

4 PTE. H COLLINS

St Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters

Little is known of the St Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters other than it was a band of 50 men to 29 of whom the Queens South Africa medal was presented by Col H J Price, Acting Governor of the Island at the King's Birthday Parade on 10 November, 1902. One was returned, the person for whom it was intended being unknown. At the time, Collins was attached to the Army Service Corps.



This Queens South Africa medal 1899 - 1902 was awarded to 4 H COLLINS and is the only known example.

BACKGROUND

Governor's Report for 1900

Estimated population 31st Dec. 1900, 5316 including troops and 2454 prisoners of war.

Our colonial forces are limited to a Company of Volunteer Sharpshooters raised by myself in 1898.

The Corps is popular with the Islanders and there would be no difficulty in increasing the number were it necessary.

The men are all efficient.

In order to increase the *esprit de corps* and to induce resort to healthy amusements, we have started an Institute for the Company, with billiard and bagatelle tables. Newspapers and magazines which, I think, will be very popular and beneficial.

To Rt. Hon. J Chamberlain M.P.
Secretary for State

The Castle
St. Helena
20th March 1901

(Registered C.O. 15087 - 30th April 1901)

With reference to your Circular of Dec. 5th 1900, which I regret has been overlooked, I have the honour to state for the Information of the director of Military Intelligence that there are no Rifle clubs proper in this colony. There used to be a Rifle Association for the purpose of keeping up target practice but it was turned into a Volunteer Corps of Sharpshooters. The Veteran Members of the Association were however allowed to shoot with the corps, though not enrolled as members, nor joined in drill, as it was considered advisable to collect as many good shots in the island as possible.

The number of these Veterans is 10 and they use the same weapon as the Sharpshooters, viz. the Martini Enfield.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant

R.A. Sterndale

Governor

Public Record Office reference C.O. 247 155

The Castle, St. Helena, 19th Nov. 1901 Registered 10th Dec 1901 43997

I think that Sharpshooters if considered as part of the garrison of St. Helena, are equally entitled to the medal with the others who have not had actual custody of the prisoners but form part of the defensive force. Many of the members are actually employed by the Military department and all give their leisure time for military service.

List A included Robert A Sterndale, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Harbour Master and Staff, Customs, Postmaster, civilians etc.

Captain J DEASON St.H.V.S. was allowed to volunteer for service in S Africa, was taken prisoner by De Wet.

Lieut A.HANDS St.H.V.S.

Sgt. Major C.E.S. GRANT

Sgt. B.E.GRANT }

Sgt. ADAMS } St.H.Sharpshooters who were employed when General

Sgt. J.THORPE } CRONJE arrived, as escort

Sgt. F.THORPE }

T.CLAYTON - in charge of cranes - very heavy work in connection with imports for troops and prisoners

List B

The Castle, St. Helena, 21st Nov. 1901 (Enclosure to Despatch No.79 of 19th Nov. 1901)

Capt JA DEASON Served in South Africa. Taken prisoner by D Wet.

- has applied personally

Lieut A.HANDS

Recommended in List A

3 Sgt.Maj C.E.S. GRANT

Recommended in List A

8 Sgt. T.CLAYTON

Recommended in List A

6 Sgt. R.I.ADAMS

Recommended in List A

CORPORALS

12 H.P.TRUEBODY ¹

44 G.BENNETT

28 F.THORPE

BUGLER

50 A.YOUNG

PRIVATES Only efficient have been entered

4 W.BROADWAY

25 ARTHUR THOMAS

5 RICHD CLARKE

26 ALBERT BENNETT

7 WALTER BENNETT

27 THOMAS JOHNSON

9 ARCHD JOSHUA

30 JOHN BAGLEY

10 DREYER YOUNG

31 JOSEPH MERCURY

11 ROBT ROAKES

32 CHAS YOUNG

13 JOHN JOHNSON

33 THOS YOUNG

14 GEO. THORPE

34 WESTWOOD YON

15 PERCY BROADWAY

35 JOHN RILEY

16 EDWIN B. GRANT

38 WM D GRANT

17 JOHN SWAIN

40 RONALD DUNCAN

18 STEPHEN STROUD

29 A.P. ANDERSON

19 HENRY YOUNG

39 ROBERT BROADWAY

20 JOSEPH YOUNG

43 FRANK PETERS

21 WILLM PLAKE

45 GEO. FAGAN

22 HARRY O'NEIL

46 GEO. WILLIAMS

23 EDWARD FAGAN

48 EDWARD THOMAS

24 JOHN FOWLER

49 CHAS. JAMESON

¹ The TRUEBODY family emigrated to South Africa; became well-known "Salvationers" (members of the Salvation Army in Salt River, Cape Town) and friends of my family. Part of the family (J T Truebody and wife) emigrated again to Nottingham, England on 17th October 1958, a consequence of South African apartheid.

Public Record Office reference C.O. 247/157
Despatches Jan - Sept 1902 Vol.I

Governor's Despatch to Chamberlain 5 Apr. 1902. Registered C.O. 16348
28 Apr. 1902

Roll of St. Helena Vol. S'shooters

Colonel. The Governor. Has already received the medal

CAPT. DEASON JAMES. Will receive the medal from the Imperial Scouts

LIEUT HANDS ARTHUR

SGT.MJR GRANT CHARLES E.S.

SERGEANT

8 CLAYTON THOMAS

ADAMS RALPH T

THORPE JOHN

CORPORALS

44 BENNETT GEORGE

TRUEBODY H.P

THORPE FREDERICK

4 BROADWAY WILLIAM

25 THOMAS ARTHUR

49 JAMESON CHARLES

5 CLARKE RICHARD

26 BENNETT ALBERT

1 GEORGE JAMES

7 BENNETT WALTER

27 JOHNSON THOMAS

2 BUCKLEY GEORGE

9 JOSHUA ARCHIBALD

30 BAGLEY JOHN

12 STROUD CHARLES

10 YOUNG DREYER

16 GRANT EDWIN

11 ROAKES ROBERT

32 YOUNG CHARLES

19 BAGLEY HARRY

13 JOHNSON JOHN

33 YOUNG THOMAS

29 COOPER FREDERICH

14 THORPE GEORGE

34 YON WESTWOOD

31 STROUD ROBERT

15 BROADWAY PERCY

35 RILEY JOHN

*38 GRANT WILLIAM

36 DUNCAN RONALD

40 SEALE JOSEPH

37 ANDERSN A

42 PLATO THOMAS

39 BROADWAY HERBERT

50 SIM FRANK

17 SWAIN JOHN

43 PETERS FRANK

18 STROUD STEPHEN

45 FAGAN GEORGE

46 WILLIAMS GEORGE

20 YOUNG JOSEPH

47 BENNETT MAURICE

21 PLUKE WILLIAM

48 THOMAS EDWARD

23 FAGAN EDWARD

24 FOWLER JOHN

* has been on service with the R**VR

To Rt. Hon. J Chamberlain M.P.
Secretary for State

The Castle
St. Helena
27th Nov 1902

C.O. 1829 - Reg. 14th Jan 1903
No. 105

Sir,

With reference to you despatch No.74 of the 19th SEPT. last, I have the honour to report that I distributed the South Africa War medal o 29 members of the St. Helena Volunteer Force at the King's Birthday Parade which was held on 10th inst.

I find that one medal was forwarded in excess of the number of those entitled to receive the decoration.

The medal was inscribed with the name PRIVATE G JAMES n the rim and there is no on of such name in the Corps.

I return this medal herewith to be forwarded to the War Office.

The Printed Receipt Note is returned herewith.

I have the honour etc.

A.J.PRICE Colonel

Acting Governor

13th DEC 1902

C.O.1847. 14th JAN. 1903

I have the honour to ask for your approval for increasing the present strength of the Corps of St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters which now numbers 75 to 100.

The distribution of the S.A. War Medal has had the effect of making many desirable young men anxious to join the Corps, the strength of which could be increased without any difficulty.

I have already managed to secure the services of a Drill Instructor and the question of equipment can be arranged.

I venture to suggest that advantage should be taken of their present spirit of military enthusiasm pervading the Colony to increase the strength of the Corps from 75 to 100 members

APPROVED

TO BE RENDERED IN TRIPLICATE.

St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters Regiment or Corps.

Individuals entitled to the South Africa Medal and Clasps, under the Army Order granting the Medal, issued on 1st A

NAME	WHETHER ENTITLED TO CLASP																								
	Belmont	Molde River	Panchoberg	Dreilocks	Wynner	Johannsburg	Diamond Hill	Balfout	Wittebergen	Defence of Kimberley	Battle of Kimberley	Defence of Mafeking	Battle of Mafeking	Cape Colony	Orange Free State	Transvaal	Rhodolia	Talca	Kandlaegis	Tygal Highlands	Defence of Ladysmith	Battle of Ladysmith	Living's Nek	Spion Kop	
W. L. L. L.	/																								
H. H. H. H.	/																								
Broadway W.H.G.	/																								
Blacke A.H.	/																								
Blacke A.H.	/																								
Thomas A.H.	/																								
Broadway H.G.	/																								
Collins H.																									
Deysel A.H.																									
Barnes G.F.																									

Medal Roll of St. Helena Sharpshooters

A copy of the final Medal Roll is illustrated, and thereon, for the first time, the name of the index case, Pte. H Collins, appears, a member of the Army Service Corps and associated with the St. Helena Sharpshooters.