FORGOTTEN HEROES
The Charge of the Light Brigade

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Introduction

My aim throughout this endeavour was to find the 100 plus missing Chargers that to date have been confined to the dustbin of history. At the same time to try wherever possible to obtain biographical information and a photograph of each of our gallant and courageous heroes.

To help the reader understand the sheer enormity of what they achieved I have placed alongside the soldiers' biographies an overview of the Crimea Campaign. This book is about the ordinary people that made an Empire and gave the World a Legacy.

We will never be sure of the exact numbers that took part in that eventful day on the 25th October 1854 when five regiments rode into the jaws of hell. The figure that is usually accepted as having ridden is 673 (Paget p341)

The standard work for both Light Brigade Researchers and Medal Collectors has been Canon William Lummis and Keith Wynn's "Honour the Light Brigade" published in 1973.

Lummis and Wynn accorded charger status if someone:

1. Was killed, wounded, or taken prisoner and was recorded in the casualty lists. (Unfortunately this list has errors and omissions).
2. Is mentioned in the accounts of verified Chargers. (Some accounts were produced many years after the event and names and actions become clouded in time)
3. Was a member of the Balaclava Commemoration Society of 1879. A committee of Chargers vetted all members. (If anybody died before this date, or not known to the Committee they were excluded)
4. Signed the Loyal Address of 1887 on the occasion of the Queen's Golden jubilee.
5. Attended Annual Dinners held from 1890 to 1913.
6. Attended the 1897 Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Reunion at the premises of T.H. Roberts or received assistance from the T.H. Roberts Fund.

The above resulted in 513 Chargers being recognised and identified in capital letters in Honour the Light Brigade.

Mr EJ Boys took up the reins and amassed a large archive of information, together with Ken Horton they kept the flame burning. Both gentlemen have since passed on and I have not been privy to either original archive. However some of the information contained within these pages originated from their research.

This work was followed by Andrew Sewell's "The Cavalry Division in the Crimea" an unpublished but important work. The work was derived in the main from the medal rolls held in the Public Records Office at Kew, with additional scrutiny of both the Casualty Roll and medal citations. With this work came another 17 possible Chargers.

The work by Mr Lawrence W Crider, "In Search of the Light Brigade" is certainly a labour of love with 3277 members of the Light Brigade listed with the information taken from the musters. This work also identified chargers.

"Hell Riders" by Terry Brighton, also produced a list of chargers, along with survivors' accounts.

I have now expanded the criteria set by Lummis and Wynn as follows:

Vetted by the Light Brigade Relief Fund
Included in Morris's Affidavits "Pocket Hercules" by M.J.Trow
Citations for Medals
Letters and other supporting documents making it more than likely a person charged

I have also carried forward the status of “Possibly rode in the Charge” as defined by Lummis and Wynn to all Sewell, Crider and Boys chargers where I have no supporting evidence. However their expertise in the field will probably make these individuals worthy of the distinction of being a charger.

I have now identified an additional 47 Chargers bringing the total number of known Chargers to 562, with an additional 29 marked as “Possibly rode in the Charge.” We can never say with 100% certainty that a person Charged but the weight of probability certainly lies in their favour.

Many people have helped in the preparation of this book. I want to start by thanking Chris Poole for access to his archive, and for his encouraging comments and help on the book’s first draft. Adrian Barentsen for the use of his archive and medal information. Paul Burns for unearthing some quite spectacular photographs and Nimrod Dix of Dix, Noonan, Webb Auctioneers for access to their medal catalogue archive. Also not forgetting John Lester and Dr Douglas J. Austin. I have been greatly assisted by John Rumsby with the final draft. Special thanks to Mr. Chris Ridley for his enthusiasm and expertise in desktop publishing.
Format of Biographical Information

Title: Regimental number, Surname, Rank and Christian name, then Lummis & Wynn page number. As a mark of respect all the individuals who were killed in the charge are listed in a memorial black box displaying their medal.

Status: Categories are "Rode in the Charge", with variations for wounded and prisoner status. Also the very emotive "Possibly rode in the Charge" where evidence points to this conclusion.

Confirmed by: We have indicated in tick boxes that the individual is a confirmed charger in the opinion of the following authors.

a) Lummis & Wynn - "Honour the Light Brigade"
b) L.W. Crider - "In Search of the Light Brigade"
c) T. Brighton - "Hell Riders"
d) A. Sewell - "The Cavalry Division in the Crimea"

Lists: The first main reunion of the ordinary rank survivors was held at Alexandra Palace in London on the 25th October 1875. On page 356 we have the official invitation list. The tick box indicates those present as per the "Illustrated London News" of 30th October 1875.

In 1877 the Balaclava Commemoration Society was formed, the objective being to arrange an annual anniversary dinner for members, the original list shown in Appendix 4 page 359. In 1879 the rules were modified and membership limited to those who actually rode in the charge. We do not have the original list in our possession, some 200 individuals were shown, both lists can be found in "Three Chose War" by Geoffrey Moore. The tick boxes indicate membership.

BCS Dinners: Indicates attendance at the BCS dinners 1877 through to 1913. We have also amended some errors in Lummis and Wynn's 1895 dinner list. Pre-1890 we do not have details of exactly who attended which dinners.

Group Photos: By analysing group photographs we were able to unravel the identities of many of the chargers. Please see the photographs with keys.

Pensions: There were two funds set up to help the veterans of the Charge of the Light Brigade:

The Light Brigade Relief Fund (L.B.R.F)
In May 1890 a public scandal erupted when it was discovered that many veterans of the Charge of the Light Brigade were destitute. The Secretary of War stated in Parliament that he would not offer assistance and in response the St James' Gazette set up the Light Brigade Relief Fund.

On the 30th July 1890 Florence Nightingale, Alfred Tennyson, and Martin Lanfried, veteran trumpeter made a recording with the proceeds going to the veterans (see p231). The funds so raised were administered by an influential committee. In March 1891 a considerable part of the sum had been expended by the committee in grants to the most needy of the men whose cases came before them. A sum of over £3,000 however remained in their hands and they communicated with the trustees of the Patriotic Fund asking that they should take over the fund and in future distribute it. They proposed that it should be invested so as to produce during the lives of the beneficiaries the greatest number of annuities of £18.5.0, or one shilling per day for men that held no government pension and of such smaller sum as might be required to make up that amount in the case of men with pensions. It was thus estimated that about 100 men survived who would be eligible for annuities between the ages of 58 and 62 and it was calculated that from ten to eleven annuities could be safely granted. Shortly after the deed was executed on February 1892 Parliament made pensions available to soldiers of 10 years service and upwards who served in the Russian War. This had an impact on the fund, the result being of the 19 survivors claiming the fund only four received the full 7/- per week, and the others on a sliding scale of payments. (National Archives TS 18/322)

The T.H. Roberts Survivors Relief Fund.
Mr T.Harrison Roberts was the proprietor of the "Illustrated Bits" magazine. Roberts had the idea of bringing together all the survivors of the Charge of the Light Brigade to view Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee procession, from his offices in Fleet Street. Eventually with the help of the Balaclava Commemoration Society, 73 attended. Roberts was shocked to find that some of the men were living in workhouses, and others were destitute. In July 1897 "The Balaclava Light Brigade Charge Survivors Relief Fund" also known as "The T.H. Roberts fund" was started. (see p197) 59 individuals had received payments between July 1897 and December 1911, in the form of a 7 - 5 shillings per week pension with a total of £7,822 6s 8d being paid out during the period.

Medals: Numerous Auction Catalogues have been examined and the details included along with the relevant medal Rolls. A * denotes a medal that may have a questionable history (see p333).

Biographical Details: We have tried wherever possible to obtain a photograph and biographical details so that we can keep their memory alive.

BRUDENELL, Major General James Thomas (p15)

Status: Led the Charge
Confirmed by: Lummis & Wynn ☑️ L.W. Crider ☑️ T.Brighton ☑️ A. Sewell ☑️
Born: 16th October 1797 - Hamleden, Buckinghamshire
Died: 28th March 1868

Brudenell had a very privileged upbringing and spoilt childhood. Being the only son among seven girls made him domineering and headstrong, the same characteristics that were to follow him into adult life. He attended Harrow from early 1811 but after a fighting incident he was expelled and spent the next three years being schooled at his home. His great burning ambition was to be a soldier, this was against his parents’ wishes. He spent two years at Christ Church, Oxford without taking his Degree before becoming MP for Marlborough in 1818. In 1823 whilst in Paris, Brudenell met Elizabeth, the wife of a Captain Johnstone, and fell in love. They were to elope together and set up house at Versailles creating a public scandal. In June 1824 Captain Johnstone started divorce proceedings; Brudenell being the guilty party did not offer any defence and did not appear at the court hearing. Johnstone was awarded £1,000 in damages. After the trial, Brudenell offered to “give satisfaction” to Johnstone, by fighting a duel. Johnstone was reported as saying that “he has already given me satisfaction: the satisfaction of having removed the most damned bad-tempered and extravagant bitch in the kingdom” Despite his parents’ disapproval he was to eventually marry his sweetheart on the 16th June 1826.

Brudenell’s parents’ probably thought it a good idea for him to join the army to keep him out of trouble. He joined the Army on the 6th May 1824 and was gazetted as a Cornet in the 8th Hussars. He purchased a Lieutenancy on the 13th January 1825, became a Captain on the 9th June 1826, a Major on the 3rd August 1830, and a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1832. He purchased the Lieutenant Colonelcy of the 15th Hussars for £40,000. The family wealth certainly helped to finance his promotions, however in 1833 he was forced to resign from the 15th Hussars following friction with fellow officers. In 1836 he took command of the 4th Light Dragoons from which he later exchanged into the 11th Hussars, using his own money to improve their appearance. He joined the regiment in India and succeeded to the command on the 23rd October 1836. He inherited the Earldom on the death of his father in 1837 becoming Lord Cardigan. More scandal and bad publicity was to follow our intrepid Lord, being involved in the Black Bottle incident, duels, floggings, and other scandals. He was described by the Times as the “plague-spot of the British army.” To Cardigan’s dismay Lord Lucan, who was the hated brother-in-law of Cardigan, was given command of the cavalry in the Crimea, while Lord Cardigan was given command of the Light Brigade.

At the start of the Crimean War, all three peers who were to take centre stage in the Charge of the Light Brigade were contemplating their retirement, this would be their last opportunity for fame and glory. Lord Raglan was determined to follow in the footsteps of the Duke of Wellington, however at 68 years old when he took command, he was probably “past his best”. Lucan was determined to get his own back on Lord Cardigan and rule him with an iron fist. Lord Lucan had married the youngest of the Brudenell sisters, Cardigan believing she had been treated badly was determined in his headstrong way to take no orders from Lord Lucan and wherever possible embarrass him. The deprivations of the Crimea suited Lord Lucan, he lived “hard” and would make sure his men did the same, being detested by officers and men alike. Lord Cardigan, however, lived in luxury on his private yacht the “Dryad” anchored in the Black Sea, living a “nine to five” existence.

As a Major General Lord Lucan commanded the Light Cavalry made up of the 4th and 13th Light Dragoons, 17th Lancers, and 8th and 11th Hussars. He was also commanding the Heavy Brigade, the 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards, the 1st Royal Dragoons, the Royal Scots Greys and the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons.

On the 25th October 1854 the Russian Lieutenant General P.P. Liprandi co-ordinated an attack, its purpose to dislodge the British from Balaklava. A column of 5,000 troops was to take the Fedioukine Heights, with the redoubts coming under heavy bombardment. The Turks fled back to Balaklava, leaving the Russians in procession of the four redoubts. The result being that on either side of the Valley and at its far end stood strong Russian batteries.
When the Russians attempted to drag some of the captured British naval guns away from the redoubts, Lord Raglan, perched on the heights above became very concerned. In the rules of war having your guns captured was proof of defeat. Quickly the order was scribbled: “Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front-follow the enemy and try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns.”

Lord Lucan was down in the valley and had a restricted view of the scene when he received the order, he was dumfounded. “Attack what?” he asked Nolan who brought the order. “What guns, sir?” To which the excited Nolan is said to have replied, sweeping his hand toward the end of the valley, “There, my lord, is your enemy, there are your guns.” Lord Lucan did not wish to look a fool by asking questions of Lord Raglan with whom he had hardly spoken in the last 30 years, he probably knew that someone had blundered. Lord Lucan now coldly ordered his brother-in-law whom he despised “to advance down the . . . Valley with the Light Brigade.” To which Lord Cardigan replied equally coldly: “Certainly, sir; but allow me to point out . . . that the Russians have a battery . . . on our front, and batteries and riflemen on both sides.” “I know it.” said Lord Lucan, shrugging his shoulders, “but Lord Raglan will have it. We have no choice but to obey.” “Well,” said Lord Cardigan, wheeling his horse, “here goes the last of the Brudenells.” The brigade having already formed up, Lord Cardigan gave his first order “Draw swords” followed quickly by “The brigade will advance” . He then ordered Trumpeter Billy Brittain to sound the “walk.” Lord Cardigan never looked back, riding alone at their head his figure outlined in a blaze of gold wearing the uniform of the 11th Hussars.

After having advanced 50 yards the Russian batteries opened fire. Waving his sword Captain Nolan galloped frantically across the front of the advancing brigade, at that moment a Russian shell burst above him, a fragment tearing open his chest killing him instantly. Having survived the deadly crossfire Lord Cardigan found a route between two Russian guns, he rode into the battery “steady as a church” whilst behind him all hell and carnage had broken loose. His sabre-wielding troopers cut down the Russian gunners, but Lord Cardigan was above all the carnage and he was to say later it was “no part of a general’s duty, to fight the enemy among private soldiers.” When he was clear of the guns he came face to face with the Russian cavalry. Prince Radzivil recognized Lord Cardigan as they had met at a social function in London and he instructed his Cossacks to capture him alive. Lord Cardigan, wheeling his horse around was in no mood to be mauled by private soldiers, and quickly galloped back to the English lines. On his return he met Brigadier-General Scarlett whom he complained to about Nolan's insubordination. “Say no more, my lord,” he was told. “You have just ridden over Captain Nolan's dead body.”

Having obeyed the orders to Charge he returned to his yacht, had a light supper and retired to bed, washing his hands of the whole affair. On that day Lord Cardigan led 673 men into a valley where Russian heavy artillery were waiting, the result being the decimation of the Light Brigade. After the battle only 195 men still had their horses, 118 men were killed, 127 wounded, and 362 horses were dead. The result inspired Alfred Tennyson to compose his famous poem “The Charge of The Light Brigade”

Our three wise Lords were to have mixed fortunes; Raglan died a broken man on the 28th June 1855 shortly after the disastrous attack on Sebastopol. He was later to be blamed for the maladministration which was to beset the campaign. Lucan was to out-live Cardigan by 20 years and was promoted to Field Marshal in 1887 a year before his death. Cardigan later became a hero, promoted to Inspector General of Cavalry, a K.C.B, and Colonel of the 11th Hussars.

To commemorate the Charge of the Light Brigade a Sword of honour was presented to James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan, by Yorkshire friends in the Stock Exchange Hall on 30th August 1856. In December 1856 Somerset Calthorpe wrote a series of letters which were highly critical of Cardigan, even suggesting that he did not reach the Russian Guns. The action was eventually resolved before the Queen's bench in June 1863.

The last years of Cardigan's life were spent at the family home at Deene Park, Northamptonshire, the family also owning estates in Leeds. He died on the 28th March 1868 from injuries he received when he fell from his horse, possibly having suffered a stroke whilst riding. As well as the Charge of the Light Brigade he will probably be remembered for the item of clothing bearing his name, the Cardigan (sweater) he wore during the Crimean War.

It is unfortunate that Cardigan's life will probably be remembered by trivialities and the failings that marred his private life. He was a most gallant Cavalry Officer and displayed a zealous attitude towards the duties and discipline that were required in the Light Brigade.
LOW, Captain Alexander  (p23)

**Status:**  Rode in the Charge  
**Confirmed by:**  Lummis & Wynn  T.W.Crider  T.Brighton  A. Sewell  
**Born:**  June 1817 - Bath  
**Died:**  9th July 1904 - Geneva  
**Enlisted:**  May 1846  
**Lists:**  1875  1877  1879  
**BCS Dinners:**  
**Group Photos:**  1855  1887  1890  1903  1906  
**Pensions:**  T.H.Roberts Fund  L.B.R.F  
**Medals:**  Crimea (A.B.I.S), Sardinian Medal, Turkish Medal, Order of the Medjidie (4th Class), Knight of the Legion of Honour (5th Class), Companion of the Order of the Bath (1867)  

Group offered by J.B.Hayward in August 1971, group of 6 medals description as below at £400.  

Alexander Low joined the 4th Light Dragoons as a Cornet in October 1835. A senior Captain of the regiment by the time of the Crimea War he commanded one of two squadrons of the 4th Light Dragoons during the Charge and was said to have killed thirteen Russian gunners. A glimpse of the gallant Low in action in the “Valley of Death” is to be found in a letter sent to a newspaper, quite possibly a Bath publication where his father was resident, it states: “After that terrible charge at Balaklava, in which he slew and unhorsed several of the enemy, dealing sabre strokes, every one of which carried death with it, he found himself alone amongst the enemy horsemen, three of whom bore down on the British cavalryman, one on each flank and one in front. Seizing his revolver, he shot the first two, right and left, and cut down the third with his sabre; his good horse then bounded over him, and although with a jaw broken by a grape-shot, carried his heroic rider safe into British lines...” Kinglake also reputedly refers to Low in the following extract from his famous history:  

“There was one of our officers who became afflicted, if so one may speak, with what has been called the blood-frenzy. Much gore besmeared him, and the result of the contest was such as might seem confirmatory of the vulgar belief as to the maddening power of human blood. This officer, whilst under the frenzy, raged wildly against human life, cutting down, it was said, very many of the obstinate Russians with his own reeking hand...”
Crimean War, Low’s impressive tally of enemy slain was also attributable to him using the point of his sword, rather than the edge, which rarely penetrated the thick coats of the enemy. Indeed it is clear from a number of contemporary accounts and eye-witness statements that Low was a highly skilled and professional cavalryman, a big man blessed with a fine physique, “an anti-drawing-room man”; according to Lieutenant Robert Portal, another 4th Light Dragoon, who was “about the best cavalry officer out here.” No doubt that was why Lord Paget felt bound to turn to him in those desperate moments at the guns. The aforementioned Bath correspondent was equally glowing in his praise for the Balaclava hero, crediting Low as being “the very beau of the light cavalry sabreur”, while also describing his physique as “slightly above the middle size”, with “broad chest and shoulders, long arms, narrow girth, and fine manly countenance”, the whole set-off by a “long light Saxo-moustache.” Lieutenant Henry Adlington - another regimental contemporary - agreed, describing Low as being “a fine figure of a man, weighing fifteen stone”, and “a most gallant fellow, perhaps the best cavalry officer in the service.” Yet mingled in with all the bravado and physical courage was a good deal of West Country common sense. When one of Low’s troop leaders, Captain Thomas Hutton, who was wounded in the right thigh as he charged down the valley, turned to Low, his senior, to ask for orders, he was told that if he could still sit on his horse he may as well stick with the crowd - “There’s no use going back now, you’ll only be killed.” Low was next engaged at Inkerman, where, because of Paget’s advancement to Brigade command, and the death of Major John Halkett, he commanded the regiment in the rank of Major. There it had a worrying time in the vicinity of “Sandbag Hill”, being pounded by Russian artillery, Paget afterwards describing the bombardment as being “as heavy as any we had ever been under”, and as being “rendered doubly apparent, of course, by our having to sit still under it!”

Low went on to command the 4th Light Dragoons at Tchernaya and in the Eupatoria expedition, as well as in the Sebastopol operations. When Lord Paget returned home, he was advanced to Lieutenant-Colonel. In addition to his 4-clasp Crimea and Turkish Crimea Medals, he was awarded the Sardinian Al Valore Militare, created a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour and a 4th Class of the Turkish Order of Medjidie. He advanced to Colonel in December 1857 and gained steady promotion over the coming years, being appointed a Major-General in March 1868, Colonel of the 2nd Dragoon Guards in 1874, and a Lieutenant-General in 1877. Three years later he reached the pinnacle of his chosen profession with his advancement to General and, in 1881, when he was placed on the Retired List, he achieved his most gratifying appointment of all, namely the Colonelscy of his old regiment, now the 4th Hussars. He died at his residence in Geneva on the 9th July 1904. (Extracts from “London Gazette” 13th March 1867)

One month before his death his name appeared in the Crimea Jubilee Honours List as being created K.C.B. (12th June 1904). In his obituary in The Times of the 12th July, he is referred to as “Sir Alexander Low”, although it is doubtful whether he actually received the insignia or the accolade (LW)
1027 NICHOL, Private Robert (p111)
Status: Rode in the Charge
Confirmed by: Lummis & Wynn ☑️ L.W. Crider ☑️ T. Brighton ☑️ A. Sewell ☑️
Born: 18th September 1834 - Coventry
Died: 8th June 1897 - 3 Charlotte Street, Newcastle
Enlisted: 25th January 1854
Lists: 875 ☑️ 1877 ☑️ 1879 ☑️
BCS Dinners: 1885, 1893, 1895
Group Photos: 855 ☑️ 1887 ☑️ 1890 ☑️ 1903 ☑️ 1906 ☑️
Pensions: T.H.Roberts Fund ☑️ L.B.R.F ☑️
Medals: Crimea (A.B.I.S)

Engraved medal, small caps (Robt, Nichol., 8th Hus.), warn, sold at Sotheby’s on 18th Feb 1970.

A labourer prior to enlistment. He was in jail in Exeter 25th January to the 31st January 1854 and a prisoner in custody 12th July to the 14th July 1854. Embarked for the East in the H.T. "Medora" on the 27th April 1854. In hospital early 1855. He was confined on the 24th August 1855 and tried by Court Martial being sentenced to 25 lashes. Confined on the 25th November 1855, tried by District Court Martial on the 27th November and sentenced to 50 lashes and 3 months imprisonment. This information is normally recorded on WO86 at the National Archives where the name, regiment, and charge will be recorded. Invalided and discharged in Dublin on the 24th November 1856.

In the 1880’s Robert was working as a Waterman and living at 15 Glasshouse Street, Byker with his wife Anne and his eight children, six sons aged 24 to 8, and two daughters. Both Robert and Anne were born in Newcastle upon Tyne and apart from Robert’s army service they never left the area. The River Tyne was used to transport goods and services, the Livery service where Robert worked was used to transport people across the river. Claimed from the Light Brigade Relief Fund aged 57 when he was living at 13 Charlotte Street, Newcastle.

His name is shown as “R.Nicholls” on the 1877 Balaclava Commemoration Society list. Signed the Loyal Address 1887. Buried on the 20th June 1897 in Elswick Cemetery, Newcastle. Regimental Number shown as 1077 by L.W. Crider.

1218 PALFRAMAN, Private Richard (p112)
Status: Taken prisoner in the Charge
Confirmed by: Lummis & Wynn ☑️ L.W. Crider ☑️ T. Brighton ☑️ A. Sewell ☑️
Born: 1835 - Wakefield, Yorkshire
Died: 5th March 1900 - Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, Yorkshire
Enlisted: 1st April 1852
Lists: 1875 ☑️ 1877 ☑️ 1879 ☑️
BCS Dinners: 1897
Group Photos: 1855 ☑️ 1887 ☑️ 1890 ☑️ 1903 ☑️ 1906 ☑️
Pensions: T.H.Roberts Fund ☑️ L.B.R.F ☑️
Medals: Crimea (A.B.S)

A servant prior to enlistment. His army records indicate he was born in Cork, Ireland, however in the 1881 census he is shown as being born in Wakefield, Yorkshire. In the cells 11th January to the 17th January and the 23rd February to the 26th February 1854 at Trowbridge. Embarked for the East in the H.T. "Mary Anne" on the 19th April 1854. A prisoner in custody 31st August to the 1st September 1854. Repatriated Autumn 1855, conveyed from Odessa by steam ship “Columbo” and another of her Majesty’s ships (ERJ). His name is shown on the 1879 list as “Palframan”.

Richard travelled the country with a steam driven threshing machine but appears to have settled down in Yorkshire towards the end of the 1870. He is shown in the 1881 census aged 46 lodging in Haigh Lane, Flockton, York, occupation “Farm Labourer”. Around 1881 he lost a leg in a threshing machine and consequently was unable to find work. Claimed from the Light Brigade Relief Fund aged 60 his pension being sent to Alfred Ash Esq, 70 Aybrigg Malt Kilns, Wakefield. Buried in City Cemetery, Doncaster Road, Wakefield. A pensioner of the T.H.Roberts Fund, Richard obtained seventy four pounds eighteen shillings and six pence from the fund which also paid his burial expenses.
597 **PERRY, Private Thomas**  (p113)

Status : Wounded and taken prisoner in the Charge
Confirmed by : Lummis & Wynn  L.W. Crider  T. Brighton  A. Sewell
Born : 1822 - Reading, Berkshire
Died : 24th September 1884 - 63 Forrest Road, Dalston, London
Enlisted : 29th May 1838
Lists : 1875  1877  1879
BCS Dinners : Group Photos : 1855  1887  1890  1903  1906
Pensions : T.H.Roberts Fund  L.B.R.F
Medals : Crimea (A.B.S)

A labourer prior to enlistment. Embarked for the East in the H.T. “Wilson Kennedy” on the 2nd May 1854. Name shown as “William Perry” on the Casualty Roll. He was shot in both legs, received lance wounds to the body and sword wounds to the head during the Charge. Exchanged on the 29th August 1855 at Odessa, landed from H.M.S. Furious at Constantinople on the 2nd September 1855. From Scutari Hospital on the 13th October 1855. On furlough from the 1st January to the 12th February 1856. In the early 1880’s he was supplementing his pension working as a clerk and taking lodgers into his house. He was living at 63 Forrest Road, Dalston, London with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Caroline. Buried at Abney Park Cemetery, grave number 46698,6 (LWC26)  His portrait is shown in the 30th October 1875 “The Illustrated London News” however his name is not shown on the list of attendees.

**PHILLIPS, Lieutenant Edward**  (p75)

Status : Rode in the Charge
Confirmed by : Lummis & Wynn  L.W. Crider  T. Brighton  A. Sewell
Born : 1831
Died : 18th April 1915 - Hillcroft, Marlborough Avenue, Reading
Enlisted : 25th April 1854
Lists : 1875  1877  1879
BCS Dinners : Group Photos : 1855  1887  1890  1903  1906
Pensions : T.H.Roberts Fund  L.B.R.F
Medals : Crimea (B.I.S), Turkish Medal, Indian Mutiny Medal (Clasp for Central India)

Appointed Cornet 11th July 1851, promoted to Lieutenant 24th February 1854. Embarked for the East in the H.T. “Shooting Star” on the 25th April 1854. Kinglake described how Phillips, unhorsed, defended himself with his revolver against some Russian Lancers. Fortunately they were suddenly recalled by trumpet and he and a disabled soldier named Brown made their way back to British lines. On escort duty for General Simpson 9th December to the 31st December 1855 and again in early 1856. Promoted to Captain 1st August 1856. Served with the regiment in India in 1858 and 1859. Retired by sale of commission on the 11th May 1860. In the early 1870’s he lived in Scotland with his wife Mary and their three daughters, later returning to their home in Earley Hill, Berkshire in 1880. By 1881 the family had grown to six daughters and two sons and were obviously quite prosperous having four domestic servants in residence.

**1231 PICKING, Private William**  (p113)

Status : Taken prisoner in the Charge
Confirmed by : Lummis & Wynn  L.W. Crider  T. Brighton  A. Sewell
Born : 1828 - Putney, London
Died : 4th February 1911
Enlisted : 27th July 1852
Lists : 1875  1877  1879
BCS Dinners : 1903, 1906, 1907, 1908
Group Photos : 1855  1887  1890  1903  1906
Pensions : T.H.Roberts Fund  L.B.R.F
Medals : Crimea (A.B.S)

A carpenter prior to enlistment. Embarked for the East in the H.T “Mary Anne” on the 19th April 1854. Lummis and Wynn state that Picking was taken prisoner in the Charge, however in the musters it shows Picking with a continuous presence in the regiment. It is quite possible that Picking could have been taken prisoner briefly before escaping. On the expedition to Kerch. Deserted 14th August 1856. From January 1901 he was a pensioner of the T.H Roberts Fund who also paid for his burial expenses. At some time he lived at 122 Culvert Road, Battersea, London.
1337  MARTIN, Private Robert  (p169)

**Status:** Rode in the Charge

**Confirmed by:** Lummis & Wynn ☑️ L.W. Crider ☑️ T. Brighton ☑️ A. Sewell ☑️

**Born:** c.1828 - London

**Died:** 25th July 1900 - Royal Infirmary, Liverpool

**Enlisted:** February 1847

**Lists:** 1875 ☑️ 1877 ☑️ 1879 ☑️

**BCS Dinners:** 1895, 1899

**Group Photos:** 1855 ☐ 1887 ☐ 1890 ☐ 1903 ☐ 1906 ☐

**Pensions:** T.H. Roberts Fund ☐ L.B.R.F ☐

**Medals:** Crimea (A.B.S), Distinguished Conduct Medal

Appeared before Queen Victoria in the Mess room, Brompton Barracks on 3rd March 1855. Lived at some time at 85 Moor Park, Fulham, London.

From the Birkenhead and Cheshire Advertiser dated Saturday July 28th 1900 "The death on Wednesday of our esteemed neighbour Mr Robert Martin, has removed another of the Crimean Veterans, who survived the memorable Balaclava charge. Three weeks ago he was present at the vicarage grounds on the occasion of the New Ferry church lad's Brigade. But was very unwell and was taken into the vicarage, and subsequently returned home in a cab. Besides a partial stroke he had internal complications which in the following week necessitated his removal to the Royal Infirmary Liverpool where after much suffering he passed to his rest on Wednesday in his 72nd year. Whilst health permitted he was a constant and devout worshipper at St Mark's, and his venerable figure and pleasant smile will be missed by many amongst us. Last Balaclava Day, October 28th the Advertiser published Mr Martin's reminiscences of the terrible charge. The funeral will be on Monday at 11 o'clock."

Robert Martin was buried in Bebington Cemetery, Section C of E 1C' Plot No C 399. The original grave stone has long been removed by the council as being unsafe, all that is left is the kerb surround, with the name of Henry Alfred Cryer died 15th February 1899 aged 39 a book keeper, who was the first interment in the grave and was Robert's son-in-law, the next being Robert Martin, then followed by his wife Ellen Martin died 4th December 1908 aged 81. The final names are Robert's son-in-law James Delarice died 16th June 1915 aged 57, his daughter Ellen Agnes Delarice died 12th July 1932 aged 72 and Roy Egerton Ackroyd died 27th August 1937 aged 11, possibly Robert's great great grandson. It should be noted that in the article below the surname of Robert's son-in-law and daughter is spelt "De La Rue".

**IMPOSING MILITARY FUNERAL.**

A specially quite unprecedented in New Ferry was witnessed on Monday afternoon, on the occasion of the funeral of the late Mr Robert Martin, of Pool Bank terrace, one of the survivors of the Light Brigade charge at Balaclava, October 25th, 1854, who after a brief illness died last Wednesday. It was felt by the clergy of St. Mark's, at which church deceased was a regular worshipper, that the once gallant veteran should be buried with military honours, and by the kindness of Major Hodgson, acting on behalf of Oxford Island, the band of the Royal Artillery, and a firing party under the command of Lieut. Harris, came over from Seaforth. In lieu of a gun carriage, which was not available, the body was placed on a light spring-wheeled tier, and covered by a Union Jack and numerous wreaths. Led by the band and firing party, with arms reversed, the cortège moved on to the church to the strains of the "Dead March." They were met at the church by the Vicar, the Rev. H. B. Wilson, and the choir. After the church service the funeral party proceeded to Bebington Cemetery, where the Rev. H. Segar officiated. At the conclusion of the service, the firing party fired three volleys. The mourners were Mrs. Martin (widow), Mr. Arthur Martin (Essex), Mrs. Henry Martin and Mr. Alfred Martin (Chester), son, Mrs. De la Rue (Halifax) and Mrs. Cryer (Pool Sunlight), daughters, Miss Martin, Mrs. H. Martin, Mrs. A. Martin, and Mr. Cuthill. Among others present were Dr. Heatherley, Messrs. T. J. Tate, A. Aitken, T. Weston, J. McLeary, E. Dibb, T. Hooton, C. Highfield, R. Cobbold, O. McIvering, H. Toddmore, Walter Howat, E. Bullock, A. K. Smith, etc.

The Birkenhead and Cheshire Advertiser

Wednesday 1st August 1900
BALACLAVA DAY
A NEW FERRY VETERAN’S REMINISCENCES

On Wednesday was celebrated that thrilling event in the Crimean campaign at which “all the world wondered” the Charge of the Light Brigade, 1854. How few of the survivors of that deadly struggle met this year at the annual dinner in London. One of those who through age and other infirmities was absent from the social board was a venerable New Ferry resident, Mr. Robert Martin, of Pool Bank terrace, New Chester-road, who fought under Col.Douglas in the 11th Hussars. Mr. Martin (writes our New Ferry correspondent “Q”) has favoured me with the following particulars of his Crimean experiences, which will be read with interest. He says:

“I sailed with my regiment from Ireland, went through the Turkish campaign, and landed with the army in the Crimea. I was present at the battle of the Alma, and all the other incidents the cavalry took part in up to the memorable 25th. On that morning we turned out at daybreak as usual. Immediately we became impressed with the belief that an engagement would take place that day. We had witnessed the repulse of the Russians by the 93rd Highlanders and the charge of the heavy cavalry, and then came our turn. We were sitting on our horses when Captain Nolan come galloping up with the order for the light brigade to advance and take the guns that had been captured from the Turks by the Russians.

The fire from the enemy then became most murderous from the flank batteries on our right and left, while the guns in front were belching forth their deadly missiles and making complete streets through our ranks. Ward in front of me was blown to pieces, Turner on my left hand side had his right arm blown off and afterwards died, and Young, on my right also, had his right arm blown off. Just at that moment my right arm was shattered to pieces. I gathered it up as well as I could and laid it across my knees. While fighting in the midst of the guns Glanister unfortunately broke his sword off short at the hilt by striking a Russian on the top of his helmet. The order to retire was given by Lord George Paget, and on turning I perceived a Cossack close to us. He immediately levelled his pistol and fired at Glanister and myself. The bullet whizzed by my face and struck Glanister, shattering his lower jaw and causing him to fall forward on his cloak, which was rolled up in front of him. The Cossack bolted at once, and I had the presence of mind to grasp the reins of my horse and place them in my mouth, at the same time seizing those of Glanister’s horse and turning it into the ranks. By this means, no doubt, his life was saved. It was now every man for himself. I galloped back with the remnant of my regiment, and passed through the Polish Lancers, who had formed across our line of retreat. I was now beginning to feel faint from loss of blood, and urged my horse at its utmost speed to get out of the range of fire, but a bullet struck my ammunition pouch. The next thing I remembered was being held up by an officer and his administering some rum to me which had the effect of bringing me round. I was then assisted off my horse, placed on a stretcher, and carried to the rear. My arm was afterwards amputated and I was sent to Scutari hospital. I sufficiently recovered to be sent home to Chatham and there I took Crimean fever.”

For some years afterwards Mr. Martin held a situation at Hampton Court Palace, until failing health led him to retire from the position. Whilst there he received the personal congratulations of the Queen, the late Prince Consort, the Queen of the Netherlands, and many other distinguished personages. His breast is decorated with a medal for distinguished conduct in the field, the Crimean medal with three clasps, and the Turkish Medal. His appointment at Hampton Court Palace was obtained through Mr. Horsfall, who, at the close of the Crimean War, represented Liverpool in the Conservative interest. I am happy to say that the declining days of the soldier of the Queen are being spent in comfort, and that he enjoys the respect and esteem of all who know him.

Photograph courtesy of Andrew Harwood. Original Newspapers can be seen in the Wirral Museum.
Appendices

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The hand written names on the photograph are incorrect therefore we have had to number and identify each individual from our records as shown above. We have also magnified the hand written names to increase their clarity. The first error is the incorrect naming of number 12 being shown on the original as Thomas Mullins when it is in fact John Boxall. All are confirmed Chargers with the exception of Brennan, Andrews, and the unknown Trooper Grant. The photograph shows two troopers named Grant, in the EJ Boys archive there are only two people named Grant. Robert Grant (9) a true Charger who already appears in the photograph and 624 James Grant of the 11th Hussars who only joined the regiment from England on the 25th May 1855. Therefore the second Grant (25) is either incorrectly named or the gentleman is an imposter.

It is interesting to note both “Grants” in the picture are similar in appearance both having large white beards. Brennan, although not a confirmed Charger, appears in this picture, the 1890 group photograph, attended the 1890 dinner, and was on the 1877 list of members of the Balaclava Commemoration Society, however he was not on the 1879 revised list. Andrews who lived at Alma Square, Newcatton near Norwich, claimed that he broke his leg in the Charge, however in a letter in the Eastern Mail News, Norwich 29th January 1885, George Wilde, a 13th Light Dragoons survivor said that Andrews had not taken part in the Charge. The EJ Boys archive shows two “Andrews” in the 11th Hussars - David Andrews 1444 died 1884, and Corporal Andrews 1447 which we have assumed is the gentleman in the picture.

Interestingly there is a second version of this photograph in circulation that features Trumpeter Lanfired photographically added in between troopers Burns and Glendwr.