

SOLDIERS' SMALL BOOK
NEWSLETTER OF THE
VICTORIAN MILITARY SOCIETY
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Personal note. The Editor's Father died a short while ago, hence the delay: (a) in sending this issue out and (b) in the Membership Secretary (who is also the Editor's wife) responding to membership queries etc. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible. In particular, Peter Dunn's list of Victorian autographs and documents and Wallis & Wallis's auction report will re-appear in the next issue. Ed.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

When *Soldiers Small Book* first went to e-mail format, the Editor said in the last printed edition (Sept. 2010): "*The Editor's ultimate aim is to make Soldiers Small Book a bi-monthly newsletter sent out every other month which, frankly, the cost of print and postage made an impossible dream when the newsletter was done in "hard copy".*"

Well, we have now reached that stage. *Soldiers Small Book* is now on so many mailing lists etc. that items are coming in with far greater frequency and in much greater quantity that they did when we relied on the post. So, from now on *Soldiers Small Book* will appear in August, October, December, February, April and June. The reason for these months being chosen is that there has to be a June edition to tie in with the Society's AGM.

Finally, an apology to those members who receive *Soldiers Small Book* through the post. It seems a small number of the last issue were sent out with insufficient postage with the result that the members concerned had to pay an excess charge. The Editor thinks he has now identified and reimbursed all those affected but, if you have been missed, please let the Editor know.

JOHN BAINES

It is with deep regret that we have to report that John Baines, the previous Editor of *Soldiers Small Book*, died in June. John had been seriously unwell for some time and our condolences go to his wife Julie and daughter Jamie.

Tim Rose and a number of the Diehards attended his funeral on behalf of both the Diehard Company and the Society.

An expert on the small arms of the British Army, John had a personal collection of virtually every musket and rifle used by the British infantryman from the Brown Bess to the SMLE.

John was also concerned with The Royal Sussex Living History Group a group dedicated to recreating the Royal Sussex Regiment in the Victorian period. The photo below (taken from the Group's website http://www.royalsussex.org.uk/RSLHG_Details.htm), shows John filming an episode of BBC TV's *History Quest* with Rory McGrath.



The Editor in his other guise as the Society's Publicity Officer, can recall a number of very happy times running stands for the Society where John, dressed in full uniform as a senior NCO of a Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, would give a fascinating demonstration of his collection.

An IT specialist by profession, John worked at one time for King & Barnes, the Sussex brewers, and usually managed to bring along some of "the product" to make sure that the speakers on the stand did not dry up.

John was a thoroughly excellent guy and will be very sadly missed by a lot of people.

TREASURER WANTED

Our Treasurer, David Nalson, has said that he will not be standing for re-election for the year 2013/14 although, if required, he hopes to be able to take up the position again in 2014/15.

The Society therefore needs a new Treasurer, either as a permanent replacement, or to provide one year's cover for 2013/14.

The main duties are banking members' subscriptions and paying the printer's bills for *Soldiers of the Queen*. There is also the thrice yearly Council meeting at the National Army Museum in London which are really rather jolly affairs.

If you would be interested, please contact our Chairman, Chris Kempton, for details. Surely there must be at least one retired banker or accountant in the Society who would like to keep his or her professional skills in working order!

TALKS

As members will know, the Society provides speakers for any group or organisation who would like us to come along (and who will pay the £40 we ask). The range of the talks we give has now been expanded to include "Queen Victoria's *Really Little Wars - small scale campaigns which did not make it into the history books*".

The talk covers: The Battle of Bossenden Wood (1838), Spain (1837-40), Mexico (1867), British Honduras (1867) and the Anglo-Zanzibar War (27th August 1896). The last, at 25 minutes, being regarded by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the shortest war in history.

If you know of any groups who might be interested in having a speaker from the Society please let the Editor know and he will send them the full list. All the talks are illustrated with a slide show.

MEDALS WANTS LIST

One of our members, John Sly writes:

"I am sure that there are many medal collectors among the members of the VMS, and I am appealing for their help. I have been researching for many years the contribution made by the 2/Yorkshire Regiment to the Tirah campaign, and collecting the medals of individual soldiers. Inevitably I have collected several broken groups over that time, and I am hoping that VMS members with medal interests will be able to help me to trace the missing medals and to re-unite those groups."

Mr Sly's "Wants List" is at the end of this issue, and he can be contacted at sly211@btinternet.com or via the Editor.

QUERIES ON THE EGYPTIAN ARMY

Member Wendell Schollander has sent in the following queries on the Egyptian Army which he hopes one or members can help answer.

"I am doing research for a book that, among other things, will cover the Egyptian Army during the period 1885 - 1914. I have two questions.

My first question concerns the three cords that can be seen across the chest of the British officer in the accompanying photograph. These cords were worn by some Egyptian officers (but not by all of them) and British officers serving in the Egyptian Army. They were worn on winter and summer dress uniforms and in Levee dress. Normally in photographs they show up as a light color, most likely they are gold, but they sometimes are dark in photos.



It is believed that they are a mark of a field officer. This fits the available facts and photos.

Question: Does any reader know about these cords and why they were worn? A cite to dress regulations before 1914 would be most helpful.

My second question has to do with the ethnic make-up of the Sudanese Battalions.

Question: During the period 1900 to 1914 was there a policy of recruiting only certain tribes or ethnic groups for the Sudanese Battalions? Were certain tribes or groups put in certain Sudanese Battalions? If yes, what tribes or groups went to what battalions?

Some background:

In India and East and West Africa the British recruited only certain ethnic groups for the Indian Army, KAR, etc. In all cases they were careful to note what classes or tribes supplied their soldiers.

This was not the case with the Sudanese Battalions up to the end of reconquest of the Sudan. During the reconquest, the Sudanese soldiers were recruited from Sudanese ex-soldiers living in Egypt and men who had served with the Mahdists (POWs and deserters). Under such a system you took what you got and there wasn't a much of a way to deal with ethnic groups.

In the 1920s and 30s there is some evidence that at least companies in the Sudanese Battalions were organized by ethnic group and made up of only one tribe.

Anything a member can send me about the ethnic makeup of Sudanese Battalions during the period 1900 - 1914 will be greatly appreciated."

Mr Schollander can be contacted at jcs2011@aol.com or via the Editor.

CONCERT

Following on from the successful Scarlet and Gold Concert in 2010, Guards Museum Enterprises Ltd are hosting two more concerts featuring the Regimental bands of The Household Division on 15th and 16th November 2012 at Central Hall Westminster. All the proceeds will go towards Guards' charities.

Tickets can be obtained from www.theguardsmuseum.com and follow the link to the box office or in person from the Guards Toy Soldier Centre by the Guards Museum in Birdcage Walk, London. Alternatively they can be obtained by phone on 0844 8717605.

AT THE CHARGE

Have you ever wondered what a charge by a full regiment of cavalry must have looked like? There have been any number of attempts at recreations in movies - the charge of the 21st Lancers in the film "Young Winston" for example - but they usually look more like the field of the Grand National approaching

Beecher's Brook than a regiment of horse riding knee to knee. What must a charge by a disciplined cavalry regiment have looked like "for real"?

Well now you can see. The following link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOI4piWh2eA> takes you to a French film clip of the mounted regiment of the French *Garde républicaine* (true sons of Murat every one of them) at the charge. You can clearly see the trumpeters all in a group on one flank, the second line in support (that great Victorian cavalry tactician Capt. Nolan would have approved) and the difficulty they have in maintaining their line when passing over uneven ground. Amazing stuff.

THE CAMERONIANS

The Editor has received the following from Andrew Thompson, the PR officer of South Lanarkshire Council:

"Purely in the interests of self-promotion I thought your members might be interested in this short online video report I produced on the revamped Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) Museum in Hamilton – while the museum covers the whole history of the Regiment from the 1600s to the 1960s there is certainly a lot of Victoriana in there, especially in the Cameronian Curios display.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCRBmkJhwJc&list=UU8EB-kUdQ0R9DA0gfy0E8Hg&index=6&feature=plcp>

There is also an on-going project to scan a lot of formal and informal regimental records into a digital format to improve access for families and researchers visiting the museum."

Mr SLY'S WANTS LIST (see item above)

EDWARD HENRY CHAPMAN: 1914-15 Star Trio and Plaque (Lieut-Colonel, 6/Yorkshire Regiment)
HERBERT ANGUS FULTON: 1914-15 Star Trio (Major/Lieut-Colonel, Staff)
JAMES GREER: India Medal 1895 (Lieut & QM, Yorkshire Regt)
JOHN ALLCOCK: KSA (3442 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
EDWARD ASBREY: India Medal 1895 (2480 Sgt Yorkshire Regt), 1914-15 Star Trio (9077 WOII Yorkshire Regt; Lieut & QM Yorkshire Regt)
ALBERT JOHN BARBER: QSA (4335 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
FRANK REGINALD HENRY BARNETT: India Medal 1895 (2278 Sgt Yorkshire Regiment)
BEN BATTY: QSA, 1914 Star & Bar Trio (4139 Pte Yorkshire Regt; 8075 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
WILLIAM BAXTER: India General Service Medal 1854 (2060 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
ALFRED PHILIP BEQUET: Africa General Service Medal 1902 (3809 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
EDWIN BENNETT: India Medal 1895, QSA (3323 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
JOHN WALTER BLACK: KSA (3100 Pte Yorkshire Regt), 1914-15 Star Trio (9240 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
WILLIAM JOIHN BLORE: 1914-15 Star Trio (WOII, Yorkshire Regt)
THOMAS JAMES CADOGAN: Tibet Medal (Sgt S&T Corps), BWM/VM (WO I, S&T Corps)
FRANCIS CARTER alias WILLIAM YOUNG: India Medal 1895 (2773 Cpl Yorkshire Regt)
HENRY COLLIER: India Medal 1895 (4872 Pte Yorkshire Regt), 1914-15 Star, BWM (9429 A/Cpl York R)
JAMES COLLINS: QSA (4028 Yorkshire Regiment)
JOSEPH COLLINS: QSA (2976 Yorkshire Regiment)
WILLIAM COLMAN: 1914-15 Star, BWM (9286 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
STEPHEN HOWARD COPNALL: India General Service Medal 1854, India Medal 1895 (2950 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
CORNELIUS CRONAN: BWM (4079 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
HERBERT DAY: QSA (4649 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
TOM DYSERT: India Medal 1895, QSA (3371 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
EDWIN WESTALL EARWICKER: 1914-15 Star, VM (9309 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
CHARLES EVANS: QSA (3075 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
JOHN FEENEY: Egypt Medal, Khedive's Star (Pte, 1/Yorkshire Regt), India Medal 1895 (Pte Yorkshire Regt)
RUFUS FERDINAND: India Medal 1895 (4502 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
SOLOMON HENRY FRANCIS: QSA (3171 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
JOHN ROBERT FREELAND: QSA (3524 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
FREDERICK GATEHOUSE: India Medal 1895 (4606 Pte Yorkshire Regt), BWM/VM (Pte, Rifle Brigade)
SAMUEL GATEHOUSE: QSA (4355 Pte Yorkshire Regt), Military Medal, 1914-15 Star Trio (8236 Pte, Yorkshire Regt)
HENRY GIBSON: QSA (3902 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
JOHN W HARDCASTLE: India Medal 1895 (4160 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
ISAAC HAYES: Distinguished Conduct Medal, India Medal 1895 (3243 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
HUGH H HIMLAN: India Medal 1895 (930 C.Sgt Yorkshire Regt)
WILLIAM JOEL HOWE: QSA (4030 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
FREDERICK IGGO: 1914-15 Star Trio (8972 L/Cpl Yorkshire Regt)
JOHN JONES: Africa General Service Medal 1902 (5204 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
WILLIAM HENRY KING: India Medal 1895 (3193 Cpl Yorkshire Regiment)
JOHN LLOYD: India Medal 1895 (2963 Pte Yorkshire Regiment), QSA/KSA (2963 Pte Yorkshire Regt)
FREDERICK CHARLES LOWN: QSA (3250 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
BARTHOLOMEW MCGHARRY: QSA (3873 Yorkshire Regiment)
JAMES MYERS: QSA/KSA (3122 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
JAMES OAKLEY: QSA/KSA (4328 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
WILLIAM O'CONNELL: QSA (3501 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)

JAMES PURVIS: Distinguished Conduct Medal, QSA (3198 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
FRANCIS J RAY: QSA (4482 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
BEDELL RICHARDSON: QSA (3549 Sgt Yorkshire Regiment)
BENJAMIN SECKER: India Medal 1895 (3796 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
CHARLES SHEMELD: QSA (4102 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
JOHN SMITH: India Medal 1895 (Pte 3009 Yorkshire Regiment)
RICHARD SPENCER: Africa General Service Medal (4989 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
NATHANIEL STOCKMAN: Africa General Service Medal (4089 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
CHARLES SUMMERS: QSA/KSA (2964 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
ALFRED GEORGE SYKES: India Medal 1895 (3179 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
ARTHUR TAYLOR: India Medal 1895, KSA (3074 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
WILLIAM TIGHE: India Medal 1895 (3972 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
WILLIAM TUFFERY: QSA/KSA (2961 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
DAVID WIGGLESWORTH: India Medal 1895 (4985 Pte Yorkshire Regiment)
GEORGE WITHALL: Long Service Medal, 1914-15 Star Trio (4268 Pte Yorkshire Regiment).

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