



“ . . . The memorial tablet in the church to John Strange is nowhere near as impressive as his grave, which stands in its own ground in the churchyard of Great St Mary’s . . . ”



style. Alston (or Allston) was born June 7, 1782. He was commissioned Ensign in the 3rd Foot Guards on January 5, 1804, and in 1807 took part in the Copenhagen expedition. This seems to be an underrated episode in the Napoleonic Wars, probably because the naval side of it overshadowed the military (the overall commander was Admiral John James Gambier), and there was no clasp for it either on the Naval General Service Medal or the Military General Service Medal, even though it was a stunning victory, for which Gambier received a baronetcy. Between September 2 and 5 the British bombarded Copenhagen, forcing the city to surrender in order to prevent the Danish fleet from falling into the hands of Napoleon. The British military force consisted of 27,000 men commanded by General Lord Cathcart, including 15 battalions of infantry (among which were the 1/3rd Guards), and six artillery batteries. Although nearly 3,000 Danish civilians were killed or wounded, the British casualties numbered no more than 42 killed, 145 wounded and 24 missing, which probably explains the lack of recognition accorded to this action. The receipt for the payment of Alston’s fee for his ensigncy is recorded in the Commander-in-Chief’s memoranda (WO 31/ 155), where his name is spelled Allston, but there is nothing else in this file of biographical value. He left the Army soon after the Copenhagen expedition as he disappears from the Army List after 1808. However, despite never being honoured with a knighthood, baronetcy or anything else (he died an “Esquire”), he had a successful civil career, possibly as a result of marrying an heiress, Rose Milles of Pishiobury. He was at various times a Member of Parliament for Hertfordshire, Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire, Essex and Bedfordshire, and a Chairman of Quarter Sessions. He died November 21, 1865.

The memorial tablet in the church to John Strange is nowhere near as impressive as his grave, which stands

in its own ground in the churchyard of Great St Mary’s. Although this is how his name is rendered on the grave and on the tablet, his full name was the Hon John Strange Jocelyn (Jocelyn being the family name), son of the 3rd Earl of Roden (an Irish earldom). Born June 5, 1823, he was educated at Harrow, and commissioned Ensign in the Rifle Brigade October 7, 1842. There are two interesting letters in WO 31/850 from his father, Sir Robert Jocelyn, the 3rd Earl. One dated November 1, 1841 to Horse Guards requesting a commission for his son, mentions that he removed his son from the Woolwich Academy where he had been training for the Royal Artillery. In a letter dated September 1842 to the Duke of Wellington, Roden writes that he had withdrawn Jocelyn as there had been some act of insubordination; it was clear that Jocelyn was not suited to the Academy, and he wanted a regiment for him that was serving in Canada or the Mediterranean. The cost of this commission was £500, or more than £35,000 now (as measured by the retail price index).

Jocelyn obviously did well in the Army. On March 31, 1848 he was promoted Lieutenant with the rank of Captain in the Scots Guards, which cost his father £850, or nearly £62,000 in today’s money (WO 31/940). He married, in 1851, the Hon Sophia Hobhouse, a daughter of Baron Broughton. He went with his Regiment to the Crimea, where he was promoted Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel November 6, 1854. Later in the campaign he was made commander of the 2nd Jaeger Corps of the British-German Legion, and was decorated with the Knighthood of the Legion d’Honneur 5th Class, and the Order of the Medjidie 5th Class. He was also awarded the Crimea Medal with clasps *Alma*, *Balaklava*, *Inkermann*, *Sebastopol* (WO 100/25 ff 378 & 401). Selling his commission in 1861, he led the

life of a country gentleman, succeeding to the title of the 5th Earl of Roden in 1880 (as well as the title of 3rd Baron Clanbrassill of Hyde Hall, Hertfordshire). He owned some 14,600 acres, the tablet in the church describing him as “a kind and generous landlord”. He had at least three addresses: 27 Hill Street, London; Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth; and Tullymore Park, County Down. He died July 3, 1897 and was survived by a daughter.

There is a wooden tablet in the church which reads:

“TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF WALDEMAR ROBERT HAWKES OF KOONOONA, BURRA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 WHOSE FORBEARS LIVED IN THIS AND ADJOINING COUNTIES.”

Fortunately the Australian War Memorial has digitised its records, and I found a bulky service history for Waldemar Hawkes with little trouble. According to his attestation form dated October 27, 1914 he was born in Burra, South Australia, but on his medical history form recording that he

