

**SOLDIERS' SMALL BOOK**  
**Newsletter of the Victorian Military Society**  
**September 2009**  
**Issue Number 82**

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

We begin this issue with congratulations to the Society's former Membership Secretary, Rob Yaxley and his wife Louise who are now the proud parents of a baby girl who has been most appropriately named Victoria Louise.

### **NEW WARGAMES SECRETARY**

The Society is very pleased to welcome Brian Sweeney as the new secretary of the War Games Special Interest Group and we hope he has an enjoyable time in the role. Brian's contact details can be found under the list of Society Officers in *Soldiers of the Queen*.

### **COMPETITION WITH A GRAND PRIZE!**

Stephen Manning, the author of *Soldiers of the Queen- Colonial Conflicts in the Words of those that Fought* has very generously offered a signed copy of his book as the prize for the latest SSB Quiz.

The quiz consists of just one question:

#### **Q: When was the Red River Campaign Medal Issued?**

Answers should be sent by post or email, to the Editor to arrive by noon on 30th November 2009. The winner's copy will be posted to them.

As always, the Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Stephen is also the author of *Quebec the Story of Three Sieges- A Military History*.

### **BOOK FAIR & EXHIBITION**

There will be a military, aviation and naval book fair at the Royal Logistic Corps Museum in

Deepcut on Sunday 15th November 2009 from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. The Fair is being run by the highly respected Provincial Booksellers Fairs Association so the quality of the books available is guaranteed - no third rate publishers' remainders here!

As well as the books you can, of course, also take the chance to look round the Museum which has some fascinating items, including Monty's Rolls Royce.

In addition, from now until February 2010 the Museum has an exhibition about "Explosive Ordnance Disposal" (bomb disposal to the uninitiated) with exhibits showing the skills and training needed to deal with all kinds of explosive devices plus the damage they can cause if not rendered safe.

Not strictly Victorian, the Editor admits but none the less it sounds fascinating.

The Museum is at Princess Royal Barracks, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6RW and is open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm. There is a free car park. Just follow the brown signs to the "Museum of Army Logistics".

### **ARTICLES FOR SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN**

The Editor of *Soldiers of the Queen* is always pleased to consider submissions by the membership. Over the years this has been one the richest sources of articles for the journal.

Length is not necessarily a bar to publication; short pieces can be of as much interest as long ones, content is the most important consideration.

If you have something you have been researching or studying and think you could compose an article from it, the Editor would be pleased to hear from you.

Ideally material should be submitted as a Word Document

and, if possible, supported by pictures, but these can often be sourced from other places.

### **APPEALS FOR HELP**

*The Society has had the following requests for information. Can any member help?*

#### **2/Grenadier Guards**

Mrs Charmaine Haig is researching her family tree and in particular her grandfather, William George Williams who was in the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards during the 1880s/90s.

Apart from the fact that he was posted to Dublin in 1892/93 she is finding information hard to come by since she does not have his regimental number.

Mrs Haig would be very grateful to any member who can assist her with any general information about the Grenadiers in the 1880s/90s or ideas as to how she could find his number.

Mrs Haig can be contacted at: [charmaine.haig@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charmaine.haig@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **The Defensible Barracks, Pembroke**

Andrew McLean is hoping to start a campaign to save the "Defensible Barracks" built to defend the anchorage at Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire from demolition. If you would like more details, Andrew is at: [andrewmclean1807@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrewmclean1807@yahoo.co.uk).

#### **Warwickshire Militia and the 18th Hussars**

Mrs Denise Haffner is interested in learning more about her great grandfather Andrew Parker who started as a Drummer in the Warwickshire Militia at the age of 18. Later he joined the 18th Hussars and went with them to fight in the Anglo-Boer War.

On his return he took his discharge and Major Marling VC recommended him for a civilian job in Warwick. Mrs Haffner can be contacted at: [d.haffner@btinternet.com](mailto:d.haffner@btinternet.com).

## PETER DUNN LETTERS & AUTOGRAPHS

Peter's latest list of signed documents and autographs seems to be mainly theatrical this time and most of its military items are 20th century but there are the following Victorian ones:

A typed letter signed by Field Marshal Lord Roberts VC on the subject of national service dated September 1914 two months before he died. £25.

A signature of Field Marshal Lord Plumer who saw much service with the York & Lancaster Regiment in the Sudan, was a successful commander of colonial forces in the Anglo-Boer War and commanded Second Army in Flanders in the Great War. £25.

A signed album page bearing the signature of the great cricketer Dr W G Grace. £195.

[£195 for Dr Grace as opposed to £25 for a Field Marshal. Clearly the bat is mightier than the sword. Ed.]

For a full list, contact Peter as 32B Bow Road (Basement Flat), Bow, London E3 4LN.

Please note Peter now has a new phone number - 0208 981 8844 - and can be contacted on this between 8am and 8pm.

## WALLIS & WALLIS AUCTION REPORT

Wallis & Wallis's Arms & Militaria Auction on 25th August 2009 was, in the words of Roy Butler of Wallis & Wallis "a truly great sale". In addition to the normal selection of militaria, the sale featured the first part of the huge collection of military badges from the Lambert Collection.

A rare slouch hat badge of the 45th Company Imperial Yeomanry, comprising a cast brass crown and harp on green felt between embroidered "1Y" and above embroidered "45" both in white cotton sold for £600.

An unissued 20th Battalion (Rough Riders) Imperial Yeomanry slouch hat badge (Kipling and King No.1402) went for £260.

Finally, an OR's white metal glengarry badge of the Leicestershire Militia in the form of an Irish harp in a crowned motto circle fetched £240.

A splendid officer's 1834 pattern gilt helmet of the 7th or Princess Royal's Dragoon Guards sold for £3000.

Although not Victorian, the Editor did notice that a deactivated .303" Vickers Mark I machine gun described as being "in working order and clean condition" and complete with tripod mount finally sold for £2500.

Very nice, but where on earth would you put it?

Wallis & Wallis's last two sales for 2009 are on 6th and 7th November and 17th December.

## "BUGLE CALL 2009"

"Bugle Call 2009" the annual show of the Bristol Branch of the British Model Soldier Society, the largest military modelling show in the south west will be held on Sunday 22nd November at The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath BA2 4EU from 10am to 4.30pm.

There will be club displays, trade stands, open figure competitions, demonstrations; history displays refreshments and a raffle. Parking (well by Bath's standards) is fairly easy too.

Further details from Robert Lane at [elalnanel3@tesco.net](mailto:elalnanel3@tesco.net).

## NEW BOOKS

*The following is based on publicity material from the publishers. The Editor has not necessarily seen a copy of the books themselves.*

Naval & Military Press Limited, Unit 10, Ridgewood Industrial Park, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 5QE or [www.naval-](http://www.naval-)

[military-press.com](http://military-press.com) have the following new titles on their list:

**History of the Tyne Electrical Engineers, Royal Engineers** by Major O. M. Short, Major H. Sherlock, Captain L. E. C. M. Perowne & Lieutenant M. A. Fraser. £14.50. Paperback. (Number of pages not given). B&W photos, maps and diagrams.

Raised in 1884 as the Submarine Mining Company of the 1st Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Durham (Volunteers), Royal Engineers the unit originally had the responsibility of defending the ports of the Tyne and the Tees with submarine mines and searchlights.

In the Great War it took part in the operations that preceded the explosion of the gigantic mines at the battle of Messines Ridge.

The book takes the history of the unit up to 1933.

**Mafeking - the Diary of a Siege** by Major F. D. Baillie, Late 4th Hussars. £14.50. Paperback. 299 pp Illustrated.

Originally published in 1900, this is a re-print of an account by Major F. D. Baillie, a former Hussar officer who was a war correspondent for the Morning Post

**Ten Years' Captivity in the Mahdi's Camp** by Colonel Sir Francis Wingate, from the original manuscripts of Father Joseph Ohrwalder. £14.50. Paperback. 471 pp and Illustrations, maps and plans.

Originally published in 1893, Fr Ohrwalder was an Austrian Catholic missionary who was abducted by followers of the Mahdi. After ten years' captivity he managed to escape and, after a desperate ride across the desert, got clean away.

He wrote an account in German of his experiences at the suggestion of Colonel Wingate, Kitchener's intelligence chief who then translated the book

into English for its first publication.

Pen & Sword Books, 47 Church Street, Barnsley S70 2AS or <http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk> are bringing out *The Great Edwardian Naval Feud* by Richard Freeman. £25 (£20 via publisher's website). Hardback. (Number of pages illustrations etc. not given) at the end of September. An account of the great controversy between Admirals Fisher and Beresford which split the Royal Navy from top to bottom.

Both men wished to be First Sea Lord and when the prize went to Fisher, Beresford determined to unseat him at any cost.

As an MP, he launched attacks in Parliament and finally obtained a Cabinet inquiry. In the end, it dismissed the charges, but failed to show any warm support for either man. Fisher's resignation followed and Beresford's career came to an end.

#### **EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 2010**

The year 2010 sees the Diamond Jubilee of the greatest military music show of them all - the Edinburgh Military Tattoo is 60 years old. The 2010 Tattoo will take place from 6th to 28th August 2010 with performances, Monday to Friday at 9.00pm and on Saturday at 7.30pm and 10.30pm.

For anyone who does not know, the Tattoo is held on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle (which has an impressive slope too!), and consists pipers, gymnasts, singers, dancers and some amazing military displays.

However, the emphasis is very much on music with the event expected to delight an international crowd with its rich variety.

The planned programme for 2010 includes its two most

popular items - the music of the Massed Pipes and Drums and that of the Massed Military Bands. Among the many bands taking part are those of South Africa's Transvaal Scottish, the South Australian Pipes and Drums and the Band of the Coldstream Guards.

In addition, there will be musicians from Chile, the Imps Motorcycle Display Team, a contingent from the New Zealand Army and the Citadel Band from Charleston, South Carolina, USA.

#### **LIVERPOOL MILITARY SHOW 2010**

Slightly south of Edinburgh, the 2010 Liverpool Military Show, billed as the biggest Military Show in the Northwest, will take place on 29th, 30th and 31st May 2010 and will feature "ACF150" - a celebration of 150 years of the Army Cadet Force.

Plans for 2010 are still being finalised but there will be central arena displays from local TA units, plus various displays from the Army Cadet Forces, Air Cadets and Sea Cadets.

The Show is held at Walton Hall Park, just off the A580 East Lanes Road. It is always well signposted by the AA for parking and access and the gates open at 10am.

For more details, and pictures of the 2009 Show, go to: <http://liverpoolmilitaryshow.com>.

#### **ANNIVERSARY**

Finally, just a reminder (which I am sure you do not need) that 11th October sees the 110th anniversary of the start of the Second Anglo-Boer War in 1899.

#### **LUNCHTIME LECTURES**

The National Army Museum in London is holding the following lunchtime lectures. The lectures start at 12.30 and admission is free.

Date	Title
5th November	<b>Operation Snakebite: An Afghan Desert Siege.</b> Stephen Grey
12th November	<b>Woman: A Soldier?</b> John Wilson
19th November	<b>The Siege of Quebec and its impact on the American War of Independence.</b> Prof Stephen Manning
26th November	<b>Life at the Tower for a Female Yeoman Warder.</b> Moira Cameron
3rd December	<b>Badajoz: What Really Happened?</b> Carole Divall
10th December	<b>The Roots of Conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan.</b> David Loyn

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