

Exciting New Acquisition

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum Trustees are delighted to announce the acquisition of the medal group of Lieutenant General Charles Dobell KCB, CMG, DSO. This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of the V&A Purchase Grant Fund. @victoriaandalbertmuseum, @V_and_A.

Lt Gen Charles Dobell's medal group and a number of other personal items, represent a significant enhancement to the Museum's collections. His medals will go on display in the Museum Medal Room as soon as we are able to reopen the Museum to the public.

Lt Gen Charles Dobell was the most significant officer to have served in The Royal Welch Fusiliers in the the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Born in Canada, he was commissioned in 1890, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General playing a prominent role in many of the key events in British Military History during the period. In his early career, in 1891 he took part in the Hazara Expedition on the North West Frontier, India. In 1900 he was also one of a very few officers in the British Army who served in South Africa during the Second Boer War and in the same year, with the Regiment during the Boxer Rebellion, in Peking, China.

During the First World War he commanded the highly successful Allied campaign in the Cameroons. He went on to command the Western and then Eastern Egyptian Expeditionary Forces. In this role, he directed operations in Egypt and then Palestine, including the 1st and 2nd Battles of Gaza. From there, he returned to Northern India and in 1919 he took part in the 3rd Afghan War, being twice mentioned in despatches. The following year he was appointed General Officer Commanding the Northern Army in India retiring in 1923.

From 1926 to 1938 he was one of the longest serving and most active Colonels of the Regiment of The Royal Welch Fusiliers. In this role, he attended many events representing the Regiment and was renowned for his keen interest in the Regiment and its individual members. When he died on 17 Oct 1954 he was still active in Regimental life.

Lieutenant General Charles Dobell is of particular interest to the Regimental Museum of the Royal Welch Fusiliers because of his highly successful military career, which encompassed an almost unprecedented number of the key events in British history. In addition, he was an exceptional, highly dynamic and caring Colonel of the Regiment.



