he present conflict in South Africa is tive of no other good thing, it will st afford to many a poor and uninflu-yet ambitions, Tommy the chance nning his silk sash on the field of

alone, that most combatant com from the ranks are gained. Those in time of peace are usually either ry or non-combatant ones, granted as ard for long and faithful service tomasters, riding masters, and others:
ilk; or they are awarded, as a mat-favor, to young fellows of good fam-isome means, who, having failed in.

AMINATIONS AT SANDHURST. enlisted on the tacit, but none the distinct, understanding that they are omoted, provided always they prove ves good and efficient soldiers at the

vailable opportunity. latter of course are not "rankers" at the true sense of the word. Th y and fight hard; just as in the days, by did Major-Generals "Willie" Mc-and Luke O'Connor, both of whom

first named enlisted in the 93rd Higheighteen. He won his commission in rimea; and a little later on, at Luck-he gained his V.C. by killing 11 muti-at one time in single combat. The actor in this latter terrible drama is made light of it; and when, somefterwards, a regimental parade was av's work." with the remark, "Toots day's work, with the remain, 1000s, it didna tak' me twenty meenutes!" ke O'Connor earned his cross and his nission together at the battle of the River, the double honor being award-im for conspicuous gallantry in taking the "Queen's color" of his regiment— Ensign Ansthuther, in whose keeping s, had been shot dead—and, though d. carrying it through the McBean, he rose through all the in-ediate grades of the command of the nt corps—the 23rd—in whose ranks he once shouldered a rifle, and was re-in 1887, with the honorary rank of

in 1887, with the nonoral, r-general. He is still alive.
t a third famous ranker whose chance e to him on the bloodstained plains of Crimea was Major John Berryman, who died a few years back. Like onor, his commission and his cross came to him at one and the same time. occasion was the ever memorable ge of Balaclava. Berryman, then a reant, had been unhorsed and badly inded, but was able to walk. While ting his way back to our lines, he inbled across Capt. Webb, of the 17th bled across capt. Web, of the series his own regiment—his leg shat-by a grapeshot. Berryman, seeing uperior officer's terrible plight, refused rocced further, and later on, having ared assistance, he succeeded in carrythe poor fellow out of immediate dan-He then proceeded to fix a turniquet, ich he had previously borrowed from an eer of the Scots Guards, on the wounded

's thigh. Emperor Napoleon's uniform, and cov-with decorations, rode up. It was the-brated French strategist, Gen. Morris. Your officer?' he asked, pointing to the-

Ah! And you a sergeant!"-touching the

Yes, sir."
You are a brave men. If you were interest of French service, I would make you a utenant on the spot!"
then, standing up in his stirrups and inting down the valley, he made use of a phrase which has since become histori-

Mon Dieu! It was grand. It was magman who has made up his mind, to ork his commission" by behaving with eptional gallantry on the field of bathas no easy task before him. Where all are brave, the deed done must be some ance, Capt. Henry

THE ROYAL ARTILLERY, THE ROYAL ARTILLERY, thile fighting as a sergeant at Inkerman, eccived three severe bayonet wounds, and was ordered to the rear, he refused to go. iving as his excuse for disobeying that he was trying to earn his "sash." and that what he had done and suffered so far was not half en ugh to get him it. A little later he received four more wounds in quick succession, but he continued in the fighting-line nearly an hour longer. When at length he was carried off the field unconscious, he was found to have sustained yet five additional bayonet wounds, making twelve in all. He got his commission, and his cross with it.

all. He got his commission, and his cross with it.

Sergt. Scott, of the Cape Mounted Rifles, deserved his reward. The place was South Africa, the year 1879. The night before the attack on Moirosi's Mountain he volunteered to creep forward and gain a position from whence he could fling down timeshells among the Basutos. He succeeded in his object, but the third shell exploded prematurely, shattering his right arm and left leg, and injuring him internally. Yet he esteemed himself amply repaid by the receipt soon afterwards of a bit of parchment, bearing Her Majesty's sign-manual, and by virtue of which he was entitled to wear upon his shoulder-knots the single gold star of a lieutenant.

After all, however, it is doubtful if any man ever fought harder for his commission than did Col. Hector MacDonald, with whose name and fame all England was ringing after Omdurman. This sturdy Scot first saw service in Afghanistan—that nursery of heroes. His lieutenancy came to him after Gen. "Bob's!" famous march from Kabul to Kangahar: but prior to that he had shown his mettle at Karatiga, at Charasiab, at Maidan, and at Childukhten.

Charasan, at an early charasan, at an early charasan, at an early highest position to which a "ranker" has ever attained? So far as the writer has been able to ascertain, it is that of lieutenant-general.

Several one-time privates, beside O'Connor and McBean, have retired major-generals; but is was reserved for one John Eller.

als; but is was reserved to a charity school a tanner's apprentice and a charity school scholar, to go one better even than this. He commenced as Pte, John Elley, of the Royal Horse Guards Blue, and he ended as Lieut. Gen. Sir John Elley, K.C.B. He changel dled in 1829, and is buried in the Chapel Royal, Windsor.

Nor should mention be emitted in this

Nor should mention be emitted in this connection of the name of John Shipp, who, although he rose to no very high rank, achieved his remarkable and altogether unique distinction of wiuning his commission twice over. His first-gained at the storming of Bhurtpore—he sold. The money he received for it was quickly squandered, and then Shipp, who was still quite a young man, enlisted again, and actually succeeded in again winning his silk sash at the bayonet's point. Such a feat has never been accomplished before, and of course never will be again, imamuch as a commission, once granted, is nowadays formission, once granted, is nowadays for feited only by death, or by some dishonor-able action, which would effer nully pre-clude any hope of ever again being selected. for a similar hope of

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