

SOUTH AFRICA 1877-9 TO THE FRONTIER LIGHT HORSE



SOUTH AFRICA 1877-9, CLASP, 1879 '361 TPR FRONTR L. HORSE'

William James Byram was born in Manchester in 1884 and enlisted into the Frontier Light Horse on 11 March 1879. Discharged after August 1879, Cam Simpson notes him as believed to be one of the 100 selected men that served in the Transvaal October – December 1879. Enlisted as a Bugler of 'C' Company Cape Infantry Regiment on 26 May 1885, he transferred to the Cape Mounted Rifles as a 1st Class Private on 1 July 1886. He died at the CMR camp at Mount Ayliff on 10 January 1887. He is recorded as having left no estate except an old tunic, Regimental trousers and an old pair of boots. These were taken possession of by his Wife, Sarah Byram.

The Frontier Light Horse were probably the finest Irregular unit to serve in the Cape Frontier and Zulu Wars. Raised by Lieutenant F. Carrington at King Williams Town, Cape Colony, in 1877. Command soon passed to Major Redvers Buller, K.R.R.C., under whom the F.L.H. served in the final stages of the Ninth War, suffering casualties. In July 1878, the unit, 276 of all ranks, marched from King Williams Town to Pietermaritzburg in Natal, and from there to Sekukuniland in the Transvaal. During September and October the corps saw service against the Sekukini, and in November returned to Natal and fought through the Zulu War of 1879 with Wood's Column. During the latter, they took part in the disastrous attack and subsequent retreat at Hlobane Mountain on 29th March, the battle of Khambula, the Skirmish on the White Mfolozi River and the battle of Ulundi.



Condition, GF : Traces brooch mounting to obverse, which have been cleaned up very well. Suspension/claw refitted and polished