

A SUDAN & BOER WAR PAIR AWARDED TO A MAJOR OF THE 19TH HUSSARS WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE BATTLE OF EL-TEB WHERE HIS REGIMENT WERE CONSPICUOUS FOR THEIR GALLANTRY. AS ONE OF THE REGIMENTS SENIORS OFFICERS, DURING THE BOER WAR, HE TOOK PART IN THE EARLY ACTIONS OF THE WAR, BEING PRESENT AT REITFONTEIN, LOMBARD'S KOP (THE BATTLE OF LADYSMITH) & THE SIEGE OF LADYSMITH WHERE THE 19TH FREQUENTLY HAD SOME FIGHTING



EGYPT AND SUDAN 1882-89, UNDATED REVERSE, 2 CLASPS EL-TEB TAMAAL, THE NILE 1884-85 'LIEUT. H. G. MARSH, 19TH HUSSARS', QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA 1889-1902, CLASP, DEFENCE OF LADYSMITH 'MAJOR. H. G. MARSH. 19/HRS.'

Harry Graham Marsh was born at Wethersfield, Essex on 5 April 1861, the son of Emily and the Reverend William Marsh of 2 Wethersfield Road, Wethersfield. Educated at Lancing College after which he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on 9 July 1882. A Lieutenant by the time of his service in Egypt and the Sudan, Marsh took part in the Battle of El-Teb and Tamaai, with the former being a V.C. winning action for the Regiment. Promoted Captain on 18 April 1885 and further advanced Major on 7 February 1897, he was serving in this role by the outbreak of the Second Boer War.

While the 19th were not present at Elandslaagte, the Regiment, including Marsh, fought at Reitfontein and later Lombard's Kop (the battle of Ladysmith) prior to the Siege of Ladysmith, both of which Major Marsh took part in. They were heavily engaged in Ladysmith, aiding in raids upon enemy gun positions. Retiring at some stage after the Boer

War he returned to service for the Great War as with the rank of Acting Lieutenant-Colonel serving as second-in-command of the 14th Reserve Cavalry Regiment.

Army List entry:

“Major H. G. Marsh served in Egyptian Expedition in 1884, and was present at battles of Teb and Tamai (Medal with Clasp, Khedive's Star). Served in Nile Expedition in 1884-85 (Clasp). Served in South African war- in 1899-1900, and took part in operations in Natal, including actions at Rietfontein and Lombards Kop.”

THE BATTLE OF EL-TEB

‘On the 21st February 1884, the force under the command of Sir Gerald Graham left for El Teb, via Trinkitat. It was composed of 4,500 men with 22 guns and 6 machine guns. On the 29th, they approached the main Mahdist position, on a hill near El Teb. This position consisted of various entrenchments and rifle pits. The Mahdists also had several artillery pieces including Krupp guns captured from the Tokar garrison, some of whom had changed sides, and were now fighting for the Mahdists. Estimated strength of the Mahdist force was well over 10,000. The British, forming into a square, circled the Mahdist entrenchments to outflank them, under cover of dense rifle and cannon fire. After a brief artillery duel, the Mahdist guns were silenced, and the British advanced. During the artillery duel, the Mahdists had hidden in trenches to avoid incoming British rifle and artillery rounds. However as the British square advanced they bravely rushed out in small groups to attack the British infantry and guns, momentarily stopping the advance, pushing it back momentarily.



At this point Colonel Stewart's Cavalry Brigade, consisting of the 10th and 19th Hussars, advanced past the right flank of the square and charged the enemy positions, where the British were confronted by the Mahdist appearing before them from behind bushes or unseen trenches. Another tactic used by the Mahdist was to pretend to lie dead on the battlefield as British cavalry charged through, then, as the cavalry returned at a slower pace back through the ranks of the 'dead', the Mahdists would rise up and slit the hamstrings of the horses then proceed to kill the riders. This was made all the more difficult for the cavalry as the Hussars,

armed with swords, as opposed Lancers, who's weapons would have been better suited to counter such tactics. This led to a confused struggle with the tribesmen and in the broken country covered by thorn bushes, the cavalry suffered heavy casualties. Of all those who lost their horses, Colonel Barrow of the 19th, was the only one to escape alive, but he was badly wounded with a spear through his arm pinning it to his side.

As the British infantry reached the earthworks, the battalions moved out of square formation and, forming line, stormed the tribesmen's positions. At the top of the hill, a village had been fortified by the Mahdists, and here they resisted the most stubbornly. The British infantry had to clear the trenches with bayonets after which the fighting died down. At around 1pm General Graham's troops took the hamlet of El Teb and the Mahdists began to stream away into the surrounding country. British casualties amounted to 172 killed and wounded. 'Mahadist between 2 and 3,000. One VC and several DCM's were awarded to men from the 19th Hussars for gallantry at El-Teb.



THE 19TH HUSSARS DURING THE BOER WAR from the outstanding AngloBoerWar website:

"The regiment was in Ladysmith when the war broke out. They were not engaged at Elandslaagte, but were present and did good work at Rietfontein on 24th October 1899 (see 1st Liverpool Regiment). At the battle of Lombard's Kop or Ladysmith, 30th October (see 1st Liverpool), the 19th Hussars were with the 5th Lancers and some Natal Mounted Volunteers sent out under General French, but were unable to get as far as was intended, and had to be assisted in order to hold their own, and had subsequently to retire.

<https://www.britishbattles.com/great-boer-war/battle-of-ladysmith/>

During the siege the regiment frequently had some fighting. On the night of 7th December one squadron "penetrated some four miles towards the north, destroying the enemy's telegraph line and burning various kraals and shelters ordinarily used by them". On 6th

January, the day of the great attack, two squadrons of the 19th Hussars held Maiden's Farm to prevent the Boers attacking Waggon Hill from the west, and part of the regiment were in the fight on the hill itself.

Two officers were mentioned in Sir George White's despatch of 23rd March 1900. After the relief the regiment was brigaded with the 5th Lancers and 18th Hussars under Major General Brocklehurst, and took part in the advance of General Buller to Volksrust and afterwards to Lydenburg, being constantly engaged."

Condition NVF/GVF. Q.S.A. with '9' in unit with official correction, some contact wear from Star to Egypt, naming subsequently a little weak around 3 and 9 o'clock but no loss of naming. Further entitled to the Khedive's Star. No record of entitlement for British War or Victory Medals has been found.



A good 19th Hussars Officer pair