

A GRANBY MEDAL.

BY LIEUT.-COLONEL H. W. MORRIESON, F.S.A.

THE Granby medals, two in gold and two in silver, were awarded to four gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, at the first public examination of which any record can be traced.¹ This was held at that institution on June 5th, 1765, in the presence of the Most Honourable the Marquis of Granby, Master-General of the Ordnance, the Right Honourable the Lieutenant-General, and the principal officers of His Majesty's Ordnance.



GRANBY MEDAL.

Obverse.—The King's head, laureate, in profile to the right; legend: AVSPICIIS GEORG. III. OPT. PRINC. P. P. On truncation of neck, T. PINGO. F

Reverse.—The figure of Minerva with her proper attributes; legend: PRAEMIA LAVDI. In exergue, in three lines, D. M. GRANBY MAG. GEN. ORD. MDCCLXV.

Thirty-five cadets were examined. The three oldest were 19 years of age, and the youngest 14. One had been five years

¹ *Records of the Royal Military Academy*, 1851, p. 17.

at the Academy, four three years, the rest shorter periods varying to four months. They were divided into four classes, the fourth being the most advanced.

They appear to have been examined in the following subjects :—

	Under the Professor of Fortification.	Cadets.	Under the Professor of Mathematics and Geography.	Cadets.	Under the Drawing Master.	Cadets.	Under the Master of Classics, Writing and Common Arithmetic.	Cadets.
1st Class	Drawing lines and constructing Artillery	9	Single equations algebra	6	Landscapes in black lead	18	Multiplication, Division and Reduction	5
2nd Class	Beginning to shade and break ground	9	Quadratic equations	4	Landscapes	6	The Golden Rule and Practice	6
3rd Class	Shading, breaking ground and beginning the attack of places	9	Geometry	3	Landscapes and perspective	7	Square and Cube Root	4
4th Class	Attack and defence of places and constructing Artillery	8	Trigonometry, Mensuration, and Conic Sections	2	Landscapes and perspective	4	Fractions	5

The medals were adjudged to the following :—

Gold, to Thomas Hyde Page and John Cridland.

Silver, to Charles Green and Thomas Nepean.

The names of the successful competitors and the date, 5th June MDCCLXV, were inscribed on the edge of their respective medals.

None of these cadets ever joined the Royal Regiment of Artillery. They had the misfortune to be cadets just after the close of the Seven Years' War, 1756-63. During that period the regiment had increased from eighteen companies to thirty; but after the war the establishment of each company was reduced, and the officers thus made supernumerary were, according to the rules of the Service, placed on half-pay and were re-absorbed as vacancies occurred. Owing to this reason no less than fifty-six lieutenant-fireworkers were placed on half-pay, and it took some five years to absorb them. Conse-

quently, between February, 1763, and March, 1768, no first appointments were made. It will be thus understood that the cadets who won the medals in June, 1765, had to look elsewhere for their future careers; what these were is unknown to the writer. The rank of lieutenant-fireworker was discontinued after January 1st, 1771. From that time no prize medals were awarded until 1861, when, on the closing of the East India Company's Military College at Addiscombe, the Pollock gold medal was transferred to the Royal Military Academy and adjudged to the cadet who passes out first of the senior class at the examination held at the conclusion of each term.

The donor of these medals—John Manners, Marquis of Granby, one of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Colonel of His Majesty's Royal Regiment of Horse Guards, Lieutenant-General of His Majesty's Forces and Master-General of the Ordnance, as he was described at that time in official documents—was the eldest son of the third Duke of Rutland, and was born in 1718. He entered the Army at an early age, was present at the battle of Culloden, 1746, and served with distinction through the Seven Years' War, during the latter part of which he was Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Germany. At the conclusion of the war he was appointed Master-General of the Ordnance, and afterwards became Commander-in-Chief, and a Cabinet Minister, during the Premiership of the Duke of Grafton. In 1770 he resigned all his appointments, as he disapproved the action of the Cabinet in the prosecution of John Wilkes, and died a few months afterwards. He never succeeded to the dukedom, as he predeceased his father, who lived until 1779. The Marquis of Granby was most popular with all ranks of society, and one evidence of this is the fact that so many public-houses and inns were named after him, and that these signs have survived till the present time.

The illustration of the medal is taken from a specimen struck in copper.

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GOLD COLLAR AND CROSS PRESENTED TO THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.