

Clement Silas Anscombe – British Army in India 1

In June 1873 Clement Silas resigned from the LB&SCR. There is no record of what he did in the interim but in June 1874 he enlisted in the British Army and joined the 9th Lancers. I do not have an original record of this but I believe the date given on the catalogue entry for the sale of some of his medals is correct, although there is obviously a typographical error as he would have been 18 years old then and not 8 years old. However, it looks as though he kept up the lie about his age as he would have been 16 years and 2 months old as his birth was registered in April – June 1858.

ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS (12 MAY 2015)



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Date of Auction: 12th May 2015

Estimate: £900 - £1,100

Sold for £1,300

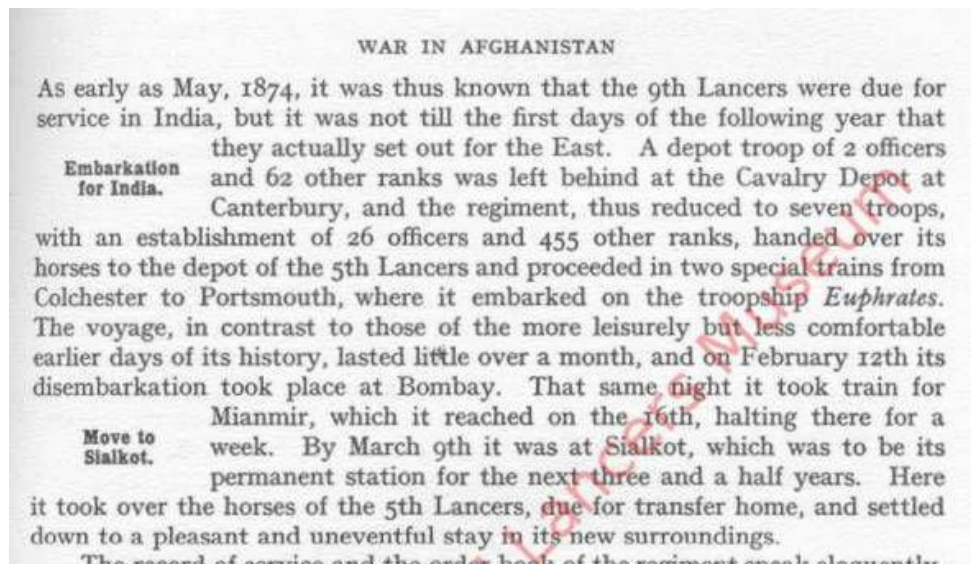
Three: Troop Sergeant-Major C. S. Anscombe, 2nd Dragoon Guards, late 9th Lancers

AFGHANISTAN 1878-80, 3 clasps, Charasia, Kabul, Kandahar (1666. Pte. C. S. Anscombe. 9th Lancers); KABUL TO KANDAHAR STAR 1880 (1666 Private C. S. Anscombe 9th Lancers); ARMY L.S. & G.C., V.R., small letter reverse (3384 Tp: S. Maj: C. S. Anscombe. 2nd Dgn. Gds.) the first with pitting from star, nearly very fine, the last extremely fine (3) £900-1100

Footnote

Clement Silas Anscombe enlisted into the 9th Lancers on 27 June 1874, London District, aged 8 years 2 months. He served in "C" Troop in Afghanistan, gaining the Medal with three clasps and the Bronze Star. He transferred to the 2nd Dragoon Guards as a Sergeant on 16 October 1880, and elected to serve on in India after that date. He married at Ambala on 9 February 1884, and received his L.S. & G.C. medal in 1893. Sold with research notes.

Most of the following information is taken from an excellent book called "The Ninth Queen's Royal Lancers 1715 – 1936" by Major E W Sheppard. A copy of the book can be found on the 9th Lancers' website at <https://9th12thlancersmuseum.org/archive/journals/regimental-histories/regimental-histories-1715-1936-sheppard/39113>.

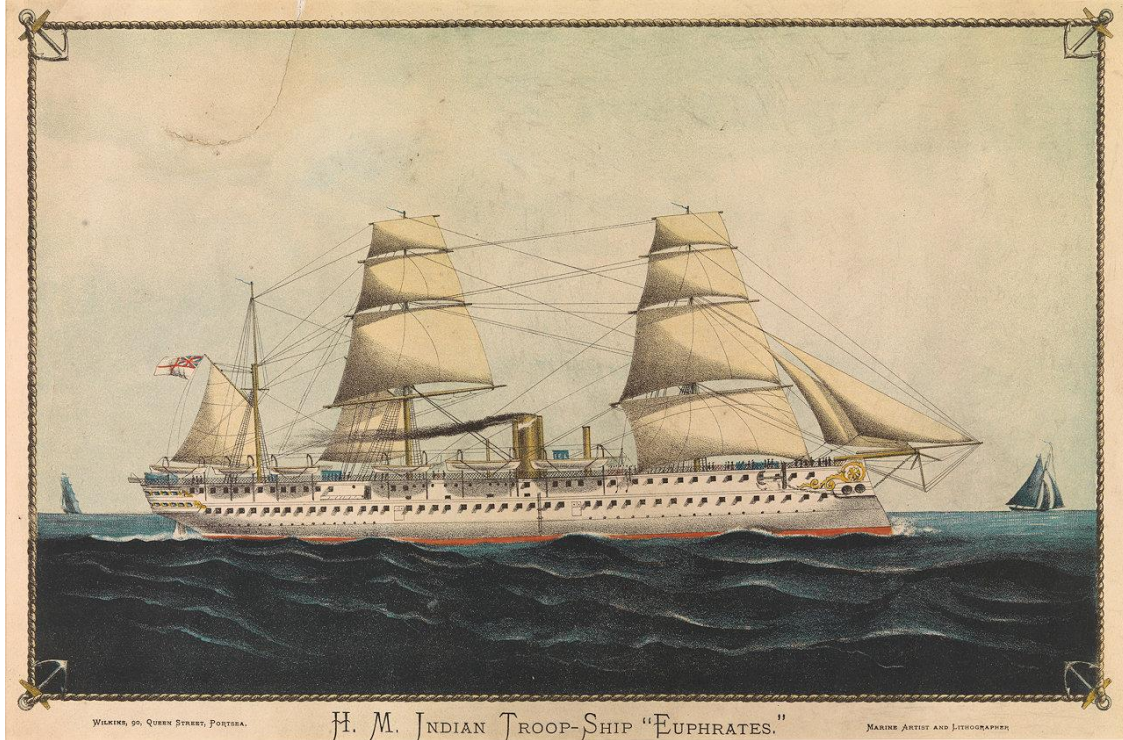


Extract from 'The Ninth Queen's Royal Lancers 1715 - 1936
by Major E. W. Sheppard

From Major Sheppard's book we can see that Clement Silas would have been based initially in Colchester. Then, in early 1875, he went by train to Portsmouth to join the troopship Euphrates to sail to Bombay in India. There is an assumption here that he was not part of the depot troop left behind in Canterbury, but I think it reasonable to assume that as a new recruit he would be part of one of the troops sent to India. Later on we know that he was part of "C" Troop.

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The Euphrates was one of 5 ships iron-hulled vessels which had a single screw, a speed of 14 knots, one funnel, a barque-rig sail plan, three 4-pounder guns, and a white painted hull. Her bow was a "ram bow" which projected forward below the waterline. She was operated by the Royal Navy to transport up to 1,200 troops and their families from Portsmouth to Bombay. The return trip via the Suez Canal normally took 70 days.



Clement Silas arrived in Bombay on 12th February 1875 and by March 9th he was based with his regiment in Sialkot, then in Bengal, India now in Pakistan. The regiment remained in Sialkot until mid-October 1878 when it formed part of the Peshawar Valley Field Force set up to confront Russian influence in Afghanistan in what became known as the Second Afghan War.