## Long Lost Secrets of British Empire Medals in Military History Revealed!

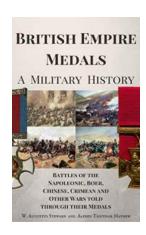


The British Empire, which once encompassed a vast expanse of territories across the globe, holds a rich military history that is punctuated by the bravery and sacrifice of countless individuals. One iconic element of this history is the

prestigious British Empire Medals, which were awarded for exceptional service and acts of heroism.

#### **Understanding the British Empire Medals**

The British Empire Medals, commonly known as BEMs, were established in 1922 to distinguish exceptional individuals within the British Empire. These medals were awarded to both civilian and military personnel for outstanding contributions or significant achievements.



British Empire Medals - A Military History: The Battles of the Napoleonic, Boer, Chinese, Crimean and Other Wars Told Through Their Medals

by Jerry A. Coyne (Kindle Edition)

**★** ★ ★ ★ 4.6 out of 5 Language : English File size : 16013 KB : Enabled Text-to-Speech Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 407 pages Lending : Enabled



The BEMs were classified into three versions:

#### Medal of the Order of the British Empire (BEM Civil Division)

This medal, initially known as the British Empire Medal for Meritorious Service, was awarded to recognize meritorious service by civilians. It acts as a reminder of

the countless individuals who made significant strides in fields like charity work, public service, and community development.

#### Medal of the Order of the British Empire (BEM Military Division)

As the name suggests, this medal honored military personnel for exceptional service and acts of gallantry. It was awarded to individuals who had served in various positions and demonstrated unwavering dedication, bravery, and commitment to the British Empire.

### Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)

The MBE was established in 1917 during World War I and continues to this day. It is awarded for distinguished service to the arts and sciences, public services outside the Civil Service, or work with charitable and welfare organizations of all kinds.

#### The Historical Significance of British Empire Medals

The British Empire Medals hold immense historical significance, as they provide a glimpse into the remarkable individuals who contributed to the rise and fall of the British Empire. They serve as a testament to the courage and honor displayed by both military and civilian personnel.

The medals paint a vivid picture of the British Empire's military campaigns and engagements throughout history, including notable events such as:

#### The Battle of Trafalgar

The BEMs recognize the valor and sacrifice displayed by British naval officers and sailors during the famous Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. This battle marked a

significant turning point in the Napoleonic Wars and showcased the might of the British Royal Navy.

#### **World War I**

Countless individuals were awarded British Empire Medals during World War I, where soldiers displayed extraordinary bravery in the face of adversity. These medals remind us of the immense sacrifices made by British troops and their unwavering commitment to defending the nation.

#### **World War II**

From the heroic efforts of the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain to the valiant acts of soldiers on the front lines, British Empire Medals acknowledge the contributions made during World War II. These medals honor the memory of those who fought against tyranny and oppression.

#### **Rediscovering the Lost Stories**

Over time, the stories of individuals behind the British Empire Medals have faded into obscurity. However, it is through concerted efforts and research that these long-lost tales can be rediscovered.

Engaging with historical archives, letters, and personal accounts, researchers are piecing together the forgotten stories of bravery and heroism that were once encapsulated by the British Empire Medals. Every name, every act of valor, brings us closer to understanding the immense sacrifices made by those who shaped military history.

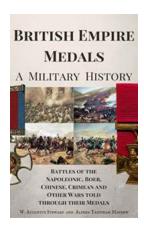
#### The Legacy of British Empire Medals Today

Though the British Empire has transformed into the Commonwealth of Nations, the legacy of the British Empire Medals still holds immense value. These medals

continue to acknowledge the contributions of individuals who have gone above and beyond for their communities and the greater good.

As we reflect on the British Empire's military history and the individuals who shaped it, let us not forget the significance of these medals. They serve as a reminder of the unwavering spirit and sacrifice displayed by countless individuals, forever etching their names into the annals of history.

The British Empire Medals are not merely objects of decoration; they represent the courage, honor, and sacrifice of countless individuals throughout history. By delving into their historical significance and rediscovering the long-lost stories, we pay tribute to those who have shaped military history and helped pave the way for a better future.



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This military history of the British Empire successfully chronicles significant battles and campaigns on land and sea through a single,

#### common thread: their medals.

Compiled and adapted from the researches of noted scholar W. Augustus Steward, this book equips us for a comprehensive journey through the principle of the military decoration as it continually grew in significance. At first bearing only the face of the reigning monarch in the manner of a coin, we witness the increasing sophistication and reverence lavished upon medals as military accolades ascended to significance within the military classes and wider citizenry of the British Isles. Through their ubiquity, every major and many minor skirmishes through the British Empire's ascendency and peak years are thus covered, through to the beginning of World War I.

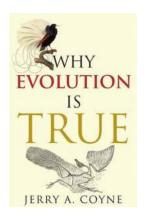
Beginning with the traditions established during Elizabeth I's reign, we are provided a detailed account of the evolution and proliferation of medals. With every major and minor battle, we witness Britain's expansion of influence through the use of gifted commanders such as Arthur Wellesley - more famously known as The Duke of Wellington - and the legendary naval commander Admiral Nelson. Less distinguished names also receive their due, rendering this book a fine reference guide and research source for readers and students; whether their interest be in the African, Crimean, Boer or Opium wars, naval skirmishes, or in the rebellions on the Indian subcontinent. Medal collectors and enthusiasts will find deep insight in the rarities pictured and described.

Each battle's account is accompanied by a complete list of regiments serving, while casualties sustained and inflicted by the British side are likewise detailed. Combative manoeuvres, advances, retreats, setbacks and routs are all mentioned in a lively but factual style, followed up by the mentions of the

accolades and behaviours of the major commanders. Especially significant battles, such as Waterloo, The Charge of the Light Brigade, and Rorke's Drift, receive good examination and account, with all corresponding medals likewise described.

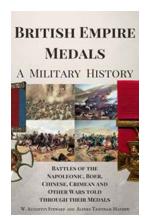
Throughout the text more than 250 pictorial representations of medals are present. Every description reveals details and qualities such as abbreviations and insignia which can easily escape the untrained eye. A guide upon how medals are named offers further illumination and insight as to how sophisticated traditions were becoming. Through merely this part, we gain an informed impression of the Imperial traditions which held strong sway upon British society in excess of three centuries.

Later in the book we examine significant naval battles ranging across the British Empire's history. We also receive generous and meaningful coverage of medal adaptations within rival powers on the European continent. With these as concluding parts, we may call this book a comprehensive military history approached in a stimulating and novel fashion: simply put, British Empire Medals - A Military History is a more than worthwhile purchase.



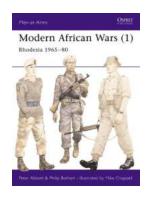
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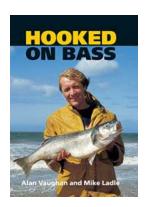
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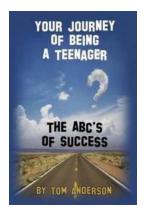
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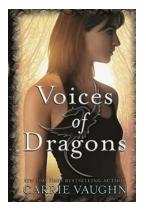
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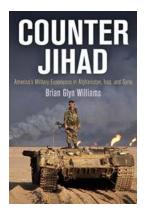
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