), *The Essex Regiment*. Naval and Military Press

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ *The London Gazette*, 3 July 1915 No. 29215, p.6541

¹² *The London Gazette*, 3 August 1915 No.29251, p. 7666

Adam Gibson first appears in the 1841 Scottish Census when he is described as living with his parents and four siblings at 3 Union Street in Edinburgh, Midlothian. His father, James Gibson was 66 years old and a joiner. Adam's mother was Helen Gibson who was 50 years old. Adam Gibson's date of birth was given as around 1826, and he was 15 years old.

The next census was taken on 30 March 1851 and Adam Gibson was described as a lodger at Johnstone's Close, St John's Parish in Edinburgh. He was 26 years old, and his occupation was listed as a 'Coach Trimmer Journeyman'. Journeyman was a Victorian term for a time-served apprenticeship. This is very significant as it matched his enlistment occupation – although this was presumably abbreviated to 'Trimmer'.

Private 3152 Adam Gibson enlisted into the 78th Highlanders at Edinburgh Castle on 24 June 1851. Adam embarked from Great Britain on the East India passenger ship '*Earl Hardwicke*' on 21st August 1851 and sailed to join his new regiment at Bombay, arriving on 2nd January 1852. Gibson served with the 78th Highlanders at Bombay from January 1852 to March 1853. His next posting was at Poona from March 1853 to December 1856. Adam Gibson was awarded Good Conduct Pay on 26 June 1856.

The 78th Highlanders left Poona to take part in the Anglo-Persian War (1 November 1856 to 4

April 1857) which was due to the Persian seizure of the Afghan City of Herat on 25 October 1856, which Britain opposed. The Persian Expeditionary Force disembarked at Bushire, in the Persian Gulf, on 1 February 1857. This campaign resulted in the defeat of the Persians. Adam Gibson fought in the Battle of Koosh-Ab (7 February 1857) and Mohomrah (26 March 1857). The town of Ahvaz was captured by the 78th Highlanders on 1 April 1857 which ended the war, resulting in the Persians withdrawing from Herat and signing a new treaty to surrender their claims on the city.

Gibson's name appears on the British Library roll of the India General Service Medal where he was eligible for the medal with clasp 'Persia' (IOR/L/Mil/5/55).

The Persian Expedition returned to India, to be met, on arrival at Bombay on 22 May with the astonishing intelligence that the entire Bengal Army had mutinied. The battalion was at once sent by sea to Calcutta, then moved to Allahabad. Here the 78th Highlanders formed part of General Havelock's small column and fought the mutineers in several hard-fought battles around Cawnpore and Lucknow.

Gibson was present at the first relief of Lucknow (which had been besieged since 25 May 1857) on 25 September 1857. The relief force joined the garrison, improved the defence and waited for a further relief. It was considered too risky to evacuate



78th Highlanders at Lucknow
(L.W. Desanges (1822-1906))

the civilians due to the losses to the relief force in fighting their way to the Residency at Lucknow. For this service Gibson was awarded the Indian Mutiny Medal with 'Defence of Lucknow' clasp.

The second relief force under General Campbell was much larger and fought their way into the Secundra Bagh, a walled enclosure blocking its route to the Residency on 16 November 1857. The British reached the Residency on 19 November and began evacuations. By 27 November 1857, the residents had been removed and relocated to safe positions. Gibson took part in the capture of Lucknow in March 1858 and was awarded his second Mutiny clasp 'Lucknow' (WO100/38).

This naming on both the Indian Mutiny Medal and 1854 India General Service Medal is in impressed Block Serif Capitals. 'A. GIBSON 78TH, HIGHLANDERS'.

The 78th Highlanders joined the Rohilkund Field Force and took part in the capture of Bareilly and operations against the rebels in Rohilkund. Gibson forfeited his Good Conduct Pay on 3 May 1859. In May 1859, the 78th embarked for home and arrived at Fort George, Inverness on 15 September 1859. Gibson was awarded furlough from 17 October 1859 to 31 December 1859.

In the 1861 Army Census Gibson's name appears, as well as the comment that he had re-engaged for extra service. On 5 May 1860 he was restored his Good Conduct Pay of 1 pence per day. Gibson was stationed at Edinburgh Castle in 1860, then at Aldershot from 1861 to 1863, when his final posting was to Dover Castle from 1863 to 20 February 1864. Here he discharged himself from the army by purchase of £5.

Adam Gibson married Mary Gibson and had a son, James Gibson in 1865. Adam was located on the 1881 and 1891 census as living with his wife, Mary at 6 Flora Street, Leicester, but by the time of the 1901 census, Mary was a widow



Medals of Private Adam Gibson, 78th Highlanders

living at the same address where she died in May 1908. Adam Gibson had died on 29 July 1894 and his death was reported in the *Leicester Chronicle* on the 4 August 1894, when he was aged 69. On his death certificate he is recorded as having died of fibroid phthisis (chronic lung disease) and a weak heart exhaustion. It also listed his occupation as a factory time/gate keeper at a worsted mill. Adam Gibson was buried on 1 August 1894 at Welford Road Cemetery in Leicester in a plot that now contains his wife and his only son as well.

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The naming on the India Mutiny Medal to Adam Gibson

Midshipman Roberts: an Abyssinian veteran

by Robert J. Paterson

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SYDNEY ROBERTS was a naval officer serving in the mid-nineteenth century who received one of the most striking and expensive campaign medals made for his service as a midshipman in the Abyssinian Expedition but, as it transpired, he may have been more at home on land than at sea.

Sydney Archibald Roberts was born on 10 April 1848, at Delhi, India, the son of Arthur Austin Roberts, CB, CSI of the Bengal Civil Service, who was Judicial Commissioner in the Punjab, and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel William Henville Wood of the Bengal Army. Three of his brothers served in the Indian Army; two of them attained high rank, *viz.* Major-General Arthur William Roberts (1842-1899), and Lieutenant-Colonel Allen Scott Roberts (1845-1932). A third brother, Lieutenant Stephen William Thornhill Roberts (1854-1879), died early from cholera. As children, he and his siblings travelled to England with their parents and in 1851 they were staying with his grandfather, Browne Roberts, a retired East India merchant and agent residing at Ravensbourne Park, Lewisham, Kent. Most likely he remained in England for his education. He

appears as a student in 1861 at the Royal Academy, Alverstoke, Hampshire.

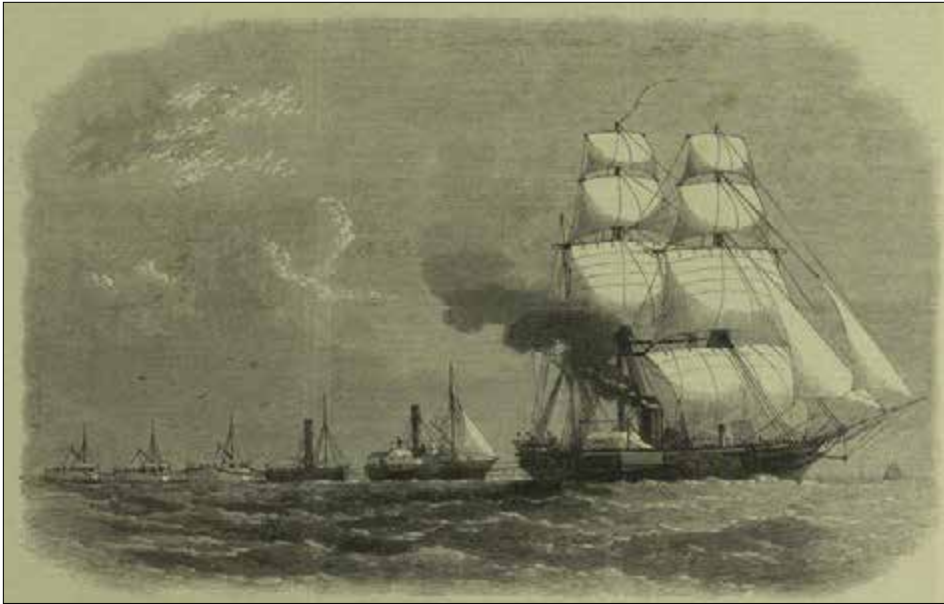
He entered the Royal Navy as a Naval Cadet on 10 December 1861 in the training ship *HMS Britannia*, at Portsmouth. In the following February, the *Britannia* moved to Portland and Roberts was among the cadets who made the voyage in the ship. He returned to Portsmouth and, on 21 March 1863, was posted to the flagship *HMS Victory*. His service at sea began on 5 May 1863 when he was appointed to the *Royal Oak*, an ironclad steam frigate, shortly after she was commissioned for the Channel Squadron, and there he was rated Midshipman on 25 September 1863. The following January she transferred to the Mediterranean, the first British ironclad warship to serve on that station. After serving there for almost four years, the *Royal Oak* returned to England and was paid off on 13 December 1867 at Portsmouth. Roberts was again posted to *HMS Victory*.

The Abyssinian Expedition

Still at Portsmouth, on 29 February 1868 he joined the steam troopship *HMS Simoom* and embarked for the East Indies, where he served during the



Abyssinian War Medal to Sydney Archibald Roberts



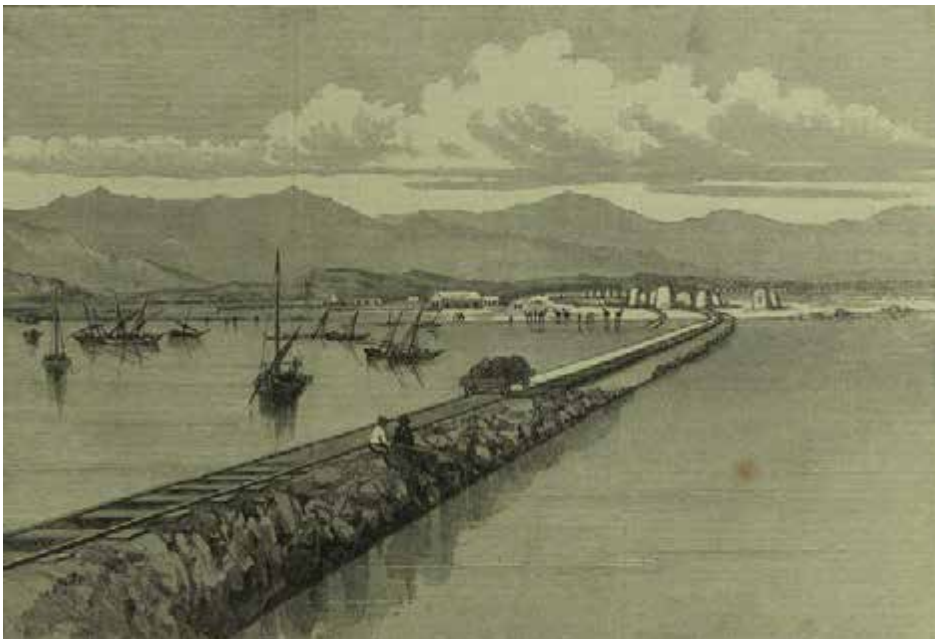
HMS *Argus* towing a steam-tug, a steam-lighter and three lighters to Massowah

punitive expedition against King Theodore of Abyssinia for imprisoning the British Consul and other British subjects. Once there, Roberts briefly served in *Satellite*, a corvette, and then *Spiteful*, a paddle-wheel sloop, before joining *Argus*, another paddle-wheel sloop.

The Navy had a minor although essential role in the Abyssinian Expedition. The place selected for the landing of the troops was Zulla (Zula), a small village below Massowah (Massawa), in Annesley Bay on the Red Sea coast. Here the

ships anchored, the sailors constructed piers and store houses, wells were dug and mules and cattle purchased. They were also fully employed seeing that some 291 transport vessels, besides numerous tugs, lighters, and native craft, were engaged in the operations.

The expeditionary force, under Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Napier, took three months to trek about four hundred miles across difficult country, over mountains eleven thousand feet above sea level to the fortress at Magdala, where



Pier and landing-place at Zulla, Annesley Bay

Theodore had retreated upon news of the British advance. After a decisive battle on Good Friday, 10 April, Magdala was captured, Theodore committed suicide and the hostages were released. This was an arduous campaign with the potential for disaster but remarkably there were only two British fatalities. For his services during the campaign Roberts was awarded the Abyssinia Medal.

The Admiralty published the following Notice in *The London Gazette* of 7 June 1870:

NAVAL MEDALS FOR THE
ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION.

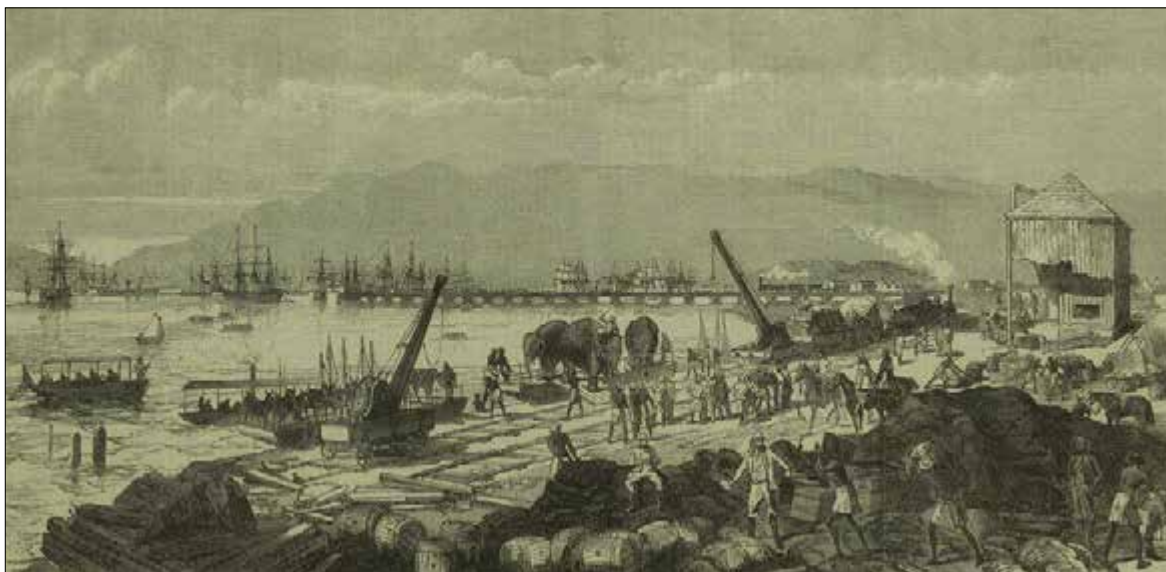
Admiralty, S.W., 2nd June, 1870.

HER Majesty having been graciously pleased to signify Her pleasure that a Medal be granted to the officers and men of the Royal Navy and Marines who were employed in the operations in Abyssinia, which resulted in the capture of Magdala, or who were borne in the under mentioned ships when employed in the Red Sea, between the 4th October, 1867, and 19th April, 1868, viz.:—“Argus,” “Nymphé,” “Star,” “Dryad,” “Octavia,” “Satellite,” “Daphne,” “Spiteful,” “Vigilant.” Notice is hereby given, that all claimants for the Medal, notwithstanding any previous applications made by them, should apply, either personally, at the Medal Branch, Admiralty, Somerset House, or by letter, addressed to the Accountant General of the Navy and Comptroller of Navy Pay, Admiralty, S.W., with the words “Medal Branch” on the left hand corner of the envelope. Every claimant should state the rank or rating held by him during the operations, and the name of the ship or ships on board which he served, also in the case of every petty officer, seaman, marine, or boy, it is indispensable that his application should be

accompanied by his certificate of service, except he should be serving on board any of Her Majesty’s Ship’s, or at any of the Marine Head Quarters, in which case the application must be made through his commanding officer.

Fewer than 2,000 of these medals were awarded to the Royal Navy, 177 to members of the ships company of the *Argus*, 23 of them to her officers. The medal he received was sent to him on 1 September 1870 and is named: S. A. ROBERTS MIDSN. H.M.S. ARGUS.

Following the successful conclusion of the campaign the *Argus* resumed normal duties in the East Indies and while serving aboard her Roberts passed his examination in seamanship and attained the rank of Acting Sub-Lieutenant on 20 July 1868, at Bombay. The *Argus* later proceeded to the China station, then to the Cape of Good Hope & West Coast of Africa station before eventually being ordered home. She was paid off on 3 December 1869 at Portsmouth. He was then sent to *Excellent*, the gunnery training ship at Portsmouth, for a gunnery course. He then spent a term at the Royal Naval College and, on passing out, was confirmed as sub lieutenant. Rejoining the fleet on 1 July 187, he was appointed to HMS *Northumberland*, an ironclad steam frigate, in the Channel Squadron. His final appointment, on 29 April 1872, was to the steam sloop *Racer*, a tender to the *Boscawen*, a boys’ training ship at Portland, and he remained there until his promotion to lieutenant on 3 September 1872. He retired on 26 February 1873, under Order in Council of 22



The shore at Zulla, Annesley Bay

February 1870, following his short and perhaps less than illustrious career.

After leaving the service, he eventually migrated to Canada and settled in Victoria, Vancouver Island, British Columbia where, on 16 May 1885, he was appointed a Dominion Land Surveyor, Topographical Surveys Branch, for the Department of the Interior, a post he would hold for nearly 30 years. In 1902 he published a book on astronomy entitled *Azimuths of the North Pole Star*. On 28 January 1909, at St. John's Church, Victoria, he married 40-year-old widow Madeleine Tweedale, daughter of John Harper, of Liskeard, Cornwall. He and his wife returned to England in May 1912 aboard the Canadian Pacific Line SS *Lake Champlain*, crossing the Atlantic just weeks after the loss of the *Titanic*.

He was 66 at the outbreak of the Great War and was not recalled for service but during that year he was promoted on the Retired List to the newly instituted rank of Lieutenant Commander, with seniority dated 3 September 1880. The 1921 Census records they were living on the south coast, at Bognor, West Sussex. They later moved to

Brighton, East Sussex, where Lt Cdr S. A. Roberts died on 31 October 1928, aged 80.

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The National Archives:

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ADM 171/36, Abyssinia Medal Roll

The society's new President: Andrew Mann BSc, FCA

Andrew joined the OMRS in 2006, and since 2012 has been Chairman of the OMRS Surrey Branch. He joined the Executive in 2020, and as Trustee has taken an active role in the management of the Society during the last four years. Periodically, he also presents medal-themed talks for the OMRS Branches and other clubs in London and the South of England.

Andrew is a lifelong medal collector, starting his passion for collecting as a boy in Leeds along with a friend whose family had links to a local medal dealer. Andrew's collection has grown and diversified over the past 45 years, with a focus on naval campaign medals, but with an eclectic approach which has seen campaign and gallantry groups added for all three services, together with life-saving and long service awards.

Professionally, Andrew is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. His 40-year career in accountancy and in both internal and external auditing in the financial services sector drew to a close in mid-2024, when he took early retirement, prompting him to seek to increase his contribution to the

Society. He lives in Surrey with his wife, Jill, and their two grown-up children.



A case study of brooched medals

by Andrew Wilson



Collar with medallions containing coins of Emperors
(The Metropolitan Museum of Art)

The practice of brooching medals dates from the first-issued British campaign medals and extends into the 20th century. Modern collectors have yet to identify one specific motivation for mounting medals, but several hypotheses have emerged. Once assumed to have been modified solely for wear by female relations, the truth turns out to be slightly more complex than that.

Brooches date from the Bronze Age and were initially used to fasten items of clothing. Gradually, they took on a decorative form, becoming popular in the Victorian era, contemporaneous to the awarding of Britain's first general campaign medals.¹ In this period, the uncovering of Etruscan, Greek and Roman ruins caused a surge

in archaeological revivalism, breathing life into coin jewellery.²

The manufacture of pieces of jewellery with coins as their centrepieces was not a new concept, having been practised for as long as man has used currency. Forming money into jewellery was a powerful statement of wealth. The image on the previous page depicts a collar containing the coins of Emperors Lucius Verus and Alexander Severus dating from c 225AD. This was created some 1,591 years prior to the authorisation of the Waterloo Medal. It can be presumed that coin jewellery developed into jewellery adapted from military medals once silver, mass-produced examples of these became available. While the phaleristic value of war medals has not always been appreciated in past times, they may have proved a more solid and weighty alternative to pounds and shillings. This produces the first hypothesis as to why medals were broached: as an alternative to coin jewellery.



A broached Cabul 1842 medal to the 9th Regiment
(Courtesy Noonans)

The image above features a 'C' catch without safety mechanism, showing the pin extending several millimetres beyond the catch itself.³ The style of its different parts dates the brooch to around the same period in which the medal was issued.⁴

The hypothesis postulated by collectors, is that medals were broached in order to be worn. There are medals to battle and campaign casualties that concur with this assumption and they may also have been altered following the natural death of their recipients. The medal shown at the top of the next column may have been broached by the wife of William Hargraves who, as shown in the 1851 census, had survived her husband.⁵ This would have been a very effective way of remembering him by, the design of which echoes the period of Victorian romanticism, when mourning jewellery was very much in vogue.



A broached Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 to the 6th Foot
(Courtesy Noonans)

While evidence of the intention behind the modification of medals is few and far between, William Cousins' Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 was modified by a fellow soldier to be worn by his wife (see below).⁶ Therefore, it is possible to support the hypothesis that medals were created into pieces to be worn for their sentimental value.



A broached Military General Service Medal 1793-1814 to the 1st Foot
(Courtesy Noonans)

The Victorian era was a period of ardent patriotism and expressing loyalty to the Queen was highly fashionable. Wearing the Queen's bust close to one's breast emphasised the wearer's allegiance to her. Medals that were returned to the mint unclaimed, were somehow repurposed into charms of this kind. Image 5 demonstrates one such medal that has been mounted for wear as a pendant.⁷ The feminine style of its design, leaves no doubt that this medal was worn by a lady after the recipient did not claim the medal. Whether these were bought directly from the mint or fabricated unofficially remains unknown, but the recipient's details were not burred into anonymity by the jeweller.

Next we see another example of a medal that has been made into a pendant, by a husband for his wife.⁸ It could be assumed that the recipient, Arthur, erased and renamed the disc of his medal with the text 'Arthur to his dear wife Mary'. The medal was lightly gilded and fitted with its own



**Trooper Blackbeard's South
Africa Medal 1877-79**
(Courtesy Noonans)

leather case. While the medal's recipient may not have valued the medal as a reminder of his time in India, it could be argued that he was far more likely to have been thoroughly proud of this medal, and of his service there, his wife may have been far keener on it as a piece of patriotic jewellery. Great care and cost were taken to repurpose the medal completely beyond its original form, as well as to re-engrave the planchet.

However, some of those who converted medals to brooches and other pieces of jewellery, valued



**An Indian Mutiny Medal 1857-59
converted as a dedication from
husband to wife**
(Courtesy Noonans)

the inherent beauty of the medal and not just the obverse of the Queen's bust. At the top of the next column we see a swivelling, brooch-mounted example, often seen on Victorian campaign medals.⁹ For the extra cost of manufacturing this mechanism, both sides of this MGS 1793-1814

can be displayed. The high-quality striking and materials used in the production of early campaign medals, justified having both the obverse and reverse displayed. In this manner, the intended military purpose of the medal was spared as both sides of the planchet could be displayed.

One of the enduring myths that has been perpetuated, is that medals were only mounted



**A swivelling, brooch-mounted Military General Service
Medal 1793-1814 to the 4th Foot**
(Courtesy Noonans)

to be worn by women. This Arctic Medal 1818-55 (see top next page) features the medal and suspender attached to an Albert chain.¹⁰ Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort, popularised this chain and bar apparatus as a method of hanging pocket timepieces, before the advent of the wristwatch.¹¹ This was very much a masculine fashion, perhaps commissioned by the recipient himself who wished to wear his medal daily but less conspicuously than by a ribbon on his breast. Another possibility is that the use of a chain was sturdier than a ribbon and prevented the medal from either being lost or stolen. Mounting the medal from a fob may have been a descendant's way of remembering the service of his father or grandfather.

It is not an antiquated concept for medals to be worn as jewellery. An important Naval General Service Medal 1793-1840 came onto the collectors' market with an unusual provenance.¹² It had been purchased at a silver market in Sri Lanka during the 1980s and worn by the vendor's wife as a piece of jewellery since then (see next page, right). In this case, the owner had not realised that the piece was named along its edge. The quality and aesthetics of early British campaign medals are enduring, and it is these characteristics that lend themselves to being repurposed as fashionable trinkets.

Therefore, there were many motivations for the brooching and mounting of medals to create jewellery from military medals. For some, this was



An Arctic Medal 1818-55
mounted on an Albert chain
(Courtesy Noonans)

a way of remembering their ancestors' service. For others, it was akin to the commercial coin jewellery of the Victorian era. Patriotism and displaying the Queen's bust were certainly considerations and there is no indication in any literature to suggest that modifying medals was illegal or undesirable. In fact, the practice elucidates medals as objects of art and beauty, to be worn by both women and men.

Notes (and Sources)

¹ Gordon, Maj L.L. & Joslin E.C. (1979), *British Battles and Medals* 5th Edition. Spink, London pp 178-79

² McCarthy C. *Jewelry Revivals: Archaeological Style*. The Jewelry Loupe. Available from www.thejewelryloupe.com/jewelry-revivals-archaeological-style/. Accessed 13 May 2022

³ DNW 23 June 2021 lot 632

⁴ Chervenka M. *Dating Brooch Fasteners – 1850 to 1910*. Available from www.realorrep.com/article/Dating-brooch-fasteners. Accessed 13 May 2022

⁵ The National Archives (TNA): WO 97/281; *1851 England Census* HO107/2270/333, p 17. His medal appeared at DNW 19 July 2018 lot 1140



A ring-mounted Naval General Service Medal 1793-1840 to Admiral Plumridge (Courtesy Spink)

⁶ DNW 18 July 2018 lot 1139. Available from www.noonans.co.uk/auctions/archive/lot-archive/results/315187/. Accessed 13 May 2022

⁷ DNW 11 May 2017 lot 755

⁸ DNW 23 February 2022 lot 672

⁹ DNW 5 March 2020 lot 1226

¹⁰ DNW 8 September 2015 lot 537

¹¹ AC Silver. *Albert Watch Chain History*. Available from <https://shorturl.at/FOPzH>

XVII European Conference of Phaleristics Societies Brussels, 31 May -2 June 2024

Nearly 100 people from 13 countries attended the conference hosted by the Studiekring Falerstiek vzw (SKF) in Brussels. After a meet and greet at the hotel, participants and their partners were taken to the Royal Library to admire some of their collection of over 6.000 medals (a large portion donated by a prolific collector). In addition, there was a display of the medals and orders of Queen Elisabeth who was Queen of the Belgians from 1909 to 1934. These are not owned by the library but were loaned for the occasion and was the first time her awards have been on display. Partners were given a tour of the James Ensor exhibition also at the library.

The following morning was taken up by six succinct presentations all with a Belgium theme but of general interest. They included how medals of the First World War are incorporated into the headstones of those who fell. They ended with a more light hearted look at the awards made to

Manneken Pis. Partners went to the Chocolate Museum which included the chance to make their own chocolate. The afternoon was taken up with a guided tour of Brussels followed by a gala dinner with the guest speaker being General Van den Put whose awards were on display. The following morning was spent at the very impressive Royal Army Museum (with partners at the nearby Royal Art and History Museum). Following this a farewell lunch was held at a nearby restaurant.

During the welcome address from the president of SKF, the delegates stood for a brief moment of silence in memory of a Belgian member and for Bob Bartrop, both regulars at many European Phaleristic Conventions. Graham Pitchfork, representing the OMRS, presented Jan-Marie Van Wijnsberghe, President of the SKF, with the OMRS Commendation Medal with thanks for the hard work involved in making a success of the conference.

Symbols of decorations

Captain-commander Lequeux Armand, 5th Line Regiment, died on September 12, 1914.
Buried at B.M.B. Veltem-Beisem.

Officer Order of Leopold, War Cross en Military Cross 1^o class




1 Victory Medal, 2 Commemorative Medal of the War 1914-1918, 3 Commemorative Medal of the Leopold II Government, 4 Service Star, 5 Royal Order of the Lion and 6 Royal Order of the Lion gold medal.

Peter roots SKF 2024 21

An example of the standard plaque, incorporating awards, appearing on the headstones of Belgian Great War casualties.

The conference was very well organised and, as always, it was good to meet up with friends sharing the common interest. OMRS members are encouraged to participate and join the next one

to be held in Germany. The exact location has not yet been confirmed but watch out for the details which will be communicated when known.



The miniatures awarded to the guest speaker were on display.

Reunite with a sad ending

by Richard A Flory, California

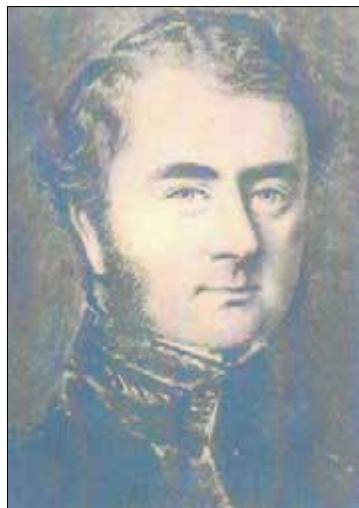
OVER THE YEARS OF COLLECTING MEDALS to 20th Century Royal Artillery officers, I have had the good luck of making over forty reunites, but this reunite ranks as one of the most interesting in terms of his career and the controversy over his death.

In August of 1998 I purchased a single 1914 Star and bar to 'LIEUT. R. WYLLIE / R.G.A.' from a Canadian dealer. I usually do not purchase single Great War medals, but this single was attractive because the recipient had been a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich and came from a military family.



The naming on the reverse of Lieutenant Ronald Wyllie's 1914 Star.

His father was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Staff Corps; his grandfather was Colonel Robert E. Wyllie, KCB, HEIC; and his great-grandfather was General Sir William Wyllie, GCB, HEIC. He also had numerous more distant relatives who had been regular officers in the British Army or the Honourable East India Company and two brothers who were killed in action while serving with the British Army.



Colonel Robert E. Wyllie



General Sir William Wyllie

Eighteen years later, in September 2016, I was looking through the sales list of another Canadian dealer when much to my surprise I found a British War Medal / First World War Victory Medal pair named to 'MAJOR R. WYLLIE'. A quick check of the "World War I Service Medal and Awards Rolls" on Ancestry indicated that the only 'Major R. Wyllie' receiving a Great War pair was my Ronald Wyllie. Quickly contacting the dealer by phone, the deal was made and the reunite of Wyllie's 1914 Star to his Great War pair was complete. Adding to my interest in the pair was that Wyllie had been thrice mentioned in despatches during the Great War and that his Victory Medal was a Type I Victory Medal that was awarded to Wyllie on 8 November 1920.¹

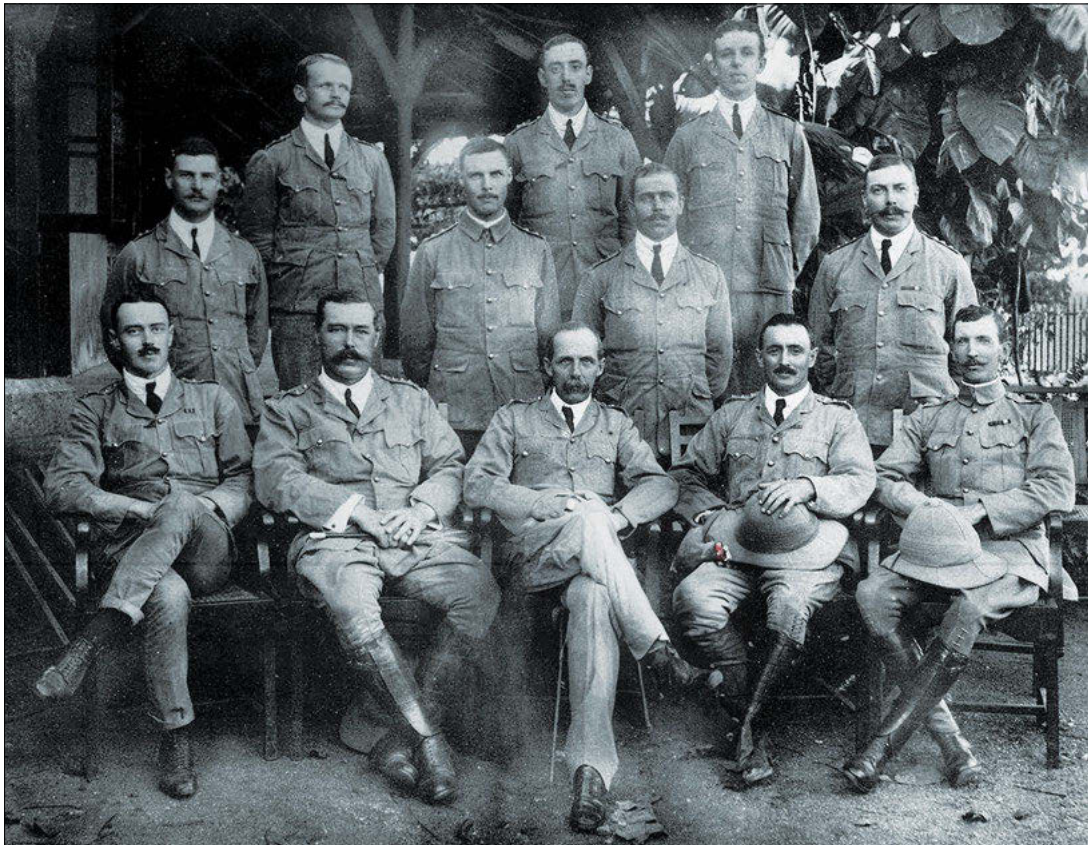
Wyllie was born in Bareilly, India on 13 March 1886, the son of Lieutenant Colonel Robert John Humphrey Wyllie of the Indian Staff Corps and his wife, Emily Wyllie (née Titcomb). Educated at Highgate School from September 1899 to July



Major Wyllie's 1914 Star and bar trio.

1904 he served on the School's Shooting VIII from 1901 to 1903. Appointed a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, he was

commissioned 2nd lieutenant, Royal Garrison Artillery on 25 July 1906.



The officers of 79th Company, R.G.A. at Bombay, India in 1910. Lieutenant Wyllie is at the far left of the middle row.

From 1906 to 1907, he served as a 2nd lieutenant in No. 40 Company at Dover and from October 1907 to at least March 1908 was posted to No. 1 Company on Malta. He was promoted to lieutenant, R.G.A. on 25 July 1909. From January 1909 to 1910 he served with No. 79 Company, at Bombay, India and then went to Aden with that company in 1910. In 1910 he married Clarice Bryant Wyllie of 12 Brandreth Road, Portsmouth and they had three children: Diana Kathleen born on 26 April 1912; Joyce Victoria, born on 9 January 1914; and Dorothy May, born on 21 July 1917.

In late 1912 Wyllie transferred to No. 7 Company, R.G.A. and served with that unit in Aden until November 1913. He was posted to No. 46 Company, R.G.A. at Dover in December 1913 and served in that post until the beginning of the Great War. From 5 August 1914 to 13 March 1915, he served in France as a General Staff Officer, 3rd Grade, attached to the General Staff for cipher work at the Headquarters of the Inspector General of Communications. He was promoted to captain on 30 October 1914 and then served with 2nd Heavy Brigade, R.G.A. In the *London Gazette* of 17 February 1915, he was mentioned in despatches. Wyllie was posted to 8th Siege Battery, R.G.A. at Neuve Chapelle on 30 March 1915 and transferred to the Lahore Divisional Ammunition Column on 15 April 1915.

From April 1915 to 25 July 1916 he served with 9th Siege Battery, R.G.A. in France. At 1:00pm on 25 July 1916 Wyllie joined 23rd Siege Battery at Maricourt, as battery commander. On 26 July 1916 at 3:15pm the enemy placed a very intense bombardment by 5.9-inch guns on the battery position with about one hundred rounds falling in the vicinity of the battery in 13 minutes. There was little material damage, but Captain R. Wyllie, Acting Bombardier J. Parle and Gunner G. Lytle were wounded, and Serjeant A. Witt was killed.

On 12 January 1917 he was appointed an acting major, and from then until 8 August 1917 he served in France as Battery Commander, 221st Siege Battery, R.G.A., being mentioned in despatches in the *London Gazette* of 14 December 1917. On 8 August 1917 he was hospitalised due to a fever

of unknown origin but was released to duty on 17 August 1917. He returned to France in command of the 100th Siege Battery, R.G.A. and served in that capacity from 25 April 1918 to the end of the war. He was again mentioned in despatches in the *London Gazette* of 7 July 1919.

During 1919 and 1920 he was a Major in the Indian Mountain Artillery, serving in Mesopotamia and Palestine. He then was posted as a captain to No. 6 (Hampshire) Fire Command at Freshwater, Isle of Wight and later as a captain in No. 8 Fire Command at the same location. During 1921 and early 1922 he was a captain in the Portsmouth and Portland Coast Defences, R.G.A. and from 26 September 1922 until his death he was adjutant of the Devon Royal Garrison Artillery, Territorial Army (later the Devonshire Coast Brigade, R. G. A., T. A.) and lived at Ellerslie, Gatton Corner, Redhill.

How Major Ronald Wyllie died has been a subject of some debate. Robert Foran, a researcher of the Wyllie family states that Major Wyllie was 'killed on March 25, 1925 by a gun explosion.'² The Wyllie Home Page³ makes a similar statement. This may well be a family 'story', possibly devised to hide the real details of his death, as official publications and newspapers give a different date and tell a different story as to the cause of his death. The *R.A. Regimental News*⁴ of April 1925 under 'Deaths' indicates that he died on 9 March 1925, as does the *1925 Probate Calendar of England and Wales*⁵ According to the newspapers⁶ at 1:45 pm on 9 March 1925 Wyllie's body was found in a field at Egguckland, near Plymouth, with a revolver lying at his side. He was suffering from a gunshot wound to the front portion of his forehead. Dr. Thomas Olver of Crownhill estimated that Wyllie had been dead for two to three hours, that death was instantaneous, and the wound was self-inflicted. Sergeant Major Blackwell of the Devon Heavy Brigade, R.A. indicated that the deceased had always been cheerful, but had taken ill with lumbago just after Christmas and about two weeks before his death had looked very ill. Based on the testimony, the coroner's jury returned a verdict of 'suicide during temporary insanity.' Captain Wyllie was buried at Plymouth Corporation Cemetery, Efford on 12 March 1925.

WYLLIE.—On the 9th March 1925, suddenly, Capt. R. Wyllie, R.A., beloved husband of Clarice Wyllie, 12 Brandreth Road, Plymouth, aged 39 years.

Extract from *RA Regimental News*, April 1925.

WYLLIE Ronald of 12 Brandreth-road Mannamead Plymouth died 9 March 1925 at Eggbuckland Crown Hill near Plymouth Administration **London** 12 May to Clarice Annie Mary Wyllie widow. Effects £485 9s. 4d.

Extract from the *Probate Calendar of England and Wales, 1925*.



Extract from *The Western Times*, 13 March 1925, p. 3

He left an estate of £485 9s 4d to his widow, Clarice Annie Mary Wyllie.

Notes

¹ For information on the Type I Victory Medal see the following articles by the author: (1) "The Type I Victory Medal, 1914-19." *Journal of the Orders & Medals Research Society*, Vol 48, No. 3 (September 1909), p. 145-152, and (2) "The Type I Victory Medal, 1914-19: a Sequel." *Journal of the Orders & Medals Research Society*, Vol 53, No. 3 (September 1914), p. 204-209

² Robert Foran (researcher of the Wyllie family), personal communication, 9 September 1999

³ 'The Wyllie Home Page' (created and maintained by Garth Wyllie), www.wyllie.org.nz/history

⁴ 'Deaths,' *R. A. Regimental News*, April 1925, p. 476

⁵ National Probate Calendar of England & Wales, 1858-1995, www.ancestry.co.uk/

Book notice

Honours and Awards Kenya 1952 – 1960 by Hugh Stott (2024), hardback, 316 pages including biographical notes and index, ISBN 978-1-3999-9773-7, price is £35.00 plus postage.

Hugh Stott has recorded the honours and awards earned between 1952 and 1956, which marked the end of the qualification period for the Africa General Service Medal, by all agencies that made up the security forces during the Kenya Emergency of 1952 – 1960. He has also included those civilians who received awards having been attacked in their homes and beaten off their attackers. These awards are all referenced to their entry in the *London Gazette* and where available their citations obtained from the UK National Archives, *The London Gazette*, *Kenya Official Gazette*, Government House Investitures, official government sources and in a few instances from magazines and websites.

Whilst predominantly a reference book, the citations reveal an extraordinary depth of courage and loyalty giving a vivid, contemporary picture of the Emergency

and the conditions under which the civilians and the security forces lived and operated. The book also conveys something of the social history of the time in that the junior officers in the British Army, seconded junior officers in The King's African Rifles and other ranks in the British Army and all those in the Kenya Regiment where conscripts. They were expected to work well outside their comfort zone and take responsibility well above their age and experience.

1,027 awards are recorded. Perhaps uniquely in one campaign 17 George Medals were awarded, two of which were with Bars. There was one Distinguished Service Order and one Distinguished Conduct Medal awarded. Of the 50 Colonial Police Medals (Gallantry) awarded, an African assistant inspector of police was the only recipient of a bar. The names of all recipients are listed in an index.

To order a book please contact Hugh on the following email - hugh.stott2@gmail.com. The cost of P&P within the UK is £5, for overseas locations please email for a price.

John Mahoney of the 47th Foot: Army of India Medal 1799-1826 with clasp for 'Ava'

by David I. Walker

I BOUGHT JOHN MAHONEY'S MEDAL at auction in 2021 because I wished to have an Army of India Medal (1799-1826) with clasp 'AVA'¹ for the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824-26) in my collection. His medal, which I noted was the type with the short-hyphen reverse, is named 'J. MAHONEY 47TH FOOT'.

This medal was previously sold by Spink in July 1998. Mahoney's name appears on the Army of India Medal Roll at the British Library (IOR/L/MIL/5/42) and on page 41 of *The Army of India Medal Roll 1799-1826* by R.W. Gould and Captain K.J. Douglas-Morris. Mahoney's medal was not accompanied by any paperwork when I acquired it, but it was apparent from my initial research that John had left behind a trail of official records that would allow his story to be discovered.

My first step was to consult the online records of The National Archives, where I found the surviving service record for Private John Mahoney in WO97/617.96, as well as his extant pension records (WO23/12). His original attestation form was still attached to his discharge papers, which is extremely rare to have survived from that time.



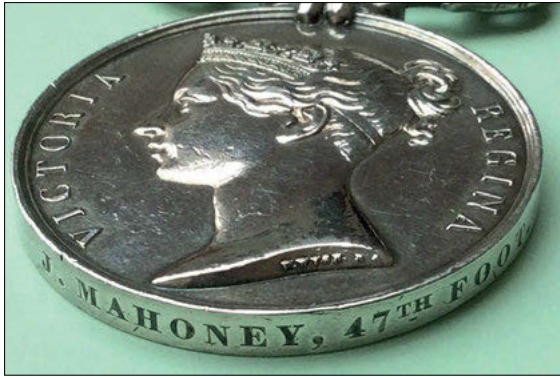
Army of India Medal (1799-1826) with clasp 'AVA' -
John Mahoney, 47th Foot (obverse and reverse)
(Author's Collection)

The 47th Foot Regimental Musters for the period from 1820 to 1840 (WO12/5893-5912) were also consulted at The National Archives at Kew. These records provided a great deal of information that was not included in Mahoney's service record, such as the places he was stationed and even some of the ships he sailed on during his 22-year career. I also used the Army Pension Records to locate his date of death and determine where he died.

John Mahoney was born in St. Mary's Parish in Dublin, Ireland in 1800 and was baptised on 11 March 1800 by his parents, Jeremiah Mahoney (1774-1825) and Mary-Ann Elizabeth Mahoney (nee Raybould 1775-1827). John enlisted on 30 July 1819 and attested for the 47th Foot at Dublin on 31 July 1819 when he was 19 years old. He was described in his attestation form as being 5 feet 7 ½ inches tall, with a fair complexion, grey eyes, fair hair and a scar on his right thigh. Mahoney was literate despite being described as a labourer, and he signed his own name on his attestation form. He thus became a private in the 47th Foot with regimental number 102.

John's enlistment was finally approved at Dover on 20 September 1819 and he sailed from Chatham to join his regiment, stationed in India since 1817. He arrived on 2 May 1820 at Fort George, Bombay, where he remained until December 1821. The 47th Foot were then moved to be stationed at Poona from January 1821 to September 1824, when they were transferred to Calcutta on the ship 'London'. This move to Calcutta was occasioned by the outbreak of the First Burma War on 6 March 1824 and the threat to the city from the advance in the Arakan of the Burmese Army. The 47th Foot were garrisoned at Fort William at Calcutta from October to December 1824. While serving here, the regiment was involved in the bloody suppression of the Barrackpore Mutiny, which occurred at a barracks 15 miles north of Calcutta on 2 November 1824. The mutiny involved three regiments of Bengal Native Infantry who refused to take part in the First Burma War, due to a lack of transport.

John Mahoney sailed from Calcutta to Rangoon in Ava (Burma) in January 1825, where he was to see action in the First Anglo-Burmese War until



Naming on Mahoney's Army of India Medal
(Author's Collection)

March 1826. He got into a bit of trouble shortly after arriving in Rangoon, being tried and found guilty by a regimental court-martial on 31 January 1825 for producing a forged will, for which he was convicted but forgiven due to his previous good service.

Mahoney fought in the battles of Danubyu (27 March to 1 April 1825) and Prome (1-2 December 1825) with his regiment and took part in the advance up the Irrawaddy towards the Burmese capital at Ava. The 47th Foot also fought in the Battles of Malun (19 January 1826) and Pagan (9 February 1826) which defeated the 10,000 Burmese forces making a final last stand trying to stop the British advance towards the capital of Ava. The village of Yandabo, less than 50 miles from Ava and the palace of the Burmese King Bagyidau, was captured on 16 February 1826. The Burmese finally surrendered on 24 February 1826, thus ending the two-year long war with the Treaty of Yandabo.

At war's end, the 47th Foot sailed in April 1826 from Rangoon back to Calcutta on the ship *John Manning*, returning to Fort William. They were stationed at Calcutta until December 1826 when they were then transferred to Berhampore (West Bengal) until December 1828. While they were stationed at Berhampore, Mahoney received a series of promotions. He was promoted to corporal on 2 March 1828, but served in that rank for only 122 days until 1 July 1828, before being again promoted to sergeant on 2 July 1828; he remained in that rank until 31 December 1828, before receiving a final promotion to colour sergeant on 1 January 1829. The regiment moved back to Calcutta in January 1829, before sailing on 1 March 1829 to return to England after completing their tour of duty. They arrived at Chatham on 21 September 1829, and Mahoney moved with his regiment to garrison Dover until December 1829.

While his regiment was based at Portsmouth, in January 1830, newly promoted Colour Sergeant John Mahoney was shipped to Dublin, where he spent the next year recruiting, continuing in this role until May 1831. In October 1831 the 47th Foot was moved to Edinburgh, then Glasgow before sailing on 4 January 1832 to Ireland, where they performed garrison duties at Armagh, Newry, Belfast and Londonderry. John Mahoney finally arrived at his home city when he was garrisoned at Dublin in April 1835.

His regiment sailed for Gibraltar in July 1835, but John Mahoney remained at the 47th Foot Regimental Depot in Dublin, where he served as Pay Sergeant from May 1835 to September 1838,



'Through pathless forests and fever laden jungles'

which is somewhat remarkable given his previous conviction for forgery! While in Dublin, Mahoney was in hospital from 1 to 5 October 1836 and 13 to 17 October 1836, with the reason for this unfortunately unknown.

Colour Sergeant John Mahoney embarked at Portsmouth for Malta to re-join his regiment on 12 September 1838, arriving at Malta in October 1838 where he was on detachment at Gozo from November 1838 till October 1840. Mahoney was medically examined and declared as being unfit for further service on 30 September 1840. He was found to have impaired vision and chronic hepatitis, with the Regimental Surgeon indicating that his disease or disability was not due to design or misconduct.

He was described as a very good and efficient soldier and non-commissioned soldier, sober, trustworthy and seldom in hospital. Colour-Sergeant John Mahoney was released to be discharged to pension at Malta on 30 September 1840. He embarked for England on 5 October 1840, sailing from Malta onboard the transport *Sovereign*.

On arrival in England, Mahoney was temporarily attached to the depot. At Chatham Military General Hospital, Mahoney was re-examined by the Principal Medical Officer on 2 December 1840 who agreed that he was unfit for further service and liable to be permanently disqualified for military service. Colour Sergeant John Mahoney was finally discharged at Chatham on 26 December 1840 after 21 years and 152 days service. Of this, 9 years and 3 months had been spent abroad in India and Burma. Mahoney was given an extra four years and 237 days service towards his total service pension due to serving overseas in the East Indies, thus giving a total pensionable service of 26 years and 24 days.

He was admitted aged 40 as an invalid on the pension list on 23 December 1840 and his pension started on 15 July 1841.

After his release from military service, John Mahoney married Martha Matilda Barnes (1815-1900) in 1841. He was living in the Limerick Army Pension District in 1865 (WO23/58-3). He and Martha had a daughter, Lucy Mahoney (1841-1916) who died at London on 12 February 1916. John Mahoney died at Lisgriffon, Cork in Ireland on 28 October 1876.



John Mahoney in later life
(Ancestry)

Notes

¹ Ava (now called InWa), located 13 miles south of Mandalay, was the capital of the Burmese Empire at the time of the campaign. It was destroyed in March 1839 by earthquakes, and abandoned, never being re-built.

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The New South Wales Fire Brigades Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

by Station Officer Ian Grimwood AFSM

THE RECOGNITION of long service and good conduct (LS&GC) within the British system of honours and awards began when medals for LS&GC were instituted for the army in 1830 and the Royal Navy in 1831. This set a precedent, which would eventually make this form of recognition an integral component of national honours and awards systems for various uniformed services of the Commonwealth nations, including firefighters.

In London, an act of parliament in 1865 established the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which in due course instituted a LS&GC Medal in 1883. The medal was struck in bronze, with the obverse showing a female figure sitting on a dias. She wears a mural crown and holds a spear in her left hand. At her side is a shield bearing the arms of the City of London. In her right hand she holds a laurel wreath out towards a kneeling firefighter. The background depicts two helmeted male firefighters and a ruined building wreathed in smoke.

Round the outer edge are the words 'METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE'. The reverse has the words 'FOR LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT' inside a wreath of oak leaves. The ribbon is plain scarlet. The name of the recipient could be engraved on the lower edge of the medal, but this was done at the recipient's own expense.

These were followed by medals issued exclusively to members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (renamed the London Fire Brigade (LFB) in 1904) by the London City Council, for 'Good Service', instituted in 1897, 1905 and 1923.

New South Wales - Foundation

Out in Australia, early firefighting in New South Wales was initially conducted by the resident military forces and a number of small insurance and volunteer-based fire brigades located predominantly around central Sydney. No doubt following the London model, the local Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) was established under the *Fire Brigades Act* on 14 February 1884.

Of the 29 foundation members of the MFB, two were ex-LFB and two were ex-Royal Navy. Importantly, the Superintendent was William Bear, ex-LFB. Former seamen were given preferential

treatment in gaining employment and this had a major bearing on the structure, training and protocols of the newly-established brigade.

Establishment of the MFB LS&GC Medal

A report dated 15 July 1902 from former LFB officer, Superintendent Webb, now in charge of the Sydney MFB, set out a system under which the award of a new LS&GC Medal would be awarded. Initially a good service badge would be awarded every five years to ranks below that of Station Officer. On the award of the third good service badge at 15 years' service, a LS&GC Medal would also be awarded, once approved by the Awards Committee. This report was added to by the Secretary of the MFB Board, who confirmed that the LS&GC Medal was to be awarded to all ranks.

It was initially intended to present the first awards of the new LG&GC Medal on 1 January 1903 and from a report submitted by the Superintendent on 17 September 1902, it was resolved to form a committee to consider the claims of all other members. This committee was to consist of the Chairman and Secretary of the Board, the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent and the Fire District Officers.

Die and medal production quotes from two local firms, Stokes & Son and W.J. Amor were received and considered. Stokes & Sons quoted £20 for the dies, and 9/6 for a bronze medal with clasp and 12/6 for a silver medal. W.J. Amor quoted £15-10-0 for dies equal to a LFM example they had been shown, and the same price for bronze and silver medals as submitted by Stokes & Sons.

On 25 September 1902, approval for the purchase of dies from Stokes & Sons was confirmed, at a cost of £20 'for a pair of dies of best finish', with six example medals submitted for consideration. Stokes & Sons were informed of their successful tender and that the medals would be of bronze and to submit suitable designs for the dies. Later, in 1906, it was W.J. Amor that was successful with a tender to produce and supply 24 bronze medals, mounted with clasps and ribbons.

Superintendent Webb had submitted a report in relation to the design of a LS&GC Medal and at

the Board of Fire Commissioner's meeting of 4 December 1902 he was summoned to discuss his proposal, which is detailed below from the Board's minutes of that date:

Design for Bronze Medal

Obverse – A female figure, with wreath, about to place upon the head of a kneeling Fireman.

Reverse – The inscription: 'For Long Service & Good Conduct' surrounded by a waratah wreath.

However Superintendent Webb, did not have the complete support of the MFB Board, as can be seen by Board Secretary Zachary Barry's reply:

The design on the obverse appears to me to be too crowded. Also a slavish imitation of the London M.F.B. medal; and must be exceptionally well executed, if the figures of the firemen, are to be anything else than caricatures.

The inscription on the reverse might, I think, be bettered. I do not care for the words "Good Conduct", even though used in the Navy. 'For Long and Good Service' or 'Awarded for Service' 'Service Award' or some similar English inscription, would be an improvement. The crowded design on the other side is what I take most exception to. A bold allegorical figure representing home, or something of the kind would be preferable, without smaller figures.

But Superintendent Webb was obviously a man of persuasion as the following resolution was adopted: 'Resolved. That the design recommended by the Superintendent of the Fire Brigades, for service medals for members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, be adopted.'

The resolution was confirmed when signed off by the Chairman of the MFB Board, Charles Bown, on 18 December 1902. The design of the medal was a direct copy of the 1883 LFB LS&GC Medal.

The first awards of the MFB LS&GC Medal eventually took place on 30 June 1903, with the medals being presented by the NSW Premier Sir John See, as reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* to the following members:

Alfred Webb (Superintendent), 15 years in Sydney FB; 16 years in LFB.

John F. Ford (District Officer), 19 years in Sydney FB; six years in Royal Marine Light Infantry.

Sydney Watson (District Officer), 18 years in Sydney FB; 12 years in RN.

George Lang (District Officer), 18 years in Sydney FB; 13 years in RN.

Thomas Gorman (District Officer), 18 years in Sydney FB; eight years in RN.

Samuel Holman (Station Officer), 18 years in Sydney FB; 10 years in RN.



The MFB LS&GC Medal awarded to First-Class Fireman G. Alchin (Museum of Fire)

Thomas G. Cutts (Station Officer), 15 years in Sydney FB; eight years in RN; five years in merchant service

Robert W. Nash (Assistant Officer), 16 years in Sydney FB; 10 years in RN.

George C. Gray (First-Class Fireman), 19 years in Sydney FB; five years a volunteer fireman.

James Hancock (First-Class Fireman), 19 years in Sydney FB; four years a volunteer fireman.

Thomas P. Gordon (B Class Fireman), 18 years in Sydney FB. (resigned on March 27, 1903, to fulfil an appointment in South Africa).

Further presentation ceremonies were held in 1905, with then-NSW Premier Joseph Carruthers presenting medals to:

District Officer F. Jackson,

Station Officers J. Graham, G. Parsons, F. Howard, G. Dadd, and

First-class Fireman G. Alchin.

In 1909 the Governor of New South Wales, Lord Chelmsford, presented medals to the following members:

Augustus John Gerard

Edward Smith

William Thomas Corkhill

William James Morris
 Henry (Harry) Skelton
 Alexander Jamieson
 Ephraim Stoneham
 James Jones
 William Whitnall
 Henry Thomas Dawes
 Christopher George Digby
 George Edward Joyner Wills
 William Best
 Harrie B. Lee

Harrie B. Lee was not in attendance as he had taken up a role as Chief Officer of the Melbourne Fire Brigade.

From 1903 to 1909 a total of 31 MFB LS&GC Medals were awarded.

Transition to New South Wales Fire Brigades LS&GC Medal

In 1910, the *Fire Brigades Act* was extended to cover not just Sydney but the entire State of New South Wales. Consequently the former



The obverse and reverse of the NSWFB LS&GC Medal
 (author)

Metropolitan Fire Brigade became the New South Wales Fire Brigades (NSWFB).

With the name change, new dies for the LS&GC Medal were necessary. A Board meeting on 26 June 1912 noted that all but one of the previous medals had been awarded. The Board discussed the requirements of the new die and agreed that only a new obverse die was required and that the new wording would be 'NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES', rather than 'NSW FIRE BRIGADES'.

Stokes & Sons quoted a new obverse die at £7:10:0, which was delivered on 28 August 1912, followed by 24 bronze medals delivered on 22 October 1912.

The NSWFB *Annual Report* for 1914 recorded that for an additional period of 15 years' service, a bar was to be added to the medal, indicating that service. The first award of the bar was to Fourth Officer J. Ford.

The medal was awarded named on the edge, bearing the recipients' initials, surname and date of the award. The 30 Years Service bar was named on the rear with the recipients' initials, surname and year of award. Both medal and Bar came in a fitted case.

1970 - The End of the NSWFB LS&GC Medal

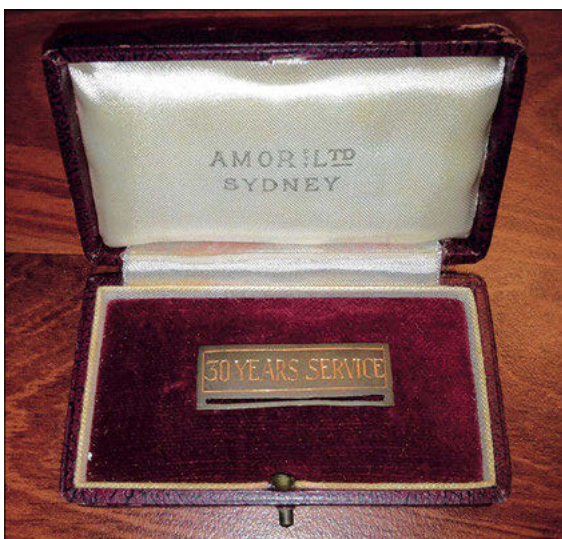
NSWFB In Orders 1970/1 included the following



Examples of the engraved naming, to officers W.N.Hill and R.Jenkins
 (author)

advice on the extension of the (Imperial) Fire Brigade LS&GC Medal to members of the NSWFB, leading to the demise of the NSWFB LS&GC Medal:

Advice has been received that Her Majesty the Queen has approved an amending and consolidating Royal warrant governing the award of the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal which provides that those eligible for this award



The NSWFB LS&GC Medal, and Bar, each in their case of issue
of issue
(author)

shall include full-time or part-time members of fire brigades and Services within, inter alia, New South Wales, if their conditions of employment include a liability to engage in fire fighting.

It shall be a condition of the award of the medal in any Fire Brigade that the grant of any unofficial or local long service or good conduct medals for wear in such Brigade shall be discontinued and that any unofficial or local Long Service Medals, if already granted, shall not be worn by a recipient of her Majesty's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The qualifying period requisite for the award shall be twenty years whole-time or part-time service in one of the fire brigades aforementioned or an aggregate of twenty years whole-time or part-time service in any brigade within the Commonwealth of Australia.

In the light of the foregoing the issue of the Board's Long Service Medal and bars thereto to permanent staff and volunteer firemen will cease as from 1st March, 1970, those members already in possession of the Board's awards may retain those awards but it is to be noted that they must not be worn if a member has received Her Majesty's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Her Majesty's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal shall be worn on the left breast of the recipient and where applicable will be worn immediately after the Queen's Fire Service Medal.

The award of the new medal is restricted to those members who are actually serving in brigades on or after 1st March, 1970 and who will have completed twenty years' service with good conduct on or after that date.

In consequence of this In Order, the final day that a member could qualify for the award of the NSWFB LS&GC Medal was 28 February 1970. The last member, listed in In Orders 1969/31, as being awarded the medal was 1643 S/O E Stokes.

An estimated 1162 NSWFB LS&GC Medals and 445 Bars were awarded by 28 February 1970.

Conclusion

The MFB / NSWFB LS&GC Medal was a medal design of the Victorian period, when master craftsmen created medal designs of intricate detail. Consequently, medals of this era are items of beauty.

The (Imperial) Fire Brigade LS&GC Medal, for 20 years' service, was awarded to members of the NSWFB between 1970 and 1979. It was replaced in 1980 by The National Medal, an award in the Australian national system of honours and awards, for 15 years' service with Bars for each additional 10 years' service.

83 members who served between 1954 and 1986, received the NSWFB LS&GC Medal, the Fire Brigade LS&GC Medal, and The National Medal.

The National Medal is still awarded to united members of Fire and Rescue NSW (the new name of NSWFB from 1 January 2011). Since 2005, long service and good conduct has also been recognised with a State-level award, the NSWFB/FRNSW LS&GC Medal, Type 2, for 10 years' service with Bars for each additional 10 years' service.

A long service medal within a medal group, through the generations, tells part of that person's story of service to the people of NSW.



The Fire Brigade LS&GC Medal
(internet - public domain)



The NSWFB LS&GC Medal Type 2 with two Bars representing 30 years' service
(internet - public domain)



The National Medal
(author)

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Colin Sinclair Lyon, twice a citizen

by Dan Lyon

IN THE COURSE OF RESEARCHING the 100 Lyon officers who served in the Great War, I found an intriguing article about the miniature medals of Colin Sinclair Lyon in the September 2007 issue of the OMRS *Journal*. The unique group of no fewer than 15 military and civilian awards simply demanded further research, which revealed a remarkable career which probably merited (at least) one more.

Colin was a great-grandson of David Murray Lyon, a distinguished Edinburgh Freemason who was the Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Scotland. This remarkable branch of the Lyon family sent no fewer than five officers to face the Kaiser, three of whom returned with a Military Cross, and its further contribution in the years that followed included two General Officers.

Colin was born in Glasgow in 1894, the son of a schoolmaster, and excelled in the engineering classes at Allan Glen's School. His apprenticeship in a shipbuilding yard was followed by a job in the drawing office of the Clyde Navigation Trust at Renfrew Ferry.

His sterling military contribution began there, when he joined the gunners of the Territorial Force in 1912, as soon as he reached 18. He was serving in 3rd Lowland Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery with two stripes up when the TF was mobilised in August 1914, and he was the first soldier below sergeant's rank to report. Territorials had of course only signed on for Home Service, but he promptly volunteered to serve abroad, and by mid-August his example had been followed by more than 85% of the Brigade.

Colin's third stripe arrived next month, and although the received wisdom at the time was that the volunteers should hasten to the front because it would all be over before Christmas, his knowledge and expertise led some mandarin to conclude that he would make a more valuable contribution as a training officer. Colin bitterly disagreed, and while his fellows were posted to 52nd Division for the Gallipoli adventure, which didn't end well for them, he spent the next three years impatiently attached to various training units on the British mainland.

He was commissioned at the end of 1915, and two years later he was the Orderly Officer on the HQ staff of a new brigade formed at Basingstoke

where he was effectively the Adjutant's deputy. The Adjutant dealt with the regular requests for the names of trained officers for posting to France, and Colin's memoir records that

although I was aware that the CO had instructed the Adjutant not to include the name of the Orderly Officer, he had given no such instruction to me. When the urgent telegram came in one Saturday afternoon and neither the CO nor the Adjutant were available, I sent the reply which resulted in my being posted across the Channel.

So, he finally managed to set foot in France on 6 October 1917, but he was not destined to remain there for long.

His active service began with the usual Cook's tour of a reception camp and the entire railway systems of Northern France and Belgium to get to his new brigade in 41st Division, which had just been withdrawn from the line and was resting



Territorial Force recruiting poster
(National Army Museum)



**Lt Colonel Colin Lyon TD, 87 Field Brigade
RFA, in 1934.**

(Photograph kindly supplied by his
daughter, Dorothy Lyon Entwistle)

in coastal billets around Dunkirk. Those same railway systems enabled his brother to take time off from his own unit to visit him, and there was likewise no difficulty about Colin taking time off to call in on his uncle, who was Canada's sole War Correspondent and currently based in Ypres. It was a very pleasant sojourn, but it was very much the calm before the storm.

When an HQ plea for signal officers was mentioned over breakfast and having yet to learn why others never volunteered for anything, Colin happily proclaimed that he was actually a fully qualified instructor, no less, and promptly found himself posted to 18th Division at Poelcapelle. That Division was preparing itself for an imminent major offensive in the Ypres Salient, where the life of a gunner signal officer was by now averaging less than a month.

Colin arrived at Poelcapelle on 15 October 1917 and noted in his memoir that it was where the Old Contemptibles had defiantly stood firm against overwhelming German odds almost exactly three years earlier, until a French withdrawal on their right made their position untenable. "Some bits of the 1914 trenches, containing odds and ends of equipment, could still be identified, and sometimes relics rather grimmer than equipment brought home the meaning of the term "Missing" in the casualty lists".

As is the Army way, Colin was not deployed as a signalling officer after all, and was instead posted to 82nd Brigade's B Battery, which was laying

down harassing bombardments every day, and at the same time registering for a creeping barrage to support the next attack. The divisional offensive was successfully launched on 22 October, achieving all of its objectives and digging in after advancing 1,000 yards. The immediate counterattack was then beaten off, with the determined Germans successfully dispersed by the artillery batteries.

Colin's brigade then began a 48-hour bombardment of the German strong points and communication lines in preparation for the next offensive, which was launched on 26 October and promptly failed. The brigade then embarked on yet another bombardment, but at that point a stray shell effectively brought Colin's active service to an end, two weeks short of the one-month average. He was asleep in a captured German pill box when a round of phosgene gas fell short of its fellows and landed in water which was seeping through the entrance.

With his eyes and his lungs very badly damaged, Colin staggered some six sore and weary kilometres to the nearest Casualty Clearing Station, but the Germans had not finished with him yet. Since the chivalry of 1914 had evaporated long ago, the large red cross on the CCS tent now acted as an excellent aiming point rather than an impermeable shield, and it was duly bombed just as Colin arrived, killing several medical personnel and their charges. A splinter would have killed Colin as well, but his steel helmet enabled him to survive the heavy blow with only a severe concussion to add to his existing life-threatening discomfort.

Perversely, that stray shell had almost certainly saved his life as the German spotters had just located his brigade, and their formidable counter-battery artillery proceeded to destroy its guns and their crews in short order, one after the other. When his own unit passed through what little remained of the gun emplacements a few days later, Colin's distraught brother grieved for him, convinced that nobody could have survived that comprehensive devastation. He was very nearly right : Colin had been evacuated the day before the storm broke, killing or wounding 60% of his B Battery's Other Ranks, and every single one of its officers.

Colin remembered little of his nightmare journey home, in the gentle care of the unsung medical staff who saved his life. There followed nine months in assorted hospitals, from which he was eventually discharged after he appeared to cope with short walks, although "I woke up on

occasion in shops outside which I had collapsed due to even such slight exercise. These relapses were not disclosed to the nursing staff". He still "wheezed like a musical box", but his medical grading of C3 enabled him to stay in uniform, albeit limited to sedentary work at a home posting.

The Armistice found him training signallers at Catterick, resigned to being bowler-hatted like the thousands of now redundant officers, just as it dawned on the War Office that an occupied Germany now had to be garrisoned, and called for volunteers to serve an extra twelve months. Colin's C3 medical grading would have been an insurmountable obstacle but, by means which he was careful not to record, he persuaded a remarkably naïve and/or complaisant Medical Board that he was suddenly able to march five miles after all. His new B1 grading resulted in an immediate posting as a staff officer at the Rhine Army GHQ, based in Cologne, where he arrived on 1 April 1919.

Three months later, on 28 June, the Treaty of Versailles was finally signed, its oppressive terms having been negotiated at length between the victorious Allies without any participation by the Germans. Colin now met the RFA guns of 41st Division again, drawn up along the banks of the Rhine, over which they fired a celebratory 101-gun salute. This triumphal fanfare was much appreciated by Colin and the scores of British soldiers watching from the Hohenzollern Bridge, all of them relieved to have survived the hostilities, but he noted that it garnered rather less acclaim from the defeated and now thoroughly humiliated German spectators lining the banks. That chicken

would come home to roost almost exactly 20 years later ...

Colin was demobilised in September 1919 and took up a final year place in the Engineering Faculty at Glasgow University. When he graduated in June 1920 he was taken on as a Research Engineer by Metropolitan Vickers in Manchester, but he kept up his Territorial service through a simultaneous posting to 52nd East Lancashire Brigade RFA. By the following July he had already been appointed Adjutant, in the rank of temporary Captain, but he was then recruited by the Indian Factory Inspectorate.

Colin spent the next three years inspecting factories in Assam and Bengal. He had had to relinquish his commission on leaving the country, but he was promptly back in khaki with the part-time paid volunteers of the recently formed Indian Army Auxiliary Force, serving as a captain in the Calcutta Port Defence Artillery.

Back in England in September 1924, he re-joined his old unit, now known as 52nd Manchester Field Brigade, but his time in India had aggravated his lingering health problems. He soldiered on for as long as he could, but *The London Gazette* recorded that he had to resign once more in June 1926, because of "ill health caused by wounds". He champed at the bit for the two years that it took for his lungs to recover enough for him to return to his unit for a third time. As before, he rose rapidly through the ranks, and he was a full colonel in command of 87th Field Brigade RFA by the time that he finally retired in 1939, still only 45 years old.

Colin put no less energy and ability into his civilian occupation, in other uniforms. While he



The Hohenzollern bridge from a contemporary postcard
(author's collection)



city outside London. Ostensibly aiming at Liverpool's docks and factories, the blitzkrieg's firebombs also devastated huge swathes of residential areas, killing more than 4,000 civilians. The hard-pressed emergency services responded on the ground while the bombs were still falling, and their heroism simply beggars description.

Colin's full sized medals and RA memorabilia
(author's collection)

was recuperating at home in 1926, he served in the Ayrshire Special Constabulary during the General Strike, and in 1938 he was appointed Superintendent of 'D' Division of Liverpool Special Constabulary. However, his day job was with the Liverpool Salvage Corps which he joined in 1926, serving as its Chief Officer from 1929 to 1952. Its fire prevention and fire salvage work complemented that of the local fire brigade and, just as the war clouds gathered over Europe once again, he was seconded to Liverpool's Auxiliary Fire Service to serve as its Commandant.

As soon as the storm broke in 1939, Colin received a warning order from Western Command, instructing him to prepare for duty as a Colonel, with the prospect of early if not immediate promotion to Brigadier. That promotion would have made him the third General Officer produced by this one branch of the Lyon family, but it was not to be as the Home Office quickly intervened and persuaded the War Office that he should be retained

in Civil Defence, much against my will. Nor could one appreciate at the time, in one's disappointment, that the Home Office was quite correct in its view that whilst there were plenty of colonels there were only three chief officers of Salvage Corps as far apart as London, Liverpool and Glasgow, and their specialised knowledge was of unique value to the country in total war.

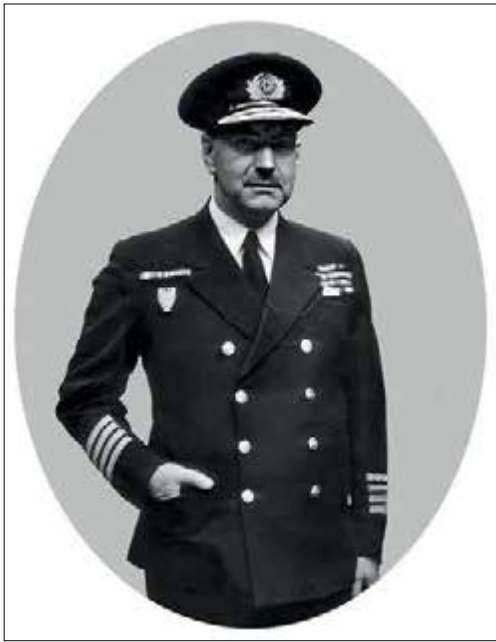
And so it proved. The Luftwaffe arrived over Colin's manor in May 1941, launching the most concentrated series of air attacks on any

Among others, the Merseyside Fire Brigade's Roll of Honour records that 39 Auxiliary firemen were killed, as were three Salvage Corps staff when their station took a direct hit.

Colin's military service was recognised in 1938, when he was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, which capped his Great War trio, Defence medal, Jubilee and Coronation medals and, of course, Territorial Decoration. At the same time, his civilian service was recognised in 1939, when he was appointed an Officer of the Order of St John, which capped the Meritorious Service Decoration of the British Fire Services Association (of which he had served as elected President from 1947 to 1950), and Long Service medals from the Liverpool Salvage Corps and the Professional Fire Brigade's Association. There were also three honorary awards, two from France and one from Belgium, reflecting his international standing among European firefighters.



Colin's miniature medals
(reproduced with the permission of the OMRS)



Chief Officer Colin Lyon OBE, Liverpool Salvage Corps, in 1952

(photograph kindly supplied by his daughter, Dorothy Lyon Entwistle)

Colin's health finally pushed him into retirement in 1952, with this tribute from his employers:

A soldier at heart, best in a crisis, his valiant and generous spirit has always found fullest expression in service to his fellow countrymen. At no time was this better manifest than when, during the critical years of war, drawing upon a rich store of experience, he laboured tirelessly for the preservation of the foodstuffs and raw materials so vital to the survival of the country he loves so well.

He may have missed out on the Military Cross earned by three of his cousins, but he made up for that with fifteen assorted medal ribbons on his last uniform. Even so, one might well think that his contribution after 1939 merited rather more than the ubiquitous Defence Medal. Field Marshal Slim described a Territorial as "twice a citizen", and Colin's outstanding service to his country both in and out of khaki more than qualified him for that designation.

I managed to contact Colin's descendants through *Ancestry* during my research, and I was gratified to receive enthusiastic help from a generation which still cherishes the memory of the old soldier, *aka* "Grumpy" when out of earshot. They not only supplied photographs and a transcript of his memoir but added an interesting postscript to the 2007 *Journal* article. Although they still have all his full-size medals, a burglar relieved them of the miniatures in the early 1990s, whereafter they created a duplicate set for themselves. I was able to tell them that the original miniatures are now in the collection of an OMRS member, who bought them from another OMRS member more than 20 years ago. The family is content to let matters rest as they are, being satisfied that the miniatures are being treated with appropriate respect. That seems to me to be an honourable decision, and I rather think that Colin would be as proud of them as they are of him.

Demography of OMRS Members

If you have ever wondered how OMRS members are distributed throughout the world (currently standing at 1,393 and increasing), we have an OMRS presence in a total of 38 countries. This distribution roughly equates to 20 percent of the world's countries, so we have a great representation worldwide.

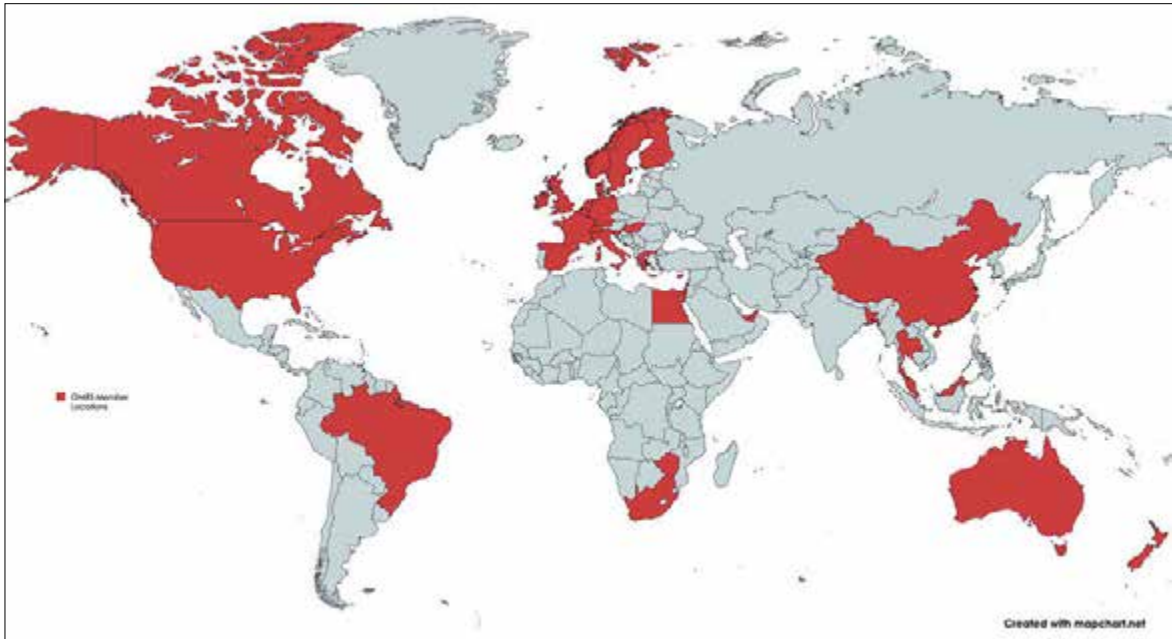
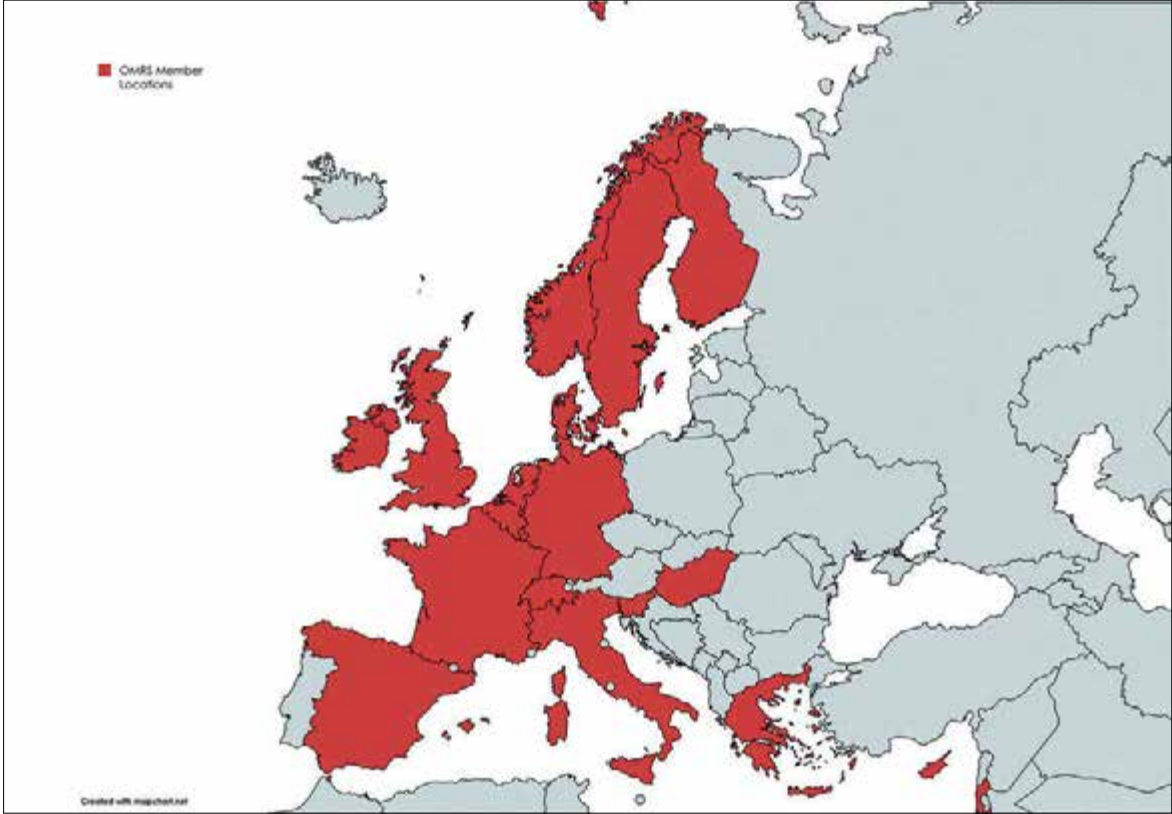
These 38 countries are listed below in alphabetical order and shown on the maps that follow in red.

Australia
Bangladesh
Belgium
Bermuda
Brazil

Canada
China
Cyprus
Denmark
Egypt
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Haiti
Hong Kong
Hungary
Ireland
Isle of Man
Israel
Italy
Jersey

Luxembourg
Malaysia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Singapore
Slovenia
South Africa

Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Zimbabwe



General Secretary's notes

Graham Grist

Convention: A report on this year's Convention appears elsewhere in this journal. The feedback so far has been very positive, but we would like to hear from members who attended the event. Please send any comments to generalsecretary@omrs.org.

Website: Although the new website has been up and running for some time we would still like to hear from members about their experiences using it and any problems they may have encountered. Please send them to generalsecretary@omrs.org.

Social Media: Please take a look at our social media accounts which can be found at the following:
'X' – @OMRS17995839

Instagram – [Medal_Research_Society](https://www.instagram.com/Medal_Research_Society)
Facebook – www.facebook.com/groups/omrs.org

Newsletter: Please email any items you would like to be considered for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter to me at generalsecretary@omrs.org or to Will Bennett, Chair of the Media and Communications Sub-committee, at willbennett1950@gmail.com. The newsletters are emailed to members in between *Journals*. If you have an email address but have not been receiving the newsletters it means that we do not have your details, so please send your email address to me and I will arrange for it to be added to the membership database.

Membership Secretary's notes

Steven Trigger

New members

8591 **Christopher Thomas**, New South Wales, Australia
8592, **Peter Burton**, Kent, UK
8593 **Linda Sarna**, California, United States
8594 **David Spicer-Freeman**, Leicestershire, UK
8595 **Andy Pattison**, Nyon, Switzerland
8596 **Graham Clitheroe**, Leeds, UK
8597 **Brady Brim-Deforest Of Balvaird Castle**, Maine, United States
8598 **Nicky Wearmouth**, North Yorkshire, UK
8599 **Garry Wills**, Loughborough, UK
8600 **Neville Debattista**, Attard, Malta
8601 **James Mahood**, Ngaruawahia, New Zealand
8602 **Christopher Jenkins**, Cambridge, UK
8603 **Michael Dwyer**, Lancashire, UK
8604 **Levi Baker**, Texas, United States
8605 **Thomas Westhead**, Lancashire, UK
8606 **Yvonne Ridgeway**, South Yorkshire, UK

8607 **Oscar Crocker**, Norfolk, UK
8608 **Beatrice Montague**, Yeovil, UK
8609 **Peter Bailes**, Yorkshire, UK
8610 **Nathan Weiss**, California, United States
8611 **Daniel Van Petten**, Missouri, United States
8612 **Vern Bechaz**, New South Wales, Australia
8613 **Ian Mclelland**, Blantyre, UK
8614 **Danilo Inocencio**, New South Wales, Australia
8615 **Garth Benneyworth**, Northern Cape, South Africa
8616 **Anthony Trimmer**, Essex, UK
8617 **Philippa Kirk**, Herefordshire, UK
8618 **Daniel Jones**, Victoria, Australia

Deceased

1885 Mummery A.
Boston G.
4019 Mcleod G

Members' wants

NB 1. Data Protection Act. 2018

As a not-for-profit organisation the Society has a legal responsibility to comply with the above Act. Names and addresses in the 'Members' wants' pages of the OMRS *Journal* are only published with the permission and expressed wish of the individual advertiser. (Publication of telephone numbers and email addresses are exempt

from the Act should the advertiser wish to provide them). Where only a membership number is quoted members should contact the advertiser through either the Membership Secretary or the General Secretary and not through the Advertising Manager.

NB 2. Payment for advertisements

Submission of 'Member's wants' requests are now available to the membership via the OMRS website only, rather than via email requests and offline payments to the Advertising Manager. A new online 'Member's wants' request process is now in operation, effective immediately.

If you wish to submit a 'Members' wants' advertisement, log in to the OMRS website, go to 'Shop' and follow the link. Please note that each single submission will be published in one edition of the *Journal* and will appear also in the new 'Members' wants' section in the Members Area of the OMRS website for one year.

7779 **Warren Everett** seeks to locate and/or to purchase the following medals – MGS, clasp Chrysler's Farm and the Army of India, clasp Ava to Sgt Marmaduke Kearns, 41st Foot. Please email Warren at warreneverett7@gmail.com.

5585 **Paul Evans** is seeking WW1 Medals to the Welsh Guards. WW1 Medals to Men from the St. Clears, Llanddowror, Bancyfelin, Meidrim, Whitland and Narberth areas of SW Wales. 1914 Star Trio to 8001 B Williams, Welsh Regiment. Also

WW1 Military War Medals attributed to Prison Officers. Please email Paul at paulevans970@aol.com

7933 **Martin Shoebottom** is looking for following family medals:

Shoebottom G.W. 4263 Pte Royal Warwickshire Regiment Queens Sudan, Shoebottom G.W. 4263 Sgt Royal Warwickshire Regiment QSA, Shoebottom G.W. 2418 Sgt Royal Warwickshire Regiment WW1 Trio, Shoebottom W.A TC500 Trimmer RN Reserve WW1 Trio, Shoebottom A 7/36349 Driver R.A.S.C. WW1 Trio, Shoebottom A.S 16771880 RAF WW2

Please e-mail martin.shoebottom@btinternet.com

7933 **Martin Shoebottom** is looking for following family medals:

Hebditch V.T 1697 Cpl 2nd Yorks/Lancs Regiment Egypt 1882, Hebditch A. 19064 Pte Yorks/Lancs Regiment WW1 Pair, Hebditch F. 785798 Driver R.F.A WW1Trio, Hebditch A. 3197 Pte 15th West Yorkshire Regiment WW1 Trio, Hebditch J.R. 32342 Trooper 3rd. Battalion Imperial Yeomanry QSA, Hebditch E.O KP470 Able Seaman Royal Navy WW1 Trio & MM

Please e-mail martin.shoebottom@btinternet.com

1119 **Martin Smith** is seeking the following: James Gilbert, 3/1 Bde, Bengal HA Sutlej Moodkee cl. Sobraon & Punjab cls, Chilianwala; Goojerat; 270512 E. W. Gilburt, 4 Bn Essex Rgt Missing BWM, Victory & Plaque; 82139 Dvr W. Gibson, KSA Pom Poms Section, RA; 288910 Sto. 1 Class/SPO A. S. K. Heal, RN 1914/5 Star, BWM, Vic; 40945/1409778 Gnr/A.Bdr. J. Harrison, 108 H. B. RGA 1914 Star, BWM, Vic; 16758 Gnr T Hickey, 31st Hvy Bty RGA BWM; Sgn Sub Lt. W. Yuill Jamieson, RNVR BWM. Please email Martin at: martinsmith1815@gmail.com

1119 **Martin Smith** is seeking the following: 1086348 Bdr. J. F. Kelly, RA, Mm GVIR; 2813 Gnr. J. Lavery, 11 Bn RA Crimea 4 cl, Turkish Medal. LS&GC; 88324 Gnr/Master Gnr H. W. Loftus, 5 RFA/M Bty RHA BWM, LS&GC (1910) & SWB B.47530; 86337/28350 Pte. R. W. C. T. Laundry, 17 Bn Liverpool Regt. 9 Bn N Lancs. Please email Martin at: martinsmith1815@gmail.com

5131 **Pete Sheen** is interested in purchasing the General Service Medal 1918-62 with Malaya clasp to Major / Lieut-Colonel Delaval James Alfred Cotter, 13th/18th Royal Hussars. Tel. (Ireland) 0035316708295 or email petesheen@gmail.com OR petesheen@military-medals-online.com

5131 **Pete Sheen** is interested in purchasing the Queen's South Africa Medal with up to 4 clasps, CC, OFS, TVL, SA02(?), to Trooper / Private J. Almond (surname possibly spelt Almonds) Royal Horse Guards. Tel. (Ireland) 0035316708295 or email petesheen@gmail.com OR petesheen@military-medals-online.com

8507 **William Brown** is looking to purchase the following medals to be able to reunite some broken groups: CMG, DSO GV, 1914 Star Trio, GSM GV clasp Iraq to Brig. Gen. Henry A. Walker, Royal Fusiliers.; DSO GV, QSA, 1914-15 Star, Victory to Lt Col G. Hodson (Can Inf); DCM GV, 1914-15 Star, BWM to 2 Lt J M Thomson 2/ S.A. Inf.; MM & Bar GV, 1914-15 Star, BWM to 1292 Pte. J. Macdonald 2/ A&S Highrs; QSA clasps CC, TH, ROL, SA 1901 to 3172 Pte. W. NICOD, 2/Middlesex Regt.; IGS 1895 clasp PF 1897-98 to Lieut. W W C Stevenson 2/Manch. Regt.; 1914 Star & BWM to 2 Lieut. / Lieut. J. Hornell (Ryl Irish Fus.); 1914-15 Star Trio & RN LSGC GV to K.6470 H. Cooke, Ldg. Sto. / SPO, R.N.

Please email William at wbrown@utech.net

8507 **William Brown** is looking to purchase the following medals to be able to reunite some broken groups: 1914-15 Star Trios to 659 L/Cpl Allan, 1/ King's African Rifles; 9046 Pte. B. Moshi, Gold Coast M.I.; 10139 Sgt. T. Mitchell, 1/Royal Scots; 3954 CSM S. Bauchi, Nigerian Regt.; 4713 Pte. J. Corney, E. Surrey Regt.; 79811 Spr. J. H. Swinton, R.E. British War & Victory Medal Pair to 1857 Pte. T. Snelgrove, 1/7 Hamps. Regt.; Wwl British War Medals To 80957 Gnr. H. Craven, Royal Artillery; And To Robert J. Dean (Merchant Marine). WW1 British Victory Medal to 9338 Pte. H. ROBENI, 1/ King's African Rifles.

Please email William at wbrown@utech.net

8596 **Graham Clitheroe** is looking to purchase the following – DCM; 1914-5 Star and British War Medal to Private 9/12794 Arthur Reginald Dean – West Riding Regiment, William Randall (Armourer) – Anchor Type Royal Navy Long Service HMS Samarang and China 1842 (P.O.) Blacksmith HMS Samarang, Q.S.A. Cape Colony and Orange Free State to Private 2488 Thomas Clitheroe 1st Battalion East Lancs. Regt. Please email Graham at 84thfoot@gmail.com

General Secretary's report 2023-24

Graham Grist

I now present my report for the year 2023-24.

As you will have seen in the September Journal, Buckingham Palace finally made a decision on royal family patronages and we were very pleased to learn that His Majesty King Charles III will remain as our patron.

A major event of this year has been the change to the system that runs the website which became necessary as the previous system was no longer supported and becoming more problematic. We decided to change to wordpress and woocommerce and a contractor was appointed to set the new system up. Because a major part of the website is the subscription renewal cycle a great deal of work was carried out by treasurer, Jon Toohey and membership secretary, Steve Butler supported by the it sub-committee of Steve Trigger, Meurig Jones and Richard Emsley. During the process another volunteer, Nic Higton, came forward as he has experience of the systems we were adopting and we thank him for his input.

The vast majority of members renew their subscriptions on 1st July each year but that is no longer the case as members joining since February of this year will renew on the anniversary of their joining date. We encourage all members to pay their annual subscription by direct debit which will now be via gocardless. Members who set up a direct debit some time ago need to change from moorepay to gocardless as we are unable to do this ourselves. In order to change please contact myself in the first place and I will direct you to the correct person.

Ryan Darby in Australia ran a very successful virtual convention in february and has already started planning another for next year. Ryan has also taken over running the virtual branch which is designed to help those members who do not live near a physical branch to meet other members. I would encourage members to try the branch out whether they can attend physical branch meetings or not and a link is sent out to all members a few days before each meeting. We are grateful to Ryan for all he has done in the past year.

In February *Journal* Editor Bob Barltrop lost his battle with cancer which came as a shock to us all. The Society was well represented at Bob's funeral in March. Steve

Trigger, our webmaster, took up the post of journal editor and we also had additional volunteers to join the editorial team which is now more international with new members Simon Eyre in The UK, Chris Bilham in New Zealand, Jim Godfroy and Mike Wilmets, both in Canada so we thank them for offering their services. Peter Liversidge, a long-standing member of the editorial team has stepped down so we thank him for his services over many years.

We started the year with ten trustees and, with co-options, now have nine but a member has recently stepped forward to fill the post of membership secretary so we will eventually be back to a full complement of ten.

The convention this year proved to be successful with the feedback received being very positive. We would like to thank auction houses Baldwins, Morton and Eden, Noonans and Spink for their financial support, those members who exhibited and the dealers who attended the event encouraged in no small way by Andrew Jukes.

A decision regarding a convention in 2025 will be taken once the accounts have been finalised and provided we can find enough volunteers to help organise the event.

The Tamplin archive continues to be uploaded to the members' area of OMRS website so you should keep visiting to see what has been added.

Unfortunately, the tie up we had with Helion for publishing our books did not work out as expected. Thanks to Paul Brewster a new contract has been set up with Anne Samson who will print our books going forward strictly by print on demand and they will be sold via Token Publishing. We thank Anne and Phil Mussell of Token for taking this on.

In addition to those already mentioned I would like to thank Chris Brooks for dealing with advertising, Will Bennett who produces the newsletters, Paul Lane who runs the shop, David Rucker who deals with miniature medal ribbons, the committee members of all our branches and the auction houses and dealers who support us by advertising in the journal.

In conclusion I would like to thank president Robin Thomas and the other trustees for their work and support during the year.

Membership Secretary's AGM report 2023-24

Steven Trigger

In the last 6 months we have welcomed 57 new members and have recorded the death of three with 1 member resigning. The membership of the society currently stands at 1,393 members which is composed of 898 who live within the United Kingdom, 199 who live overseas

and 281 Digital Members who are based worldwide.

Those of us who have a membership number of 5782 or less are eligible for their '25-year badge' and should apply to the Membership Secretary and request a badge, but only if one has not already been issued.

Orders and Medals Research Society (“OMRS”)
Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1199514)

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

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**ORDERS AND MEDALS RESEARCH SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

Objectives

The object of the OMRS is to “advance the education of the public in the subject of orders, decorations and medals and all matters related thereto, dedicated to the memory and honour of the original recipients, by:

- a) assisting members and general public in their research
- b) actively encouraging and publishing to the general public the results of individual research
- c) arranging lectures and meetings for the benefit of the general public, and
- d) by any other means as the trustees in their discretion shall determine”

Achievements

Following His Majesty The King’s accession a major review of more than 1,000 Royal Patronages and charity Presidencies was undertaken. To mark the first anniversary of Their Majesties’ Coronation, the conclusions were announced and the OMRS were honoured to have King Charles III remain as its Patron. A “thorough review” was undertaken and some 200 patronages were not retained.

During the year four journals were produced with a wealth of quality articles pertaining to medal research.

Although no new publications were released in the year, the OMRS has 18 publications available to the general public.

No physical convention was held in the year but preparations are underway for one in September 2024. A virtual convention was held in February 2024 and it is hoped this will be a regular event.

After a shaky start the new “virtual” branch is picking up and we hope this will be an alternative to those who cannot make one of the 16 physical branches.

The Research Library, hosted by our partners SDS, has been completely overhauled with improved functionality. Approximately 70% of the Tamplin Archive has been sorted and prepared for scanning, while some 50% has actually been scanned. Additional material will be released to members periodically. The Journals for 2020-2023 inclusive have also been uploaded and made available for members.

Social media platforms continue to grow and provide a platform to share knowledge and assist research.

Finally, a new website and membership system was launched. This was necessitated by the previous platform no longer being supported. The new platform is built with more generic software with a much larger user system so will be more robust and last longer. As with any new systems there are teething problems.

Structure

The OMRS is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”).

The OMRS has no physical address, but correspondence can be sent to 71-75 Shelton Street, London, WC2H 9JQ but much preferably emailed to generalsecretary@omrs.org.

Financial Review

The accounts show the financial position at the end of the year is healthy. The intention is that reserves should be a minimum of 6 months expenditure. Currently the reserves are substantially higher but are being reduced through projects underway to digitise the Tamplin Archives and upgrade the current website and associated software necessitated by the previous version being de-supported – the latter largely been completed in the current year.

It is the intent of the trustees to breakeven before any exceptional items - this was achieved in the current year but made easier by not having a physical convention.

Trustees

Trustees are elected at the Annual general meeting of the members of the CIO for terms of three years. The trustees appoint from amongst their number the Officer positions of President & Chair, General Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer.

Trustee Name and office	Dates acted if not full year	Re-election
Robin Thomas (Chair & President)	From 10/9/2022	2024
Robert Barltrop	From 10/9/2022 to 18/2/2024	
Steve Butler (Membership Secretary)	From 10/9/2022	2026
Robert Coyle	From 01/7/2023 to 07/1/2024	
Richard Emsley	From 10/9/2022	2024
Graham Grist (General Secretary)	From 10/9/2022	2024
Andrew Mann	From 10/9/2022	2026
Paul Murphy	From 10/9/2022 to 27/7/2024	
Graham Pitchfork	From 10/9/2022	2024
Jonathan Toohey (Treasurer)	From 10/9/2022	2026
Steve Trigger	From 03/8/2024	2024

Declarations

Approved by the Trustees on 3 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

R Thomas

Robin Thomas – Chair

G Grist

Graham Grist - Secretary

ORDERS AND MEDALS RESEARCH SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions received		37,489		36,661
Journal				
- advertising	9,556		10,312	
- production	(15,051)		(14,226)	
- distribution	(11,267)		(11,307)	
- journal prizes	(800)		(800)	
- indexing	(400)	(17,962)	(400)	(16,421)
Convention				
- income	0		12,327	
- expenses	(182)	(182)	(27,266)	(14,939)
Books				
- income	775		620	
- expenses	(174)	601	(2,745)	(2,125)
Ribbons				
- income	902		1,890	
- expenses	(242)	660	(883)	1,006
Other				
- income	265		625	
- expenses	(73)	192	(245)	380
Website		(3,781)		(3,785)
Administration (see below)		(7,254)		(9,004)
Bank interest receivable		2,969		997
Result before exceptional items		<u>12,732</u>		<u>(7,229)</u>
Tamplin Archives		0		(22,692)
Website and systems renewal	(9,950)			
Less accrual	2,500	(7,450)		0
NET RESULT to/(from) General Fund		<u><u>5,282</u></u>		<u><u>(29,921)</u></u>
Administration				
Branch grants		0		(200)
Society awards		(252)		(928)
Room hire		(340)		(320)
Printing, stationary and postage		(783)		(989)
IT equip costs		(283)		0
Insurance		(1,264)		(1,055)
Advertising		(1,485)		(2,015)
Travel expenses		(35)		0
Independent Examination		0		(600)
Communications		(623)		(350)
Sundry expenses		0		(511)
Bank charges		(2,189)		(2,036)
		<u>(7,254)</u>		<u>(9,004)</u>

**ORDERS AND MEDALS RESEARCH SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tapprell Dorling Group of Medals		4,014		4,014
President's jewel		29		29
Silver Rose Bowl and Pownall Trophy		1,181		1,181
Equipment - cost	1,000		1,000	
Less: depreciation to date	(1,000)	0	(1,000)	0
		<u>5,224</u>		<u>5,224</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock of awards	8,818		8,973	
Prepayments	3,608		0	
Debtors	0		0	
Cash at bank	129,193		124,581	
	<u>141,619</u>		<u>133,554</u>	
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Income received in advance	16,206		10,147	
Accruals	6,900		10,176	
	<u>23,106</u>		<u>20,323</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>118,513</u>		<u>113,231</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>123,737</u></u>		<u><u>118,455</u></u>
GENERAL UNRESTRICTED FUND				
Brought forward 1 July 2023/2022		118,455		148,376
Net surplus for the year		<u>5,282</u>		<u>(29,921)</u>
Balance of fund at 30 June 2024/2023		<u>123,737</u>		<u>118,455</u>

Approved by the trustees on 3 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

President *R Thomas*

Treasurer *J Toohy*

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FRS 102 is used as the basis for these accounts and prepared with the needs of the charity's stakeholders in mind. As a smaller charity, it has opted, as permitted by FRS 102, to present expenditure by its nature.

The accounts are prepared on the historical cost convention and the accruals basis (except that stocks of ribbons, binders and old journals are expensed when purchased).

2. FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. Certain assets are not depreciated being the Taprell-Dorling medals, presidents jewel and trophies.

3. TRUSTEES, OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

No trustees, officers or executive committee members received any remuneration. Expenses incurred by them on behalf of the OMRS are reimbursed. There are no employees.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE ORDERS AND MEDALS RESEARCH SOCIETY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Orders and Medals Research Society (charity no 1199514) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Lane

Paul Lane
CIMA Certificate in Business Accounting
Independent Examiner

4 August 2024

Trade advertisements

are handled by **Chris Brooks**

to whom all enquiries and copy should be made via:

email: advertising@omrs.org

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OMRS PUBLICATIONS

TOKAR 1891: The Men and Their Medals

Orders & Medals Research Society

Mark A. Reid

Paperback: 234mm x 156mm, 194 pages. Images: 41 b/w photos, 37 colour photographs, 5 drawings, 1 map.
Cost if ordered via the OMRS website is £23.96 inc P&P to UK.

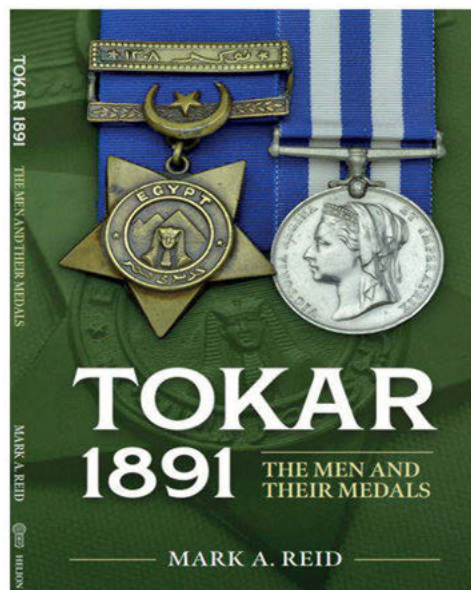
Published by Helion & Company.

Helion book code: HEL1652.

ISBN: 9781916119147

The Battle of Tokar marked the first occasion that Egypt, with British assistance, defeated the forces of the Mahdi and recaptured parts of the Sudan previously lost. It was also the start of the reconquest of the Sudan that, under Kitchener of Khartoum, culminated at Omdurman in 1898. This book provides a clear overview of the battle as well as placing it in its historical context but, as the title states, there is a focus on the men involved.

There are biographies of the nearly 200 British participants as well as of some Egyptian officers and Sudanese leaders. In addition, there are chapters on the medals awarded, particularly the story behind the Khedive's Star and its rare 'TOKAR' clasp. Medal collectors will also find information on medal naming, distribution, etc that cannot be found published elsewhere. Appendices on the Order of Battle, Honours & Awards, a Casualty Roll, Medal Rolls, etc combine to provide a concise account of the action and particularly the men who fought on both sides.



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