

SOLDIERS' SMALL BOOK
NEWSLETTER OF THE
VICTORIAN MILITARY SOCIETY
FEB/MARCH 2013 – ISSUE No. 97

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue comes slightly late due to the Editor's PC dying at the most inconvenient moment!

We start with a correction to the last issue. Dave Nash has sent the following regarding the illustration of Lt. Hewitt's medals in the last issue:

"Hate to be pedantic, but the first of Lt. Hewitt's medals pictured on page 4 is the Africa General Service Medal, not the Army General Service Medal. Sheer fluke I know this, as it is also the first of my own medals, but for Kenya rather than Somaliland!"

Nothing pedantic about it. An error's an error and must be corrected is the Editor's view and he apologises for not spotting it at the time.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Military Society (Registered Charity No. 1117006) will be held at in the Board Room of the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 on Saturday 1st June 2013 at Noon.

Any member, who wishes to propose a motion at the AGM, or stand for election to the Council, should notify the Society's Secretary, Ted Herbert in writing by 1st May 2013. Ted's contact details are in *Soldiers of the Queen*.

After the meeting, Dr Roger Stearn will give a talk on *"From Toys to Collectables: A Century of Toy Soldiers."*

TRESURER

The Council of the Society is happy to be able to inform members that David Nalson will not now be standing down as the Society's Treasurer.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

The Council is also happy to inform members that the vacancy on the Council for a "member without portfolio" on the Council has now been filled by Colonel Malcolm Clewer.

THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Society's website is now up and running again, and the Council wishes to congratulate Michael Scott on his sterling work in rebuilding the website. At the last Council meeting, it was confirmed that no damage had been done with respect to financial or membership information as a result of the phishing attack last year.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2013-14
A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

If you have not renewed your membership for the year 2013-14, please do so now. If you prefer to pay by credit card can you please do so via the PayPal option on the Society's website www.victorianmilitarysociety.org.uk.

Payment of your subscription entitles you to receive all journals etc. published by the Society during the membership year commencing on 1st April 2013.

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not done so already, please also complete a gift aid declaration so that the Society can reclaim tax in respect of your subscription.

If you are not sure of your membership status, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01635 48628 or by email at vmsdan@msn.com.

Please note, to comply with the UK Data Protection Act, the Society maintains a database of members' names and addresses for mailing purposes. In accordance with a decision taken by members at a Society AGM some years ago, members' details are ***not*** passed on to third parties.

ANSWERS TO LAST'S ISSUE'S QUIZ

The answers to the Christmas Quiz in the last issue are as follows. Many thanks to those members who took the trouble to send in their answers.

1. *Which infantry regiment was the last one to wear the red coat in action?*

The West Yorkshire Regiment at the Battle of Ginnis on 30 December 1885 (although there is a belief that British soldiers manning maxim detachments with the Egyptian Army in Kitchener's Sudan campaign wore their home service tunics unofficially).

2. *Which infantry regiment was the last one to take its colours into action?*

The 58th Foot (2nd Northamptonshire Regiment) at Laing's Nek on 28 January 1881.

3. *Complete this list: Wellington, Hardinge, Cambridge, Wolseley,?*

Roberts. They are the Commanders-in-Chief of the British Army from 1842 until the post was abolished.

4. *Which campaign medal ribbon is white/red/white/red/white, all stripes of equal width?*

The medal awarded for the Indian Mutiny.

5. *Which infantry regiment traditionally has a ram as its mascot?*

The Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment). Their successors the Mercian Regiment still parade with what is now the 29th "Lance Corporal Derby".

6. *If you add together the regimental numbers of: "The Emperor's Chambermaids" "The Death or Glory Boys" and the Empress of India's Lancers (a) what's the total and (b) to which regiment of foot does that number belong?*

14th King's Hussars + 17th Lancers + 21st Lancers = 52 and the 52nd Foot is the 2nd Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

BOOKS AND PRINTS FOR SALE!

Former Society chairman and Sudan Wars Study Group member, Richard Caie, has a wide variety of books relating to Queen Victoria's wars and, in particular, the Sudan campaigns, which he would like to dispose of. The books range from original 19th century editions to more recent authors.

Some of these books are general histories of the 1882 to 1898 campaigns while others are more specific and essential reading for the serious student of the period.

All these books are offered at very low prices to VMS members and a full list is obtainable from Richard at richardcaie@btinternet.com or 01424 848814.

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS ORIGINAL PRINTS

Richard also has available a number of original prints taken from the Illustrated London News from various years during the 1880s, which include the earlier Sudan campaigns (Abu Klea etc.). There are some battle and campaign scenes. Some are framed. Please contact him for further details.

Editor's note: If you have anything you wish to dispose of, or anything you are looking for, the Editor is always happy to put "for sale" or "wanted" adverts in Soldiers' Small Book. There is no charge to Society members.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT PHOTO

The Society's Membership Secretary, Beverley Allen, is currently transcribing a diary written by a Private in the 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment during the Anglo-Boer War. Under the entry for 5th September 1900 written at Mafeking, it says:

"The Regiment has had its photo taken."

Does anyone know the whereabouts of this picture? Presumably copies must have been made. The Regimental Museum says it does not have a copy.

Beverley is checking through contemporary journals and histories to see if she can find it, but does any member know where a copy might be found? If you have any ideas, please let the Editor know.

MULES

Does any member know when mule transport was last used by the British Army? Roger Stearn, our Reviews Editor is keen to find out. If you know, please let Roger know direct (his details or under "Officers of the Society" in *Soldiers of the Queen* or, alternatively, the Editor will pass on any information.

Mules were certainly used in the Second World War because the Editor's Grandfather was a farrier in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps shoeing them in Crete in 1941. (Incidentally, Grandfather did not make it to the beach in time for the evacuation. "I did not desert the British Army lad, the British Army deserted me.")

THREE EVENTS OF INTEREST

LUNCHTIME LECTURE

Roger Stearn will be giving the Lunchtime Lecture on 7th March 2013 at the National Army Museum in Chelsea. His topic will be *"From Toys to Collectables: A Century of Toy Soldiers."* The lecture starts at 12.30.

This lecture places the National Army Museum's collection of toy soldiers in a wider context and includes famous men and their toy soldiers, as well as the British toy soldier industry with its leading firm, Britains, and the more recent developments brought about by the end of hollow cast production in 1966.

If you cannot get to the Museum on the 9th of March, Roger has very kindly agreed to give the talk again at the Society's AGM on 1st June 2013.

BMSS SHOW

The British Model Soldier Society's Annual Show will be on Saturday 27th April 2013 at The Holiday Inn, Coram Street, London WC1N 1HT (10.00am to 4.00pm). This is across the road from the Royal National Hotel. Street parking is free after 1.00pm and the NCP car park on the corner of Coram Street and Woburn Place is probably the cheapest in central London.

TOY SOLDIER WEEKEND

The National Army Museum will be holding a two "Toy Soldier Weekend on 27th and 28th July 2013 at the Museum. No more details are currently available from the Museum.

Ted Herbert, the Society's Secretary and the Skirmish Wargames Group, will be running a 54mm wargame at both the BMSS Show and the Museum's weekend event.

24TH MIDDLESEX RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

Most members, I imagine, will be familiar with the story of the shortage of telegraphists in the 1882 Egyptian campaign being made good by sending out a detachment from the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers (the Post Office Rifles) who were trained telegraphists at the GPO.

One of the unanswered questions is what the detachment wore when they went to Egypt. In the 1930s Player's cigarettes produced a card with a blue and green uniform that seemingly has no factual basis and most probably came from the artist's imagination.



Now a new illustration has come to light. Again, it is an artist's reconstruction and not an actual contemporary print so its value as historical evidence is low, but, in the Editor's view at least, it is a far more satisfactory attempt than the previous one.

The picture, which previously hung in the WO's and Sergeant's Mess at the Depot of the Royal Engineer's Postal and Courier Branch at Mill Hill, has been acquired by the Regimental Museum of the Royal Logistic Corps as successor to the Postal and Courier Branch.

The picture is reproduced by kind permission of the Museum's curator, Ms M Price. The slight "misty" look is due to the picture being framed behind non-reflective glass.



PETER DUNN LETTERS AND AUTOGRAPHS

Peter Dunn's latest list of autographs, letters etc. has a large number of show business and RAF items but also has the following Victorian(-ish) items on it:

- Admiral of the Fleet Lord Jellicoe, a really splendid studio photo, in uniform (refer jacket not full dress), and signature with "AF" on part page of headed paper- £45.
- Field Marshal HRH the Duke of Cambridge, signature and date "October 1867" on card - £10.
- General Lord Hertford, equerry to Prince Albert, letter concerning charity and social matters - £18.
- Ivor Emmanuel (Private Owen in *Zulu*), autograph on album page- £25.
- Paul Daneman (Sergeant Maxfield in *Zulu*), autograph on album page- £25.
- Glynn Edwards (Corporal Allen in *Zulu*), autograph on stabilised tissue paper- £15.

Finally, and the Editor mentions this simply because the price took his breath away, a German promotion document bearing the signature of a certain Herr Himmler can be yours for £750!!

For the full list, contact Peter as 32B Bow Road (Basement Flat), Bow, London E3 4LN. Phone 0208 981 8844 between 8am and 8pm.

AUCTION REPORT

Wallis & Wallis's Arms & Militaria Auction on 8th January 2013.

Traditionally, very few auctioneers hold sales during the first half of January, and in the past many people believed that prices were poor during this cold month. However, Wallis & Wallis have always held an auction in January, as believing that many buyers are keen to get back into the swing of things after the long Christmas break.

Each time it has proved a great success with buyers. This sale proved to be no different with prices in most areas exceeding expectations. The room was full and, as with other recent sales, this one saw high prices being paid by both trade and collector, again proving that despite poor general market conditions this area remains incredibly strong.

In addition to the more traditional bidding there were also more Internet bidders than ever seen before, many of whom were successful in buying lots without the necessity of attending the Sale.

There were, however, few Victorian items in the sale. This 1821 pattern heavy cavalry officer's sword by E Whiteside, King St, Manchester, etched with crowned VR cypher and First Volunteer Horse Guards, in its steel scabbard with two rings and in good condition (blade sharpened for service, removing part of the etching on both sides) sold in the room for £425.



Wallis & Wallis's next sales are:

- 19th March 2013
- 30th April – 1st May 2013 (Spring Fine Sale)

Last date for entries into the Spring Fine sale is 23rd March.

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