

21ST LANCERS NCO'S KHEDIVES SUDAN, CLASP KHARTOUM TO A CONFIRMED OMDURMAN CHARGER



KHEDIVES SUDAN, CLASP KHARTOUM '2777 SERG. H. J. JACKSON 21st LCERS'

Confirmed on the medal roll and on the various lists of Chargers as serving in 'C' Squadron during the famed charge of the 21st Lancers at the battle of Omdurman, alongside Winston Churchill.

Sergeant Henry James Jackson, was born circa 1866 and was the son of Herbert Riley Jackson and enlisted circa 1887 when he would have been about 21 years old. He married Ellen May Sherman at Bangalore, daughter of Henry Murray Sherman, on 24th April 1895, noted as a "Sergeant, 21st Hussars"

"The charge of the 21st Lancers in September 1898 was one of the last full-scale cavalry charges of the British Army. The battle took place 6.4 km. (four miles) outside Omdurman, just north of Khartoum and marked the culmination of Major-General Sir Horatio Herbert (later Field Marshal, 1st Earl) Kitchener's campaign for the re-conquest of the Sudan, the 2nd Sudan War (1896-1898).

The 350 men of the 21st Lancers attacked what they believed to be a body of about 700 Dervishes. However, as one participant in the charge, the young Lieutenant (later Prime Minister Sir) Winston Churchill (1874-1965), recounted in his book 'The River War', the situation soon changed;

'A deep crease in the ground - a dry watercourse, a khor - appeared where all had seemed smooth, level plain; and from it there sprang, with the suddenness of a pantomime effect and a high-pitched yell, a dense white mass of men nearly as long as our front and about twelve deep. A score of horsemen and a dozen bright flags rose as if by magic from the earth.'

In fact, 2,000 tribesmen who had remained concealed in a deep gully engaged the lancers in desperate hand-to-hand combat. Although the 21st Lancers had not seen battle before, they managed to cut their way out of the ambush. The regiment suffered 70 men killed or wounded and the loss of 119 horses, the highest casualty figures of any British regiment engaged at Omdurman. Three Victoria Crosses were later awarded to members of the 21st Lancers who had helped to rescue wounded comrades during the action.

News of this heroic charge against appalling odds captured the imagination of the public at home. Newspaper headlines in Britain read 'Gordon Avenged', and based on their reports, artists such as Edward Matthew Hale, raced to complete paintings of the victory to feed the public demand for images of the battle."



Condition GVF. engraved in the correct distinctive style of the 21st Lancers. With copy roll etc

Sergeant Jackson Queen's Sudan Medal was sold as a single medal DNW, December 1994 and again at DNW, December 2006 this time with an added unnamed Khedive's Medal.