

### **SUDAN WAR 1885**

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In the early 1880s the British backed Egyptian regime in the Sudan was threatened by an indigenous rebellion under the leadership of Muhammed Ahmed, known to his followers as the Mahdi.

With news of the death in late January 1885 of the heroic English General Charles Gordon whose exploits were well known throughout the British Empire, the NSW government cabled London with an offer of troops which London accepted but stipulated that the contingent would be under British command.

The British government's acceptance of the contingent was received with enthusiasm by the NSW government and members of the armed forces; it was seen as a historic occasion, marking the first time that soldiers in the pay of a self governing Australian colony were to fight in an imperial war.

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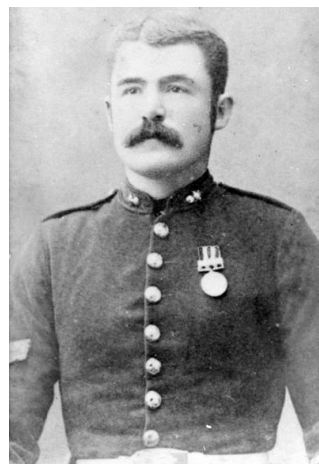
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## Camden Remembers – The Sudan War 1885

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### **CORNWELL, William Charles, Gunner/Corporal 941**

Born 10-February-1857 Camden, NSW  
Parents George Cornwell & Elizabeth Stephenson  
Spouse Margaret Rose  
Married 1889 Sydney, NSW  
Occupation Butcher  
Died 05-May-1934 Newtown, NSW  
Unit Artillery Colonial Military Forces (NSW Contingent);  
Enlisted 13-November-1882;  
Departed SS Iberia 03-March-1885  
Returned SS Arab 23-June-1885



Notes: Recorded on his enlistment papers as John Cornwall

### **DAVEY, Walter George, Trooper 449**

Born: 1865 Bristol, Gloucestershire, England  
Parents: Thomas Davey & Ann  
Spouse: Rebecca Bartlett  
Married: 1886 Robertson, NSW  
Death: 17-March-1949 Archerfield, Singleton, NSW  
Occupation: Blacksmith  
Unit: NSW Lancers  
Honours: Queen's South Africa Medal;

Notes: Late of the Buffs Regiment British Army, England; name also spelt as Davy. The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment), of which Davey had been a member was formerly the 3rd Regiment of Foot. The Buffs were an infantry regiment of the British Army until 1961 and have a history dating back to 1572.

The Buffs were one of the oldest regiments in the British Army being third in order of precedence (ranked as the 3rd Regiment of the line). It provided distinguished service over a period of almost four hundred years accumulating one hundred and sixteen battle honours.

As this British Regiment took part in the Anglo-Egyptian Conflict (the Sudan) it is highly probably that Davey also saw service in the Sudan

### **DIVALL, William, Private 28**

Born: 1865 Goulburn, NSW  
Parents: William Divall & Elizabeth White  
Died: 24-August-1935 Newcastle  
Spouse: (1) Kate Maxwell; (2) Jane Neill  
Married: (1) 1885 Goulburn, NSW;  
(2) 1897 Newtown, NSW

## Camden Remembers – The Sudan War 1885

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Occupation: Labourer NSW  
Buried: Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle, NSW  
Unit: New South Wales Contingent –  
Sudan – C Company  
Enlisted: 18-February-1885  
Departed: SS Iberia (NSW 1) 03-March-1885  
Returned: SS Arab 23-June-1885  
Honours: Khedive's Star 1882–1891 (Sudan)  
Notes: also served in the Boer War and World War 1.

### **FIDDEN, Charles William Private 330**

Born: 06-September-1864 Elderslie, NSW  
Parents: James Joseph Fidden & Mary Hilder  
Spouse: Olive Matilda Thompson  
Married: 1905 Newtown, NSW  
Occupation: Printer  
Died: 03-December-1911 Waterloo, NSW  
Unit: New South Wales Contingent – Sudan – A  
Enlisted: 20-February-1885;  
Departed: SS Iberia 03-March-1885  
Returned: SS Arab 23- June-1885  
Notes: Served as a Lance Corporal in the Army Medical Corps (NSW)  
during the Boer War

### **HILDER, Henry, Bombardier 898**

Born: 17-December-1864 Camden Park, Menangle, NSW  
Parents: John Hilder & Elizabeth Dunk  
Spouse: Caroline Harriet Barnes  
Married: 1891 Leichhardt, NSW  
Occupation: Labourer  
Died: 01-March-1935 Summer Hill, NSW  
Buried: Woronora – columbarium  
Unit: Artillery Colonial Military Forces (NSW Contingent)  
Enlisted: 11-August-1882  
Departed: SS Iberia 03-March-1885  
Returned: SS Arab 23- June-1885

### **LASSETTER, Henry Beauchamp, Major**

Born; 19-March-1860 Darling Point, NSW  
Parents: Frederick Lassetter & Charlotte Hannah Iredale  
Spouse: Elizabeth Anne Antill  
Married: 19 August 1891 St. Mark's C/E Picton, NSW  
Died: 1 7-February-1926 Sydney, NSW  
Buried: South Head Cemetery  
Unit: British Light Horse Regiment – The Nile Expedition  
Honours Nile Medal with Clasp, Khedive Star

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Notes:

In 1888 formed and raised and trained the NSW Mounted Rifles in Camden, served in the Boer War and World War I

**ONslow, Harry Hamilton Corporal 474**

Born: 15-July-1858 London, Middlesex, England

Parents: Charles Hamilton Onslow & Mary Douglas

Occupation: Surveyor's Assistant

Died: 1899 London, Middlesex, England

Unit: New South Wales Contingent – Sudan – B Company

Enlisted: 3-February-1885

Departed: SS Iberia 03-March-1885

Returned: SS Arab 23-June-1885

Notes: Harry was a cousin of Arthur Alexander Walton Onslow and was living at Camden Park for a period in late 1800s