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July - August - September 2026

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CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLE

Philip Puckett: Royal Hawaiian Orders, Then and Now.....3

SELECTED ARTICLES

Barney Mattingly: The Medals of Colonel Henry Mostyn-Owen, CB, MVO.....15

John Liffiton.: British Military Telegraphy and Sapper/Sergeant William Streets: A lifetime Career in Telegraphy.....19

Dan Speir: “The Revolution Is Crushed, But The Government Is Dead!” Argentina’s Curious Revolution of the Park.....28

Joseph T. N. Suarez: The Philippines’ Great Bandmaster: Walter Howard Loving.....32

Chris Georgeson: Tanzania’s Zimbabwe Medal: Its Origins and Purpose.....37

DEPARTMENTS

President’s Message2

2026 OMSA Convention Information:.....12

Medal Note 1: The U.S. Army of Occupation of Puerto Rican Medal.....40

Medal Note 2: The U.S. Army of Occupation of Cuba Medal.....43

The Secretary’s Report45

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On the Cover:

The image used on this issue’s cover comes from the feature article, “Royal Hawaiian Orders, Then and Now,” by Philip Puckett.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear all:

2026 Convention in Minneapolis.

For those of you who haven't downloaded the convention registration form from our website, this issue of JOMSA includes a physical copy for you. The dates for this year's convention are August 13-16, 2026 and it will be held at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Hotel.



This year's theme is on The Indian Wars 1865-1891. As always, we will have several medal related lectures on American, British and International topics. The bourse will be open to all attendees and we will have a banquet on Saturday evening. Greg Harper and Nathan Weiss are the co-chairs and have done this a number of times over the years, so you know it will be a well-run event. I hope to see you there!

2027 Convention in Arizona. We have now signed a contract for the 2027 OMSA Convention. It will be held at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Convention dates are August 12-15, 2027. Please mark your calendars now. As always, if you would like a convention nearer to you then please let us know. We are always looking for new places to have a convention!

Mexican Border Defense Medal. In August of last year, the Department of Defense announced the Mexican Border Defense Medal to all US military service members deployed on the southern border of the United States assisting the Customs and Border Protection Agency. The medal is for service since January 20, 2025 until the present. Interestingly, it is identical to the previously issued Mexican Border Service Medal; the previously issued medal was for service from January 1, 1916 until April 6, 1917. I suppose what was old is now new again.

Ashcroft Collection finds a new home. As you may recall, last year I mentioned that Lord Ashcroft's collection of Victoria Crosses and George Crosses was leaving the Imperial War Museum. The sudden announcement led to some negative publicity in the British press as, apparently, Ashcroft was not informed until the Imperial War Museum gave a press release. I'm pleased to report that the National Army Museum in London will eventually house Ashcroft's collection. At the present, there will be a few of the

medals periodically on display at the National Army Museum. According to the National Army Museum, the collection will be fully on display within two years.

All the Best,

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OMSA MONOGRAPHS

The Orders and Medals Society of America offers publications for sale to members at reduced prices. Member prices include postage within the US. Currently available titles include:

Campaign Decorations and Medals of the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991), by Edward J. Emering.

Philippine Medals, by Robert Reynolds.

Orders, Decorations, and Medals of the French Overseas and the Post-Colonial Periods, by Edward J. Emering.

The Bronze Star Medal, by Fred L. Borch.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, by Lawrence M. Watson.

The Decorations and Medals of Operation Iraqi Freedom, by Edward John Emering.

United States Army Badges, 1921-2006, by William K. Emerson.

The Campaign Medals of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, by Michael Riley.

ROYAL HAWAIIAN ORDERS, THEN AND NOW

Philip Puckett

The unified Kingdom of Hawai'i was established by King Kamehameha I in 1810, when he united the islands of Hawai'i under a single ruler. The monarchy spanned 83 years, from 1810 to 1893, ending with the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani. During this period, the Kingdom of Hawaii was governed by eight monarchs:

- King Kamehameha I (known as Kamehameha the Great), 1782-1810
- King Kamehameha II, 1819-1824
- King Kamehameha III, 1825-1854
- King Kamehameha IV, 1855-1863
- King Kamehameha V, 1863-1872
- King William Charles Lunalilo, 1873-1874
- King David Kalākaua I, 1874-1891
- Queen Lydia Lili'uokalani, 1891-1898.

After the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani in 1893, and the subsequent annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States in 1898, a movement to restore Hawaiian sovereignty and protect the crown lands remained active. Recently, the wildfires that devastated Maui in 2023 invigorated native Hawaiian efforts to restore royal sovereignty and affirm native self-determination. In the aftermath of the fire, one news source reported that, "As those in Maui try to make sense of the wildfires that left behind a trail of loss, experts and activists say the devastation has highlighted the issue of Hawaiian sovereignty." This article explains when the royal orders of the Kingdom of Hawaii were established and provides context for their restoration by the descendants of the Hawaiian royal family.

From 1865 to 1893, only three of the last four monarchs (Kings Kamehameha V and Kalākaua, and Queen Lili'uokalani), conferred royal orders. However, during those 27 years, a total of 751 royal orders were either initially conferred or promoted in grade.

The Five Royal Orders in the Kingdom of Hawaii

Although Hawaii's period of monarchy spanned most of the 19th century, the development of its royal orders took place during the relatively short period from 1865 to 1886. These royal orders affirmed the unity of the Hawaiian Islands, the primacy of its monarch, and the place of Hawaii in the larger community of nations. The process began in 1848 during a Privy Council meeting

when Robert Wyllie, Minister of Foreign Affairs under King Kamehameha III, proposed an Order of the Crown and Cross. The proposal was debated in Council, and although a sketch of the proposed order was prepared, no further formal action was taken.

The actual authority for royal Hawaiian orders was contained in Article 35 of the Constitution of 1864, which stated that "All Titles of Honor, Orders, and other distinctions, emanate from the King." This authorized the establishment of awards of merit for the Kingdom of Hawaii. When they were ultimately enacted, the statutes of the individual royal orders:

- Provided fees for admittance to the order for people residing in the Hawaiian Islands
- Limited the number of appointments in each grade
- Established dates for an annual Grand Council meeting
- Established a fine for members who missed the annual Grand Council meeting.

A Note on the Royal Orders: Hawaii's royal orders followed the general format typical of many contemporary European counterparts. All five were created in multiple classes, and each class employed a basic format modified according to its grade within the order. In four of the royal orders, a unique Maltese cross was the central figure, but configured according to the level of award.

The fifth royal order employed a five-pointed star as its basic design. A distinguishing feature of the orders of Kamehameha I, Kalākaua I, and Kapiolani was their respective ribbon. In all three orders, the ribbon for the highest class differed from those used for the lower grades of the same order.

The Royal Order of King Kamehameha I

This was Hawaii's first royal order, established by King Kamehameha V on April 11, 1865, to:

...cultivate and develop among Our People the feelings of Honour and Loyalty to Our Kingdom, and its Institutions to confer honorary distinctions upon such of Our People and foreigners as have rendered or may hereafter render to Our Kingdom and People important services.



Figure 1: Order of Kamehameha I (star).

The order (Figure 1) was established in three degrees or classes: Knight Grand Cross, Knight Commander, and Knight Companion. The first awards were announced in 1865, and its last award was made by King Kalākaua in 1886.

The central feature of this class is the medal of the order, a Maltese cross in white enamel, edged in either gold or silver, depending on the class. Gold rays emanate from the re-entrant angles of the cross, and a medallion occupies the center of the cross. The medallion consists of a blue enameled band edged on both sides in gold and bearing the word **KAMEHAMEHA I**, and two gold laurel branches. In its white enameled center, an elaborate gold letter **K** monogram is displayed. The medal is surmounted by a gold Hawaiian crown. The reverse bears the words **E HOOKANAKA** (Order of Fraternity).

Knight Grand Cross with Collar: This grade (limited to heads of state) consisted of a grand collar and a star. The Maltese cross (described above) is suspended from the grand collar by a gold Hawaiian crown. The collar consists of decorative links alternating a small representation of the Maltese cross between gold crowns, followed by the gold monogram **K**. The medal is suspended from the collar by a gold crown connected to the medal. In the star, the medal is superimposed over the center of a silver octagonal star.

Knight Grand Cross: This grade of the order (limited to 10 individuals and shown in Figure 2) consists of the medal suspended from a sash and the star described above .



Figure 2: Order of Kamehameha I, Knight Grand Cross.
(courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution)

Knight Commander: Limited to 30 individuals, this version of the order (Figure 3) is worn with the medal, suspended by a gold crown, from a neck cravat. A total of 56 awards were made.



Figure 3: Order of Kamehameha I, Knight Commander.



Figure 4: Order of Kamehameha I, Knight Companion.

Knights Companion: The medal (Figure 4) is limited to 50 individuals and is edged in silver with the same motto and inscription as the higher classes. The statutes provided it "...shall be worn on the left breast when in full dress uniform, otherwise, the ribbon alone shall be worn; the said ribbon shall be of silk and of alternate stripes of yellow and blue."

However, the description of the badges and ribbons as described by Medcalf differs from the descriptions found in the founding statutes of the order. Known examples of the insignia and ribbons of the order correspond to the descriptions found in Medcalf's booklet; specifically, the ribbons being red and white stripes and the insignia having gold or silver rays between the arms of the Maltese cross.

The Royal Order of King Kalākaua I

Established by the king (Figure 5) on September 28, 1875, the order comes in five classes. The order (see an example in Figure 6) was created to both celebrate his accession to the throne on February 12, 1874, and to recognize exceptional service to either the king or to the kingdom as a whole.

The initial awards were overwhelmingly presented to individuals in and associated with the Hawaiian Islands. It was last conferred on August 1, 1892, by Queen Lili'uokalani, and the following year was eliminated. A total of 253 awards (in all classes) were granted before it ceased to be awarded.



Figure 5: King Kalākaua I.

The central feature is the medal of the order, which is similar to that of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, except the Maltese cross is Prussian blue edged in white, surmounted by a Hawaiian crown. The arms of the cross are edged in either gold or silver, depending on the grade. Between the arms of the cross, a gilt wreath is intersected by Kapu sticks (a ball and stick insignia) that extend outward between each arm.



Figure 6: Order of King Kalākaua I, star.

In the center of the cross, a white enamel medallion is bordered on both sides by gold or silver, depending on the grade of award, and bears the inscription **KALAKAUA FEBRUARY 12TH 1874**. The center of the medallion a *kāhili* (feathered standard of Hawaiian royalty) is shown against a blue background. The medal is suspended from a crown that connects it to the ribbon. On the reverse, the medallion in the center of the cross bears the monogram **KIK** surrounded by a wreath.

Knight Grand Cross with Cordon: This grade of the order was limited to 12 recipients and granted only to heads of state. It consisted of a collar chain with alternating monograms **K.I.K.** and *Kāhili* (the symbol of royalty) in red and yellow enamel. An octagonal silver breast star (Figure 6) bears the medal of the order.

Knight Grand Cross: Limited to 20 individuals, and awarded to a total of 38 recipients, this grade consisted of a breast star like the one used on the Knight Grand Cross with cordon, and the Maltese cross is bordered in gold with Prussian blue and white enamel surmounted by a Hawaiian crown (see Figure 7). The Maltese cross is attached to the bow of a deep blue sash, resting at the left hip.



Figure 7: Order of King Kalākaua I, Grand Cross cordon.

Grand Officer: Limited to 20 individuals and awarded to a total of 49 recipients, this version's insignia was the breast star in silver, one-quarter of an inch smaller in diameter than the star of the Knight Grand Cross.

Commander: Limited to 30 individuals and awarded to a total of 95 recipients, its Insignia is as described



Figure 8: Order of King Kalākaua I, Commander.

above in gold, surmounted by a Hawaiian Crown. The reverse bears the word **KEOLA** (life or health), with a wreath beneath it on the lower edge of the shield. The medal (Figure 8) is the same as that of the Grand Officer but is worn on a neck cravat. The ribbon is eight stripes alternating blue and white.

Companion: This grade was limited to 60 individuals and was awarded to a total of 73 recipients. Insignia for Companions is the same as that of the Commander, but its arms are enameled in silver. The reverse bears the word **KEOLA**, with a wreath beneath it on the lower edge of the Shield.

The ribbons for all classes consist of eight alternating stripes of blue and white. The Commander class is worn suspended from the neck, and all other classes are worn affixed to the left breast, except when the sovereign makes a special direction that any person may be permitted to wear the Star of the Grand Cross suspended by a collar around the neck.

The Royal Order of Kapi'olani

King Kalākaua I established the Royal Order of Kapi'olani on August 30, 1880, for service in the cause of humanity, science, art, and for services rendered to the state or sovereign. It was named after High Chiefess Kapi'olani (1781-1841), an early exponent of Christianity. The Order of Kapi'olani was established in seven classes.



Figure 9: Royal Order of Kapi'olani, star and grand cordon.
(courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

The central feature of this order (see Figure 9) is a Maltese cross in red enamel, edged in gold or silver (depending on the class). A Hawaiian crown appears between the arms of the cross, and the upper cross of the arm bears a small medallion bearing the portrait of Queen Kapi'olani.

In the center of the Maltese cross is a white enameled band edged in either gold or silver (depending on the class). The band bears the inscription **KULIA I KANUU** (strive to reach the summit). When worn as a medal, the Maltese cross is surmounted by a Hawaiian crown. The breast star is an octagonal silver star bearing the Maltese cross without the crown.

Grand Cross: This class was limited to 12 recipients. Its elements include the star and the medal worn on a grand cordon. The grand cordon is yellow, bordered by white, red, and blue stripes forming the colors of the Hawaiian flag.

High Grand Officer: This class was limited to 15 recipients. Awards employed the same insignia as the Grand Cross, but a quarter of an inch smaller. The medal was worn at the neck from a cravat of different colors (a field of red with four gold stripes of equal width).

Grand Officer: Limited to 20 recipients, recipients in this grade only wore the breast star, but of a slightly smaller size than that of the High Grand Officer.

Commander: Limited to 30 recipients, recipients only wore the sash with the medal, but the crowns on the badge were silver rather than gold.

Officer: Limited to 50 recipients, recipients of this version wore the one nearly identical to the Commander's, but smaller. It was worn on the breast, with a rosette on the ribbon (see Figure 10).



Figure 10: Royal Order of Kapi'olani, Officer.

Companion (Knight): This grade was limited to 60 recipients who wore the same medal as the Officers, but without the rosette.

Medal of Honor (no limit): The badges in both classes were similar to those of the Companion class but lacked the crowns between the arms and the crown surmounting the cross. When awarded in the First Degree, the medal was made of silver; when awarded in the Second Degree, it was bronze.

The Royal Order of The Crown of Hawai'i

This order was founded in 1848 by King Kamehameha III to commemorate his ascension to the throne. It was given for loyalty and meritorious service to the Crown or in the fields of culture and education. A total of 235 awards were made for all classes, including promotions within the order.



Figure 11: Royal Order of The Crown of Hawai'i, cordon.
(courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

The Crown of Hawai'i Order (Figure 11) was established in seven classes, with modification of the basic design as noted. The basic design was a gilt-edged, white enameled variation of a Maltese cross with flat ends. In the center of the cross, a blue enameled medallion edged in gold bears the inscription **HAWAII KE KALAUNU** (crown of Hawaii). The cross is suspended by a gilt Hawaiian crown.

Grand Cross: The star that accompanies this order displays silver rays emanate from the arms of the cross (Figure 12). The medal is worn pendant from a cordon of white and blue ribbon, with the cross suspended at the end of the cordon under a bow.



Figure 12: Royal Order of The Crown of Hawai'i, star.
(courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

Grand Officer: This grade of the Royal Order of the Crown of Hawai'i includes a star one quarter of an inch smaller in diameter than the Grand Cross, with a cordon of white and blue ribbon, an inch less in width than that of the Grand Cross, but without a cross suspended from the cordon.

Commander: The insignia for the Commander (Figure 13) is the cross as described above in gold, surmounted by the Hawaiian crown.



Figure 13: Royal Order of the Crown of Hawai'i, Commander.

Officer: The insignia of the Officer is the cross one-eighth inch smaller than that of the Commander, worn on the left breast, with a rosette on the ribbon.

Companion: A cross of the same size as the Officer grade, but of silver, and worn on the left breast without the rosette attached to the ribbon.

Gold Medal: A gold medal, worn on the left breast. Its ribbon is eight stripes, alternating white and blue.

Silver Medal: A silver medal, worn on the left breast. Its ribbon is eight stripes, alternating white and blue.

The Royal Order of the Star of Oceania

The Royal Order of the Star of Oceania was established on December 16, 1886, by King Kalākaua and he was the only monarch to confer this order. It was established as a diplomatic tool to promote the unity of Pacific island nations. King Kalākaua was especially interested in creating a "confederation of Polynesian

nations and Pacific Islands” to strengthen regional ties and resist colonial expansion. Unique among the Royal Hawaiian orders, the statutes of the order of the Star of Oceania specified a full-dress uniform for its members (see below).

The designer of the Royal Order of the Star of Oceania was Isobel Osbourne Strong, the stepdaughter of the writer Robert Louis Stevenson. The order was officially established:

...for the recompense of distinguished services rendered to Us or to Our State and in advancing the name and influence of Hawaii amongst the native communities of the Islands of the Pacific and Indian Ocean, and on contiguous Continents.

Appointments to the order differ from the four other Royal Hawaiian orders in that the Executive Council of the Order had the ability to nominate and appoint members:

Appointments may be made to the several classes in Executive Council of the Order, or otherwise, in the discretion of the Grand Master.



Figure 14: Royal Order of The Star of Oceania, Grand Officer.
(courtesy of Smithsonian Institution)

Article XII of the Statutes established a Court Dress for members of the Order, provided that:

All members of the Order ... shall wear a full-dress uniform on all occasions when convened by the Grand Master. The dress shall be: a black dress coat, with cuffs and lapels of the collar trimmed with green and gold cord; a white satin vest trimmed with gold and green cord; knee breeches; garters ornamented with gems; black silk stockings; patent leather slippers; a Court rapier with gold and green tassel; and Court Chapeau without plume.

The insignia of the order is a star of five points with intermediate rays (Figure 14). Centered within the star, a five-pointed star (point up) enameled in green and white has either a gold or silver border, depending on its class. In the center of the cross, a circular band in crimson bordered in gold, bears the words **KA HOKU O OSIANIA** (the star of Oceania) in gold letters. Above the Star's uppermost point, a Hawaiian crown in gold is surrounded by white enamel and rays. There were a number of Awards, including promotion within the order for all Classes.

Grand Cross: The insignia of the Order for the Grand Cross was a breast star with a cordon of green silk ribbon bearing the medal suspended from a Hawaiian crown.

Grand Officer: The insignia for Grand Officer was the same as the Grand Cross, but one-eighth of an inch smaller in diameter, and without the cordon. Any person holding the Grand Officer Cross could also wear a slightly smaller version of the Commander's medal suspended from the neck.

Commander: The Insignia for Commander was a medal one-eighth of an inch smaller and was worn suspended by a ribbon around the neck with all other decorations affixed to the left breast. However, the sovereign made a special direction that any person could be permitted to wear the star of the Grand Cross suspended by a Collar from his neck or shoulder.

Officer: The insignia for an officer was the same medal as that of Commander, but somewhat smaller, worn on the left breast.

Companion: The insignia for Companion of the Order was a small star attached to a looped ribbon to the left lapel of the coat.

1st Class Medal (Gold): This medal of the order is in gold, worn on the left breast.

2nd Class Medal (Silver): This medal of the order is in silver and is worn on the left breast.

Suspension and Reinstatement of Royal Orders and the Modern Conflict

The 1893 coup d'état by pro-American parties deposed Queen Lili'uokalani and established a short-lived republic, which was subsequently annexed by the United States in 1898. Although Hawaii's royal orders fell into abeyance, their reinstatement is linked to the modern native Hawaiian independence movement. However, there is an interesting problem: Hawaii became a state on August 21, 1959.

As a result, descendants of the Hawaiian royal family have no official governing power or special legal status under either federal or state laws. Descendants of the royal family may be socially referred to as a "Prince" or "Princess" by *fons honorum* in recognition of their ancestry, but they are not official state titles and carry no legal significance. Under United States law, Hawaii is a state within the union, and no hereditary titles are legally recognized by the Federal government.

This interpretation conflicts with Hawaii's monarchist movement, in which some scholars assert that the Kingdom of Hawaii continues to be a sovereign state currently under illegal occupation. Many of the monarchists believe the descendants of the royal family have a "natural right" under international law to have the throne restored.

Reinstatement of Royal Orders: In 2016, the current head of the Hawaiian royal house, H.R.H. Princess Owana Ka'ōhelelani, reinstated the Order of the Crown of Hawaii and the Order of the Star of Oceania. These orders are recognized by the International Commission for Orders of Chivalry (I.C.O.C.) and The Augustan Society as legitimate orders of merit awarded by a non-ruling royal house. As expressed by His Excellency David Keali'iimaika'i Castro, Chancellor of the Royal Hawaiian Orders:

The Hawaiian Royal Orders of Knighthood were established for diplomacy and to award individuals for their services to the Hawaiian Kingdom, as well as to sovereigns and those in the fields of art, culture, science, and chivalry. Re-establishing the Royal Orders of Hawaii is vital for the prescriptive continuity of the Royal House of Hawaii and sovereignty. It also still serves as an important diplomatic tool and awards system today for Her Royal Highness Princess Owana Ka'ōhelelani, who is the current Head of the Royal House of Hawaii. There are many people who are very chivalrous and assist the royal house through charity, work, and support. Chivalry is still very much alive in modern society, and it is always an honor for Her Royal Highness to award and invest individuals in the Hawaiian royal orders.

The photos shown in the sections below were provided by David Keali'iimaika'i Castro, Chancellor of the Royal House of Hawai'i.

The Restored Royal Order of the Crown of Hawaii

The amended Royal Order of the Crown of Hawaii was reinstated in 2016 in five degrees. The restored order (see Figure 15) employs the same basic design as the original version; however, the blue enamel band in the center of the cross was replaced with purple enamel and the inscription **ONIPAA** (steadfast or resolute).



Figure 15: Re-instituted Royal Order of the Crown of Hawaii.

The ribbon colors were changed to gold with purple stripes in the following configurations:

- Sash or grand cordon worn over the shoulder with the medal attached at a bow over the hip
- Gold or silver star worn on the left breast
- Gold medal worn at the neck from a cravat
- Miniature medal
- Lapel pin.

Grand Cross: This version of the order consists of the medal on a cordon, a gold breast star, and a gold lapel pin.

Grand Officer: At this level, the order consists of a gold breast star, a gold medal on a cravat, and a gold miniature medal (Figure 16).

Knight Commander: Consists of a silver breast star, a gold medal on a cravat, and a gold miniature medal (Figure 17).

Knight: For a Knight, the order is a gold medal on a cravat and a gold miniature medal.



Figure 16: Re-instituted Royal Order of the Crown of Hawaii, Grand Officer.



Figure 18: Re-instituted Royal Order of the Crown of Hawaii, Officer.

Royal Order of the Star of Oceania

The Royal Order of the Star of Hawaii in five degrees or classes was reinstated in 2016. The order (Figure 19) retains its original design of the medal and ribbon.



Figure 17: Re-instituted Royal Order of the Crown of Hawaii, Commander (female).

Officer: The Officer level is a silver medal on a cravat and a silver miniature medal (Figure 18).



Figure 19: Re-instituted Royal Order of the Star of Oceania, Commander.

Grand Cross: This version of the order consists of a breast star, sash with gold medal, gold miniature medal, and gold lapel pin.

Grand Officer: The Grand Officer award has a breast star, gold medal on a cravat, gold miniature with medal, silver crown lapel pin.

Commander: At this level, the order is a silver medal (Figure 19) on a cravat and a silver miniature medal.

Officer: The Officer award has a silver medal on a cravat and a silver miniature medal.

Note: Gordon Medcalf's 1963 booklet, *Hawaiian Royal Orders*, provides the most definitive work on the Royal Orders, including a list of appointments to each order by year and grade and the name of the individual receiving the appointment.

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Personal Papers, University of Virginia Archives.

About the Author: Philip Puckett is a retired naval officer and civil servant with over 40 years of combined federal service. His collecting interest is centered on US federal non-military awards and decorations. In retirement he volunteers at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History supporting the military and political, and numismatics curators and as a volunteer docent at the National Museum of the United States Army.

STILL TIME TO ATTEND THE 2026 OMSA CONVENTION

*Thursday, August 13th through Sunday, August 16th, 2026
Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, Minnesota*



Registration forms and information are on the following pages.

2026 OMSA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

THE ORDERS AND MEDALS SOCIETY OF AMERICA
67th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
 Thursday, August 13th through Sunday, August 16th, 2026
 Hilton Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, 3800 American Blvd. East Bloomington, MN 55425

Name _____ OMSA Member No. _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

First time attendee? Yes ____ No ____ If so, would you like some orientation help? Yes ____ No ____.

MEMBER AND DEALER REGISTRATION (see notes on reverse side of form):

Member advance registration (postmarked by July 15, 2026) @ \$225 each \$ _____

Member late registration (postmarked AFTER July 15, 2026) @ \$260 each \$ _____

Employees of dealer members (postmarked by July 15, 2026) @ \$225 each \$ _____

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Immediate family member registration, for access to bourse only

NAMES: _____ @ \$45 each. \$ _____

All full member and dealer employee registrations include Thursday Reception and Saturday Banquet.

Saturday banquet meal selection (coats and ties for men are encouraged):

Name of registered member and/or employee	Beef	Chicken	Vegetarian
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS & GUESTS BANQUET TICKETS:

Saturday banquet (includes Bourse access) @ \$125 x _____ persons = \$ _____

Names of family members and/or guests	Beef	Chicken	Vegetarian
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Special meal requirements? _____

BOURSE (see notes on reverse side of form):

Bourse tables (6' x 30" with **no** tablecloths provided) @ \$90 each x _____ tables = \$ _____

Bourse display cases (33" x 21") @ \$75 each x _____ cases = \$ _____

Electrical hook-up to bourse tables must be scheduled through the hotel in advance. There will be a charge payable directly to the hotel. Check here and a request form will be sent to you. Hook-up? ____

GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED

EXHIBITS (see notes on reverse)

\$ _____

This year's convention theme - **INDIAN WARS 1865-1891**

There is no charge to exhibitors for tables and/or cases. OMSA rules limit each competitive display to five cases. Please advise of us any special requirements and we will attempt to help. Since display tables and cases are often in short supply, please keep us informed if your plans change. If you only need half a table, please indicate below:

Exhibit tables (8' x 30" No covers provided) _____ or number of linear feet required _____.

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COVENANT NOT TO SUE MUST BE SIGNED OR YOUR REGISTRATION CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

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Telephone: 952-854-2100 Reservations: 1-952-854-2100 (press 5) National toll free: 1-800-445-8667

Ask for the OMSA 2026 convention rate before July 24 to receive the \$149 plus tax convention room rate.

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REGISTRATION NOTE

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BOURSE NOTE

A copy of the OMSA Bourse Rules is published in the Membership Handbook and may be available prior to the Convention. Table holders are reminded that the bourse is limited to the sale, trade, and/or display of original orders, medals and decorations of the world as well as directly related material such as documents, books, uniforms and uniform parts, trophies and awards in non-traditional forms, supplies and equipment for collecting awards and other related material. Reproductions may be displayed in the bourse provided they are permanently marked and presented as such. FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION OF ALL TYPES ARE NOT PERMITTED. RELIGIOUS ICONS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

EXHIBITOR NOTE

Anyone planning to enter a competitive exhibit should carefully read the section STANDARD OMSA EXHIBITION REGULATIONS in the OMSA Membership Handbook.

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE GRAND TOTAL CHARGED YOUR VISA / MASTERCARD. THESE ARE THE ONLY CARDS OMSA ACCEPTS.

CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____ CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

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<p>For valuable consideration, receipt of which is acknowledged, the undersigned hereby covenants with the Orders and Medals Society of America, its successors and assigns, to hold harmless and to forever refrain and desist from instituting or asserting against the Orders and Medals Society of America and its directors, officers, employees and volunteers, any claim demand, cause of action or suit of whatever kind or nature, either directly or indirectly, for injuries or damages in connection with or resulting from the undersigned's attendance of the Orders and Medals Society of America 67th Annual International Convention, August 13 - 16, 2026, at the Hilton Minneapolis/St Paul Airport 3800 American Blvd. East Bloomington, MN 55425</p>	
_____ SIGNATURE	_____ DATE

THE MEDALS OF COLONEL HENRY MOSTYN-OWEN, CB, MVO

Barney Mattingly



Figure 1: Colonel Henry Mostyn-Owen, CB, MVO.

Henry Mostyn-Owen (Figure 1) was born on April 26, 1858 in Headington (Oxfordshire), England. His father was Oxfordshire's Chief Constable. He attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and on January 30, 1878, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers), a British heavy cavalry regiment. He soon sailed for India to join his new regiment, which was already stationed there.

The Second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-80)

With the second phase of the Second Anglo-Afghan War underway from September 1879 to September 1880, the Carabiniers were ordered to cross the Khyber Pass, arriving at Basawul, Afghanistan, on October 28,

1879 (Figure 2). Mostyn-Owen was initially stationed at Basawul (25 miles beyond the Khyber Pass), under the command of Captain Hardin Burnley-Campbell.

In January 1880, Captain Burnley-Campbell's squadron, consisting of 94 sabres, escorted prisoners from Basawul to Fort Dakka, where they were ordered to remain due to heightened threats by enemy forces. The squadron protecting the Royal Horse Artillery guns was part of a composite unit of 900 soldiers under the command of Colonel Theodore Waiter Ross Boisragon.

On January 15, 1880, the 30th Punjab Infantry engaged a much larger hostile force of 5400 under the command of the Khan of Lalpura. After heavy musket fire and shelling throughout the morning, the infantry advanced up the hill and drove the enemy back. This engagement came to be referred to as the Battle of Gara Heights or the Action at Dakka (not to be confused with the better-known Battle of Kam Dakka).

For his role in this action, Colonel Boisragon was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath. Both Burnley-Campbell and Mostyn-Owen were mentioned in the dispatches.

Mostyn-Owen participated in two more expeditions during the Second Anglo-Afghan War. The first occurred in March of 1880, when a force under the command of Lieutenant Colonel George Carr Hodding, and 4th Madras Native Infantry, advanced into the Chardeh Valley.

The second occurred under the command of Brigadier General Charles George Arbuthnot in April of 1880, against the Wazir Khogyani tribe. Neither engagement amounted to much, and the regiment returned to India



Figure 2: Officers of the 6th Dragoon Guards.



Figure 3: Lieutenant Colonel Mostyn-Owen.

in August of 1880. In addition to being mentioned in dispatches, Mostyn-Owen received the Afghanistan Medal for his service.

The Carabiniers remained in India until 1888, with Mostyn-Owen serving as an interpreter. He also served as the regiment's adjutant from February 3, 1886, to February 2, 1891. As the regiment's adjutant, he acted as the commanding officer's right-hand man and had administrative responsibility for the entire regiment.

Mostyn-Owen was promoted to lieutenant on July 1, 1881, to captain on December 4, 1886, and to major on July 1, 1895. He received the 1897 Jubilee Medal in silver for riding in the Royal Procession at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee on June 22, 1897. Of

approximately 4,000 Jubilee Medals awarded, only 980 were awarded to Army officers.

The Second Boer War (1899-1902)

On January 22, 1898, Mostyn-Owen transferred into the 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards (KDG). He was promoted to lieutenant colonel (Figure 3) on June 14, 1898, and assumed command of the regiment.

While still in command of the KDG, he briefly commanded a cavalry brigade consisting of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, 8th Hussars, 14th Hussars, and 21st Lancers when they lined the streets during Queen Victoria's visit to Dublin, Ireland, in April of 1900.

Although the Second Boer War started in October of 1898, the King's Dragoon Guards did not arrive in South Africa until January of 1901 (Figure 4). The regiment's most significant action occurred in February of 1901, when they were assigned to a column under Colonel (later Field Marshal) Herbert Plumer. Pursuing General Christiaan de Wet's army, Mostyn-Owen led the force that captured de Wet's artillery.

In his March 8, 1901 *London Gazette* despatch, General Horatio Herbert Kitchener wrote:

The close pursuit of the various columns had the effect of driving De Wet north to the Orange River, west of Hopetown, where, being hotly pressed by General Plumer, his 15-pounder gun and a pom-pom were captured by our mounted troops under Lieutenant Colonel Owen, 1st King's Dragoon Guards.

This chase was widely covered in contemporary newspapers, with Mostyn-Owen being reported as



Figure 4: The King's Dragoon Guards before leaving for South Africa.

“the man who captured De Wet’s guns.” The King’s Dragoon Guards spent the rest of the war in South Africa trying to corral the Boers, occasionally engaging with them while incurring casualties along the way.

The war ended in May of 1902, and the regiment’s casualties included 14 officers and 69 enlisted ranks. For his service, Mostyn-Owen was made a Companion of the Military Division of the Order of the Bath (*London Gazette* June 26, 1902), mentioned in the despatches (*London Gazette* June 17, 1902), and received the Queen’s South Africa Medal with five clasps. He finished his four years as the King’s Dragoon Guards commanding officer on June 14, 1902, was breveted to colonel on June 14, 1902 and placed on half-pay on August 9, 1902.

Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary was the ceremonial Colonel-in-Chief of the King’s Dragoon Guards. During an inspection on July 1, 1903, the emperor personally awarded several orders and gallantry medals to soldiers in the regiment for their Boer War service. Mostyn-Owen received the Order of the Iron Crown, Second Class (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Austria-Hungarian Order of the Iron Crown, Second Class (Courtesy of eMedals).

British Army Lists confirm he was granted restricted permission to wear this foreign order, which meant he could only wear it during affairs involving Austria-Hungary. Unrestricted permission to wear was most commonly granted when the foreign country was an ally during a war. This permission was withdrawn when England declared war against Austria-Hungary in 1914.

King Edward VII’s Visit to Austria-Hungary (1903)

Since Franz Joseph was the ceremonial Colonel-in-Chief of the King’s Dragoon Guards, Mostyn-Owen was attached to King Edward VII’s suite and accompanied the King during a visit to Austria-Hungary in August 1903. Upon arrival in Vienna on August 31, 1903, King Edward met with Franz Joseph (Figure 6), who was dressed in the uniform of the King’s Dragoon Guards.



Figure 6: Emperor Franz Joseph in the uniform of the King’s Dragoon Guards.

After a 4-kilometer parade in an open carriage, the group headed to Hofburg Palace in Vienna for a state dinner, where King Edward appointed Franz Joseph a field marshal of the British Army. For his service, the King presented Mostyn-Owen with the Royal Victorian Order, Fourth Class (*London Gazette* October 9, 1903). Unlike other British orders, the Royal Victorian Order is awarded at the sole discretion of the monarch.

On December 24, 1904, Mostyn-Owen was made Assistant Inspector of Remounts in South Africa and promoted to Colonel. He was advanced to Assistant Director of Remounts on August 3, 1906, and retired on April 3, 1907.

World War I (1914-1918) and Beyond

On October 14, 1914, during World War I, Mostyn-Owen was reemployed as Colonel in Charge of Hussars Records, a position he held until he again

retired on May 4, 1918. His name was included in the March 13, 1918, press communiqué (i.e., a 'Class B' mention) "for valuable service in connection with the war" (published in *The Times*, March 15, 1918). Unlike a traditional mention in despatches, the 'Class B' mention was awarded to military personnel and civilians for service at home, and was not published in *The London Gazette*.

Mostyn-Owen married Hilda Mary Gunter, daughter of Sir Robert Gunter, M.P. on September 18, 1894. They had two sons and two daughters. Their older son received the Military Cross in 1917 while serving with the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Their younger son drowned in 1918 while serving with the Royal Navy. Mostyn-Owen died on November 18, 1927 at Hambleton House, Malton (Yorkshire).

Mostyn-Owen's medal entitlement includes:

- The Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military)
- The Royal Victorian Order, 4th Class (reverse officially numbered **192**)

- 1897 Jubilee Medal in silver

- Afghanistan Medal 1878-80, no clasp (engraved **2nd Lt. Hy. M. Owen. 6th D. Gds**)

- Queen's South Africa Medal, 5 clasps, **CAPE COLONY, ORANGE FREE STATE, TRANSVAAL, SOUTH AFRICA 1901, SOUTH AFRICA 1902** (engraved **Lt. Col. H.M. Owen 1/ Drgn: Gds:**).

Note that the last two clasps are missing from his mounted group.

About the Author: Barney Mattingly is a long-time member of OMSA and frequent contributor to this Journal. He lives in Georgia with his family and collects British medals to the Dragoon Guards.



Figure 8: Mostyn-Owen's medal group.

BRITISH MILITARY TELEGRAPHY AND SAPPER/SERGEANT WILLIAM STREETS: A Lifetime Career in Telegraphy

John Liffiton

Telegraphs work by sending electrical signals over long distances by wire. The sender does this by completing an electrical circuit that sends short and long electric pulses (dots and dashes) to a receiver. The sender closes the circuit by pressing a telegraph key. At the receiving end, the dots and dashes are recorded on moving paper or by a telegraphist who listens to the audible clicks. This process used the Morse code, which became the international standard in 1865. Relays were added to amplify and retransmit signals over long distances, thus enabling intercontinental communications.

The Beginning

The first telegram was sent in 1816 by Francis Ronalds (1788-1873) by using eight miles of iron wire strung between wooden frames. He offered his system to the Admiralty, but since they were already using an optical telegraph (e.g., semaphore), they saw no need for Ronald's invention.

Nevertheless, telegraphy grew quickly, and by 1846, the Electric Telegraph Company had branched out from supplying systems to railway companies and other businesses used by the public. Other European governments developed and controlled their own telegraph systems, but Britain's grew from private companies without government control. Between 1846 and 1870, no fewer than 64 telegraph companies were formed.

By 1843, Alexander Bain (1810-1877) invented and patented a fax machine for sending pictures by telegraph. Another innovation was uninsulated "air wires" suspended from poles on ceramic insulators, which quickly became ubiquitous, allowing for much wider geographical communication. The British government eventually realized the system needed to be controlled and standardized rather than being left to private companies. In 1868, Parliament passed the Telegraph Act, which took effect in July 1869. Interestingly, Samuel Morse (1791-1872) did not invent the communication tools; he developed them. The world-famous Morse code that bore his name was developed as early as 1838.

Undersea Cables

The development of undersea (or "submarine") telegraph cable networks emerged in the late nineteenth century and was used to extend the telegraph system

well beyond Britain's shores. The maintenance cost of undersea cables was exceptionally high. They were frequently damaged by ship anchors, and over time, their insulation deteriorated. Cables were at greatest risk in shallow waters near the coast, and deep-sea cables were problematic because they were difficult to retrieve for repair. Despite these challenges, telegraph companies persevered.



Figure 1: A small part of the 1,852 nautical mile Atlantic cable, laid in 1865.

In 1858, the transatlantic cable failed after a mere two weeks, and the Red Sea-to-India cable failed in 1859 because the line was too thin and taut, causing it to break in several places. Eventually, cable cores (see Figure 1) were twisted together and bound with tarred hemp, which in turn had iron wires twisted around them. They were much sturdier and were laid by the huge cable layer *SS Great Eastern*.

Although the technology improved, in 1868, the life expectancy of a cable was still only fifteen years, and most did not last that long. Nevertheless, in October of 1902, a worldwide network of cables and relay stations, called the All-Red Line (Figure 2), was inaugurated. It carried long-distance telecommunications to all parts of the British Empire without, for political and security reasons, having to pass through any non-British territory.



Figure 2: Map of the All-Red Line.

Nationalization and the Era of Rapid Growth

Although the British telegraph companies were nationalized and operated by the General Post Office (GPO), companies operating international undersea cables remained independent. The GPO made massive changes and extended its telegraph services. The Standard Telephone and Cable company was finally nationalized in 1890, bringing international undersea cables and cable ships under Post Office control.

The company also brought cable service to the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, the Orkneys and Shetlands, to name a few. The Post Office Telegraphs, the branch of the GPO running the telegraph network, located its head office on Telegraph Street and extended services to town centers and outlying railway stations. Its policy was to provide telegraph facilities at every office where money orders could be sent.

This expansion greatly increased the number of offices, and from 1869 to 1870, London offices increased from 95 to 334, and by 1872, the GPO had 5,000 offices from which 90% of telegrams were sent (involving about 12 million messages per year). More lines were required as more telegraph offices were added to the system, and by 1872, there were over 6,000 instruments on the 22,000 miles of line in the United Kingdom alone. Telegraph Street was the world's largest telegraph center and worked worldwide connections on the imperial telegraph network.

The government quickly learned that maintenance costs and the cost of purchasing the right of access across private land were expensive. That was why the various companies were never profitable. To make it more affordable for the public and attract more

customers, prices were kept low. A flat rate of one shilling was charged regardless of message length. At that price, the public could afford to use the telegraph system for mundane everyday messages, which helped boost profits.

Another very important privilege was that telegraph companies offered news services to regional newspapers. There were agreements with Reuters to supply shipping, commercial, and foreign news to subscribers in London. The public clamored for up-to-date political, financial, and sporting news, but in the long run, telegraphs were never cheaper than the postal service, and eventually the telephone and, more recently, the internet brought an end to telegrams and telegraphy.

Military Telegraphy

The use of telegraph technology has been historically important. Portugal created a Military Telegraph Corps in 1810 and, since 1884, has had a field telegraph company. The first British military use of the telegraph in action was during the Crimean War (1853–1856), with the introduction of "Signalers," soldiers specialized in providing communications. These specialists used telegraph wagons, cable carts, and ploughs to lay copper cables. For example, twenty-five sappers under the command of Lieutenant Stopford of the Royal Engineers laid over 20 miles of copper wire connecting eight telegraph offices. In addition, a 340-mile submarine cable was laid from Varna to Balaklava.

During the Indian Mutiny in 1857, urgent telegrams could take as long as 40 days to reach London because they had to be sent to the coast of India, where they were then transported by ship. Obviously,

the government needed a better telegraph connection to India. The previously mentioned Red Sea-to-India cable failure in 1859 had a significant impact, which was not resolved until 1864, when a connection to India was finally established. It was the first extremely long submarine cable to run a shorter distance from Karachi to Fao, Iraq, and then to use overland routes. It was still 1,450 miles (2,330 km) long. The telegraph enabled much greater central control over overseas possessions.

Prior to this successful communications system, colonial officials had considerable latitude for independent action due to routine communication delays. The establishment of an effective telegraph system greatly reduced their independence, and it also took time for embedded attitudes to change.

The Volunteer Corps

When the Volunteer Force was formed in the United Kingdom in 1859, William Keppell, the 7th Earl of Albemarle (1832-94), raised the 21st Middlesex Rifles Volunteer Corps. The unit was also known as the Civil Service Rifles since they recruited from London-based civil servants. Enough men from the GPO were recruited to form a company, which was called the "Post Office Company" (Figure 3).

During the 1867 Fenian troubles, special GPO constables were raised and trained by the NCOs of the Civil Service Rifles. After these constables asked to be formed into a volunteer rifle unit, the 49th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps (or Post Office Rifles) was formed from the Post Office Companies of the Civil Service Rifles. In 1880, the group was renumbered as the 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, the Post Office Rifles. Later,

the 24th would contribute over 1,000 enlisted men and 16 officers, of whom 46 would become fatalities from disease or wounds in the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902.

Two years after the Abyssinian War (1867-1868), a Signal Wing was created at the Chatham Depot. The military needed trained telegraphists, but using civilian volunteers was problematic because they lacked military training. In 1870, the C Telegraph Troop of the Royal Engineers was formed by the War Office, consisting of two officers and 133 enlisted ranks. It was the British Army's first formal professional body of signallers, and it provided communications by visual signaling, mounted orderlies, and by telegraph using land-speed Morse code sounders and recorders.

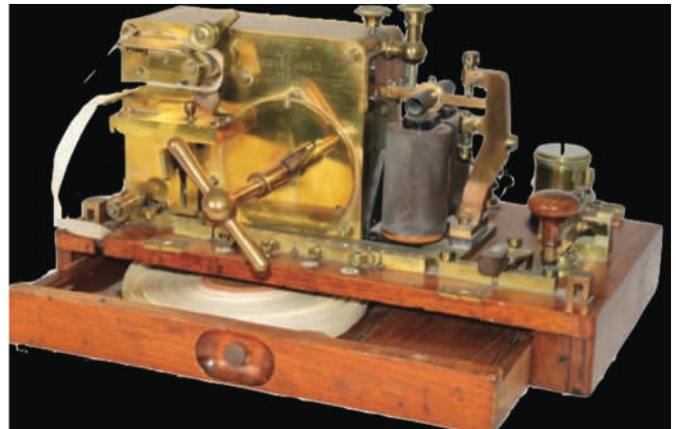


Figure 4: The Wheatstone Morse Receiver.

Charles Wheatstone (1802-1875) invented a machine (Figure 4) that replaced a human operator and could consistently send and record Morse code by a system in which dots and dashes were punched into a paper tape, much like a stock market ticker tape.



Figure 3: Post Office Volunteers.



Figure 5: The Telegraph Battalion in 1887.

Eventually, the Wheatstone Auto System kept advancing troops in contact with their headquarters by laying insulated telegraph cables. The army used Royal Engineers from the Telegraph Battalion on state telegraphs, withdrawing them for overseas duties in time of war.

By 1871, the telegraph troop had grown to five officers and 245 enlisted men. C Troop first saw action during the Anglo-Zulu War in 1879, and a total of 171 South Africa (1880) medals were issued to the men of C Troop for the campaign (40 without clasp 131, with the 1879 clasp).

Three years later, in the 1882 Egyptian campaign, two officers and 102 men laid cable in no-man's land to guide the advancing British and Indian troops. The

line later sent the first-ever victory signal directly from the battlefield. Those "volunteers" became the first to see combat, and the battle honor EGYPT 1882 was bestowed on the 24th Battalion. On May 1, 1884, it was consolidated with the 22nd and 34th companies of the Royal Engineers to form the Telegraph Battalion (Royal Engineers).

The C Troop, 1st Division, was based at Aldershot, while the Postal and Telegraph Companies, 2nd Division, were based in London. The battalion served in the Nile Campaign and the Fourth Ashanti War (1895-1896), where they hacked a 72-mile path through the thick jungle for an overhead line from the Gold Coast to Prahsu. The telegraph was also extensively used in the Sudan, where telegraph stamps (Figure 6) were used to charge the public for using the Telegraph system.



Figure 6: British military telegraph stamps used in the Sudan.



Figure 7: British sappers laying lines in South Africa.

Telegraphy during the Boer War

“Wireless telegraphy” was first attempted by the British Army and Royal Navy during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) had invented the wireless telegraph in 1896, and three years later, the Boer Republic ordered six wireless telegraphy sets from Siemens & Halske at £110 pounds each to be used for communications between the forts around Pretoria. Using antennas 36 meters high, they had a nearly 15-kilometer range. The Boers never received the sets because they were confiscated by customs in Cape Town.

The British Army tried unsuccessfully to use the equipment but was plagued by problems with ground conductivity and antenna resonance mismatches.

Its failure had an adverse effect on the British Army, leading to a lack of interest in wireless telegraphy. On the other hand, the Boer forces were progressive in telegraph and telephone communications. The Boers even had a telephone exchange well before the British Army.

The Royal Navy was more receptive and took five sets from the army, installing them in Delagoa Bay. In April of 1900, they were successfully used with a recorded range of 85 kilometers. There were also claims of communication between Durban and Delagoa Bay, a distance of around 460 kilometers.

There were 368 men on the rolls of the Telegraph Battalion mobilized for the Boer War. Different-sized flags and heliographs were used, along with oil lamps



Figure 8: Telegraphists using the Wheatstone System during the Second Anglo-Boer War.

with shutters for night communications. Skilled operators could signal as many as 8 to 12 words per minute. Heliographs could be seen up to 100 miles away. Each section of the Telegraph Battalion was supplied with three six-horse wagons and a two-horse cart which carried 20 miles of line (surface and insulated cables) and other vehicles for baggage, supplies, and technical equipment.

Combined Resources

Undersea telegraph cables combined with land lines enabled communication with the government in London. The Telegraph Battalion laid 18,000 miles of telegraph and telephone cable. Orders were given from London and headquarters at the division level or lower. The first time a telegraph battalion provided technical and strategic communications for the army was when General French controlled artillery fire via telegraph and telephone.

Telegraph and telephone wires for railway defenses were added and used extensively. Although the movements of the telegraph battalions are not well documented, there were two divisions, of which the first was sent to South Africa. It was normally stationed at Aldershot and employed in purely military work while constantly being exercised and drilled. The other division was attached to the Postal Telegraph Service and was responsible for a large district in southern England. Many of the men were in the 24th Middlesex or the Post Office Rifles.

During the Boer War, the 24th Middlesex contributed a large number of volunteers, including 16 officers and more than 1,000 enlisted men, who sustained 46 deaths from wounds and disease. In 1907, they were awarded the battle honor **SOUTH AFRICA 1899–1902**. The military eventually took control of the entire telegraph services in the four provinces. The battalion grew to 2,500 men and, over the course of the war, handled 13,500,000 messages.

The Royal Signals Service

The Telegraph Battalion of the Royal Engineers continued to serve overseas after the Boer War. In 1902, the 24th Middlesex was one of six rifle corps that formed the 4th City of London Brigade, and a detachment of the Royal Engineers' telegraph battalions was sent to Somaliland. During that campaign in 1903, the unit laid a 255-mile air-line from Berbera to Bohotle and Damot.

Royal Signals recruits were required to be at least 5 feet 2 inches tall. They initially enlisted for eight years of active duty and four years in the reserves. They trained at the Signal Training Centre at Catterick Camp in Richmond, Yorkshire, where all personnel were taught to ride.

The telegraph battalion was responsible for signaling until 1912, when the Royal Engineers Signal Service was formed. In wartime, every infantry division had companies of Royal Engineers added to it, including



Figure 9: British telegraph staff at General Buller's Headquarters, Ladysmith.



Figure 10: Post Office Rifles at King Edward Building ca 1915.

staff and four sections of the telegraph battalion, which totaled 226 officers and men.

The First World War

When the First World War broke out, fewer than six thousand men in the Royal Engineer Signals Service primarily provided telegraph service. These men provided essential communications during the war as motorcycle dispatch riders, carrier pigeon handlers, and wireless (radio) operators. Radio communications were used in every campaign from France and Flanders to Africa, Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Salonika. The 12,000 men who served in the Post Office Rifles during

the war included 1,800 who died and 4,500 who were wounded.

The telegraph proved vital during World War I. Both sides tried to damage each other's international telegraph lines. Post Office cable ships were in action just a few hours after the war was declared. At 11pm on August 4, 1914, the *CS Alert* cut the five German cables linking Germany directly to France, Spain, and the Azores (and indirectly to the rest of the world), almost completely isolating Germany. A most serious and important consequence of this cable-cutting for Germany was that it enabled Britain to intercept and



Figure 11: A telegraph communications post being installed "somewhere in France."

decode the infamous Zimmermann Telegram. It was a German attempt to forge an alliance with Mexico, in which the Germans promised to recognize Mexico's territorial gains in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas if Mexico would declare war on the United States.

Ironically, without a secure telegraph connection of its own to the Americas, the Germans were allowed to use the American diplomatic telegraph link, which the United States hopefully (and foolishly) believed would assist peace efforts. Ironically, that supposedly secure route passed through Britain, where British Intelligence reportedly intercepted the Zimmermann Telegram.

Britain claimed, however, that the telegram had been intercepted in Mexico to avoid the embarrassing public knowledge that they were listening to American diplomatic traffic. Germany's efforts, once made public, were partly responsible for the United States entering the war.

By 1919, about 70,000 signalers and telegraph operators had been largely replaced by the telephone. Advances in warfare required sophisticated systems of communication and trained personnel to run them; for this reason, the Royal Corps of Signals was formed in 1920.

William James Streets: A Splendid Example of a Military Telegraphist's Career

William Streets was born in Hackney, Middlesex, in 1864. He entered the Royal Engineers on April 15, 1898, at the age of 15. At the time, he was 5' 3" tall and weighed 93 pounds. He had grey eyes, dark brown hair, a scar on the back of his head, and was slightly knock-kneed. He was a member of the Church of England.

In 1899, before he served in South Africa, he married his wife, Maryjane. They had a daughter (Mary Jane Streets) in 1890 and a son (William Charles) in 1892. He served in "K" Telegraph Company (Royal Engineers) in South Africa from December 7, 1901, to October 28, 1902, for which he received his Queens South Africa medal. The Telegraph Company was established to provide a fixed communication service for the British Army. "L" Company provided mobile field communications, and "M" Company dealt with specialized communications.

On April 15, 1901, when he was 18 years old, Streets was made a sapper. On August 16, 1898, while in training, he suffered a fracture when leaving a urinal. As he was leaving, Streets slipped, and when he thrust his arm out to stop his fall, he fractured his left radius. His pay was withheld but reinstated after a court of inquiry found "...he was injured while he was on duty

under circumstances entirely beyond his own control." Streets' only other illness was tonsillitis, which he suffered twice in 1899. His education and training included:

- 3rd class education certificate, dated June 24, 1898
- 2nd class certificate, December 15, 1891
- Swimming (Chatham), September 20, 1899
- Office Telegraphy, March 16, 1900 (with a rating of "Fair")
- Permanent Line Telegraphy, February 14, 1901, with a rating of "Skilled"
- Electrical School, April 19, 1901 (Chatham) with a rating of "Skilled Telegraphist (Office)."

Streets was discharged in Dublin on April 14, 1910, as a Lance Corporal, and his conduct was described as "excellent."

From August 21, 1915, Sergeant Streets served in France and Flanders as a telegraphist in the Royal Engineers, for which he received his 1915 Star Trio. After the war, he continued his career at the GPO and, in 1921, was working at the South East District GPO station. According to the 1921 census, his daughter was a 31-year-old spinster working as a clerk at the Labor Exchange at Camberwell Green, while his son was a carpenter apprentice at the Electric Lift Company and was also single. The family lived at Southwark, London.

Streets made a career with the GPO and moved to a higher position. He was mentioned in the London Gazette of July 1, 1910 (p. 4659) when he was promoted "without competition" to Telegraphist in Birmingham. Thirty-three years later, on May 11, 1943, his Imperial Service Medal (GVI) was announced in the London Gazette when he was an Overseer in the Manchester Post Office. Streets died on March 7, 1959

Telegraphist medal groups are interesting because they span the early technology of the field, which was vital to the military and has only grown more vital over time. William James Streets was on the crest of the wave of communications when he served in the Boer War and World War I, and continued as a civil servant at the General Post Office. It was a long and interesting career, and it is nicely documented in his medal group.

Streets' medal group (Figure 12) reflects his long career, spanning 45 years. The Queens South Africa medal, issued on May 14, 1904, is officially impressed with the naming **1749 SAPR. W.J. STREETS, TEL: BN. RE.** It is quite scarce to find "**TEL: BN. R.E.**" on a Queens South Africa medal, as most awards to members in



this branch of service are simply impressed with **RE**. His 1915 Star trio is officially named to him as **74702 SERGEANT WILLIAM J. STREETS RE**. Finally, his Imperial Service Medal (GVI) is officially named to him simply as **WILLIAM JAMES STREETS**.

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“THE REVOLUTION IS CRUSHED, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS DEAD!” ARGENTINA’S CURIOUS REVOLUTION OF THE PARK

Dan Speir

Since Argentina declared independence from Spain in 1816, it has experienced no fewer than 10 military coups or revolutions. Perhaps the most peculiar coup was the brief “Revolution of the Park,” which took place from July 26 through 29, 1890. Like many revolutions, it resulted from mounting public dissatisfaction with the central government. While Argentina was ostensibly a republic, its president at the time, Miguel Juárez Celman (Figure 1), practiced the *unicato*, or one-man rule.



Figure 1: Miguel Juárez Celman.

By 1890, 60 percent of Buenos Aires’ population of 500,000 consisted of recent immigrants who had no right to vote. This meant that nearly 30 percent of Argentina’s population was disenfranchised. The lack of universal male suffrage, combined with fraud and corruption, gave President Celman and his National Autonomist Party unchecked power, which they used largely to their own personal advantage.

Corruption and Mismanagement

In addition to purely political grievances, the administration’s corruption and mismanagement ultimately brought the country’s economy to the point of crisis. Rampant inflation, caused in part by the federal government’s authorization of various local banks to print their own currency, led to bank failures and, in June of 1890, to the government’s default on its foreign debt. Francisco Barroetaveña, a prominent Argentine lawyer and politician, spoke for thousands

of Argentines when he mused that government “... administrators confused the public treasury with their own wealth.”

Rise of the Civic Union of Youth

The popular anger and dissatisfaction with the Celman administration’s economic and political policies resulted in the formation of a new political organization by Francisco Barroetaveña (Figure 2) in 1889. It was known as the *Union Civica de la Juventud* (Civic Union of Youth).



Figure 2: Francisco Barroetaveña.

This new political organization, soon to be known simply as the Civic Union, launched a series of demonstrations and protests against the government. Unconvinced that political agitation alone would bring down the Celman government, leaders of the Civic Union sought out disgruntled army and naval officers to join in plotting a revolution.

A junta was formed, led by a political leader (Leandro Alem), and a military leader (General Manuel Campos). Joining the rebels were one artillery regiment, two infantry battalions, one cavalry regiment, a battalion of engineers, cadets from the Argentine military academy, and the school for non-commissioned officers. Senior naval officers were less enthusiastic about joining the rebels, but six junior officers managed to commandeer the cruiser *Patagonia* (Figure 3), along with a river



Figure 3: The Argentine Cruiser *Patagonia*.

gunboat and a torpedo boat. Altogether, the rebels were able to muster about 1,500 men.

Although slow to recognize the threat, the government began to mobilize its superior numbers. Army loyalists numbered around 8,000 regulars and 236,000 national guardsmen, but most were spread across the country. Prior to the commencement of hostilities, the government could rely on two infantry battalions, two cavalry regiments, and the Buenos Aires police department, totaling approximately 3,000 men.

The Coup

Despite being outnumbered, the rebel leaders planned to seize the arsenal at the Buenos Aires *Parque de Artilleria* (Figure 4) which housed army rifles, field guns, and over half a million rounds of ammunition. At 4:00 in the morning of July 26, 1890, civilian volunteers, soldiers of the 9th Infantry Regiment, and cadets of the military academy converged on the park where they seized the arsenal and threw up barricades.



Figure 4: Buenos Aires *Parque de Artilleria*.

Four hours later, government troops, with artillery support, attempted to storm the arsenal but were repulsed. The following day, government troops again

stormed the arsenal, but again without success. By miscalculating the resources in the arsenal, the revolutionists found they had only 200,000 rounds, of which their untrained civilian volunteers had already expended 170,000 on the first day.

In addition, the rebels' naval support also failed to meet expectations. On the second day, the *Patagonia* began to shell government positions, but with minimal effect. That afternoon, two British warships and one Uruguayan warship entered Argentine waters and demanded a stop to the bombardment, forcing the rebel warships to leave the area. At the same time, thousands of loyal army troops began to arrive in Buenos Aires from outlying areas. Sensing increasing difficulties, General Campos (Figure 5) began negotiations with the government, demanding President Celman's resignation and a general amnesty for all rebels. The government refused those terms.



Figure 5: General Manuel J. Campos.

On the morning of July 29, 1890, the *Patagonia*, along with the two smaller warships, returned and resumed shelling the city. Over 100 shells were fired, but poor marksmanship minimized their effectiveness. Realizing their ability to continue the fight was diminishing, while the government's steadily increased, the rebels agreed to lay down their arms. The peace terms specified an amnesty for the rebels, civilian and military. Thus ended the Revolution of the Park.

After the Coup

Violent reprisals have often been the norm after unsuccessful South American revolutions, but on this occasion, they were not. The government realized that significant portions of the army and navy still wanted President Celman gone. Perhaps more importantly,

the disgruntled civilian population of Buenos Aires needed to be pacified, and over 60 Argentine congressmen demanded the president's resignation. On August 5, 1890, President Celman resigned, leading Senator Manuel Pizarro to remark, "The revolution is crushed, but the government is dead!" Despite its brevity, the revolution claimed a fair number of casualties: an estimated 700 loyalist soldiers were killed or wounded, along with approximately 400 rebels.



Figure 6: Obverse (left) and reverse of the official medal for "The Argentine People to the Defenders of National Liberty."

The Medals

After the revolution, the government authorized a campaign or service medal (Figures 6 and 7), presumably awarded only to loyalist troops that took part in the insurrection. Struck in bronze and measuring 33 x 25 mm, the obverse reads simply, **26 JULIO 1890**. The reverse reads, **EL PUEBLO ARGENTINO A LOS DEFENSORES DE LA LIBERTAD NACIONAL** (The Argentine People to the Defenders of National Liberty). The medal is considered scarce. Curiously, one source



Figure 7: Obverse (left) and reverse of the medal created for the "benefit of the injured and the families of victims."

claims that this medal was also awarded to the crew of the *USS Tallapoosa*, which was reportedly stationed off Buenos Aires during the revolution. However, this claim has not been corroborated.

Not to be outdone by the government, the revolutionists commissioned their own medals to commemorate their cause. An interesting medal (Figure 7) of unknown origin was made from spent projectiles fired during the revolution. The medal is 27mm in diameter, of high-quality gilt bronze, and was sold to benefit the victims of the revolution and their families. The obverse reads, **PORCION DE PROYECTIL SERVIDO EN LA REVOLUCION DE JULIO 1890** (Fragment of a Projectile Fired During the July Revolution of 1890); the reverse: **BENEFICIO DE LOS HERIDOS Y FAMILIAS DE LAS VICTIMAS 7 SETIEMBRE** (For the Benefit of the Injured and the Families of the Victims — September 7 [1890]).



Figure 8: Obverse (left) and reverse of the medal celebrating the third anniversary of the revolution.

An octagonal medal (Figure 8), 27 x 27 mm, of unknown origin, celebrating the third anniversary of the revolution, was produced in 1893. The obverse reads, **A LOS DEFENSORES DE LAS LIBERTADES CIVICAS** (To the Defenders of Civic Liberties); the reverse reads: **TERCERO ANIVERSARIO DE LA GLORIOSA REVOLUCION DE JULIO 1890** (Third Anniversary of the Glorious Revolution of July 1890). The medal is well-made of gilt bronze, identified only by the engraver's initials, **R.G.**

Two other identical medals were created in 1893. The wearable medal (Figure 9) reads, **HONOR Y GLORIA A LOS BRAVOS QUE CAYERON DEFENDIENDO LOS DERECHOS DEL PUEBLO JULIO 26 1893** (Honor and Glory to the Brave Who Fell Defending the Rights of the People). The reverse depicts a monument to the fallen of the revolution.



Figure 9: Obverse (left) and reverse of the medal for “Honor and Glory to the Brave Who Fell Defending the Rights of the People.”

Located in the famous Recoleta Cemetery of Buenos Aires, the monument also serves as the tomb of Leandro Alem and other leaders of the revolution (Figure 10). The medal’s reverse inscription reads: **A LAS VICTIMAS DE REVOLUCION JULIO 1890** (To the Victims of the Revolution July 1890). The medal is 30mm in diameter and is rather poorly struck in some type of pot metal. A larger table medal version, 56 mm in diameter, was struck in the same metal as the wearable medal.



Figure 10: Monument to the leaders of the revolution (Recoleta Cemetery, Buenos Aires).

The Radical Civic Union

Following the Revolution of the Park, some members of the Civic Union were dissatisfied with the lack of political reform, especially the failure to achieve universal male suffrage. Those hardliners soon split from the Civic Union and formed the Radical Civic Union. In 1897, the Buenos Aires Committee of the

Radical Civic Union struck a commemorative medal (Figure 11) honoring those who died in the Revolution of the Park.

The obverse features a winged-victory figure holding a torch and a wreath, with the date: **26 JULIO 1897**; the legend reads: **EL COMITE DE LA UNION CIVICA RADICAL A CAPITAL** (The Capital Committee of the Radical Civic Union). The reverse depicts the previously described monument to the fallen located in Recoleta Cemetery; the reverse legend reads: **HONOR Y GLORIA A LOS CAIDOS DEFENDIENDO LAS INSTITUCIONES REPUBLICANAS EN LAS JORNADAS DEL PARQUE 26 JULIO DE 1890** (Honor and Glory to the Fallen Defending Republican Institutions During the Days of the Park). The medal is 27mm in diameter and was struck in a pot metal, finished in silver gilt.



Figure 11: Obverse (left) and reverse of the medal of the Capital Committee of the Radical Civic Union.

Unfortunately, the peace following the Revolution of the Park was short-lived. In the summer of 1893, Leandro Alem and the Radical Civic Union led another rebellion against the Argentine government, which was also crushed, but this time there were no concessions. Alem was exiled to a penal colony and, shortly after his release, he committed suicide.

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THE PHILIPPINES' GREAT BANDMASTER: WALTER HOWARD LOVING

Joseph T. N. Suarez



Figure 1: W. H. Loving, Bandmaster of the Philippine Constabulary Band.

Historians of the American-era Philippines often focused on governors-general, commanding generals, and administrative reformers. However, embedded within that history was a man whose contributions were neither tactical nor political. Walter Howard Loving (Figure 1) never commanded troops in battle; instead, he built one of the most disciplined and respected military bands of the early twentieth century. In the process, he helped shape the professional identity of the Philippine Constabulary and left a legacy which continues to the present, over 100 years later.

Born in Lovingson, Virginia in December 1872, he was part of the generation of Blacks born following emancipation. In 1893, he enlisted in the Army's 24th Infantry Regiment, famed as one of the "Buffalo Soldier" regiments. He entered the Army at a time when African-American advancement was, with few exceptions, severely constrained. For Black enlisted men with musical ability and classical training, the Army's band system offered one of the few formal avenues for professional advancement, and it was that system within which Loving distinguished himself.

When American forces arrived in the Philippines in 1898, Loving came not as an administrator but as a soldier-musician. By 1900 he had been appointed chief musician of the 48th U.S. Volunteer Infantry with the rank of second lieutenant. His status as an officer placed him among a very small number of African-American officers in that era. When the volunteer regiment disbanded, Loving remained in the Philippines.

From the Army to the Philippine Constabulary

The Philippine Constabulary was established in 1901 as a paramilitary police force under the authority of the Philippine Commission. Its first chief, Colonel Henry T. Allen, understood that discipline and legitimacy required more than rifles and patrols. In 1902, with Governor-General William Howard Taft's support, Allen tasked Lieutenant Loving with organizing a Philippine Constabulary band (Figure 2) capable of meeting international standards. For a newly established force operating in a recently contested colonial environment,



Figure 2: The early Philippine Constabulary band.

a disciplined band was essential to reinforcing order and legitimacy.

Loving recruited heavily from former Spanish regimental musicians who were already versed in European military band traditions. Contemporary Manila newspapers record competitive auditions that drew talented musicians from across the islands. Those selected were put through extensive training. Loving instituted structured rehearsals, standardized instrumentation, tonal discipline, and a repertoire balancing European classical works with American military marches.

A review of early Philippine Constabulary photo archives from 1902 to 1906 shows the band's rapid standardization in uniform appearance and formal bearing (Figure 3), visual signs of institutional unity that reflected Loving's emphasis on musical discipline. The band's Sunday concerts at Luneta Park quickly became public rituals of authority and civic pride, earning the band the title "Taft's Own," reflecting its symbolic association with the islands' American leadership. Local organizations recognized the excellence of the bands performances (Figure 4).

Honors in 1904

In 1904, St. Louis hosted a world's fair to celebrate the centennial of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. The seven-month event attracted millions of visitors and provided the Constabulary Band its most visible international platform. Competing alongside the U.S.



Figure 4: Obverse (left) and reverse of the gold award given to Walter Loving by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) Lodge in Manila, 1903.

Marine Band and John Philip Sousa's ensemble, the band astonished audiences and jurors alike.

The now-famous account of the band's performance of the *William Tell Overture* conducted from memory after a power outage was recorded in newspaper accounts of the day. As a result of its outstanding performance, the band was awarded a gold medal in the Exposition's band competition.

The band's performance in the competition and its award of the gold medal validated the Philippine Constabulary's professionalism within the international



Figure 3: The early Philippine Constabulary band.

community of military musicians. Members of the band were also recognized for their participation in the exposition with a Medal of Honor (Figure 5). Loving also served as a judge at curated exhibitions and events at the World's Fair (Figure 6).



Figure 5: Obverse (left) and reverse of Loving's gold Medal of Honor for the 1904 World Exposition.



Figure 6: "Juror's" Badge worn by Walter Loving at the World's Fair, St Louis 1904.

At the White House

In 1909, the Philippine Constabulary band performed at the inauguration of President William Howard Taft, the first ensemble from outside the continental United States to provide a musical escort for a U.S. presidential inauguration. American press coverage praised the band's technical mastery and discipline. The event (Figures 7 and 8) symbolized the integration of a territorial institution into national ceremonial life.



Figure 7: The Philippine Constabulary Band at the White House in 1909 (clarinet, cornet and euphonium soloists).

Additional Honors

Loving took the band to the Second Philippine Exposition. The event was held from January 31 to February 14, 1914, in Manila. The gathering focused on the commercial, industrial, and agricultural development of the Philippines under American colonial rule. The band was awarded first prize in the band competition. Loving's award (Figure 9) is sterling silver and was made by the jeweler "Heacock" in the Philippines.

By the time Loving retired from the Philippine Constabulary in 1916, he had attained the rank of major. In the context of a deeply segregated Army culture, it represented one of the highest ranks achieved by an African-American officer in the early twentieth century. Loving's career stands alongside those of other pioneering Black officers, but uniquely



Figure 9: Obverse (left) and reverse of Loving's silver First Place award at the Second Philippine Exposition 1914.

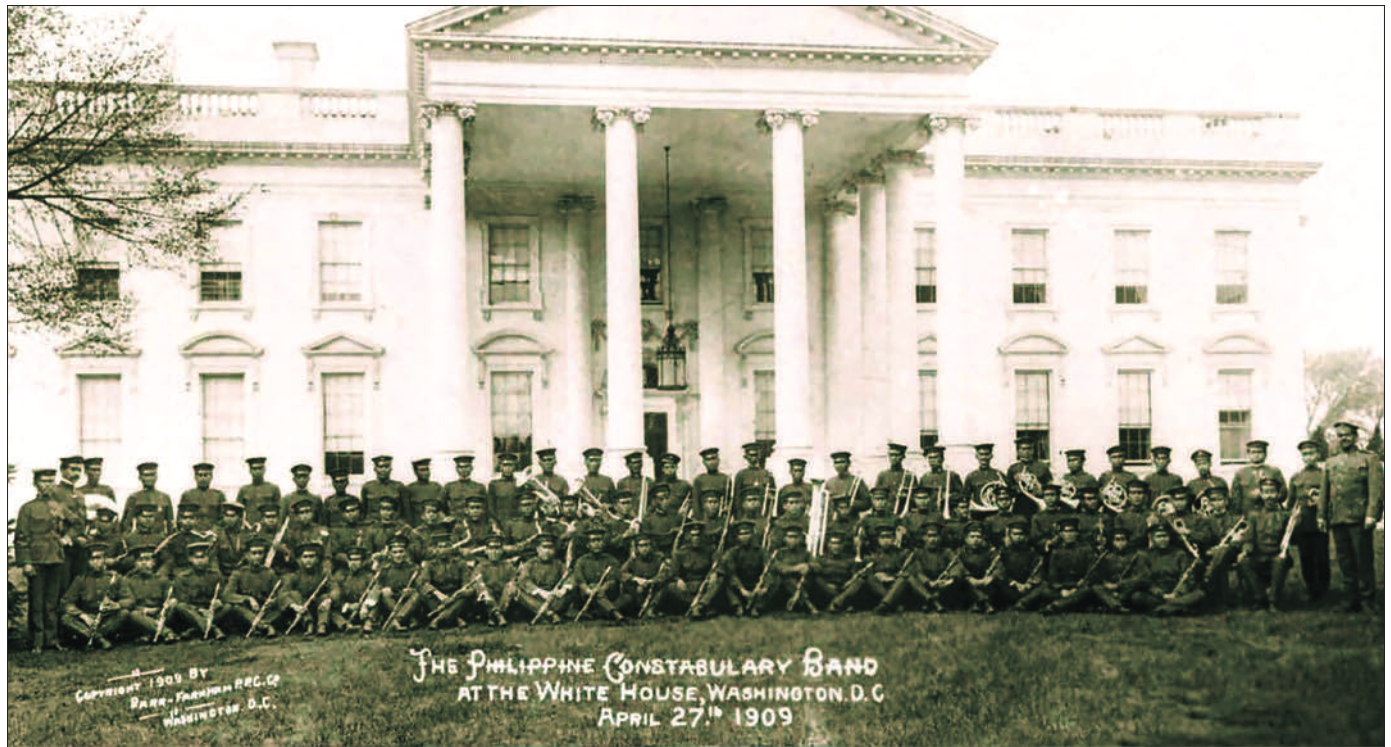


Figure 8: The Philippine Constabulary Band at the White House (1909).

within the U.S. administration of the Philippine Islands rather than within a continental American regiment.

In 1936, Philippine President Manuel L. Quezon invited Loving to organize and lead the Philippine Army Band as the Commonwealth government prepared for eventual independence. At the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco, the Philippine Army Band again received international praise.

News reports from the day and John Philip Sousa gave great praise for the Band's performances and excellence. This legacy demonstrates that the institutional culture Loving established in the original Philippine Constabulary Band in 1902 endured across political transitions in Philippine military institutions.

A Gallant Death and Legacy

After Japanese forces invaded the Philippines in December 1941, Loving and his wife Edith were interned in 1942 during the occupation of Manila. During the Battle of Manila in February 1945, Japanese forces committed widespread atrocities as American troops advanced. Loving was reportedly taken with other prisoners to Luneta Park, where he was executed alongside other civilians.

Postwar testimonies recount that with their backs to their Japanese captors, they were ordered forward. Colonel Loving was reported to have turned to face his executioners, saying that he "will die like an

American – looking them in the eye." His body was never recovered. Colonel Loving's execution, along with others, is part of the civilian casualty story of the liberation of Manila, one of the most destructive urban battles of the Pacific War during World War II.

The Philippine Constabulary Band evolved into the Philippine National Police Band and the Philippine Army Band. Loving's institutional impact extended beyond performance. He standardized discipline, ceremonial practice, and professional musical training within a foundational American-era Philippine military institution.

In shaping the musical excellence of the Philippine Constabulary Band, Walter H. Loving did far more than organize a performing ensemble: he forged a disciplined cultural institution that projected professionalism, unity, and dignity on an international stage.

His leadership elevated military music in the Pacific to world-class stature, and demonstrated the power of artistic discipline as a tool of nation-building. He also expanded the legacy of Black excellence within the American military tradition. Loving did not merely conduct music; he composed a lasting standard of precision, pride, and institutional identity that endured long after the final note faded.

On July 3, 1946, Col. Walter Loving was awarded a Posthumous Philippine Distinguished Conduct Star

(2nd design – Reynolds), 48mm wide, bronze and enamel (Figure 10) by the Philippine Government.

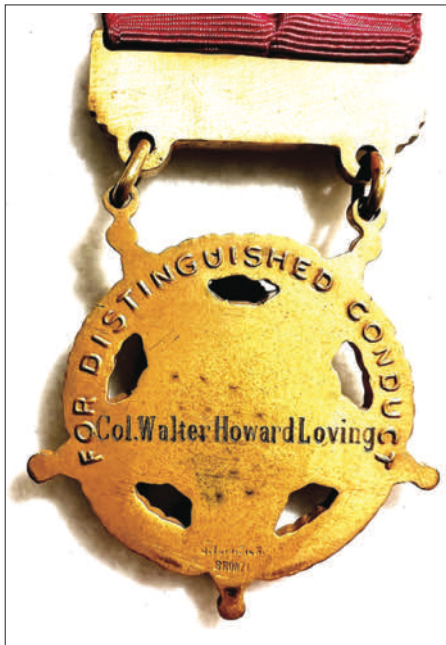


Figure 10: Obverse (top) and reverse of Loving's Distinguished Conduct Star.

NOTE: The ribbon for this medal was crimson moiré with a dark blue center strip. This medal was presented with a crimson ribbon (Constabulary Long Service ribbon) with a correct ribbon bar attached. The author believes that during the immediate post-war period, the manufacture of the

correct ribbon was a low priority for a country that was being rebuilt. When stocks were depleted, other stock was used.

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TANZANIA'S ZIMBABWE MEDAL: ITS ORIGINS AND PURPOSE

Chris Georgeson

The shift of Africa's former European colonies to independent countries involved both peaceful and violent histories. A good example of the former was the gradual decolonization of German East Africa to Tanganyika (1916-1964), now part of present-day Tanzania. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles ended Germany's rule over German East Africa and placed it under a League of Nations "mandate" administered by Great Britain.

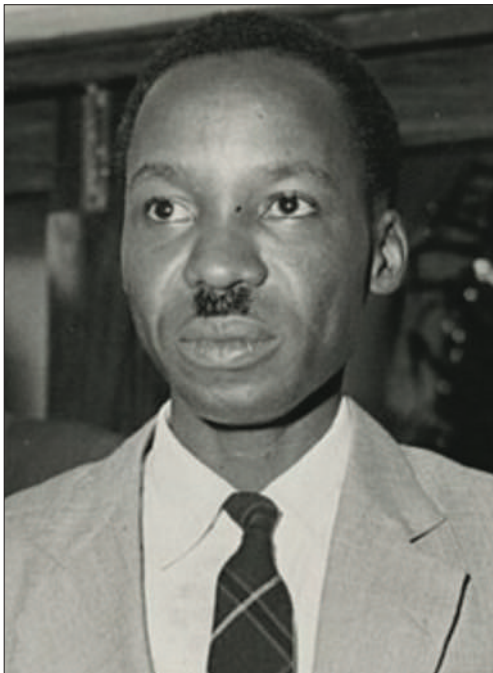


Figure 1: Julius Nyerere.

After 1947, Tanganyika was transferred from the then-defunct League of Nations to the United Nations "trusteeship" (but still under Britain). Its drive toward independence gradually accelerated until it achieved full independence on December 9, 1961. Its first Prime Minister (and first President, 1962-1964) was Julius K. Nyerere (Figure 1). In 1964, Nyerere, a highly principled Pan-African and Socialist, united Tanganyika with the island of Zanzibar after the latter's violent, race-related revolt against its Arab sultan, creating the United Republic of Tanzania.

Zimbabwe's decolonization was much more violent. Following Britain's Central African Federation experiment, Southern Rhodesia also looked forward to independence in 1964. However, the self-governing white minority and the African majority held opposing views on who should control the new nation. Unfortunately, African nationalist groups in Zimbabwe

felt their only recourse was a guerrilla war that lasted from 1964 to 1979.

Numerous international attempts at negotiation, featuring such luminaries as British Prime Minister Harold Wilson (1916-1995) and US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (1923-2023), failed to bring a negotiated end to Zimbabwe's struggle for independence. After 15 years of bloody guerrilla war, in which the African majority bore the brunt of the casualties, full independence finally came on April 18, 1980. Zimbabwe's independence was followed by a short interval of British supervision of disarmament and elections during the summer of 1979-80.

The Need for Military Aid and the Organization of African Unity

Outside the will to win, the best advantage a guerrilla force can have is strong military aid. Tanzania's Julius Nyerere fervently believed that Africa would not be free until all of Africa was free from all forms of colonialism. Toward that end, he was deeply committed to providing military aid.

Upon the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in May 1963, Nyerere insisted that its Liberation Committee be based in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanganyika. Nyerere believed Tanganyika was a so-called "frontline state" because it bordered Portuguese-ruled Mozambique, which in turn bordered the white-ruled states of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa. As African nationalist exiles gathered in Dar es Salaam, Nyerere persuaded the OAU to locate its Liberation Committee there.

Beginning in 1964, the Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) emerged as a pillar of support for several African nationalist groups, including the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and its military arm, the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army (ZANLA). ZANU went on to form Zimbabwe's first government after its independence in 1980 and remains in power at the time of this writing. Tanzania also supported the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), and its military arm, the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA).

While many African nationalist leaders set up offices in Dar es Salaam, rank-and-file exiles and recruits from Portuguese Africa, Rhodesia, and South Africa were gathered in a constellation of camps scattered across the Tanzanian countryside under

the direct administration of the TPDF. These camps were commanded by a camp commander, usually a captain, who oversaw drivers, quartermasters, clerks, and TPDF infantrymen attached to the camp. These TPDF men worked closely with the liberation groups to create and supervise training programs for incoming guerrilla cadres.

Guerrilla Training Camps

In 1970, at one camp at Morogoro, 110 miles outside of Dar-es-Salaam, the course of instruction for Zimbabwean fighters included physical training, marching in open and close order, tactics, guerrilla combat, first aid, field engineering (including the creation of explosives), and political “education.” They were also instructed in weapons training using Chinese and East Bloc-provided small arms and light weapons, which were easily transportable across borders. Camp life was Spartan because most of the camps lacked running water or electrical connections, reflecting both the hurried conditions under which they were built and Tanzania’s overall poverty.

Safe guerrilla training camps in Tanzania were important, but the logistical support for them was also critical. Nyerere and the TPDF leadership did not fully buy into the then-fashionable Maoist myth of a self-sustaining guerrilla war, believing it to be too rigid.

The TPDF was also concerned that self-sustaining guerrilla warfare would lead to prolonged periods of military vulnerability, driven by the vicissitudes of popular support and the reliability of an adequate supply of captured enemy arms and materiel.

The Special Duties Unit

To organize and distribute the generous quantity of basic supplies and weapons provided by a sympathetic East Bloc, in 1964, the TPDF formed the Special Duties Unit (SDU) and transferred the supplies and weapons to the OAU’s liberation committee. As canned food, blankets, uniform parts, and armaments of all sorts arrived at the port of Dar-es-Salaam, it was the job of the SDU to sort them out, transport them to the camps for distribution, and guard them throughout the journey. Protection of these supplies was a top priority.

Although foreign attacks and sabotage were not major concerns, there were many instances of enterprising locals attempting to either steal supplies or bribe TPDF personnel to sell them some. Tanzanians were less interested in machine guns, rocket launchers, or grenades than in useful goods such as boots, tents, jerry cans, and rations, all of which were also useful to impoverished local communities and the black market

that supported them. The SDU kept theft of supplies to a bare minimum.

To transport these supplies, the SDU had its own fleet of Mercedes cargo trucks, often secured from the TPDF. However efficient the TPDF was in logistical transport to its own southern border, the supply chain always ran into difficulties further south in Zambia, where there was no counterpart to the SDU and where there was just a loose handful of drivers under one government official named “Mr. Lungu.” Zambia was also handicapped by its lack of storage facilities on a scale equal to those in Tanzania.

The 1974 Coup in Portugal

The April 1974 coup toppled the crumbling fascist regime in Portugal and led directly to Mozambique’s independence on June 25, 1975. The coup also led to Tanzania’s final victory in its efforts to aid the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), which had been fighting the Portuguese since 1964. With the coming of the FRELIMO government, ZANU’s ZANLA fighters could infiltrate into Rhodesia along its eastern border down to South Africa.

From this point, Rhodesia was almost surrounded by guerrilla infiltrators: ZAPU’s ZANLA forces sneaking in via Zambia and sometimes Botswana and ZANU’s ZIPRA coming in from Mozambique. Both forces were enthusiastically supported by Tanzania and the TPDF.

By 1976, Rhodesian intelligence had created a counterforce from conservative FRELIMO dissidents and former Portuguese-aligned counterinsurgency specialists known as RENAMO (Mozambican National Resistance) to destabilize the fledgling FRELIMO regime and stem the flow of ZANLA infiltrators along its eastern border.

The RENAMO War

The bloody “RENAMO War” lasted until 1992. In the late 1970s, it dragged the TPDF into clashes with Rhodesian/RENAMO forces along the Mozambican border. Given the weakness of the Mozambican state at its independence, Nyerere had to intervene to help stabilize the fledgling nation in the name of African solidarity.

Sources are unsure about the overall size of the TPDF deployment in central and northern Mozambique (whether a battalion or a full brigade). TPDF veterans of this aggressive counterinsurgency campaign within a counterinsurgency campaign remembered it as the hardest work of their military careers. Their efforts included long and tiring patrols and the avoidance and clearance of mines, which RENAMO had planted in great abundance.

TPDF and Rhodesian forces clashed at least once. It took place on Rhodesian territory across from the Machipanda, Mozambique border crossing, and was in retaliation for a Rhodesian raid into Mozambican territory, possibly "Operation Dingo." Those raids took place in Chimoio and Tembue in November 1977.

TPDF deployment in Mozambique ended abruptly in early 1979 because President Nyerere was forced to redeploy them north to face a Ugandan invasion and dispense with the Idi Amin regime once and for all. The guerrilla forces that Tanzania continued to support succeeded in pushing the Rhodesian regime to the negotiating table at Lancaster House, London, later that year.



Figure 2: Tanzania's Zimbabwe Medal.

The Medal

The planchet of the Tanzanian Zimbabwe Medal is a white-metal disk measuring 34mm in diameter (Figure 2). The obverse features a rather busy design of the African continent against a background of parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude as seen on most representations of the globe (Figure 3).

Superimposed upon the Eastern and Central areas of the continent are renderings of armed guerrillas on the march, facing the viewer. In between the guerrillas is a forearm and hand holding an AK-47 assault rifle, covering the trigger, guard, and receiver, with a geographic representation of Zimbabwe superimposed



Figure 3: Closer view of the Zimbabwe Medal (obverse).

on the buttstock. The name "Zimbabwe" is inscribed on the obverse edge from nine to almost six o'clock.

The medal has a two-ring suspension connecting it to a trapezoid, with the wider, 41mm, upper side containing a 36 mm-long slot through which the ribbon is threaded. Below the slot is a smaller trapezoid containing two three-leaf laurel sprigs connected back-to-back at the center, with three leaves pointing left and right on each side.

The suspender closely resembles those seen on Ethiopian medals of the Marxist Derg Era issued from 1979 to 1991, with the Tanzanian Zimbabwe Medal being of somewhat better quality than those examples, and likely of East German manufacture. Both planchet and suspender are blank on the reverse, but both exhibit pebbling as seen on most cast medals. The ribbon is 33mm wide and likely made of nylon, as it is quite stretchy. The color scheme is: 7mm black, 4mm red, 2mm white, and a 7mm yellow central stripe, 2mm white, 4mm red, and 7mm black.

The Medal's Purpose?

I purchased the example exhibited in this article in early 2007. The exact purpose of this medal has been something of a mystery. Wikipedia only shows photos of the ribbon bar and lists the medal's name in Swahili, Tanzania's official language, as Nishani ya Zimbabwe. No planchet is shown. A couple of UK websites, likely echoing each other in the usual way of the internet, give the date of the medal's institution as 1981. This is hard to prove, as the government gazettes of Tanzania for 1981 are incomplete online.

Even less helpful for non-Swahili speakers is the fact that Tanzania's government gazettes are mostly in Swahili (except for the public auction lists of goods seized by the Customs Department, which are always in English).

We must conclude at this point that the medal was issued sometime in the 1980s to any TPDF, or perhaps locally-based civil personnel such as OAU-LC members, who participated in the long campaign to liberate Zimbabwe from white settler rule, be they personnel who staffed the guerrilla training camps, SDU personnel, or those TPDF members who served in Mozambique in the late 1970s. That seems to be the only logical conclusion to be drawn with the information at hand at the time of writing.

A final question might be, why Zimbabwe in particular? Why not a medal for Mozambique? Or Angola? All of those were campaigns in which Tanzania was just as deeply involved as Zimbabwe. Could there have been a lack of funds for medals for Angola or Mozambique

in the 1970s? Perhaps it was because of the length of the Zimbabwe campaign (1964-1980)?

Or perhaps because it was such a great triumph of the arts of diplomacy and war? Finally, perhaps it was because Zimbabwean liberation was the first breaching of the great "white settler redoubt" in southern Africa and a portent of what was to come further south, with the final liberation of South Africa?

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MEDAL NOTE 1:

THE U. S. ARMY OF OCCUPATION OF PUERTO RICAN MEDAL



Figure 1: Obverse (left) and reverse of the Army of Occupation of Puerto Rico Medal (M.No. 517 issued to an unknown out-of-service veteran).

Establishing Authority: The Army of Puerto Rican Occupation Medal was established on February 4, 1919, by War Department Compilation of Orders, Change 15.

Criteria and Effective Dates: The Army of Puerto Rican Occupation Medal was awarded for military service in Puerto Rico between August 14 and December 10, 1898.

Order of Precedence: The medal was worn after the Cuban Occupation Medal and before the Philippine Campaign Medal.

Designer: The medal was based on the design of the Spanish Campaign Medal by Francis D. Millet (1846-1912).

First Recipient: Puerto Rican Occupation Medal No. 1 was issued to Colonel Charles E. Morton on October 7, 1919. Morton served in Puerto Rico as a sergeant in the 19th Infantry in 1898 and while there received his commission as a second lieutenant. In 1919 he was serving on the General Staff at the Army War College and apparently was the most senior officer in the Washington area who was eligible for the new medal.

Description and Symbolism

Obverse: In the center of a bronze medallion one and a quarter inches in diameter, a castle with two round corner towers (battlements) is shown contained within a circle composed of the words **ARMY OF**

OCCUPATION PORTO RICO in the upper half; the date 1898 centered at the bottom of the lower half, and a branch of tobacco ascending on the left and a stalk of sugar cane ascending on the right (the combination forming a wreath). In the interest of saving time and money, the design of the Spanish Campaign Medal was used but with a different wording. The wording and dates distinguish the two medals from one another and indicate what they commemorate.

Reverse: In the center of a bronze medallion one-and-a-quarter inches in diameter, a trophy composed of an eagle with its wings extended is shown perched on a cannon and an Indian shield. Behind the cannon are four flags, each mounted on a staff. Behind the flags six rifles with bayonets (three on each side) extend outward. Two spears extend upward from behind the flags with their tips emerging between the eagle's left wing and the flags on the left. A third spear extends upward diagonally from behind the Indian shield but in front of the cannon, with its tip extending between the eagle's wing and the flags on the right.

Beneath the Indian shield is a quiver of arrows, a sulu kriss, and a Cuban machete. Below the trophy (and on a horizontal plane) the words **FOR SERVICE** appear

Ribbon: At the suggestion of Colonel Robert E. Wyllie (Chief of the Equipment Branch of the Operations Division, Quartermaster Corps) the ribbon was adapted from that of the Cuban Occupation Medal with the color pattern reversed.

Streamer: There is no streamer for this medal.

Numbering: The first 200 medals were received by the Washington, DC Quartermaster Badge Office in April of 1919. They were apparently produced by the Philadelphia Mint. When they were received, since they were not serially numbered, they were returned to have serial numbers applied. The first issue, serial numbers #1 through #23 occurred on July 10, 1919.

The lot of medals numbered #1 through #200 was exhausted on August 12, 1920. The next lot of 200 medals was also produced by the Mint and was serial numbered No. 201 through No. 400. Issue of the first medal from this series, No. 201, occurred on October 16, 1920.

The last issue made by the Washington Quartermaster Badge Office was medal No. 320, which was issued on December 5, 1925. In January of 1926, the medal

Manufacturer	Date	Medal Numbers	Comments
BBB Co., Philadelphia	1919	1 to 200	Small letters
Philadelphia Mint	1920	No. 201 to No. 400	Large letters
Philadelphia Mint	1920 to 1927	MNo. 1 to MNo. 2050	
Joseph Mayer Co.	August 29, 1928	400 to 5999	
Joseph Mayer Co.	October 14, 1930	600 to 6999	
BBB Co., Philadelphia	October 21, 1931	700 to 899	
August C. Frank	December 31, 1931	900 to 999	
Joseph Mayer Co.	June 5, 1933	1000 to 1099	
Joseph Mayer Co.	November 20, 1933	1200 to 1299	
S.E. Eby	November 4, 1935	1300 to 1399	
Northern Stamping	June 23, 1937	1400 to 1599	
Northern Stamping	December 29, 1937	1600 to 1749	
Northern Stamping	August 16, 1938	1750 to 2049	

Figure 2: Production History of Serially Numbered Medals.

in raised letters. The whole is enclosed by the words, **UNITED STATES ARMY** in the upper half, and thirteen stars in the lower half. The standards represent the four great wars of the United States: a British flag for the American Revolution and the War of 1812; a Mexican flag for the Mexican War; a Confederate battle flag, and a Spanish flag for the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. The weapons suggest the armed resistance offered by the opponents in those wars. The eagle is the American bald eagle and represents the United States, and the thirteen stars allude the original colonies and symbolize unity.

issuing function was transferred to the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, and medals No. 321 through No. 400 were transferred to the depot at that time.

The numbering on the first 200 medals is unlike that on any other Army campaign medal produced by the Mint, the most striking feature being the absence of the "No." prefix. A different numbering machine was used, which may indicate the numbers were not applied by the Mint. Also, a separate set of obverse and reverse dies was used for the second batch of 200 medals. The most notable difference is the size of the letting

and date on the obverse, which were much smaller in the first series in comparison to the second series.

Apparently, on the first series the letter size was reduced to accommodate the longer inscription, and the date was reduced to match the size of the inscription. Presumably this was felt to be unattractive, and larger size lettering was requested on the second order to match the size of that on all the previous Army campaign medals. The dies, with the larger size lettering were also used for the "MNo." series of medals produced for sale by the Mint and for the plain numbered medals subsequently produced by private contractors.

In 1932, an Act of Congress officially changed the spelling of "Porto Rico" to "Puerto Rico." Over the next few years the Army considered changing the design of the medal to accommodate the new spelling. As of March 14, 1935, a total of 112 medals were on hand and available for issue, and during the previous twelve months 198 had been issued. New hubs and dies would have cost \$50. Because of the size of the existing stock, the low demand for the medals, and the cost of making new hubs and dies, the design was never changed.

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MEDAL NOTE 2:

THE U. S. ARMY OF CUBAN OCCUPATION MEDAL



Figure 1: Obverse (left) and reverse of the Army of Cuban Occupation Medal (No. 3043, issued on May 6, 1916 to Major William Brooke, 21st Infantry).

Establishing Authority: The Army of Cuban Occupation Medal (Figure 1) was established by War Department General Orders Number 40 on June 28, 1915.

Criteria: This medal was established to recognize service members who performed garrison duty in Cuba following the Spanish-American War. Although it was primarily awarded to Army personnel, it could also be awarded to Navy and Marine Corps personnel who served in Cuba during the qualifying dates shown below.

Qualifying Dates: This medal was awarded for service from July 18, 1898 through May 20, 1902.

Order of Precedence: The medal is worn after the Spanish Campaign Medal and before the Porto Rican Occupation Medal.

Devices: No devices were authorized.

Designer: The design was specified by the War Department's Office of the Quartermaster General.

First Recipient: Army of Cuban Occupation Medal No. 1 was issued to Major General Leonard Wood on October 25, 1915.

Description and Symbolism

Obverse: In the center of a bronze medallion one-and-a-quarter inches in diameter, the Cuban coat of arms is shown along with the dates 1898 and 1902. The coat of arms and dates are surrounded by the words **ARMY OF OCCUPATION MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF CUBA** in raised letters. The coat of arms rests on a fasces and is flanked by sprays of oak and laurel. The Cuban coat of arms identifies the area under occupation and the wording denotes the nature of military service performed. The fasces represent justice; the sprays of oak allude to strength, and the laurel represents achievement.

Reverse: In the center of a bronze medallion one-and-a-quarter inches in diameter, there is a trophy composed of an eagle with its wings extended, perched on a cannon and an Indian shield. Behind the cannon are four flags, each mounted on a staff. In the rear of the flags, six rifles with bayonets are present (three on each side) extending outward.

Two spears extend upward from behind the flags with their tips emerging between the eagle's left wing and the flags on the left. A third spear extends upward diagonally from behind the Indian shield but in front of the cannon, with its tip extending between the eagle's wing and the flags on the right. Beneath the Indian shield is a quiver of arrows, a Sulu kris, and a Cuban machete.

Below the trophy (and on a horizontal plane) the words **FOR SERVICE** appear in raised letters. The whole is enclosed by the words, **UNITED STATES ARMY** in the upper half, and 13 stars in the lower half. The standards represent the four great wars of the United States: a British flag for the American Revolution and the War of 1812; a Mexican flag for the Mexican War; a Confederate battle flag, and a Spanish Flag for the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

The weapons suggest the armed resistance offered by the opponents in those wars. The eagle is the American bald eagle and represents the United States, and the 13 stars allude to the original colonies and symbolize unity.

Ribbon: The ribbon consists of a center stripe of blue edged in gold. Between the gold and the ribbon's blue edge-stripes is a band of red. The red, blue and gold are taken from the Cuban coat of arms.

Manufacturer	Date	Medal Numbers
Philadelphia Mint	Oct. 18, 1915	No. 1 to 2500
Philadelphia Mint	Nov. 23, 1915	No. 2501 to 3000
Philadelphia Mint	Dec. 1, 1915	No. 3001 to 3500
Philadelphia Mint	Dec. 13, 1915	No. 3501 to 4000
Philadelphia Mint	Jan. 7, 1916	MNo. 1 to 250
Philadelphia Mint	Jan. 14, 1916	MNo. 251 to 500
Philadelphia Mint	Feb. 28, 1916	MNo. 501 to 1000
Philadelphia Mint	Jun. 8, 1916	MNo. 1001 to 1500
Philadelphia Mint	1917 to 1927	MNo. 1501 to 4550
Joseph Mayer Co.	Mar. 10, 1928	MNo. 5000 to 5296
Joseph Mayer Co.	Oct. 14, 1930	MNo. 5418 to 5799
BBB Co., Philadelphia	Oct. 21, 1931	MNo. 5921
August C. Frank	Dec. 31, 1931	MNo. 6115 to 6371
Joseph Mayer Co.	Nov. 20, 1933	MNo. 6530 to 6799
Consolidated Jewelers	Aug. 4, 1935	MNo. 6850 to 7015
S.E. Eby	Nov. 4, 1935	MNo. 7161 to 7262
Northern Stamping	Oct. 21, 1937	MNo. 7700 to 7799
Northern Stamping	Dec. 29, 1937	MNo. 7800 to 7912
Northern Stamping	Aug. 16, 1938	MNo. 8333 to 9149

Figure 2: Production History of Serially Numbered Medals.

Streamer: There is no streamer for this medal.

Numbering: This medal was originally made by the Philadelphia Mint and serially numbered on the rim at the six o'clock position. It was first numbered with the **No.** prefix. Subsequent strikes (Figure 2) were made under contract by private companies and were numbered without a prefix.

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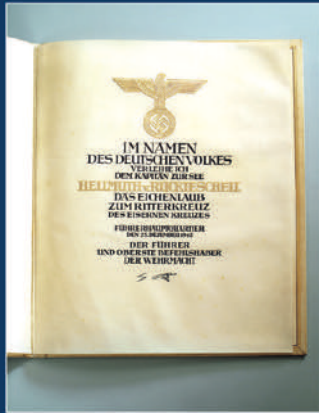
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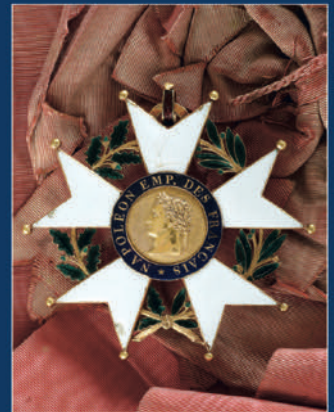
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