

On Her Majesty's Service

WASC 1811

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21-5-1992 Times Obituary
Notice of
Maj Gen W H Noble

OBITUARY.

MAJOR-GENERAL W. H. NOBLE, R.A., of Glass Drummond, Lisuaskea, county Fermanagh, whose death has already been briefly noticed in *The Times*, was born on October 14, 1834. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Robert Noble, rector of Athboy, county Meath, and grandson of Archbishop Newcome, Primate of all Ireland. In 1856 Noble competed as a University man for a direct commission in the Ordnance Corps. He was then a student at Trinity College, Dublin, and had just taken his degree, with honours, in experimental sciences. In March, 1856, he was appointed a lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. In 1861 he was selected as associate-member of the Ordnance Select Committee for the purpose of carrying out ballistic and other scientific gunnery experiments. He served with the Ordnance Select Committee from 1861 until its dissolution in 1868. He was then appointed to the staff of the Director-General of Ordnance, and subsequently became a member of the experimental branch of the Director of Artillery's Department at Woolwich. He served in this capacity from 1868 to 1876, during which time he was either a member or secretary of numerous ordnance committees, such as the Special Committee on Explosive Substances, Special Committee on Guncotton, Committee on Range-Finders, Special Committee on Field Artillery, Equipment Committee on Iron Armour, &c. In 1876, after a period of 15 years' continuous service on duties connected with scientific gunnery, he had arrived at the rank of major, and it was considered desirable that he should return for a time to regimental duty. He was posted to a field battery, but immediately afterwards was ordered to proceed to the United States as British judge of weapons at the Centennial Exhibition. He served as member and secretary of the group of judges of awards in the war section, and, under a special permit from the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army, he visited nearly all the arsenals, magazines, and manufacturing establishments of war material in that country. He was, in January, 1877, ordered to proceed to India as member and acting secretary of a special committee appointed by Lord Salisbury in connexion with the reorganization of the Ordnance Departments of the Indian Army, including the manufacturing establishments of the three Presidencies. He served with this commission from February, 1876, to November, 1878, when, on the breaking out of the Afghan war, he was nominated staff officer of the siege train of the Kandahar field force. He organized the train at Sukhar, and commanded it on its march across the Sind Desert and through the Bolan. In 1880 he was appointed to the command of a battery of artillery at Woolwich until April, 1881, when he was nominated a member of the Ordnance Committee. In April, 1884, he again returned to regimental duty as a lieutenant-colonel, and in July, 1885, he was appointed superintendent of the Royal gunpowder factory at Waltham Abbey. Very large quantities of prismatic gunpowders (E.X.E. and S.B.C.) have been successfully made both at Waltham Abbey and by contract, on his registered designs, and under the patent which, with the permission of the War Department, was granted to him in 1886. General Noble was the author of many books on military subjects and the inventor of several scientific instruments relating to the manufacture of guns and gunpowder. He married, in 1861, Emily, eldest daughter of Frederick Marriott (one of the originators of the *Illustrated London News*). He leaves two sons and four daughters. General Noble's death occurred on Tuesday last. His illness was due to an attack of cholera contracted in the last Afghan War, from the effects of which he never quite recovered.

Our Berlin Correspondent telegraphed yesterday:—
"The death is announced of HERR VON KLEIST

are these descriptions & illustrations of these?

Her Royal Highness the Princess Beatrice and Her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Leiningen.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, Her Grand Ducal Highness the Princess of Leiningen, and the children of Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, left Windsor Castle shortly after 8 o'clock this evening for Balmoral.

The suite in attendance consisted of Miss McNeill, the Hon. Bertha Lambert, Mademoiselle Nordle, Colonel Lord Edward Pelham Clinton, Colonel the Hon. Henry Byng, Major A. Biggo, Mr. Muther, Doctor Reid, and the Munshi Abdul Karim.

The Dowager Duchess of Athole left the Castle this morning, and will join Her Majesty on the arrival of the Royal train at Perth.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg and their children, and the Princess of Leiningen and suite, left Windsor Castle last night for Scotland. The special train, consisting of 16 saloons and other vehicles, started at 20 minutes past 8 o'clock, and is expected to reach Ballater at half-past 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The Queen has consented to become the patron of the concert to be given on June 27 in St. James's-hall in aid of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Mr. Sims Reeves has been induced by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts to appear once more before the public, and will give his services. Among others who have promised assistance are Mme. Albani, Mme. Patey, Mme. Antoinette Sterling, Miss Damian, Mlle. Janotha, M. Sauret, Signor Piatti, Mr. Lawrence Kellie, and the Meister Glee Singers. Mr. W. G. Cusius will act as conductor.

The Princess of Wales, Prince George of Wales, and the Princesses Victoria and Maud of Wales arrived at Marlborough House last evening from Sandringham. The Prince and Princess and family will leave Charing-cross at 8 20 to-morrow evening for Copenhagen, travelling *via* Dover. The South-Eastern Railway Company have made arrangements for a special train, and a special steamer will convey the Royal party to Denmark.

Prince Christian will be the guest of the Marquis of Hertford, at Ragley-hall, Warwickshire, on the occasion of the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Warwick in June.

The Princess Christian holds her annual "At Home" at the Royal School of Art Needlework, in the Exhibition-road, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next, from 2 30 p.m. The school was founded in 1872 under the presidency of the Princess, and since its formation many pupils of the school have acquired positions as heads of decorative art societies in the colonies and the United States. Recent work by the pupils of the school will be exhibited during the reception.

The ex-Empress Eugénie passed through Ventimiglia yesterday on her way from Mentone to Milan.

Princess Letitia, widow of the Duke of Aosta, is expected this summer to visit her aunt, Princess Mathilde, in Paris, and the Empress Eugénie in England.

Sir Arthur Sullivan expects to be able to go in a few days to the country for a change of air.

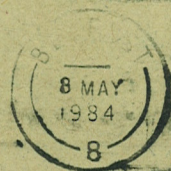
Mr. Ritchie continues to make satisfactory progress. He is still confined to his room, but hopes to get about in a short time.

Sir Samuel and Lady Baker and family, who for several months have been on a visit to Egypt, returned to their country seat, Sandford Orleigh, Newton Abbot, last evening.

Mr. J. P. Thomasson, who formerly represented Aston, in Parliament, was, at Bolton last evening, thrown from his horse, sustaining a fracture of the ribs and severe contusions to the head and side. He was unconscious for some time, but hope is entertained of his recovery.

The annual general meeting of the Bachelors' Club was held last Thursday when Mr. William

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