

AN EXTREMELY FINE AND SCARCE CASED SOUTH AFRICA, CRIMEAN WAR, INDIAN MUTINY CAMPAIGNS AND MINIATURES GROUP AWARDED TO A CANADIAN CAPTAIN, WHO WITNESSED EXTENSIVE CONFLICT OVERSEAS WITH THE 12TH AND 95TH REGIMENTS OF FOOT, BEING DECORATED WITH THE ORDER OF THE MEDJIDIE. HIS DIARY HELD IN THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM COLLECTION



SOUTH AFRICA 1834-53 'ENSIGN G. ROBERTSON, 12TH. REGT.'; CRIMEA 1854-56, CLASP, SEBASTOPOL 'G-ROBERTSON- LIEUT. 95TH. FOOT.' CONTEMPORARY ENGRAVED NAMING; INDIAN MUTINY 1857-59, CLASP, CENTRAL INDIA 'LIEUT. G. ROBERTSON, 95TH. REGT.'; OTTOMAN EMPIRE, ORDER OF THE MEDJIDIE, FIFTH CLASS BREAST BADGE, SILVER, GOLD AND ENAMEL, PRIVATELY ENGRAVED TO REVERSE 'LIEUT. G. ROBERTSON. 95TH. REGT.', MINOR RED ENAMEL LOSS TO CRESCENT SUSPENSION; TURKISH CRIMEA 1855, SARDINIAN ISSUE 'LIEUT. G ROBERTSON. 95TH. REGT.' CONTEMPORARY ENGRAVED NAMING, ALL FIVE FITTED WITH PERIOD UNMARKED SILVER TOP WEARING PINS

2) MATCHING CONTEMPORARY MINIATURE AWARDS, THESE MOUNTED FROM HUNT & ROSKELL SILVER RIBAND BUCKLES

3) BOTH FULL SIZED AND MINIATURE AWARDS CONTAINED WITHIN AN ATTRACTIVE TWO-DRAWER SILK AND VELVET LINED FITTED CASE WITH BRASS LOCK AND KEY,

NAMED TO TOP LID IN GILT LETTERING 'CAPTAIN ROBERTSON, 95TH DERBYSHIRE REGIMENT'

4) A SMALL CONTEMPORARY ENVELOPE CONTAINING ORIGINAL SILK RIBANDS FOR THE FULL-SIZE AWARDS.

Army List entry "*Captain Robertson served with the 12th Regt. in the Kaffir war of 1851-53 (Medal) . Served with the 95th Regt in the Crimea from 21st Jan. 1855, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol, sortie of 5th May, and assaults of 18th June and 8th September (Medal with clasp, Turkish Medal, 5th Class of the Meddjidie). Also the Indian campaign of 1857-58, including the siege assault and capture of Kotah, and pursuit of Tantia Topee (medal)*"



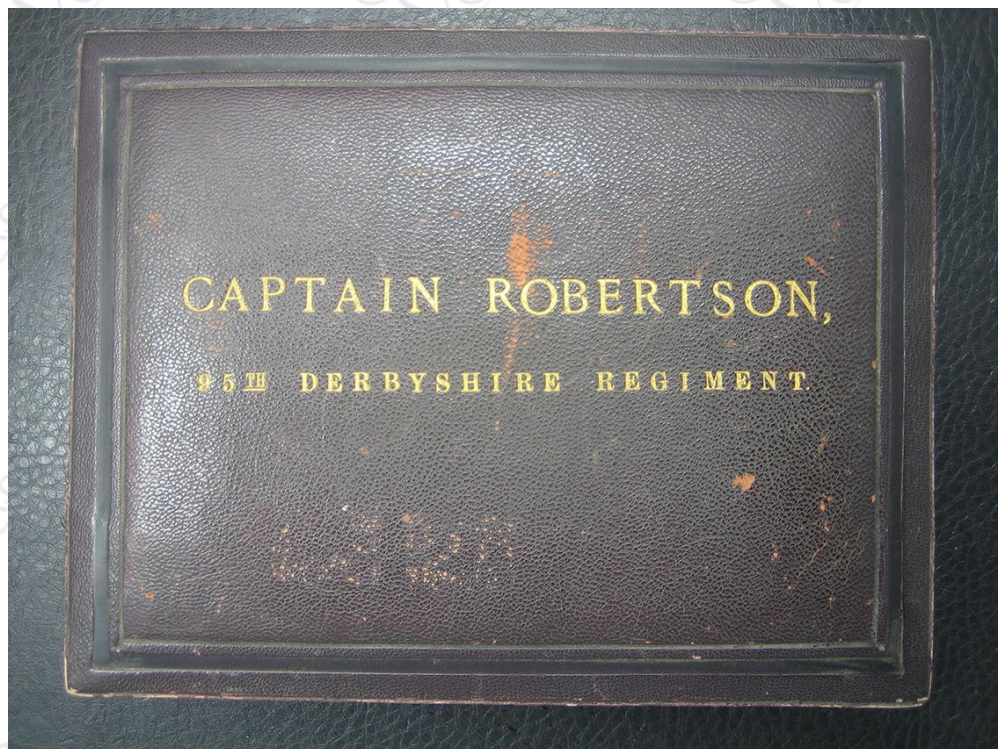
George Robertson was born in Montreal, Canada, on 30 September 1831, and attested for the 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot as Ensign by purchase on 17 June 1851, aged 19 years and 8 months. Posted to South Africa, he served during the Eighth Kaffir War from 1851 to 1853 in operations against Xhosa and Khoikhoi forces. The campaign later became regarded as one of the most bitter and brutal in the series of Xhosa wars, the tide turned by the successful deployment of British reinforcements via Cape Town, including drafts of the 12th Foot.

Exchanged into the 95th (Derbyshire) Regiment of Foot 5 November 1854, Robertson was promoted Lieutenant (without purchase) on 9 February 1855. He joined the Regiment before Sebastopol in January 1855 and took part in the *sortie of 5th May, and great assaults of 18th June and 8th September 1855*. His experiences during this time were later detailed in 1929 by Colonel H. C. Wylly, C.B., in *Extracts from the History of the Sherwood Foresters, Notts & Derby. 95th Regiment, Volume 2*:

'Another officer of the 95th whose siege diary is available for reference, was Lieut. Robertson, who joined the Service Companies in January, 1855, and he gives the following figures: "The admissions for disease to hospital in December, 1854, amounted to 48 per cent of the strength present; in January, 1855, to 57 per cent, and the deaths exceed 8 per cent; in February, to 39 per cent; and in March to 37 per cent, and the deaths to 19 per cent of the strength present. This is accounted for by

the men being, in the fullest sense of the word, 'worn out' by numerous and continuous hardships previously endured."

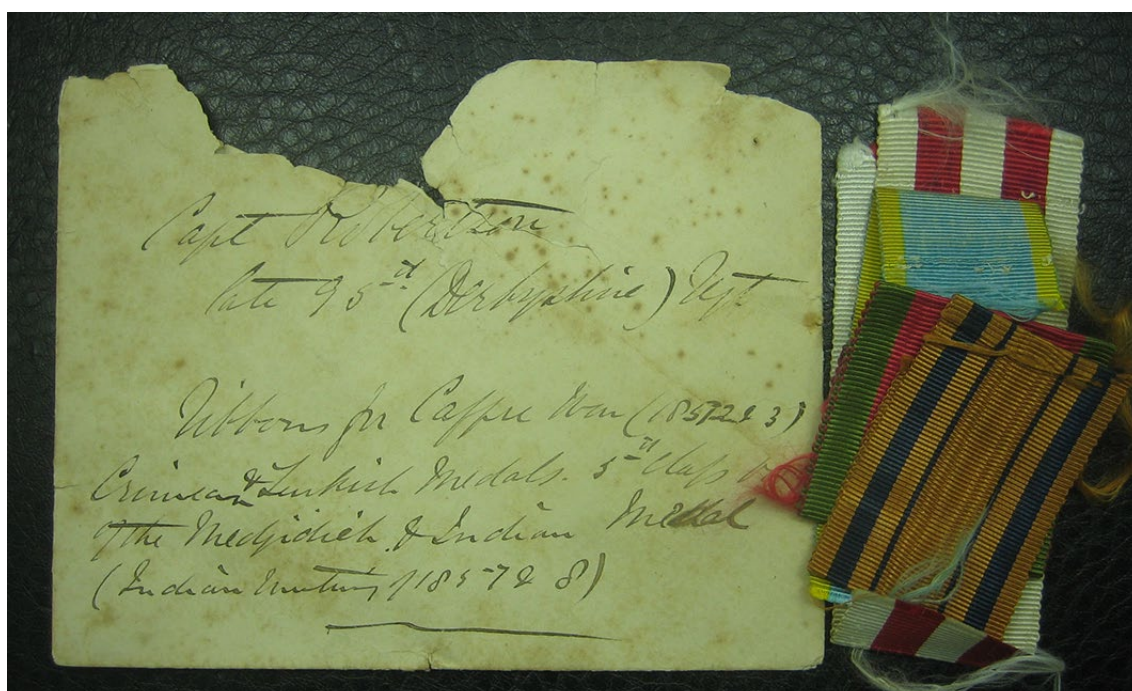
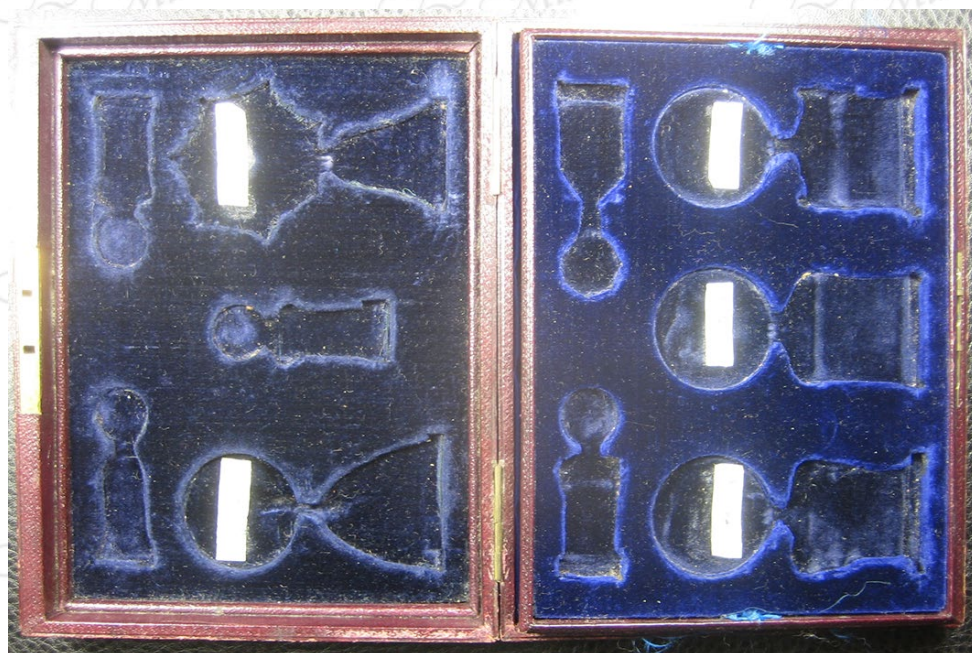
Robertson was later keen to point out the attachment of officers to other regiments for trench duty, such was the impact of disease and state of exhaustion in the British Army. On 23 February 1855, The Times published a letter from a Captain of the 95th, written on the second of that month, in which he adds: *'The weather has been very severe and the Regiment has, I am sorry to say, suffered greatly; on some days we buried as many as five out of our thinned ranks. In fact we are now very nearly hors de combat... Another fortnight will, I fear, reduce us altogether.'*



Briefly returned home to England on 18 June 1856, just a couple of months before his 25th birthday,

Robertson landed in India with his Regiment on 1 November 1857. He served with the 95th Foot throughout the Mutiny, including the Siege and Capture of Kotah under Major-General Roberts, C.B., on 30 March 1858; early that morning three columns, each of 500 men, attempted to breach the town's walls, the lead assault being led by Lieutenant-Colonel Raimes of the 95th Foot. The victory came via a clever flanking movement which resulted in the capture of 70 guns of various calibres and a gallant charge by the 8th Hussars. Major-General Roberts, in thanking the Brigade, was keen to note that he had been in field fights, he had been in storming parties, but he had never seen men go steadier: 'It was more like men upon a parade, or on a field day, than men who were facing death.'

Advanced Captain by purchase on 16 December 1859, Robertson returned home and exchanged to the 2nd Battalion, 25th (King's Own Scottish Borderers) Regiment of Foot by purchase on 18 May 1860. Confirmed upon the recipient's Army Service Record as awarded the Turkish Order of Medjidie, he left the Army a short while later and does not appear in Hart's Army List of 1865.





Condition, contact marks to SA 1853 and Crimea, rest with very light wear, miniatures NEF Sold with copied Service Record and other research. A most impressive group and a scarce combination of awards

The National Army Museum holds the campaign diary, kept by Captain Robertson between 18 Dec 1853 and 28 Mar 1857 (NAM 1975-08-61)