MEDALS OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT,
NOW THE SECOND BATTALION THE DUKE OF
CAMBRIDGE'S OWN MIDDLESEX REGIMENT.

BY CHARLES WINTER.

The old Seventy-Seventh was one of four regiments raised in 1787 for service under the East India Company. It saw considerable service in India, including the campaigns against Tippoo Sahib in 1790–91, at the reduction of Ceylon in 1795, at Goa in the Mysore War of 1799, including the storming and capture of Seringapatam, and returned home in 1807. It was then given the county title of East Middlesex, and after serving in the Walcheren Expedition in 1809, joined Wellington’s Army in Spain, where, in Picton’s division, it won great distinction. During the combat at El Bodon, Wellington had ordered up a brigade of the Fourth Division from Guinaldo; but, in the meantime, drew up the Seventy-Fifth and Seventy-Seventh regiments with the Twenty-First Portuguese and two brigades of Artillery, on the hill over which the road to Guinaldo passed, supporting the flanks with Alten’s three squadrons. The French cavalry, under Montbrun, in spite of the artillery and musketry, charged up the height, but they were checked by the daring spirit of the English cavalry, who maintained their position until the French general, bringing up his artillery and horsemen, gained ground in the centre and captured the guns. At this critical moment, Major Ridge led the Fifth regiment and retook the artillery, which again opened its fire, whilst the Seventy-Seventh supported by the Twenty-First Portuguese, repulsed the enemy on the left.
Montbrun still pressed forward with fresh masses against the left Allies, whilst other squadrons penetrated between the right flank and the village of El Bodon. The position being no longer tenable, Wellington directed Picton and Colville to fall back and unite in the plains below, but whilst this movement was being carried out, the British as well as the Portuguese having retired, the Fifth and Seventy-Seventh formed into one square and became exposed to the enemy; in an instant, the French cavalry came galloping down upon them, but without effect, and all their efforts to turn them were in vain.

In a General Order, Lord Wellington pointed out that it would be practically impossible for any troops to be more outnumbered, and held up the conduct of the brigade to the whole Army, as a memorable example of what can be done by steadiness, discipline and confidence.

With the "Fighting Division" the Seventy-Seventh bore its share in the desperate assaults of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz.

About 1817, the Officers of the Seventy-Seventh regiment decided to obtain permission to issue gold and silver medals to the deserving non-commissioned officers and privates who had served at Seringapatam, of which there were only a few survivors still serving in the regiment, El Bodon, Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz. Application was made to the Adjutant-General, and Major-General Sir C. Cooke, K.C.B., then commanding the Seventy-Seventh, received the following letter, sanctioning the distribution of the medal.

Horse Guards, 4th January, 1818.

Sir,

I have had the honour to receive and submit to the Commander-in-Chief your application from the officer commanding the Seventy-Seventh Regiment, for permission to issue medals to be worn by the men of the corps who served at certain places mentioned, and in reply I have it in command to signify to you, that although the Commander-in-Chief is not aware of the expediency of individual distinctions of the above nature being granted, the Prince Regent having already sanctioned the honours due to the Regiment collec-
REGIMENTAL AND PENINSULAR MEDALS OF THE 77TH REGIMENT.
tively, yet his Royal Highness will not offer any objection to the measure recommended. I have his command at the same time to observe that it is presumed that the Medals which are proposed to be given will only be granted to individuals having claims from merit and particular good conduct.

(Signed) HENRY CALVERT, A.-G.

Three dies were used for the striking of the Regimental Medals, one obverse and two reverse, but I am unable to account for this—seeing that the actions are engraved and only a very few men received the Seringapatam medal—unless one of the dies broke; the difference of the reverse is so very slight, in the wreath, that a mark of distinction could hardly have been intended between the Seringapatam medal and that for the Peninsular services.

**No. 1. Gold Medal.—**

Obverse: Struck in relief, The Prince of Wales's plume and regimental number 77 between two laurel branches on which is a riband inscribed PENINSULA.

Reverse: SERINGAPATAM engraved in the centre of a laurel wreath in relief.

Edge: engraved Serjeant T. Marshall 30 years Meritorious Service.

**No. 2. Silver Medal.—**

Obverse: as No. 1.

Reverse: El Vodon (sic), Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajos.

Edge: engraved PRIVATE JOHN CHAMBERLAIN.

**No. 3. Military General Service, 2 bars, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, James Greenwood, 77th Foot.**

This medal represents the only bars that were granted with the General Service medal to the Seventy-Seventh.