



# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

.A potted history of the DSO seen through the actions of the Royal Artillery - from the excitement at Woolwich when two of its first recipients appeared on Church Parade in 1886 to Victory in Europe in 1945.

Based on medals in my collection.



# ANDY PATTISON (OMRS 5790)

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# INTRODUCTION

- The DSO was instituted on 6 September 1886
- The first awards were in the London Gazette of 25 November 1886 – including several RA officers
- One was issued to Queen Victoria
- By 1890 gold issues were no longer awarded so 153 gold awards would have been made
- By the end of 1902 – 1'642 had been awarded (QV issues)
- of which 1'143 were issued to the Army for the Boer War (plus 3 to RN, 1 to Victorian Navy, 1 to Natal Navy, 3 to RMLI)
- Only 584 were awarded before the Boer War
- By the Great War (last DSO was 4 August 1914) – 1'727 had been made
- Only 85 between the Boer War and the Great War



# THE EARLY VICTORIAN DSO



- The DSO was first awarded for actions during the Third Burmese War, for which the IGS 1854 with bar “Burma 1885–7” was awarded. The Royal Artillery History had this to say of these campaigns:
- The Subalterns War

*As regards the tactical employment of the artillery there is little to be said. Unless the enemy's position was very difficult of access, or serious resistance was anticipated, the support of the attack by artillery fire was a doubtful advantage when the object was to pin the enemy to the ground and inflict punishment. In consequence the number of guns allocated to a column was practically limited to a section. Captains and Majors got their chance in command of columns or posts, and when there was no call for their guns some gallant young subalterns, not content to remain inactive, proved themselves resolute leaders of mounted infantry. In might well have been called “The Subalterns War” and it is good to know that their services were not overlooked. **The Distinguished Service Order** was instituted in 1886 to reward their gallantry, and the writer well remembers the excitement at Woolwich when two of its first recipients appeared on Church Parade wearing the coveted decoration.*



# THE EARLY VICTORIAN DSO

- There are 6 DSOs awarded before the Boer War in the collection
- Brigadier General C. P. Fendall CB CMG DSO, Royal Artillery (1887)  
“For operations in Burma”
- Major General Sir H. Stanton KCMG CB DSO, Royal Artillery (1887)  
“For services in Burma”
- General C. P. Triscott CB CMG DSO, Royal Artillery (1888)  
“For services during the operations in Burma, 1887-88.”
- Lieutenant General Sir George MacMunn KCB KCSI DSO, Royal Artillery (1892)  
“During recent operations in connection with the defence of Sadon”
- Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Paine DSO, Royal Garrison Artillery (1898)  
“In recognition of service during the recent operations in Mekran”
- Major General T.M. Luke CBE DSO, Royal Artillery (1904)  
‘For services in connection with the Tibet Mission Escort.’



# **BRIGADIER GENERAL C. P. FENDALL CB CMG DSO, RA**

Distinguished Service Order

London Gazette 25 November 1887

“For operations in Burma”

Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion C.B., (military) neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companions C.M.G., neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Distinguished Service Order, with original ribbon bar and pin, V.R. in gold and enamel, Indian General Service Medal 1854 [Burma 1885-7] (Lt. C. P. Fendall 3/M. Btry R.A.), Indian General Service Medal 1894-1902 [Relief of Chitral 1895] (Captain C. P. Fendall R.A.), British War Medal (Brig Gen C. P. Fendall), Victory Medal [MID] (Brig Gen C. P. Fendall), The Order of St Maurice & St Lazarus (Italy).



# FENDALL SUMMARY

- Lieutenant Fendall served in the campaign in Burma (1885 MID; 1887 2x MID; DSO, medal and clasp). His was one of the first DSOs to the regiment. Later he served during the Relief of Chitral (medal and clasp). Retiring as Colonel in 1911 he was recalled during The Great War and served in Portuguese East Africa (1915 CMG MID; 1917 The Order of St Maurice & St Lazarus; 1918 CB MID; British War Medal, Victory Medal).
- He authored "*The East African Force 1915-18*" described as "*An excellent study describing the operations of British & Colonial units which fought in East Africa against the Germans under General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck*".
- One of only 20 DSOs issued in gold to the regiment.



On the family farm (1912)



# BRIGADIER GENERAL C. P. TRISCOTT CB CMC DSO, RA

- Distinguished Service Order  
London Gazette of 3 August 1888  
*"For services during the operations in Burma, 1887-88."*
- Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion (C.B. military) neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Companion (C.M.G.), neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.), with original ribbon bar and pin (V.R. in gold and enamel); Afghanistan Medal 1878-1880 [Kandahar] (Lieut. C. P. Triscott R.A.); Kabul to Kandahar Star 1880 (Lieut. C. P. Triscott R.A.); India General Service Medal 1854-1895 [Burma 1885-7, Burma 1887-89] (Capt'n. C. P. Triscott, Rl. Arty.); India General Service Medal 1895-1902 [Punjab Frontier 1897-98, Tirah 1897-98] (Major C. P. Triscott R.A. D.S.O.)







Officers of the Mogaung Expedition.

March 6<sup>th</sup> 1886.

## SUMMARY: TRISCOTT

- Triscott served in Afghanistan with 22<sup>nd</sup> Dejerat Pack Battery, including the action at Charasai (6 October 1879) and the march from Kabul to Relief of Kandahar (5 August to 1 September 1880) and the battle of Mazra (1 September 1880).
- As Captain he served in the Burma Campaigns 1885-88. He commanded the expedition against the Salay Hill Kachins, and also that to Lake Endawgyee and the Jade Mines (MID x2, DSO). In addition to commanding columns he also commanded batteries with other columns, including No. 4 Punjab Battery and No. 1 Bengal Battery during the Mogaung Expedition.
- He is mentioned in "The Pacification of Burma" (Crosthwaite).
- He served on the staff of the Tirah Expedition Force services for which he was MID twice.
- In the occasion of "His late Majesty's Birthday" in 1910 he was created a Companion of the Bath (CB).
- He was Colonel-in-Charge, Royal Garrison Artillery Records, Dover from April 1911 to August 1912. He was Officer Commanding Western Coast Defences until April 1916 when he was placed on retired pay (MID CMG 1917). Not having served abroad, he is not entitled to any Great War Medals.
- He played tennis in the Wimbledon Championships of 1885



# MAJOR GENERAL SIR HARRY STANTON KCMG CB DSO, RA



Distinguished Service Order  
"For services in Burma"  
London Gazette 25 November 1887

Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Knights Commanders K.C.M.G., neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel, Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion C.B., (Military Division) neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Distinguished Service Order (V.R.) in gold and enamel, Indian General Service Medal 1854-1895 [Burma 1885-7, Burma 1887-89] (Lieut. H. Stanton, No.9 By. 1st. Bn. 1st Dn. R.A.), Indian General Service Medal 1895-1902 [Relief of Chitral, Punjab Frontier 1897-98] (Capt. H. Stanton DSO R.A.), Africa General Service Medal [Somaliland 1902-04, Jidballi] (Major & Bt. Lieut. Col. H. Stanton DSO R.A.), 1914/15 Star (Br. Gen. H. Stanton), British War Medal, Victory Medal [M.I.D.] (Maj. Gen. H. Stanton), 1911 Coronation Medal



# SUMMARY STANTON

- He served with the Upper Burma Field Force 1885-87 with 9th Mountain Battery RA (MID, DSO)
- As Brigade Major, 1st Brigade, Chitral Field Force he was present at the storming of the Malakand Pass and at Khar during the descent into the Swat Valley (MID).
- As Intelligence Officer with the Malakand and Buner Field Forces in operations against the Mohmands and Utmankhels, in actions at Landakai, Bajaur & in the Tanga Pass (3 x MID). He is mentioned in Winston Churchill's Story of the Malakand Field Force". Churchill, then a subaltern in the Cavalry, was the officer in charge of Stanton's protection as he rode out in front of the army.
- He served with the Somaliland Field Force from 1903 as Chief Staff Officer, and was present at the action at Jidballi (MID)
- Created CB in June 1911
- During the Great War he served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force 1915 & 1916 (MID, KCMG)
- A key player in the erection of The Royal Artillery Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London, dedicated to the First World War casualties of the Regiment.



# LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR GEORGE MACMUNN KCB KCSI DSO, RA



# THE GROUP



- DSO: London Gazette 1 November 1892
- “During recent operations in connection with the defence of Sadon”
- Distinguished Service Order, V.R., silver-gilt and enamels; India General Service 1854-94, 2 clasps, Burma 1889-92, Chin Hills 1892-93 (Lieut. G. F. Macmunn, No. 6 Bo. Mt. By.); India General Service 1895-1902, 3 clasps, Punjab Frontier 1897-98, Samana 1891, Tirah 1897-98 (Lieutt. G. F. MacMunn, No. 1 Kashmir Mn. By.); Queen’s South Africa 1899-1902, 3 clasps, Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal (Major G. F. MacMunn, D.S.O. R.F.A.); King’s South Africa 1901-02, 2 clasps, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902 (Major G. F. MacMunn, D.S.O. R.F.A.); 1914-15 Star (Bt. Col. G. F. Macmunn, D.S.O.); British War (Maj. Gen. Sir G. F. MacMunn); Victory Medals (MID) (Maj. Gen. Sir G. F. MacMunn); General Service 1918-62, 1 clasp, Kurdistan (Maj. Gen. Sir G. F. MacMunn); Defence Medal 1939-45; Delhi Durbar 1911, Jubilee 1935; Legion of Honour, Officer’s breast badge, gold and enamels
- Entitled to KCB, KCSI (orders returned upon death)





# SUMMARY

George Fletcher MacMunn was born on 14 August 1869 and was educated at Kensington School. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1888. Served in Upper Burma in the Irrawaddy Column, 1892, was wounded and mentioned in despatches, **recommended for the VC** and awarded the D.S.O. for the Defence of Sadon. Then served in the Sima Column, 1893; Kohat Field Force, 1897, and Tirah Expedition, 1897-98. He then served in South Africa with the Artillery and Staff, was wounded and twice mentioned in despatches and received the brevet of Major. Served in the Great War in Gallipoli and Mesopotamia, being twelve times mentioned in despatches, received the brevet of Colonel and was awarded the C.B., K.C.B., C.S.I., K.C.S.I. Was appointed C-in-C. Mesopotamia, 1919-20 and Quartermaster General, India, 1920-24. A prolific author, he died on 23 August 1952.

The DSO a unique award to the British Army



# LIEUTENANT COLONEL J. H. PAINE DSO, RA

Distinguished Service Order  
London Gazette: 4 October 1898  
“In recognition of service during the  
recent operations in Mekran”

Distinguished Service Order (Victoria)  
(Silver-Gilt), India General Service Medal  
(1895) with Punjab Frontier 1897-98,  
(Lieutenant, D. S. O., 4th Hazara Mn. Bty, R.  
A.), 1914-1915 Star (Major, D. S. O., R. G. A.),  
British War Medal (Lt. Col., D. S. O.), Victory  
Medal with M. I. D. (Lt. Col., D. S. O.), 1911  
Delhi Durbar



Colonel Paine went over the top at the head of the infantry with Sapper Hicks, taking a phone and running out a wire with the idea of Keeping up communications, but on reaching the enemy front line, was wounded in the leg. Telling his signaller to keep up with the infantry, he started back across no man's land, but was hit again and no more was heard from him. Every effort was made to trace Colonel Paine, without success, and an infantry patrol that went out after dark failed to find any sign. Further efforts to find Colonel Paine met with no success and another infantry patrol also failed." The Court of Inquiry on Colonel Paine on 29 July 1918 "found that he took part in the infantry raid, probably with the idea of showing the possibility of keeping up communications in an attack, and that he was missing and presumed killed in no man's land." His body was later found. He had been shot through the heart, the bullet passing through his metal cigar case (which came with the group).

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J. H. PAINE, D.S.O., R.G.A.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Paine, D.S.O., R.G.A., was the third son of the late James Paine, of Springfield, West Monkton, Taunton, and was educated at Marlborough and the Royal Military Academy. He took part in the Mekran expedition of 1897, and was twice mentioned in dispatches and awarded the D.S.O. He served in India at the commencement of the war in command of a mountain battery, and went to France in 1917, taking part in the battles of Arras and Ypres and being mentioned in dispatches. On July 25th he was with the infantry during an attack, directing operations with his telephonist for the guns, and went over with the infantry. His commanding officer writes:—"The infantry say he was splendid, and we gunners could not, if we tried, find a more fitting tribute than that. Deeply as we grieve, yet we are all so proud of him." Lieutenant-Colonel Paine married in 1894 Caroline, daughter of the late Deputy-Inspector-General Henry Piers, R.N., who with one son survives him.

# SUMMARY PAINE

- In January 1898, Mekran, the coastal province of Baluchistan, was in open rebellion. A survey camp under a Royal Engineer officer was attacked and looted. Lieutenant Paine led a Section of the 4th Hazara Mountain Battery that was rushed to Karachi to join an infantry force at Pasmī under Lieutenant Colonel Mayne of the 30th Baluchis. The column set out on 27 January 1898 to relieve the Wazir who was imprisoned by rebels in a fort at Kalatak.
- During the action of 31 January and 2 February his "guns were well handled" and "fired 125 shell and 6 case; casualties killed one man, wounded one man"
- "Lieutenant J.H. Paine and his gunners now delivered destructive blows by blasting the sardars' forces with shells."
- On 17 November 1898 he was invested with the DSO by The Queen at Windsor Castle.
- He was killed in action near Albert on 25 July 1918, when he 'went over the top at the head of the infantry.'





# BRIGADIER-GENERAL T. M. LUKE CBE DSO, RA



- **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER**  
London Gazette 16 December 1904  
'For services in connection with the Tibet Mission Escort.'
- **THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, C.B.E. (Military) Commander's 1st type neckbadge; DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER, E.VII.R., silver-gilt and enamels; INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1895-1902, 1 clasp, Punjab Frontier 1897-98 (Lieut. T. M. Luke R.A.); TIBET 1903-04, 1 clasp, Gyantse (Capt. T. M. Luke 30th Mtn. By.); INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1908-35, 1 clasp, North West Frontier 1908 (Capt. T. M. Luke D.S.O. R.A. 28th Mtn. By.) mounted on original wearing bar with earlier O.B.E. award removed**



# SUMMARY LUKE

- Luke was the son of Colonel H. F. Luke, Royal Engineers.
- He served on the North-West Frontier of India, 1897-98, with the Tirah Expeditionary Force (Medal with clasp).
- He was promoted Captain on 19 January 1900. Captain Luke served in Tibet, 1903-4, in the operations at and around Gyantse; was mentioned in Despatches (*London Gazette* 13 December 1904); received the Medal with clasp, and was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, 'for marked ability in handling his guns and devotion to duty during a very trying campaign' (*London Gazette* 16 December 1904)
- He served on the North-West Frontier of India (Mohmand), 1908 (Medal with clasp), and became Major 15 February 1913.
- In the European War he served as DAAG, AAG, DAG, and from October 1910 to June 1919, as Director of Administration, General Headquarters, India, with the rank of Brigadier General.
- He was given the Brevet of Lieutenant-Colonel 29 November 1915, and became Lieutenant-Colonel, May 1917. Lieutenant-Colonel Luke was CRA, Kohat Kurran Force, from June to 31 September 1919, in the Afghan War (Clasp to India medal).
- He was made an O.B.E. in 1918, and a C.B.E. in September 1919, for his services in the war, and was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal, which he never claimed and were never issued.
- One of only nine awards of the D.S.O. for Tibet, unique award to the regiment.



# BOER WAR

- There are 3 DSOs that were awarded during the Boer War in the collection.
- General J. S. Ollivant CB CMG DSO, Royal Artillery
- Colonel E. M. Birch CB CMG DSO, Royal Artillery
- Major F. Jenkins DSO, Royal Artillery late Imperial Yeomanry



# GENERAL J. S. OLLIVANT CB CMG DSO, ROYAL ARTILLERY

- The Most Honourable Order of The Bath, C.B. (Military) Companion's neck badge, silver-gilt and enamel; The Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, C.M.G. Companion's neck badge, silver-gilt and enamel; Distinguished Service Order, V.R., silver-gilt and enamel; Queen South Africa 1899-1902, 5 clasps, Tugela Heights, Orange Free State, Relief of Ladysmith, Laing's Nek, Belfast (Capt. & Adj. J. S. Ollivant, D.S.O., R.F.A.); King's South Africa 1901-02, 2 clasps, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902 (Capt. & Adj. J. S. Ollivant, D.S.O., R.F.A.); 1914 Star, with clasp (Major J. S. Ollivant, D.S.O., R.H.A.); British War Medal, Victory Medals, M.I.D. oak leaf (Brig. Gen. J. S. Ollivant).
- DSO London Gazette 27 September 1901  
'In recognition of services during operations in South Africa'
- Mention in despatches:
  - 10 September 1901
  - 17 February 1915, 4 January, 15 May 1917, 11 December 1917, 20 December 1918 and 5 July 1919.



# SUMMARY OLLIVANT

- Brigadier-General J. S. Ollivant, Royal Artillery was first decorated for his services in “Chestnut Troop”, R.H.A. and 5th Brigade, R.F.A. in South Africa, services for which he was MID and awarded the DSO.
- He received the insignia from the King at an investiture in October 1902.
- He displayed courage of a high order as a Battery Commander at Ypres in October 1914 - in his famous history of that campaign Conan Doyle describes how the village that Ollivant was defending was ‘furiously assailed’, so much so that “when he finally reported back to our lines, everyone was amazed to see him, his battery long since having been written off”.
- MID x 5 for the Great War, CB and CMG.



# COLONEL E. M. BIRCH CB CMG DSO, RA



Distinguished Service Order  
London Gazette 27 September 1901  
'In recognition of services during the operations in  
South Africa'

Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion C.B.,  
(military) neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel; Most  
Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George,  
Companions C.M.G., neck badge in silver-gilt and enamel;  
Distinguished Service Order, with original ribbon bar and  
pin, V.R., Queen South Africa Medal [Cape Colony, Orange  
Free State, Johannesburg] (Capt. E. M. Birch DSO 83<sup>rd</sup> B.  
RFA), King's South Africa Medal [South Africa 1901, South  
Africa 1902] (Capt. E. M. Birch DSO RFA), 1915 Star (Major  
E. M. Birch DSO RFA), British War Medal (Bt. Col. E. M.  
Birch), Victory Medal (Bt. Col. E. M. Birch) [MID], Order of  
St Anne (3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Russia), Legion of Honour (Officer,  
France).



# SUMMARY BIRCH



- Birch served in the South African War 1899-1902 with 83<sup>rd</sup> Battery, Royal Field Artillery and took part in the operations in the Orange Free State from February to May 1900 including the action at Vet River (5 & 6 May), the VC action of Houtnek (Thoba Mountain) (7 May) and the engagement of Zand River (10 May). He was present during operations in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, on the Zululand Frontier of Natal in September and October 1901 and the Cape Colony 1900-1902. He was mentioned in Despatches [10 September 1901].
- He served in the Great War from 10 January 1915 as GSO2 New Armies, was present during the German attack on Vimy Ridge (21 May 1916), during 3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres and with 17<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division during the Spring Offensive (21 March 1918). Later he was present during the battles of Albert and Bapaume (Somme 1918) and the Battles of Havrincourt, Epehy and Cambrai (Hindenburg Line 1918). They were then involved in the final throws of the war – the Pursuit to the Selle, the Battle of the Selle and the Battle of the Sambre.
- He was awarded the CB (1919), CMG (1917), Legion of Honour (Officer, France, 1919) and Order of St. Anne (3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Russia, 1919)



# MAJOR F. JENKINS DSO, ROYAL ARTILLERY LATE IMPERIAL YEOMANRY

- Distinguished Service Order  
London Gazette 31.10.1902  
Imperial Yeomanry 'In recognition of services during operations in South Africa'
- Distinguished Service Order (QV), British South Africa Company Medal 1890-97 (reverse Rhodesia 1896) (Corpl. F. Jenkins. "F" Troop B.F.F.), Queen South Africa 1899-1902 [Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902] (Capt: F. Jenkins, Imp: Yeo:), British War Medal (Major F. Jenkins), Victory Medal (Major F. Jenkins)







# SUMMARY JENKINS

- He served with the 2nd Cinque Ports RGA Volunteers and was attached as Honorary Captain 94th (Metropolitan Mounted Rifles) Company 24th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry for service in South Africa, 1901- 02. He was MID on 29.7.1902
- His recommendation reads:
  - “If a DSO is awarded to any Imperial Yeomanry officer of this Corps, I consider this officer named to be given it. He is a cool and determined leader in action with much initiative.”
- He transferred to the Reserve of Officers before re-engaging for service during the Great War as a Temporary Major, R.G.A., 24 May 1916. He went to France on 25 July 1918 in command of a heavy siege battery.



# NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1908

THE ZAKKA KHEL & MOHMAND CAMPAIGNS



PETER DUCKERS

SPINK  
FOUNDED 1844

## BEFORE THE GREAT WAR

- There is one DSO in the collection that was awarded between the end of The Great War and the Second World War, the group to Brigadier-General F. W. S. Stanton, D.S.O., Royal Artillery who was awarded his DSO for his service commanding the 8<sup>th</sup> Battery Royal Garrison Artillery against the Zakka Khel and Mohmands in 1908.
- He was the cousin of Major General Sir Harry Stanton KCMG CB DSO, RA (who's group is also in the collection – see above).



# BRIGADIER-GENERAL F. W. S. STANTON DSO, RA



Distinguished Service Order  
London Gazette 14 August 1908  
'In recognition of services during the recent operations against the Zakka Khel and Mohmands.'

India General Service 1854-95, 1 clasp, Burma 1885-7 (Lieutt. F. W. S. Stanton. No.1 By. 1st. Bde. N. Dn. R.A.); India General Service 1895-1902, 3 clasps, Relief of Chitral 1895, Tirah 1897-98, Punjab Frontier 1897-98 (Capt. F. W. S. Stanton No.8 Mtn. By. R.A.); India General Service 1908-35, 1 clasp, North West Frontier 1908 (Major F. W. S. Stanton. No.8 Mtn. B. R.G.A.)

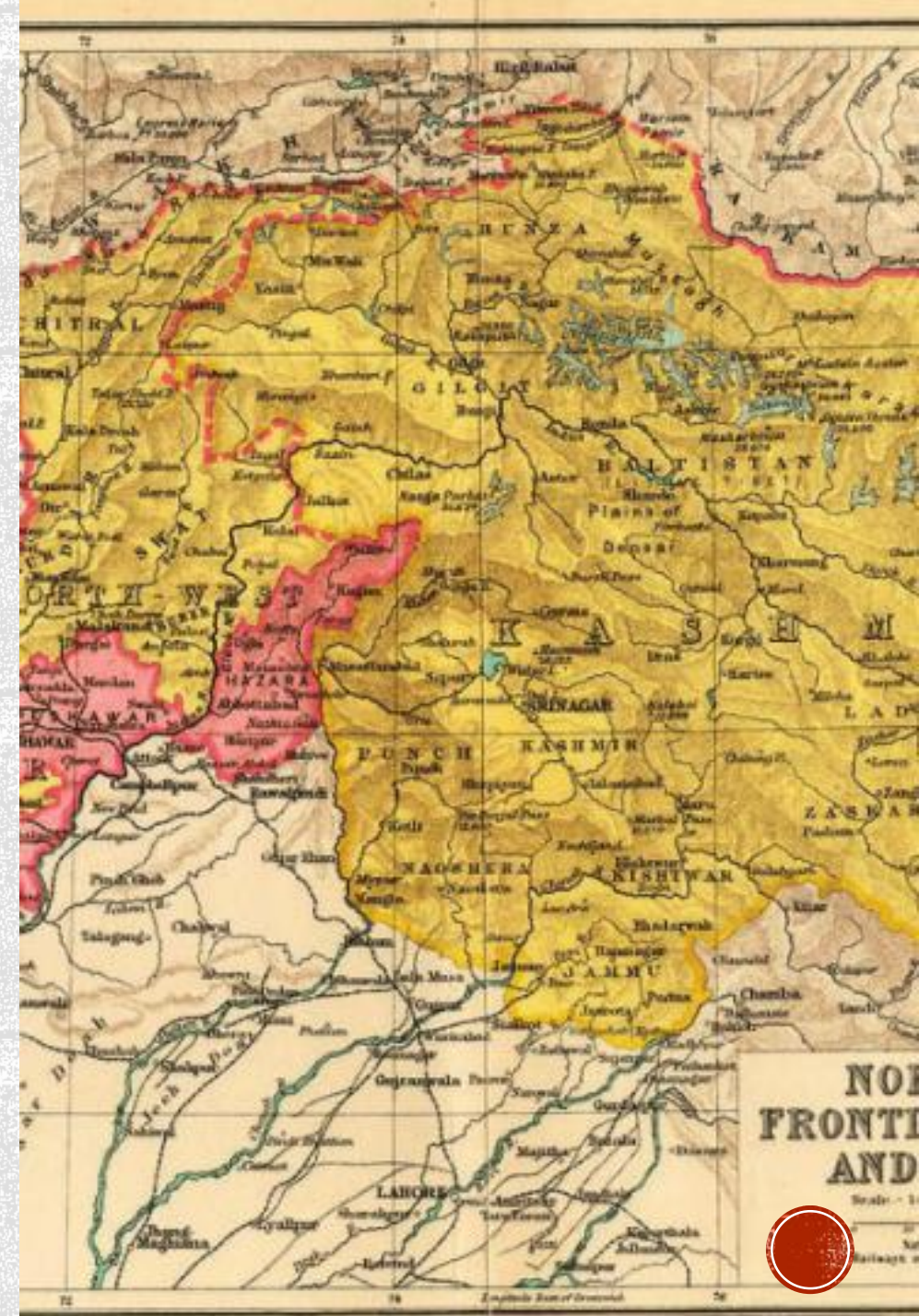


# SUMMARY STANTON

- Stanton was the son of Major-General F. S. Stanton, Royal Engineers,
- He was commissioned Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in 1883, and served with the Burmese Expedition of 1886-87, and the Zhob Valley Expedition of 1890.
- Promoted Captain on 1 February 1892, he took part in the operations in Chitral with the Relief Force in 1895, and was present at the storming of the Malakand Pass, the passage of the Swat River, and the action at the Panjkora River.
- He subsequently served in the Tirah Campaign of 1897-98, and was present in the actions of Chagru Kotal and Dargai; at the capture of the Samphaga and Arhanga Passes; at the reconnaissance of the Saran Sar and the action on 9 November 1897; at the operations in the Waran Valley, including the action on 16 November 1897; and during the actions in the Bara Valley, 7-14 December 1897.

Promoted Major, he served on the North West Frontier of India in 1908 during the operations in the Mohmand country (MID, DSO).

- During The Great War he served at home and did not qualify for any medals. He retired with the rank of honorary Brigadier-General on 5 December 1918.





# THE GREAT WAR

- There are 30 DSOs that were awarded during The Great War in the collection and I have decided to showcase 3 of them.
- Colonel F. W. Gosset CB CMG DSO, Royal Artillery who saw service in the Great War (MID) and displayed great gallantry with the BEF in 1914 (WIA, MID, DSO).
- Colonel P. Suther CMG DSO RA, who was later Commander Royal Artillery.
- Major C. Farmer DSO MC, who was killed in action.

# COLONEL F. W. GOSSET CB CMG DSO, ROYAL ARTILLERY

- Distinguished Service Order

LG

*"special good service during the attack on a convoy to Krugersdorp on 8 January 1901".*

- The Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military) CB, neck badge in silver gilt and enamels, Order of St. Michael and St. George Commanders Neck Badge (CMG), Distinguished Service Order (GV), Queen South Africa [Tugela Heights, Orange Free State, Relief of Ladysmith, Transvaal, Laing's Nek] (Capt. F. W. Gosset RFA), King's South Africa [South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902] (Capt. F. W. Gosset RFA), 1914 Star [bar] (Major F. W. Gosset RFA), British War Medal (Lieut. Col. F. W. Gosset), Victory Medal (Lieut. Colonel F. W. Gosset) [MID], Coronation 1911, Montenegro Order of Danilo Commanders Neck Badge (Gold, silver and enamels).





# SUMMARY

Francis William Gosset served in the Boer War as Staff Captain Intelligence.

He was MID for "*special good service during the attack on a convoy to Krugersdorp on 8 January 1901*".

He was also present at the actions at Ladysmith Relief, Colenso, Spion Kop, Vaal Krantz and Pieter's Hill.

During the Great War he served as GSO 2 with British Expeditionary Force from 5 to 31 October 1914 when he was severely wounded at Ypres. He was MID and awarded the DSO in February 1915 for his services in 1914.

He returned to France in November 1915 and awarded the Order of St. Danilo (Montenegro) in December 1916.

He was MID a total of six times during the Great War and created CMG in 1918.

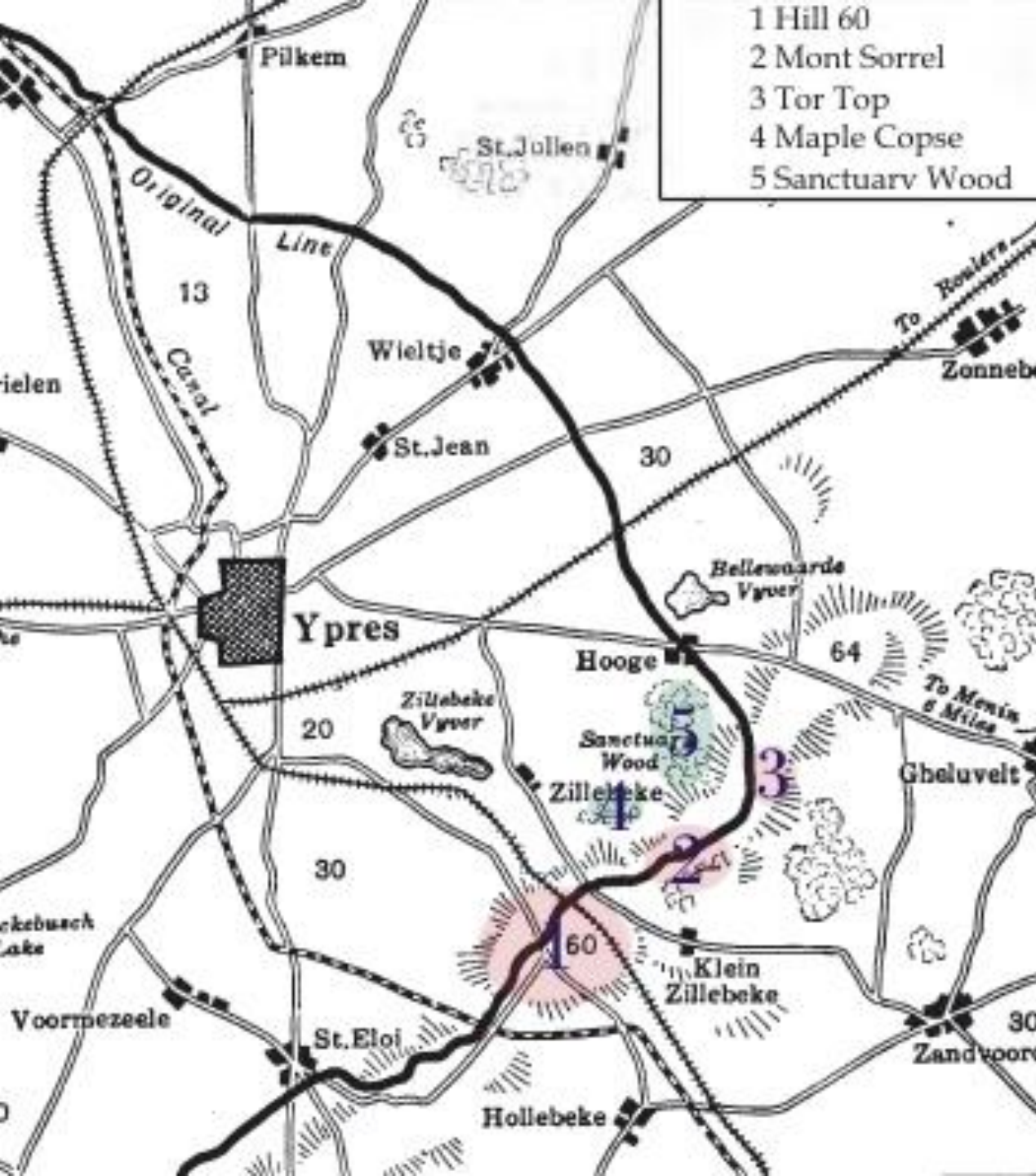
**COLONEL**

**P. SUTHER CMG DSO RA**

- CMG, Distinguished Service Order (GV), 1915 Star (Major RGA), British War Medal (Lieut. Col.), Victory Medal (Lieut. Col.), Order of Leopold (4th Class) Officers (Belgium), Croix de Guerre (France), Croix de Guerre (Belgium)







# SUMMARY SUTHER

- Suther was born in 1873 and was a pre-war officer of the Royal Artillery. In 1911 to 1914 he was an instructor of gunnery in Woolwich.
- Suther's DSO was awarded at St Eloi 27 and 28 March 1916:
- *For conspicuous good work on more than one occasion as Forward Liaison Officer with the Infantry. His observations were very valuable, and greatly aided the successful work of the Artillery*
- The "actions of St Eloi Craters" started on the night Suther won his DSO and lasted until 16 April 1916
- The British dug six galleries under no man's land, placed large explosive charges under the German defences and blew them at 4:15 a.m. on 27 March. The 27th Division captured all but craters 4 and 5.
- After the war he continued his career in the regiment, raising to the rank of Brigadier General and was Commander Royal Artillery from September 1927 to November 1930





# MAJOR C. FARMER DSO MC, RA

- Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross, 1915 Star (Capt. C. Farmer RGA), British War Medal (Major C. Farmer), Victory Medal (MID) (Major C. Farmer), Plaque (CYRIL FARMER), Scroll (Cyril Farmer)
- Lots of interesting extras including a memorial scrap book that his wife kept that includes letters from his commanding officer, his friends and fellow officers, as well as his Bat Man.
- The lot includes a lock of his hair, his watch, cigarette case and other insignia he had on him when he was wounded.
- Cigarette Case he had on him when he was wounded, his buttons and original photographs, including of his grave.





# SUMMARY FARMER

- Cyril Farmer was awarded the MC in the King's Birthday Honours for service as Captain in the Royal Garrison Artillery
- He was awarded his DSO for services in command of B/83rd Brigade RFA on the Somme in
- His commanding officer referred to him as "most competent of gunners, most cheerful of men"
- He was killed in action on 3 August 1917

# BETWEEN THE WARS

- There is one DSO in the collection that was awarded between 1918 and 1939 and it was one of 19 awarded for Afghanistan in 1919.
- One of the best shots in the British Army and known as an officer who “would walk an elephant off his legs”, Major Hunt had previously won the Military Cross on the NW Frontier with 23rd Peshawar Mountain Battery (Frontier Force).
- His DSO was award for services with the 8th (British) Mountain Battery, RGA, which he commanded up the Khyber Pass to Landi Kotal with the flying column.



# MAJOR W. M. HUNT DSO MC, RCA

- Distinguished Service Order (GV), Military Cross (GV), 1914/15 Star (Captain W. M. Hunt RGA), British War Medal (Major W. M. Hunt), Victory Medal (MID) (Major W. M. Hunt), IGS 1908 (GV) Kaiser-I-Hind [bar: Afghanistan NWF 1919] (MID) [Major W. M. Hunt, RQ 30 P. Bty.]



# MAJOR W. M. HUNT DSO MC, RGA



Hunt's MC was illustrated in Deeds That Thrilled the Empire.

*On 3rd March 1915 Brigadier-General Robinson's force fought a sharply contested action in the Karun Valley. He moved out to attack the enemy position ten miles north-west of Ahwaz. **Captain W. M. Hunt**, commanding a section of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Peshawar) Mountain Battery (FF), great distinguished himself in this action. The infantry he was covering broke, leaving the guns to be temporarily overwhelmed by Turks and tribesmen. He ordered Captain R. M. N. Forbes to withdraw the guns, covering their retirement single-handed with an infantryman's rifle. He shot down several of the enemy at short range, until severely wounded in the shoulder.*



# SUMMARY HUNT

During the First World War, Hunt was present with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Peshawar Mountain Battery and fought with distinction in the Mesopotamian Campaign, where he took part in the capture of Basra and the Battle of Shaiba. In 1916, he was engaged on the Tigris Front, as the British made desperate efforts to raise the Siege of Kut al Amara; fighting in the Battles of Sheikh Sa'ad, the Wadi, Hanna and Dujaila Redoubt.



He was MID twice, once for services in Mesopotamia from 6 November 1914 to 14 April 15, and secondly in the LG of 5 April 1915. He was awarded the MC for the action at Ahwaz on 3rd March 1915.

Ahwaz is in Persia, which is a country not normally associated with the Great War. However the British were to continue fighting in Persia against tribes influenced by Germany and Turkey for the remainder of the conflict. The area was once described as the "sideshow within a sideshow" but it was a strategically vital area because of its oilfields.

He was MID and awarded the DSO for Afghanistan (3 August 1920)



# SECOND WORLD WAR

- **There are four DSO groups that were awarded for services with the Royal Artillery during the Second World War in the collection.**
- **Major B. A. Buckwell DSO MC, Royal Horse Artillery (North Africa)**
- **Major General A. A. Richardson DSO, Staff late Royal Artillery and The Royal Ulster Rifles (Sicily)**
- **Lieutenant Colonel A. F. Tod DSO, Royal Artillery (Germany)**
- **Colonel Hon. Brigadier J. R. Lupton DSO, Royal Artillery late Trans-Jordan Frontier Force & Arab Legion Artillery (Burma)**







## LIEUTENANT COLONEL A. F. TOD DSO, ROYAL ARTILLERY (GERMANY)



- Tod attended RMA Woolwich 1915-1916 and he served in France and Flanders, December 1916 to 10 October 1917 until wounded (entitled to a pair)
- He competed for Great Britain in horse jumping “Three Day Trial – individual” in the Paris Olympic Games of 1924.
- He served in the NW Europe theatre from 1944 to 1945 (MID) and awarded the DSO in the LG of 11 October 1945.
- He was awarded the DSO (recommendation below) for action in Germany with 75<sup>th</sup> anti-tank regiment.
- An M10 Achilles of the 75<sup>th</sup> anti-tank regiment was the first British armoured vehicle to fire into Germany during the 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division operations near the frontier in October 1944.



# TOD, ALEC FREDERICK, MAJOR (T/LT.-COL)

75<sup>TH</sup> ANTI TANK REGT. RA, RA BRIGADE, 11 ARMD. DIVISION, 8 CORPS.

- *Lt-Col. Tod commands 75 A Tk Regt. & in addition to the A Tk role he has trained & handled his Regt. as a mixed force half SP guns half as Infantry. During the recent rapid advance from the RHINE to the ELBE he & his Regt. have worked with outstanding success in clearing & holding ground won by the leading troops. During this operation a large pocket was left behind in the MUNSTER area, Lt-Col. Tod handled his force with excellent judgement & cleared up what might have been a very awkward situation as in the area of MUNSTER 5890 – REININGEN 5682 – WIETZENDORF 5082 there were large quantities of poisonous gas & explosives with a percentage of German SS troops still out to make trouble & form a threat to our lines of communication. He carried out the task of elimination the resistance with great success, & the handling of administrative problems with arose from the presence of a large number of liberated Russians & Poles, with firmness & tact. Altogether the operation yielded some sixty officer prisoners and five hundred Ors, & no further trouble was encountered on our lines of communication. Lt-Col. Tod has handled his Regt. throughout the campaign & has at all times shown a complete disregard for his own safety. His personal example in action & bold leadership are largely responsible for the fine offensive spirit shown by his Regt. throughout the campaign.*

