

A Man with a Mirror by Simon Wilson

Miniature medals are worn for formal evening functions, both military and civilian, as they were worn with Mess Kit and reduce wear and tear on clothing. Miniatures first seem to appear after the issue of the Waterloo Medal in 1815, though it would seem that they were mainly made for the wives of officers at that time. They were certainly worn by 1850 in much the same way as they are now worn, and in 1873 they were specifically mentioned by Queen's Regulations, along with the wearing of ribbons without medals in undress uniforms.

As a collecting field their lower prices (compared to full-size medals) allows you to collect interesting groups at a reasonable cost.



The medals illustrated are the miniature medals worn by Colonel C E Haynes of the Royal Engineers. They are the Companion of the Order of the Bath (Military Division), South Africa Medal (with clasp 1878-9), 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. They are a handsome group but not particularly exciting, and his career, though above average, did not mark him out for fame or glory. However, he was the sort of soldier the Empire relied on, there is an interesting story to be discovered and he did achieve a sort of distinction that not many men can claim.

He was born in Hampstead on 8 July 1855. The 1861 census refers to his father as a “retired builder”, which could mean many things. The 1851 census clarifies the issue – listing his father was a builder employing 120 men. When he died in 1884, he left just over £130,000, which, according to the Bank



C E Haynes R.E.

of England site, would be the equivalent of £14,000,000 today. It seems a lot, but I tried it on several other sites and this was actually the lowest figure. Haynes entered the Royal Military Academy and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1875, with the second highest marks in the year.

For the moment I will leave the events of the next few years and go straight to 1879 and the Zulu War, where he served with the 2nd Field Company of the Royal Engineers under Captain Wynne. When they had landed in Durban, they discovered there were problems with the way things had been loaded, and the pontoon bridging equipment could not be found. The main body set off to join the army, which required the services of the engineers as soon as possible, and Haynes, with a group of 20 men, remained behind to sort things out. By the time Haynes and his men reached Lord

Chelmsford's headquarters, Wynne and the rest of the unit had been cut off in Eshowe, a fortified mission station, with Colonel Pearson's column. Haynes immediately came up with a scheme to open communications with the besieged garrison, which was about 22 miles away.

I don't know about you, but when I think of signalling and sun, I think of a heliograph – a circular mirror mounted on a tripod. The picture used in the Illustrated London News in May 1879 shows this - a Mance heliograph (named after the inventor – Sir Henry Mance). It is a self-contained system with a circular mirror which, by tilting, flashes messages in Morse code. It has a tripod, a carrying case, a morse key and sights, and the design was still in use by the British Army in the desert campaigns in WW2. The Pakistani Army used them into the 1970s and they are last reported being used by the Taliban at the time of the 2001 invasion.

The heliograph was, to Mance's frustration, slow to catch on. In 1879 he sent a number of them to Lord Roberts for his Afghan campaign. Having found them useful during the campaign the army became more enthusiastic. However, that was on another continent and Indian built heliographs only appeared in Africa towards the end of the Zulu War. What Haynes actually built was a heliostat. This consisted of a mirror (taken from a hotel) with a small hole scratched in the silvering. This allowed the mirror to be sighted on the destination (using a set of cross-wires on a separate frame). Signalling was then performed by using a blind to interrupt the beam. It was a much more cumbersome apparatus than the heliograph, was slower in operation, and needed a working party to carry it four miles each day and set it up on a hill.

Haynes was given permission to try, even though neither the commander or the Staff thought his idea would work.

Fortunately, Haynes persevered, attracting the attention of the garrison and refining his instrument to send intelligible messages. The garrison, after various experiments, built its own heliostat and two-way communication was established.

SHAVING GLASS AS HELIOGRAPH.

Colonel C. E. Haynes, Royal Engineers, who has just been placed on half-pay, under the five years rule, was the officer in the Zulu campaign who, by means of an improvised heliograph—an ordinary shaving glass belonging to a Guardsman—signalled to Colonel Pearson, who was holding Ekowe, that reinforcements were coming. It was only after days of persistent endeavours to attract the attention of the invested garrison that Colonel Haynes had the reward of finding that he had been “read.”

Chelmsford later wrote in his despatches “*For some little time we had been in communication with Colonel Pearson by means of flashing signals; for this very great assistance to our operations, I am indebted to Lieutenant Haines [sic], R.E., who, despite some failure and discouragement at first, persevered until complete success was attained.*”

Nottingham Journal 19th November 1906

The remainder of his military career was, like his medal group, good, but not exciting. He would spend more time in South Africa in 1884-5 when he served in the 7th Field Company on Sir Charles Warren's expedition to Bechuanaland. The engineers, amongst other things, installed a telegraph line and the expedition is notable for the first British military use of observation balloons. There was no fighting and Warren secured the area for Britain despite efforts of the Boers and Germans (operating from South West Africa) to annexe it for themselves.

He would spend the rest of his career in the UK, being employed with Ordnance Survey work in Southampton and Dublin and also serving in Gibraltar. He was appointed Commander of the Bath in 1911 and retired in 1912 as Chief Engineer of the East Coast Defences. Recalled for the Great War, he went to France in 1915 in command of the 11th Labour Battalion RE,

The Labour Battalions, recruited from men aged 40-47 years and “accustomed to digging”, were used to relieve infantrymen of labouring tasks, and were mainly employed on road and railway building. The 11th Battalion formed at Southampton on 11th October 1915 and sailed for France 17 days later. They were initially attached to the 2nd Canadian Division and spent most of their time building roads, apart from six months of 1917 when they were engaged on railway building. They did difficult work in poor conditions, often within range of the enemy and performed important, but often under-appreciated, tasks maintaining the infrastructure that enabled the Army to fight. They would eventually be transferred to the Labour Corps as the 710th Labour Company on August 1 1917.

However, that alone would not have persuaded me to buy the group. It was his footballing career that made the difference. I'm not, I admit, a fan of the modern game, but I am fond of historical football in the days when shorts were long and moustaches featured prominently in team photos. Those are the days when teams such as Old Etonians, Corinthians and Blackburn Olympic played the game. The FA Cup was first contested in the 1871-72 season. The final in that year was Wanderers v Royal Engineers, with Wanderers winning 1-0, the first of their 5 victories in the competition. The Royal Engineers were also defeated finalists in 1874, going down 2-0 to Oxford University. They won the cup in 1875 after a replay against Old Etonians and made their last appearance in 1878, with a 3-1 defeat to Wanderers, where Haynes ensured his place in history by playing in the final.



Royal Engineers AFC

He played at centre forward in the 1876-7 season, where the Royal Engineers made it through to the Fourth Round and, after missing the first two rounds in 1877-8, scored in the 6-0 win over Druids and in one of the two replays that were necessary to get past Oxford University. Sadly, his appearance in the final would end with defeat, after which he was posted to South Africa. This was a problem for the RE team in those days, with several of their key players being posted overseas at various times.

Playing in scarlet and blue hoops (the corps colours) which are still worn today, the Royal Engineers were one of the

pioneering teams, and went on the first recorded football tour – playing in Sheffield, Nottingham and Derby in 1873. As football turned professional in the 1880s the RE side remained one of the few amateur sides which was able to hold its own against professional teams, but even so, it eventually withdrew from the football league, winning the FA Amateur Cup in 1908 and going on to win a number

of army competitions. In November 2012, the Royal Engineers played against a modern version of Wanderers (basically an Old Harrovian team) in a rerun of the 1872 Final – winning 7-1.

Haynes retired from the army for a second time after the war. He was married with three sons and lived in Torquay after retirement, dying there in a nursing home in 1935.

His brother, Captain Alfred Ernest Haynes RE served in Egypt in 1882 and in Bechuanaland, where he was killed in action in 1896 whilst in command of the 43rd Field Company RE. He is commemorated by a brass plaque in Rochester Cathedral.



A former Torquinian has died in Kenya after being gored by an angry rhinoceros near his farmhouse home. He is Col. C. C. Haynes, formerly of the 1st Battn, Devonshire Regiment, who made his home in Torquay between wars and served with the local Home Guard during the latter part of World War II. With his wife, the 63-year-old colonel was walking near his home when the rhino burst from the bush. Armed only with a walking stick, he tried to draw the animal from Mrs. Haynes and was charged and gored. He died later in hospital.

One of his sons, Charles Cecil Haynes, was wounded with the Devonshire Regiment in 1914 and transferred to the RFC, remaining in the RAF until the end of the war. He then returned to the army. In 1939 he was in Exeter, listed as a retired army officer. He died in Kenya in 1955, being gored by an angry rhinoceros. He has the rank of Lt Colonel on his gravestone.

Left: *Torquay Times*, 22/10/54.



Off to Kenya

A MEMBER of the Droxford Division Red Cross since 1938, and resident in Bishop's Waltham for 22 years, Mrs. E. P. Bury, of The Cottage, the Hangars, Bishop's Waltham, leaves England for Kenya on June 10.

Mrs. Bury, who is the widow of Commander C. D. Bury, R.N., rtd., flies to Kenya, and on the following day she will be married to Capt. H. J. Haynes, R.N., rtd., who was a life-long friend of her husband. Capt. Haynes retired from the Royal Navy in 1947 and is now stock farming in Kenya.

Another son, Henry John Haynes, became a Captain in the Royal Navy, winning the DSC in 1918 and the DSO in 1941 "For courage, skill and devotion to duty in operations off the Libyan Coast." - these included the bombardment of Tobruk, the Anti-Aircraft defence of Malta and damage caused by bad weather and near misses by bombs and mines. He settled to farm in Kenya after retiring in 1947.

Left: *Portsmouth Evening News*, 22/5/59.