



## Army Chaplains and their Work.

BY HORACE WYNNDHAM.

A FAR greater amount of attention, than the lay mind is apt to credit them with, is paid by the military authorities to the spiritual requirements of the British Army. The regulations of the Service direct that at least once on Sunday "every soldier, when not prevented by military duty, is to attend the worship of Almighty God, according to the forms prescribed by his own religion." For the purpose of insuring that this shall be conducted in a fitting manner a body of clergymen is specially maintained. This, which is officially known as the "Army Chaplains' Department," has a *personnel* of ninety in all. Of these, seventy belong to the Church of England, twelve to the Church of Rome, and eight to the Presbyterian faith. The religious requirements of Wesleyan soldiers—of whom there are some 12,000 in the army at the present date—are separately provided for. The chaplains of this denomination, it should be noted, are not enrolled in the department referred to, as they have not, by their own request, hitherto held commissions. Exceptions, however, have recently been made in two instances, viz., those of the Rev. E. P. Lowry and the Rev. T. H. Wainman, each of whom has had a

commission granted to him, in recognition of distinguished services rendered in South Africa during the progress of the present campaign. The rank accorded to the first-named is that of lieutenant-colonel, while that of the second-named is that of major.

According to their seniority as such, members of the Army Chaplains' Department are divided into four classes, ranking respectively as (1) colonels, (2) lieutenant-colonels, (3) majors, and (4) captains. In control of them all is a chaplain-general, with headquarters at the War Office. This responsible post is at present occupied by the Right Rev. John Taylor Smith, D.D., who was appointed thereto a few months ago in succession to Dr. Edghill.

A clergyman desirous of becoming an army chaplain has first to be nominated for such an appointment. He must then have been three years in orders, and be between the ages of twenty-seven and thirty-five. He is sent to a garrison on a year's probation. During this period he is placed under the charge of a chaplain who trains him in the duties he will afterwards be called upon to fulfil. He is then enrolled as a "fourth-class chaplain." While serving in this



capacity he ranks as captain, and draws a salary of £182 10s. per annum, with fuel, light, and quarters in addition. After ten years' service in this grade he is advanced to the "third class," and enjoys the status and pay of a major. On promotion to the "first class," his stipend is raised to £410 12s. 6d. per annum, and his rank is that of a colonel. After twenty years' service, a chaplain may claim to retire on a pension of 12s. 6d. per diem, and is compelled to do so on attaining the age of sixty.

To a great extent the holders of these posts make their own work, for by far the most important portion of it is of an entirely unofficial nature. The possibilities open to a chaplain of the right stamp are almost incalculable, and his influence upon the men surprisingly great. He gives—for the soldier's nature is remarkably plastic—the "tone" to the entire garrison that he ministers to, and thus makes himself an extraordinary power for good or ill.

The supremely necessary quality for a military chaplain to possess is that of tact. Close behind this comes that of sympathy. Thus equipped, the most lowly of army chaplains will get better results out of his military charges than would the most distinguished of bishops on the bench without it. With a chaplain, however, who is unable to enter into the feelings of his men, and is an officer first and a minister of the Gospel afterwards, the average soldier is naturally reserved and unresponsive.

Foremost among the various duties which army chaplains discharge, as a matter of course, is that of holding services every Sunday morning and evening. At the former, attendance is compulsory on the part of all members of the garrison off duty; a full congregation is accordingly

insured, and the officiating minister is thus spared the depressing experience (that so frequently befalls clergymen who labour in other spheres) of preaching to but sparsely occupied benches. At the evening services, no compulsion to be present exists. It is exceedingly gratifying, however, to find that soldiers do not in any way hold aloof from them on this account. Other duties devolving upon a military chaplain take the form of visiting the sick in hospital, preparing candidates for confirmation, conducting funerals, celebrating marriages, and imparting religious instruction to the children attending Army schools. With regard to the extent of their charge, it is officially laid down that clergymen employed with the troops are to "render all the spiritual assistance in their power to officers and their families, as well

as to the families of the men, whether on the married roll or not, and to the men themselves, whom they are to regard in every respect as their own parishioners."

Under the care of the Rev. Taylor Smith these instructions will be interpreted by the Army chaplains in the most liberal manner possible. Indeed, chaplains of all denominations—the Established Church, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians and Wesleyans alike—who are in spiritual charge of soldiers will have to take pride to themselves on having no spare time. Their work begins from the moment they receive their appointments and ends only with their retirement—twenty years later—into private life. The influence for good that many army chaplains exert over all ranks is very great, and when to their untiring devotion to duty is

added Christian sympathy, we can easily understand the improvement that has taken place of late years in the *morale* of the British Army.



REV. JOHN TAYLOR SMITH, D.D.,  
Chaplain-General to the British Army.  
*Photo Russell and Sons.*



In virtue of his appointment as Chaplain-General to the Forces, Dr. Taylor Smith ranks as a Major-General. He was ordained in 1885, becoming priest in the following year. His first curacy was at St. Paul's, Penge, where he remained until 1890. He then proceeded to West Africa to take up the appointment of Canon of St. George's Cathedral at Freetown. While officiating in this capacity, he accompanied the British troops engaged in the Ashanti Expedition of 1895. It will be remembered that it was while serving in this campaign that Prince Henry of Battenberg contracted the fever from which he died after a short illness. Dr. Taylor Smith accompanied him on his journey to the coast and remained with him to the end. For his services on this sad occasion Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria made Dr. Taylor Smith one of her honorary chaplains.

In 1897 Dr. Taylor Smith was consecrated Lord Bishop of Sierra Leone. His jurisdiction as such extended over a very large area, included in which were the colonies of Gambia and Sierra Leone, and also all the churches of the Established faith in Madeira, the Canary Islands, and part of Morocco. As these had to be constantly visited, it will readily be seen that the present Chaplain-General has travelled extensively.

As with all other Army officers, chaplains cannot count upon working only in peaceful surroundings. When war breaks out, accordingly, they are required to take their place in the field. At the present moment, for example, twenty-nine of their number are following their sacred calling with the troops on active service in

South Africa. To the manner in which they have discharged their responsible duties while thus employed, both Earl Roberts and Sir Redvers Buller have repeatedly paid eloquent tribute in their official despatches. Several of their number, for instance, have been specially mentioned by name, while three of them have been awarded the coveted "Distinguished Service Order." These are the Rev. Thomas Felton Falkner, the Rev. Reginald F. Collins, and the Rev. James Robertson.

The first-named of this notable trio, Mr. Falkner, is at present the senior Church of England chaplain at Aldershot. This, by the way, was the station to which he was sent on his first appointment to the department, in 1881. After spending a couple of years in this important garrison,

he went to Bermuda for a time of foreign service. On his return to England, he was ordered to the Guards depôt at Caterham, where he was in charge of the chapel that

had just been opened there by General Philip Smith, C.B. In October, 1899, Mr. Falkner (who was then doing duty at Portsmouth) was appointed chaplain to the 1st Division on active service in South Africa. This was commanded by Lord Methuen, and, under his leadership, Mr. Falkner was present at the hard-fought battles of Belmont, Graspan, Modder River, and Magersfontein. He was then attached to the Guards Brigade and accompanied it on its historic march to Pretoria. From this place, Mr. Falkner was eventu-

ally sent home to England, suffering from acute rheumatism occasioned by fatigue and over exposure. In recognition of the exceptionally able manner in which he carried out his responsible duties while in the field,



REV. THOMAS FELTON FALKNER, D.S.O.,  
Captain to the Forces, 1st Class, South African  
Field Force.

*Photo Plumbe and Bradshaw, Pretoria.*



REV. J. W. ADAMS, V.C.  
*Photo Maull and Fox.*



he was specially promoted to be a "first class" chaplain and was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Throughout his career Mr. Falkner has always been closely identified with every organisation connected with the furtherance of Church work in the Army. Thus, he has been on the Council of the Army Temperance Association from its inception, and has for some years past been Hon. Secretary of the Army Missionary Association. In 1895 he attended the Church Congress at Norwich, as a "selected speaker" on Church work among soldiers, and was also present at last year's Congress at Brighton in the same capacity. The photograph of Mr. Falkner on the previous page was taken at Pretoria in June 1900. It represents him wearing the uniform of a chaplain on active service.

have been Aldershot, Netley, Malta, and Gibraltar.

The third military chaplain to gain the coveted Distinguished Service Order, during the war in which our troops are still engaged, is a member of the Presbyterian Church. This is the Rev. James Robertson. His connection with the Department commenced in 1884. Shortly after his appointment thereto he was sent to Egypt, where he took part in the Soudan campaign which was then in progress. During this period he was attached to the Cameron Highlanders and accompanied them throughout the operations that commenced with the investment of Kosheh and concluded with the battle of Guiniss. Mr. Robertson is at present doing duty at the Cape.



REV. JAMES ROBERTSON, D.S.O.,  
Chaplain of the Highland  
Brigade.  
*Photo W. McCrae, Dublin.*

The Rev. Mr. Collins (who is a member of the Roman Catholic Church) accompanied General Buller's force on its eventful march

Long before the commencement of the present Boer War, another military chaplain won a name for himself on a South African battlefield. This was the

to the relief of Ladysmith, and received the Distinguished Service Order for his services on this occasion. Prior to going to South Africa (to which country he was transferred from Gibraltar) Mr. Collins had taken part in two campaigns. The first of these was the one conducted by Lord Wolseley in Egypt in 1882, and the second was the Soudan one of three years later. At the battle of Tel-el-Kebir he acted as chaplain to the Royal Irish Fusiliers and was awarded a medal and star. In the Soudan expedition of 1885 he earned the distinction of being "mentioned in despatches," and received a special step in promotion. Mr. Collins was first commissioned in 1879. Among the different places—other than Egypt and South Africa—in which he has been stationed,



REV. GEORGE SMITH, OF "RORKE'S DRIFT" FAME.  
*Photo R. Ellis, Malta.*

Rev. George Smith, who—though more than twenty years have elapsed since the date in question—is still retained on the active list of the Department. When the now almost forgotten Zulu campaign of 1879 broke out, Mr. Smith was Vicar of Estcourt, Natal. At the urgent request of the military authorities, he temporarily resigned his charge, in order to act as chaplain to Lord Chelmsford's forces. While officiating in this capacity, he gained, by the untiring manner in which he devoted himself to the sick and wounded in the base hospital, the affection and respect of every one with whom he came

into contact. When the scantily garrisoned outpost of Rorke's Drift was attacked, Mr. Smith proved himself a hero among heroes, setting, by his unwavering courage and





REV. A. V. C. HORDERN,  
Chaplain to the Forces, Harrismith, South Africa.

resource, an inspiring example to all around him throughout that terrible day. During the height of the attack he performed signal service by distributing cartridges among the little handful of men defending the frail parapet that surrounded the building in which lay the wounded.

In connection with this, a story is told to the effect that when, during the fierce excitement of the battle, some of the hard pressed garrison broke out into a torrent of profanity against the enemy, he handed the speakers a packet of ammunition, quietly observing as he did so — "don't swear — but aim low."

The action was typical of a brave soldier of Church and State. On the termination of the war, Mr. Smith was retained in his appointment as a military chaplain. Since then he has seen a good deal of active service in Egypt. In the battle of El-Teb he particularly distinguished himself and was "mentioned in despatches" on this account by the late General Sir Gerald Graham. He is at present quartered at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. The uniform he is wearing in the photograph here reproduced is

the full dress one of a chaplain on home service.

The accompanying photograph of a chaplain on horseback is of the Rev. A. V. C. Hordern. He joined the Department in 1894 and went to South Africa, from Gosport, shortly after the outbreak of the war. His experiences in the field included the siege of Ladysmith, for he was one of the garrison of this place when it was first invested by the enemy. In recognition of his valuable services while at the front, Mr. Hordern received special promotion to the rank of "3rd class" chaplain. The other members of the Department who were beleaguered in Ladysmith at the same time were the Rev. E. G. MacPherson and the Rev. T. G. W. Tuckey.

The senior military chaplain to the troops quartered in London is the Rev. Walter H. Milner. His first appointment dates from 1875, when he went to Aldershot. Before this he held a curacy for eight years in Derbyshire. On leaving Aldershot, in 1876, Mr. Milner was transferred, first of all to Malta, and afterwards to Cyprus. When stationed in England, he has served in such important garrisons as those of Woolwich and Chatham. In 1894, he returned to Aldershot, where he

remained for over six years. During this period Mr. Milner, as senior member for the Department, had some thirty clergymen of all shades of opinions under him. In evidence of the harmonious relations that existed between them, it may be mentioned that, on his leaving the station, Mr. Milner was presented by them with two valuable brass clocks.

Mr. Milner's chief work at Aldershot was in connection with All Saints' Church. While in charge of this, he succeeded in raising sufficient funds to pay off an existing debt of £300 on the organ, and to build (at a cost



CAMP CHURCH ARRANGED FOR CHRISTMAS DAY  
SERVICE AT PRETORIA.

Arranged by the Rev. E. H. Molesworth, M.A.

of £700) some Church Rooms in Wellington Limes. Another achievement of Mr. Milner's during his stay in the camp was the organising of the first united church service ever held in the Army. This took place at the opening of the Louise Margaret



Hospital by H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught, and was attended by the clergy and troops of all denominations in the garrison.

Another act which marked Mr. Milner's incumbency, and which afforded great satisfaction among the troops, was the placing by him of wreaths under the six regimental colours that hang on the walls of All Saints' Church. These he had renewed on the 1st of November (All Saints' Day) of each year that he remained in the camp. A seventh wreath, which was added at the beginning of the present year, was in memory of the late Queen Victoria. This bears the inscription—"A soldier's wreath for a soldier's daughter who always did her duty."



REV. WALTER H. MILNER,  
Chaplain to the Forces, 1st Class, Tower of London.

On leaving Aldershot, Mr. Milner was transferred to London, with headquarters at the Tower. His work is chiefly among the Guards' battalions. He is a great believer in the efficacy of short sermons. Judging from the crowded attendances that marked the voluntary services he conducted at All Saints' on Sunday evenings, he is amply justified in holding this view.

Another chaplain who occupies a responsible post in London is the Rev.

George Herbert Andrews, M.A., who, since 1894, has been on the staff of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Chelsea. The result of his work at Chelsea has commended itself so favourably to the military authorities that he has just been granted a seven years' extension in this post. The service held by Mr. Andrews in the school chapel at 11 a.m. every Sunday morning is a most impressive function and is conducted in exactly the same manner as a regimental Church-parade.

In evidence of the keen interest taken by Mr. Andrews in the welfare of those who have been

under his charge, it may be mentioned that he devoted his leave last year to paying a flying visit to South Africa, in order to renew his acquaintance with those ex-"Duke of York" boys who are now on active service there.

A large proportion of these have distinguished themselves in a most gratifying manner, one of them, indeed—Corporal Shaul, of the Highland Light Infantry—receiving the Victoria Cross.

Although they are no longer on the active list of military chaplains, no account of clergymen who have proved their heroism on the field of battle would be complete without reference to the gallant deeds of the Rev. J. W. Adams, V.C., and the Rev. Robert Brindle, D.S.O. The first named received the Victoria Cross

for saving life under fire during the Afghan War in 1879. Since 1895 (when he retired from the Department) he has been vicar of Stow Bardolph, Norfolk. The Rev. Robert Brindle received the Distinguished Service Order while officiating as Roman Catholic chaplain to the British troops engaged in Lord Kitchener's successful advance upon Khartoum in September, 1898.



THE REV. G. H. ANDREWS, M.A. (CHAPLAIN), AND THE STAFF OF THE DUKE OF YORK'S ROYAL MILITARY SCHOOL, CHELSEA.