

A MOST INTERESTING AND PROBABLY UNIQUE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE CONNECTION CRIMEAN MEDAL TO A 49TH FOOT PRIVATE WHO SERVED AN ORDERLY UNDER HER DIRECT CHARGE AT THE BARRACK HOSPITAL, SCUTARI. PREVIOUS TO THIS, HE WAS WOUNDED AT THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN



CRIMEA 1854, 3 CLASPS, ALMA, INKERMANN, SEBASTOPOL ‘*. BRIDGEMAN. 49TH. REGT.’

A most interesting and probably unique Crimean War medal awarded to a Private in the 49th foot who after being wounded at the battle of inkermann became an orderly at the barrack hospital at Scutari, serving under direct charge of Florence Nightingale. This confirmed in a letter written by this most famous of nurses, to the Commanding Officer of the 49th Foot, dated 19 October 1855. A copy of the letter is included with the research, a transcript of letter states:

“Castle Hospital, Balaclava, 19 Oct 1855.

Sir, will you excuse the liberty I take in thus trespassing upon your attention & inform me whether Henry Bridgeman, No 1895 of the Regiment under your command (who is now a much valued & trusty orderly in the Barrack Hospital at Scutari, employed in the Divisional Linen store under my charge,) can be settled with as to the balance of pay due to him?

I remain Sir your obedient servant

Florence Nightingale"

Original Crimea medal rolls confirm one man with surname Bridgeman in the 49th Regiment. Medal noted as 'Regt 9/9/56'

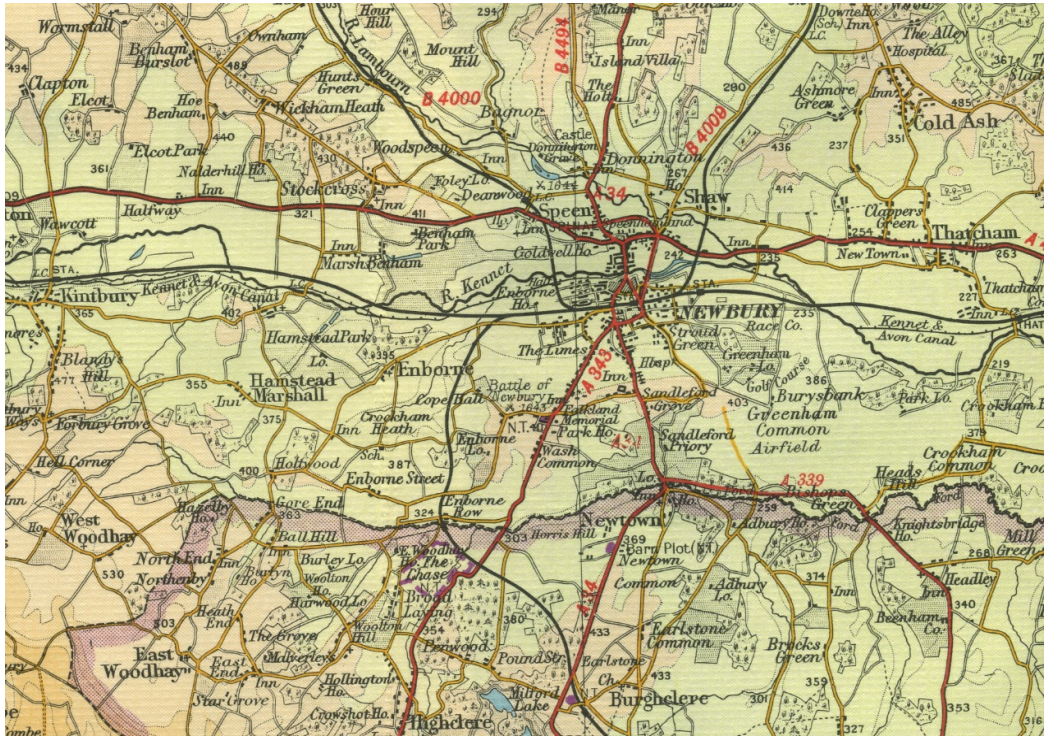


Condition GF only, contact marks and edge bruising overall, however officially impressed naming remains very clear bar initial which is no longer visible. Sold with copy research on CD and paper copy service papers and Nightingale letter.

Despite its poor condition, probably a unique confirmed medal to one of Florence Nightingale's orderly's



SEPTEMBER 1823 BORN IN PARISH OF NEWTOWN, NEAR TOWN OF NEWBURY,
HAMPSHIRE



LABOURER

21 OCTOBER 1841 ATTESTED AGE 18 YEARS AND 1 MONTH SERVED 9 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS OVERSEAS

CHINA 3 MONTHS

EAST INDIES 6 MONTHS

IONIAN ISLANDS 2 YEARS 6 MONTHS

MALTA 1 YEAR

CRIMEA 2 MONTHS

TURKEY 2 YEARS 6 MNTHS

WEST INDIES 2 YEARS 2 MNTHS

1838 India, Hazaribagh. 4th December on the march to Dinapore where they were stationed until February 1840.

1840 India, Dinapore. Regiment embarked on the Ganges in boats, to Berhpur (13/02/1840), re-embarked 16th March to Calcutta (26/03/1840)

July 1840 49th at Capture of Chusan

March 1841 49th at Battle of Canton

August 1841 49th at Battle of Amoy

1842 China, Chapu. A force including the 49th was landed nearby on the 18th May prior to the assault on the town. There was only one major point of resistance, a small joss house held by Tartar troops. The 49th suffered heavy casualties during this action.

The 49th took part in a joint attack with the 18th Regiment on Joss House, Chapu, which was defended by a large number of Tartars. The commander, Colonel Tomlinson was killed. Every man who attempted to enter the Joss House was killed or wounded. It was eventually entered and captured after the wall was blown in. The Regiment's casualties this day were the heaviest of the campaign with two officers and eleven other ranks killed and six officers and forty-five men wounded. In consequence of the distinguished conduct and gallantry displayed by all ranks during the campaign the Regiment was awarded, as a badge, the dragon super-scribed "China".

1842 China, Chapu. Troops left Chapu on the 28th May arriving at Woosung on the 12th June. The 49th moved on to Shanghai capturing the town without resistance, the whole force returning to Woosung on the 23rd June. Two days later Major General Bartley took command of the 49th.

BRIDGEMAN PROBABLY ARRIVED TO REGT IN JULY?????? (3 MNTHS IN CHINA)

Comment from researcher regards China medal non qualification - That seems to be the case. The rolls are sadly at the British Library and not available on line - so it is difficult to confirm 100% but it appears he arrived too late anyway.

1842 China, Yangste-Kiang River. Troops sailed up this river to Chin Kiang Foo on the 6th July.

1842 China, Chin Kiang Foo. The whole force including the 49th landed at daybreak on the 21st July and captured the town.

1842 China, Yangste-Kiang River. On the 29th July the 49th embarked & sailed up the river to Nanking.

1842 China, Nanking. On the arrival of the fleet on the 8th August, the troops were preparing to attack when the Chinese surrendered and the war terminated by the Peace of Nanking. The 49th sailed from there on the 17th September arriving at Chusan on 2nd October. They again embarked on the 17th November sailing for Hong Kong where they arrived on the 22nd. They sailed on the 20th December for Singapore arriving the 1st January 1843, then Calcutta in February 1843 from where they marched to Dum Dum.

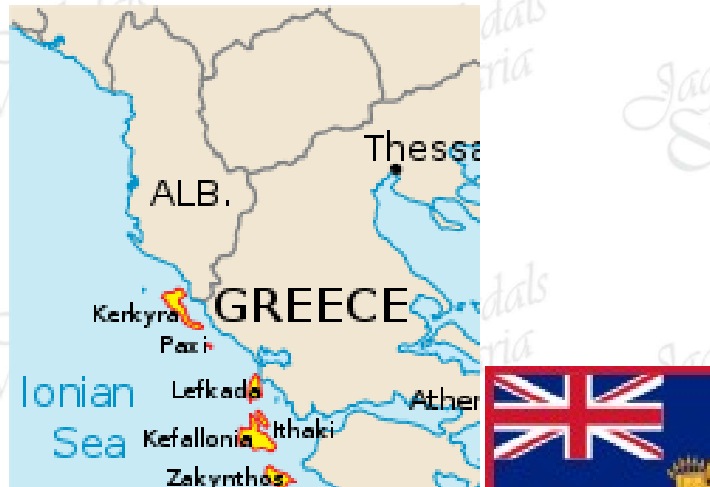
1843 India, Calcutta. From the 10th March over the next ten days the 49th moved to Calcutta in detachments to prepare to depart for England.

SO FEB 1843 TO AUG 1843 WAS BRIDGEMANS 6 MNTHS EAST INDIA TIME

1843 England, Gravesend. In various detachments the 49th arrived between the 23rd July and 14th September marching on to Deal. The following month they moved to Portsmouth remaining there until April 1844.

1845 Ireland

SEPT 1851 ??? TO CORFU (FOR 2 YRS 6 MNTHS THERE)



April 1853 1/49th arrived in Malta from Corfu

Malta 13 Oct 1853 HQ company moved from the Auberge de Castille¹ to the Auberge de Bavarie, with companies transferring from Fort San Salvatore, Fort St Angelo, and Fort Ricasoli to Fort Lower St Elmo Barracks.

Mar 1854 At Malta - The regiment marched from the Auberge Bavarie² to Fort Ricasoli³, and Lower St Elmo⁴ vice the [3rd](#) (Bufs). It had 519 men fit for duty.

9 Apr 1854 The 1st/49th embarked on the transport *Hope* for Turkey. (HIS 1 YR IN MALTA)

¹ The Auberge de Castille (Maltese: Berġa ta' Kastilja) is an auberge in Valletta, Malta. It was originally built in the 1570s to house knights of the Order of Saint John from the langue of Castile, León and Portugal. The present building dates back to the 1740s, when it was completely rebuilt during the magistracy of Manuel Pinto da Fonseca.

² The Auberge de Bavière (Maltese: Berġa tal-Baviera) is a palace in Valletta, Malta. It was built as Palazzo Carniero in 1696, and it was the residence of Grand Master Marc'Antonio Zondadari in the early 18th century. In 1784, it was converted into the auberge for the Anglo-Bavarian langue of the Order of Saint John, and it remained so until the French occupation of Malta in 1798.

It was used by the British military in the 19th and early 20th centuries, briefly housing a military hospital in World War I.

³ Fort Ricasoli (Maltese: Forti Rikażli) is a bastioned fort in Kalkara, Malta, which was built by the Order of Saint John between 1670 and 1698. The fort occupies a promontory known as Gallows' Point and the north shore of Rinella Bay, commanding the entrance to the Grand Harbour along with Fort Saint Elmo. It is the largest fort in Malta, and it has been on the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites since 1998, as part of the Knights' Fortifications around the Harbours of Malta.[2]

Fort Ricasoli saw use during the French invasion of Malta in 1798 and the subsequent Maltese insurrection, after which it ended up in British hands. Ricasoli was the site of the Froberg mutiny in 1807, and it was also used as a military hospital during the 19th century.

⁴ Fort Saint Elmo (Maltese: Forti Sant'Iermu) is a star fort in Valletta, Malta



Hope 1854. Chartered to the British Government

<http://www.historic-shipping.co.uk/african/hope.html>

- 11 Apr 1854 130 men of the 1st/49th embarked on the transport *Sultan* for Turkey.
- 14-16 Sep 1854 Landings
- 20 September 1854 Battle of Alma
- Nov 1854 The regiment had 18 officers and 678 men serving in the Crimea. Of the 201 admissions into the hospital, 107 were from gunshot wounds. The men had diarrhoea; there were 3 deaths from cholera.
- 5 November 1854 Battle of Inkerman



WOUNDED – SCARS ON RIGHT LEG AND ARM PIT

11 Sep 1854 – 9 Sep 1855 Siege of Sebastopol - Siege proper only began after Inkerman

TURKEY 2 YEARS 1 MONTH (SO SAY HE ARRIVED AFTER WOUNDING NOV 1854 HE LEFT DEC 1856?)

NOV 1854 TO SCUTARI

19 October 1855

Caste Hospital
Balaklava
19 Oct 1855

Sir

Will you excuse the liberty I take in thus trespassing upon your attention & inform me whether

Henry Bridgeman, 11th 1895 of the Regiment under your command, (who is now a much valued & trusty orderly in the Barrack Hospital at Scutari, employed in the Divisional Ammunition Store under my charge,) can be settled with as to the balance of pay due to him?

I remain Sir
Your obed^t serv^t
Frederic Pightone

1856 Regiment returned home

1857 Regiment moved to Barbados <http://maltaramc.com/regmltgar/49th.html>



WEST INDIES 3 YEARS 2 MONTHS

1860? RETURNED TO ENGLAND

12 NOVEMBER 1862 COMPLETED 21 YEARS 23 DAYS SERVICE – LSGC MEDAL

5 FEET 6 INCHES, FRESH COMPLEXION, HAZEL EYES,
BROWN HAIR, 39 YEARS 1 MONTH OLD

INTENDED RESIDENCE NEWBURY HAMPSHIRE