

RELICS OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THOMAS LLOYD OF
THE NINETY-FOURTH REGIMENT (NOW THE SECOND
BATTALION THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS).

BY CHARLES WINTER.

AMONG the most interesting relics of the Napoleonic wars are the gold medal, for the battle of Salamanca, conferred upon Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Lloyd, and the gold casket commemorative of his heroic death. They may be briefly described as follows:—

Gold medal for the battle of Salamanca with gold bar for Vittoria.

Obverse.—Britannia seated to left on a globe, holding in her right hand a laurel wreath, and in her left a palm branch. At her right hand stands the British lion; to left is the Union shield.

Reverse.—SALAMANCA, within a laurel wreath.

Mounted in glass with
gold rim engraved,
MAJOR THOS.
LLOYD.

Riband.—Crimson with blue edges, to which is attached a heavy gold bar, inscribed VITTORIA, within a laurel wreath.

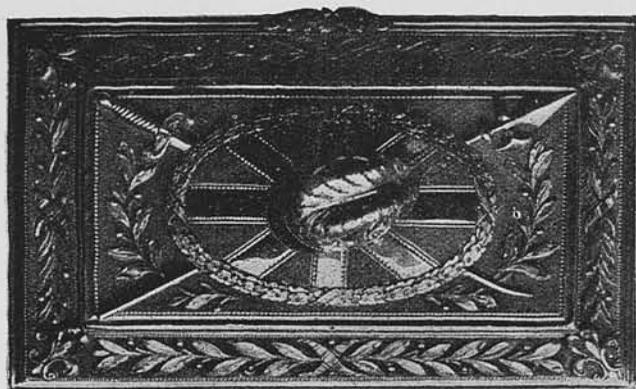


The casket may be described as follows :—

Gold casket in the form of a sarcophagus, with engine-turned panels and borders consisting of roses, shamrocks,



and thistles, entwined with ribands. On the top of the lid is a model of the helmet of Mars, resting on the Union shield, which has a border of oak leaves and is laid on



a sword and spear in saltire, with a laurel wreath; the whole raised above a border formed of laurels, with a scroll ornament at the four corners. At the ends, lions' masks with ring handles. On the front panel is engraved—

A TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION BY THE OFFICERS OF THE 94TH REGIMENT TO THE MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THOMAS LLOYD KILLED AT THE BATTLE OF THE NIVELLE IN FRANCE WHILE IN COMMAND OF THE CORPS ON THE 10TH OF NOVEMBER 1813 IN HIS THIRTIETH YEAR.



On the inside of the lid is engraved—

HE WAS ADORNED WITH TALENTS MUCH ADMIRERD · TO AN ELEGANT DIGNITY OF APPEARANCE HE ADDED GENTLE AND ENGAGING MANNERS · WITH A RARE MILDNESS OF TEMPER HE COMBINED THE MOST DETERMINED COURAGE · WHAT WE HAVE SEEN CAN WE FORGET ?

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Lloyd was born in Limerick, Ireland, and entered the Fifty-fourth Regiment on August 1st, 1797 ; he was promoted in the regiment to lieutenant May 6th, 1799, and captain in the Sixth Battalion of Reserve October 8th, 1803. On August 10th, 1804, he was transferred as captain to the Forty-third Regiment ; was promoted major in the Ninety-fourth Regiment on October 4th, 1810 ; and brevet lieutenant-colonel on August 17th, 1812. He commanded the old Ninety-fourth in the Peninsula from the date he actually joined (about January, 1812) to the date of his death, which took place whilst leading his regiment at the passage of the Nivelle on November 10th, 1813.

Napier, in his *History of the War in the Peninsula*, Book XXIII, says, "from some oversight the despatches did but scant and tardy justice to the light division . . . many brave men they lost, and of two who fell I will speak. The first, low in rank, for he was but a lieutenant, rich in honour, for he bore many scars, was young of days . . . Edward Freer of the Forty-third, struck with three balls at the first storming of the Rhune Rocks, and the sternest soldiers wept even in the middle of the fight when they saw him fall."

"On the same day and at the same hour was killed Colonel Thomas Lloyd. He likewise had been a long time in the Forty-third. Under him Freer had learned the rudiments of his profession; but in the course of the war promotion placed Lloyd at the head of the Ninety-fourth, and it was leading that regiment he fell. In him also were combined mental and bodily powers of no ordinary kind. Graceful symmetry, herculean strength, and a countenance frank and majestic, gave the true index of his nature for his capacity was great and commanding, and his military knowledge extensive both from experience and study. Of his mirth and wit, well known in the army, it only need be said he used the latter without offence, yet so as to increase his ascendancy over those with whom he held intercourse; for though gentle he was ambitious, valiant, and conscious of fitness for great exploits. And he, like Freer, was prescient of and predicted his own fall, but with no abatement of courage; for when he received the mortal wound, a most painful one, he would not suffer himself to be moved, and remained to watch the battle, making observations upon its changes until death came. It was thus, at the age of thirty, that the good, brave, generous Lloyd died. Tributes to his merit have been published by Wellington and by one of his own poor soldiers,¹ by the highest and by the lowest! To their testimony I add mine."

In Joseph Donalson's *Recollections of the Eventful Life of a Soldier*, chapter VII, he writes: "Lieutenant-Colonel Lloyd had joined us² from the Forty-third Regiment . . . no eulogium,

¹ Joseph Donalson.

² Ninety-fourth Scots Brigade.

however, of mine can convey an idea of his merit as a man and a soldier ; but it is deeply engraven on the hearts of those who served under him. So harmoniously did he blend the qualities of a brave, active, intelligent officer with those of the gentleman and the scholar, that the combination fascinated all ranks. His exterior corresponded with his mind : he was somewhat above the middle size, and to a face and head cast in the true Roman mould, was joined an elegant and manly body. His system of discipline was not coercive ; he endeavoured to encourage, not to terrify ; if there was a single spark of pride or honour in the bosom, he would fan it to a flame. His aim was to prevent crime rather than to punish it, and he rarely resorted to corporal punishment. When he did so it was only in the case of hardened ill-doers, with whom no lenient measures would succeed ; even then, he never punished to the tenth part of the sentence awarded ; and if the culprit sued for pardon, promising not to be guilty again, he would say, ‘ I take you at your word, and forgive you, but remember your promise.’ The men’s interest formed his chief study, and the complaint of the meanest individual was heard and investigated with the strictest impartiality without respect of persons. By the measures he took, he made every individual interested in his own honour and that of the regiment ; and I believe that every man in it loved and honoured him. So successful were his efforts, that he brought the regiment into a state of order, cleanliness, and discipline, which could never have been attained by any other means.

“ He was always the first in danger and the last out of it ; and in camp, he went later to rest, and was sooner up than the meanest individual composing his corps . . . unfettered by cold, calculating selfishness, his noble heart and soul is seen in everything he does—such was Colonel Lloyd.”

In Chapter IX Donalson gives the following account of Colonel Lloyd’s death : “ Having pushed his horse forward before the regiment ; he advanced cheering on his men with the most undaunted bravery, but before he reached its summit, he received a mortal wound in the breast, and was only saved from falling off his horse

by some of his men springing forward to his assistance . . . Thus fell the brave and noble Lloyd, in the vigour of manhood and the height of his fame, for his worth and services were well known, and duly appreciated by Lord Wellington. Though young, his extraordinary abilities had caused him to rise rapidly in the service, and had attracted the admiration of the army in which he served; while his humanity and wise system of discipline endeared him to those he commanded . . . I never witnessed sorrow so general as that produced by the intelligence of his death; our hearts were full; we felt as if we had lost a father; all his good qualities were recapitulated, and tears were shed in abundance during the recital."

The Scottish Brigade was raised in 1793-94, and was numbered the Ninety-fourth Regiment of Foot in 1803. After winning many laurels in India and the Peninsula, it was disbanded in 1818.