

Freddy

Freddy of the 2nd Life Guards was amongst the horses shipped to South Africa during the Boer War. Freddy was the only horse from the regiment to return.

Five hundred and fifty horses departed for South Africa and the Boer War in November 1899. Horse Number D36, Freddy, a black gelding of the 2nd Life Guards would be the only horse from the regiment to return a year later. During the war Freddy was ridden for 6 months, had just 48 days of “rest” and covered 1,780 miles. Freddy arrived home in 1900 and Queen Alexandra heard his story during a musical ride where he served as lead horse. “Why didn’t this horse have a war medal?” she wanted to know. The War Office reluctantly agreed and Freddy was awarded a medal with five clasps for his service in five major actions.