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THE MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

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THE MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

By

STANLEY C. JOHNSON,
M.A., D.Sc., F.R.E.S.

Author of "Peeps at Postage Stamps," etc.

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To
S. B. J.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The copyright of the letters written by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and the Duke of Wellington, given in pp. 38-43, is vested in His Majesty the King, who graciously permitted their reproduction in this work. The Author is extremely grateful for this privilege, and wishes to thank Mr. John Murray, of Albemarle Street, W., for obtaining the necessary consent.

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THE MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE custom of awarding medals for military service is supposed to have originated with the Chinese many centuries before the Christian era, but the decorations which our fighting men are given to-day probably owe their origin to the badges which the armies of England wore after the decline of armour, and before the introduction of distinctive uniforms. The badges themselves, it hardly need be said, grew out of the coats of arms which emblazoned the liveries of the retainers.

There are a number of instances on record of commanders rewarding men upon the battlefield by giving them regimental badges struck in some valuable metal, and perhaps studded with precious stones. Heroes, who were decorated in this way, removed the common or ordinary metal sign from their coats or hats and wore, instead, the much-prized emblem. In this simple performance we have the germ of medal-granting and wearing as it affects the Navy and Army of to-day.

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

To Queen Elizabeth belongs the honour of striking the first English war medal, but, as we tell in the chapter which follows, her awards were given with a sparing hand. Charles I. struck the first military medal, Elizabeth having reserved her decorations for the Navy ; whilst the earliest campaign award, that is to say, the first occasion on which a whole army received these precious tokens, was granted by the Commonwealth to commemorate the battle of Dunbar. Other pioneer medals were (a) The award given for La Hogue by William and Mary ; this is supposed to be the first naval campaign decoration ; (b) The Culloden Medal, which was the earliest to be provided with a ribbon of special pattern ; (c) The gold Peninsular Medals, which bore the first bars ; (d) The Waterloo Medal, the forerunner of what are sometimes called the "five shilling piece medals," and (e) The Indian Mutiny Medal, the first military medal which was given to a civilian for military assistance.

It must not be thought that when once the idea of decorating our fighting men had occurred to those in authority the grants were forthwith made on all warrantable occasions, for such is far from being the case. The first campaign medal, as we say above, was the Dunbar award, but the next occasion when our army was similarly recognised was for Waterloo. During this intervening period of close on two centuries, the men in the ranks of the English regiments received no awards unless they performed acts of exceptional bravery. For their services in the battle of the Nile and for the Peninsular campaign, our men were given no official rewards at all until, many years later, Queen Victoria generously decided to strike a medal

INTRODUCTION

and grant it to all of whom information could be found.

Even in later years, when the institution of campaign decorations had been firmly established, it was a common practice to send out the tokens to their recipients two or three years late. Thus it happens that many of the coveted pieces remain unclaimed in the hands of the authorities, sometimes through forgetfulness, but more often due to the decease of the man who played his part so nobly. It may be of interest to mention here that, at the present moment, there are hundreds of unclaimed medals lying at the War Office and the Admiralty awaiting claimants. If any reader of these lines happens to know of a case where a soldier or sailor served through a campaign, but did not receive his medal, he will be doing a good service by acquainting either the man or his next of kin, or by sending particulars to the Adjutant-General to the Forces, or the Lords of the Admiralty, as the case may require.

During the three centuries that medals have been granted in the United Kingdom, a wide range of metals has been used for their composition, but silver, gold, and bronze are by far the most usual. Various shapes also have been employed by the designers of these cherished tokens. In the early days the oval was usually employed, but since the time of the Honourable East India Company's first award, the circular piece has found the greatest share of favour. It may be said in reference to this matter that latterly a tendency has shown itself of returning to the oval form, a tendency which, we believe, should be fostered on artistic grounds. As to the intended mode of attachment,

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

all the early pieces were worn around the neck, either by means of a chain or ribbon. Later, the favoured way was to wear the decoration hanging from the coat button, but now, as the reader knows, the awards are pinned to the breast.

There are, of course, many rules which govern the wearing of awards ; the following may be mentioned :—

1. Medals are to be worn when in full dress on the left breast, in the order in which they were conferred, the first being pinned the farthest from the shoulder.

2. British orders are to be given first place, then British medals ; foreign orders and foreign medals follow in the order mentioned. Long Service and Good Conduct Medals are to be worn after war medals.

3. Medals granted for conspicuous gallantry are worn before Campaign Medals, but the V.C. takes precedence over all other decorations.

4. Medals must be worn in either one or two horizontal rows suspended from a suitable bar. If there are more pieces than can be conveniently accommodated in two rows, they may overlap.

5. Foreign orders or medals may not be worn unless a Royal Licence has been granted.

6. Stars of Orders must never be worn with patrol, stable, or mess jackets, and only with a frock coat, when the cocked hat is also worn. Abroad, officers wear their stars when foreign officers wear theirs. Ribands of medals and decorations must be worn with undress or mess uniform sewn on without intervals and without overlapping. Two or more rows may be made if necessary.

INTRODUCTION

Before concluding these preliminary notes, it may be well to set out the meaning of the following words used frequently in the pages which ensue :—

OBVERSE.—The front face of a medal.

REVERSE.—The under face.

BAR.—Another name for a clasp.

EXERGUE.—The lower section of the circular face of a medal, usually cut off from the rest by a straight line, as under Britannia in our current penny pieces.

DECORATION.—This word is used to denote an award in the shape of a star, cross, or form other than circular.

CHAPTER II

EARLY WAR MEDALS

ON July 29th, 1588, a fleet of one hundred and twenty-nine Spanish ships of war made their way to the English coast, and the beacons ranging "from Eddystone to Berwick bounds" heralded their coming. The fate of the Armada is known to all; seventy-six of the Spanish galleons were sunk or washed ashore, whilst the remaining fifty-three fled in order to preserve their safety.

For those of us who can appreciate medals, the defeat of the Armada has a particular interest, since the men who fought with Drake, Hawkins, and Frobisher were the first to receive British war decorations.

It was Queen Elizabeth who introduced this custom of bestowing medals as rewards for naval and military service, but it only occurred to her to decorate the chief officers and not the common seamen, as is customary to-day. Her awards, which were particularly fine specimens of the medallic art, consisted of at least two different patterns.

The most noted, known as the "**Ark-in-Flood**" **Medal**, bore a profile portrait of the Queen looking to the left, she being dressed in an elaborate quilted dress, with neck-ruff and diadem. The reverse showed an ark tossed in a stormy sea, with smoke issuing from its chimney, whilst the sun's rays were streaming down

EARLY WAR MEDALS

upon the frail craft. An inscription, in Latin, which encircled the little picture is particularly appropriate. "Tranquil amidst violent waves," it ran, a motto which suggested the condition of England whilst our fleet was disposing of the Spanish galleons. When we remember that the admiral's ship was named *Arke Rawlie* we must agree that the allegory was doubly to the point.

A second medal (Fig. 2, p. 9*) bore a full face portrait of Elizabeth, whilst the reverse showed a tiny island surrounded by a storm-beaten sea, which contained a number of curious monsters. Upon the island a bay tree stood unaffected by the winds, which were depicted in the scene. The inscription, "Non ipsa pericula tangunt" (Not even dangers affect it), explains the allegory. The island is England; the bay tree, our indomitable prowess; the sea monsters, the Armada; and the storm, the commotion caused by the enemy.

These are the two Armada medals which are most frequently seen in public and private collections; they are oval in shape, and both are provided with loops for suspension around the wearer's neck. The ark pattern we have only found in silver, but the latter may be seen in silver and copper. There are other medals bearing the head of Elizabeth, but they were either issued for non-war services or were struck in single specimens, and are thus of little interest to the general reader.

James I. is responsible for a number of fine medals, but whether they were awarded in recognition of naval,

* In all cases of reference, the page numbers given are those which face the illustrations.

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

military, or political services, we cannot state. Probably they were given to army leaders and worn by them as badges, rather than as decorations won on the battle-field. They were, undoubtedly, handsome specimens of the art of medal-making. Grueber states that they were made by the Dutch artist, Simon Passe, and were stamped on thin plates in imitation of engraving.

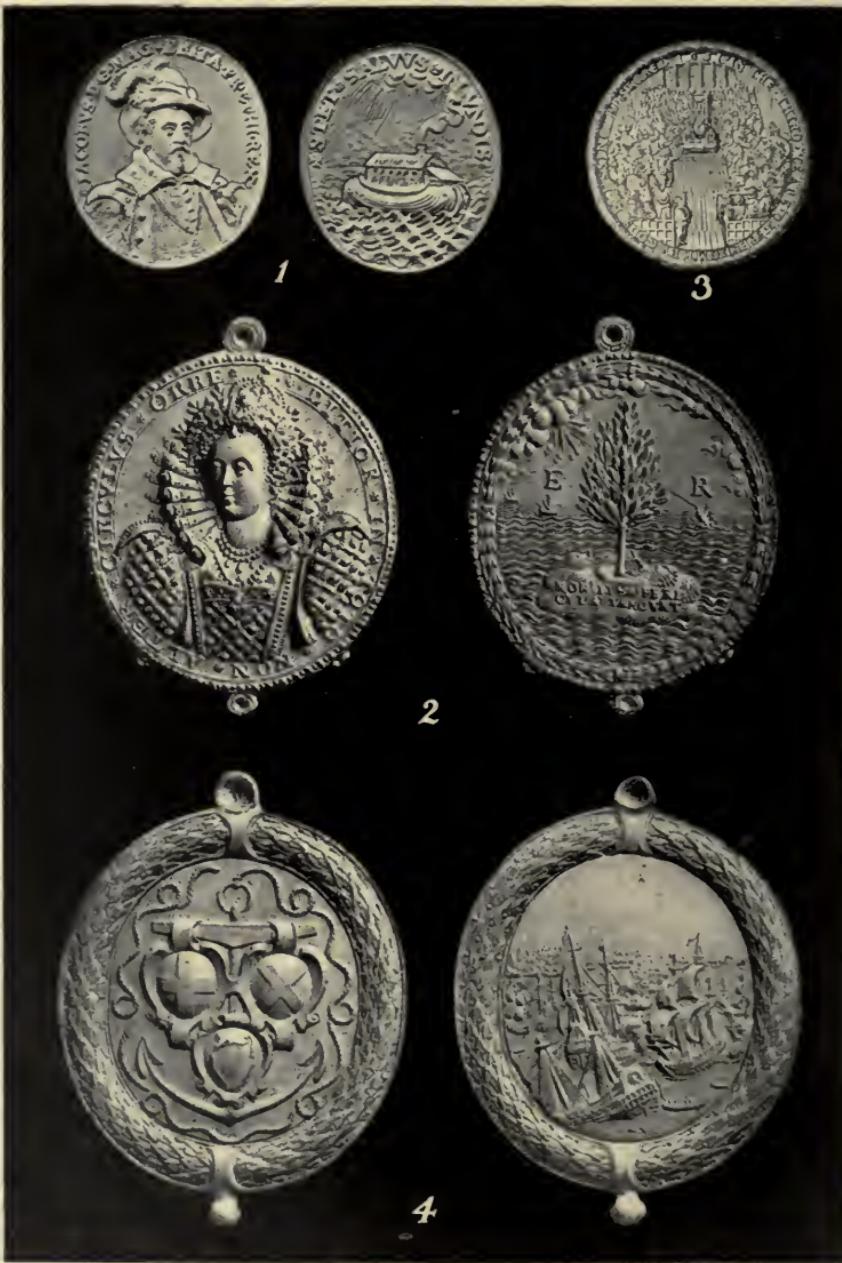
Charles I. also issued a number of personal medals, bearing the portraits of his wife, his son, and himself, but he will be remembered chiefly for his award to Sir Robert Welch in recognition of distinguished conduct on the battlefield of Edge Hill. This medal is the first military, as opposed to naval, decoration won in actual fighting of which we have authenticated records.

The Welch Medal was engraved by Thomas Rawlins, of the London Mint; it was oval, and bore on the obverse, the heads of Charles I. and Prince Charles, side by side, looking to the right, whilst the Royal Standard was given on the reverse. This latter face was appropriately ornamented seeing that Welch recovered a standard on the battlefield.

The Royal Warrant affecting this medal ran as follows :—

“ Charles Rex,
Our will and pleasure is that you make a medal in gold for our
trusty and well-beloved Sir Robert Welch, Knight, with our own
figure and that of our dearest sonne Prince Charles, and on the
reverse thereof to insculp ye form of our Royal Banner used at
the battail of Edge Hill, where he did us acceptable service
and received the dignity of Knighthood from us: and to inscribe
it “ Per Regule Mandatum Caroli Regis Hoc Assignatur Roberta
Welch, Militi:” and for so doing this shall be your sufficient
warrant.

“ Given at our Court at Oxford this first day of June, 1643.
To our trusty and well-beloved Thomas Rawlins, our graver of
seals and medals.”



EARLY NAVAL MEDALS, ETC.

1. Badge worn by soldiers of James I.
2. Armada Medal.
3. The Great Seal of 1648.
(Original of design used in the Dunbar Medal).
4. Medal commemorating the defeat of Admiral von Tromp.

EARLY WAR MEDALS

Thirteen days prior to the signing of the above warrant, Charles instituted by Royal Decree, **the Forlorn Hope Medal**, which was to be awarded to soldiers who distinguished themselves in the presence of the enemy ; it was, in fact, the forerunner of the Victoria Cross. Unfortunately, no records exist to show how many, if any, of the medals were distributed, and as we cannot definitely say that any particular specimen which we possess to-day is the Forlorn Hope decoration, it is open to doubt whether awards were actually made.

A space of seven years brings us to 1650 and the **Battle of Dunbar**, where Cromwell defeated the Scotch Royalists. Parliament was overjoyed at this great success, and one of the first measures formulated by it concerned the granting of a medal to every soldier, whether of low rank or high, who took up arms against the Scotch. This Dunbar Medal, it should be said, was the earliest English award to be distributed throughout an entire army.

The medal was struck in two sizes ; *i.e.*, small gold oval pieces for officers, and large silver ones for the ranks. Both bore Cromwell's profile, with a battle scene in the rear, on the obverse, and a curious perspective view of Parliament in full assembly on the reverse. With regard to this scene, it may be mentioned that it is a copy of the Great Seal of 1648. (Fig. 3, p. 9).

A curious inscription, *i.e.*, "Word at Dunbar. The Lord of Hosts. Septem Y3. 1650," is to be seen on the front of the medal. Many students have found a difficulty in interpreting the meaning attached to the legend, whilst some have even suggested that "Word" is engraved in error for "Won." The simple explanation,

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

however, is that the word, or shall we say battle-cry, at Dunbar was “The Lord of Hosts.”

Thomas Simon was entrusted with the production of the medal, and Parliament sent him up to Scotland to discuss the details of its ornamentation with Cromwell. Here is an interesting letter which the great soldier wrote to Westminster as a consequence of the visit :—

“Edinburgh 4. Feb. 1650-1.

Gentlemen,

It is not a little wonder to me to see that you should send Mr. Symonds so great a journey about a business importinge so little as far as it relates to me ; when as if my poor opinion may not be rejected by you, I have to offer to that which I think the most noble end, to will the commemoacon of that great mercie att Dunbar and the gratitude of the Army, which might be better expressed upon the Meddal by engraving as on the one side the Parliament which I heare was intended and will do singularly well, so on the other side an Army with the inscription over the head of it “The Lord of Hosts,” which was our word that day. Wherefore, if I may begg it as a favour from you, I most earnestly beseech you if I may doe it without offence that it may be so. And, if you thinke not fitt to have it as I offer you may alter it as you see cause only I doe think I may truly say, it will be verie thankfully acknowleded by me, if you will spare the having my effigies in it.

The gentleman’s paynes and troubles hither have been verie great and I shall make it my second suite unto you that you will please confer upon him that imployment which Nicholas Briot had before him : indeed the man is ingenious and worthie of encouragement. I may not presume much but if, at my request, and for my sake, he may obteyne this favour, I shall putt it upon the accompt

EARLY WAR MEDALS

of my obligacons which are not few and I hope shall be found reads gratefully to acknowledge, and to approve myself,

Gentlemen, Your most reall servant,

O. Cromwell.

Simon, as Cromwell asserts, was one of the finest engravers that England has ever produced. He made the seals and coinage for the Commonwealth, and the early coins of the reign of Charles II. are his handiwork. The latter king relieved him of his post in the year 1663, and engaged James Roettier, a Dutch engraver, in his stead. Simon took this very much to heart, and by way of protest struck an unofficial crown-piece which coin collectors now prize highly. Its edge was inscribed, "Thomas Simon most humbly prays your Majesty to compare this his tryall piece with the Dutch and if more truly drawn and embossed, more gracefully order'd and more accurately engraven to relieve him." The Petition Crown, as the piece is called, left Charles unmoved and Simon's career as the Royal engraver ended.

In the interval between the striking of the Dunbar awards and his retirement, Thomas Simon was commissioned to produce a number of war medals.

In the autumn of 1650 he struck the **Wyard Medals**, which were officially given to Robert Wyard and the crew of the *Adventure* who engaged with success a number of Royalist ships on July 31st of that year. Wyard received a gold piece, whilst the crew were rewarded with silver and bronze pieces. They all bore an anchor, intertwined with the shields of England and Ireland, surmounted by the word "Meruisti" on the obverse, and a scene depicting the *Adventure's* prowess on the reverse.

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

A second medal, having a similar reverse to the above but with the view of Parliament as depicted on the Dunbar award, was struck for isolated acts of bravery at sea.

In 1653, Simon engraved the gold medals given for **the victories over the celebrated Dutch Admiral, Van Tromp**. There are three or four patterns, all much alike; the chief differences, however, are (*a*) was embellished with a trophy of arms; (*b*) had a frame of laurel leaves, and (*c*) was not provided with a border. The obverse of the medal most frequently seen bore an anchor with three shields suspended to it; one, the Cross of St. George; another, the Cross of St. Andrew; and a third, the Harp of Ireland. The reverses showed a naval battle in progress, with one of the enemy's ships sinking in the foreground (Fig. 4, p. 9).

When William and Mary came to the throne they drew up a document stating the conditions under which they were prepared to grant medals to the Navy, but no mention was made of the Army. The first grant to be awarded under this manifesto was for services at **the Battle of La Hogue**, in 1692, when the French were repulsed by a joint English and Dutch fleet (Fig. 5, p. 16). The decoration was struck in gold and silver; the obverse showed a bust of William and Mary, side by side, facing to the right, with the legend: GVL : ET : MAR : D : G : M : B : F : ET. H : REX. ET. REGINA. The reverse bore the inscription: NOX : NVILLA. SECVTA. EST. placed above a ship in flames, probably *Le Soleil Royal*, flying the French flag. The exergue bore the date 21 May, 1692, with a mention of the action. Mayo says that probably James Roettier,

EARLY WAR MEDALS

the Dutch engraver, was entrusted with the work of producing this attractive piece.

The only medal of note created by Queen Anne was issued to the officers of the fleet which sailed to **Vigo**, whither they had gone to attack the Spanish galleons, which the French fleet was defending. Anne's bust is depicted on the obverse whilst a battle scene fills the reverse.

The year 1746 was marked by the **Battle of Culloden**, when the fiery Duke of Cumberland dealt a crushing blow to the Jacobite cause, led by Prince Charles Edward. The medal issued for this encounter is particularly valuable, but copies may be seen of it in the Royal United Service and British Museums (Fig. 6, p. 16).

It was engraved by Richard Yeo, was oval, and the authorities intended "it to be worn round the necks of officers by means of a crimson ribbon having a narrow green border." Probably this is the first award to be issued with a specified ribbon. The obverse bore a profile of the duke with the word "Cumberland" inscribed above his head, while the reverse showed an undraped full-length figure of Apollo standing upon a dying dragon. There were also these words on the under surface, "Actum est ilicet periit. Proel. Colod. Ap. XVI. MDCCXLVI." The medal, struck in gold, silver, and perhaps bronze, was given to commanders only; the rank and file did not participate.

The next two medals to attract notice came from **St. Vincent** and were issued by order of the legislature of this little island in the West Indies. The first was awarded to the officers in those portions of the English Army which were stationed in the island, and which assisted in suppressing the Carib rebellion of 1773;

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

the second was given to officers who led the loyal natives against the joint forces of the Caribs and French in 1795.

The Caribs, it will be remembered, belong to an American Indian race, which inhabits the shores of the Caribbean Sea. On account of their very low standard of civilisation, the inhabitants of St. Vincent determined to expel them from their island, and this gave cause to the two outbreaks mentioned.

The first medal was cast in silver and bore the head of George III. on the front, and a representation of Britannia on the rear. The second, cast in silver and bronze, bore a winged figure of Victory on the obverse and an armed native soldier on the reverse. Both were local productions.

After the issue of the Carib awards, a period of twenty-one years elapsed with no medals of any note to mark its flight. In 1794, however, Lord Howe obtained a brilliant victory over the French fleet on **the Glorious First of June at Ushant**. King George III. felt that the occasion needed special recognition, and he went down to Spithead and met the Admiral on his return to port. Howe was presented with a sword studded with jewels, and a gold chain and medal, whilst the vice-admirals, rear-admirals, and the captain of the fleet were given chains, with the promise that they and certain other officers should receive gold medals later.

The gold pieces took two years to prepare, being issued towards the close of 1796. They were circular, and struck in two sizes. The obverses showed a figure of Victory crowning Britannia, whilst the reverse of the larger piece bore a wreath of oak and laurel, within which particulars of the decoration were engraved. The

EARLY WAR MEDALS.

reverse of the smaller piece differed only in that it possessed no circular wreath. The decoration was suspended either by the presentation chains or by a white ribbon edged with blue.

The 1796 medal was so highly prized that in later years when the King was desirous of marking his appreciation of acts of gallantry in the Navy, he awarded further pieces struck from the same dies. Thus the "Glorious First of June" award became a kind of general service medal. Altogether, it was presented for some hundred and forty actions, of which the following should be noted :—*

- 1 June 1794. Lord Howe's Victory.
- 14 Feb. 1797. Lord St. Vincent's action off Cape St. Vincent.
- 11 Oct. 1797. Lord Duncan's battle off Camperdown.
- 1 Aug. 1798. Battle of the Nile.
- 25 Oct. 1799. Re-capture of the "Hermione" by H.M.S. "Surprise."
- 21 Oct. 1805. Battle of Trafalgar.
- 4 Nov. 1805. Sir Richard Strachan's action.
- 6 Feb. 1806. Sir John Duckworth's action off St. Domingo.
- 1 Jan. 1807. Capture of the Isle of Curaçoa.
- 10 Nov. 1808. Capture of the "Thetis" by H.M.S. "Amethyst."
- 6 July 1809. Capture of the "Badere Zaffer" by H.M.S. "Seahorse."
- 6 July 1809. Capture of the "Furieuse" by H.M.S. "Bonne Citoyenne."
- 13 Mar. 1811. Action off Sissa.

* Quoted from Mayo: "Medals and Decorations of the British Army and Navy."

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

- | | | |
|---------|-------|--|
| 9 Aug. | 1811. | Capture of the Island of Banda Nevia. |
| 22 Feb. | 1812. | Capture of the "Rivoli" by H.M.S.
"Victorious." |
| 1 June | 1813. | Capture of the "Chesapeake" by H.M.S.
"Shannon." |
| 27 Mar. | 1814. | Capture of "L'Etoile" by H.M.S.
"Hebrus." |
| 15 Jan. | 1815. | Action between the "President" and
H.M.S. "Endymion." |

In 1806, Major-General Stuart met the French in the province of Calabria with an army of some five thousand men. As a result, the **Battle of Maida** was fought, and the English dealt a crushing defeat to the forces of General Regnier. Two years later, King George III. commanded a gold medal (Fig. 7, p. 16) to be struck and awarded to seventeen of the superior officers whose services had proved so valuable in supporting Stuart.

The Maida Medal was circular, a trifle smaller than our present awards, and of much artistic merit. The obverse showed a striking effigy of the King, under which the legend, "Georgius Tertius Rex," was boldly printed; whilst on the reverse, an animated figure of Britannia showed her standing between the word Maida and the Manx-like arms—which are legs—of Sicily. The medal, which was issued with glass faces, had a ribbon which was claret with blue edges; it was intended to be suspended from the button-hole. There is little doubt that this was the finest award which the English had issued since the days of Charles.

After Maida came the **Peninsular War**, and the reader will probably look to this campaign for a noble array of historic awards. Should he do so, he will be sadly disappointed, for a spirit of nearness actuated



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6



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8



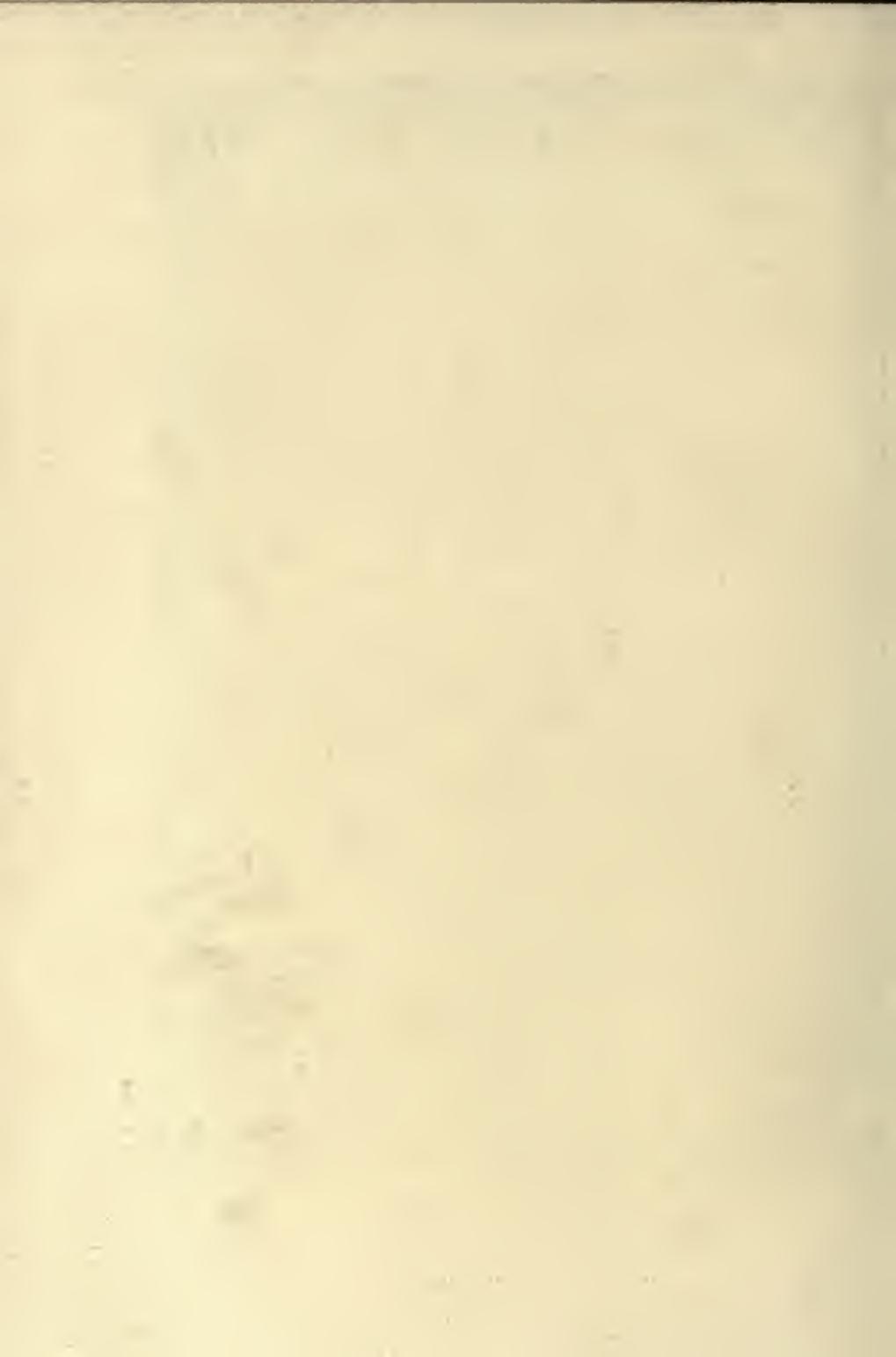
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10

EARLY INDIAN MEDALS, ETC.

5. Commemorating the Battle of La Hogue.
 6. " " " " Culloden.
 7. Medal awarded for Battle of Maida.
 8. Hon. East India Co.'s First Medal for Mysore.
 9. Seringapatam Medal.
 10. Hon. East India Co.'s First Medal for Egypt.



EARLY WAR MEDALS

those who made the grants. It is true that a medal bearing Victoria's head may be found for this campaign, but it was not issued until 1847-8, when many of the heroes were dead, and when the glories of the war had been tempered by time.

The contemporary awards were of two kinds, both gold. The first was a circular piece, bearing on the obverse a representation of Britannia seated on a globe, holding a palm,* and on the reverse a wreath within which the engagements were inscribed. The second award was a Maltese Cross decorated with a lion. Officers holding important ranks, only, could receive these honours.

The method of distribution was as follows : For the first engagement, the circular medal was awarded ; for the second, a bar was added ; for the third, another bar ; for the fourth, the gold cross bearing a name of an engagement in each of the four limbs ; for subsequent engagements, additional bars to the Cross. The Duke of Wellington was honoured with a cross and nine bars. Nobody received more.

The following battles were inscribed on the bars and crosses :—

Roleia, Vimeira, Sahagun, Benevente, Corunna, Martinique, Talavera, Guadaloupe, Busaco, Barrosa, Fuentes d'Onor, Albuera, Java, Cuidad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Fort Detroit, Vittoria, Pyrenees, St. Sebastian, Chateauguay, Nivelles, Nive, Othes, and Toulouse.

* The official description of the obverse was : " Britannia sitting in that part of the globe called Spain and Portugal, reposing after a victorious battle. In her left hand she holds a palm-branch as an emblem of Victory and in her right she presents a crown of laurel to the meritorious officer, as a reward for his great skill and valour by which he has deserved well of his Country."

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The Royal Warrant which decreed the issue of the circular piece ran as follows :—

" His Majesty having been graciously pleased to command, that, in commemoration of the brilliant victories obtained by divisions of his army over the Enemy in the battles of Roleia, Vimeira, also in the several instances where the cavalry had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves against the Enemy in Spain and in the battles of Corunna and Talavera de la Reyna, the undermentioned officers of the army, present on those occasions, should enjoy the privilege of wearing a Medal : and His Majesty having approved of the Medal which has been struck, is pleased to command that it should be worn by the General Officers suspended by a ribbon of the colour of the sash, with a blue edge, round the neck; and by the Commanding Officers of corps (not being of rank inferior to Lieutenant Colonel) and the Chiefs of Military Departments attached by a ribbon of the same colour to the button-hole of their uniform."

A note on the craftsmanship of the medals of the early period dealt with in this chapter may be appropriately quoted here.* It was penned by Mr. H. A. Grueber, of the Medal-room at the British Museum.

" Until the reign of Charles I., English medals were chiefly furnished by foreign artists ; but at this period the eager demand for medallic badges was well responded to by three English artists of considerable merit—Thomas Rawlins, and the brothers Thomas and Abraham Simon. The first was engraver to the Mint under Charles I., and made the Royalist badges and medals. Thomas Simon held the same post under the Commonwealth and made the Parliamentarian badges, in which work he was assisted by his brother, Abraham, who does not appear to have held any official appointment. It is said that Abraham Simon made the models in wax,

* From "A Guide to the Department of Coins and Medals in the British Museum." P. 47.

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and that when cast into metal they were chased by his brother Thomas, who often appropriated the credit of the entire work to himself by placing his initials on them. The Dunbar medal, and also those relating to Blake's victories are, however, undoubtedly the work of Thomas Simon.

"Down to this time medals were generally cast or executed by the repoussé process ; as the art of making dies, as understood then, and the imperfect state of the machinery used, would not permit of the striking of pieces in high relief. The method of casting medals was a simple one. First the model was executed in wax, from which a mould was made in charcoal, or in very fine moulding earth, into which the metal was poured. The original was not in this way destroyed, and could be used for subsequent castings. This process, however, would leave the surface of the medal somewhat rough, and this roughness was removed by the use of sand paper or chasing. Repoussé work in its first stage was somewhat similar to casting. A model was made in wax, from which a mould in a hard metal was cast, and on the hard mould was placed a thin plate of metal, which was then beaten into it with a hammer till it received its final form. As this process was a long and difficult one and required much skill, it was but little used. It is scarcely necessary to say that in the case of struck medals a die was engraved in steel, from which medals were struck."

CHAPTER III

MEDALS OF THE EAST INDIA CO.

IN the previous chapter we dealt with the official medals which were awarded to British troops between the time of the Armada and the Peninsular wars. The period was one of much military and naval activity, yet the awards granted were, as the reader will have noticed, surprisingly few. An elementary knowledge of history will be sufficient, for instance, to recognise that the early campaigns in India receive no mention at all in the chapter just completed, yet the work of our soldiers in this quarter of the globe was particularly brilliant. The truth is that in those days the home government never once recognised, by means of medallic awards, the bravery of our fighting men in this eastern empire.

Medals, however, are to be found for Indian campaigns coming within the period under review ; they, it must be stated, were bestowed by the Honourable East India Company to soldiers of their own native regiments, and not to the English soldiers,* who often went into engagements side by side with their dusky brethren. The reason for such an unjust arrangement is difficult of comprehension, for, plainly stated, it meant that whilst natives fought and were decorated, the

* There is one exception : i.e., Seringapatam.

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Englishmen fought on the same field and went undecorated. Mayo says that "the Honourable East India Company gave medals as a stimulus to recruiting, as it was thought that the sight of such decorations on the breasts of old (native) soldiers would have the effect of inspiring their young relatives and friends with martial ardour. It does not seem to have occurred to the authorities that European officers or soldiers could, or would, stand in any need of a similar incentive." Mayo, while mildly rebuking the home authorities, takes a charitable view, but we, personally, suspect that those responsible haughtily ignored the deserts of the rank and file, and looked upon them as mere pawns in the game of war.

The Honourable East India Company not only granted medals for special military services, but decorated practically every soldier who set out to fight for home and country. The act of decorating was performed according to the official decrees, "with such solemnity as is fit to the honour of such worthy persons." The recipients were paraded before the governor, usually at Bombay, and at times before the Court of Directors in London, and made to feel that they had played the part of heroes and were to be rewarded accordingly. The whole system was prompted and carried out in a generous and kindly spirit, which must have brought its own reward many times over.

The reader will have gathered already that to the East India Company we owe our present system of granting medals to every fighting soldier; to the same body we owe many points connected with the shape and design of our present decorations. Most of the awards of to-day are circular, yet prior to the India

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Company's issues they were oval. Again, most of our recent awards bear allegorical reverses depicting scenes of military prowess. Until the Honourable Company gave us pictures of armed sepoys and stormed fortresses, our medals bore but few scenes of military or naval bearing. Many other ways could be cited in which the British medal has been moulded on the lines of its Indian prototype.

The first East India Company's medal of which we have any record dates from 1778, and refers to Colonel Egerton's march from Bombay to Poona to quell a native rising. Although we possess documentary evidence respecting the preparation of the award, no actual specimens are known to exist, and it seems more than probable that for some unknown reason the issue was either withdrawn or countermanded.

The Deccan Medal of 1780-1785 is the first of which we possess copies. It was struck in gold and silver—the latter in two sizes. Every member of the expedition received a specimen, so that even to-day the medal is frequently met. The obverse revealed Britannia in the act of presenting a wreath; in the background, a fort flying the British flag, whilst a Persian inscription filled the reverse. The medal was provided with a ring through which a yellow cord was threaded.

The Mysore Campaign, which followed closely after that of the Deccan, and which was also directed against the operations of Tippoo Sahib, resulted in the striking of a further medal (Fig. 8, p. 16) in gold and silver. The design, which was probably the weakest issued by the India Company, depicted on the obverse a sepoy showing his contempt for the enemy's colours, whilst clinging to those of the British. The legend, "For Services in Mysore.

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A.D. 1791-1792," together with a Persian inscription, were given on the reverse. A yellow cord was provided as before.

Many forged copies of this medal exist, but the collector may detect such specimens by noting their spotty surface. Also, the size of the counterfeits may serve as a guide ; original copies are either $1\frac{3}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter ; the base ones are a trifle smaller.

In 1795 the British were fighting the French, and as the Dutch had thrown in their lot with the enemy, a flotilla sailed to **Ceylon** and captured the island. English troops were used, but a number of Bengal Native Artillerymen accompanied them. The East India Company awarded these native soldiers a medal, according to an Order in Council of 1807. The award was struck at Calcutta in gold and silver, and was circular and somewhat large ; it was exceedingly plain, bearing nothing but (obverse) "For Services on the Island of Ceylon. A.D. 1795-6," and (reverse) a Persian inscription.

A few short years of peace followed the Mysore Campaign and the capture of Ceylon, but in 1799 it became apparent that Tippoo Sahib was endeavouring to form an alliance with the French against us. Colonel Wellesley, afterwards the Duke of Wellington, and General Baird, accordingly led an army against the native chief, routed his forces, and besieged the town of Seringapatam. During the hostilities, which proved entirely successful for the English, Tippoo was slain.

A General Order, dated Madras, July 18th, 1808, decreed that a **Seringapatam Medal** (Fig. 9, p. 16), should be struck, and presented to all the native and British soldiers who took part in this campaign. Consent,

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however, was only given in 1815 to the British soldiers to enable them to wear their decorations when in uniform. The medal, which was a fine specimen of medallic art, was struck in Birmingham and also at the Calcutta Mint from dies made in England. There were gold, silver gilt, silver, bronze, and tin pieces. In each case the obverse bore a view of the storming of the city of Seringapatam, while on the reverse a British lion was despatching an Indian tiger.

There has been much controversy as to what was the proper ribbon and correct method of wearing the Seringapatam medals. Mayo says, "There is no doubt that they were issued unmounted, and as no directions had been given by the authorities, the details as to ribbon and mountings devolved on the recipients, who exercised their own discretion and taste. It is, however, probable that the European officers wore them as the gold medals for the Peninsular and other campaigns were worn, *i.e.*, round the neck, or at the button-hole, according to rank. Some added a clasp bearing the word Seringapatam. Three patterns of ribbon, at least, appear to have been used, viz., red with blue borders, yellow watered, and plain red. That the first was used under some sort of authority is gathered from a discussion which took place between the Madras Government and the Commander-in-Chief in 1831, on the occasion of the distribution of the medals awarded to the native troops in the first Burmese war. The Commander-in-Chief had proposed that a piece of red ribbon with blue borders should be issued with each medal. The Government assented to the issue of the ribbon, but objected to the pattern on the ground of its resemblance to the Waterloo ribbon. To this the Commander-in-Chief

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replied that the ribbon he had proposed was common to all medals granted by His Majesty in modern times, and was considered to be the medal ribbon of England. He added : ‘The medals of Seringapatam and Java are both suspended from it, and both are so worn with the sanction of His Majesty.’ This is authoritative evidence of the medal being worn with the only military ribbon then in use.”

The next medal to be awarded by the Honourable East India Company is a memento of Napoleon’s expedition to Egypt. The reader will remember that the French, desirous of wresting the Indian Empire from our possession, sent a large force to Egypt, whither they were followed by Nelson and Sir Ralph Abercrombie. From the east a considerable force of sepoys were sent to assist the ill-fated Abercrombie, and in less than eight months the French agreed to terms of peace.

The India Company struck a very fine medal known as the **Egypt Medal of 1801** (Fig. 10, p. 16), and awarded it to the native soldiers who fought in Egypt. But though the order was drawn up during 1802, the decorations were not actually distributed until 1812. Sixteen gold pieces and 2,199 silver pieces were struck, bearing (obverse) a sepoy grasping the British flag, with an encampment in the background, also a Persian inscription in the exergue, and (reverse) a ship, the Pyramids, an obelisk, and the date “MDCCCI.”

Ten years elapsed before the Indian troops took part in another important encounter. On this occasion, the 6th and 24th Madras Infantry, with the 4th Bombay Infantry, assisted English soldiers in defeating the French

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at Rodrigues, 1809 ; Bourbon, 1810 ; and Mauritius, 1810.

The medal which was subsequently struck for these victories bore (obverse) a sepoy holding a gun and a flag, with a cannon behind him and sea in the distance, while on the reverse, a Persian inscription intimated that "This medal was conferred in commemoration of the bravery and fidelity exhibited by the Sepoys of the English Company in the capture of the islands of Rodrigues, Bourbon, and Mauritius, in the year of Hegira, 1226." The award was given to native troops only ; it was struck at the Calcutta Mint in gold and silver, it possessed a loop for neck attachment, and was circular, as indeed all Indian medals were.

In 1811, Lord Minto followed up his success in the Isles of France by an attack on **Java**, which was being used as a base by the privateers, who plundered the Indiamen on the journey to England. The largest native army which the Honourable East India Company had ever sent out took part in the capture of this Dutch island, which speedily fell into our hands, but was restored to the people of Holland three years later.

The India Company bestowed no less than seven thousand gold and silver medals on their native troops, but the British regiments which fought in the same encounters (*i.e.*, the 14th, 59th, 69th, 78th, 89th Foot Regiments) went unrewarded as usual.* The Indian medal showed (obverse) sepoys storming Fort Cornelis ; a flagstaff flying a British flag above a Dutch flag ; and the word "Cornelis," whilst the reverse showed a

* It should perhaps be stated that King George III. rewarded the British Officers ; also, some years later a bar for Java was added to the General Service Medals.

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Persian inscription and the legend, "Java Conquered XXVI August MDCCCXI."

In 1814-16 trouble arose with the Gurkhas, a warlike mountain tribe, which inhabited **Nepaul**. These people constantly invaded the northern limits of Bengal, but matters were forced to a head by the claim they made to the territories of Sheoraj and Bootwal. Accordingly, the Marquis of Hastings marched against them and, after considerable fighting, brought them to submission.

On this occasion the India Company departed from its usual custom of presenting a medal to every soldier who left home to fight, for it issued an order, dated March, 1816, stating that only those officers and men who actually reached the battlefield would receive awards. Probably this change of policy was directed by those in authority at home in England.

The medal was struck in silver only and bore a yellow silk cord for suspension, and is among the rarest issued by the Company. The obverse depicted a fine array of fortified hills, with cannon and bayonets cleverly exposed in the near foreground. The reverse, in Persian, explained that the award was conferred for bravery and special services in the hills during the years 1229 and 1230 of Hegira.

In 1824-26, **the first Burmese War** engaged the native troops of the Company. For this campaign a medal was struck in gold and silver; it was provided with a steel clip and ring, through which a blue edged crimson ribbon was passed. On the obverse, a view of Rangoon in process of being stormed and a palm tree are seen, whilst on the reverse, a British lion is disposing of a white elephant.

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With the Burmah medal, the fine series of awards struck by the Honourable East India Company for native soldiers exclusively came to an end. Many other Indian pieces of later date are to be found, but they were either issued by the Government at home, or were given to British as well as coloured troops. All such medals are dealt with in the following chapter.

CHAPTER IV

CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

(ALL medals described in this chapter were struck in silver and awarded to every member of the forces engaged, unless otherwise stated).

On June 18th, 1815, the Battle of Waterloo was fought and won by the English and their allies, and great were the national rejoicings which ensued. Eleven days after the momentous event, Parliament sat to decide what steps should be taken to commemorate the victory. Hitherto it had sternly set its face against awarding a medal to every soldier who went into battle, but on this occasion, national sentiment ran high and old prejudices were set aside. By a large majority the House voted in favour of the campaign medal, and thus, we may say, the way was paved for the fine awards which decorate the breasts of our soldiers and sailors of to-day.

The wheels of officialdom have always moved slowly ; consequently, it was not until April 23rd, 1816, that the *London Gazette* stated :—

“ *The Prince Regent* has been graciously pleased in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, to command that*

* The Prince of Wales acted as Prince Regent owing to the failing health of George III.

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in commemoration of the brilliant and decisive victory of Waterloo, a medal shall be conferred upon every officer, non-commissioned officer, and soldier present upon that memorable occasion.

His Royal Highness has further been pleased to command that the ribband issued with the medal shall never be worn but with the medal suspended to it.

*By command of His Royal Highness the Prince-Regent,
Frederick, Commander-in-Chief."*

The decision that the ribbon could never be worn without the medal was an unfortunate one for, in a measure, it robbed the soldiers of much of their glory. If we stop to think how seldom it is that our present fighting men have the opportunity of wearing actual medals, we shall gain some idea of the effect of this regulation. Clearly there were people in authority who did not approve of the ranker receiving a decoration, and probably this drastic veto was due to their influence. Even the Duke of Wellington was loath to see the officers wear the campaign medal if the men were given it. But his opinion was over-ruled since, as the *Quarterly Review* put it, "the same badge of honour should be given to all who were fellows in danger together."

The medal (Fig. 11, p. 33—Ribbon 1, *frontisp.*), which was eventually struck, was a fine silver piece. On the obverse it showed a representation of the Prince Regent, encircled by the words, "George, P. Regent," whilst on the reverse was Victory, holding palm and olive branches, seated upon a pedestal, bearing the word "Waterloo," the whole surmounted by the word "Wellington." The ribbon was dark crimson edged with dark blue. The piece as originally awarded was provided with a large

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metal ring for suspension, but many of the recipients replaced this by a straight slot bar.

The engravers of this fine medal were T. Wyon and T. Wyon, jun., who came of a family far-famed for its medallic achievements. Writing of the Wyons,* Mr. H. A. Grueber says that the

"family is of German origin, George Wyon, the first member who visited England, being a native of Cologne, and forming one of the suite of George I., to whose person he was attached as Chief Goldsmith. He is said to have died in the West Indies. His son George was apprenticed to Hemmings, the goldsmith of George II., and in 1772 executed for the City of London a silver cup which was presented to John Wilkes, the 'Patriot.' In 1775 he was engaged at the Soho mint, near Birmingham, and died in 1796, leaving four sons, the two eldest being Thomas and Peter, who acted together as a firm of general die-engravers in Birmingham till 1800. In this year Thomas came to London, and was employed in the Dept. of the Engraver of His Majesty's Seals, and of which Dept. he became chief in 1816. He died in 1830, surviving by many years his son, Thomas Wyon, jun., who at the early age of 23 in 1815 was appointed Chief Engraver to the Mint, and who in that capacity executed, among numerous medals, that for the battle of Waterloo and also the great recoinage of 1816. T. Wyon, jun., died in 1817. His brother Benjamin was appointed Chief Engraver of His Majesty's Seals in 1831, and executed among other works the Crimea medal. He died in 1858, and was succeeded in his appointment by his son, J. S. Wyon, who, in conjunction with his brother, A. B. Wyon, engraved the New Zealand and Abyssinian medals. J. S. Wyon died in 1873, and the appointment which he held was given to his brother, A. B. Wyon. Peter Wyon, the second son of George Wyon, after the departure of his brother to London, remained at Birmingham, where he displayed great taste in his designs and models for ornamental brass-work. Before his death he had the satisfaction of seeing his son William enjoying greater reputation than himself. William Wyon, the R.A., was born

* In "A Guide to the Exhibition of English Medals in the British Museum." p. 124.

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at Birmingham in 1795, and in 1815 he came to London. In the following year he was appointed Assistant Engraver to the Mint, and in 1828 succeeded Pistrucci as Chief Engraver. In 1832 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy, and in 1838 Academician, this being the first instance of a medallist receiving such distinction. Besides the numerous coinages which W. Wyon executed, he produced a large series of military, academical, and private medals. He died in 1851, and was succeeded in his post by his son, L. C. Wyon."

The next medal to be awarded was that for **the Storming of Ghuznee**, on July 22nd, 1839 (Fig. 12, p. 33—Ribbon 6, *frontisp.*). This was one of the early encounters in the Afghan war, and, as the troops engaged were not numerous, the piece is somewhat rare. The Sovereign of Afghanistan decided to make the award, but as he was murdered before the pieces were struck, the arrangements were carried out by the Governor-General of India.

The obverse of the medal showed the fortress of Ghuznee, whilst the reverse depicted a laurel wreath enclosing a small mural crown, and the date July 23rd, 1839. Most medals dealt with in this chapter have the recipient's name engraved upon the thickness or edge, but this specimen gave it on the reverse face, just above the mural crown. The ribbon was crimson and green.

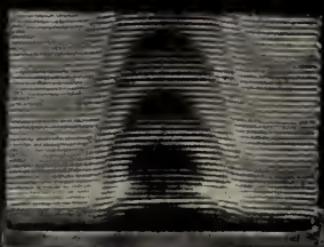
The Afghan war proceeded, and one of the most trying ordeals through which our troops were forced to go was **the Defence of Jellalabad**. The little band of British and native soldiers who were surrounded in this town made a sortie on April 7th, 1842, and routed the besieging army.

A medal was issued by the Calcutta Mint to commemorate the event; it was a rather clumsy piece,



11

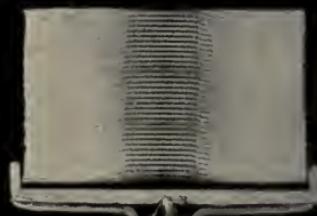
12



13



14



15

WATERLOO, AFGHANISTAN AND GWALIOR.

11. Waterloo.

12. Ghuznee.

13. Kelat-i-Ghilzee.

14. Cabul.

15. Punniar Star.

(Gwalior Campaign).

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bearing on the front nothing but the name of the city and a mural crown, whilst the simple inscription, "VII April 1842," filled the under face. The decoration was considered so poor that another was struck, this time in London, and those who received the first were allowed to exchange it for the second. Few availed themselves of this privilege, and so the more artistic striking is rare.

The Second Jellalabad Medal bore a fine head of Queen Victoria by W. Wyon, and the words "Victoria Vindex" on the obverse, and an allegorical figure of Victory flying over the city of Jellalabad, with an English flag in her hand, on the reverse. The date is given in the exergue. Both ribbons were rainbow colour.

A third Afghan award, sometimes known as **the First Cabul Medal**, was given to Captain J. H. Craigie and his men, mostly natives, who defended the fortress of Khelat-i-Ghilzee against the attacks of the Ghazees, which lasted over a period of some months.

The Khelat decoration had an obverse depicting a laurel wreath, surrounding a mural crown above a shield, upon which the name of the fortress was inscribed. The reverse depicted a trophy of arms and a tablet inscribed, "Invicta MDCCXLII." This medal was provided in silver. The ribbon was rainbow colour, as before (Fig. 13, p. 33—Ribbon 5, *frontisp.*).

Another award, given for the second Afghan War (Fig. 14, p. 33—Ribbon 5, *frontisp.*), was struck in four varieties. Each was provided with the rainbow ribbon and each bore the Wyon head of Queen Victoria, and the words "Victoria Vindex" on the obverse.

Type 1 bore on the reverse the word "**Candahar.**" It was given to those who defended this town under General Nott, during the early part of 1842.

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Type 2 bore, on the reverse, the words "**Candahar, Ghuznee, Cabul.**" It was given to those who fought under General Nott throughout the campaign, which lasted from January to the middle of September, 1842.

Type 3 bore, on the reverse, the words "**Ghuznee, Cabul.**" It was given to those who served with Nott during the month of September only.

Type 4 bore, on the reverse, the word "**Cabul,**" and was given to those who reached the town after September 16th, 1842.

Of all the above, there are minor varieties: *e.g.*, we have seen, at least, one copy with the inscription, "Victoria Regina," instead of "Victoria Vindex."

The Afghan war was brought to a close under Lord Ellenborough's administration and Sir Charles Napier's generalship.

Napier's routing of the Ameers at **Meeanee and Hyderabad** was a feat of considerable importance, and the authorities duly showed their recognition by striking three commemorative medals. One for Meeanee, one for Hyderabad, and one for both successes. The medals were similar to those issued for Cabul, with the necessary alterations of date and engagement, but the inscription on the obverse was "Victoria Regina."

While the British were occupied with the unsettled conditions in Afghanistan, trouble arose in **China**, due in the main to our strained commercial relations with the opium traders of the Far East. In the summer of 1840, General Burrell arrived off the Canton river with a force of moderate size and, as a result, the Chinese agreed to indemnify the Crown by yielding the island of Hong Kong. When, however, the British made a landing upon this island, the Chinese, who all along had

CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

been insincere, took up arms once more. Then followed the Canton river expedition, the landing at Amoy, the storming of the Segon heights, and the attack on Chin-Kiang, which made the Chinese capitulate.

To commemorate the successes gained in this first Chinese war, a medal was struck by William Wyon in 1843, which is remembered as the earliest award to bear the head of Queen Victoria. The reverse showed a fine group of military trophies, behind which stood a palm tree and the words, "Armis exposcere pacem. China, 1842." (Cf. Fig. 23, p. 49). Crimson and dark yellow bands formed the ribbon. The award was given to both the Navy and Army.

The collection of medals at the British Museum contains an interesting China piece, dated 1842, showing on the reverse a British lion crushing a Chinese dragon. This is a pattern medal which was never issued, as the authorities feared that it might prove displeasing to the Emperor, who had become submissive whilst the engraver was carrying out his task. The delicate workmanship of the piece, however, cannot but compel admiration.

Two interesting awards are **the Stars of Punniar** (Fig. 15, p. 33—Ribbon 5, *frontisp.*) and **Maharajpoor** given to the English and native troops who took part in the Gwalior campaign. The stars were struck in Calcutta of the metal obtained from guns taken in the engagements mentioned above. The design of the award, though very effective, was somewhat curious. A six-rayed bronze star, in the centre of which was fixed a small silver star, bore the word "Maharajpoor," or "Punniar," and the date, Dec. 29th, 1843. The details of the award were placed on the reverse. The ribbon was of rainbow pattern.

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There was little peace in India during the forties. No sooner had one tribal rising been quelled but another broke out. In December, 1845, Dhuleep Singh, with a well trained army of 60,000 men crossed the Sutlej and met the forces of Sir Hugh Gough, whom our history books describe as a hot-headed old soldier, whose only tactics consisted in hurling his infantry straight at the enemy and endeavouring to sweep them away with one desperate charge. The Sikhs knew how to meet such onslaughts, and Gough's men suffered terrible losses. From December 18th to February 10th a number of pitched battles were fought, but the encounters at Ferozeshuhur, Aliwal, and Sobraon, proved too costly for Dhuleep Singh, and he capitulated towards the end of February.

A fine medal was struck and awarded to the soldiers who served under Gough. The obverse showed the diadem-head of Queen Victoria, whilst the obverse revealed an allegory of Victory, holding a palm and a wreath, with a pile of arms beneath her. The ribbon was crimson and blue. (Fig. 16, p. 40—Ribbon 7, *frontisp.*).

The medal given to the army of the Sutlej was struck with four different exergues. Each contained one of the following engagements : Moodkee, 1845 ; Ferozeshuhur, 1845 ; Aliwal, 1846 ; and Sobraon, 1846. The arrangement was somewhat peculiar. When a soldier took part in one encounter only, his medal bore its name in the exergue, but when he fought in two, three, or four, the exergue bore the earliest of them, and the later ones were placed on bars. This medal, therefore, was the second award to be provided with these added laurels, the officers' Peninsular decoration being the first.

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Unfortunately, the work of Gough was not completed by his triumph over the Sikhs at Sobraon, for in March, 1848, the Governor of Mooltan massacred a number of British officers, and our troops were once more called upon to suppress the native forces. They met at Chillianwallah (January 11th, 1849), and here the 24th Regiment was almost annihilated, but at Goojerat (February 6th, 1849), our artillery inflicted such losses upon the Sikhs that the latter confessed themselves beaten, and so the campaign came to a successful end.

The Punjab Medal, issued to commemorate the glorious work of our troops, was a fine decoration. On the obverse, Queen Victoria's effigy appeared, as before, while on the reverse, Lord Gough was shown seated on horseback, his army behind him, and the enemy giving up their arms in front of him. The legend, "To the Army of the Punjab, MDCCCXLIX," encircled the tableau. The ribbon was dark blue with two narrow stripes of yellow. (Fig. 19, p. 40—Ribbon 11, *frontisp.*).

The Punjab Medal may be found with three bars, for Mooltan, Chillianwallah and Goojerat. Only one award, however, was made with three bars.

The next award was the **Army General Service Medal**, struck in 1848 as a decoration for heroes who had fought so bravely in the Peninsular wars of 1793-1814. The medal was extremely late in appearing, and probably would never have been issued had it not been for the kindly offices of Queen Victoria, whose sense of justice over-ruled the conservative apathy of those who were in authority at the War Office. Several times in previous years the subject had been mooted in Parliament, but the strongest opponent to rewarding the rank and file

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was, strange to say, the man who had gained most by their bravery, namely, the Duke of Wellington. He held that, as the principal officers had been rewarded by gold medals and crosses, it was unnecessary to recognise the services of the remainder.*

At last, the Queen wrote to the Duke, and the correspondence which resulted is of so interesting a nature that we give it in extenso.†

Queen Victoria to the Duke of Wellington.

Osborne, 25th November, 1846.

The Queen has learned from various quarters that there still exists a great anxiety amongst the officers and men who served under the Duke of Wellington's orders in the Peninsula to receive and wear a medal as a testimony that they assisted the Duke in his great undertaking. The Queen not only thinks this wish very reasonable, considering that for recent exploits of infinitely inferior importance such distinctions have been granted by her, but she would feel personally a great satisfaction in being enabled publicly to mark in this way her sense of the great services the Duke of Wellington has rendered to his country, and to empower many a brave soldier to wear this token in remembrance of the Duke.

The Duke of Wellington to Queen Victoria.

Strathfieldsaye, 27th November, 1846.

Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington presents his humble duty to your Majesty.

He has just now received your Majesty's most gracious command from Osborne, dated the 26th instant.

* Debate in the House of Lords, July 21, 1845.

† From "The Letters of Queen Victoria, 1837-1861." Vol. 2, pp. 109-113.

CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

He does not doubt that many of the brave officers and soldiers who served in the armies in the Peninsula under the command of the Duke are anxious to receive and wear a medal, struck by command of the Sovereign, to commemorate the services performed in that seat of the late war.

Many of them have, upon more than one occasion, expressed such desire, in their letters addressed to the Duke, in their petitions to Parliament, and, as the Duke has reason to believe, in petitions presented to your Majesty.

Although the Duke has never omitted to avail himself of every occasion which offered to express his deep sense of the meritorious services of the officers and soldiers of the Army which served in the Peninsula, he did not consider it his duty to suggest to the Sovereign, under whose auspices, or the Minister under whose direction the services in question were performed, any particular mode in which those services of the Army should be recognised by the State.

Neither has he considered it his duty to submit such suggestion since the period at which the services were performed, bearing in mind the various important considerations which must have an influence upon the decision on such a question, which it was, and is the duty of your Majesty's confidential servants alone to take into consideration, and to decide.

Neither can the Duke of Wellington now venture to submit to your Majesty his sense of a comparison of the services of the Army which served in the Peninsula, with those of other armies in other parts of the world, whose recent services your Majesty has been most graciously pleased to recognise by ordering that medals should be struck, to commemorate each of such services, one of which to be delivered to each officer and soldier present, which your Majesty was graciously pleased to permit him to wear.

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington humbly solicits your Majesty, in grateful submission to your Majesty upon the subject of the last paragraph of your Majesty's most gracious letter, that, considering the favour with which his services were received and rewarded by the gracious Sovereign, under whose auspices they were performed; the professional rank and the dignity in the State to which he was raised, and the favour with which his services were then and have been ever since received, that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to consider upon this occasion only the well founded claims upon your Majesty's attention of the officers and soldiers who served in the Army in the Peninsula; and to consider him, as he considers himself, amply rewarded for any service which he might have been instrumental in rendering; and desirous only of opportunities of manifesting his gratitude for the favour and honour with which he has been treated by his Sovereign.

All of which is humbly submitted to your Majesty by your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted Servant and Subject,

Wellington.

Queen Victoria to the Duke of Wellington.

Arundel Castle, 1st December, 1846.

The Queen has not yet acknowledged the Duke of Wellington's last letter.

She fully appreciates the delicacy of the Duke in not wishing to propose himself a step having reference to his own achievements, but the Queen will not on that account forego the satisfaction of granting this medal as an acknowledgment on her part of those brilliant achievements.

The Queen has been assured by Lord John Russell that her confidential servants will be ready to assume the responsibility of advising such a measure.



16



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21

NAVAL, PENINSULAR AND INDIAN MEDALS.

16. Sutlej Campaign.

17. Army General Service, 1793-1814.

18. Naval General Service, 1793-1840.

19. Punjab.

20. Indian Mutiny.

21. India General Service, 1854-1894.

CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

The Duke of Wellington to Queen Victoria.

Arundel Castle, 2nd December, 1846 (Morning).

Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington presents his humble duty to your Majesty. He did not receive your Majesty's commands dated the 1st instant, in this Castle, till seven o'clock in the afternoon ; and being under the necessity of attending at (?Dover) in the evening, he has not had it in his power till this time to express his acknowledgment of the receipt of them.

He submits to your Majesty that he has always been aware that it would be impolitic to confer upon the officers and soldiers who served in the Peninsula the wished-for distinction without the concurrence of your Majesty's confidential servants.

They alone can give the orders to carry into execution the measure, and can adopt means to remedy any inconvenience which may result from it ; and it is satisfactory to him to learn, from the perusal of your Majesty's note, that Lord John Russell is disposed to adopt it, notwithstanding that the Duke has no personal wish or feeling in the adoption of the measure, excepting to see gratified the wishes of so many gallant officers and brave soldiers, who have so well served.

The few words which he addressed to your Majesty in his last letter of the 27th of November in relation to himself, referred to the expressions in that of your Majesty of the 26th November, to the Duke ; from which it appeared to be your Majesty's intention "to empower a brave soldier to wear this token, in remembrance of the Duke."

Having stated to your Majesty that he would serve your Majesty, and would promote the objects of your Majesty's Government, to the utmost of his power, he has faithfully

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performed his engagement, as he believes, to the satisfaction of your Majesty's servants.

His whole life being devoted to your Majesty's service, he is most anxious to deserve and receive your Majesty's approbation.

But he wishes that it should be conveyed only when it may be convenient to your Majesty's Government. Your Majesty and your Majesty's servants must be the best judges upon this point, as well as whether the medal in question shall be struck and granted at all or not.

If granted, or whatever may be the mode in which granted, or whether the Duke's name is recalled to recollection or not, the Duke will be equally satisfied, and grateful for your Majesty's gracious favour, and desirous to merit a continuance of it, by his devotion to your Majesty's service.

All of which is humbly submitted by your Majesty's most dutiful and most devoted Servant,

Wellington.

Queen Victoria to Lord John Russell.

Osborne, 14th December, 1846.

The Queen has still to acknowledge Lord John Russell's letter of the 11th. She has carefully read the Duke of Wellington's letter to Lord John, which evinces all the Duke's honourable feelings. He should certainly be relieved from the appearance of having refused honours to others, but agreed to the granting of them the moment it was intended to couple the measure with an honour conferred upon himself. On the other hand, the Queen still wishes the step to be taken as a means of doing honour to the Duke. His name should, therefore, certainly be connected with it. The introduction of the names of other commanders, even of that of Sir John Moore, the Queen does not think

CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

advisable. She does not quite understand from Lord John's letter whether he proposes to adopt the Duke's recommendation to re-issue all the medals formerly granted, or to adhere to the original idea of striking a new one. "Peninsula" would cover all the campaigns, and in these the Duke of Wellington had by far so much the greatest share that his name being introduced on all the medals cannot be considered anomalous.

The Army General Service medal bore on the obverse the Wyon head of Queen Victoria, whilst the reverse gave a fine rendering of Her Majesty placing a wreath upon the head of the Duke, kneeling. The ribbon was deep crimson edged with blue. (Fig. 17, p. 40—Ribbon 1, *frontisp.*).

The bars given with this medal numbered twenty-nine in all, but fifteen was the most received by any one soldier. They were as follows :—*

- Egypt. (1801).
- Maida. (July 4th, 1806).
- Roleia. (August 17th, 1808).
- Vimiera. (August 21st, 1808).
- Sahagun. (December 20th, 1808).
- Benevente. (January 1st, 1809).
- Corunna. (January 16th, 1809).
- Martinique. (February 24th, 1809).
- Talavera. (July 27th, 1809).
- Guadaloupe. (January, 1810).
- Busaco. (September 27th, 1810).
- Barrosa. (March 5th, 1811).

* Note that the medal bore the date 1793-1814, though the actions only covered the period 1801-1814. It is believed that Wellington struck out of the list of suggested engagements one or more of the earlier encounters after the dies had been completed, and thus caused the apparent discrepancy.

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- Fuentes d'Onor. (May 5th, 1811).
Albuhera. (May 11th, 1811).
Java. (August, 1811).
Cuidad Rodrigo. (January 19th, 1812).
Badajoz. (March, 1812).
Salamanca. (July 22nd, 1812).
— Fort Detroit. (August 16th, 1812).
— Chateauguay. (October 26th, 1812). 3
Vittoria. (June 21st, 1813).
Pyrenees. (July, 1813).
San Sebastian. (August, 1813).
Nivelle. (November 10th, 1813).
— Chrystler's Farm. (November 11th, 1813).
Nive. (December, 1813).
Orthes. (February 17th, 1814).
Toulouse. (April 10th, 1814).
Sahagun and Benevente are also found on a single bar.

Queen Victoria did not forget the claims of our fighting men afloat when making belated awards for the Peninsular campaign. By a general order under date of June 1st, 1847, a **Naval General Service Medal** was struck, and given to members of all ranks of the Navy who were engaged in crushing the force of Napoleon. The medal (Fig. 18, p. 40—Ribbon 2, *frontisp.*), which was prepared by W. Wyon, was distributed in 1848. It was conferred with no less than two hundred and forty bars, but six are the greatest number received by one person.

Victoria's head appeared on the obverse, whilst the reverse was embellished by a fine representation of Britannia, seated upon a sea-horse, with a trident in one hand, and an olive branch in the other. The ribbon was white with dark blue edges.

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An interesting "Treasury Estimate," published on August 10th, 1848, says that the sum required "to be voted to defray the expense of the medals to record the services of the British Army and Navy from the commencement of the war in 1793 down to the peace of 1814 is £22,500."

No sooner were the General Service medals distributed to the various claimants than Queen Victoria took measures to confer a similar honour on the unrewarded heroes who fought in the Indian wars of 1799-1826. The decoration, struck for these brilliant encounters, gave Wyon's head of Victoria on the obverse, and, on the reverse, Victory seated, with an olive branch and wreath in her hands, and a lotus tree in the background. The ribbon was a very pale blue. (*Ribbon 3, frontisp.*).

With **the India Medal, 1799-1826**, there were twenty-three bars for the following nineteen encounters :—

- Storming of Allighur. September 4th, 1803.
- Battle of Delhi. September 11th, 1803.
- Battle of Assaye. September 23rd, 1803.
- Siege of Asseerghur. October 21st, 1803.
- Battle of Laswarree. November 1st, 1803.
- Battle of Argaum. November 29th, 1803.
- Siege and storming of Gawilghur. Dec. 15th, 1803.
- Defence of Delhi. October, 1804.
- Battle of Deig. November 13th, 1804.
- Capture of Deig. December 23rd, 1804.
- War of Nepaul. 1816.
- Battle of Kirkee. November, 1817.
- Capture of Poona. November, 1817.
- Battle of Seetabuldee. Nov. and Dec., 1817.
- Battle and Capture of Nagpoor. Nov. and Dec., 1817.
- Battle of Maheidpoor. December 21st, 1817.

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Defence of Corygaum. January 1st, 1818.

War in Ava. 1824-26.

Siege and Storming of Bhurpoor. January, 1826.

The India medal of 1799-1826 was followed on January 23rd, 1854, by an **Indian General Service Medal**, (Fig. 21, p. 40—Ribbon 12, *frontisp.*), which was primarily intended for those who had fought in the Burmese war of 1852-53, but Queen Victoria subsequently awarded it for various Indian campaigns until the year 1894. It should be mentioned that the authorities had grown to view the constant striking of fresh medals for Indian service with a certain amount of disfavour, and a standard design was introduced in order to prevent a multiplicity of patterns.*

As originally awarded, the medal may be found with a bar for Pegu, but later bars were distributed for Persia ; North-West Frontier ; Umbeyla ; Bhootan ; Looshai ; Perak ; Jowaki, 1877-8 ; Naga, 1879-80 ; Burma, 1885-7 and 1889-92 ; Sikkim, 1888 ; Hazara, 1888 and 1891 ; Chin-Lushai, 1889-90 ; Samana, 1891 ; North-East Frontier, 1891 ; Hunza, 1891 ; Lushgai, 1889-92 ; Chin Hills, 1892-3 ; Kachin Hills, 1892-3 ; and Waziristan, 1894-5.

This award bore the Wyon head of Victoria, with a reverse depicting Victory crowning an unclothed seated warrior. The ribbon was made in five equal strips, three of crimson and two of dark blue. Members of both the Army and Navy were recipients.

In the same year, 1854, a number of regiments were rewarded for their services in quelling the **Kaffir Risings of 1850-53**. The loss of the "Birkenhead," it may be recalled, took place while carrying troops to

* "Chats on Military Curios." p. 151.

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South Africa, who were intended to assist against this Kaffir rebellion. The medal which marked these military operations bore the Wyon profile of Victoria, and on the reverse a lion crouching under a bush, the work of L. O. Wyon. The exergue bore the date 1853.

This award was granted, not only to the men who took up arms in 1850-53, but also to those who fought the Kaffirs earlier in 1834-35. For both campaigns the same medal was granted, although it bore the date of 1853. Later, when the Basutos and Zulus gave trouble, and Sir Garnet Wolseley destroyed Cetewayo's forces at **Ulundi**, a re-issue of the decoration was made, but on this occasion the date in the exergue gave place to a group of native weapons. (Fig. 29, p. 56—Ribbon 4, *frontisp.*). In all cases the ribbon was orange with four dark blue stripes. No bars were given with the earlier awards, but bars bearing the years 1877, 1877-8, 1878, 1877-8-9, and 1879, were furnished with the third issue. We have never met the medal with more than one bar, however.

In 1853 England embarked on one of the greatest wars which she had ever undertaken, namely, **the Crimean War**. It may be recalled that our aim, on this occasion, was the protection of the ungrateful Turks. Many terrible engagements were fought, but towards the close of 1854, Queen Victoria considered that the time had come for striking a medal with bars for Alma and Inkerman. Later, in 1855, bars were added for Balaklava and Sebastopol. The Navy received the medal with bars for Balaklava, Sebastopol, Inkerman, and Azoff.

The Crimean decoration (Fig. 22, p. 49—Ribbon 13, *frontisp.*) showed Wyon's famous effigy of Victoria, and

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on the reverse, a warrior with sword and shield being crowned by Victory. The ribbon was Cambridge blue edged with yellow. It need hardly be added that the medal with the Balaklava bar is most sought after.

A companion medal to the Crimean award is that which was struck for **the Baltic**. The Navy received most of these decorations, but the Army also participated, as the following Admiralty communication, quoted from Mayo, explains:—

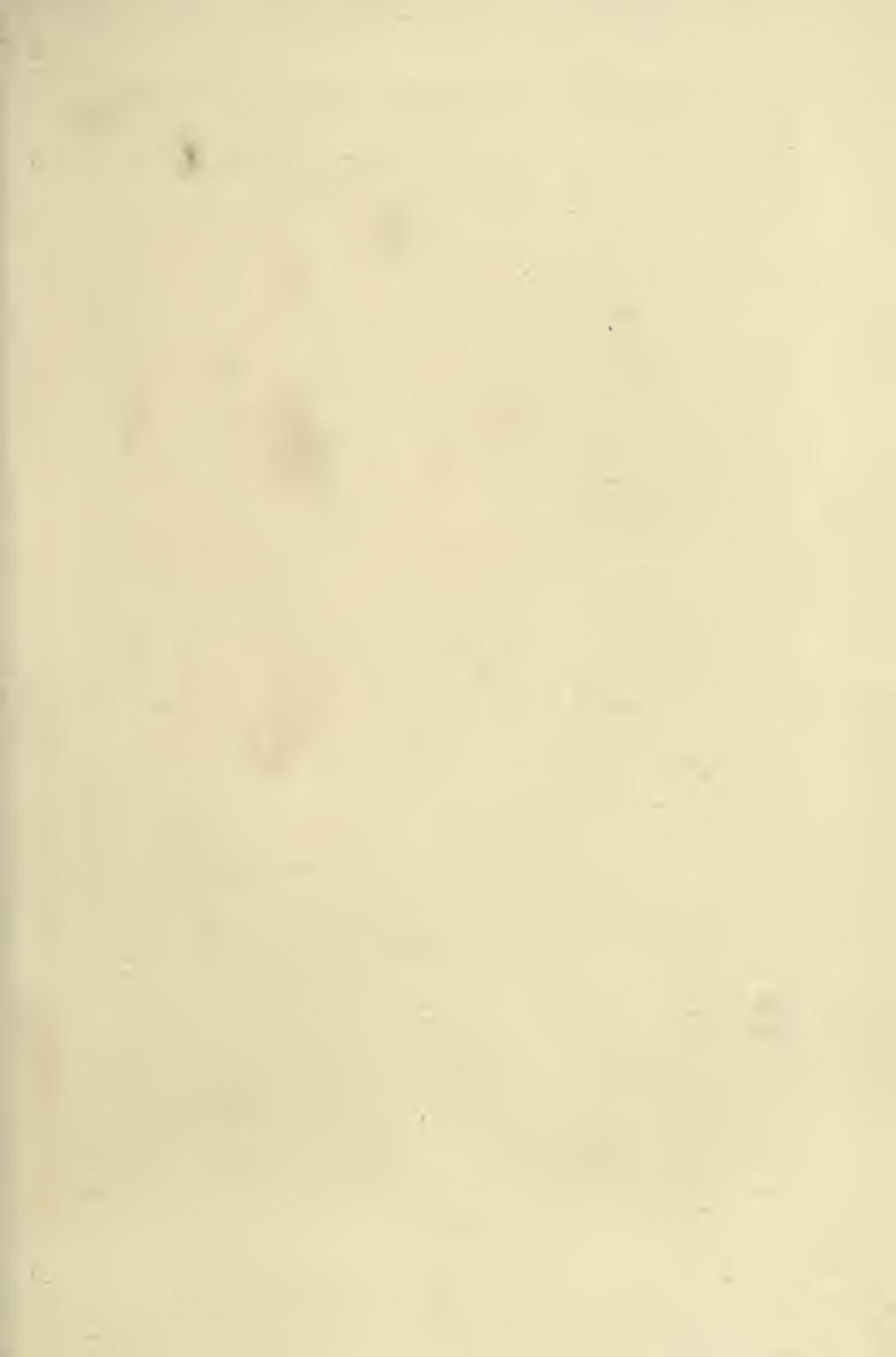
“ June 5, 1856.

“ Her Majesty having been graciously pleased to signify Her commands that a medal shall be granted to the Officers and Crews of Her Majesty's ships as well as to such Officers and Men of Her Majesty's Army as were employed in the operations in the Baltic in the years 1854-5, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty hereby give notice of the same.”

The Baltic medal (Fig. 26, p. 56—Ribbon 14, *frontisp.*) revealed an obverse as before, but on the reverse, Britannia was shown seated, holding a trident, with sea and Baltic forts in the background. L. C. Wyon engraved the dies for the reverse. The ribbon was yellow with blue edges: *i.e.*, the reverse of the colours used for the Crimean award.

In 1857 **the Indian Mutiny** broke out, due, in the main, to the deposition of the King of Oude, to our loss of prestige resulting from the Afghan troubles of 1841, and to the withdrawal from India of English troops to fight in the Crimea.

The medal, afterwards distributed to the troops engaged, gave Wyon's profile of Victoria on the obverse, and a fine representation of Britannia, holding a shield, accompanied by the British lion, on the reverse. The ribbon consisted of three strips of white and two of scarlet, whilst the five bars were inscribed: Delhi,





CRIMEA AND CHINA MEDALS, ETC.

22. Crimea, 1855-56.
23. China, 1856.
24. New Zealand.

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Defence of Lucknow, Relief of Lucknow, Lucknow, and Central India. (Fig. 20, p. 32—Ribbon 16, *frontisp.*).

After the Mutiny, it became known that many of the officers and men who took up arms against the rebels had been unfortunate enough to lose the medals which they had previously received for other campaigns. Accordingly, an order, dated 1859, decided that all who had suffered such loss should be recipients of re-issued medals. These latter pieces may be distinguished from originals by those who have made a special study of them, but not by the casual observer.

The next award takes us back to **China** and recalls the seizing of the British trader, the "Arrow," by the Chinese, in the year 1857, an arrogant act which led to an expedition to Canton, the storming of the Taku forts, and the taking of Pekin. After the Treaty of Tien-Tsing, our troops were withdrawn, and a medal struck to celebrate the British success. This piece (Fig. 23, p. 49—Ribbon 32, pp. 60-1) was identical in pattern to that awarded in 1843, but no date appeared on the reverse. Bars were issued on this occasion bearing the following inscriptions: China, 1842 (given to those who fought both in 1842 and 1857); Canton, 1857; Taku Forts, 1858; Taku Forts, 1860; Pekin, 1860; and Fatshan, 1857. This last bar was only given to the Navy and the Marines.

An expedition to **Abyssinia**, to punish the native King Theodore for seizing the British Consul and other subjects of the Queen, was undertaken by Sir Robert Napier in 1867-68. King Theodore's forces proved very weak, and when they surrendered he committed suicide. The troops which took part in this punitive expedition were given a medal in 1869.

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This piece (Fig. 27, p. 56—Ribbon 17, *frontisp.*) probably showed more originality than can be claimed for any other campaign award. The obverse gave Queen Victoria's head, with crown and veil, of small size, within a nine pointed star. In the spaces formed by the points of the star the letters, A,B,Y,S,S,I,N,I,A were placed. On the reverse a wreath of laurel enclosed a circle, which was struck in relief* with the recipient's name and other particulars. A silver crown connected the medal with the ribbon, which was crimson and white. There were no bars. The engravers were J. S. and A. B. Wyon. Both the Army and the Navy received awards.

In 1869 the following order was posted at the Horse Guards :—

" 1st March, 1869.

" The Queen has been graciously pleased to command that a medal shall be prepared to commemorate the services of Her Majesty's forces engaged in the various military operations in New Zealand during the years 1845-6-7, 1860-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6: and to direct that one of the said medals shall be conferred on every surviving officer, non-commissioned officer and soldier of the regular forces who actually served in the field against the enemy in New Zealand during the periods alluded to excluding those who may have been dismissed for subsequent misconduct, or who have deserted and are absent.

'Claims for the medals in question are to be addressed to the Adjutant-General of the Forces, Horse Guards.'

The New Zealand medal, which was struck long after death had overtaken many of those who should have been rewarded, gave on the obverse, an effigy of Queen Victoria, crowned and veiled; whilst on the reverse, a circular wreath enclosed the date for which the award had been made (there were twenty-two

* It is an interesting fact that, as the recipient's name was struck in relief, a separate die had to be made for each individual award.

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different dates for the Army and ten for the sister service), whilst the inscription, "New Zealand, Virtutis Honor," encircled the wreath. The ribbon was blue, red and blue, and the engravers were J. S. and A. B. Wyon. (Fig. 24, p. 49—Ribbon 10, *frontisp.*).

An **Ashanti medal** was ordered to be struck in 1874 by Her Majesty for presentation to the troops which fought under Sir Garnet Wolseley in the previous year. It will be remembered that this expedition was necessitated by a rising which resulted from the King of Ashanti's misunderstanding with regard to the sale of the Dutch colonies on the Gold Coast to the English. The natives were defeated, and one of the terms of peace was that human sacrifices should be abolished within the territory under question.

The medal gave a new effigy of Victoria on the obverse, by L. C. Wyon, whilst on the reverse, a bush fight was depicted in progress, the latter engraved by Sir Edward Poynter. The ribbon was black and yellow, four strips of the former and three of the latter. One bar registered the fall of the Ashanti capital, Coomassie.

Later, the medal was twice re-issued and awarded to all who took part in the **East and West Africa risings**, which the following bars indicate: 1887-88; 1891-92; 1892; 1893-4 (all for service around Coomassie); Witu, 1890; Liwondi, 1893; Witu, August, 1893; Juba River, 1893; Lake Nyassa, 1893; Gambia, 1894; Benin River, 1894; Brass River, 1895; 1896-97; 1896-98; Niger, 1897; Benin, 1897; Dawkita, 1897; 1897-98; 1898; Sierra Leone, 1898-99; 1899; 1900. The award was also given to those who took part in the expeditions against the hostile tribes of **British Central Africa**, between 1894 and 1898. In these cases the

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medal was provided with a dove, white and black ribbon, and a bar inscribed "Central Africa, 1894-98." (Fig. 31, p. 65—Ribbons 19, *frontisp.*, and 25, pp. 60-1). It was also issued without a bar and then was worn with a ring instead of the usual suspender.

In 1881 a fine medal was presented to the Army which marched into **Afghanistan** (1878-80) to force an end to Shere Ali's diplomatic relations with certain European Powers. A new profile of Queen Victoria, by J. E. Boehm, was used for this piece, whilst a spirited rendering of an army marching through a mountain pass, with an elephant and horse in the near foreground, the work of Randolph Caldecott, filled the reverse. The ribbon was green and crimson coloured. The bars were inscribed, Ali Musjid : Peiwar-Kotal : Charasia : Ahmed Khel : Kabul : Kandahar. (Fig. 25, p. 49—Ribbon 20, pp. 60-1).

The famous **Kabul to Kandahar Star**, often spoken of as Roberts' Star, was also awarded for military prowess during this war. It consisted of a five-pointed bronze decoration, with a small ball in each of the five angles, and surmounted by a crown ; in the centre was the Royal monogram VRI, and the inscription, "Kabul to Kandahar, 1880." A bronze crown surmounted the star, and a ring attached a rainbow ribbon (Ribbon 5, *frontisp.*). This decoration was given to the men who completed the journey of some three hundred odd miles from Cabul to Kandahar under the leadership of Lord Roberts.

Arabi Pasha's rising, which had for its object the expulsion of the English from Egypt, provided the next occasion on which British troops took up arms. The bombardment of Alexandria opened the campaign and

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then followed the encounters of Tel-el-Kebir, Suakin, El Teb, Tamaai, El Teb-Tamaai, The Nile, 1884-5, Abu Klea, Kirbekan, Suakin, 1885, Tofrek, Germaizah and Toski, 1889, all of which gave their names to the bars, which were provided with the medal subsequently struck.

This Egyptian award bore the veiled head of Queen Victoria, which was given on the Ashanti medal, but the inscription ran, "Victoria Regina et Imperatrix." The reverse displayed a fine representation of a sphinx surmounted by the word "Egypt," whilst the date 1882 was given in the exergue. The ribbon consisted of five equal bars of blue and white. (Fig. 32, p. 65—Ribbon 22, pp. 60-1).

In the interval between the Egyptian and Boer wars a number of African expeditions were undertaken. There was the Matabele war of 1893, due to the unconstitutional actions of Lobengula; the march against King Premeh in 1895-96; the Soudan campaign of 1896, which was conducted by Lord Kitchener; the Bechuanaland campaign of 1896; the Uganda expedition of 1897-99; and the hostilities in West and Central Africa already mentioned.

The **Matabele War** was commemorated by a medal bearing on the obverse an effigy of Queen Victoria, heavily veiled; on the reverse, a spirited tableau, by R. Caton Woodville, of a wounded lion; and, in the exergue, "British South Africa Company." The inscription, "Matabeleland, 1893," also appeared on the reverse. A ribbon, with four bars of orange and three of deep blue, acted as a suspender. This medal, which was provided by the British South Africa Company, was issued later with the word "Matabeleland" replaced by "Rhodesia, 1896," and "Mashonaland, 1897."

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Recipients of the earlier awards were given bars inscribed Rhodesia, 1896, and Mashonaland, 1897. (Fig. 33, p. 65—Ribbon 24, pp. 60-1).

The trouble in **Ashanti** was quelled by a force which had unusual hardships of a climatic nature to endure. The medal which was so hardly won consisted of a bronze star backed by a St. Andrew's Cross of similar metal. The obverse bore a crown, and the inscription, "Ashanti 1896," whilst the reverse bore the words, "From the Queen." (Fig. 34, p. 65—Ribbon 27, pp. 60-1).

For **the Soudan Campaign** a decoration bearing a three-quarter length profile of the Queen was struck. The under-surface showed a winged figure of Victory, the British and the Khedive's flag, and a tablet, upon which was inscribed the word "Soudan." There were no bars. The ribbon was yellow and black, with a thin streak of red between them. The latter stood for the thin red British line. (Fig. 36, p. 72—Ribbon 28, pp. 60-1).

The Bechuanaland Campaign was provided for by a medal which the Government of Cape Colony struck under permission obtained from the Colonial Office. The obverse of the decoration gave an effigy of Queen Victoria, surrounded by the inscription, "Victoria Regina et Imperatrix"; whilst on the reverse the Cape coat of arms was engraved. The ribbon was blue, orange and blue.

This medal, sometimes called the Cape of Good Hope General Service Medal, was issued with three bars, Basutoland, Transkei, and Bechuanaland. The two former, it may be said, were given in 1900 for service in the risings of 1880-81. (Fig. 40, p. 81—Ribbon 21, pp. 60-1).

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The award for Uganda, afterwards known as the **East and Central Africa Medal**, bore an obverse identical to that of the Sudan piece, whilst the reverse showed Britannia pointing to the rising sun, accompanied by a lion. The ribbon was orange and red, and the bars bore the inscriptions : Lubwa's ; Uganda - 1897-98 ; 1898 : Uganda, 1899. (Fig. 38, p. 72—Ribbon 30, pp. 60-1).

The Uganda medal was re-issued in King Edward's time (1900) as the **African General Service award**. It, of course, bore the effigy of the King instead of that of the Queen, and the ribbon was changed to black, yellow and green, in seven strips. (Ribbon 33, pp. 60-1). It was struck in bronze, as well as silver, and there were a number of bars.

At this point it is necessary to go back to the year 1895, when the Chitral campaign was undertaken, mainly to punish the Amir-ul-Mulk, who had murdered his half-brother because of his friendly relations with the British. The troops engaged in this encounter had hardships of a most terrible nature to encounter owing to the intense cold to which they were subjected.

For the relief and defence of **Chitral**, a medal was issued, but the authorities decided that it should also serve for subsequent use as an **Indian General Service award**. Queen Victoria's profile, by T. Brock, filled the obverse, whilst two full length soldiers, a British and an Indian, with a standard, were given on the reverse. This latter face was the work of G. de Saulles, who arranged for the dies to be engraved at the London Mint ; the pieces, however, were struck at Calcutta. The ribbon showed five equal strips, two of green, and three of plum red. (Fig. 35, p. 72—Ribbon 26, pp. 60-1).

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

The first issue of this award carried two bars, *i.e.*, Defence of Chitral, 1895, and Relief of Chitral, 1895. Later the following were added: Malakand, 1897; Samana, 1897; Tirah, 1897-98; Punjab Frontier, 1897-98.

The second issue of the medal was struck in 1902, and was similar to the first, but King Edward's profile superseded that of the Queen's, and the date, 1895, on the reverse of the earlier piece was deleted. The bar, "Waziristan, 1901-2," was added for engagements taking place between November, 1901, and February, 1902.

A more recent India General Service Medal is that which bears a bar for the North-West Frontier and the date of 1908; it was given for services on the North-West frontier. The obverse depicted King Edward surrounded by the inscription, "Edwardus VII. Kaiser-i-Hind."; the reverse showed a mountain fort, under which a tablet, surrounded by oak leaves, was inscribed "India." (Fig. 46, p. 88—Ribbon 38, pp. 60-1).

Two Canadian and one Chinese decorations must be described before passing to the awards for the Boer war. The first Canadian medal was given to the local troops who put down **Riel's Rebellion** of 1885, a rising of half-breeds in the North-West Territories. The obverse of this piece bears the head of Queen Victoria, which was used for the Egyptian and Coomassie strikings, but the inscription ran, "Victoria Regina et Imperatrix." The reverse was inscribed, "North-West Canada, 1885," and a wreath of maple leaves surrounded it. There was a bar for Saskatchewan, and the ribbon was French grey and red, in five strips. (Fig. 30, p. 65—Ribbon 23, pp. 60-1).

BALTIC, AFRICA AND CANADA MEDALS.
26. Baltic.
27. Abyssinia, 1867-8.
28. Canada (Fenian Raid).
29. South Africa, 1877-9.



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CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

The second Canadian award was issued in 1899 for services against **the Fenians** during the years 1866-1870. Probably this medal would never have been struck had not Riel's rebellion necessitated an award. The obverse of the 1866-1870 decoration gave a veiled effigy of the Queen, whilst the reverse showed the Canadian flag surrounded with a wealth of maple leaves and surmounted by the word "Canada." The ribbon was red, white, and red in equal widths, and the bars were "Fenian Raid, 1866 ; Fenian Raid, 1870 ; and Red River, 1870." (Fig. 28, p. 56—Ribbon 18, *frontisp.*).

The 1900 China award was a re-issue of the earlier pieces of 1842 and 1857 (Fig. 23, p. 49), with a more up-to-date effigy of the Queen, and the date 1900 in the exergue on the reverse. It will be remembered that the soldiers who received it fought on the Peiho river, had gone to the relief of Pekin, and defended the Legations. Thus we find that the bars are inscribed Taku Forts ; Defence of Legations ; and Relief of Pekin.

The three China ribbons are apt to be confused. That of 1842 was crimson and dark yellow, almost golden brown, in colour ; that of 1852, a deeper crimson, and a medium shade of yellow ; whilst the 1900 award was yellow and brick red.

The Boer war was commemorated by two fine pieces, one bearing the Queen's head, for dates between 1899 and 1902, and the other, bearing King Edward's head, for the troops who had served a period of eighteen months in South Africa, and had not left before January 1st, 1902.

The Queen's medal (Fig. 41, p. 81—Ribbon 31, pp. 60-1) showed a crowned and veiled effigy of Her Majesty on the obverse, whilst the reverse gave a fine rendering

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

of Britannia welcoming a khaki army, and offering the men a wreath of laurels. G. de Saulles was the engraver. The ribbon, which is worn by so many of our fighting men to-day, was red, blue, orange, blue, and red.

Few medals are provided with so many bars as is the Queen's South Africa award ; they are Cape Colony ; Natal ; Rhodesia ; Relief of Mafeking ; Defence of Kimberley ; Talana ; Elandslaagte ; Defence of Ladysmith ; Belmont ; Modder River ; Tugela Heights ; Relief of Kimberley ; Paardeberg ; Orange Free State ; Relief of Ladysmith ; Driefontein ; Wepener ; Defence of Mafeking ; Transvaal ; Johannesburg ; Laing's Nek ; Diamond Hill ; Wittebergen ; Belfast ; South Africa, 1901 ; South Africa, 1902.

The King's medal showed His Majesty in Field Marshal's uniform, on the obverse, whilst the reverse was identical to that of the Queen's. The ribbon was green, white and orange, in equal strips. There were two bars : South Africa, 1901 ; South Africa, 1902. It should be noted that recipients of these bars could not receive the Queen's award with the same bars. (Fig. 42, p. 81—Ribbon 34, pp. 60-1).

A third, but little known Boer war decoration was that which went to the troops whose lot it was to watch over our interests in the Mediterranean Sea during the progress of the war. This medal is exactly similar to the Queen's, but the word "Mediterranean" is inscribed around the figure of Britannia.

A **Kimberley Star**, given by the Mayor of Kimberley to those who were engaged in the historic defence of this town, should perhaps be mentioned in passing.

CAMPAIGN AND ALLIED MEDALS

A few medals remain for notice. The **Ashanti**, 1901 award, which was the first to bear King Edward's bust, was given for services in quelling a native rising at Kumassi. The obverse is exactly similar to that of the second Boer war medal ; indeed, the latter was struck from the same dies as the former. The reverse gave a fine representation of a lion looking to the left, whilst below it a panel bore the word "Ashanti." The ribbon was black and green, in five equal strips, and the one clasp was engraved "Kumassi." (Fig. 39, p. 72—Ribbon 35, pp. 60-1).

The expedition into **Tibet**, in 1903-04, under the command of Colonel Younghusband, resulted in the striking of an award, which bore a great likeness to the Indian General Service Medal of 1908, described above. The obverse gave the field-marshall effigy of King Edward, whilst the reverse showed an interesting view of the Lhassa fortress, under which was engraved the legend, "Tibet, 1903." The one bar for Gyantse was supported by a ribbon of green, white, and dark crimson, in five strips. (Fig. 45, p. 88—Ribbon 36, pp. 60-1).

In 1906 a rising occurred in **Natal**, and two years later the Government of the Colony obtained permission to grant a medal to those who had taken up arms against the natives. This piece bore a very poor representation of King Edward, facing to the right, surrounded by the inscription, "Edwardus VII. Rex Imperator." The reverse gave an allegorical group, including Britannia and a figure representing Natal, whilst the exergue contained the name of the Colony. An attractive ribbon, dark red, with wide black edges, acted as suspender for the one bar, "1906." (Fig. 44, p. 81—Ribbon 37, pp. 60-1).

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

So far, three campaign medals only bear the effigy of our present King. The first was granted for services in the **Abor** region of India, in 1911-12. The obverse showed a fine portrait of King George V. in Royal robes and crowned, surrounded by the inscription, "Georgius V, Kaiser-i-Hind." The reverse was almost similar in design to the Indian General Service Medal of 1908, but the striking was not so sharp, and the hill forts are, in consequence, less defined. It seems probable that in future this award will be constituted a service medal for India.

In describing the second campaign medal to bear the effigy of King George, we may profitably quote as follows from the *Times*, of March 6th, 1916 : "The King has approved of a new medal being struck to commemorate local military operations against native tribes, or rebels, in East, Central, and West Africa. The medal will be known as the **Africa General Service Medal**, and will be similar in design to the Africa General Service medal instituted in 1902, but will bear on the obverse the effigy of King George V. The King has also approved of the medal with clasp, 'Shimber Berris, 1914-15,' being granted to all officers and men under the command of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Cubitt, D.S.O., R.A., who took part in the operations against the dervishes between November 19th and 25th, 1914, and between February 2nd and 9th, 1915. The medal, with clasp, 'Nyasaland, 1915,' is also granted to the forces engaged in the operations against the rebels in the Shire Highlands of Nyasaland between January 24th and February 17th, 1915." (Ribbon 33, pp. 60-1).

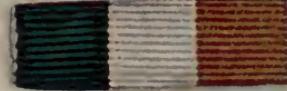
The third Georgian award to be mentioned in this chapter is the **Naval General Service Medal**,



20. Afghanistan 1878-80



27. Ashanti Star

34. South Africa (Boer War)
1901-2 (King's)21. Cape of Good Hope General
Service 1880-97

28. British Soudan 1896-7



35. Ashanti 1900



22. Egypt 1882-9



29. Khedive's Soudan 1896-7



36. Tibet 1903-4



23. North-West Canada

30. East and Central Africa
1897-9

37. Natal Rebellion 1906

24. Br. So. Africa Co.
(Matabeleland 1893, Rhodesia
1896, Mashonaland 1897)31. South Africa (Boer War)
1899-1902 (Queen's)38. India General Service
190825. Eastern and Central
Africa 1894-832. China 1900 (Varieties
issued in 1842 and 1857-60)

39. Soudan 1910 (Khedive's)

26. India General Service
1895-190233. Africa General Service
1900-4; 1914-540. Naval General Service
1915

CAMPAIGN RIBBONS ISSUED SINCE 1878.

		
41. Distinguished Service Cross. Conspicuous Gallantry Medal	48. Canadian Long Service and Good Conduct	55. Naval Long Service and Good Conduct
		
42. Distinguished Service Medal	49. Cape of Good Hope Long Service and Good Conduct	56. Military Long Service and Good Conduct
		
43. Distinguished Service Order	50. Natal Long Service and Good Conduct	57. Volunteer Long Service
		
44. Distinguished Conduct in the Field Medal	51. Australia Long Service and Good Conduct	58. Territorial Efficiency Medal
		
45. The Military Cross	52. New Zealand Long Service and Good Conduct	59. Imperial Yeomanry Long Service and Good Conduct
		
46. The Military Medal	53. Tasmania Long Service and Good Conduct	60. Militia Long Service and Good Conduct
		
47. Transport Medal	54. Hon. Artillery Company's Long Service	61. Naval Good Shooting

BRITISH AND COLONIAL RIBBONS AWARDED FOR
SPECIAL SERVICES.

CHAPTER V

MEDALS AWARDED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

WHEN the Sovereign decided that every British soldier and sailor who fought his country's battles should receive a campaign medal, it became manifest that there were certain special services which might well be rewarded in addition. The fighting man who went into battle and risked his life many times over was certainly worthy of some such mark of distinction as was afforded by the campaign decoration, but those who performed feats of conspicuous gallantry were doubly praiseworthy ; it was for these super-soldiers and sailors, of which the British forces are so richly endowed, that the meritorious medals were instituted.

The first of these special decorations was **the Meritorious Service Medal**, which originated owing to the kindly consideration of Queen Victoria in 1845 for soldiers, and in 1849 for the marines. The Royal Warrant explained the conditions under which the grants were made.

"We deem it expedient," it said, "to afford a greater encouragement to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of our Army who may have distinguished themselves, or who may have given good, faithful and efficient service.

AWARDED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

"It is our further will and pleasure that a sum not exceeding £2,000 a year (double this amount after 1853) be distributed for the purpose of granting annuities as rewards for distinguished or meritorious service to sergeants who are now, or who may be hereafter in the service, either while serving or after discharge, with or without pension, in sums not exceeding £20, which may be held during service, and together with pension."

The medal, fashioned in silver, bore Wyon's early head of Queen Victoria on the obverse, and a simple laurel wreath within which was inscribed, "For Meritorious Service," on the reverse. The ribbon was deep red for the Army, and deep blue for the Navy.

After the Meritorious came the **Distinguished Conduct Medal**, which bears on the reverse, in bold characters, the simple legend, "For Distinguished Conduct in the Field." The decoration was first awarded to record the "Sovereign's sense of the distinguished service and gallant conduct in the field of the army then serving in the Crimea," but it has been distributed whenever necessary in subsequent land wars. The medal was of silver, and the obverse originally bore a trophy of arms, as on the Long Service Medal of Victoria's reign, designed by Pistrucci, but those awarded during the reigns of King Edward and King George display the Royal effigy. The ribbon was striped red, blue, and red, in three equal widths. A bar could be added for a second act of distinguished conduct, according to a warrant dated February 7th, 1881. The medal is awarded by commanding officers, under certain fixed rules, to warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men in the ranks. (Fig. 57, p. 104—Ribbon 44, pp. 60-1).

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The above decoration is intended for soldiers only ; petty officers and seamen in the Navy have the counterpart of this award in the **Conspicuous Gallantry Medal**, a silver piece, which was instituted also during the Crimea, in 1855. The Marines can earn this distinction.

The Conspicuous Gallantry medal is almost identical to the award given for similar services on land ; indeed, the earliest copies were struck from the same die, the necessary alterations in the lettering being made by means of an engraving tool. The ribbon is blue, white, and blue. (Ribbon 41, pp. 60-1).

The Victoria Cross, which, as we need hardly state, is the most coveted award in either of the services, was instituted by Royal Warrant on January 29th, 1856. The cross in the earlier copies was cast from cannon taken from the Russians in the Crimea, but those distributed at present are only described as cast from pieces captured from the enemy.

The V.C. is a cross patée bearing a lion and crown, surrounded by a wreath, inscribed with the simple but significant words, "For Valour." The cross is suspended to a laureated bar by means of a loop shaped like a "V." The reverse of the cross proper is engraved with the date of the gallant deed, whilst the rear of the bar is occupied by the name, rank, etc., of the recipient. The ribbon is dark red for the Army, and dark blue for the Navy. (Ribbons 8 and 9, *frontisp.*).

There are many counterfeit specimens of the decoration which have been made to defraud collectors. This arises owing to the fact that real crosses are cast, and not stamped, hence the ease with which they are copied. Usually the facsimiles are slightly smaller than authentic copies.



AFRICA AND CANADA MEDALS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 30. North West Canada (Riel's
Rebellion). | 33. British South Africa Co.'s
Medal for Matabeleland,
etc. |
| 31. East and West Africa. | 34. Ashanti Star, |
| 32. Egypt, 1882-9. | |

AWARDED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

The Victoria Cross is the outcome of a personal desire evinced by Queen Victoria to reward bravery among our fighting men. It was her own idea that gave it birth, and Prince Consort is usually credited with the design. The Queen and Prince were much occupied with considerations of shape, method of distribution, etc. The motto, for instance, gave them a good deal of anxious thought. "For the Brave," was first suggested, but Her Majesty dismissed this on the ground, as she afterwards wrote to Lord Panmure, that it would lead to the inference that only those are deemed brave who possess the Victoria Cross.

The regulations affecting the grant of a V.C. are too numerous and lengthy to detail in full, but as many of them are of much importance, the following summary is given :—

1. All ranks in either the Navy, the Army, or the Marines may receive the decoration.
2. Recipients in the non-commissioned ranks are also awarded an annuity of £10.
3. The Home Secretary may advance the annuity to £50, in cases where the recipient has fallen upon reduced circumstances.
4. It is ordained that recipients must have performed some signal deed of valour in the presence of the enemy. An exception was made in the case of a private, however, who removed ammunition from the proximity of a fire during the Fenian raid.
5. Neither rank, nor long service, nor wounds affect the grant. The act of bravery alone counts.
6. Bars are awarded for subsequent acts of bravery, but they are only given after the medal has been actually

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received by the recipient. If a subsequent act of bravery is performed before the medal is handed to the recipient, it is engraved with both deeds, and no bar is given.

7. Prior to the Boer war it was customary to merely gazette as V.C.s those who performed deeds of gallantry but who lost their lives whilst carrying them out. Since then, the crosses have been forwarded to their relatives.

8. A recipient has the privilege of placing the letters V.C. after his name.

9. In 1857, our Indian soldiers were decreed eligible for receiving this award.

The Conspicuous Service Cross dates from June, 1901. In that year King Edward decided to place an additional decoration at the disposal of the non-commissioned officers in the Navy for distinguished service before the enemy. Awards were only to be made to those who had been fortunate enough to be mentioned in despatches.

The Cross, which is, perhaps, one of the least attractive pieces described in the whole of this book, is patée, whilst the obverse is a trifle dome-shaped. The centre of the cross is filled by a circle, which contains a crown and the Royal cipher. The whole is in silver. A rather large ring fixes the cross to a ribbon (blue, white, and blue, in equal stripes), which is folded at the bottom corners in order that it may pass through the loop.

On the outbreak of the war in 1914, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty obtained permission from King George to discontinue the Conspicuous Service Cross, and to provide the **Distinguished Service**

AWARDED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

Cross in place. The new award is now available for certain of the junior grades of commissioned officers in the Navy, as well as those mentioned for the C.S.C., but such decorations may be awarded to the commissioned officers only when the distinguished services are not considered equal to the standard demanded for the Distinguished Service Order.

In all respects, this cross is similar in design to that of the Conspicuous Service Cross, except that the Georgian replaces the Edwardian monogram. (Ribbon 41, pp. 60-1).

Another decoration which is an outcome of the great war is the **Distinguished Service Medal**. It was instituted by King George on October 14th, 1914, to reward the rank and file in the Marines, and men of chief petty-officer rank and less in the Navy, who showed themselves brave and resourceful in the presence of the enemy, but who performed no services which were deemed sufficient to warrant the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

The obverse of this medal bears probably the finest bust of King George V. displayed by any medal, coin, or postage stamp ; he is shown in naval uniform, and is surrounded by the legend : "Georgius V. Britt. : Omnipotens : Rex et Ind : Imp :" The reverse is a simple laurel wreath, surmounted by the Royal Crown, encircling the words : "For Distinguished Service." (Ribbon 42, pp. 60-1).

On December 31st, 1914, the official *London Gazette* contained a notice to the effect that His Majesty had been pleased to institute a new decoration to which he had given the name of **Military Cross**. The *Gazette* stated that "No person shall be eligible for this decoration unless he is a captain, a commissioned officer of a

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lower grade, or a warrant officer in our Army or our Indian or Colonial Military Forces, and the cross shall be awarded only to officers of these ranks on recommendation of the Principal Secretary of State for War." The cross, which ranks after all orders and the V.C., but before decorations and campaign medals, is given for distinguished service of a character insufficient to warrant a grant of the Distinguished Service Order.

The Military Cross is quite unlike any other war decoration which we have noted, and we are not sure that we consider the design a good one, for there seems a lack of boldness which a military award demands. It is made of silver; there are four Royal crowns, and the centre is filled by the Royal monogram. The ribbon is white, purple, and white, in equal strips. (Fig. 55, p. 104—Ribbon 45, pp. 60-1).

The Military Medal, instituted by Royal Warrant during the month of April, 1916, is the youngest of the awards for bravery. It is available for non-commissioned officers and men who perform individual or associated acts of bravery which come under the notice of the Commander-in-Chief in the field. The obverse bears the Royal effigy, whilst the reverse is inscribed, "For Bravery in the Field." within a wreath, surmounted by the Royal cipher and crown. The ribbon is dark blue, with three white and two crimson strips. The medal is struck in silver. (Ribbon 46, pp. 60-1).

Colonial Medals issued for bravery form an interesting group by themselves. One of the most noted pieces is the Indian Distinguished Service Medal, an award which may be won by the rank and file of the Indian Army, as well as by troops from the Mother Country who are temporarily acting under instructions

AWARDED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

from the Government at Calcutta. The award bears the Sovereign's profile and, on the reverse, a laurel wreath, inscribed "For Distinguished Service." Another decoration is the Distinguished Conduct in the Field Medal which a number of colonies have issued from time to time. These decorations are similar to those issued by the home authorities, but they bear the name of the colony and are suspended by a ribbon of special colouring (*e.g.*, the Indian Distinguished Service ribbon is blue, deep violet and blue).

Beyond the medals awarded for bravery, we must consider in this chapter those given for minor matters, such as long service, good conduct, etc.

The first medal to be granted in times of peace was the **Long Service and Good Conduct Medal**, which our non-commissioned soldiers owe to the kindly consideration of William IV., who gave Royal sanction to the issue of this award on July 30th, 1830. The earliest regulations required twenty-one years of service in foot and twenty in cavalry regiments; the recipient was also to bear an exemplary conduct. In recent years the period of necessary service has been shortened, and a money gratuity awarded on discharge. The Marines are eligible.

The medal (silver) issued by William IV. bore, on the obverse, Pistrucci's design, which we mentioned in connection with the Distinguished Conduct Medal, *i.e.*, a trophy including helmets, shots, cannon, arms, flags, etc., surrounding the Royal Arms. The Victorian issue appeared with the Hanoverian arms removed (Fig. 52, p. 97), whilst the Edwardian and Georgian issues bear the Royal effigy. The reverse of all the issues is engraved

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in plain and bold lettering with the words, "For Long Service and Good Conduct." The ribbon, which may be confused with that of the Army V.C. ribbon, is deep red, but not so wide as the afore-mentioned. [Since writing the above an Army order has changed the ribbon to deep red with white edges.] (Fig. 52a, p. 97—Ribbon 56, pp. 60-1).

A corresponding award was first issued for the Navy on August 24th, 1831. The original order, signed by William IV., required a period of twenty-one years' service, as well as exemplary conduct, but now the time has been shortened to fifteen years.

William's medal (silver) showed an anchor, surmounted by the Royal crown, and surrounded by a laurel wreath, on the obverse; whilst the reverse gave the words: "For Long Service and Good Conduct."

The Victorian, Edwardian, and Georgian issues bear the Royal effigy on the obverse, whilst the reverse is embellished with a fine representation of one of the "wooden walls of old England," surrounded by a knotted rope and the name of the medal. The ribbon of William's medal was issued one inch in width. The latest issues have been provided with a ribbon $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in width—blue, with rather wide white edges. (Fig. 51, p. 97—Ribbon 55, pp. 60-1).

Officers and Men in the Royal Naval Reserve have been provided with special medals on completing fifteen years' service. The former award is of much the same pattern as the Volunteer Officers' Decoration, whilst the latter bears an effigy of the Sovereign in naval attire on the obverse, and a battleship and the legend, "Diuturne fidelis," on the reverse. A deep green ribbon is provided in both cases.

AWARDED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

Most of the Colonies issue **Long Service and Good Conduct Medals** to the members of their own forces. In nearly all cases the awards are similar to those given at home, but with the name of the colony placed above the legend, "For Long Service and Good Conduct." The ribbons attached to these decorations are generally deep red, with a distinctive central stripe which varies in colour with the colony. (Ribbons 48-53, pp. 60-1).

Another award of special interest is **the Transport Medal**, which was first struck in 1903, after the Boer war. It is given to officers in the Mercantile Marine who perform definite services when transporting troops to overseas fighting areas. The Sovereign's effigy in naval attire embellishes the obverse, whilst the reverse depicts a map of the world, a ship in full steam, and the Latin inscription, "Ob Patriam Militibus Per Mare Transvectis Adjutam." So far, the following bars have been issued : China, 1900, and South Africa, 1899-1902. (Fig. 48, p. 88—Ribbon 47, pp. 60-1).

The remaining medals to be dealt with in this chapter are **the "Best Shot" Decorations**. The first was instituted in 1867 by Queen Victoria for the finest rifle shot in the infantry regiments. Competitions were held annually until 1883, when one medal, with a gratuity of £20* was awarded. The medal gave Poynter's profile of Victoria on the obverse, and Fame decorating a warrior, on the reverse. The earlier copies were struck in bronze, but the latter ones in silver. The ribbon showed seven strips of colour : *i.e.*, black, white, black, red, black, white, and black.

* Two medals were awarded in each of the years 1875-6 and 1876-7. One each for the best shots with the Martini-Henry and Snider rifles.

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Of naval "Best Shot" medals, we can trace none until King Edward instituted the fine Naval Gunnery medal in the latter part of his short reign. The obverse of this silver piece shows the King attired in the uniform of an admiral, whilst the reverse contains an undraped figure of a warrior in the act of throwing a spear, and the legend, "Amat Victoria Curam." (Ribbon 61, pp. 60-1).

Volunteer, Militia and Territorial awards are described in a subsequent chapter.



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AFRICA AND INDIA MEDALS.

35. India General Service,
1895-1902.
36. British Soudan, 1896-7.
37. Khedive's Soudan, 1896-7.
38. East and Central Africa.
39. Ashanti, 1900.

CHAPTER VI

BRITISH ORDERS

FROM the time of Elizabeth, when medals were first awarded for naval prowess, to the present day, it has been a customary practice to bestow special marks of favour upon those commanders, in both the Army and Navy, who urge their subordinates to perform deeds of exceptional value or bravery. For at least two centuries these awards usually took the form of personal gold medals struck for the occasion and provided with pendants, perhaps heavily jewelled. Lord Uppingham, for example, received a special medal as a reward for his services when fighting the Armada ; and Wellington's pendant for the Peninsular is probably known to all.

During the last hundred years, however, such special medals have been almost entirely discontinued, and those leaders who have merited exceptional distinction have been admitted to one or other of the British orders, instead. On this account, it becomes necessary to devote a few pages of this work to the orders which are conferred as naval and military honours.

The following are worthy of mention :

The Most Noble Order of the Garter.—Instituted by Edward III. in 1350. Consists, according to a statute dated 1805, of the Royal Sovereign and twenty-five knights' companions. Foreign sovereigns, princes, and others have, from time to time, been added beyond this complement, but when vacancies have

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

subsequently occurred among the regular companions they have not been filled if the total exceeded twenty-six members.

The Garter* is of dark blue velvet or silk ribbon edged with gold bearing the motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense" in letters of gold. It is worn on the left leg below the knee. (Queens wear it on the left arm).

The George.—An enamelled figure of St. George on horseback encountering the dragon. It is worn as a pendant to the collar.

The Badge, known as the Lesser George, is similar to the George, but an oval garter, with the motto of the Order, encircles the device. A wide dark blue sash supports it on the right hip and, itself, passes over the left shoulder.

The Collar is of gold, composed of twenty-six pieces (in allusion to the original number of knights) in the form of garters and gold knots. The garters are enamelled azure. Within the garters alternately placed is a red and white rose, barbed and seeded ppr. surmounting each other.

The Star of eight points is silver; the centre bears the Cross of St. George, gules encircled with the garter and the motto.

The Mantle of blue velvet lined with white taffeta. On the left breast the star embroidered.

The Hood of crimson velvet.

The Surcoat of crimson velvet lined with white taffeta, to which is fastened, by a band of diamonds, a plume of white ostrich feathers, in the centre of which a tuft of black heron's feathers.

Ribbon of the Order—Blue.

Motto—*Honi Soit qui Mal y Pense.*

The Most Noble and Most Ancient Order of the Thistle of Scotland.—The earliest records claim that this order was instituted by James V. of Scotland in 1540, but it probably existed long before this date. It consists of the sovereign and sixteen knights.

* The technical descriptions of the orders are mainly quoted from C. N. Elvin : "A Handbook of Orders of Chivalry."

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The Badge, worn pendant to the collar or to a dark green ribbon over the left shoulder and tied under the arm, consists of a radiant star, or charged with the figure of St. Andrew, ppr. of gold enamelled with his gown green and the surcoat purple, bearing before him the cross saltire argent, standing upon a mount vert, upon which the cross is resting.

The Collar is of golden thistles, intermingled with sprigs of rue, enamelled ppr.

The Jewel, worn attached to a green ribbon, consists of an oval plate ar, charged with the same figure as the Badge, within a border vert, fimbriated or, and inscribed, in letters of the same, "Nemo me impune lacessit."

The Star is worn on the left side of the coat or cloak and consists of the St. Andrew's Cross, of silver embroidery, with rays emanating from each angle. In the centre is a thistle of green, heightened with gold, upon a field of gold, surrounded by a circle of green bearing the motto of the order in golden characters.

Ribbon of the Order—Green.

Motto—Nemo me impune lacessit.

The Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick.—Instituted by King George III. in 1783. It consists of the Sovereign, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and twenty-two knights. The Lord Lieutenant is the Grand Master.

The Badge.—Pendant from the collar, is of gold, surrounded with a wreath of shamrock or trefoil, within which is a circle of blue enamel containing the motto of the Order in letters of gold, viz., "Quis separabit," within the date, MDCCCLXXXIII, being the year in which the Order was founded, and encircling the Cross of St. Patrick, gules surmounted with a trefoil stripped vert, each leaf charged with an Imperial crown or, upon a field argent.

The Collar, of gold, is composed of six harps and five roses, three alternately joined together by twelve golden knots, the roses are enamelled alternately by white leaves within red and red leaves within white, and in the centre of the collar is an Imperial crown surmounting a harp of gold.

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The Mantle, made of rich sky-blue tabaret lined with white silk and fastened by a cordon of blue silk and gold with tassels. The Star consists of the Cross of St. Patrick, gules on a field argent, charged with a trefoil as on the badge, surrounded by a sky-blue enamelled circle containing the motto and date, and is encircled by four garters and two lesser rays of silver.

Ribbon of the Order—Sky-blue.

Motto—*Quis Separabit.*

The Most Honourable Order of the Bath.—This order was either originated or revived by Henry IV. in 1399. Later, it was revived by George I. in 1725, whilst civil orders were added in 1847, which permitted the participation of non-Royal members. There are three classes.

1. Knights Grand Cross (G.C.B.). Fifty naval or military, and twenty-five civil knights. The former must have risen at least to the rank of rear-admiral or major-general.

2. Knights Commanders (K.C.B.). One hundred and twenty-five naval or military, and eighty civil knights. The former must have risen at least to the rank of naval captain or army colonel.

3. Companions (C.B.). 690 naval or military, and 250 civil knights. The former must have received special mention in war despatches and have risen to the rank of commander or major.

The Badge of the Naval and Military classes of the order is a gold Maltese cross of eight points, enamelled white; in each angle a lion passant guardant or; in the centre, the rose, thistle and shamrock issuant from a sceptre between three Imperial crowns or, within a circle gules, thereon the motto of the order, surrounded by two branches of laurel, proper, issuing from an escrol azure, inscribed *Ich Dien* in letters of gold. It is worn by the Knights Grand Cross, pendant from a red ribbon across the right shoulder; by the Knights Commanders, around the neck; and by the Companions suspended from the left breast.

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The Collar, which is only worn by Knights Grand Cross, is of gold, is composed of nine Imperial crowns, and eight roses, thistles and shamrocks, issuing from a sceptre, enamelled in their proper colours, tied or linked together with seventeen gold knots, enamelled white, having the badge of the order pendant therefrom.

The Star of the Grand Cross of the Military Division is formed of rays or flames of silver, thereon a gold Maltese cross, and in the centre, within the motto, branches of laurel issuant as in the badge.

The Star of Knights Commanders is a cross-patée, silver charged with the Imperial crown, proper, upon a glory of silver rays, surrounded with a red circle, upon which is the motto of the order.

Ribbon of the Order—Crimson.

Motto—*Tria Juncta in Uno.* (Three Joined in One).

The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

—Instituted by Queen Victoria in 1861. It consists of the Sovereign, the Viceroy of India, and 25 knights. The Order has been amended from time to time. Awards are made by Royal favour for services in India. There are three classes.

1. Knights Grand Commanders (G.C.S.I.). 30 members : 18 native and 12 European.

2. Knights Commanders (K.C.S.I.). 72 members.

3. Companions (C.S.I.). 144 members.

The Badge.—An onyx cameo of Queen Victoria's effigy set in a perforated and ornamented oval, containing the motto of the order, "Heaven's Light Our Guide," surmounted by a Star, all in diamonds.

The Ribbon of the Order is sky-blue, having a narrow white stripe towards either edge, and is worn from the right shoulder to the left side.

The Collar is composed of the lotus of India, of palm branches tied together in saltire, and of the united red and white rose. In the centre is an Imperial crown, all richly enamelled on gold, in their proper colours.

The Star for G.C.S.I. is composed of rays of gold issuing from the centre, having thereon a star in diamonds, resting upon a light blue enamelled circular riband,

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tied at the ends, inscribed with the motto of the order, viz., Heaven's Light Our Guide, also in diamonds. The star for K.C.S.I. is similar, except that it is made of silver.

Knights Grand Commanders wear the Badge suspended from the collar. The insignia of this class also consists of the Star worn on the left breast, and the Mantle. On occasions of lesser importance they merely fix the Star on the left breast and the Badge on the left hip, the latter supported in position by the ribbon of the Order.

Knights Commanders suspend the Badge around the neck by means of the ribbon, and wear the Star, in silver, on the left breast.

Companions place the Badge on the left breast, supported by a narrow ribbon of the Order.

The Mantle.—Light blue satin, lined with white and fastened with a cordon of white silk, with blue and silver tassels; on the left side a representation of the Star of the order.

The Motto.—Heaven's Light Our Guide.

The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.—Founded in commemoration of the Republic of the Ionian Islands being placed under the protection of Great Britain by George IV. in 1818, and extended in 1868 and 1877. At present the Order allows for 50 Knights Grand Cross (G.C.M.G.), 150 Knights Commanders (K.C.M.G.), and 260 Companions (C.M.G.).

The Badge is a gold cross of fourteen points of white enamel, edged with gold, having in the centre on one side the Archangel St. Michael encountering Satan, and on the other St. George on horseback encountering a dragon, within a blue circle on which the motto of the order is inscribed.

The Cross is surmounted by the Imperial crown and worn by the Knights Grand Cross attached to the collar or, when the collar is not worn, to a wide Saxon blue ribbon with a scarlet stripe passing from the right shoulder to the left.

The Knights Commanders wear a smaller badge suspended to a narrow ribbon from the neck.

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The Companions wear the small cross of the order from a still narrower ribbon at the button-hole of their coats.

The Star of the Knights Grand Cross is composed of seven rays of silver, having a small ray of gold between each of them and over all the Cross of St. George, gules. In the centre is a representation of the Archangel St. Michael encountering Satan, within a blue circle, inscribed with the motto AUSPICIUM MELIORIS AEVI.

The Collar is formed alternately of lions of England, of Maltese crosses, and of the Ciphers S.M. and S.G., having in the centre the Imperial crown over two winged lions, passant guardant, each holding a book and seven arrows. At the opposite end of the collar are two similar lions. The whole is of gold except the crosses, which are of white enamel, and it is linked together by small gold chains.

The Mantle is of Saxon blue satin, lined with scarlet silk, tied with cordons of blue and scarlet silk and gold, and has on the left side the Star of a Knight Grand Cross.

The Chapeau is of blue satin, lined with scarlet, surmounted with white and black ostrich feathers.

The Ribbon of the Order.—Saxon blue with a scarlet stripe.

The Motto.—Auspicium melioris aevi.

The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

—Instituted by Queen Victoria in 1878. The Sovereign, the Viceroy of India, 8 Knights Grand Commanders (G.C.I.E.), the Knights Commanders (K.C.I.E.), and 120 Companions (C.I.E.), compose the Order.

The Badge.—A rose, gold enamelled gules, barbed and seeded vert, having in the centre Queen Victoria's royal effigy with a purple circle edged with gold, inscribed with the motto of the order, surmounted by an Imperial crown, both gold.

The Collar is composed of elephants, lotus flowers, peacocks in their pride and Indian roses ; in the centre the Imperial crown from which the badge is pendant ; the whole linked together by chains of gold.

The Star of the First Class or Knights Grand Commanders is composed of five rays of gold and silver, issuing from a gold centre ; thereon Queen Victoria's royal effigy,

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within a purple circle inscribed with the motto of the order, the circle surmounted by the Imperial crown, both gold.

The Star of the Second Class or Knights Commanders is composed of rays, alternately bright and chipped, issuing from a gold centre, having thereon Queen Victoria's effigy, within a purple circle inscribed with the motto of the order in letters of gold ; the circle surmounted by the Imperial crown, also gold.

The Mantle.—Imperial purple satin lined with and fastened by a cordon of white silk, with purple silk and gold tassels attached ; on the left side a representation of the star of the first class of the order.

The Ribbon of the Order is blue.

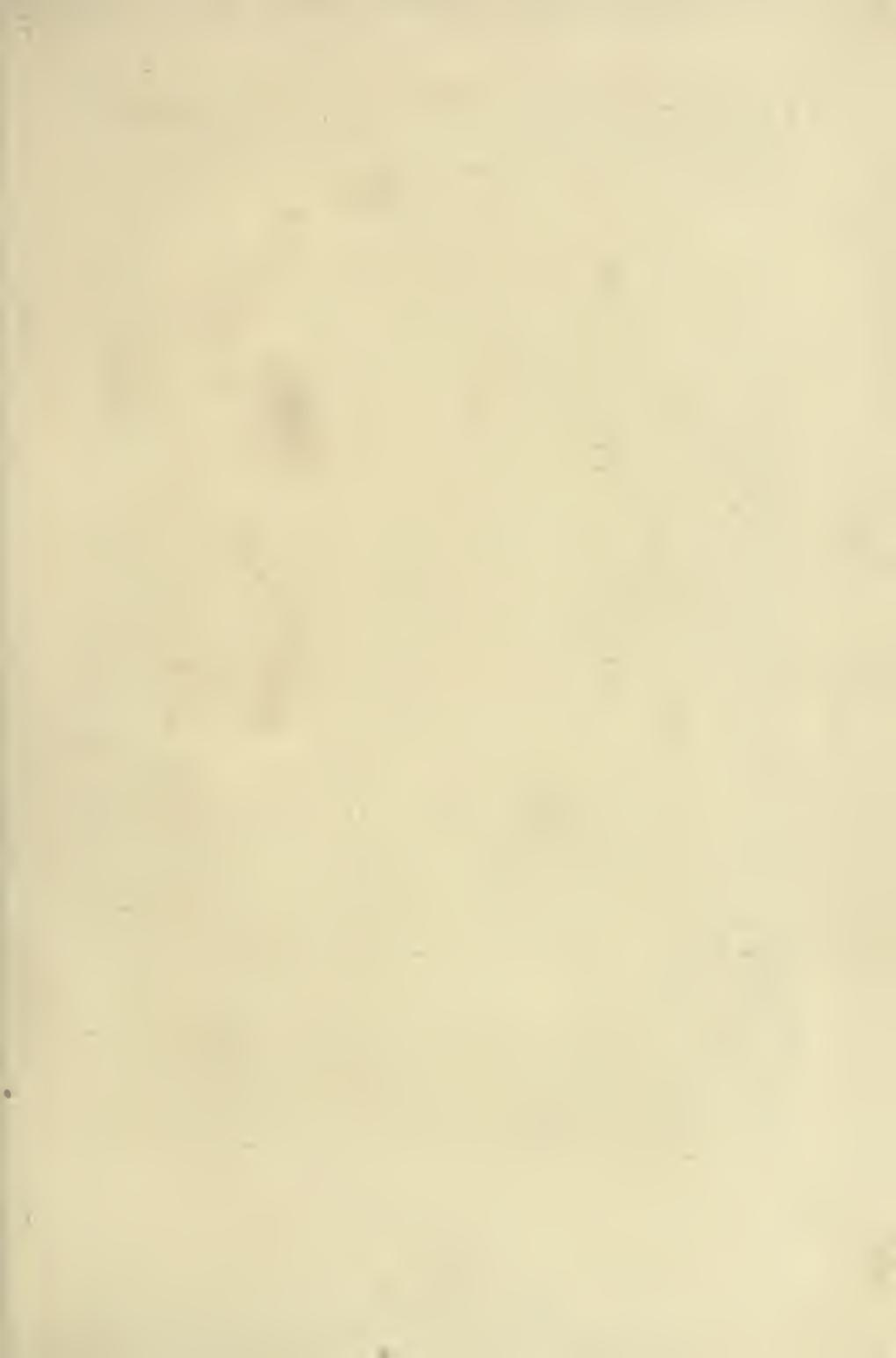
The Motto.—*Imperatricis Auspicus.*

A G.C.I.E. wears the Mantle and the Badge, hung from the collar, at special ceremonies, but on other occasions he wears the badge on the left hip, supported by a purple ribbon, which passes over the right shoulder. On the left breast hangs the Star.

A K.C.I.E. wears the Badge around the neck suspended from a purple ribbon, and on the left breast a Star.

A C.I.E. wears the Badge on the left breast.

The Distinguished Service Order was instituted in 1886 (September 6th) by Royal Warrant, bearing the signature of Queen Victoria. It consists of ordinary and honorary members and companions. The warrant said : "Whereas we have taken into our Royal consideration that the means of adequately rewarding the distinguished service of officers in our naval and military services who have been honourably mentioned in despatches are limited. Now, for the purpose of attaining an end so desirable as that of rewarding individual instances of meritorious or distinguished service in war, we have instituted a new naval and military order of distinction, which we are desirous should be highly prized by the officers of our naval and military services.



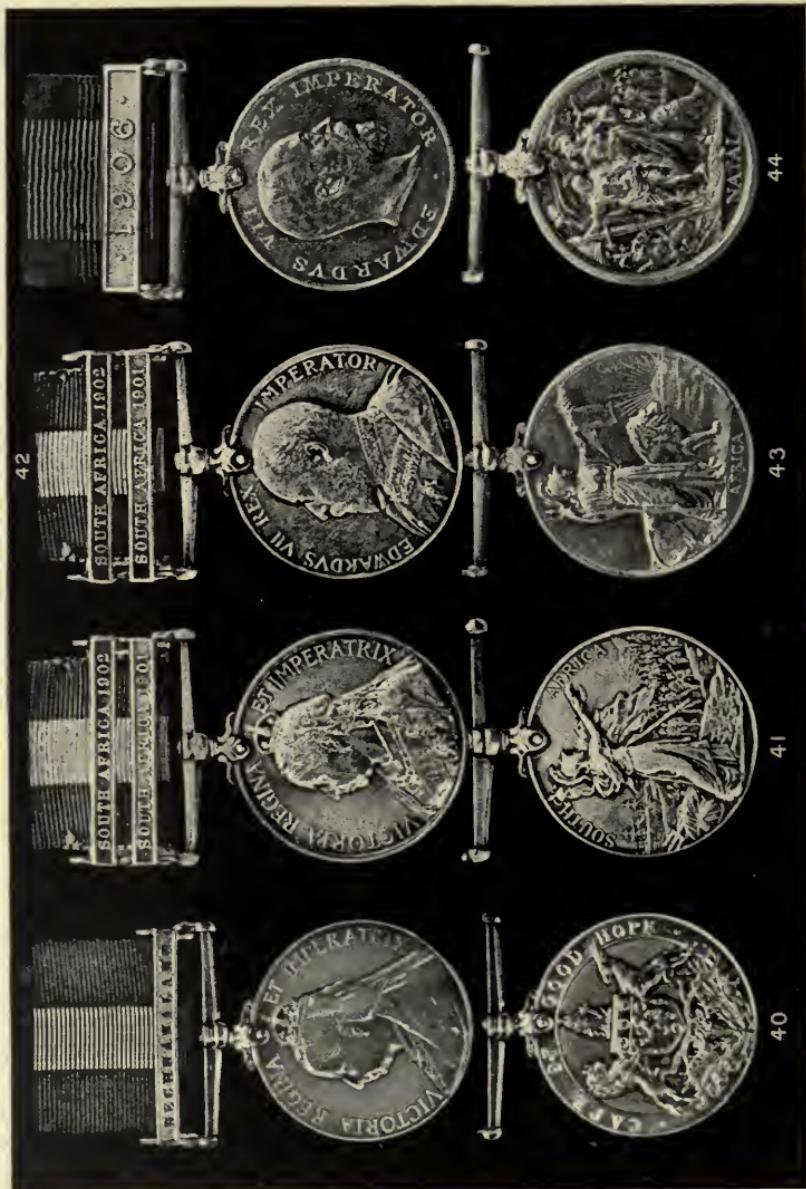
LATER AFRICAN MEDALS.

40. Cape of Good Hope General Service.

41. South Africa, Boer War.
(Queen's).

42. South Africa, Boer War. (King's).

43. Africa General Service.



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"No person shall be eligible for this distinction who doth not actually hold, at the time of his nomination, a commission in the Navy, in the Land Forces or Marines, or in the Indian or Colonial Naval or Military Forces, or a commission in one of the Departments of the Navy or Army, the holder of which is entitled to honorary or relative naval or army rank, nor shall any person be nominated unless his services shall have been marked by the especial mention of his name, by the Admiral or Senior Naval Officer commanding a squadron or detached Naval Force, or by the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the Field, in despatches for meritorious or distinguished service in the Field before the enemy."

The D.S.O. badge is a gold cross pâtee with a surface of white enamel, edged with gold. The centre consists of a laurel wreath, green enamelled, enclosing a gold Imperial crown. The Royal monogram is placed on the under surface. The badge is suspended by a red ribbon possessing a blue edge, which is flanked both top and bottom by a gold bar, ornamented with laurel leaves. It is worn on the left breast. (Fig. 54, p. 104—Ribbon 43, pp. 60-1).

The Indian Order of Merit was instituted by the Honourable East India Company in 1837, for soldiers, irrespective of their length of service and rank, who performed acts of conspicuous gallantry. There are three classes: a first act of valour is rewarded by the third class medal; a second act transfers the recipient to the second class, whilst a third act raises him to the first class. Superseded decorations have to be returned to the authorities.

The badge, which is worn on the left breast, is an eight-rayed star suspended by a deep blue and red ribbon. Within the star, a circle of laurel leaves encloses two crossed swords and the inscription, "Reward for Valour," on a blue enamelled ground. The first class

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is made in gold, and the laurel wreath is of the same metal ; whilst the third class is of silver, with a silver wreath.

The Order of Merit is of recent institution, being first awarded in 1902. Both fighting men and civilians may receive this decoration when services of an exceptional nature are rendered to the country. The Badge is worn around the neck, the suspender being a wide ribbon, half red, half blue. It consists of a gold cross, patée, with the point or hilt of a sword jutting from the innermost angles of the cross, the whole surmounted by a crown. The surface of the badge is enamelled red, blue, and green, and the words, "For Merit" fill the centre of the piece. The letters O.M. may be placed after the names of recipients.

CHAPTER VII

MILITIA, YEOMANRY, VOLUNTEER AND TERRITORIAL DECORATIONS

IT is one of the gratifying features of our present system of awards that not only are decorations available for the regular forces, but the auxiliary branches, which include the Militia, the Yeomanry, the Territorials, and the old Volunteers, are enabled to participate as well.

Of course, each of these divisions is rewarded by campaign medals whenever the men are mobilised for active service, but in times of peace the units may gain, in addition, decorations for lengthy periods of service accompanied by exemplary behaviour.

For the **Militia**, there is a **Long Service and Good Conduct** silver medal, which is granted to non-commissioned officers and men in the ranks who have completed eighteen years and who have attended, at least, fifteen annual trainings.

The current medal is oval and bears the Royal effigy on the obverse, whilst the reverse states in bold characters : "Militia, For Long Service and Good Conduct." A ring is provided, through which a light blue ribbon is passed. (Fig. 53, p. 97, may be taken as a pattern—Ribbon 60, pp. 60-1).

The **Yeomanry Long Service Medal** is of much the same design as that mentioned for the Militia, but the ribbon is a bright yellow, and the words : "Imperial Yeomanry," are substituted on the reverse

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for the word "Militia." Ten years service and ten trainings are required. (Cf. Fig. 53, p. 97—Ribbon 59, pp. 60-1).

The Territorial Efficiency Medal is also oval and similar to the two preceding pieces, but the ribbon is green with a narrow stripe of yellow running through the centre. Twelve years' service and twelve trainings are required. (Fig. 53, p. 97—Ribbon 58, pp. 60-1).

For the old Volunteers, a number of decorations were instituted. The first to receive mention is the **Volunteer Officers' Decoration**, which was decreed by Royal Warrant on July 25th, 1892. The warrant stated that* :

"Whereas it is Our Royal desire to reward for long and meritorious service of Officers of proved capacity in Our Volunteer Force : Now for the purpose of attaining this end, We have instituted, constituted and created, and by these presents to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, constitute and create a new decoration which we are desirous should be highly prized by Officers of Our Volunteer Force : and We are graciously pleased to make, ordain and establish the following rules and ordinances for the Government of the same which shall from henceforth be observed and kept."

Then were given eight clauses, of which the following is the chief :

"It is ordained that no person shall be eligible for this Decoration nor be nominated thereto unless he is or was a Commissioned Officer and has served twenty years in Our Volunteer Force, is recommended by the Commanding Officer of the Corps in which he has served, and is duly certified by the District Military Authorities in which the Corps is located as having been an efficient and thoroughly capable Officer, in every way deserving of such decoration : Provided nevertheless and We do hereby declare that half of any time during which an Officer of Our Volunteer Force may have served in the ranks of Our said Force shall reckon as qualifying service towards the twenty years required as aforesaid."

* Quoted from "Chats on Military Curios."

MILITIA, YEOMANRY, ETC., DECORATIONS

The decoration consisted of a badge formed by an oval wreath of oak leaves, the central part of which was taken up by a Royal Crown, with the Sovereign's monogram, in skeleton outline (*i.e.*, "V.R." or "E.R.VII."). A loop joined the decoration to a dark green ribbon, which bore upon its topmost edge a laureated bar. **The Territorial Officers' Decoration** has superseded this award. In this case, also, there are two patterns; one with the cypher "E.R.VII." and another with "G.R.V." The ribbon is green.

Two years after the institution of the officers' decoration, **the Volunteer Long Service Medal** was provided, chiefly with the idea of rewarding the non-commissioned ranks. "The medal will be granted"—we are quoting from the original Royal Warrant—"to all Volunteers (including officers who have served in the ranks, but have not qualified for the Volunteer Officers' Decoration) on completion of twenty years' service in the Volunteer Force, provided that they were actually serving on January 1st, 1893, and that they are recommended by their present or former commanding officers." Service with the regulars, the Militia and the Imperial Yeomanry counted towards the required period of "Long Service," as long as the last five years were served with the Volunteer Force.

The medal, which was silver and circular, showed the Royal effigy (either Queen Victoria or King Edward) on the obverse, and on the reverse, an elaborate scroll bearing the words, "For Long Service in the Volunteer Force," amidst a maze of laurel and palm sprays. The ribbon was dark green. (Fig. 50, p. 88). It should be noted that the Honourable Artillery Company was empowered to wear a special ribbon with this award. It is shown on one of the coloured plates as Ribbon 54.

In passing, it may be mentioned that officers in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve are eligible for the Royal

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Naval Reserve decoration on completion of twenty years' service ; whilst the men of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve receive a medal similar to the Naval Reserve Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, when twelve years' service count to their credit.

Medals were awarded to the members of the various Volunteer corps with much frequency during the years 1776 and 1816 : *i.e.*, during the Napoleonic wars. They were not Royal medals, but were provided by local patrons, by members of Parliament who were interested in local regiments, by regimental commanders, and out of regimental funds. As each medal was granted under official permission, there is no reason why they should not be considered as authentic awards ; they certainly are of much interest, reflecting local patriotism and enterprise in no little degree.

Of these medals there were all manner of shapes and patterns ; the originality in many of them being most marked. The circular pieces were most frequent, but ovals and fancy shapes are not absent from the collection. The designs were at times good, but usually a trifle crude. A volunteer in his regimental dress and the regimental arms were the chief themes resorted to by the artists who designed them. As far as make is concerned, we can only say that many of the medals were cast, whilst others consisted of thin silver plates with a raised edge and engraved on both sides. Some were cast and then chased over by an engraving tool ; in these cases, a finer production was obtained.

The following regiments issued these volunteer medals. We give the somewhat lengthy list in full, as it enables us to gain a very useful idea of the kind of unit that was formed, where it was formed, and who formed part of it. As a rule not more than one medal was issued

MILITIA, YEOMANRY, ETC., DECORATIONS

by the same regiment; seldom were three different designs placed to one regiment's credit.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| Argyleshire Fencible Infantry,
1806. | Camberwell (North) Volunteers,
1808. |
| Aughrim Light Horse, 1779. | Camberwell Volunteers, 1804. |
| Ballyleek Rangers, 1779. | Carmarthen Militia, 1798. |
| Ballymascanlon Rangers, 1779. | Carmarthen Yeomanry Cavalry,
1827. |
| Bandon Boyne Infantry, 1778. | Castle-Durrow Light Horse,
1779. |
| Bank of England Volunteers,
1800. | Castle Lyons Volunteers, 1783. |
| Bantry Garrison, 1797. | Charleville Infantry, 1779. |
| Barnstaple Light Horse, 1805. | Chatham Volunteers, 1807. |
| Barrack Light Co., 1803. | Chertsey Volunteers, 1803. |
| Bath Association, 1798. | Christchurch Association, 1800. |
| Belfast Rifle Club, 1843. | Christchurch Infantry, 1800. |
| Berkshire First Cavalry, 1810. | Clerkenwell Volunteer Cavalry,
1799. |
| Bermondsey Volunteers. | Colchester Loyal Volunteers,
1805. |
| Bethnal Green Volunteers,
1803. | Cork (Royal) Volunteers, 1776. |
| Birmingham Light Horse, 1798. | Cork True Blues. |
| Birmingham Volunteers, 1802. | Counagh Rangers, 1780. |
| Breadalbane Highlanders, 1798. | Crediton Loyal Volunteers,
1802. |
| Brecon (Royal) Militia. | Cromer Loyal Artillery, 1801. |
| Brentford Volunteers, 1804. | Dedham Volunteers, 1802. |
| Bristol Volunteers, 1814. | Deptford Volunteers, 1803. |
| Broadstairs Independent Gun-
ners, 1802. | Devizes Loyal Volunteers,
1808. |
| Broad Street Ward Volun-
teers, 1799. | Devonport Yeomanry Cavalry,
1826. |
| Buckinghamshire Yeomanry
Cavalry, 1821. | Dodder Rangers, 1803. |
| Buckland Monackorum Volun-
teers, 1802. | Dorsetshire Yeomanry Cavalry,
1812. |
| Buiros - in - Ossory Rangers,
1779. | Drogheda Association, 1783. |
| Bury (Loyal) Volunteers, 1801. | Drumkeen Infantry, 1797. |
| Bury Volunteers, 1803. | Dublin Rifle Club, 1841. |
| Caithness Legion, 1799. | Dublin Volunteers, 1792. |
| Callan (Loyal) Volunteers,
1789. | Dudley Loyal Association, 1796. |

* A full description of the medals of most of the above regiments may be found in D. Hastings Irwin's very useful book, "War Medals and Decorations."

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- Dunhallow Volunteers, 1782.
Duke of Cumberland's Sharpshooters, 1803.
Duke of Gloucester's Loyal Volunteers, 1804.
Duke of Lancaster's Yeomanry Cavalry, 1830.
Dukinfield Independent Riflemen, 1804.
Dumfries Loyal Volunteers, 1792.
Dunlavin Light Dragoons, 1777.
East Budleigh Regiment, 1809.
East India (Royal) Volunteers, 1802.
East Norfolk Militia, 1804.
Echlin Vale Volunteers, 1778.
Edenside (Loyal) Rangers, 1802.
Edinboro' (Royal) Volunteers, 1803.
Essex Volunteer Cavalry, 1804.
Essex Light Dragoons, 1820.
Essex First Legion, 1806.
Evesham Volunteer Cavalry, 1800.
Exeter Loyal Association, 1809.
Falmouth Volunteers, 1797.
Farringdon Ward Association, 1801.
Faversham Loyal Volunteers, 1795.
Fermoy Cavalry, 1798.
Fertullagh Cavalry, 1796.
Frazier's Fencibles, 1800.
Frome and East Mendip Cavalry, 1805.
Glamorgan Local Militia, 1810.
Glamorgan Royal Militia, 1827.
Godley Volunteer Cavalry, 1804.
Gravesend Volunteers, 1804.
Gravesend Volunteer Artillery, 1798.
- Greenwich Loyal Volunteers, 1804.
Guernsey Royal Militia, 1850.
Hampshire Yeomanry.
Hans Town Volunteers.
Hans Town Association, 1799.
Hastings Sea Fencibles, 1801.
Havering Cavalry, 1800.
Highland Armed Association, 1805.
Honourable Artillery Company, 1803.
Imokilly Blue Horse, 1799.
Inchigeelah Infantry, 1784.
Irvine Volunteers, 1820.
Kilcullen Rangers, 1779.
Killala Regiment, 1779.
Killimoon Artillery, 1779.
King's Royal Body Guard Company, 1822.
Lambeth Volunteers, 1800.
Lanark (Royal) Militia, 1844.
Langbourne Ward Volunteers, 1799.
Launceston Volunteers, 1799.
Liberty Artillery, 1782.
Liberty Rangers, 1797.
Limerick Independent United, 1776.
Limerick Loyal Volunteers, 1776.
Liverpool Volunteers, 1806.
Lodden County Volunteers, 1805.
London Loyal Volunteers, 1803.
London and Westminster Rifle Volunteers, 1813.
London Union Loyal Volunteers, 1816.
Lorha Rangers, 1779.
Lowestoft Sea Fencibles, 1797.
Loyal London (Newington) Volunteers, 1804.



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48



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LATER INDIAN AND AFRICAN MEDALS, ETC.

45. Tibet, 1903-4.
46. India General Service, 1908.
47. Khedive's Sudan, 1910.
48. Transport Medal.
49. Naval Good Shooting Medal.
50. Volunteer Long Service Medal.

MILITIA, YEOMANRY, ETC., DECORATIONS

- Magherafelt Independent Volunteers, 1781.
Maguiresbridge Volunteers, 1787.
Mallow Independent Volunteers, 1779.
Manchester Rifle Regiment, 1804.
Manchester and Salford Volunteers, 1802.
Maryborough Volunteers, 1789.
Marylebone Volunteers, 1799.
Meath Volunteers, 1782.
Midlothian Yeomanry Cavalry, 1808.
Midlothian Volunteers, 1803.
Midlothian Loyal Volunteers, 1806.
Milltown Fuzileers, 1779.
Mitcham Volunteers, 1805.
Mote Light Infantry, 1779.
Mount Kennedy Corps, 1815.
Montgomeryshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1820.
Newcastle Volunteers, 1801.
Newhaven Sea Fencibles, 1806.
Newry Rangers, 1779.
Nithsdale Battalion, 1808.
Norfolk Loyal Yeomanry Cavalry, 1796.
North Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry, 1814.
Norwich Loyal Military Association, 1797.
Nottinghamshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1802.
Nottinghamshire Riflemen, 1810.
Oakfield Volunteer Corps, 1798.
Penryn Volunteers, 1794.
Peterboro' Volunteers, 1810.
Pimlico or Queen's Royal Volunteers, 1798.
Pontefract Volunteers, 1800.
Poplar and Blackwall Loyal Volunteers, 1799.
Portsoken Ward Volunteers, 1799.
Preston Volunteers, 1804.
Prince of Wales' Loyal Volunteers, 1804.
Queen's Royal Volunteers, 1804.
Rathdown Corps, 1796.
Rathdown Volunteers, 1776.
Renfrewshire Infantry, 1804.
Richmond Volunteers, 1804.
Roscommon Militia.
Royal Oak Independent Volunteers, 1781.
Rutland Legion, 1817.
Rutland Legion Riflemen, 1796.
St. George's Hanover Square Light Infantry, 1798.
St. James's Volunteers, 1801.
St. Olave's Volunteers, 1798.
St. Pancras Volunteers, 1800.
Sadborrow Yeomanry Cavalry, 1823.
Sadler's Sharpshooters, 1802.
Sheerness Volunteers, 1807.
Sheffield Loyal Independent Volunteers, 1797.
Sherwood Rangers, 1821.
Shoreditch Volunteers, 1812.
Sidmouth Light Artillery, 1802.
Skreen Dragoons, 1784.
Sligo Militia, 1798.
Somerset House Volunteers, 1805.
Somersetshire Loyal United Volunteers, 1798.
South Circular Road Infantry, 1808.
South Devon Militia, 1799.
South Devon Yeomanry, 1834.
Southwark Loyal Volunteers, 1800.

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- Staffordshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1803.
Staffordshire Yeomanry, 1840.
Stannary Royal Volunteers, 1808.
Stirlingshire Volunteers, 1804.
Stirlingshire Loyal Volunteers, 1802.
Stirlingshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1831.
Stone Volunteers, 1807.
Stradbally Volunteers, 1780.
Suffolk Yeomanry Cavalry, 1795.
Surrey Volunteers, 1803.
Sussex Militia, 1807.
Sutton's (Capt.) Rifle Co., 1805.
Tay Loyal Fencibles, 1806.
Tower Hamlets Volunteers, 1804.
Tower Ward Association, 1802.
Tyrone Royal Militia, 1797.
United East and West Ham Loyal Volunteers, 1798.
Victoria Rifles, 1814.
Vintry Ward Volunteers, 1799.
Walthamstow Volunteers, 1802.
- Wandsworth Yeomanry, 1811.
Wapping Union Volunteers, 1801.
Warrington Loyal Independent Volunteers, 1798.
Warwick and Leamington Volunteers, 1809.
Westmeath Rifle Regiment.
Westminster Assembly, 1798.
Westminster Light Horse Volunteers, 1801.
Westminster Loyal Volunteers, 1803.
Westminster Royal Volunteers, 1798.
Westmoreland and Cumberland Yeomanry Cavalry.
West Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry, 1820.
Wexford Militia, 1811.
Whitechapel Loyal Volunteers, 1810.
Wicklow Militia, 1797.
Windsor Foresters, 1800.
Worlington Volunteers, 1798.
Yarmouth Cavalry, 1805.
Yorkshire Royal Fencibles, 1803.

CHAPTER VIII

MEDALS AWARDED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

THE greatest victory which our Navy has ever given us is, undoubtedly, the battle of Trafalgar,* yet our niggardly and parsimonious administrators of the days of Nelson, saw no reason for striking a medal for presentation to the seamen and junior officers who played their part so gallantly in that memorable fight. The Royal advisers fashioned a gold award, it is true, and gave it to the officers of the higher ranks, but there their enthusiasm ceased.

There was one prominent man of those days, however, who felt that such feats of bravery as were crammed into that one battle should not be allowed to pass unrewarded. He was Matthew Boulton, one of the proprietors of the famous engineering firm of Boulton and Watt, of Soho, Birmingham. He obtained official permission to strike a **Trafalgar Medal**, and awarded it to everyone who took part in the historic fight.

The medal, which was nearly two inches in diameter, bore on the obverse a bust of Nelson, looking to the left, and surrounded with the inscription, "Horatio, Viscount Nelson. K. B. Duke of Bronte," and on the reverse a view of the English and French fleets engaged in fighting. On this latter side there were also the words, "England expects every man will do his duty," and in the exergue, "Trafalgar. Oct. 21. 1805." On the circular edge, the famous engineer of Birmingham placed

* These lines were written some while before the Battle of Jutland was fought in the North Sea.

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the words, "To the Heroes of Trafalgar from M. Boulton." Our own specimen is glazed both front and back, but probably the glass faces were added by the recipient in order to preserve the metal surfaces. Silver and pewter copies were distributed. (Fig 59, p. 104).

Curiously enough, Boulton's award was received with little favour by those who were given pewter pieces, and many of the medals speedily found a watery grave. Accordingly, Alexander Davison, of St. James' Square, London, Lord Nelson's prize agent, decided to strike another medal of a somewhat more attractive design and present it to the survivors of the victory.

The Davison Decoration displayed, on the obverse, Nelson's bust and escutcheon, and the inscriptions, "Tria juncto in uno," "Palmam qui meruit ferat," "England expects every man to do his duty," and "Admiral Lord Nelson, D. of Bronte, Natus Sep. 29th, 1758. Hoste devicto requievit Oct. 21st. 1805." The reverse showed one of the wooden walls of England, a Scriptural text, and the legend, "Victory off Trafalgar over the combined fleets of France and Spain. Oct. 21st, 1805." The medal was of pewter.

Previous to his Trafalgar decoration, Alexander Davison had conferred a medal on every officer and man who fought with **Nelson at the Nile**. The award, about two inches in diameter, showed on one face Victory supporting a medallion bearing Nelson's effigy, and on the other, a fleet of ships in battle array. "Rear Admiral Lord Nelson of the Nile," was engraved around the edge of the obverse, whilst on the reverse appeared the inscriptions, "Almighty God has blessed His Majesty's Arms," and "Victory of the Nile, August 1. 1798." Pieces were struck in gold, bronze gilt, and bronze.

The three medals described above were awarded to sections of the Navy; the following decoration, given to a section of the Army, the 42nd Highlanders, is also of

AWARDED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

much interest. Mr. W. Augustus Steward* writes of this, **the Highland Society's Medal**, thus: "For the distinguished and brilliant manner in which the 42nd acted at Alexandria, the Highland Society of London had a medal struck to commemorate the capture of the *Invincibles'* standard, and one was presented to each officer and private, and to relatives of the dead men. The medal is 2 ins. in diameter, and bears on the obverse the bust of Sir Ralph Abercromby, and the inscription, "Abercrombius Dux in Egypto Ceedit Vietor 28 Mar 1801," and on the reverse a Highlander capturing a French standard, with the inscription in Gaelic, "Na Fir A Choisin Buaidh' San Ephait 21 Mar 1801," which means, "These are the heroes who achieved victory in Egypt." On the edge of the medal is engraved in Gaelic, "O'n Chomun Ghaeleach d'on Fhreiceadan Dubh Na. XLII Rt." (From The London Highland Society to the Black Watch, 42nd Regiment.)

* In "War Medals and their History." p. 17.

CHAPTER IX

FOREIGN AWARDS WON BY BRITISH SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

OUR fighting men have shown their prowess in every quarter of the globe, and in so doing they have constantly rendered service not only to the land of their birth, but to many foreign rulers and countries as well. Thus it happens that British soldiers and sailors have, on a number of occasions, received official rewards from the hands of their allies.

The earliest case on record where our soldiers have received a foreign decoration was in the year 1794, when the British were fighting our present friends, the French. On the occasion in question, **Emperor Francis II. of Germany**, whose cause and ours were at one, had become entrapped at Villiers-en-Crouché, a village not far from Cambray. His capture by the Frenchmen would have been certain had not a detachment of the 15th Light Dragoons gone to his aid and made heroic and persistent efforts to save him. The Dragoons, though heavily outnumbered, managed to convey the Royal personage to a place of safety, and thus preserve his freedom. For this fine piece of devotion the Emperor gave orders for a medal to be struck, and presented it, with a gold chain, to eight of the officers who came to his rescue.

FOREIGN AWARDS WON BY BRITISH

The medal was recognised officially by the King and the recipients were permitted to wear it, as may be noted from the following document :*

"To Lord Dorchester. Colonel of the 15th Dragoons.

May 1, 1798.

My Lord—The Emperor of Germany having been pleased to present each of the officers of the 15th Regiment, under your Lordship's command, who distinguished themselves in so gallant a manner by their spirited attack upon the enemy, with a very inferior force, on the 24th April, 1794, near Cambray, a gold medal has been struck by his Imperial Majesty's orders, on the occasion, as a particular mark of the sense he entertained of the signal service thereby rendered to the Allied Army. I have, therefore, the honour, by order of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief to signify to your Lordship His Majesty's pleasure that the above mentioned officers shall be permitted to wear the said medals constantly with their uniforms as an honorary badge of their bravery in the field of action, and an inducement to all others to imitate, on every favourable occasion, their glorious example.

I have, etc.,

Wm. Fawcett. Adjutant-General."

The award bore, on the obverse, a laureated head of Francis II., Emperor of Germany, and the inscription : "Imp : Caes : Franciscus II. P.F. Aug :" whilst the reverse gave the following legend : "Forti-Britanno-in-Exercitu : Foed : ad : Cameracum XX. Apr. MDCCXCIV."

More than one of the foreign awards which British soldiers have worn have emanated from our one-time friends, the Turks. The earliest decoration of this

* "Historical Record of Medals," p. 311.

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nature was **the Order of the Crescent**, which was originally given by Selim III. to General Ralph Abercrombie's men who fought in Egypt, in 1800, against Napoleon.

The decoration was struck in four sizes ; large gold pieces, in some cases studded with diamonds, were given to general officers ; medium gold pieces went to field officers ; small gold pieces to captains and subalterns ; whilst silver pieces, according to Mr. Hastings Irwin in his book on "War Medals," were received by the non-commissioned officers. The award was a crescent and star, with eight points, surrounded by an ornamental border. The back face bore the Sultan's cipher and the year 1801. The ribbon, which was orange-yellow, was joined to the award by means of a hook and chain.

"At the close of **The Peninsular War**, and more particularly after Waterloo, many decorations were bestowed and others instituted by the kingdoms of Europe (who benefited by the downfall of Bonaparte) in commemoration of the event. Portugal was most liberal in this respect. She threw open the Order of the Tower and the Sword as a reward for British valour ; she introduced the Gold Commander's Cross, also the Gold and Silver Cross for Peninsular campaigns, and in a few instances, British officers received the 'Royal and Military Order of St. Bento d'Avis,' for distinguished services.

"Spain also conferred some of her Knightly Orders upon the heroes of the Peninsular. The Duke of Wellington got the Golden Fleece, her highest prize, whilst others received the Order of Charles III. and the Military Order of San Fernando.

"Russia, whose influence in Europe had been much increased by the defeat of the French at Waterloo, showered her rewards also upon British officers. The



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52a



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REGIMENTAL MEDALS.

51. Naval Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
52, 52a. Military Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
53. Territorial Force Efficiency Medal.

FOREIGN AWARDS WON BY BRITISH

Orders of St. Anne, St. George, and St. Vladimir were conferred in testimony of His Imperial Majesty's approbation of their services and conduct, particularly in the late battles fought in the Netherlands.”*

From the time of the Peninsular, a period of twenty-five odd years takes us to the **Carlist Rising** in Spain, when Sir Lacy Evans directed a force of English soldiers against the rebels. Afterwards the Spanish Government, in token of its gratitude, presented a medal to each of the officers and men who took part in the fighting.

The decoration, which was struck in silver for officers, and in pewter for the men, cannot be considered a production having artistic pretensions. The obverse showed a lion, regardent, within the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece, with the words : “*España Agradecida*,” arranged in a circle. The pattern appears far too small for the medal, and there is consequently an unpleasant amount of blank space. Nor is the reverse of much attraction ; it consists of a cross, bearing a laurel wreath with “*San Sebastian, 5 de Mayo, 1836*,” in the centre.

The Crimea brought our soldiers more than one official foreign award. The best known is probably the silver **Turkish Crimean Medal**, which reveals a certain resemblance to those issued at the time by the British Government. It bore on the upper face, the Sultan’s monogram and the year of Hegira 1271, enclosed by a laurel wreath, whilst the under face showed an attractive group of arms and flags. These medals were awarded to French and Sardinian as well as British soldiers, and three patterns were struck, one for each nation. Not only did the wording differ (*i.e.*, CRIMEA, LA CRIMEA, or CRIMEE) but the national flag of the recipient country received the most honoured and prominent position in

* Tancred—“*Historical Record of Medals*,” p. 82.

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the designs. The ship that was bringing the English consignment foundered with its freight, and consequently some of the soldiers of the Mother Country were awarded medals which were left over from the French and Sardinians. The ribbon of all three designs was the same, namely, a vivid pink, with an edging of green. (Ribbon 15, *frontisp.*).

A second Crimean Medal was awarded to a limited number of our officers and men by Victor Emanuel, then King of Sardinia, and afterwards the respected sovereign of Italy.

This decoration consisted of a circular silver piece bearing the King's arms, with the inscription, "AL VALORE MILITARE," on the obverse, and a simple laurel wreath and the inscription, "SPEDIZIONE D'ORIENTE, 1855-56," on the reverse. A ribbon of blue watered silk was provided.

The Crimean war was also the occasion of the presentation to certain of our fighting men of the Legion of Honour (c.f. Appendix), and the **Médaille Militaire**. This latter distinction, which was received by 226 non-commissioned officers and men, bore on the obverse the head of Louis Napoleon, surrounded by a blue enamel circle, upon which was inscribed the Emperor's name, whilst the reverse gave in simple characters the motto, "Valeur et Discipline," on a gold ground. The Imperial eagle surmounted the medal and joined it to the orange and green ribbon.

It should be stated, perhaps, that the design described above for the Médaille Militaire has been changed since the award was made to our Crimean heroes. Napoleon's head has given place to an effigy of a woman, typifying France, and a trophy of arms has supplanted the Imperial eagle. Medals of this latter design have been awarded to a number of British soldiers during the present hostilities. (See plate 15, p. 100).

FOREIGN AWARDS WON BY BRITISH

The **Acre Medal** given by the Sultan to the crews of certain of our battleships in 1840-41, the **Turkish General Service Medal**, given by the Sultan to a selection of our soldiers who took part in the Danube Expedition in 1854, and the **Order of the Medjidie**, another Turkish decoration, are worth a passing mention.

The Egyptian campaign gave our soldiers a fine silver Queen's medal, which is remembered chiefly by the sphinx on the reverse, and by the distinctive white and blue ribbon. All who received this campaign award were also granted a **Bronze Star by the Khedive**. The star, which possesses five rays, bears on the obverse a circle containing the head of a sphinx and three pyramids neatly grouped together. On the reverse there is a crown and the letters T.M., which were Tewfik's initials. The ribbon is a deep blue, flanked on the lower edge by a laureated bar, upon which the Egyptian symbols, the star and the crescent, are fixed. Copies of this medal are usually found to have worn rather shabbily.

The Khedive's star was awarded for three campaigns ; the first campaign decoration bears the inscription, "Egypt, 1882" ; the second, "Egypt, 1884-6," and the third is undated.

Another Khedive medal was awarded to the British and Egyptian soldiers who took part in the recovery of the **Sudan**, in the summer of 1896. This medal, it appears, was struck in England at the Khedive's command, as a mark of his appreciation of the troops who had rid his country, temporarily, as it afterwards transpired, of the Mussulman fanatics.

This silver medal depicts, on one face, a trophy of arms and flags surrounding a shield upon which are engraved the star and crescent three times over, whilst on the other face the Khedive's monogram and the date are

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given. The ribbon is gold through which a streak of blue is placed (*i.e.*, the golden desert of Egypt, with the blue Nile running through it). The award was revived on later occasions, and thus we find the following bars, each inscribed in both English and Arabic :—

Hafir, Firket, Abu Hamed, Sudan 1897, The Atbara, Khartoum, Gedaref, Gedid, Sudan 1899, Bahr-el-Ghazal, 1900-02, Jerok, Nyam-Nyam. (Fig. 37, p. 72—Ribbon 29, pp. 60-1).

Another medal to be described in this chapter is the **Khedive's Sudan award of 1910**, which was given freely to the troops of the British Army. Its obverse presented a fine picture of an alert lion backed by the waters of the Nile and the rising sun, with a trophy of native arms in the exergue ; the reverse was much the same as that of the earlier Sudan decoration. The ribbon, which is watered silk, is coloured black, green and red. (Ribbon 39, pp. 60-1).

During the present war, the Legion of Honour, the Médaille Militaire and **the Croix de Guerre**, have been given to our soldiers by the French. The two former awards are described elsewhere ; the latter, which is practically an officer's decoration, bears much resemblance to the badge of the Order of Merit. It consists of a cross with the point or hilt of a sword jutting from its innermost angles, the centre being filled with the head of a woman, typifying France. (Plate 15, p. 100).

Our Russian allies have decorated British soldiers with, first, **the Order of St. Stanislas**, which consists of a Maltese-cross badge of gold and coloured enamel. The centre is filled by the letters SS, and a laurel wreath encircles them. Each point of the cross is tipped with a small ball, and a rising sun is placed between each pair of balls. In the angles of the cross Poland's eagle appears, and the whole is supported by



Legion of Honour
(France)



Cross of St. George
(Russia)



War Cross
(France)



Medal of St. George
(Russia)



Military Medal
(France)



Order of the Crown
of Italy



Order of the
White Eagle
(Serbia)



Order of Leopold
(Belgium)

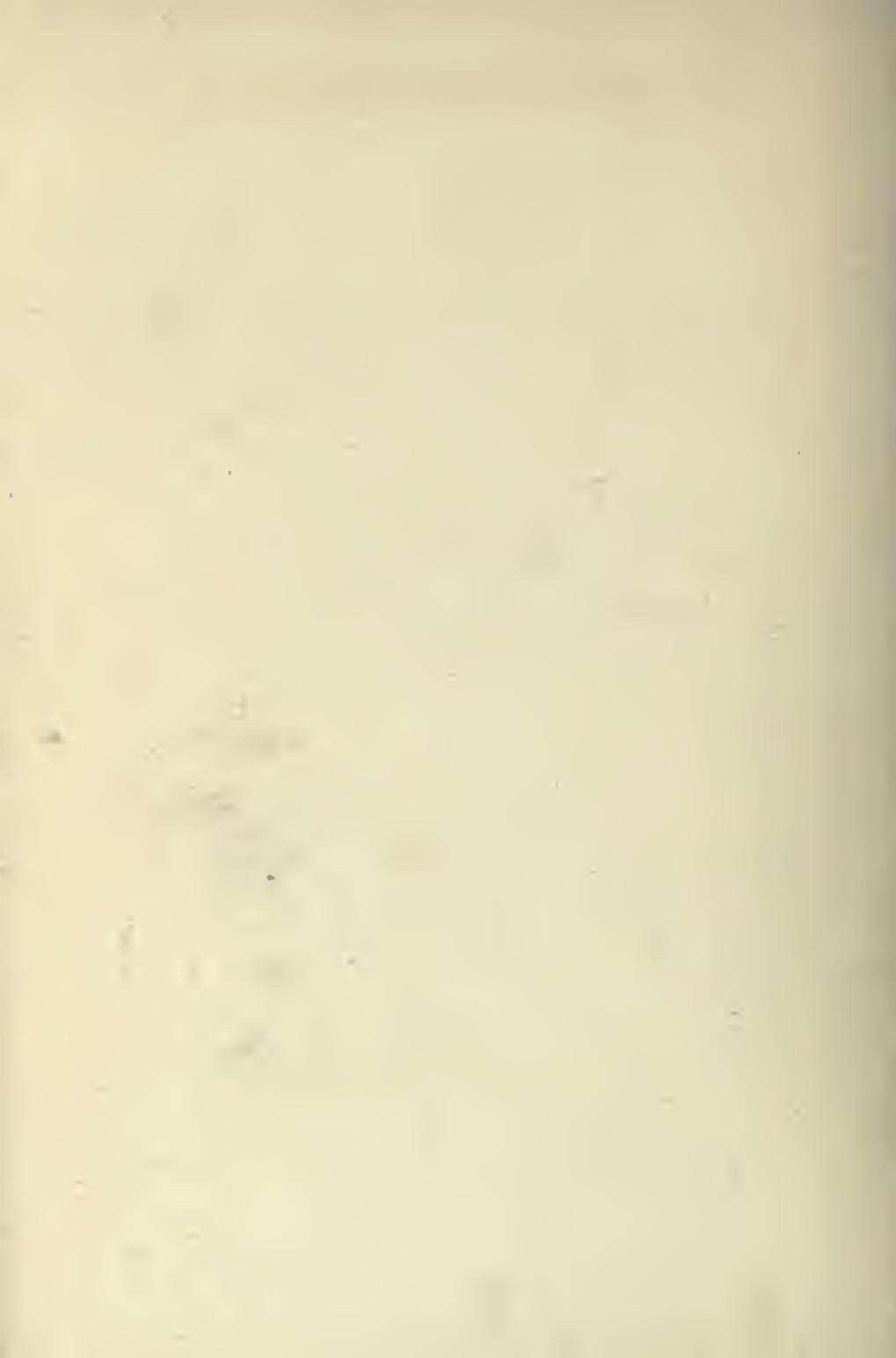


Order of St. Sava
(Serbia)



Order of the
Rising Sun
(Japan)

DECORATIONS AWARDED TO OUR FIGHTING MEN
BY THE ALLIES.



FOREIGN AWARDS WON BY BRITISH

a red and white ribbon. A second Russian decoration is the **Order of St. George**, which, it will be remembered, was recently bestowed upon Commander Max Horton. It is issued in five classes : (a) Knights Grand Cross, (b) Knights Commanders, (c) Commanders, (d) Companions, (e) a class for the rank and file. The first four classes are given the award in gold and white enamel, whilst the fifth receives the award in silver. In all cases the badge is a Maltese cross with square edges and a plain face, except for the centre, which contains a spirited representation of St. George and the Dragon. Medals of this order are awarded for gallantry on the battlefield to men of the ranks. (Plate 15, p. 100).

A third Russian Order which must be mentioned here is that of **St. Vladimir**, which was founded in October, 1782. There are four classes. The badge is a black cross, patée, edged with gold, the centre of which bears an heraldic mantle crowned and charged with a V. The field of the four arms is enamelled red with a gold edge. The decoration may be claimed by "whoever at the peril of his own life, saves ten lives from fire or water."

The Order of Leopold has been conferred by our Belgian allies. It is described in the appendix.

The **Order of the Crown** of Italy was instituted by King Victor Emmanuel II. on February 20th, 1868, in order to celebrate the linking up of Venetia with the Kingdom of Italy. The order has five classes, which are bestowed upon military men and others who perform actions of signal merit. There are sixty Grand Cordons, 159 Grand Officers, 500 Commanders, and 20,000 Chevaliers or Knights. (Plate 15, p. 100).

The Badge.—A plain expanding Cross, enamelled white, edged with gold, embellished in the quarters with golden love-knots. In the centre, a round escutcheon, enamelled azure, and edged gold, charged with the Iron Crown, or, on a field, or, an eagle displayed, sable,

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and crowned or, having on the breast an oval shield charged with the Cross of Savoy. On a field argent, enamelled gules. The Badge is suspended from a red ribbon, with a white central stripe. The Grand Cordon wears the cross of a larger size, from the right shoulder to left hip, and likewise the Star. The Commanders suspend the cross from the neck; the other Knights attached to a rosette.

The Star.—Silver, of eight principal rays within which, encircled by a white fillet inscribed in gold, "Victorius Emmanuel II." Rex Italiae, MDCCCLXVI," is an enamelled azure circular centre charged with the golden and jewelled Iron Crown, and surmounted by an eagle on the upper silver rays, displayed, sable, and charged on the breast with the Arms of Savoy. The Star is also worn by the Grand Officers on the left breast. The Star of the G.O. differs from that of the G.C., being simply a reproduction of the badge, without the black eagle, or fillet, and placed upon a scaly silver star of eight rays, each having a small globule at the point.

The Ribbon.—Red with a white central stripe.*

Serbia has awarded our fighting men the Order of St. Sava. This order was instituted on January 23rd, 1883, and consists of five classes, viz., Knights Grand Cross, Grand Officers, Commanders, Officers and Chevaliers. (Plate 15, p. 100).

The Badge is a gold Maltese Cross, enamelled white, with gold knobs on the points. On the centre of the obverse is an oval red enamelled medallion with the effigy of St. Sava in proper colours, surrounded with a blue band, thereon the motto in old Serbian characters: "By his labours he acquired all." The reverse consists of a gold embossed medallion on which is the cipher, "M.I." with crown above; between the limbs of the cross, a gold double-headed crowned eagle, wings displayed and inverted; on the breast, a shield charged with the arms of Serbia. In the upper limb of the cross is a gold fleur-de-lys attached to the Royal Crown.

* J. H. Lawrence Archer.—"Orders of Chivalry."

FOREIGN AWARDS WON BY BRITISH

The Star.—Consists of eight principal steel rays cut in facets like crystals. On the centre, the obverse of the Badge.

Ribbon.—White moire, with pale blue border. The breadth of the ribbon varies with the class.*

Another Serbian order which must receive mention here is the **Order of the White Eagle**. This was instituted in February, 1883, by King Milan I. There are five classes: 10 Knights Grand Cross, 20 Grand Officers, 40 Commanders, 150 Officers, and 300 Chevaliers. The order is awarded to those who perform loyal services for their country. (Plate 15, p. 100).

The Badge, of which there are different sizes for the various classes, consists of a crowned white enamelled double-headed eagle with wings displayed and inverted, all traced in gold, surmounted by the Royal Crown of Serbia, suspended from a gold ring, attached to a pale red moire ribbon with borders of steel blue. On the breast of the eagle an oval shield with beaded edge, the Arms of Serbia.

The reverse shows an oval shield, gold, with the cipher, "M.I." with Crown above.

The Ribbon.—Descending from the Crown, surmounting the eagle, is blue, and bears the inscription, "22 February, 1882"; i.e., the day of the restoration of the kingdom.†

The Order of the Eastern, Morning or Rising Sun (Le Soleil Levant), is another distinction of note, in this case, awarded by our Japanese allies. It was first instituted in 1874, and consists of eight classes, comprising civil and military celebrities. (Plate 15, p. 100).

The Badge.—A red enamelled centre representing the Sun, from which issue 32 double pointed rays of gold and white enamel. It is suspended from three blossoms and a leaf of the Paulonia. The lowest class of the Order wears the Kini leaf in place of the Paulonia.

The Star.—Same as the Badge, the rays being silver.

The Ribbon.—White with red borders.‡

* † ‡ C. N. Elvin.—"A Handbook of Orders of Chivalry."

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In addition to the above, there are many orders and medals of foreign origin which have been given to individual soldiers and sailors. When such an award is offered, the recipient must make application to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army or the Lords of the Admiralty, as the case may be, and if the request appears reasonable, the King's sanction is asked for. No such permission, however, is necessary in the case of medals if the recipients do not desire to wear them publicly.



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OFFICERS' DECORATIONS, ETC.

54. Distinguished Service Order. 57. Distinguished Conduct in the
55. Military Cross. Field Medal.
56. Distinguished Service Cross. 58. Pistrucci's Waterloo Medal.
59. Boulton's Trafalgar Medal.

CHAPTER X

HINTS TO COLLECTORS OF MEDALS

THERE are many reasons why a collection of medals possesses more depth of interest than most of the collectable articles which connoisseurs seek. First of all, medals are treasures which have played a real part in the making of Britain's history and in consolidating the Empire—facts which alone entitle them to be prized before all other forms of rariora. Then they are the outward and visible signs of battles, bravery and bloodshed ; they are, indeed, tokens recalling all that is grandest in the character of our fighting spirit. It is chiefly on these counts that we claim for them a dignity, and, shall we say, a respect, which no other form of curio can command.

But there are reasons beyond those of a chivalrous nature which make us speak in favour of medal collecting. Every decoration, for instance, is steeped in historical and geographical fact, and thus our treasures possess an educational worth of no mean value.

If we look at medal collecting from the more mundane points of view, we find that the hobby is no less attractive. Medals do not deteriorate rapidly, as do postage stamps, prints, and other frail articles ; they are not bulky and cumbersome, as may be said of so many collectable things ; they are subject but little to fashion, which is a matter of no small importance ; and there are not so many different pieces as to cause bewilderment, which may eventually lead to distinterest.

MEDALS OF OUR FIGHTING MEN

From the very beginning, the medal collector will be wise in confining his interests to one particular sphere of the hobby, for should he amass treasures at random, it will require a good deal of capital to obtain a representative collection. First of all, he might ask himself whether his interests lie with medals of the Navy or the Army. This simple division will restrict the collection considerably, but in most cases, insufficiently. Many people chose a section of the Army and specialise in the regiment selected ; this, perhaps, is too drastic a restriction for all but members of the chosen regiment and their immediate friends. It obviously imposes limitations which are not always outweighed by personal interest. A more rational method of specialising is to take up the awards of one quarter of the globe (or one particular period of time) and get together a representative collection of them alone. By a judicious selection of the area or period, we shall neither cut down the available pieces too drastically nor interfere too severely with the historical aspect of the collection.

Perhaps the reader will ask for suggestions as to suitable groups in which to specialise. The most obvious are :—

1. The Honourable East India Company's awards. These form an interesting group, splendidly illustrative of the early history of our Eastern Empire. The pieces are neither numerous nor few, but they are fairly costly.

2. Other Indian Campaign awards. Here we have a most attractive group, rather large, but so many of the pieces are easily procurable that the collection will grow quicker than in the case of Group 1.

3. Medals of the Peninsular Wars. This is a group that will offer much interesting work ; it includes the early officers' gold pieces and crosses ; the later General Service Medal, awarded by Queen Victoria, with its array of bars, and the continental medals issued by Spain, Portugal, etc.

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4. African Campaign Medals. In this section there are a host of campaigns which will need representation, for this continent has been the scene of such struggles as the Boer wars, the Sudan war, the Egyptian war, as well as expeditions to Matabeleland, Nigeria, and the land of the Basutos.

5. The China Medals form an interesting group and recall many vivid pictures in history, but they are hardly numerous enough.

6. Medals awarded for Distinguished Conduct and Lengthy Service. This is a fairly extensive group and one that collectors seem to have neglected, for the majority of the pieces which fall under this head are unduly cheap. Of course, the Victoria Cross is included here, and as the collector knows, is a notable exception to this rule.

7. Medals of the Auxiliary Forces. This is a group that will appeal to the Territorial or Yeoman of to-day. It is not a large group.

8. Early Volunteer Medals, *i.e.*, those discussed towards the end of the chapter entitled, "Militia, Yeomanry, Volunteer, and Territorial Decorations."

9. The Medals engraved by the Wyon Family. This would make a capital group, as the Wyons were instrumental in the production of so many interesting medals. If we specialised in this group, we should feel inclined to admit into the collection other work by the Wyons, *i.e.*, seals, coins, and the line-engraved postage stamps of the early years of Victoria's reign.

The experienced collector will not need to be told where to pick up specimens, but with the novice it is different ; he will do well to visit the auction sales held by such reputable firms as Messrs. Christie, King Street, St. James's ; Messrs. Sotheby's in Wellington Street,

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Strand ; Messrs. Glendining & Co., of Argyll Street, Oxford Circus ; and Messrs. Puttick and Simpson ; while a visit to Messrs. Spink and Son, of Piccadilly, will certainly prove interesting. The Friday sales held in the Caledonian Market, known to collectors as Rag Fair, will often reveal pieces at tempting prices, but here we must be on the alert for spurious specimens. We do not wish to frighten the novice into thinking that all or even most of the medals to be picked up at this open air mart are forgeries, but as we have, at times, seen electros and cast facsimiles reposing on the stalls, it is just as well to mention the fact. The electro fakes are made in two pieces and joined together around the rim. Here then is a ready test for such imitations ; whilst the cast copies are always a shade smaller, due to shrinkage, than the originals. The cast copies, also, have a pimpled surface, due to the grain of the material used for the mould. Thus facsimiles should not be very difficult of detection.

As to the prices which should be paid for various medals we suggest that the reader obtains the Numismatic Circular, published by Messrs. Spink and Sons. The items quoted therein are in every case first rate specimens, in mint condition, provided with suitable ribbon, and with the bars properly belonging to the medal as awarded. From the prices given, it will be clear that bars influence considerably the value of a decoration, and, of course, the value of a bar depends upon the number that were issued and the popularity of the event which it commemorated. Thus the Military General Service award, with one clasp for Talavera, is worth about five guineas, whilst the same award with one clasp for Chrystler's Farm has been known to sell at £20. The former bar was received by over fifty regiments, whilst no more than a few members of seven regiments were given the latter bar.

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During the early stages of collecting the amateur will be able to learn a good deal from the exhibits in our public museums. The best of these will be found in the Royal United Service Museum, the British Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. It should be, perhaps, stated that when the writer last inspected the latter collection, the ribbons were much faded, and were, therefore, apt to mislead.

Before concluding, it will be useful to give a short bibliography of the books available on medals and medal collecting.

Mayo's "Medals and Decorations of the British Army and Navy" is a capital book with more than fifty plates; it gives, verbatim, Royal Warrants, orders, and official communications respecting the grants of medals.

Tancred's "Historical Record of Medals and Honorary Distinctions," published in 1891 by Messrs. Spink and Son, is a standard book on the medals, etc., issued to that date. It is fully illustrated by means of wood-cuts.

W. Hastings Irwin's "War Medals and Decorations" is a good all-round work, which we have found most helpful when dealing with the volunteer awards of the Napoleonic era.

Carter's "War Medals of the British Army," with coloured plates, is chiefly interesting for the accounts which it gives of how the various medals were won.

S. Johnson's "Chats on Military Curios," deals adequately with medals and treats with a number of allied subjects.

W. Augustus Steward's "War Medals and their History" is full of capital illustrations, with a good deal of information on the historical aspect of the awards.

Articles dealing with medals and medal collecting appear from time to time in *The Connoisseur*, and *The Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*.

CHAPTER XI

AN INTERESTING WATERLOO MEDAL

THE medal which we describe in the present chapter and include among the illustrations (Fig. 58, p. 104), is of more than usual interest, though, we must admit, it was never awarded to any of our fighting men. Its history runs as follows :

After Waterloo, the Prince Regent was desirous of commemorating the great victory which he had gained over Napoleon in a manner fitting for the occasion. Accordingly, he conceived the idea of striking an elaborate medal for presentation to Wellington, Blucher, and the sovereigns of the allied countries. With this end in view, he summoned a deputation of artists and divulged his plans, and, as a consequence, Flaxman, a sculptor of much note in the early years of the 19th century, was deputed to design the medal and pass his proofs on to Pistrucci, of the Mint, whom the King asked to make the necessary engravings.

Flaxman performed his share of the work with credit, but when Pistrucci was requested to cut the dies, he refused, saying that he saw no reason why the whole of the medal should not be entrusted to him—design, dies, and stamping.

Pistrucci seems to have been endowed with an unpleasant nature, and it is a little surprising that the

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Prince Regent did not exert pressure to enforce his own will. However, we find that in the end, Pistrucci was commissioned to undertake the whole of the production, and Flaxman's efforts were placed on one side. The Italian, for this was Pistrucci's nationality, commenced cutting the dies in the year 1819, and finished them on January 1st, 1849—just thirty years after.

Undoubtedly, there is more in this little episode than we shall ever learn, but it is clear that Pistrucci, who received £3,500 for what might be sarcastically called his life work, had some reason for delaying the production.

The medal was never struck, seeing that Wellington was the only survivor among the intended recipients when it was ready for issue. Later, however, the Lords of the Treasury gave the dies to a Mr. Johnson, of Bayswater, and he produced electrotypes, copies of which are to be seen in the British Museum and elsewhere.

The two faces of the medal are extremely imposing. Here is the description of them as it appears in the British Museum catalogue :

"Obverse, Jugate busts l., laur., of the Prince Regent, Francis II., Emperor of Austria, Alexander I., Emperor of Russia, and Frederick William III., King of Prussia ; on either side, Justice l., and Hercules r., seated ; above, the Sun in quadriga l., preceded by Castor and Pollux, and followed by Iris and Zephyrus ; beneath, Night in biga r. ; before her, the furies ; behind her, the Fates. Reverse, Wellington and Blucher on horseback l., guided by Victory between them ; Wellington gallops in advance, and Blucher rushes to his aid ; above, Jupiter in quadriga, facing, hurling thunderbolt at giants arranged in circle. Copper. Size, 5.3."

Before concluding the note on this medal it is appropriate to quote the following short biography of Pistrucci

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from the catalogue on coins and medals, issued by the British Museum :—

"Benedetto Pistrucci, born at Rome 1784 of good family, his father being Judge of the High Criminal Court at Rome, began at the early age of twelve to study the art of gem and cameo cutting, and acquired such proficiency that before he was sixteen his works were often disposed of by dealers as antiques. In 1815 Pistrucci came to England, and two years later, upon the death of T. Wyon, was appointed Chief Engraver to the Mint, being immediately engaged on the new silver and gold coinage, having for the reverse type the St. George and Dragon. For some time after the accession of George IV., Pistrucci was engaged on a coinage for the new reign, which, having finished, he was promoted in 1828 to the post of Chief Medallist to the Mint, W. Wyon being appointed his successor as Chief Engraver. From this period till 1849 Pistrucci was engaged on the dies of the Waterloo medal, occasionally relieving the monotony of the work by the production of a large number of gems and medals, among the latter being the Coronation Medal of Victoria, a medal of the Duke of Wellington, one for the Royal Humane Society, etc., etc. He died in 1855."

APPENDIX.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS OF NOTE

THE title of this book does not allow of the inclusion among the regular chapters of foreign decorations, unless they have been won by British fighting men. As, however, there are a certain number of well-known continental awards which possess special interest, it has been deemed expedient to discuss them in the present appendix.

The most coveted decoration in France is **The Cross of the Legion of Honour.** (Plate 15, p. 100). The order was suggested to the House of Assembly by Napoleon in May, 1802, at the time when he filled the post of First Consul. The motto : "Honneur et Patrie," sufficiently describes the actions for which it is awarded. The membership has varied from time to time, but now there are five grades.

1. The Knights, who fill the lowest grade, receive a five-rayed badge made of silver and white enamel. Each ray is double pointed or forked, and each point is tipped with a silver ball. The star is joined to the crimson ribbon by means of an oval metal laurel wreath. An effigy of Liberty (obverse), and two flags (reverse), are placed in the centre of the star. The Napoleonic patterns bore the Emperor's profile (obverse) and the French eagle (reverse). The decoration is worn at the buttonhole.*

* It is interesting to recall that this decoration was awarded to Flight-Lieut. Warneford for wrecking a Zeppelin in Belgium.

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2. Officers, who fill the second grade, receive a similar badge.

3. Commanders (third grade) receive a badge similar to the above, but made of gold. They wear the decoration suspended from the neck.

4. Grand officers (fourth grade) receive a gold badge and a silver star, which is worn on the right breast.

5. Knights of the Grand Cross (fifth grade) receive a large gold badge, which is worn on a sash, running from the right shoulder to the left hip. They also wear a silver star on the left breast.

The Belgians have two awards which they highly prize. The first is the circular **Medal for "Deeds of Self-Devotion,"** and the second, **the Order of Leopold.** The latter, which was founded by Leopold I., by Royal Warrant, on July 11th, 1832, may be granted for civil, as well as military renown.

The badge, which is a white enamelled Maltese Cross, bears on the front a rampant lion within a circle enclosing the country's motto, "L'Union Fait la Force"; whilst the rear has a black centre, upon which is written the King's monogram. The ribbon is a crimson watered silk. The badges awarded for military service bear, in addition, two swords in saltire, which are omitted from those given as civil awards. (Plate 15, p. 100).

The United States have a coveted decoration which is known as **The Medal of Honor.** It was originally granted for deeds of unusual bravery during the Civil War, but awards have been made since as occasion demanded. The latest pattern may be described as a medallion—bearing the head of Minerva—from which the five rays of a star issue. Around the head the inscription: "United States of America" appears. An oak leaf is worked into each ray of the star, which gives the decoration a very neat appearance.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS OF NOTE

Sweden has a medal inscribed "**För Tapperhet I Falt**" (For Valour in the Field), which bears the Royal effigy, and is suspended by a yellow and blue ribbon.

The next award with which we shall deal is a fine example of the French medallie art. It is the **Veterans' Medal**, given, not long ago, by the Republic to all French soldiers still living, who fought in the Franco-German war, 1870-71. The design of the medal is as pleasing as is the sentiment whieh prompted the authorities to make the award.

The obverse shows a female head typifying Francee accoutred for war, and also the inscription, "Republique Française"; the reverse is taken up with a trophy of arms, the French flag, and the words, "Aux Defenseurs de la Patrie." The ribbon, whieh is the least attractive part of this veteran's medal, is made of four strips of black and five of green, all equal in width.

The Austrian counterpart of the V.C. is the medal inscribed "**Der Tapferkeit**" (For Bravery). It originated in 1789 by Royal Warrant, bearing the signature of the Emperor Joseph II., and was amended by Ferdinand I., who divided the award into two classes. Under offieers and men in the ranks alone are eligible. (Superior officers receive the Order of Maria Theresa).



The obverse of the medal, which is struck in both gold and silver, bears a bust of the Emperor. The current pieces display the effigy of Franz Joseph, and the inscription, "Franz Joseph I.V.G.G. Kaiser V. Oestereich." The reverse shows two laurel branches and the inscription for bravery, as mentioned above. The ribbon, which is a trifle gaudy, is red and white; it is strapped crosswise through the loop.

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The last piece to be described is the **Prussian Iron Cross.**



This Cross, which is so notorious, we do not say noted, has been lavished on the soldiers of the Kaiser in a most reckless fashion, and has thus lately lost much of its extrinsic value. When first instituted by Frederick William in 1813, it was looked upon by the world at large with much the same reverence as is accorded our V.C. to-day, for it was then distributed with moderation and discrimination.

The cross seems to have been awarded in three classes, but what their individual characteristics are is not clear. There are, however, at least two sizes, the larger one of which being awarded to commanders only. There is no standing authority for the distribution of this decoration, but when hostilities broke out in 1870, and again in 1914, it was re-instituted. Soldiers, civilians, and, presumably, sailors may receive this award on the performance of deeds of sufficient fighting value.

The Iron Cross consists of a cross patée of cast iron fitted into a frame stamped out of sheet silver. The effect is bold and imposing, but somewhat flimsy. The 1813 issue bore the Royal crown, a bunch of oak leaves and the year 1813; in the 1870 issue the letter W replaced the oak leaves, and the necessary alteration was made in the year; whilst in the 1914 issue, the only alteration is in the date. The cross is suspended by a ring, through which is threaded a black watered silk ribbon with white stripes, when worn by service men, and a white watered silk ribbon with black stripes, when a civilian is the possessor.

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