

South Africa at War



The Union Defence Force in World War 1

William Endley

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1. Associate Royal Red Cross
2. British War Medal 1914-20
3. Victory Medal
4. Cape badge Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service

UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ITEMS



South African Medical Corps cap badge worn from 1914 to 1922.



South African Medical Corps cap badge worn from 1924 to 1927.



General Service cap badge worn by S.A.M.C. personnel from 1915 to 1918.



South African Military Nursing Service cap badge, worn from 1915 to 1939, silver version.



Badge engraved on the reverse to EC BLAKE 1915.



South African Military Nursing Service cap badge, worn from 1918 to 1938, bronze version.

STRETCHER BEARER/S.A.M.C. UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT



The collar badge worn on the Western Front.



The sergeant with his rank chevrons, medical proficiency badge and his stretcher bearer brassard.



The medical orderly brassard worn in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

CHAPTER 13

py's Sharpshooters with the First Division

Strickland
General Officer Commanding
British 1st Division.



The son of a major in the Warwickshire Regiment, Peter Strickland was born in Snitterfield in Warwickshire on 3 August 1869. After completing his education at Warwick School he was commissioned in the Norfolk Regiment in 1888 and served with them in Burma from 1888 to 1889. Service then followed in the Egyptian campaign as part of the Dongola expedition in 1896. During the reconquest of the Sudan, Strickland fought at the battles of Abbara and Omdurman and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his role in further missions on the White Nile. Northern Nigeria service in 1906 followed and he was then given command of the North Nigeria Regiment in 1909. At the outbreak of World War One, Strickland commanded the 1st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment and then the Jullundur Brigade at the battles of Neuve Chappelle and the Second battle of Ypres. Command of the 98th Brigade followed. In 1916, he was appointed General Officer Commanding 1st Infantry Division which he commanded until the end of the war.

General Strickland was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1899, the Commander of Saint Michael and Saint George in 1913, Knight Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1917 and was knighted for his war service. His foreign awards included the Egyptian Order of the Medjidie in 1902 and the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre for his World War One service.

History and role of the 1st Division: 1914 to 1918

The 1st Division was one of the first formations sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and was to remain on the Western Front for the duration of the war. It was involved in most of the major actions on the Western Front.

1914

In August 1914, 1st Division participated at the battle of Mons and was part of the rear-guard action at Etrenx during the major retreat. Further actions included the battle of the Marne and the Aisne in September. During the battle of the Aisne, 1st Division was committed at the actions on the Aisne heights and at Chivy. This was followed by the first

battle of Ypres which took place from October to November. On 31 October, at the climax of the battle, Divisional Headquarters was hit by shellfire. The Divisional Commander, General Lomax, was severely wounded and his Chief of Operations, Colonel Karr, was killed.

1915

1st Division participated in the winter operations of 1914-15. On 9 May, 1st Division took part at the battles of Aubers Ridge. The battle of Loos followed in September and continued into October.

1916 -The Somme Offensive

Much has been written about the Somme battles and it has become notorious with the passage of time for