



The 17th Lancers in the Charge of the Light Brigade

Death of Local Crimean Hero - Charles Willshire Short

Remarkable story of the Balaclava Charge

With the death of Mr. C. W. Short, of 2 St. Martin's Terrace, Salisbury, a well-known Crimean veteran, has passed away. With a view to obtaining further particulars of an interesting career, a representative of the Salisbury Times has called upon Mrs. Parkes, the old soldier's daughter, who relates that her father was born seventy years ago in the parish of St. Martin, where he attended school.

Subsequently he became apprenticed to Messrs. Stevens and Blackmore, tailors of Minister Street. He had, however an ardent desire for military service, and peaceful avocation having ceased to charm him, on the expiration of his term of apprenticeship, joined the 11th Hussars, and accompanied that regiment throughout the Crimean campaign.

He was present at the Battle of Alma, and participated in the struggles at Inkerman and Sebastopol. His regiment also took part in the ever memorable charge at Balaclava. Throughout the whole campaign, however, Mr. Short only sustained a slight wound. Mrs. Parkes kindly produced an old prayer book, on the fly leaves of which her father had inscribed a brief account of the campaign, referring in detail to the hardships endured by the men. Alluding to the charge at Balaclava, the deceased had penned a remarkable statement to the effect that the "charge" was sounded, the "trot" only being given. Had the former order been obeyed, there would probably have been time to avert the disaster which befell the six hundred. The 17th Hussars, Mr. Short's regiment, which was on the left flank of the cavalry brigade, passed right through the Russian lines and returned again with a result that has been so often told in song and story. When peace was restored he subsequently joined the 101st Foot, in the capacity of master tailor, left the regiment in 1875, bearing a written testimony from Colonel Delaforce, which spoke highly of his character and ability. Mrs. Parkes stated that her father had been awarded two badges for good conduct, he possessed a long service medal and Turkish medal, with clasps for the various battles of the Crimean campaign. He took a keen interest in the progress of the present struggle in South Africa, and was much distressed at our preliminary reverses, although his joy at the relief of Ladysmith and Kimberley was unbounded. The gallant old soldier was much respected by a wide circle of acquaintances in the city, and since his death much sympathy had been expressed towards his relatives.

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