

UPDATES:

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this **Collector Note** is to review readily available sources in-order to document the full range of clasp knives that were issued to servicemen (both UK regulars and volunteers from the British colonies) during the Second Boer War in South Africa from October 1899 – May 1902.

On the current evidence available, there were four distinct types of clasp knife issued to British military personnel serving in the Boer War. Following are examples from each type, noting that this "type" designation is for the purposes of clarity only, and has no official or unofficial status. There is also a fifth "Type E: Private Purchase Clasp Knives" – see details [here](#).



Type A: Boer War Jack Knife - see details [here](#)



Type B: Square-Pointed Royal Navy Knife see details [here](#)



Type C: Non-Conforming Examples - see details [here](#)



Type D: Small Clasp Knives - see details [here](#)

A full description of each is provided in the following section **DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS** – see page 2. In addition, examples of known variants of each type are provided, which include:

- a) military contract knives: that is, those with a W↑D tang stamp and often also with a service /unit number stamped on the scales or marline spike.
- b) known/assumed issue knives without a W↑D stamp, but occasionally with a military stamping on a blade or spike.
- c) private purchase knives that were derived from or associated with a) or b) above, together with commercially available knives marketed to service personnel, mainly military officers.

All knives depicted in this Collector Note are from the author's collection unless otherwise acknowledged. A complete schedule of the owner's collection is included as [Appendix 2](#).

2 CONTEXT

The Second Boer War (also known as the 'Anglo-Boer War' and the 'War in South Africa') saw the introduction of a range of clasp knives as part of the kit issued to military personal below officer level. Officers were still expected to provide their own kit. In simple terms, such knives were modelled on the English 'jack knife'¹- a large usually single sheepfoot bladed knife of sturdy construction that was produced as a hand-tool for workers in various trades, activity, or service. In the 19th century, the provision of a sheepfoot blade predominated, but by the end of the 19th century a spearpoint blade was becoming popular - to the extent that by the start of the First World War in 1914 the provision of a spearpoint blade in military contract knives was the norm. Another increasingly prominent

???? 'single blade clasp knife'

4.5.6. Ford and Medley, Sheffield: Three-blade clasp knife

4.6. Type E: Private Purchase Clasp Knives

5. CONCLUSION

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AUTHOR:

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feature of Boer War clasp knives was the inclusion of a tin opener. The supply of tinned food to soldiers was first noted during the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) and was common practice during the Boer War - instigating the incorporation of tin openers into the design of military issue clasp knives and also 'private purchase' knives aimed at military officers. The role of the 'tin opener' is discussed in more detail in the companion Collector Note "British Private Purchase Military Clasp Knives" available at www.CASK.info .

What this Collector Note shows is that there was an extensive range of clasp knives produced that can possibly be defined as 'service' knives, but only some of them can be properly defined as such - due to them having a W↑D stamp - usually on the blade tang. This practice of non-stamping became a feature of World War 1 service clasp knives such as the massively produced and often erroneously referred to as the "Gift Knife" (assumed by some collectors to be the military contract knife pattern 8173/1914). Also, the evolution of that knife and the other two service clasp knives of World War 1, being the Admiralty Pattern 301 and the pattern 6353/1905 (all well-documented in Flook's 'British and Commonwealth Military Knives²'), can be traced back to the years immediately following the end of the Boer War, perhaps reflecting experiences gained during that War, and also of the need for standardisation and the consequent reduction in the number of patterns available.

3 ATTRACTION

For collectors of British and Commonwealth military clasp knives, the Boer War is an appropriate starting point for their collection. It is also of particular interest to collectors in the former British colonies as little is known about the kit that was supplied to the volunteers either prior to their departure for South Africa or upon their arrival. It is acknowledged that Volunteers from Australia and New Zealand (and probably also from Canada) were experienced horsemen and therefore the large 'Boer War Jack Knife' (see following) was an obvious candidate for inclusion in their kit³ however one of the five small clasp knife patterns was also designed as a horseman's knife (being T. Turner **pattern 6143**) - primarily for issue to the South African Constabulary⁴ which included volunteers from the British colonies.

A further significant attraction is that some Boer War clasp knives, primarily the "Boer War Jack Knife", have the original owners' service number and unit initials branded onto the scales which often enables the owner to be identified, and is one of the very few instances where a knife collector can obtain such a connection. This process of identification is elaborated with examples in [Appendix 1](#).



In this example (see Type A.1.2. in the Appendix) the branding appears to be "RA 29206" and indications are that the original owner was possibly Private Philip Pearce of the Rand Rifles. There are however often difficulties in obtaining a precise link as it is not unusual for numbers/letters to be mis-branded, upside down or just plain wrong.

4 DESCRIPTION & CHARACTERISTICS

4.1 Type A: 'Boer War Jack Knife' – the 'standard issue' knife

This is the best-known clasp knife and probably the most commonly available to collectors; it is a large knife with a closed length of 4 7/8 inches (12.4cm), a large sheepfoot blade and a marline⁵ spike. It appears to have been introduced into the British Army in 1872 and at that time its issue was limited to Royal Engineers. It was officially described as "A *clasp knife with marline spike & lanyard*". However, by the commencement of the Boer war in October 1899 it was far more widely distributed, being issued to: "Those who were eligible included Mounted and Dismounted men of the Royal Artillery, Army Service Corps, and

Royal Engineers. In addition, troops of the Ordnance Store Corps and Cavalry Pioneers were issued knives⁶ This 'Boer War Jack Knife' is commonly found with the owner's service number and unit heavily branded on the grips/scales and with a W↑D stamp on the pile side tang of the blade. The following photo is an example of such a knife and full details are included in Appendix 1 at "Type No. A.1.1. [here](#)".



There appears to be two types of material use for the scales/hafts, being:

- a) dyed black cow horn (or possibly buffalo horn) – see example above, and
- b) 'grey/green' cow horn – see example below and Appendix 1 at "Type No. A.1.2." [here](#)



A second version of this 'Boer War Jack Knife' (shown below) has the service number stamped on marline spike and the W↑D and number stamped on the pile side tang; full details are included in [Appendix 1](#) at

"Type No. A.2.1." [here](#). This is currently the only known example of this version.



A third version has the (assumed) service number 4769 stamped on marline spike but has no W↑D stamp; full details are included in Appendix 1 at "Type No. A.3.1." [here](#) – see photo adjacent.

There is a fourth version of this knife that has a W↑D stamp but no owners' service number. As with the previous two knives, there appears to be two types of material use for the scales/hafts, being:

- a) dyed black cow horn (or possibly buffalo horn) – see first example below, and

b) 'grey/green' cow horn – see second example below.



This first example with dyed black horn was made by 'JAMES TIDMARSH' and has "EXCELSIOR" stamped on the blade face, and 'W↑D 1' stamped on the pile side tang



This second example with grey/green cow horn was made by 'MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD' and has "W↑D 7" on the pile side tang over stamping the company logo.



The same commentator (see endnotes 3 and 4) has noted examples of the Boer War Jack Knife where the marline

spike has been blunted "for use as a hoof pick" and *thus preventing accidental injury to the horse by a sharp tip*. The above photo is of a knife in a private collection in UK. The maker is "ATKINSON, BROTHERS, SHEFFIELD", it has black horn scales and a "W↑D 2" tang stamp. The owner has advised that it "*was not uncommon to prevent an accidental stab or cut injury to the horse/donkey/mule etc when knife in use. This combined with the blunted marline-spike on this knife and the overall condition indicates deliberate blunting*". Note that the British Cavalry Training Manual of 1926 states; "*the pick of the clasp knife is supplied for picking out the horses' feet, but any strong iron spike or hook will serve. The point should be filed off for this purpose*". This indicates that the spike on clasp knives issued to cavalry 'should' normally be filed down. A close look at all of the Boer War Jack Knives described in Appendix 1. indicates that all (with one possible exception (see "Type No. A.1.5. in Appendix 1. [here](#)) have sharp tips to the marline spikes (pick) which suggests that they were intended for rope work rather than for the cleaning of horses' hoofs.

I have previously speculated that this fourth version that lacks a W↑D stamp may have been issued to volunteer servicemen from the British colonies (i.e. Canada, India, Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand). A U.K. based collector has advised however that "*all of the examples that I have seen for sale in this country to date have been the variant without service number stamp, and I have come across quite a few examples, both with and without W↑D markings. If issue was limited to 'volunteer servicemen from the British colonies', I wouldn't expect to see quite so many turning up for sale in the UK*". This is a very pertinent observation that indicates my earlier speculation probably has little basis in reality.

In 1902 the British Army updated this standard issue clasp knife to a new specification:
- '116a/1902 knives, clasp with marline spike, buffalo handle &

- 4563a/1902 knives, clasp with marline spike, black horn handle'

"This pattern was to be very short lived, being replaced by the pattern 6353/1905 that introduced a tin opener into the design for the first time. It appears that this 1902 change was just the knife grip standardization"⁷

This suggests that there is a fifth version of the 'Boer War Jack knife' that probably post-dates the end of the Boer War (which ended on 31 May 1902), and it is possible that the following knife is an example as it appears to comply with the stated 'new' specifications.



This knife was made by 'HIATT & Co.' (possibly a Birmingham manufacturer), and appears to have buffalo horn handles

An identical knife is shown in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 trade catalogue as pattern 6044: "4 3/4 inch black buffalo, marline spike". An alternative is also offered as

pattern 8989: "is grey buffalo, better finished Yachtsman's knife".



The following knife in a UK collection is an anomaly in that structurally it is identical to the "Hiatt & Co." knife picture above, except that it

has checkered horn scales that were common in the later pattern 6353/1905 military knife. The mark side tang is stamped 'ABRAM, BROOKSBANK, SHEFFIELD' and the pile side tang has their 'canon' logo over 'DEFIANCE'. There is no W↑D stamp.



The following knife is also an anomaly and is only known from photos. It has all the standard characteristics of the Boer War Jack knife but lacks any military stamping. The mark side tang is stamped 'LORBERG' and the pile side tang is stamped 'SHEFFIELD'. According to the

Flook's "The London Knife Book"⁸ (pages 100 – 101) Lorberg was a London cutler, but obviously contracted the knife from a Sheffield maker. Given that there is an apparent progression in the material used for the scales of such knives, starting with grey/green cow horn - through to black dyed horn, it is probable that this knife could date from the early 1870's when this pattern was first introduced into the British Army. Whether it was a privately owned jack knife, or a military service knife cannot be discerned. This knife appears to be identical to the knife pictured on page 9 following, apart from the absence of a marline spike.

In summary, on currently available documentation there appears to be five versions of the 'Boer War Jack Knife' as follows, of which the first three (i.e. with service numbers) are detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

A.1. Service number branded on scale, W↑D and number stamped on tang.

A.2. Service number stamped on marline spike, W↑D and number stamped on tang.

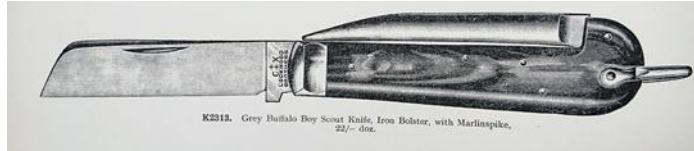
A.3. Service number stamped on marline spike, no W↑D stamp.

A.4. No service number, W↑D and number stamped on tang.

A.5. No service number, no W↑D stamp – possibly post-dates the end of the Boer War and appears to be the model for the later pattern 6353/1904 that was a common issue knife in WW1.

4.2 Boy Scout knife (not a Boer War Knife)

This sub-section has been included to differentiate between the Boy Scout Knife and the Boer War Jack Knife as they have the same style (a main blade and a marlinspike) and buffalo horn or cow horn scales, however with a closed length of approximately 4 inches (10.1cm) or less, the Boy Scout knife is noticeably small than the Boer War Jack knife.



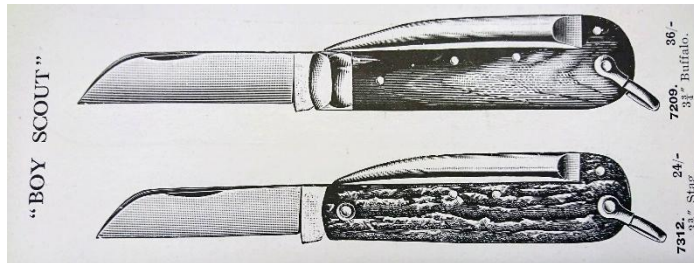
The following illustration is from an undated 'Lockwood Brothers Limited, Sheffield' catalogue that is assumed to

date pre-WW1, but certainly after 1908 when the 'Boy Scouts' movement was established in the UK. The knife is drawn to scale, and measures approximately 4 inches (10.1cm) closed. It is described as "Grey Buffalo Boy Scout Knife, Iron Bolster, with Marlinspike".



This knife appears to be identical to the above. It measures approximately 4 inches closed, the scales appear to be buffalo horn and

it has a copper shackle. The mark side tang of the blade is stamped "OWLT... [obscured] IBBOTSON & Co. SHEFFIELD".



The knives in this illustration, copied from the 1925 Thomas Turner catalogue, are smaller than the above, having a closed length 3 3/4 inches (9.5cm). They are described in the catalogue as "BOY

SCOUT" knives.



These two knives appear to be identical in style to the first knife shown in the above illustration. The first has a closed length of 3 7/8 inches (9.9cm) and the mark side of the tang is stamped "ALFRED WILLIAMS SHEFFIELD" and

there is evidence of "BOY SCOUT" being etched on the blade face. It has buffalo scales and a copper shackle. The second knife is slightly smaller at 3 5/8 inches closed. The mark side tang is stamped "W. WEBSTER SYCAMORE WORKS" and the pile side tang is stamped "SHEFFIELD ENGLAND". The blade face is stamped "OFFICIAL KNIFE BOY SCOUTS OF N.S.W." The shackle is missing.

4.3 Type B: Military Contract Square-Pointed Royal Navy Knife

The second style of clasp knife that is assumed to have been issued to British military personnel during the Boer War is the square-pointed Royal Navy knife - as examples with W↑D stamps (which indicates a military contract) are known and well documented by Ron Flook in his book "*British & Commonwealth Military Knives*"⁹ on pages 126, 127 and 128.

Examples are known that are branded with the owner's service number on the stag scale together with the W↑D stamp on the pile side tang of the blade. The knife in the following photo is square point clasp knife pattern that is stamped "W↑D 18" on the pile side tang and the mark side tang is stamped with the maker's name "ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD". It also has the owner's service number branded on the scale - being 173, however the associated Unit initials are no longer discernible. This knife is detailed in Appendix 1 at "Type No. B.1.1." [here](#).



The square-pointed Royal Navy clasp knife had been in use with the Navy from the c.1870s, and according to Flook (page 127) it was common practice that they did not "bear any marks indicating official naval issue". Their use by the military, as indicated by the W↑D stamp, appears to have preceded the Boer War by some years as Flook (Plate 291 page 128) notes an example that is dated 1878 and tang stamped 'DEANE & CO.', and a photo of this knife is included in Flook's "*The London Knife Book*"¹⁰ (page 48). Flook includes examples by 'CLARKE SHIRLEY (Plate 290 and states that "*Examples bearing the name of Parkin & Marshall have also been noted.*"

The following photo shows an example having the mark side tang stamped "CLARKE SHIRLEY & Co. SHEFFIELD" and the pile side tang stamped "W↑D 5". There is no service number stamped on the scale.



An Australian collector and researcher of military knives Kevin Coleman has questioned whether the 'Boer War Jack Knife' - see "Type A" above, did in fact precede the square-pointed Royal Navy knife as an issue knife for the British military - as is suggested in the Type A section. Coleman refers to a military manual: the "Soldier's Pocket Book for Field Service" written by Sir Garnet Wolseley in August 1871, which in the chapter "*Infantry Soldier's Equipment in the Field*" refers to a "Clasp Knife and Lanyard" as having a weight 5 oz. Given that, according to Coleman, the Boer War Jack Knife weighs approximately 7 oz., it is probable that Wolseley was referring to a different knife and that the square-pointed Royal Navy knife appears to be the likely candidate. As noted in the previous paragraph, Flook (Plate 291 page 128) notes an example that is dated 1878, and as noted by Coleman in his supporting email "*Levine in his book refers to a Square Pointed Naval pattern made by H.H. Taylor & Brothers of Sheffield that was recovered from the USS Cairo in 1862, so we know they have been in service for some years*". [This is a reference to Bernard Levine's "Guide to Knives and their Values" ed.].

Further, recent research (April 2021) by UK collector Paul Stamp has identified a notice in the 'Sheffield Independent' newspaper dated 31 May 1871 of a Government Contract for 'Clasp Knives' which states: "*CONTRACT FOR CLASP KNIVES. CONTRACT DEPARTMENT ADMIRALTY WHITEHALL, S.W., 27th May 1871. TENDERS will be received on TUESDAY, 13th June, at Two O'Clock, for the supply of SAILORS' CLASP KNIVES*". This is a clear confirmation that the square pointed Royal Navy knife was in production at least by May 1871, and possibly to the very early 1860's.

This raises the possibility that the military contract examples of the square pointed Royal Navy knife (i.e. being those with a W↑D stamp, including the two examples pictured above) may have been a military issue knife for some decades prior to the start of the Second Boer War, and prior to the assumed date of introduction of the Boer War Jack Knife in 1872. It is also possible that the knives detailed in the following section of this Collector Note: "TYPE C: NON-CONFORMING EXAMPLES OF PROBABLE BOER WAR CLASP KNIVES" are candidates for the knife mentioned in the military manual "Soldier's Pocket Book for Field Service", although perhaps unlikely as only a small number of examples are known.

This topic of rope knives with a W↑D stamp is discussed in more detail in the companion Collector Note "CLASP KNIVES OF THE ROYAL NAVY & THE MERCHANT MARINE" available at www.CASK.info

4.4 Type C: Non-Conforming Examples of Probable Boer War Clasp Knives

This Group includes knives that appear to have some of the requisite characteristics of known Boer War clasp knives – being a sheepfoot blade and a W↑D stamp, but which don't fit into any of the Groups A, B, or D as described elsewhere in this Collector Note.

It is of course entirely possible that these knives were in service well prior to the start of the Second Boer War.

The following examples are known:



This knife has a closed length of 4 5/8 inches (11.7cm), a sheepfoot blade, and polished cow horn scales. The makers name stamped

on the mark side tang is 'H. G. LONG & Co. SHEFFIELD'. The pile side tang is stamped 'W↑D 6' although the number is unclear and could be 8. This knife appears to be identical to the 'LORBERG' knife pictured on page 5 [here](#), apart from the lack of a marline spike.

The following two knives appear to be identical, having a closed length of 4 5/8 inches (11.7cm), a sheepfoot blade, black horn handles, and a W↑D stamp on the pile side tang.



The first knife has the maker's name stamped on the mark side tang "A. IBBITT SHEFFIELD" and is stamped

W↑D 6 on the pile side tang. This knife is illustrated on the Australian Military Knives website¹¹



The second knife is in a UK collection, it has "ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD"

stamped on the mark side tang and W↑D 9 stamped on the pile side tang.



The adjacent knife was noted by Ron Flook¹² in a post on the “Military Knives and Dagger of the World” website dated December 24, 2015 and described as follows: “*This knife by H G LONG is very much in the AP301 style but has few unusual features (shape of*

bolster and the curved body), also marked W↑D 4.”

In a follow-up post, another UK based commentator “Cooky”¹³ noted: “*As you suggest, it is Admiralty Pattern 301 in blade/spike configuration, but the smooth horn scales and bolster are reminiscent of the Boer War era knife, yet a curved body which is much more like the earlier square point jack knife. Being stamped W↑D 4 suggests army issue?*” For all these reasons this knife well deserves to be included in this Collector Note. I am advised that the knife is in a UK collection.

In a further follow-up post Flook described the knife in the following terms: “*The knife is 5.75 inches closed, open 8.25 inches, body is 4.5 inches which is the same as the dimension given in the 1915 Admiralty order as shown in Plate 298 of British and Commonwealth*”. Note that ‘British and Commonwealth’ is a reference to Flook’s Book “British and Commonwealth Military Knives” – see Endnote 5. Apart from the inclusion of the marline spike, it appears very similar in construction to the two knives detailed on the bottom of the preceding page.

4.5 Type D: Small Clasp Knives

On the currently available evidence there are certainly five (and possibly six) different patterns of small clasp knife that appear to have been produced specifically for supply to military servicemen in the Second Boer War, with common characteristics being (mostly) a closed length of 4 inches, sheepfoot blade, stag scales, steel blades and liners, a copper shackle, and no bolsters. The knife in the following photo may be the most common of the five known patterns, being ‘THOMAS TURNER & Co. PATTERN 6119’ and described as “Blade and strong tin opener” in the 1902 Thomas Turner & Co. trade catalogue – see page [11](#) following and Endnote 2. It is likely that the assumed issue clasp knife of World War 1 (i.e. pattern 8174/1914 – often referred to as the “Gift Knife”) was based on this knife.



Currently, there is very little documentation that specifically details the role of the small clasp knife as an ‘issue’ knife to military personnel serving in the Second Boer War. For many years, a primary source of such information was (and still is) Flook’s “*British &*

Commonwealth Military Knives”¹⁴ wherein on page 127 he provides an illustration (Plate 287 – see copy on following page [10](#)) displaying two of the five patterns (being **patterns 6143 and 6041**), and on page 130 (Plate 295) Flook provides a further illustration from a magazine dated March 3, 1900 being an advertisement for the commercial sale of **pattern**

6041 (referred to by the manufacturer as the 'Lord Mayor's Own' knife) – see page [12](#) following.

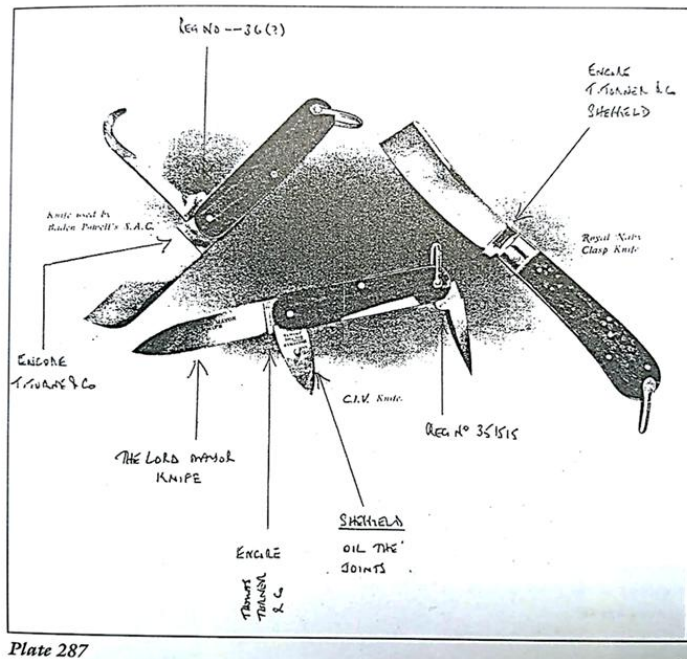


Plate 287

The knife on the top left of the illustration is T. Turner's **pattern 6143** (referred to by collectors as the 'Baden Powell knife') and the knife in the centre is **pattern 6041** referred to by T. Turner as the 'Lord Mayor's Own' knife. The knife on the top right of the above illustration is the square-pointed Royal Navy knife described on pages [7](#) and [8](#) above as the "second style of clasp knife that is known to have been issued to British military personnel during the Boer War".

UK collector Mike Convy has recently advised (May 2021) that this illustration is from a Thomas Turner company history with the title "HANDICRAFTS THAT SURVIVE" published in 1902. The hand-written notations are of a later date.

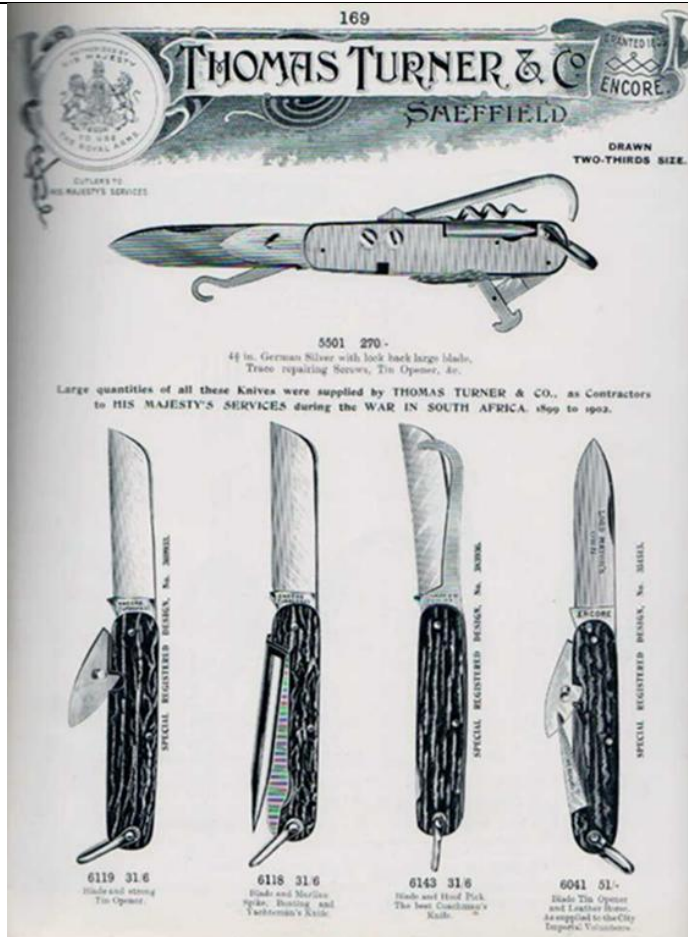
Further, and unrelated to the two previous references, on page 132 (Plate 302) Flook¹⁵ provides a photo of the T. Turner **pattern 6118** knife that has a W↑D stamp – see following page [18](#) in this Note. It is possible that at the time of writing "British and Commonwealth Military Knives" (published in 1999) Flook was not aware that this knife was part of a series of four (and possibly five) knives made by Thomas Turner & Co. under a military contract for issue to military personnel during the Boer War.

The only other significant documentation available is the "Thomas Turner & Co" trade catalogue¹⁶ dated 1902 which on page 169 provides illustrations of four of the five known patterns, together with the notation "Large quantities of all these knives were supplied by Thomas Turner & Co., as contractors to HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICES during the war in SOUTH AFRICA, 1899 to 1902", see following page.

It was this illustration that provided the impetus to research the role of these knives as an "issue" knife to British servicemen and colonial volunteers "... during the war in South Africa".

This illustration is significant in that it provides both the T. Turner pattern numbers for each knife, and the Registered design numbers for three of the four knives that enables the date of registration to be determined, being 6041 - early 1900, 6143 - late 1901, and 6119 – early 1901.

Ultimately, however, this illustration facilitated the realisation that this was a post-Boer War trade catalogue displaying knives that were available for sale to the general public – that were most likely based on military contract versions. This realisation was confirmed when examples of the military contract versions (i.e. with W↑D stamps) were identified. The Boer War ceased in May 1902, and it is assumed that the catalogue was published later in 1902. It is possible that this page was included in the catalogue to exploit the popularity of the knives in wartime.



Note that the knife at the top of the page (T. Turner **pattern 5501**) was never a military contract knife. It was however a popular “private purchase” knife marketed to officers during the Boer War and WW1. Identical knives were made by many Sheffield manufacturers – see for example Pattern 1979 in the Joseph Rodgers & Sons c.1912 catalogue on page 22.

The two websites that assisted in this research are: “**Military Knives and Daggers of the World**” – “British clasp knives” section, under the topic heading: “Thomas Turner Boer War pocket knives; and “**Australian Blade Forums**” – “Military Connection” forum, in the thread: “Australian

connection with Boer War British clasp knives”.

Details are also available on the website “**Australian Military Knives**” in the Clasp Knives” section, see <http://www.australianmilitaryknives.com/>

4.5.1 Thomas Turner Pattern 6041 – the “Lord Mayor’s Own” knife.

- also variously referred to as the ‘C.I.V.’ [i.e. City Imperial Volunteers] knife, or the ‘C.L.I.V.’ [i.e. City of London Imperial Volunteers] knife.

This is the best known of the four knives displayed in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue illustrated above wherein it is described as “*Blade, tin opener and leather borer. As supplied to the City Imperial Volunteers*”. The Registered Design number stamped on the pile side tang of the blade is “Rd. No. 351515” which indicates the date of registration of the design as early 1900. The blade face is stamped “LORD MAYOR’S OWN”, the mark side tang of the blade is stamped “THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD” together with T. Turner mark and the word “ENCORE” stamped at right angles. The tin opener is stamped “SHEFFIELD OIL THE JOINTS”. Note that in the two illustrations on the following page the Rd. No. is stamped on the leather borer. This is a high-quality knife with brass liners and a nickel-silver shackle and is the only small clasp knife detailed herein that does not have a sheepfoot blade that was a distinctive feature of Boer War clasp knives.



March 3rd, 1900. THE KING.

The "LORD MAYOR'S OWN" KNIFE.

This Knife was Specially Designed by us
FOR THE
"LORD MAYOR'S OWN" VOLUNTEERS
Who have taken more than a Thousand with them to South Africa.

The knife itself is large and strongly made, hilted in Stag Horn, and combines a Large Blade, a Folding Can Opener, and a Leather Borer. The very Best Steel has been used, all the parts being stoutly made so as to be durable.

This Knife is the Best Present you can give to anyone going to South Africa or to any Colony.

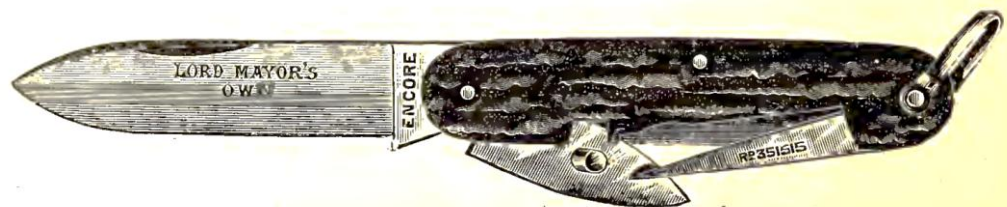
The Price is only = 4/6

MANUFACTURERS—
THOMAS TURNER & Co., Suffolk Works, SHEFFIELD,
WHO WILL SUPPLY THROUGH THEIR LOCAL AGENTS.

Plate 295

The illustration adjacent is a copy of Plate 295 (page 130) taken from Ron Flook's "British and Commonwealth Military Knives". In the text associated with Plate 295 Flook states as follows "During the campaign in South Africa a pocket knife was made for the City Imperial Volunteers (CIV), a yeomanry regiment raised in London. The knife associated with the regiment was also

known as the Lord Mayor's knife and was also supplied to 15,000 other British and colonial troops serving in South Africa". Given that the illustration states "This knife was specially designed by us for the "Lord Mayor's Own" volunteers who have taken more than a thousand with them to South Africa", it is probable that the 15,000 refers to a much larger order than just the "Lord Mayor's Own" knife. Further confirmation of this is provided in the following extract from March 3, 1900 edition of the "Black and White Budget"¹⁷ that states "An excellent knife, originally designed for the C.L.I.V. but since supplied to the Volunteers of the Gordon Highlanders, the Yorkshire Yeomanry, and the Duke of Cambridge's Own, has been manufactured by Messrs. Thomas Turner and Co., of Sheffield. It is called the "Lord Mayor's Own" Knife and consists of a good strong blade, an effective tin-opener and a strong square pincer, which can be used as a leather borer, a machine spiker, or a horse-hook. The price is five shillings and sixpence". The following illustration accompanied this extract and is identical to the knife illustrated in the Thomas Turner & Co. advert for the "LORD MAYOR'S OWN" knife shown above which is also dated March 3, 1900, although there is a price difference of one shilling.



My assumption is that all knives that are stamped 'Lord Mayor's Own' (LMO) on the blade face are the same; that is, a spearpoint main blade, brass liners and LMO stamped on the blade. Also, in my opinion, they were a one-off 'private purchase' having been commissioned and paid for by the City of London, rather than a military contract as indicated by the absence of a W↑D stamp.

When Thos. Turner produced the commercial version, they were blade-stamped "The Lord Mayor Knife" (TLMK) - I assume to protect the integrity of the original LMO knife. The middle knife in the illustration shown on page 11 above and described as a 'C.I.V. knife' clearly shows the blade stamp as "The Lord Mayor Knife". Interestingly, the Rd. No. stamp on this example is on the tang of the leather borer, and the style of the borer appears to be a slightly different style.



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Three-Blade Folder, "The Lord Mayor Knife," by Wingfield, Sheffield
 3 5/8-inch main blade with spearpoint, the ricasso marked "Wingfield/Rowbotham" and with trademark. Left side of blade marked "The Lord Mayor/Knife." Smaller blade's marking includes "Sheffield." Third blade a thick awl. Brass liners. Staghorn grip panels. German silver lanyard loop. Length, 4 1/4-inches.
Condition: Very good. Scattered light pitting and patina.
Estimate: \$250 / 350

Another Sheffield manufacturer that copied the pattern also used the TLMK blade mark; I have details of an example that sold on eBay on October 25, 2010 that was manufactured by Wingfield Rowbotham & Co. The sale price was US\$425

A further example, also manufactured by Wingfield Rowbotham & Co. was included in a knife sale¹⁸ in San Francisco on February 25,

2008 – see adjacent illustration. The sale price was US\$460 (plus 15% buyers' premium).

It is possible that these two sales were for the same knife as a comparison of the photos of the two knives indicates an almost identical pattern of staining on the awl, and the surface patterns of the "staghorn grip panels" appear very similar.

It is also interesting to note that Wingfield Rowbotham and Co went bankrupt in 1898 and were bought by Thos. Turner & Co, including 'all their marks'¹⁹ so it is possible that this knife was manufactured after that date, and following Thos. Turner's purchase of the firm.

A UK collector has provided details of what is best described as a Thomas Turner **military contract version of the C.I.V. knife** – see following, and an Australian collector has also advised that he has an identical knife, also made by Thomas Turner.



The characteristics of this knife are: closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm), sheepfoot blade, no stamping in the blade face, steel liners, a copper shackle, and a W↑D 3 stamp which indicates a

military contract. The owner has also provided the following description "*The sheepfoot blade is marked on the obverse ricasso 'T. TURNER & CO, SHEFFIELD and ENCORE', and on the reverse 'Rd No. 351515' - the same number as Turners CIV knife in their catalogue. The tin opener has 'SHEFFIELD, OIL THE JOINTS' and is over-stamped 'W↑D 3'.*

Given that the extract from the 'Black and White Budget' quoted above states that the knife was "... originally designed for the C.L.I.V. but since supplied to the Volunteers of the Gordon Highlanders, the Yorkshire Yeomanry, and the Duke of Cambridge's Own", it is probable that such supply was in fact the military contract version of the C.I.V. knife described here. I am only aware of one other example (being three in total), which is stamped W↑D 5, so they appear to be quite rare.

In conclusion, the three known variants of the **T. Turner Pattern No. 6041** are:

1. The **'Lord Mayor's Own'** knife, possibly limited to the single contract by the City of London for the City (of London) Imperial Volunteers, and only manufactured by Thomas Turner & Co. A high-quality knife with brass liners and a nickel-silver shackle, and distinctive due to its spearpoint blade whereas almost all other Boer War clasp knives had a sheepfoot blade – apart from the square-pointed Royal Navy knife described previously.
2. The **military contract C.I.V. version**, has similar design characteristics to the above, except for the sheepfoot blade, steel liners, copper shackle, and the W↑D stamping. The overall length closed of 4 inches (10.1cm), the stag handles, the sheepfoot blade and the steel liners are also common characteristics of the other three knives shown in the Thomas Turner 1902 catalogue – see page 11 above. Note that a knife is held in an Australian collection which is identical to the 'military contract' knife described above except that it lacks any W↑D stamping.
3. **'The Lord Mayor Knife'**, a commercial version of 1. above and identical in construction except for the stamping on the blade face. Examples by both Thomas Turner and Wingfield Rowbotham are known.

Based on the statement above that 'that the knife was "... originally designed for the C.L.I.V. but since supplied to the Volunteers of the Gordon Highlanders, the Yorkshire Yeomanry, and the Duke of Cambridge's Own", it appears probable the 'Lord Mayor's Own' knife was the original version and that the more utilitarian military contract variant (i.e. steel liners and copper shackle rather than brass liners and nickel-silver shackle) came later.

4.5.2 Thomas Turner Pattern 6143 – the 'Baden Powell' knife,

- also referred to as the S.A.C. [i.e. South African Constabulary] knife

This knife is described in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 trade catalogue as "*Blade and Hoof Pick. The best Coachman's knife*". The Registered Design Number (i.e. Rd. No. 383936) stamped on the pile side (reverse side) tang of the hoof pick indicates that the design was formally registered late in 1901. The advert illustration on page 11 above describes it as "*Knife used by Baden Powell's S.A.C.*".

The following knife is a recent acquisition by a U.K. collector, and another example is also known to be in a different U.K. collection. It is acknowledged by collectors that they are very rare.

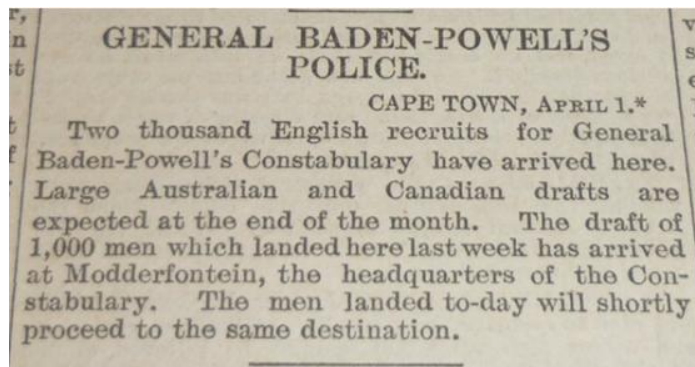


In common with three of the knives displayed in the Thomas Turner & Co 1902 catalogue, the characteristics of this knife are: closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm), sheepfoot blade, no stamping on the blade face, steel liners, a copper shackle.

The sheepfoot blade has no markings/stampings on the mark side or pile side of the blade face. The mark side tang of the blade is stamped THOMAS TURNER & Co SHEFFIELD with the Company mark and word ENCORE at a right angle. There are no markings on the pile side tang of the blade. The mark side of the hoof pick is stamped W↑D 1 on the arm (indicating a military contract), and the mark side of the tang is stamped SHEFFIELD OIL THE JOINTS. The pile side arm is stamped with two 'opposing arrowheads'²⁰ and the pile side tang is stamped Rd. No. 383936



of this knife are identical to the first knife described above apart from the different W↑D stamp number and the absence of an 'Obsolete mark'; or, if this knife ever had an 'Obsolete mark' it is no longer discernible.



The second known example in a U.K. collection has the same Registered Design Number (Rd. No. 383936) stamped on the tang of the hoof pick together with the remains of what was probably a W↑D 4 stamp. All other tang stamps are now illegible. The characteristics

As mentioned in Footnote 4 and page 2 above, the South Africa Constabulary was established in October 1900 and disbanded in 1908. By April 1901, the number of personnel would have exceeded 3000 according to a brief article in 'The Times' published on April 1, 1901. It

is therefore surprising that there are not now more examples available to collectors.

Currently available information – which is limited to an unsourced and undated illustration in Flook's 'British & Commonwealth Military Knives' at page 127 (Plate 287) – see page 11 above, the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue – see page 12 above, and two actual knives, suggests that there may be two variants of this knife

1. The military contract S.A.C. knife with a W↑D stamp – as per the first and second examples above, which can also be found with an 'Obsolete mark' stamp – as per the first example above,
2. A commercial (post-Boer War) version S.A.C. knife as depicted in both the illustration on page 11 above and The Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue on page 12 above.

Both these possible variants have the Registered Design Number (i.e. Rd. No. 383936) stamped on the pile side (reverse side) tang of the hoof pick.

4.5.3 Thomas Turner Pattern 6118 – 'Marline Spike' version

This knife is described in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue as "*Blade and Marline Spike. Boating and Yachtsman's knife*". This is the only one of the four clasp knives shown on page 169 of the 1902 catalogue that doesn't include the designation: "Special Registered Design Number No.", possibly because there was nothing unique or special in the design that justified registration.

I am aware of five examples of this pattern 6118 knife which probably reflect three variants. The knife in the following photo is assumed to be that depicted in the T. Turner 1902 catalogue.



This one is in my collection, and I have details of another in a U.K. collection that appears to be identical. The physical characteristics of the knife are: closed length

of 4 inches (10.1cm), stag scales, sheepfoot blade and marline spike, steel liners, a copper shackle. The only stamping being on the mark side blade tang: "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD" together with T. Turner mark and the word "ENCORE" stamped at right angles, which is a common T. Turner & Co. mark for this era.



The second knife has the same physical characteristics as the above but has a range of stampings – none of which is the same as on the above knife. The spike has the number 5510 heavily

stamped, the mark side blade tang is stamped "[logo] ENCORE SHEFFIELD", and the pile side tang is stamped "T. TURNER & Co. CUTLERS TO ... MAJESTY", the "HER/HIS" being covered by the handle.



In addition, the mark side blade has the remnants of the stamp shown in the adjacent photo – the outline of the beaver being easily discernible on the knife. The source of this photo is a fellow collector who has advised that this is a "pre-WW1 Canadian Militia and Defence blade marking consisting of a beaver over 'M & D CANADA'."

The original photo is on the website of a well-known eBay knife dealer "Doodlefroodle" and was one of a group of photos of a knife the same as the one above, with the same tang stamps and with a number stamped on the spike. This suggests to me that there was a Canadian Army contract with Thomas Turner for the supply of these clasp knives - presumably for the Boer War.



The third example is that depicted on Plate 302 (page 32) of Flook's "British and Commonwealth Military Knives". It is described by

Flook in the following terms: "This ... knife obviously saw Army service, the blade being stamped W↑D 1; this WD marking over-stamps the mark of Thomas Turner. The knife is unusual in that it has full stag scales, there being no bolster. The marline spike is stamped RE 13165 (RE for Royal Engineers?)". This practice of stamping a service number and unit initials on the scales was common in the Boer War for the larger 'Boer War Jack Knife' and there are known examples on the military contract versions of the square-pointed Royal Navy knife having such stamp.

This all suggests that for collectors, there are three variants of the Thomas Turner 'Marline Spike' Boer War clasp knife, as follows:

1. The 'standard' version, as depicted in the T. Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue – first knife above.
2. The Canadian military contract version - with the M & D Canada logo on the blade and probably a service number stamped on the marline spike – second knife above,

3. The British military contract version – with a W↑D stamp, and possibly with a service number and unit initials stamped on the stag scales - as depicted in Plate 302 of Flook’s “British and Commonwealth Military Knives” (see details in Appendix 1. File No. D.1.1 [here](#)).

What cannot be determined on currently available evidence is the chronology of the issue, i.e. which one is the first version? One area of speculation is that the ‘standard’ version (i.e. No.1 above) was in Thomas Turners & Co’s inventory prior to the Boer War, given that it is the only knife in their 1902 catalogue that doesn’t include the designation: “Special Registered Design Number No.”. It may have been issued to the Royal Navy and/or Marines as it is described as a “Boating and Yachtsman’s knife” or may have been commercially available as a ‘private purchase’ item. Alternatively, as with the other three knives in the illustrated copied from the Thomas Turner 1902 catalogue, all four knives originated as military contract knives and were marketed by Thomas Turner as a civilian version following the conclusion of the Boer War in 1902.

4.5.4 Thomas Turner Pattern 6119 - “Tin Opener” version

This knife is described in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue as “Blade and strong Tin Opener”. Interestingly, the Registered Design Number shown in the catalogue – being Rd. No. 369933 in this case indicating that the design was formally registered early in 1901, and usually stamped on the pile side (reverse side) tang of one of the blades, is absent on this example.



The physical characteristics of the knife are: closed length of 4 inches, sheepfoot blade and tin opener, steel liners, and a copper shackle. The only stamping being on the

mark side blade tang: “THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD” together with T. Turner mark and the word “ENCORE” stamped at right angles, which is a common T. Turner & Co. mark for this era.

All aspects of this example appear to be consistent with the Rd. No. 369933 knife depicted in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 trade catalogue.

It appears that this pattern was popular as I know of example from two other Sheffield manufacturers in collections which appear to be identical to the T. Turner knife in all aspects – that is, closed length of 4 inches, stag scales, sheepfoot blade and tin opener, steel liners, and a copper shackle.



The top knife in the adjacent photo has ‘FORD & MEDLEY SHEFFIELD’ stamped on the mark side tang and no stamping on the tin opener. The following two knives in the adjacent photo are stamped ‘F. NEWTON PREMIER SHEFFIELD’ on the mark side tang, and the lower one also has ‘PREMIER SHEFFIELD’ stamped on the tin opener; this knife is in a private collection in Australia. Other examples have been noted made by J MILNER with their trade name ‘INTRINSIC’ on the blade face.

Given that there are no known examples (incorrect - see following paragraph) of the T. Turner Pattern 6119 ‘tin opener’ knife that have a ‘W↑D’ stamp which indicates a military

contract source, it is possible that the identical Ford & Medley knife and the two F. Newton knives were also issued too military personal. Alternatively, it is possible that all three examples are in fact a commercial 'private purchase' knife. If, however, the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue is to be believed, that is "*Large quantities of all these Knives were supplied by Thomas Turner & Co., as contractor to His Majesty's services during the War in South Africa 1899 – 1902*", this would not be the case, at least not for the T. Turner knives. Note also, that the practice of not stamping military issue knives with a W↑D mark was common practice in WW1, with examples of patterns 6353/1905 with such stamping being rare, and 8173/1914 with such stamping are probably non-existent – especially given the vast quantities that were manufactured.

Recently however, (February 2021) an Australian collector has provided details of a Thomas Turner pattern 6119 clasp knife that clearly has W↑D 1 stamped on the tin opener and has the "Rd. No. 369933" stamped on the pile side tang of the blade. This is clear evidence that there was a military contract version of pattern 6119 – which is consistent with the other three Thomas Turner clasp knives featured in this "TYPE D: SMALL CLASP KNIVES" of this Collector Note and displayed on page 169 of the T. Turner 1902 catalogue. This knife was sourced in New South Wales (AU) and the seller advised that "it had been in the family for generations". This suggests a possible link to an Australian who served in the Boer War.

I know of two other examples of the T. Turner Pattern 6119 'tin opener' version in Australian collections, one of which is on the 'Australian Military Knives website, see: <http://www.australianmilitaryknives.com/claspprefed/claspboerwar.html>, and the other was certainly collected in Australia (as was my T. Turner example shown on the previous page), neither of which has a W↑D stamp however.

4.5.5 Thomas Turner Pattern ???? 'single blade clasp knife'

There is only one known example of this knife – held in the collection of a knowledgeable U.K. collector, so the usual dictum that '*single examples of anything are probably just that*' may be relevant here. It has however twice been featured in a post on 'Military Knives and Daggers of the World' forum, most recently at <http://gotavapen.se/market/viewtopic.php?f=86&t=2285>.



The owner states: "*It has the same dimensions as other Thomas Turner Boer War jack knives but I have not*

seen one like it before and it's not in any references", which is assumed to refer to the series of clasp knives featured in this Collector Note of which the standard characteristics are: closed length of 4 inches (10.1cm), stag scales, sheepfoot blade, steel liners, and a copper shackle. The owner also states: "*The maker mark is 'Thomas Turner & Co. Sheffield', and 'ENCORE' trademark on the obverse ricasso, and the government issue mark 'W↑D' on the reverse ricasso*".

In his more recent post, the owner clarifies his statement regarding the absence of the copper shackle/staple on this knife in the following terms: "*Contrary to what I said there, under very close examination I found that it probably did have a staple fitted originally, but it has been very carefully removed and the pin ground down*".

Given its conformity with the standard characteristics of the other four knives detailed in this Collector Note, together with its W↑D tang stamp, I consider it highly probable that it was one of the series of knives manufactured by Thomas Turner and Co for military personnel serving in the Boer War. The non-inclusion of this knife on page 169 of the Thomas Turner 1902 trade catalogue can possibly be explained as being a decision by T.

Turner not to continue its manufacture for commercial sale following the end of the Boer War. Indeed, it is possible that there could be other knives in the series that were manufactured for service in the Boer War and which did not make it into the post-Boer War Thomas Turner trade catalogue. Certainly, this is conjecture and further examples of this knife/knives are required before this supposition can be confirmed.

4.5.6 Ford and Medley, Sheffield: Three-blade clasp knife

A collector in regional Victoria Australia has advised the Australian Military Knives forum that he has a knife that has the same general characteristics at the Thomas Turner range of knives featured above. He describes it as follows:

“The knife is the same as the Turner knife 6118 but has a third tool, the tin opener, with all opening from the same end. The sizes are all the same as the Boer War knife under review. The maker is Ford and Medley, Sheffield. The scales again are the same with no bolster and has a copper shackle.”



It is interesting to speculate that Ford & Medley produced 'private purchase' knives to compete with the Thomas Turner range, given that this is the second example noted in the 'small clasp knife section' of the Collector Note.

Recognising that there is currently only one examples of the T. Turner Pattern 6119 'tin opener' knife that has a 'W↑D' stamp which would

indicate a military contract source, it is possible that the similar Ford & Medley knife and the two F. Newton knives described previously in this 'small clasp knife' section were also issued too military personal. So, by extension, this three-blade Ford & Medley knife may also have been issued to service personnel. On reflection however, given that there is currently only one known example of the knife, it appears likely that it wasn't produced in sufficient numbers to reflect a military contract.

4.6 Type E: Private Purchase Clasp Knives

There is no formal definition, that I am aware of, as to what constitutes a 'private purchase' knife used by British military personnel in the Boer War. There are some general indicators that distinguish a 'private purchase' knife from an 'issue' knife, such as:

- It was purchased by (or for) an individual,
- It is not required to conform with any official specification or standard,
- It was not included in any military supply contract.

There are also some characteristics that may suggest whether a particular knife would be 'fit for purpose'; that is, whether it would address the needs of military personnel serving in the Boer War, such as the inclusion of a tin opener. It is difficult to ascertain when tin openers were first included in clasp knives, certainly there were no examples of clasp knives that included a tin opener in the 'Army & Navy Cooperative Stores Limited' 1883 catalogue, for example. It is commonly assumed however the "Lord Mayor's Own" knife (described on page 12 above) and which "... consists of a good strong blade, an effective tin-opener ..." was the first example of its inclusion in a military issue clasp knife. This is reinforced by a quote in Flook's "British & Commonwealth Military Knives" page 129 which states "... Major Mackinnon of the CIV described the tin opener in the pocket knife as 'invaluable' and quite as useful as the blade".

It is apparent that, primarily, 'private purchase' knives were described in the cutlery trade catalogues at the time as "Sportsman's" or "Sporting" knives. It was the addition of the tin opener that ensured their popularity as a 'private purchase' knife suitable for war service. In some of the trade catalogues they were referred to as "Campaigning knives" and "Service Knives" to differentiate them from sporting knives. This is particularly evident in the trade catalogues that were published following the Boer War. Other characteristics that need to be considered are those that were common in knives commercially available before and during the Boer War era, and which were also included in military issue knives



of that time, such as a sheepfoot blade (primarily, but not universally).

There are other knives that are clearly Boer War 'private purchase' knives based on inscription on the scales, where very few of these characteristics are evident. The adjacent photo, copied from the Australian Military Knives website²¹, is an excellent example and includes the following text:

"The Baker Wire Key marketed by W Jno. Baker, Cutler, of 3 Hunter St Sydney. Jno. Baker were importers and probably manufacturers of a large range of cutlery items. The wire key was a tool designed specifically for the man on the land. This

device is more like a multi tool than a clasp knife because it can be used for so many tasks. This would have been a Private Purchase item. It is engraved 'Lieut G. H. Allan NSW LANCERS 28-10-99'. The engraving most likely occurred prior to him leaving to fight in the Boer War".

An identical knife also marketed by 'W Jno. Baker' is held in an Australian collection, although no specific Boer War connection is evident.



A similar 'sportsman's knife' in the same Australian collection, made by 'GEO. BUTLER & Co. SHEFFIELD' is inscribed on the scale "LIEUT. COLONEL SERJEANT - 5th Rifle Brigade'.

Serjeant is known to have served in both the First and Second Boer Wars, and full details are included in

Appendix 1 – File No. E.1.1 [here](#).

Examples of clasp knives that have some of the suggested characteristics include the following, noting that this is not a comprehensive list, but rather shows typical examples of commercially available knives from the Boer War era that are likely to have been 'private purchase' knives.

The first three knives are perhaps examples of a 'private purchase' knife in its simplest form. Although they have many of the suggested characteristics, there is nothing that specifically links them to the Boer War.



This knife is of interest in that it is the same size as the large Boer War jack knife described in "Group A" above. It is 4 ¾ inches

((12.1cm) closed, has a 3 5/8-inch (9.2cm) sheepfoot blade, a tin opener, no bolsters, very thick copper shackle and jugged bone scales. The blade tang is stamped '**NON-XLL, JOSEPH, ALLEN & SON, SHEFFIELD**'



This knife has a closed length of 4 3/8 inches (11.1cm), what appear to be jugged bone scales, brass liners, a sheepfoot blade, a tin

opener, a copper shackle, and a corkscrew. The only stamp is "**ALLEN GLASGOW**" on the mark side tang of the blade.



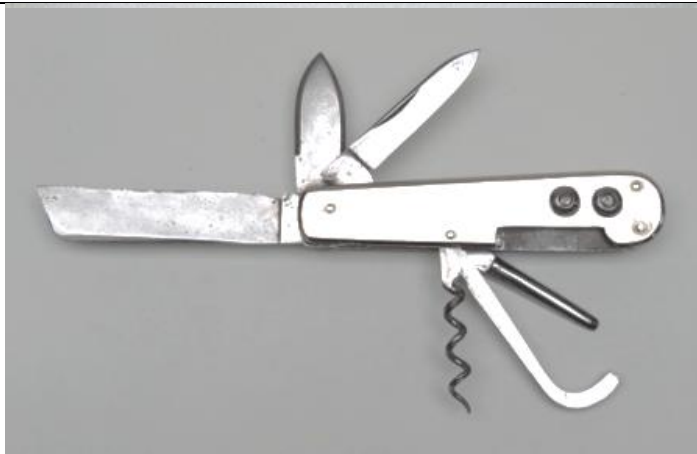
This knife has a closed length of 4 ¼ inches (10.8cm) closed (similar in size to the Thos. Turner bolsterless knives described in Group D above), has a 3" sheepfoot blade,

jugged bone scales, and steel bolsters. The blade tang is stamped '**ALFRED, WILLIAMS, SHEFFIELD**'



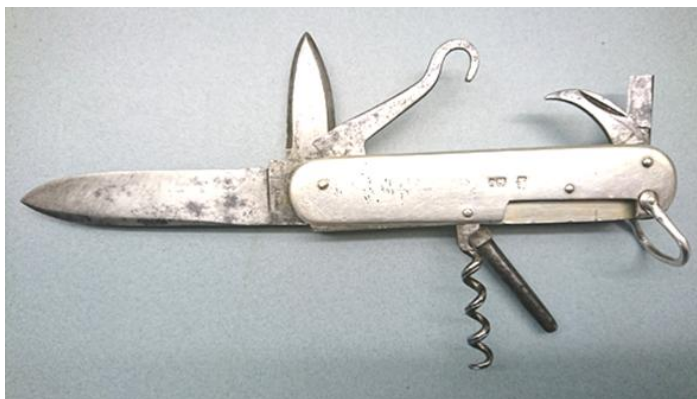
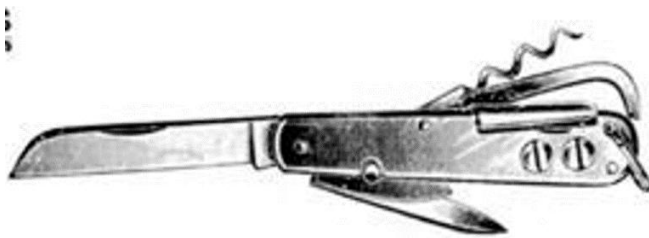
This pattern of medium sized (+/- 4 ½ inches (11.5cm) closed) "Sportsman's" or "Sporting" knives was popular at least from the mid 1880's and were made by many Sheffield manufacturers. It was however the later inclusion of the tin opener (and the absence of hook disgorger tool and the cartridge extractor tool that were common features of a

Sportsman's knife) that reinforced its popularity as a private purchase "service" knife for military personnel serving in the Boer War. The knife in the adjacent photo was made by "MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD" which is stamped on the tang of each of two blades, together with the company logo "TRUSTWORTHY". The knife's fold out tools and blades consisting of a horseshoe lever/hook, corkscrew, fullered spike, gimlet spike, main sheepfoot blade, tin opener, pen blade. 2 of the blades are marked 'M TRUSTWORTHY MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD'. The body of the knife has two original removable trace repair screws. Its length closed is 4 ½ inches (11.5cm) and the scales appear to be checkered buffalo horn, and it comes with original scabbard pouch.



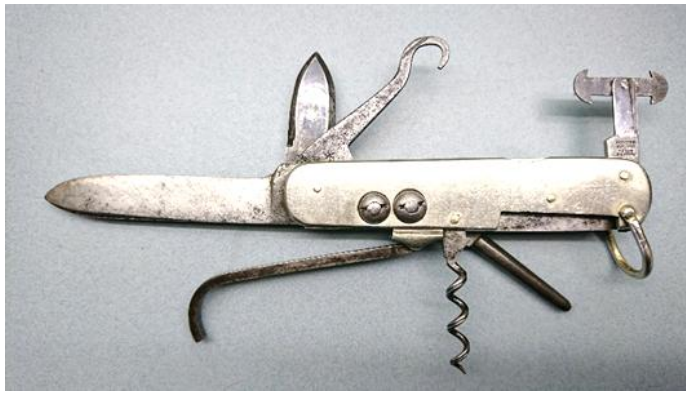
At 4 ½ inches (11.5cm) closed, this knife is of a very similar construction to the Mappin & Webb knife above, being a private purchase knife aimed at military personnel serving in the Boer War. The maker is ELLIS & SON SHEFFIELD, whose trademark was the word PRIMUS. The knife appears to be complete, apart from a

missing shackle/bail. The maker's mark is on the tang of both blades and the tin opener. The overall condition is very good. There are no military markings. This knife is owned by a UK collector who has also provided the following illustration from an unsourced and undated trade catalogue where it is described as a "Service Knife" with the following characteristics: *"Length, when closed, 4 ½ in., tin opener, knife, with trace screws, nickel silver scales, weight 6 oz. ... each 12/6"*.



This knife has many of the same characteristics as the Mappin & Webb knife above but without the inclusion of tools that were useful for horsemen. It also has a spearpoint blade instead of the more common sheepfoot blade. These knives were usually referred to in trade catalogues as 'Campaign' or

'Campaigning' knives. It dates from 1901 (based on a reading of the hallmarks on the sterling silver scales) and has milled liners and seven blades: a main spearpoint, a large button hook, a champagne/wine foil cutter, a corkscrew, a gouge/punch, a tin opener and a secondary pen blade (broken). Except for the corkscrew and gouge/punch, the blades are all tang-stamped with "J. Moore" on the mark side tangs and "211 Oxford Street" on the pile side tangs. 'J. Moore' was a famous London retailer and military outfitter. It is assumed that the knife was made for J. Moore by a Sheffield manufacturer.



This knife by Joseph Rodgers & Sons is a 'Sportsmans' pattern that was popular during the Boer War era - through to the end of the First World War (1914 - 1918). As stated on page 10 above in respect to the Thomas Turner version shown in the advert on that page: "Identical knives were

made by many Sheffield manufacturers - see for example Pattern 1979 in the Joseph Rodgers & Sons c.1912 catalogue (page 22)". This knife has "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY" stamped on the mark side tang of both the tin opener and the shell extractor which suggests that it was made prior to the death of Queen Victoria on January 22, 1901. It has nickel silver scales, hoof pick, harness repair bolts, shotshell extractor, button hook, awl and corkscrew. The closed length is 5 ¾ inches (14.6cm).



This knife has some claim to be a private purchase knife during the Boer War as the tin opener is stamped "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY" on the mark side tang. It was advertised in both the Joseph Rodgers' c.1902 and c.1912 trade catalogues as "Military Knife P.1633." The Registered

Design number "Rd. 354051" stamped on the nickel silver scales - indicating a date of May 1900 and was specifically for a "Military Wire Cutter knife". It has a closed length of 5 1/8 inches (13.0cm).



This knife also was advertised in both the Joseph Rodgers' c.1902 and c.1912 trade catalogues as "Military Knife P.1633."

5 CONCLUSION

One of the primary objectives of this Collector Note was to confirm that one (or perhaps some) of the four knives displayed in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 trade catalogue were issued to Australian servicemen/volunteers serving with the British military forces in the Second Boer War in South Africa from October 1899 to May 1902. This is only partially successful as no specific documentation linking these knives to Australian servicemen/volunteers has been identified so far, although some of the knives were collected in Australia and therefore there is the possibility of a connection.

There is however sufficient evidence to conclude that T. Turner **pattern 6118** was the subject of a Canadian military contract - presumably for issue to Canadian military personnel serving in the Boer War.

There is also significant documentary evidence linking the “Lord Mayor’s Own” knife, together with the military contract variant, to “volunteers” serving in named UK units.

What is still not clear however is whether these knives were issued universally to all UK military personnel serving in South Africa, or just to selected volunteer battalions, or more likely a combination of both.

One positive outcome is that collectors of British military clasp knives of the Boer War are now contacting me with example of such clasp knives that have not previously been identified. This has resulted in a far more comprehensive database than had previously been envisaged. It is anticipated that further examples of small clasp knives, such as those made by Ford & Medley which have recently been identified, will come to light and hopefully be featured in this Collector Note.

Therefore, it is best to assume that the Collector Note will be a ‘work in progress’ for some time to come; to be updated as addition information becomes available.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The technical knowledge and advice provided by UK collector and commentator Martin Cook, and AU and UK collectors Paul Stamp, John Kroezen, Brad Cock. and Kevin Coleman greatly assisted me in understanding the broader links in the Boer War clasp knife narrative, which ensured that this Collector Note is far more comprehensive than I had initially envisaged.

Further, the writing of this Collector Note would have been much more difficult without access to Ron Flook’s excellent book “British and Commonwealth Military Knives”, as can be appreciated by the many times it is listed in the [Endnotes following](#).

7 UPDATES, ELABORATIONS & CORRECTIONS

Much of the value of ‘web notes’ such as this **Collector Note** lie in their ability to be regularly updated, elaborated and corrected, so that in-reality there is no final version – it is in-fact a ‘*never-ending story*’. My purpose is to assist in filling the knowledge gap regarding antique Sheffield pocket knives and folding knives that was very apparent to me all through my collecting years - to encourage/assist new collectors, and to generally promote the pleasure associated with such collecting.

To this end, any suggestions/contributions that fellow collectors may have that will improve the content of this **Collector Note** and thus expand the knowledge base will be most welcome, and I am sure will be greatly appreciated by all present and future collectors of the **British Clasp Knives of the Boer War**

Author:

Lawrie Wilson

APPENDIX 1: BOER WAR CLASP KNIVES & THEIR OWNERS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This schedule would not have been possible without access to the 'Name Search' database of 698,000 records of military personnel who served in the Boer War, available on the Anglo Boer War website, see: <https://www.angloboerwar.com/> . Because many of the 'Boer War Jack Knives' have the original owners' service number and unit initials stamped onto the scales, this often enables the owner to be identified, and is one of the very few instances where a knife collector can obtain such a connection.

It must be noted however that there are often difficulties in obtaining a precise link as it is not unusual for the numbers to be mis-stamped, upside down or just plain wrong. Further, to obtain a connection, the number needs to be linked to a specific 'unit', as each unit was responsible for their own numbering. This means that a search for a specific number without specific unit initials will give a result for personnel in all units having that same number.

This difficulty is elaborated in the Schedule where each knife example is followed by all of the possible 'Name Search' database connections that may link the knife to the owner. Where possible, a suggestion as to the 'best fit' is provided

This search of the database was undertaken by UK based collector and commentator Martin Cook.

SCHEDULE

The following SCHEDULE is intended to cover all known possibilities of "Jack Knives" that were issued to British and colonial troops serving in the Second Boer War in South Africa from October 1899 to May 1902, where service numbers are available, or where there is an obvious connection.

It is presented as a TYPOLOGY with examples in each type/sub-type are ranked in alphabetical order according to the name of the manufacturer where known.

TYPE A: "BOER WAR JACK KNIFE: Sheepfoot blade and marline spike, closed length 4 7/8 inches

- A.1. Service number stamped on scale, W↑D and number stamped on tang
- A.2. Service number stamped on marline spike, W↑D and number stamped on tang
- A.3. Service number stamped on marline spike, no W↑D stamp.

TYPE B: SQUARE-POINTED ROYAL NAVY KNIFE, closed length 4 5/8 inches

- B.1. Service number stamped on scale, W↑D and number stamped on tang.

TYPE C: NON-CONFORMING EXAMPLES – no service numbers shown

TYPE D: SMALL CLASP KNIVES

- D.1. Service number stamped on marline spike, W↑D and number stamped on tang.


TYPE E: PRIVATE PURCHASE CLASP KNIVES

- E.1. Owners' details on scales, no service number, no W↑D stamp.


DETAILS


TYPE A: Sheepfoot blade and marline spike, closed length 4 7/8 inches.

- A.1. Service number stamped on scale, W↑D and number stamped on tang**

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.1.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	52071
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	
		COMMENTS: Serial No. 52071 RFA; the badly stamped 0 is likely a 6, maybe stamped upside down, in which case we have Gunner Goldfinch as the owner.	
	MAKER ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 52071 RFA	TANG STAMP W↑D 2
			SPIKE STAMP -


<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Goldfinch	S	5267 1	Gunner	Prisoner. Location unknown, 17 September 1900 Released Source: South African Field Force Casualty Roll	76th Battery, RFA

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.2.		SURNAME:	Pearce
		FORENAME:	Philip
		No:	29206
		RANK:	Private
		NOTES:	Source: Nominal roll in WO127
		UNIT:	Rand Rifles
		COMMENTS:	
	MAKER ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD	NUMBER RA 29206	TANG STAMP W↑D 18
			SPIKE STAMP -


File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.3.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	29759
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	
		COMMENTS: Serial No. 29759 RA - there is a good match except he is shown as RE not RA.	
	MAKER BROOKES & CROOKES SHEFFIELD	NUMBER RA 29759	TANG STAMP W↑D 7
			SPIKE STAMP -

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Angus	G	29759	Sapper	To Provisional Company 14 Apr 1902. QSA (3) CC OFS Tr. KSA TNA ref 158/35; 314/101	Royal Engineers, Fortress Company, 42nd

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.4.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	13060
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	


			COMMENTS: Serial No.13060 RE. No exact match, these 2 are probably the same person but not in the RE.	
	MAKER BROOKES & CROOKES SHEFFIELD	NUMBER RE 13060	TANG STAMP W↑D 5	SPIKE STAMP -

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Poole	F W	13060	Private	Demise: Died of wounds 08 Jun 1900 Place: Schmidts Drift Source: In Memoriam by S Watt	52nd Company, 19th Btn, IY
Poole	James William	13060	Trooper	Source: QSA Medal Rolls	51st Company, 12th Btn, IY


File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.5.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	31362
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	
		COMMENTS: Service No. 31362 RGA. None match serving with RGA. The four names identified were all in horsemen' units, and in fact three of the entries appear to be for the same person.	
	MAKER BROOKES & CROOKES SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 31362 RGA	TANG STAMP W↑D 1

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Pratt	William	31362	Trooper	Source: Nominal roll in WO127	Roberts' Horse
Robertson	D	31362	Private	Severely wounded. Brakenlaagte, 30 October 1901 2nd Battalion. Source: South African Field Force Casualty Roll	Scottish Horse
Robertson	David C	31362	Trooper	2nd Battalion Source: QSA Medal Rolls	Scottish Horse
Robertson	David C	31362	Trooper	Served 08 Mar 01 to 03 Sep 02. Discharged Aldershot, Sev. Wo. 30/10/1901 Source: Nominal roll in WO127	Scottish Horse


File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.6.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	32732
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	

			COMMENTS: Service No.32732 RGA. No match, not even close....	
	MAKER BURCH & SON SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 32732 RGA	TANG STAMP W↑D 11	SPIKE STAMP

Surname	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Fraser	Alexander	32732	Trooper	Source: QSA Medal Rolls	108th Company, 6th Btn, IY
Lumley	Arthur William Henry	32732	Trooper	Source: Nominal roll in WO127	Prince of Wales Light Horse

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS		
A.1.7.		SURNAME:		
		FORENAME:		
		No:	15972	
		RANK:		
		NOTES:		
		UNIT:		
		COMMENTS: The "E" stamped on the scale is probably correct but could be "B". Service No.15972 RE; No match, however if the stamp was 15872 then two option are available		
	MAKER HUNTER SHEFFIELD	NUMBER RE 15972	TANG STAMP W↑D 4	SPIKE STAMP -


Surname	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Keech	Thomas Isaac	15872	Private	No known Company. Served in 20th Btn IY Source: QSA Medal Rolls	Imperial Yeomanry
Richardson	William Hector	15872	Lance Corporal	Source: QSA Medal Rolls	77th Company, 8th Btn, IY

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS		
A.1.8.		SURNAME:	LANO	
		FORENAME:	A H	
		No:	28998	
		RANK:	Lance Corporal	
		NOTES:		
		UNIT:	Royal Engineers, Fortress Company, 20th	
		COMMENTS: The second number looks like 8 but may be 6. The letters on the scale are not legible Service No. 28992 no match, but it looks like it could be 28998 RE with a single result. SOURCE: this knife is in an Australian collection		
	MAKER HUNTER SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 28992 ??	TANG STAMP W↑D 7	SPIKE STAMP -


Surname	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Lano	A H	28998	Lance Corporal	To Provisional Company 16 Jan 1903. QSA (2) issued 19 Oct 1903. QSA (2) CC OFS. KSA	Royal Engineers, Fortress Company, 20th

TNA ref 157/3; 314/16


QSA (2) CC, OFS (28998 L/Cpl. A. H. Lano, RE); KSA (2) (28998 2nd Corpl., RE). DNW Dec 2006 £95

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.9.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	27503
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	
		COMMENTS: The "C" stamped on the scale is upside-down. The "ASC" stamp on the spike is faint but clear. No direct match for Service No. 27503 ASC, and only one possibility. Research 'may' show that Newby could have been in the RE?	
	MAKER IBBITT SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 27503 ASC	TANG STAMP W↑D 4
			SPIKE STAMP ASC

Surname	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Newby	R W	27503	Sapper	To Provisional Company 7 Aug 1902. To Army Reserve. QSA sent 27 Jan 1903 and KSA sent 23 Jul 1903. QSA (6) CC TH OFS RoL Tr LN. KSA TNA ref 156/113:314/8	Royal Engineers, Field Company, 17th

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.1.10		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	
		COMMENTS:	
	MAKER HUNTER SHEFFIELD	NUMBER ID 5443	TANG STAMP W↑D 4
			SPIKE STAMP

A.2. Service number stamped on marline spike, W↑D and number stamped on tang


File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.2.1.		SURNAME:	SIGALL
		FORENAME:	J
		No:	26560
		RANK:	TROOPER
		NOTES:	Discharged 16 Jul 01 time expired Source: Nominal roll in WO127
		UNIT:	SOUTH AFRICAN LIGHT HORSE
		COMMENTS: There are two possibilities shown below (assuming the 2 entries for J. Sigall are for the same person. It is concluded that SIGALL is the probable owner.	
	MAKER ATKINS & SON SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 26560	TANG STAMP W↑D 6
			SPIKE STAMP 26560

Surname	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Swanson	William Green	26560	Private	Source: QSA Medal Rolls	43rd Company, 12th Btn, IY
Sigall	J	26560	Trooper	Discharged 16 Jul 01 time expired	South African Light Horse

Source: Nominal roll in
WO127

Sigall	J	26560	Trooper	Discharged 18 Feb 02 time expired Source: Nominal roll in WO127	South African Light Horse
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A.3. Service number stamped on marline spike, no W↑D stamp

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
A.3.1.		SURNAME:	TODD
		FORENAME:	W
		No:	4769 – possibly Canadian?
		RANK:	Gunner
		NOTES:	Frontier Wars. SAGS (1) 1879. 5th Brigade, N Battery
		UNIT:	Royal Artillery
		COMMENTS: A similar 4 digit stamp is shown on page 17 above on the spike of a Thomas Turner pattern 6118 knife, but which also has the "CANADA M & D" and beaver logo stamp on the blade face, which suggests the possibility that the knife was for the Canadian military serving in the Boer War. Note the absence of a W↑D stamp.	
	MAKER ALFRED WILLIAMS SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 4769	TANG STAMP -
			SPIKE STAMP 4769

COMMENT: for Service Number 4769 stamped on marline spike there are numerous contenders but only two 'possibles' based upon who would be issued with this knife. "Anderson"/ "Anderton" is obviously is the same person with 4 entries! He was a horseman. The probable option would appear to be "W. Todd" as he was in the RA.

The second entry following is a search of the Service Number 9769 that assumes there is a mistake in the number stamped on the marline spike.

Results for Service No. 4769 stamped on marline spike:

Surname	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Anderson	J	4769	Private	Mounted Infantry Company, 1st Battalion Source: QSA roll	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
Anderson	J	4769	Private	Died of disease. Kimberley, 4 January 1900 1st Battalion. Source: South African Field Force Casualty Roll	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
Anderson	J M	4769	Private	QSA (1) Source: List of QSAs with the clasp Defence of Kimberley	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
Anderton	J M	4769	Private	1st Battalion Demise: Died of disease - enteric fever 03 Jan 1900 Place: Kimberley Source: In Memoriam by S Watt	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
Todd	W	4769	Gunner	Frontier Wars. SAGS (1) 1879. 5th Brigade, N Battery	Royal Artillery


Results for Serial No. 9769 stamped on marline spike:

Surname ▼	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
Anderson	Emanuel	9769	Trooper	Source: Nominal roll in WO127	Kitchener's Horse
Philp	John Daniel	9769	SM	Source: Nominal roll in WO127	Kitchener's Horse
Philp	John Daniel	9769	SM	Source: Nominal roll in WO127	SAMIF

TYPE B: Square-pointed Royal Navy knife, closed length 4 5/8 inches

B.1. Service number stamped on scale, W↑D and number stamped on tang

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
B.1.1.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	173
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	Not legible
		COMMENTS: The two letters on the scale are not legible, although the second letter could be "R". A search for service No. 173 produced 645 entries for 173, either alone or incorporated into longer numbers.	
	MAKER ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 173	TANG STAMP W↑16
			SPIKE STAMP

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
B.1.2.		SURNAME:	
		FORENAME:	
		No:	
		RANK:	
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	
		COMMENTS: a search for 60499 gave no results. A further search of 66409 and numerous slight variations produced no result.	
		SOURCE: in a UK collection	
	MAKER HUNTER SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 66709	TANG STAMP W↑D 2
			SPIKE STAMP

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS	OWNER'S DETAILS	
B.1.3.		SURNAME:	SHARP
		FORENAME:	W
		No:	14920
		RANK:	Gunner
		NOTES:	
		UNIT:	See details following
		COMMENTS: The stamp appears to show the number as 4920, however a close inspection suggests that the first number is a poorly stamped 1, followed by 4920. Therefore, the details following are for 14920	
		SOURCE: in a UK collection	
	MAKER CLARKE SHIRLEY & CO, SHEFFIELD	NUMBER 14920 RA	TANG STAMP W↑D 9
			SPIKE STAMP

Gunner 14920 W. Sharp No.4 Mountain Battery Royal Garrison Artillery awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. (source: DCM recipients No.4 Mountain Battery, RGA). Also promoted to Bombardier on 8th March 1902, though later still referred to as Gunner.

Surname ▼	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
All 4 mentions	Note different				

are all the spellings of same soldier his name

Sharp W 14920 Gunner Severely wounded. Modderfontein near Tarkastad, 17 September 1901 [No 4 Mountain Battery, RGA](#)
Source: South African Field Force Casualty Roll


Sharp W 14920 Gunner MID LG: 29 July 1902, page: 4841. Source: General Kitchener. 23 June 1902. Re: Final despatch & mentions [Royal Garrison Artillery](#)
[This page contains all the London Gazette pages for the Boer War](#)

Sharpe H 14920 Gunner MID LG: 25 April 1902, page: 2773. Source: General Kitchener. 8 March 1902. Re: General mentions [Royal Garrison Artillery](#)
[This page contains all the London Gazette pages for the Boer War](#)

Sharpe W 14920 Gunner Elandsriverpoort 17 Sep 01 (severely wounded) [No 4 Mountain Battery, RGA](#)
Source: DCM recipients

TYPE D: SMALL CLASP KNIVES


D.1. Service number stamped on marline spike, W↑D and number stamped on tang

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS		OWNER'S DETAILS			
D.1.1.			SURNAME:			
			FORENAME:			
		No:	RE 13165			
		RANK:				
		NOTES:				
		UNIT:				
	COMMENTS: Only one entry on the angloboerwar.com website, but not in the RE; SOURCE: British and Commonwealth Military Knives ¹					
	MAKER	NUMBER RE 13165	TANG STAMP W↑D 1	SPIKE STAMP RE 13165		
	Surname ▼	Forename	No	Rank	Notes	Unit
	Watson	S J E	13165	Trooper	Source: QSA Medal Rolls	52 nd Company, 19 th Btn. IY


¹ Ron Flook "British and Commonwealth Military Knives" (see previous) Plate 302, page 132

TYPE E: PRIVATE PURCHASE CLAP KNIVES

E.1. Owners' details on scales, no service number, no W↑D stamp

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS		OWNER'S DETAILS	
	E.1.1			SURNAME:
	FORENAME:			George Henry
			No:	
			RANK:	Lieutenant
			NOTES:	
			UNIT:	N.S.W LANCERS
			COMMENTS: scale is engraved 'Lieut G. H. Allan NSW LANCERS 28-10-99'.	
			SOURCE: Australian Military Knives website: http://www.australianmilitaryknives.com/claspprefed/wirekey.html	
	MAKER	NUMBER	TANG STAMP	SPIKE STAMP

"Lt. George Henry Allan born Sydney 1865, grazier of Singleton, NSW, 10 years with the NSW Lancers 1-1-1894 to 10-12-1904, served in South Africa, Queens South Africa medal with 4 clasps Kings South Africa medal 1902 bar. He also enlisted in 1916 WW1"

File No.	KNIFE DETAILS		OWNER'S DETAILS	
	E.1.2			SURNAME:
	FORENAME:			William Charles Eldon
			No:	
			RANK:	Lieutenant Colonel
			NOTES:	
			UNIT:	5th Rifle Brigade (commanded 1901 – 1902)
			COMMENTS:	
			SOURCE: In a collection in South Australia	
	MAKER	NUMBER	TANG STAMP	SPIKE STAMP

"Colonel Sir William Serjeant, K.C.B., K. St. J. A steel multi-use knife, with two blades, button hook, ferruled spike, etc, all showing an agreeable amount of active service use. The blades stamped "ART" and George Butler & Co (Sheffield). On one side of the outer casing ornately engraved 'Lieut. Colonel Serjeant, 5th Rifle Brigade' The career of the Cornishman William Charles Eldon Serjeant was by any standard extraordinary: 2nd Devon (P.O.W.) Rifle Volunteers (1874 1882), called to the Bar (1893), commissioned into the 4th battalion, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), served with the Bechuanaland Field Force (1884 – 1885); came home to England and was commissioned into the 5th Rifle Brigade which he commanded, but then asked by Joseph Chamberland to return to Rhodesia and to report on the Jameson Raid, Next served with the Matabeleland Relief Force (second in command of The Cape Boys Corp, (1896); returned to England for five years, the commanded the 5th Rifle Brigade in the South African War (1901 – 1902). Came home again, (recommended by Winston Churchill) to assist Viscount Haldane in his major reorganisation of the army (knighted 1907); worked with Roger Pocock in establishing the Legion of Frontiersmen, elected its Commandant General. A close friend of the Prince of Wales Lord Lonsdale and other notables"

SOURCE: <http://www.the-saleroom.com/en-us/auction-catalogues/dixnoonan>

APPENDIX 2: AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

1



Maker: "ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 2 stamped on the pile side tang.

The owner's service number on the scale is 52071 RFA.

See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.1. for details.

2



Maker: "ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 18 stamped on the pile side tang.

The owner's service number on the scale is RA 29206

See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.2. for details.

3



Maker: "BROOKES & CROOKES SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 7 stamped on the pile side tang.

The owner's service number on the scale is RA 29759

See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.3. for details.

4



Maker: "BROOKES & CROOKES SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 5 stamped on the pile side tang.

The owner's service number on the scale is RE 13060

See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.4. for details.

SOLD -now in Kevin Coleman's collection.

5



Maker: "BROOKES & CROOKES SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 1 stamped on the pile side tang.

The owner's service number on the scale is 31362 RGA

See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.5. for details.

6



Maker: "BURCH & SON SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 11 stamped on the pile side tang.

The owner's service number on the scale is 32732 RGA

See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.6. for details.

7



Maker: "HUNTER SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 4 stamped on the pile side tang.
The owner's service number on the scale is RE 15972
See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.7. for details.

8



Maker: "IBBITT SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 4 stamped on the pile side tang.
The owner's service number on the scale is RE 15972
See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.9. for details.

9



Maker: "HUNTER SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 4 stamped on the pile side tang.
The owner's service number on the scale is ID 5443.
See Appendix 1: File No. A.1.10. for details.

10



Maker: "ATKINS & SON SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 6 stamped on the pile side tang.
The owner's service number on the spike is 26560
See Appendix 1: File No. A.2.1 for details.

11



Maker: "ALFRED WILLIAMS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, no W↑D stamp.
The number on the spike is 4769
See Appendix 1: File No. A.3.1 for details.

12



Maker: "JAMES TIDMARSH" stamped on the mark side tang, has "EXCELSIOR" stamped on the blade face, and 'W↑D 1' stamped on the pile side tang

13



Maker: "MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, and W↑D 7 stamped on the pile side tang

14



Maker: "ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 4 stamped on the pile side tang.

15



Maker: "HIATT & CO." stamped on the mark side tang, and no W↑D. Possibly a Birmingham manufacturer. Possibly an example of British Army 1902 updated specification: "116a/1902 knives, clasp with marline spike, buffalo handle & 4563a/1902 knives, clasp with marline spike, black horn handle".

16



Maker: "ATKINSON BROTHERS SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 16 stamped on the pile side tang. The owner's service number on the scale is 173. See Appendix 1: File No. B.1.1. for details.

17



Maker: "CLARKE SHIRLEY & Co. SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 4 stamped on the pile side tang.

18



Maker: "CLARKE SHIRLEY & Co. SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 5 stamped on the pile side tang.

19



Maker: "H. G. LONG & Co. SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, W↑D 6 stamped on the pile side tang.

20



The "LORD MAYOR'S OWN" knife. Maker: "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, no W↑D stamp. The blade face is stamped "LORD MAYOR'S OWN". Registered Design number stamped on the pile side tang of the blade is "Rd. No. 351515"

21



Maker: "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, no W↑D stamp. Described in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue as pattern 6118.

22



Maker: "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD" pattern 6118. the mark side blade tang is stamped "[logo] ENCORE SHEFFIELD", and the pile side tang is stamped "T. TURNER & Co. CUTLERS TO ... MAJESTY", the "HER/HIS" being covered by the handle. The spike has the number 5510 heavily stamped.

23



Maker: "THOMAS TURNER & Co. SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang, no W↑D stamp. Described in the Thomas Turner & Co. 1902 catalogue as pattern 6119. Registered Design number stamped on th369933e pile side tang of the blade is "Rd. No. 351515".

24



Maker: "FORD & MEDLEY SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang.

25



Maker: "F. NEWTON PREMIER SHEFFIELD" stamped on the mark side tang.

26







Maker: unknown. The only stamp is "ALLEN GLASGOW" on the mark side tang of the blade, who is assumed to be a retailer.

27



Maker: "MAPPIN & WEBB SHEFFIELD" which is stamped on the mark side tang of each of two blades, together with the company logo "TRUSTWORTHY".

28		<p>Maker: unknown. The blades are all tang-stamped with "J. MOORE" on the mark side tang and "211 OXFORD STREET" on the pile side tangs. 'J. Moore' was a famous London retailer and military outfitter. It is assumed that the knife was made for J. Moore by a Sheffield manufacturer.</p>
29		<p>Maker: "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" stamped on the blade face and "No. 6 NORFOLK ST. SHEFFIELD" on the tang. It also has "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY" stamped on the mark side tang of both the tin opener and the shell extractor.</p>
30		<p>Maker: "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" stamped on the blade face and "No. 6 NORFOLK ST. SHEFFIELD" on the tang. It also has "RODGERS CUTLERS TO HER MAJESTY" stamped on the mark side tang of both the tin opener and the shell extractor.</p>
31		<p>Maker: "JOSEPH RODGERS & SONS" stamped on the blade face and "No. 6 NORFOLK ST. SHEFFIELD" on the tang.</p>

ENDNOTES

¹ 'jack knife' is possibly derived from common usage as being 'a knife for jack' – "jack" being a slang word for a manual worker such as a lumberjack, steeplejack, jacktar, or "jack of all trades", etc.

² Ron Flook, *British and Commonwealth Military Knives*. Howell Press, 1999.

³ An Australian collector has provided advice to the Australian Military Knives website that an official document in the archive of the Australian War memorial specifies the content of the "Equipment, Etc." that was to be provided to volunteers departing for South Africa, which included "clasp-knives" – see <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C1416414> (page 546), however no specific details are provided.

⁴ The South African Constabulary (S.A.C.) was a paramilitary force set up in October 1900 under British Army control to police areas captured from the two independent Boer republics of Transvaal and Orange Free State during the Second Boer War. The force was disbanded in 1908. SOURCE: Wikipedia.

⁵ "marline" spike appears to be the original spelling in official documents at that time. The abbreviated "marlin" did not come about until a lot later.

⁶ SOURCE: post by "Cooky" on the website "Military Knives & Daggers of the World" dated June 22, 2013

⁷ SOURCE: post by Cooky – see previous Endnote

⁸ Ron Flook: 'The London Knife Book – an A-Z listing of London Cutlers and Retailers' published by Antique Knives Ltd. July 2008.

⁹ Ron Flook, see previous reference

¹⁰ Ron Flook "The London Knife Book" see previous

¹¹ Australian Military Knives: <http://www.australianmilitaryknives.com/>

¹² Ron Flook – on the website "Military Knives & Daggers of the World" dated June 22, 2013.

¹³ "Cooky" – see previous Endnote 6

¹⁴ Ron Flook – see previous Endnote 2

¹⁵ Ron Flook – see previous Endnote 2

¹⁶ “*Thomas Turner & Co.*” catalogue (part) dated 1902. Internet download

¹⁷ A Victorian era illustrated weekly printed and published by W.J.P. Monckton in London

Source: <https://angloboerwar.com/images/pdf/blackandwhite19000303.pdf>

¹⁸ Catalogue for: “*The Largest Knife Sale Ever, featuring the Estate of Donald Littman, Part 1*”. Greg Martin Auctions

¹⁹ Geoffrey Tweedale - Tweedale's Directory of Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers 1740-2013 [2nd edition]

²⁰ “Two broad arrow arrows touching is the Obsolete Mark, meaning 'no longer fit for use but not condemned' and usually indicates sold out of service”. Thanks, Cooky

²¹ Australian Military Knives: see Endnote 11.