

The Queen's Medal for Champion Shots

No. 217.

BEST SHOT.

BRITISH ARMY, 1869.

PLATE 49.

Obv. Bust of Queen Victoria, *l.*, with diadem and veil.

Leg. VICTORIA REGINA

Rev. Fame crowning a warrior, naked with the exception of a cloak hanging behind him, who in his right hand holds a bow, and on his left arm bears a shield pierced by three arrows.

Circular, 1.4 inch. Bronze. Silver.

Artists { *Obv.* L. C. Wyon.
Rev. E. J. Poynter, R.A.

Struck at the Royal Mint.

Dies at the Royal Mint.

Mounting. A plain silver bar.

Ribbon. 1½ inch wide. Red centre with black borders; down each border a white stripe.

Worn on right breast.

The medal for the Best Shot in the British Army, Infantry, was instituted by Royal Warrant, dated 30th April, 1869. The authority for the issue of the medal was notified in the Royal

Warrants issued from time to time in reference to the pay, etc., of the army. The medal was discontinued in 1883, the last Warrant in which it was mentioned being that of 11th March, 1882, Art. 947. The next Warrant, viz. that of 10th June, 1884, makes no mention of the medal or of the prize of £20 which accompanied it. No direct announcement regarding the discontinuance of the medal appears to have been made. In Horse Guards General Order No. 51, of April, 1883, it was stated, however, that the prize of £20 would not be issued after the year 1882-3. No reasons were adduced for the discontinuance of the first prize for competition among the whole of the infantry, but it may be presumed that the regimental prizes were found to be preferable.

The medal was at first made of bronze, but in 1872 it was decided that it should be of silver. As the issue ceased in 1883, only thirteen of the medals were ever issued; and the Best Shot medal may consequently be regarded as one of the rarest of the modern medals.

ARMY CIRCULAR, June, 1869. Clause 62.

'VICTORIA R.

'Whereas We deem it expedient that the Prizes for Skill at Arms, now issued under the authority of Our Royal Warrant of 3rd Feb., 1866, shall in future be granted under Regulations to be framed from time to time by Our Secretary of State for War;

'Our Will and Pleasure is that Articles 801 to 809 of Our said Royal Warrant be cancelled; and they are hereby cancelled accordingly.

'Given at Our Court at Osborne, this 30th day of April, 1869, in the 32nd year of Our Reign.

'By Her Majesty's Command,

'EDWARD CARDWELL.'

REGULATIONS.

'4. The Prizes will be as follows:—

'1st Prize.—To the best shot of the Infantry of the Army (including the Royal Engineers and Colonial Corps), who have practised through the annual course of musketry drill and individual firing prescribed for the drilled soldier.

'£20, and a bronze Medal, inscribed with the year in which won, and the winner's name, number, and regiment; to be worn on the right breast.

'9. The Medal given with the first prize will be the property of the winner, and may be worn during the whole of his service.'

ARMY CIRCULAR, War Office, 1st June, 1872. Clause 90.

PRIZES FOR GOOD SHOOTING.

'The Medal to be given to the best shot of the Infantry of the Army, in accordance with Paragraph 4 of Clause 62, Army Circulars, 1869, will be of Silver instead of Bronze.'

ROYAL WARRANT, 11th March, 1882. Art. 947.

PRIZES FOR SKILL AT ARMS, ETC.

INFANTRY, ROYAL ENGINEERS, AND COLONIAL CORPS.

TARGET PRACTICE.

<p>'1st Prize.—To the best shot of the Infantry of the Army (including the Royal Engineers and Colonial Corps), who have practised through the annual course of musketry drill and individual firing prescribed for the drilled soldier.</p>	}	<p>'£20, and a silver Medal, inscribed with the year in which won, and the winner's name, number, and regiment; to be worn on the right breast.'</p>
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HORSE GUARDS GENERAL ORDER, April, 1883. No. 51—Musketry.

'IX. The Army Prize of £20 will not be issued after the year 1882-3.'

ROYAL WARRANT, 10th June, 1884.

'Art. 939—Prizes for Target practice in the Cavalry, Infantry, Engineers and Colonial Corps.

<p>'1st Prize.—To the best shot among the privates and unpaid lance-corporals of every regiment of cavalry, battalion of infantry, or Musketry battalion of Royal Engineers, consisting of not less than four troops or companies; all of which have been duly exercised in both parts of the annual course.</p>	}	<p>'£5, and a badge of cross carbines or rifles and crown, worked in gold, to be worn upon the left arm.'</p>
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No. 218.

BEST SHOT.

INDIAN NATIVE ARMY.

PLATE 49.

Obv. Head of Queen Victoria, diademed, *l.*

Leg. VICTORIA QUEEN

Rev. A woman, draped, holding in her right hand a wreath, and in her left the Union Jack, below which is a shield inscribed THE BEST SHOT OF THE NATIVE ARMIES IN INDIA. In mid-distance, a body of native infantry at musketry practice. Mountains in the background.

(This is the same as the *obverse* of the 'Magdala' Medal, No. 1.)