

The Albuhera Loving Cups

The Original Albuhera Loving Cup Dated 1809

“Albuhera Loving Cup. The cup was made in 1809 but was not then in its present form. It is probable that the double stem and handles were added when the Colours were chased. The medal is that of Pte. Henry Holloway, 57th Foot, who was the last survivor of the battle of Albuhera, May 16, 1811. On May 16 every year a silent toast is drunk from this cup "to those who fell at Albuhera."

<https://queensregimentalassociation.org/journals-and-newsletters/middlesex-journals/pdfs/volume-12/vol-12-4.pdf> pages 173/4



The Albuhera Cup is engraved, “To the Memory of the Diehards May 16th 1811- 415 Rank & File Who Fell At Albuhera” and carries a London hallmark dated 1809 (by John Linnit?), which predates the battle. Unlike the Albuhera Snuff Box made in 1817 (by John Linnit?), no mention is made of its origins. During WW2, the Cup, with most of the regimental silver, was deposited in the vaults of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in Singapore for safe keeping. Fortunately, it was recovered after the Japanese surrender in 1945.

The earliest photograph of the Cup that I have seen is in the possession of Colonel Patrick Crowley. It shows the centenary card of 1911, which was exactly repeated in Die-Hards Journal Vol 1 No 8 in 1924. The caption to the photograph is quite specific. The Cup is only to the memory of those who fell; its provenance is unexplained.

"THE ALBUHERA CUP."

To the Memory
of
"THE DIE-HARDS"
who fell at Albuhera,
415 Rank and File,
16th May, 1811.

Forming the stem of this Cup is a Peninsula Medal with 5 clasps, "Albuhera," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive."

PRIVATE HENRY HOLLOWAY, 57th Foot.
He was the last survivor of the men of the 57th Foot who held the Ridge of Albuhera. Just previous to his answering "The Last Post" he said that there was but one thing on earth he valued and that was his medal, which he bequeathed to his old Regiment, "The Die-Hards."

"THE ALBUHERA SNUFF BOX."

This Snuff Box was made from the Breast-plates of the Officers of the 57th Regiment who fell at the Battle of Albuhera, 16th May, 1811.



"THE ALBUHERA CUP
and
SNUFF BOX."

Centenary Card of 1911

There is evidence that the first medal, bequeathed to the Regiment by Pte Hammond who was thought to be the last survivor of the battle, was incorporated in 1873. Subsequently, in 1885, Pte Holloway was discovered as the last survivor of Albuhera and he also bequeathed his medal to the Regiment, which replaced Hammond's sometime after Holloway's death in 1886.

The engraved Colours are a representation, not based on any particular set of colours, and the battle honours are those awarded up to and including New Zealand, which was awarded in June 1870. In 1879, the 57th fought in the Zulu War, but were not awarded the battle honour, 'South Africa 1879', until August 1881. By this time (June 1881) it had been grouped with the 77th to become the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) following the reforms of the Army by Cardwell and Childers. This exclusion supports the evidence for the 1873 modifications and engraving to the cup and the exclusion of the final battle honour. The 1818 and 1867 Colours (below) illustrate that the engraved Colours are only representations. Also, the spelling of the battle honours Vittoria (*Victoria*), English spelling for Spanish Vitoria, and Sevastopol (*Sevastopool*) are mistakes, although it is interesting to note that the name of Vitoria was taken from the name of the original settlement of Nova Victoria. These 'mistakes' were deliberately carried over to the replica cups.



(source: Lt Col R Gancz)

**Original Albuhera Loving Cup dated 1809, incorporating Pte Holloway's original medal, inherited by
1 QUEENS and subsequently 1 PWRR**

Note: on left maker's mark (John Linnit?) followed by London silver marks for 1809





**Two Replica Albuhera Loving Cups dated 1969 and 1970 with replica Pte Holloway medals presented to 2 & 3 QUEENS on disbandment of 4 QUEENS (Middlesex)
The Original 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot 1818 - 1838 Regimental Colour**



(Dominic Winter Auctions)

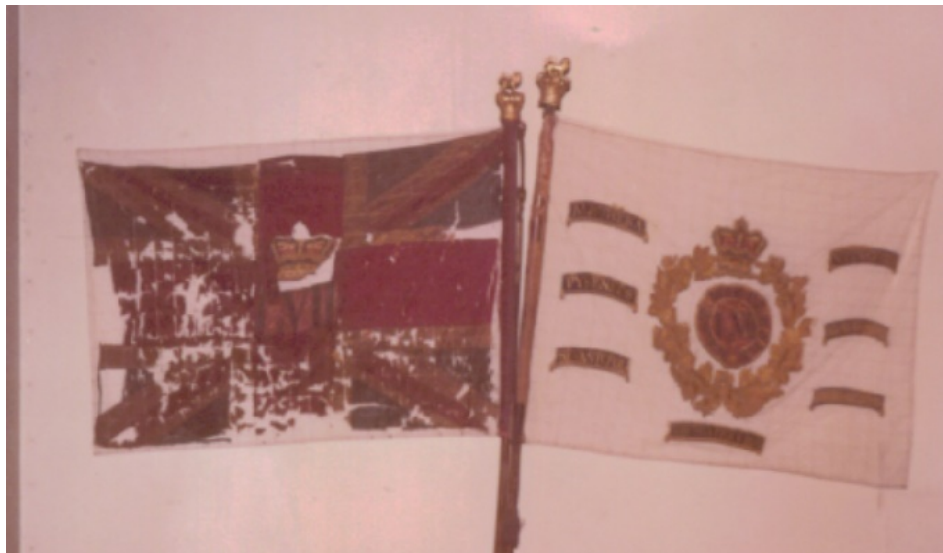
Auctioneer's Description

Middlesex Regiment. 57th (West Middlesex) Foot Colours, circa 1830s, embroidered with regimental insignia and battle honours for Peninsular, Albuhera, Pyrenees, Vittoria and Nivelle, with union jack to the upper left corner on a pale silk ground, a fragile piece with several areas of damage and general perishing, presented in a large frame, glazed, 175 x 175cm

Provenance: Collection of Jack Webb (1923-2019), London. The 57th (West Middlesex) Foot was raised in 1755 and was amalgamated under the Childers Reforms with the 77th (East Middlesex) Foot to form the Middlesex Regiment in 1881.

Auction Date: 20 May 2021 for £1150 to Waterloo Antiques who wanted £3000; declined.

The Original 57th (West Middlesex) 1867 - 1908 Colours



Presented by Mrs Warre at Salford Barracks Manchester 28 Nov 1867

Mrs Warre was the wife of the Commanding Officer, Colonel H J Warre CB and the presentation was made in the presence of Maj Gen Sir John Garvock KCB (Commander, Northern District). Warre retired as Lt Gen and was the author of 'Historical Records of the Fifty-Seventh', published 1878. The Colours were illustrated in this publication. These Colours replaced those of 1853-1867 and were in use until 1908 when replaced.

<https://ia804707.us.archive.org/15/items/historicalrecor00regigoog/historicalrecor00regigoog.pdf>

APPENDIX

I. THE COLOURS

57TH FOOT.—The first three sets of colours were received in 1756, 1770 and 1792. These sets were probably painted, and none of them are now known to exist. In 1803 colours were issued to both of the battalions. Those of the 1st battalion are the colours which were borne at Albuera, and the remains are in the possession of the descendants of Sir William Inglis. The colours of the 2nd battalion belonged in 1893 to Captain Fanshawe, R.N., a descendant of Sir Hew Dalrymple, who was colonel of the regiment when the 2nd Battalion was disbanded in 1815. The regimental colour of the 1st battalion appears to have had the red heart-shaped shield and wreath of the usual pattern on a yellow ground. The regimental colour of the 2nd battalion had a central device of somewhat unusual shape with LVII REGT. 2^d. BATTⁿ in the centre.

The 1st Battalion received its fifth set of colours in 1813. These were carried in the Peninsula at the Battles of the Pyrenees, Nive and Nivelle. When the honours "Albuera" and "Peninsula" were granted, they were sewn on on large white scrolls. These colours were disused in 1818, and in 1893 belonged to Captain Fanshawe.

The issue of fresh colours in 1818 was due to the grant of the further Peninsula honours (see p. 98) and to a change of pattern. The centre of the regimental colour was now circular, with the county title round it. These colours are said to have been sent to General Adam when disused in 1838; whether they still exist is doubtful.

The seventh set was used till 1853, and is now in the possession of Viscount Hardinge, whose grandfather, the Field Marshal, presented the next set that year.

The colours presented in 1853 were borne in the Crimea and New Zealand, and now hang in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The next set were presented in 1867 and were the last to be carried in action, during the Zulu War. The remains of this set are preserved by the 1st Middlesex.

The present colours of the 1st Middlesex were presented by the Viceroy, Lord Minto, at Calcutta in 1908.

Note:

1. 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot 1853-1867, buried at the Albuhera Memorial, Albuera in 2004.
2. 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot 1867-1908, St Paul's Cathedral.
3. 1st Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) 1908-1931, St Paul's Cathedral.
4. 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) 1931-1942, buried in the garden of Government House, Hong Kong in WW2, but never found after the Japanese surrender in 1945.
5. 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) 1953-1975, St Paul's Cathedral.

Peninsular War Medals of Privates Hammond and Holloway

From recently found correspondence in the Die-Hards journals relating to the origins of the Peninsular War medal incorporated into the Albuhera Loving Cup, it would appear that Private Hammond's medal was the first to be incorporated in the Cup in 1873. Then in 1885 Private Holloway was discovered and he may then have been the oldest and last living survivor of the Battle of Albuhera. Like Hammond, he also bequeathed his medal to the Regiment, so when he died in 1886, Hammond's medal must have been replaced with Holloway's. A check with the National Army Museum online revealed Hammond's medal not listed. However, there is a replica of Holloway's medal! What follows are transcripts from the Die-Hards journals:

LINKS WITH THE PAST

The following is an extract from a letter published in The Times of 19th August last: —

“A Link with Albuhera,”

“In the autumn of 1885 the 1st Middlesex Regiment (formerly the 57th Foot) marched from Dover to Lydd for field firing. En route, during a temporary halt of the battalion, an aged blind man was brought by his elderly daughter to the commanding officer, and it was then discovered that he had fought at the battle of Albuhera, over 74 years previously, at which engagement the battalion earned its name of the ‘Die-hards.’ The veteran's Peninsular medal, with Albuhera and other bars, has been incorporated in a loving cup that forms part of the officers' mess plate, and is used for drinking the toast to the fallen on May 11 (*sic*) (16 May 1811) every year.—Mr. Charles S. Burdon, Albuhera, Derwent Road, N. 13.”

As it was known that there were Old Comrades still living who were present on parade on this occasion, endeavours were made to obtain fuller details. The following letter from Mr. A. Stephens is therefore of much interest: —

Steam Packet,
Whitstable,
Kent.
30th August, 1935.

Dear Sir,

Re your letter and enclosed copy, dated 27th August, 1935, the medal incorporated to the veteran mentioned, as it was bequeathed to the Regiment when stationed on the Curragh Camp, 1873, by the late Pte. Hammond, 57th Regiment, who had fought at the Battle of Albuhera, whose medal was sent to London to be incorporated in the loving cup. I happened to be present when my father, who was employed in the Officers' Mess, unpacked the cup and medal on being completed and returned. General A. A. Garstin I am sure can vouch for my statement, who, I believe, is the only officer left who served at the Curragh Camp.

The Regiment marched from Dover to Lydd for musketry training about the 1st July, 1885. On passing through Dymchurch we were halted. A number of people gathered around, when an old man asked one of the Battalion what Regiment it was. The man replied the 1st Middlesex; the veteran replied that he had served with the 57th West Middlesex, and fought at Albuhera. The information was passed on to the C.O., Col. Picot, who was in temporary command. Instructions were given to Cpl. Millar (Pompy) to get a cab and

conduct the veteran to where we encamped for the night. He was entertained to dinner in the Officers' Mess, and afterwards sent home. During the stay in Lydd a subscription was raised by everyone in the Battalion giving a day's pay according to rank. It had been ascertained that he was only in receipt of 4d. per diem pension. On the return march to Dover the Battalion was halted in Dymchurch, and formed into line in open order. The veteran was conducted down the front and up the rear ranks. When he passed around the Band he pointed out the trombone, and said he played that instrument in the Band. So the statement that he was blind was incorrect. He was accompanied by his daughter. The amount subscribed was handed over to the Chairman of the Council to be doled out to him as considered necessary. In the meantime application was made to the War Office, and his pension increased to 1s. per diem. Our next Albuhera dinner took place at Aldershot, 16th May, 1886. The veteran was to have attended it, but, unfortunately, he died before the event. If he had been alive to attend he would have seen the Colours under which he fought at Albuhera, which were lent for that occasion by General Inglis, the son of the Colonel who commanded at Albuhera. An escort was sent to receive them at Farnborough Station, Aldershot.

I attended a banquet at Dover about five years ago, when I sat with a gentleman who had been postmaster at Dymchurch. When he heard that I had served in the Middlesex, he inquired if I was present when the Regiment passed through Dymchurch in 1885. I informed him that I was. He told me that he had a copy of the newspaper giving the account of the meeting of the old veteran with his old Regiment, also the ceremony carried out, and the presentation of the amount subscribed. I asked for a loan of the paper to take a copy of it, and he promised to let me have it. He must have forgot, as I never received it, or met him again. It was apparently an incident for me to receive your letter at Whitstable, where I am on a visit to my son, Capt. R. Stephens. I was on the point of going to Canterbury to see the South Africans play Kent at cricket. It was fifty years ago I was present with the Band of the Regiment, who came from Lydd to play at Canterbury Cricket Week on August Bank Holiday, 1885.

I expected to meet a friend at Canterbury who might have been able to give me the retired postmaster's address if he is alive. If possible, I will try and get in communication for the paper. Trusting this will meet your requirements,

Yours faithfully,

A. Stephens.

<https://queensregimentalassociation.org/journals-and-newsletters/middlesex-journals/pdfs/volume-5/vol-5-6.pdf> pages 380 & 381

Charlemont Fort,
Moy, Co. Tyrone,
6th January, 1936.

To the Editor of “ The Die-Hards.”

Sir,

Permit me, through the columns of your much-read journal, to offer my congratulations to Mr. Stephens for his contribution in your November issue re an incident at Dymchurch in 1885. His clear and very accurate account brought back memories of an event which I well remember. I was present with the Regiment on that memorable occasion. We were, as he states, on our way to Camp Lydd for a course of musketry. I saw the old man referred to in his paragraph, and for his years he had still a nice military appearance, and it was quite easy to distinguish him from amongst his civilian friends around him.

He was delighted when he ascertained that we were his old regiment in which he had served. He received the hearty congratulations of all ranks, and I can well remember his great excitement when he heard the word Die-Hard mentioned during the interview. But let me say here, it is a word that all 57th men feel proud of. Then again, I remember our deep regret when we had learned that he had passed away before 16th May (Albuhera Day).

Now, in conclusion, permit me to compliment Mr. Stephens on his clever article which, in fact, refreshed my memory and brought back vivid recollections of my earliest service with the Colours.

I am, sir,

Yours, etc.,

James Mooney

<https://queensregimentalassociation.org/journals-and-newsletters/middlesex-journals/pdfs/volume-5/vol-5-7.pdf> page 448

Research by:

Lieutenant Colonel Roger Gancz – late The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge’s Own), The Queen’s Regiment and The Princess of Wales’s Royal Regiment

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