

0. Four Feathers, The - Story Preface

- 1. TROUBLE IN SUDAN
- 2. THE MAHDI TAKES CHARGE
- 3. GORDON IS BEHEADED
- 4. DEATH OF THE MAHDI
- 5. REVENGE: ROUND ONE
- 6. REVENGE AND DESECRATION
- 7. A COWARD'S FEATHERS



Four Feathers, The

In the last major <u>battle involving a cavalry charge</u>, Britain's 21st Lancers decimated Sudanese forces who wanted to end colonial rule in their country. This drawing, illustrating the battle's ferocity, is by Harry Payne. It was included in *Glourious Battles of English History*, by Major C.H. Wylly, published in 1915. Image online, courtesy MilitaryImages.net.

Our victory was disgraced by the inhuman slaughter of the wounded...

Winston Spencer <u>Churchill</u> Letter to his mother January 26, 1899

It was 1898—a time when "the sun never set" on the British Empire. Presided over by <u>Queen Victoria</u>, who was approaching the end of her long reign, the <u>far-flung</u> empire (noted in red in the link) <u>covered</u> 11 million square miles and included about 400 million people.

Trouble between Egypt (then a British Protectorate) and the Sudan was about to erupt into an unbelievably brutal battle. Fighting under the hot desert sun, Anglo-Egyptian forces, led by <u>Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener</u>, would face angry Sudanese eager to rid their country of colonial rule. It would be the last time the British army fought a battle on horseback.

The scene was <u>Omdurman</u>, across the <u>Nile River</u> from <u>Khartoum</u>. (Look for the intersection of 30 degrees longitude and approximately 25 degrees latitude in <u>this 1890 map</u>.) It was not the first time the Sudanese had engaged Anglo-Egyptian forces in a horrifying battle. <u>Winston Churchill</u>, a 24-year-old war correspondent, rode with the 21st Lancers.

Despite death all around him, the future Prime Minister of Great Britain survived—forever <u>changed</u> because of the brutality he had witnessed.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Four-Feathers-The

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Four-Feathers-The

Media Stream



Photograph of a Young Winston Churchill

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Photograph-of-a-Young-Winston-Churchill



Queen Victoria Photograph Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Queen-Victoria-Photograph</u>





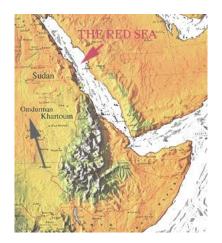
Kitchener of Kharloum

Map of the British Empire - From 1900

Image online, courtesy freewebs.com website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-the-British-Empire-From-1900

Horatio Kitchener

Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Horatio-Kitchener</u>



Map Showing Omdurman and Red Sea

Image online, courtesy <u>The Churchill Society</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Showing-Omdurman-and-Red-Sea</u>





<u>Map of Sudan</u> Image online, courtesy <u>cnn.com</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-Sudan</u>

British Empire at Turn of the 19th Century Image online, courtesy <u>The British Empire</u> website. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/British-Empire-at-Turn-of-the-19th-Century



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