

**A FINE AND RARE SUDAN 1884 GROUP TO A 19TH HUSSARS CAPTAIN FOR THE VC ACTION AT EL-TEB. M.I.D. FOR LEADING HIS SQUADRON IN THE CHARGE, DURING THE DESPERATE HAND TO HAND FIGHTING, HE WAS NOTED FOR BEING PERSONALLY ENGAGED WITH THREE OF THE ENEMY AT ONE TIME, DURING WHICH HE AND HIS HORSE WERE WOUNDED. LATER COMMANDING HIS REGIMENT, AS BRIGADIER-GENERAL, COMMANDED A CAVALRY BRIGADE DURING THE EARLY OPERATIONS OF THE BOER WAR, INCLUDING THE 1899 ACTIONS AT RIETFONTEIN AND THE BATTLE OF LOMBARD'S KOP BEFORE COMMANDING THE CAVALRY DURING THE SIEGE OF LADYSMITH**



EGYPT AND SUDAN 1882-89, 1882 REVERSE, CLASPS TEL-EL-KEBIR, SUAKIN 1884, EL-TEB\_TAMAAL 'CAPT: C.B.H. JENKINS. 19TH HUSSARS', KHEDIVE'S STAR, UNDATED, UNNAMED AS ISSUED, OTTOMAN EMPIRE, ORDER OF THE MEDJIDIE, FOURTH CLASS BREAST BADGE, SILVER, GILT AND ENAMELS, QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA 1899, 5 CLASPS, DEFENCE OF LADYSMITH, ORANGE FREE STATE, LAING'S NEK, BELFAST, SOUTH AFRICA 1901 'COL: C.B.H. WOLSELEY-JENKINS. 19/HRS.'

M.I.D. *London Gazette* 6 May 1884

*"Captain Jenkins took command of the left wing after Colonel Barrow was wounded. He led the first squadron in the charge and was personally engaged with three of the enemy at one time and his horse was wounded in three places with assegais. By his gallantry and conduct this officer set a good example to all under his command."*

M.I.D. *London Gazette* 8 February 1901; General Buller's despatch:

*"Lieut.-Colonel C. B. H. Wolseley-Jenkins. A good commander, with considerable initiative and quick grasp of the situation."*

Charles Bradford Harries Jenkins was born in Shropshire on 17 March 1856. Born to a military family, he was the Son of Major General Charles Vanbrugh Jenkins, 19th Hussars and nephew of Vice Admiral Robert Jenkins C.B., Educated at King's School, Canterbury before attending Sandhurst Military College, he was commissioned Lieutenant, 19th Hussars, on 13 June 1874 and advanced to Captain on 1 July 1881. In 1882, Captain Jenkins, now a troop commander, embarked for Egypt with his Regiment to join a British expedition led by Lt. Gen. Sir Garnet Wolseley. As well as reconnaissance and minor skirmishes, the 19th took part in the decisive battle at Tel-el-Kebir. One Troop of the 19th Hussars was detailed as Sir Garnet Wolseley's personal escort throughout the campaign. In 1884 the Regiment, who had stayed on in Egypt, was shipped down the Red Sea from Egypt to the Sudan to fight the Mahdi. Brigaded with the 10th Hussars, they were conspicuous for their gallantry at the battle for the village of El Teb.



During the battle, the Hussars charged the enemy positions but 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 led to a confused struggle with the tribesmen and in the broken country covered by thorn bushes, the cavalry suffered heavy casualties. During this fighting, Colonel Barrow of the 19th was badly wounded with a spear through his arm pinning it to his side and Captain Jenkins took command, leading his squadron in the charge and was personally engaged with three of the enemy at one time, during which he and his horse were wounded.

British casualties amounted to 172 killed and wounded, with the 19th Hussars losing 37 Officers and men, these being by far the highest casualty figure suffered by any Regiment.

The Victoria Cross was awarded to Quarter Master Sergeant William Marshall of the 19th Hussars for gallantry in saving Colonel Barrow during the battle, as were several D.C.M.'s.

For his services in the Sudan at El-Teb, Captain Jenkins was one of three Officers of the 19th Hussars Mentioned in Despatches and he additionally received the 4th Class Order of the Medjidie, the only Officer of the 19th Hussars to be so honoured. He was also awarded the Brevet of Major on 21 May 1884 *'in recognition of services during recent operations in the Soudan'*

Marrying Ada Frances Alice, daughter of Sir John Richard Wolseley, 6th Bart of Mount Wolseley in 1885, he assumed the prefix surname Wolseley in 1894 and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and to Command of the 19th Hussars on 7 February 1897. The 19th Hussars were stationed in India in 1899 but with an inevitable War with the Boers in South Africa, a cavalry Brigade, under the command Wolseley-Jenkins was sent to Durban. Landing in September, the Brigade proceeded to re-inforce Sir George White, who was engaged in repelling the Boers on the Natal border but who was ultimately forced to retire on Ladysmith. With the rank of Brigadier-General, Wolseley-Jenkins commanded the cavalry at the actions at Rietfontein on 24 October 1899 and at the battle of Lombard's Kop (battle of Ladysmith) 30 October 1899. During the subsequent siege of Ladysmith; 2 November 1899 - 28 February 1900, Wolseley-Jenkins served as Brigadier-General commanding the cavalry. He was present at the sortie from Ladysmith on 7 December 1899 and the great action of 6 January and after relief took part in the operations in Natal until June 1900, including action at Laings Nek. From July he took part in Operations in the Transvaal and as part of General Buller's force, took part in the actions at Belfast and Lydenberg.



Lieut.-Col. C. B. H. Wolseley-Jenkins, commanding

For his services in South Africa he was brevetted Colonel on 7 February 1901 but would receive no other recognition. In 1902, a correspondent would write:

*"The splendid condition in which the 19th Hussars landed in South Africa in September 1899, on arrival from India, was regarded as proof of the military qualities of their commanding Officer and the fact that his term of Command was extended shortly afterward was accepted as further evidence that Col. Wolseley-Jenkins would receive recognition. Yet nothing has been done for him and he leaves the service disappointed – another victim to a war which has proved so disastrous to many higher ranked than himself"*

In July 1901, on completion of his term of service, he was placed on half pay and on 2 August 1902, retired on retired pay. Wolseley-Jenkins's son, a Captain in the 2nd Rifle Brigade, was killed in action (also M.I.D.) on 25 Sep 1915 at Loos. Colonel Wolseley-Jenkins died on 14 December 1922.

Wolseley Jenkins 1918 Army List entry:

*"Wolseley- Jenkins, C. B. H. (Brev. Col. ret.pay). Egyptian Expedition, 1882-4. Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, Medal with clasp ; bronze star. Soudan, 1884. Battles of Teb (wounded) and Tamai. Despatches, Lond. Gaz., 6 May 84. 2 clasps ; 4th class Medjidie- Brev. of Maj. S. African War, 1899-1901. In commd. 19 Hrs. (23 Oct.99 to 12 May 01). Commd. Cavalry, Ladysmith ; afterwards in commd. of section of Lines of Commn. from 9 Apr. 01. Operations in Natal, 99, including actions at Rietfontein and Lombard's Kop. Defence of Ladysmith, including sortie of 7 Dec. 99, and action of 6 Jan. 00. Operations in Natal Mar. to Jun. 00, including action at Laings Nek. Operations in the Transvaal, east of Pretoria, July to 29 Nov. 00, including actions at Belfast and Lydenberg. Operations in Orange River Colony May to 29 Nov. 00. Despatches, Lond. Gaz. 8 Feb. 01. Queens medal with 5 clasps."*

#### **19TH HUSSARS IN THE 1882 EGYPT CAMPAIGN.**

*"The force sent from England and the Mediterranean stations amounted to 25,450 men, of whom 2400 were cavalry: the whole being commanded by Lieutenant General Sir Garnet Wolseley. There being no fear of their being attacked at sea, they were sent without convoy, as soon as the ships could be got ready. By the 11th August, the last transport had sailed from England for Alexandria. The 19th Hussars were among the last to go. On the 10th August, they embarked at Southampton, in the Assyrian Monarch and the Montreal, with a total strength of 33 officers, 553 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 464 horses, under command of Lieutenant Colonel K. J. W Coghill.*

*The 19th Hussars, in the Assyrian Monarch and the Montreal, did not reach Alexandria in time to take part in (the early) operations. They reached Ismailia on the 24th, and completed their disembarkation by the evening of the 26th. The duty assigned to them was to act as Divisional troops ; the Right Wing, consisting of two squadrons under Lieutenant Colonel Coghill, formed part of the 1st Division under Lieutenant General Willis; the remaining two squadrons, under Lieutenant Colonel A. G. Webster, formed part of the 2nd Division under Lieutenant General Sir E. Hamley. One troop was detailed as escort to Sir Garnet Wolseley throughout the campaign. The Right Wing joined the Head Quarters of the 1st Division at Tel-el-Mahuta, on the evening of the 27th.*

*On the 28th, a demonstration was made by the enemy against Graham's force at Kassassin. The Right Wing of the 19th was ordered in support to Mahsamah ; but, on its being ascertained that no serious attack was intended they returned to Tel-el-Mahuta. Graham, having been reinforced, and expecting the Heavy Cavalry Brigade to join him, made a general advance after sunset. The orders for the heavy cavalry had, however, miscarried, and did not reach Major General Lowe for several hours. Making a wide sweep into the desert, Lowe fell upon the left of the enemy in the dark, and charged, rolling up their infantry ; the*

darkness made pursuit impossible. The sound of the heavy firing, caused the Division at Tel-el-Mahuta to turn out again, but after a brief advance they returned to camp, with the exception of the 19th Hussars, who pushed on to Kassassin, which they reached at daybreak. It was not till noon, after visiting the scene of the previous night's encounter, that they were able to off-saddle and rest.



The following twelve days were spent in preparing for the advance on Tel-el-Kebir, 13 miles from Kassassin, where Arabi's army had constructed a formidable line of entrenched works. During these days, the 19th Hussars and the Indian Native Cavalry were employed in continual outpost and reconnoissance duties. On the 5th, Lieutenant Holland was badly wounded.

By the 8th, all was ready for massing the whole force at Kassassin preparatory to the advance on Tel-el-Kebir. Early on the 9th, Arabi advanced in force on Kassassin, attacking in two separate bodies simultaneously, one in front from Tel-el-Kebir, and the other in flank from Es Salihyeh. Willis repelled the double attack with ease, and pushed the enemy back to within cannon shot of Tel-el-Kebir, capturing four guns.

Soon after dark on the 12th, the whole force consisting of 17,000 men, with 61 guns, moved out of camp to some high ground in front of Kassassin, in preparation for an attack on Arabi Pasha's entrenched lines. At 1.30 in the morning, the troops moved silently forwards through the desert, their march directed by a naval officer steering by the stars. The four infantry brigades, in two lines, led the way, supported on the right by the heavy cavalry brigade and horse artillery, and on the left by the naval brigade. In rear of the naval brigade, followed the 19th Hussars under Lieutenant Colonel Coghill. One troop of the regiment remained at Mahsamah, and another at Tel el Mahuta, to guard those points. At five in the morning the

attack was delivered ; after half an hour's severe fighting, the British infantry was in complete possession of the lines. While the heavy cavalry pushed on to Zagazig to cut off fugitives, the 19th, under Coghill, passed through an opening in the entrenchments, and seized the Tel el Kebir railway station and bridge, cutting off a great number of fugitives. Thence the pursuit was continued for three hours, when the 19th returned to the enemy's late camp. In the afternoon they started again in the track of the heavy cavalry, leaving a troop to protect burial parties, and reached Belbeis that evening. On the following evening Cairo was taken possession of, and Arabi surrendered himself."

#### **THE 19 HUSSARS AT THE BATTLE OF EL-TEB FROM 'THE NINETEENTH AND THEIR TIMES;**

"On the 29th, the force advanced against the enemy, who occupied a strong position at El Teb. Moving in a large square, they found the Arab force in position on an isolated ridge covered with bush scrub, and protected with parapets and rifle pits. A squadron of the 10th Hussars covered the front and left face of the square; a troop of the 19th covered the right face. The rest of the cavalry were disposed in rear of the square, in three lines, commanded respectively by Lieut. Colonel Wood, 10th Hussars, Lieut. Colonels Barrow and Webster, 19th Hussars. By their defeat of General Baker, and the capture of Tokar, the enemy had become possessed of guns, small arms and ammunition, which they used very efficiently. As the British force came within range, the cavalry cleared away from the front of the square, which moved to the right, across the front of the position, so as to attack the left flank of the enemy, and the British guns came into action. In forty minutes, the enemy's guns being silenced, the square moved forward again. As they approached the ridge, the enemy's fire ceased, and, in small groups of twenty and thirty men, the Arabs dashed at the face of the square with the most reckless valour. Not one of them succeeded in reaching it. Again the British infantry advanced, and again with desperate courage a great force of Arabs hurled themselves on the British bayonets. There are no braver men than the Arabs of the Soudan. Armed with sword and spear, in spite of hundreds being shot down, many of them succeeded in coming hand to hand with their foes and the matter was decided by the bayonet. Thus, fighting at every step, the British infantry swept steadily along the whole line of the enemy's position, capturing seven guns in their progress. The enemy's number was computed at from 6000 to 10,000 men. Of these, over 2000 lay dead on the ridge.

As the remainder drew off across the plain beyond, the first two lines of British cavalry swept round the end of the ridge, and pursued. After driving the main body of the enemy before them for some distance, it was found necessary to return to encounter a large body of the enemy they had passed in the broken ground, and that now interposed between them and the infantry. The 10th Hussars, and two squadrons of the 19th under Lieutenant Colonel Barrow, charged a large body of Arabs composed of horsemen, men on camels, and footmen, and at once became involved in a desperate hand to hand conflict. This body of Arabs had not been engaged with our infantry, and were quite fresh. Thirty Arab horsemen charged one of the leading squadrons, three of them getting through and wheeling their horses in pursuit regardless of the second line. The Arab swordsmen and spearmen, taking advantage of the scrub and broken ground, hamstringed horses as they passed, and then attacked the riders. Captain Freeman of the 19th and several men were killed, and many wounded. Of all those who lost their horses in the mêlée Colonel Barrow alone escaped alive. His horse was killed, and he received a thrust from a spear that passed through his arm and penetrated his side. Surrounded by numbers of the enemy, he must have been killed, had it not been for the devotion of Quarter Master Sergeant William Marshall who rode to his assistance, seconded by Sergeant Fenton and Private Boseley. Marshall gave the Colonel his hand. Running in this fashion, in rear of the charging squadrons, Barrow, with the heavy spear swaying to and fro in his side, managed to get free of the enemy before he sank down. His attendant trumpeter, in spite of sixteen terrible wounds, kept his horse going, and escaped from the press, to die of his injuries later.

Captain Jenkins, on whom the command of the two squadrons devolved, on Barrow being disabled, was engaged by three of the enemy at once. His horse was wounded in three places, but he himself escaped with a slight wound. Horsemen, as a rule, have little difficulty in dispersing and driving before them disordered infantry: but, so extraordinary was the activity and bravery of the Arabs, and the skill with which they used their spears and two-handed swords that, in the uneven ground covered with low mimosa bushes, they were more than a match for horsemen. It was not till some men had dismounted, and opened fire on them, that they sullenly drew off and retreated.



Meanwhile, the other two squadrons of the regiment, acting independently under Lieutenant Colonel Webster and Major Hanford-Flood, had cleared the flank of numerous small parties of the enemy. By 1.30 the action was at an end. The total British loss was 34 killed or died of wounds, and 155 wounded. To this the 19th Hussars contributed one officer killed, two wounded, 13 non-commissioned officers and men killed or died of wounds, 20 wounded; a heavier loss than fell on any other regiment engaged at El Teb. Every single casualty in the regiment was caused in hand-to-hand combat, by sword or spear. For his gallant behaviour, Quartermaster Sergeant William Marshall received the Victoria Cross. Lieutenant Colonel Barrow's wound was of so terrible a nature that it was not thought possible he could survive, but he lived to go through another and more arduous campaign."

**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 Elandsplaagte, but were present and did good work at Rietfontein on 24th October 1899 At the battle of Lombard's Kop or Ladysmith, 30th October 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, Egypt F only; all naming details fine but overall much pitting from star and probably repinned. The Star/Medijdie VF and QSA GVF, the latter unsurprising as he would have worn it for less time as was issued at the end of his service. Medals were sold by the family in 2022

Wolseley-Jenkins father's medal group was sold at Spink in 2019:

<https://www.spink.com/lot/19001000597in>

A superb and rare cavalry officer casualty and gallantry group of medals for the famed VC action at El-Teb, not to mention his later services as a senior Officer during the opening operations of the Boer War