



Balsall Heath
Local History Society

The GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2015

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The Balsall Heath Local History Society was founded in 1979 with the aim of promoting interest in our local history. To meet our aims we work with local schools and community groups organising exhibitions and events. We have also produced several publications. We are a registered charity and rely on grants and donations to achieve our aims. For more information on our work, or to volunteer and help please contact us.

NEW VIEWS OF WENMAN STREET

(Below) Wenman Street Gospel Hall stood on the corner of Knutsford Street. The last Sunday School and Service was on the 30th Jan 1966. It was demolished later that year.



(Bottom)

This image, taken about 1910, is of the Wenman Street junction with Balsall Heath Road. Delivering milk to Mills's Cash Stores is a cart from Walker Brothers Dairy which was on Holloway Head.

In later years the dairy amalgamated with the Cattell Brothers of Farm Street, Hockley and Arthur Gurden of Marroway Street, Ladywood.

On the online Birmingham Forum, Phil writes: "Which of you does not remember the bomb site that started behind that shop and run to Knutsford Street. It was the San Moritz of Birmingham in the winter when the snow fell. Old planks of wood tied to your feet for ski's and tin baths and tin sheets for sleds and it was off down the piste. Entertainment was where you made it and cheap in those days".



IN SEARCH OF ALBERT SHOEBOOTHAM

Martin Shoebbotham wrote to us to see if we had any information on the family of his ancestor, Albert, about whom he found the press cutting (right). While there are Shoebbotham's in Balsall Heath in the 1890s/1900s there is no sign of Albert. Neither does he appear in the earlier censuses or in fact on the births or marriage registers...

Albert's only records so far are his military service, which is held at the regimental museum of the Lancashire Fusiliers. His name is listed on the War Memorial in Bury for the Fusiliers killed during the Boer War. During the fighting at Spion Kop in January 1900 the losses of the battalion were very severe-3 officers killed, 5 wounded, about 40 men killed (including Albert), 100 wounded, and some missing.

Interestingly his service medals were sold at auction by Bonham's in 2003. Lot 551 comprised of "Three to Colour Sergeant A. Shoebbotham, Lancashire Fusiliers, Queen's Sudan 1896-1898 (3214 C/Sgt A.Shoebotham 2/Lan:Fus:); Queen's South Africa 1899-1902, one bar, Relief of Ladysmith (3214 C Sgt A.Shoebotham Lanc: Fus:); Khedive's Sudan 1896-1908, one bar, Khartoum, engraved (3214 Colour Sergt A.Shoebotham 2nd L.F.)".

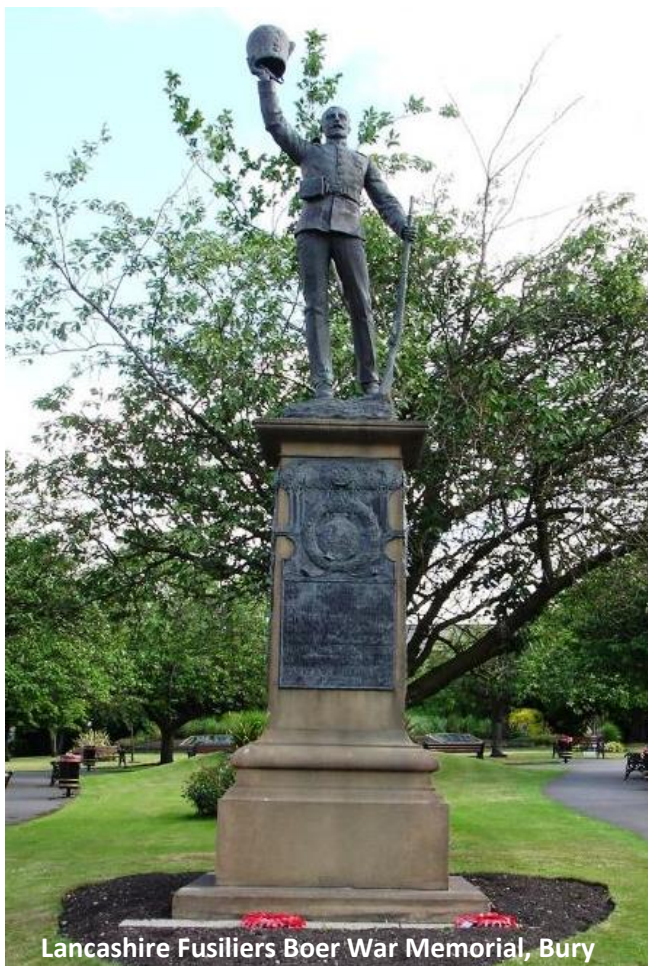
The Queen's Sudan and Khedive's Sudan he would have received in his lifetime while the Queen's South Africa would have been posthumous. They were sold for £1,586.

Killed at Spion Kop.

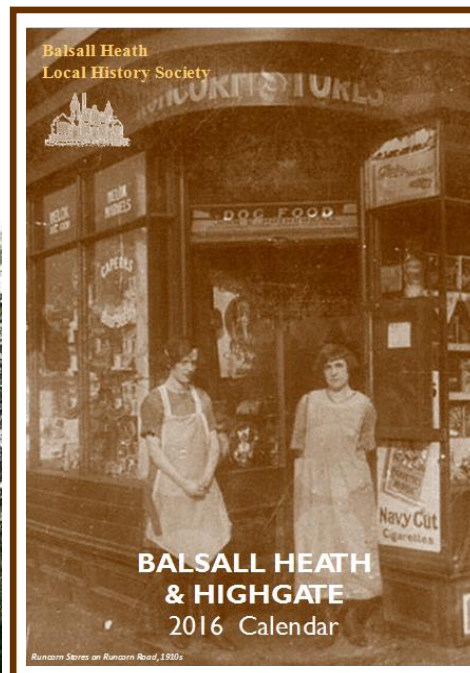
Information has been received in Birmingham of the death, at Spion Kop, of Colour-sergeant A. Shoebbotham (No. 3214), 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers, of 20, Vincent Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. Writing from Frere Camp, on February 13, to the relatives, Acting-colour-sergeant Farrell says:—"You will have heard of the battles of January 20 and 24. Deceased was very conspicuous on the 20th, going almost to the enemy's trenches with Major Walters. After a hard day's fighting, he came out of the engagement without a scratch. On the 23rd, after the Fusiliers had taken up a position with the artillery, the colonel informed them that they had been specially selected, owing to their gallant action on January 20, to make a night attack on Spion Kop. The battalion reached its destination about half-past two o'clock on the morning of the 24th. After a hard climb they reached near the summit, when they were challenged by a Boer sentry. A volley followed immediately, and the Fusiliers charged the position with fixed bayonets. Most of the Boers, however, got away in the thick mist. Having formed into line on the summit of the kop, trenches were dug, and at seven o'clock the Boers commenced fighting in deadly earnest. The Fusiliers repaired to the trenches, and for hours fought under a perfect hail of bullets and shells. In moving to get a better position about three o'clock deceased and the writer got separated, and he was shot dead. He was buried next morning on Spion Kop. He was much respected in the company.



THE LATE COL. SERGT. A SHOEBOOTHAM.



Lancashire Fusiliers Boer War Memorial, Bury



HISTORY SOCIETY CALENDAR

Are YOU looking for something different to buy that special person for Christmas? Why not purchase a 2016 Balsall Heath & Highgate calendar!

It features evocative images from the recent and distant past and is sure to delight. Yours for just £4 plus postage, or £3 if you are a member.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 17th December 7:30

The Venture

(Malvern Street by the farm)

Folklore and Folk Song in the West Midlands
by Richard Churchley