

A Memoir of
LIEUT-COLONEL WILLIAM MORRIS

Published by R. White-Thomson in 1903



I have been requested to help in 'keeping green' the memory of the services of the distinguished Devonian, whose brilliant career, cut short in 1858, is commemorated by the handsome obelisk, subscribed for by the County, and erected in 1860 in his native parish of Hatherleigh on the most commanding site of its historic Moor.

It gives me great pleasure to comply with the request, for although Colonel Morris was not living when I came to reside in this neighbourhood, I knew him well when we soldiered together at Newbridge in Ireland in 1850-51; and I am glad of an opportunity of testifying to the esteem with which I regarded him.

The modesty of his character, combined with the prestige of his services in India made a lasting impression upon my mind, and it was a source of great satisfaction to me that my younger brother was then serving with him in the 17th Lancers. Indeed, they were together for more than four years, until the 25 October 1854, when, at Balaklava, my brother was killed, and Morris, who commanded the 17th on that day, was himself very seriously wounded.

William Morris was born at Fishleigh, in the Parish of Hatherleigh, on December the 18th, 1820. He was the eldest son of William Cholmeley Morris Esq., of Fishleigh and Inwardleigh (who matriculated Queens College, Oxford in 1812), by Jane, second daughter of James, fourth son of William Mallet Esq., of Ash, in the Parish of Iddesleigh. This James took the name of Veale on inheriting the Passaford property in Hatherleigh from his uncle James, brother of his wife Jane Veale.

William Morris, our hero, was educated at home by his father, and matriculated at St. James College, Cambridge in 1839.

I believe there are still living in Hatherleigh and this neighbourhood some who remember him riding well to hounds as a small boy on his pony, and there is a tradition that he was one day discovered by his father astride of the weathercock on the steeple of Hatherleigh Church.

The following letter, which he wrote to one of his sisters, is characteristic of his reckless pluck and of his delight in sport, tempered, as will be seen, by a love of flowers:-

St. John's College, Cambridge
May, 1839

We had our last boat race for the year yesterday, and I was kept in chapel so long by the anthem that I was too late for the barge in which I was to have gone down the river. It had started, and in trying to jump on to it from the bank, I cut my leg and hurt my shoulder so much that I can hardly lift my hand to my head, and also cut and bruised my face a good deal, so that I am not very comfortable today . . .

. . . I will bring you a quantity of scented violet roots when I come home to plant about the grounds, and have scented violets at least at Fishleigh.

I cannot make out why you do not like Roger, as I am certain he is a very good pony. I think you must have mismanaged him some way.

I mean to have something to ride when I come home, if I steal a horse from Hatherleigh Moor.

They are beginning to make preparations for the Installation; they have given the Master of Trinity £1,000 to buy new furniture in order to receive Prince Albert, who is coming down.

Your affectionate brother
W. Morris

He was reading for his degree when he was gazetted to a Cornetcy in the 16th Lancers, then in India, in June 1842.

He sailed from Gravesend in the following month and joined his Regiment at Meerut in April 1843.

He wrote to his father on the 9th of that month as follows: -

I arrived here on the 23rd of last month, exactly eight months from the day I left England ... I am delighted with my Regiment. They are a splendid body of men, and the best mounted in India. The Officers too are a fine, handsome and agreeable set of fellows; in fact I can find no fault at all, unless envy that every Officer is a finer and better looking fellow than myself. The Colonel is an excellent Officer, and although an old man, he is quite young when at the head of his men. I am reading hard at the Cavalry movements; they are rather difficult to recollect from being so numerous . . . I have some idea of going to the Senior Department of Sandhurst when I have sufficient time in the Army; it is an introduction to a good appointment - that is, if I get any place in the examinations, which are chiefly mathematical. (Here follow details as to the expenses of the mess of the 16th Lancers, which were heavy on account of the hospitality of the Officers.) Two of our Officers killed a tiger the other day about ten miles from the Lines. I am going out at the latter end of this month or the beginning of next to try for one, and will do my best to bring back a skin. They have got a lot of prize money in Scinde. The 16th were applied for to go, but a Lord Ellenborough would not spare them, and sent the 9th Native Cavalry instead. . . There are rumours of more fighting; I suppose with Sir Charles Napier they will send us up directly, so you may suppose I do not wish them much good! The Governor General does not know whether we go home next winter or not, as Lord Ellenborough talks of having another Army of Reserve assembled. I have a shrewd suspicion that we shall form part of it."

Morris's 'shrewd suspicion' was justified by the event, for Lord Ellenborough decided to attack the Gwalior Chiefs, who wished to settle the succession to the throne of their Protectorate against the rightful heir, the young Maharajah. The 16th Lancers formed part of the force, and marched south from Meerut to Gwalior, taking part in the Battle of Maharajpore on the 29th December 1843. The Regiment bears on its colours the name of the victory which it helped to gain, and Morris received the medal - his first.

From 1843 until 1846 there was no fighting for the gallant 16th but towards the end of 1845 the Sikhs determined to try conclusions with the British. They had viewed with apprehension the annexation of Scinde and of Gwalior by Lord Ellenborough. The wisdom of his Lordship's action had been doubted by the Board of Directors of the East India Company - then and until after the Mutiny of 1857 the rulers of India - and they recalled him in 1844. Perhaps it was his bellicose nature which had fostered distrust, not only at home, but amongst our warlike neighbours, the Sikhs. Anyhow, they declared war, and crossed the River Sutlej.

Meanwhile, Lord Hardinge had assembled a British force, and we may be sure that Morris was not sorry that his Regiment was sent to the front. There was fierce fighting, and he was present at the battles of Buddiwal, Aliwal and Sobraon, in command of a troop of 16th Lancers.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Morris the day after the Battle of Aliwal:

January 29th, 1846

"We attacked the Sikhs yesterday, and gave them an awful licking, with much less loss than I expected. After some very sharp firing for about an hour, the 16th Lancers charged in two wings ... we went across an open plain and took the enemy's guns in spite of thousands who guarded them. I was with the left squadron, which charged the extreme right of the enemy's position. We attacked the only body of their Cavalry that showed fight, and sent them flying . . . but we found we were surrounded by thousands of their Infantry, who formed a square to prevent our getting back, and it would have done your eyes good to see how we dashed through them. The squadron lost forty men killed beside the wounded. I first went at one of their standards, but it got away from me into a mass of Infantry. I then attacked one of the Officers and sent my sword clean through him, but before I could disengage my sword, he hit me over the left eye and gave me a slight wound, which I do not think will leave a scar. I do not yet know the loss on either side, but we are said to have taken seventy guns, and have driven the enemy across the Sutlej. We took their camp standing as it was, and as we had to lie on the ground all the night, I found some of their blankets very agreeable. We had six Officers of the Regiment wounded and two killed. I will write by every mail while we are in the enemy's country. I suppose we shall cross the Sutlej in a few days. I am quite well except for my eye which will be right again in a day or two."

Sir Harry Smith, in his report of the battle of Aliwal writes;

"The enemy had a numerous body of Cavalry on the heights to his left, and I ordered Brigadier Cureton to bring up the right brigade of Cavalry, who, in the most gallant manner, dashed in among them and drove the back upon their Infantry ... The enemy, well driven back upon his left and centre, endeavoured to hold his right to cover the passage of the river ... I directed a squadron of the 16th Lancers, under Major Smith and Captain Pearson to charge a body to the right of the village, which they did in most gallant style, bearing everything before them as a squadron, under Captain Price, had previously done, going right through a square of infantry, wheeling about and re-entering the square in the most intrepid manner with the deadly lance.

Sir Harry's report of the killed and wounded of the 16th Lancers was as follows:

2 Officers, 56 men and 77 horses killed.

6 Officers, 77 men and 22 horses wounded.

1 man and 73 horses injured.

It is thus seen by the General Officer Commanding's report that Morris had rather understated the losses of his Regiment, and certainly not overstated their gallantry.

I subjoin extracts from a letter written by Captain Pearson, 16th Lancers, one of the Senior Captains of the Regiment, afterwards a General Officer, dated from Aliwal on the same days as above from Morris:

"We have gained a glorious victory ... but I regret to say the 16th has suffered much, more so than in any other battle of the Peninsula or Waterloo. Two Officers killed, Williams and Swettenham; Major Smyth severely wounded, Captain Benn hit in the face, Captain Tyler dangerously wounded, Captain Pattle shot in the face, Morris slightly hit in the face.

Captain Pearson had a wing of the Regiment in reserve, but, receiving no orders, obtained permission from Major Smyth (commanding the Regiment) to advance. He writes:

"... who went down before our charge, yet retiring fighting, and at one time 200 of the 16th were in the midst of 10,000 of their choicest troops, drilled and led by French Officers ... and our loss in men and horses is enormous for our strength, 134 of the Regiment, Officers, and men out of 300 fell on the bloody field, and 179 horses are killed or missing ... Sir Harry Smith came to me and on the the field and said to me, 'You may rely on a Majority for this.' I brought the Regiment out of action, and am in command until Major Smyth recovers, which will not be for some time to come."

Morris's wound did not prevent his accompanying the advance of the force, for he wrote as follows from Kusoor on February 16th:

"Here we are across the Sutlej and in the Punjab. We crossed a bridge of boats near Ferozepore on the 14th. I was on the regimental baggage guard, and you cannot fancy what work I had. We made a very short march starting at 5am, but not getting in until 3pm. It put me in mind of driving cattle through an English fair, only I had camels and elephants to drive instead of bullocks.

Gholab Singh came in to the Governor General yesterday and was received very coolly. He got off his elephant at some distance from the Durbar tent and the Governor General did not rise to receive him. I hear all our terms were agreed, so I fear we shall not have the pleasure of threshing the Sikhs again this time. I did not think they would have allowed us to go to Lahore, but I suppose the heavy loss they sustained at the last battle (Sobraon) has created a panic among them. (Here follows a description of the dresses of the visitors.) Kusoor is the name of an old Mahometan town and must have been a very strong place. The inhabitants are still Mahometan, but are so very much in dread of the Sikhs that the Muezzin calling them to evening prayer has not been heard for more than seventy years until last evening ... I have been very well carried through this affair by a young Arab horse I bought off a racecourse just before I left Meerut ... I hear there are a good many wild hog on the banks of the Ravee, and I am looking forward with much pleasure to a campaign against them now that the thing is said to be over."

The battle of Sobraon had been fought on February 19th, and resulted in the termination of the war. The Sikh army was driven across the Sutlej and, as related by Morris, the British Army crossed the river by a pontoon bridge and entered the Punjab.

With reference to Gholab Singh's visit to the Governor General, mentioned by in Morris's letter, Lord Hardinge himself wrote thus to the Secret Committee of the East India Company on February the 19th:

"I received the Rajah in Durbar as the representative of an offending Government, omitting the forms and ceremonies usually observed."

One, and only one more of Morris's letters from the Punjab is before me. It is dated Lahore, February 28th. He writes:

"We got here on the 20th. Everything is now settled. (Here follow details of the settlement.) I went through Lahore yesterday and never was there such a dirty place. I do not wonder that the cholera killed such numbers last year; there is a stream of the blackest and most offensive fluid running through the narrowest street you can fancy ... I went to the unfinished tomb of Runjeet Singh, and viewed it with great respect, for I look upon him as one of the greatest men the East has ever produced."

His letter concludes with a message to his mother to the effect that he had applied for leave, that his application had been forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief (Lord Gough) and that he was looking forward with delight to the prospect of a happy

summer at home.

Morris returned to England in May 1846, and was then placed on half pay. He seems to have contemplated an exchange to the Infantry, as will be seen from the subjoined extremely handsome letter which was sent to him by his late Commanding Officer Colonel Cureton C.B.

Simla, 10th September

1846.

My Dear Morris,

I readily comply with your desire for a testimonial of my opinion of you while under my command in the 16th Lancers.

I have no hesitation in declaring that I have rarely met with a more promising Cavalry Officer than yourself. Your habits, your temper and acquirements eminently qualify you for it. Your knowledge of and attachment to horses, your superiority in and fondness for riding and all manly exercises, your quickness of eye as to country and your ability and willingness to undergo fatigue and privation, early attracted my attention. I had full opportunity to observe them as well in cantonements as during the campaigns in Gwalior and on the Sutlej, and it is upon them that I have formed the opinion I have above given.

I should much regret for the good of the Service, as well as on your own account, that you should quit the mounted branch of the Service. Your conduct as a gentleman whilst under my command was unexceptionable, and is best shown by the universal esteem and regard of your brother Officers as well as that of your sincere friend,

CHARLES R. CURETON, Colonel

Late in Command of the 16th

Lancers

Morris exchanged from half pay to the 17th Lancers in February 1847, and joined that Regiment in Dublin. He went to study at the Senior Department of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1849 and passed out with a first class certificate in 1851 and with extra honours. He became a Captain by purchase the same year.

In 1852 Captain Morris married Amelia, third daughter of Major-General Taylor C.B. of Ogdell, Devon, a Waterloo Officer, late 10th Hussars and at that time Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Military College.

In 1854, when the war with Russia broke out, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General, and accompanied the army to Turkey in April of that year.

While engaged at Varna in the duties of his office he was taken ill with cholera, so was unable to cross with the Army to the Crimea in September, but had recovered sufficiently to join the Headquarter Staff in October, before Sebastopol.

Very soon after his arrival, he relinquished his Staff appointment to take command of the 17th Lancers, Major Saltren Willett the Senior Officer present with the Regiment, having died with cholera. (*Major Augustus Saltren Willett was also a Devonshire man - the eldest son of John Saltren Willett Esq. of Petticombe, Monkleigh, North Devon. In the last of Lieutenant John Henry Thompson's letters dated October 23rd - two days before he fell - he wrote, "I have another melancholy bit of news to close this letter with - the awfully sudden death of our poor Major from cholera in eleven hours, we were going to bury him this morning." A kinsman of Major Saltren Willett, Archibald Cleveland, of Tapeley Park, Instow, Devon, was also in the 17th Lancers. He was appointed to the Regiment in 1852 as Cornet, rode*

unwounded through the Balaklava Charge but was killed at Inkerman on November the 5th)

Thus it happened that he led the 17th into action on the 25th October.

Had he been in command of the five regiments composing the Light Brigade, instead of one of them only, the issue of the battle of Balaklava would have been more creditable to the leadership of that splendid Brigade, which would have charged to victory early in the day instead of to almost total annihilation later.

The leader of the Light Brigade was Lord Cardigan, a brave man, but without any previous experience of war. He had received instructions from Lord Lucan, his Divisional Commander, which, as interpreted by him, condemned the Light Brigade to remain on the defensive, whilst the Heavy Brigade was making a magnificent charge which routed a vastly superior force of Russian Cavalry.

And now I will quote from *Kinglake's History of the Invasion in the Crimea* in proof of my assertion that the issue of the events of the 25th October would have been very different had Morris and not Cardigan, been in command of the Light Brigade. These are Kinglake's words, vol.iv., p.215;

"Whilst Lord Cardigan sat in his saddle expressing, under Cavalry forms of speech, his envy of the Heavy Dragoons, and adhering to that hapless construction of Lord Lucan's orders which condemned him, as he thought, to a state of neutrality, he had at his side an officer, comparatively young, and with only the rank of Captain, who still was well able to give him that guidance which, by reason of his want of experience in war he grievously, though unconsciously, needed.

Captain Morris, commanding the 17th Lancers, one of the Regiments of the Light Brigade, and then in his thirty-fourth year, was a man richly gifted with the natural qualities which tend to make a leader of Cavalry, but strengthened also by intellectual cultivation well applied to the business of arms, and clothed, above all, with that priceless experience which soldiers acquire in war. After having first armed himself with a portion, at least, of the education which Cambridge bestows, he had served with glory in India. In 1843 he had been present at the battle of Maharajpore.

In 1846 he fought at the battle of Buddiwal. At the battle of Aliwal, in the same year, he was wounded whilst charging with his Regiment into a mass of Sikh Infantry. He was in the battle of Sobraon; he crossed the Sutlej, and entered Lahore with the Army. When opportunities of gaining warlike experience were no longer open to him he returned to the labour of military study and carried from Sandhurst ample evidence of his proficiency in higher departments of military learning. Captain Morris was one of those who might have been wisely entrusted with an extended command of Cavalry. Few could be more competent to point out to Lord Cardigan the error he was committing.

Perceiving with vivid distinctness the precious opportunity which the fortune of war was offering, Morris eagerly prayed that the Light Cavalry might advance upon the enemy's column of horse, or if that could not be conceded, then that he at least, with his Regiment, might be suffered to undertake an attack."

The precious opportunity referred to by Kinglake arose (as stated in an earlier portion of his narration) from the fact that the Russian column, while being driven back by the Heavy Brigade, presented its flank to the Light Brigade, and was thus especially vulnerable.

In a footnote (p.216) Kinglake writes:

"I do not forget that Lord Cardigan has denied this, but my proofs are ample."

He goes on to quote a letter written by Morris himself to the War Office, which

was as follows:

"Having read a letter from Major Calthorpe in which he throws between Lord Cardigan and myself the settlement of the question as to whether I asked Lord Cardigan on the 25th October 1854, to attack the Russian Cavalry in the flank at the time they were engaged with the Heavy Brigade, and which Lord Cardigan denies, I wish to declare most positively that I did ask Lord Cardigan to attack the enemy at the time, and in the manner mentioned."

Kinglake continues (p.218):

"A Brigade of Light Cavalry drawn up in two lines on good turf, and employed in the occupation of gazing upon a fight sustained against a great stress of numbers by their comrades, the Heavy Brigade, *the man of the Sotlej* entreating that the Brigade might advance to the rescue, but rebuffed and overruled by the higher authority of the *man from the banks of the Serpentine* who sits erect in his saddle and is fitfully 'damning the Heavies' instead of taking part in their fight - these may seem to be creatures of the brain evoked, perhaps, for some drama of the grossly humorous sort, but because of the sheer truth their place is historic."

We could it have been had Morris's advice been taken, for there is good reason for the assumption that the certain success that would have attended the co-operation of the Light Brigade with the Heavies, would have been the substitute for the disastrous, though glorious, charge which they actually made - six hundred of them against an Army in positions!

You can read for yourselves the full details of that celebrated charge in Kinglake's pages, as I do not extract more from them than suffices to show the part which Morris took in it.

A large body of Russian Cavalry, about 4000 strong, under General Ryhoff, had left their camp early in the morning, and at about 10.20 were approaching the British Cavalry Camp, when they were completely routed by the Heavy Cavalry Brigade, and, as we have seen, their discomfiture would have been even more complete had Morris's advice been taken by Lord Cardigan. Lord Raglan, the Commander-in-Chief, now observed that the Russians were carrying off some guns which they had captured from our Turkish allies in the early phase of the battle. He therefore sent orders to Lord Lucan to advance with his Cavalry to prevent the enemy from carrying the guns away.

These orders were mistaken by Lord Lucan, and instead of taking measures for recapturing the guns which were being carried off from a chain of small forts on some heights to his own right and in advance of the Russian position, he launched his Light Cavalry Brigade against the main body of the Russians.

For more than a mile, the five devoted Regiments advanced straight down the valley, their ranks thinned as they rode along by shot and shell, not only from the front which they were attacking, but also from the heights on either flank.

The charge was made in three lines. In the first line were the 13th Light Dragoons and the 17th Lancers. In the second, the 4th Light Dragoons and 11th Hussars, and the two squadrons of the 8th Dragoons formed the third.

When the first line was about eighty yards from a Battery of twelve guns behind which the Russian Army was drawn up, there came such a salvo of shrapnel that more than half of each of two leading Regiments were destroyed.

Meanwhile the second and third lines were galloping on into this ride of death, and you may read in Kinglake's pages how grandly they did. (*a French Officer commented, "This is magnificent, but it is not war"*).

But I must return to Morris. Unwounded he rode past the Batteries with some twenty of his men and came upon a Regiment of Hussars.

As he was approaching them he turned round and shouted, "Now remember what I have told you men, and keep together."

Then, putting spurs into his charger, "Old Treasurer", he drove full at the squadron confronting him.

His sword passed through the body of the Squadron leader but now a Regiment of Cassacks came to the support of the Hussars, and before Morris could withdraw his sword from the body of the Russian, he received a sabre cut to the left side of his head and another deep cut which penetrated his skull.

He fell off his horse, stunned. When he recovered consciousness he rose to his feet and endeavoured to defend himself with his sword, but a lance of one of the Cossacks pierced his temple.

He thought his end had come, when a Russian Officer struck up two or three of the Cossack lances and called upon him to surrender, so he yielded up his sword.

The Officer to whom Morris had surrendered disappeared, and he found himself at the mercy of the Cossacks, who rushed in upon him and plundered him of all he had about him.

Believing that they intended to kill him, he ran into a volume of smoke, and catching the rein of a riderless horse, was dragged by it for some distance, but soon fell and became again unconscious.

When he regained his senses he managed to mount another riderless horse, and rode as fast as he could back up the valley, but a shot killed the horse and, his strength now exhausted, after staggering on for a bit, he fell and for a third time lost consciousness.

The Surgeon of the Inniskilling Dragoons - James Mouat - gallantly volunteered to ride out to his assistance, and under fire, dressed his wounds and thus his life was saved.

For this act Mouat received the Victoria Cross, and it is only recently that, after a distinguished career, the death of the Surgeon General Sir James Mouat, K.C.B., V.C., has been announced.

When the Light Brigade was mustered at the close of the engagement, there only remained 195 mounted men out of 670 who had ridden against the Russians

Two Officers of the 17th, Captain Winter and my brother were killed; Captain Winter was mortally wounded and died on board ship. Four were wounded - Captain Morris (in command), Captain Robert White, (who died as General Sir Robert White, K.C.B., last August), Lieutenant Sir William Gordon, and Lieutenant Chadwick, who was also taken prisoner.

When sufficiently recovered, Morris was invalided, and returned home, and for his services received a Brevet Majority and the Companionship of the Bath.

In February 1855, he was appointed Deputy Adjutant-General of the Horse Guards, but was soon after sent out to superintend the Remount Department at Scutari, with the Brevet rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and in December of the same year he was appointed Deputy Quartermaster-General, with the rank of Colonel, to the Turkish Contingent.

Colonel Morris proceeded to take up this appointment at Kertsch, in the Crimea, where he remained until the end of the war, in 1856 and until all the troops had left.

On his return home he was made Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at the Curragh in Ireland, and there he served until September 1857.

Meanwhile, the Sepoy Mutiny was raging, and the 17th Lancers, having been ordered to India, Colonel Morris joined them and received his substantive Majority in the Regiment.

He sailed with them round the Cape to Bombay and accompanied them to Kirkee.

In April 1858, Colonel Morris was made Assistant Adjutant-General and went to Mahablesbur to take up his appointment on the staff of Sir Henry Somerset.

Mahablesbur is the Hill Station of the Bombay Presidency. Morris wrote a letter to one of his sisters from there which must have been one of the last he ever wrote, for very soon after writing it he was attacked by dysentery.

It will be seen from this letter, extracts from which I will read, how keen an interest he took in Hatherleigh matters.

Mahablesbur, 29th May 1858

(Instructions about the management of the estate and reference to the purchase of Lake.)

"Don't you think you could persuade the Mayor and Corporation of Hatherleigh that it would be for their interest as well as the interest of the town, if they were to make a racecourse on Hatherleigh Moor; it must not be less than two miles long. I will give £20 towards it; Mr. Oldham and Mr. Mallet might subscribe, or at least give their sanction, as some encouragement to the breeding of horses is sadly wanted in the neighbourhood, and I am sure Mr. Madge of Stockley will help. I would give my stone for bridging the gullies. I made a racecourse at Kirkee which only cost £15, and there are four or five bridges in it."

(Reference to bad luck with the lambs at Fishleigh, and hints to Worth, his Bailiff.)

"This is a very pretty place, but too much confined to suit me, and I would much rather stand the heat of the plains and have my gallop, though the temperature here is as pleasant as possible, neither hot nor cold, and the flowers are lovely; all the English flowers grow well and the wild flowers are beautiful ... We go to Poona on the 1st (June).

With love to mother and all at home.

Your very affectionate brother,

WILLIAM"

It is sad reading when we know that within six weeks his noble spirit was to be lost to his Queen and Country.

On the 11th July 1858, William Morris breathed his last at Poona. He was buried there with full military honours, and following is the inscription on a tablet placed by his brother Officers in the Poona church:

**Sacred to the memory of
WILLIAM MORRIS
of Fishleigh, Devon,
Brevet Lieut.-Colonel and Major
Her Majesty's 17th Lancers
Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath
Knight of the Legion of Honour
And Companion of the Third Class of the
Imperial Order of the Medjidie,
Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General
Of Her Majesty's Forces, Bombay,
Who departed this life 11th July 1858,**

in South Africa, served with distinction during the Kafir war of 1852, in command of native levies. The following is a transcript of his services written by Sir Harry Smith, the General Officer who commanded during the war:

Government House

Devonport, 1st March 1853

Cholmeley Morris Esq., was appointed by me early in the present Kafir War as Captain of native levies and he had the command of a Battalion, a duty he most zealously performed much to my satisfaction and in which he displayed considerable gallantry.

H.G. Smith

Major-General

Serving with Cholmeley Morris was his next brother, Westcott Morris, whose life was saved by the gallantry of a brother Officer, when he was lying dangerously wounded in three places by assegais.

Cholmeley Morris left two sons, William, who took to agricultural pursuits in Wales, and Maurice Morgan, now serving in the Royal Artillery at Gibraltar.

From five sisters, one alone now survives, Miss Juliana Mary, to whom I am indebted for much valuable information respecting her family, and who has kindly entrusted me with the very interesting letters and documents from which I have quoted..

We are glad to have the handsome obelisk near us, which testifies to the merits of this distinguished soldier, but we cannot pass it by without a feeling of regret, not only that a brilliant career was so early brought to a close, but also to the manly house of Morris has no longer a representative residing in our midst.

The railing and gates which enclose the Morris Monument on Hatherleigh Moor have recently been erected. Two shields on the gates are thus inscribed.

This frontage erected

1901

By Sir Robert White-Thomson

In memory of his brother

JOHN HENRY THOMSON

Lieutenant 17th Lancers,

Who fell at Balaklava

October 25th 1854,

When the Regiment was commanded

By Captain

Afterwards Colonel Morris, C.B.



THE MORRIS MONUMENT

Many thanks, again, to Brian Abell and Barbara Mercer of Hatherleigh, Devon, for this little book.