



**FIELD MARSHAL EARL KITCHENER OF BROOME and KHARTOUM
KG, KP, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, ADC, PC
and the
LORD KITCHENER NATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND**

Herbert Horatio Kitchener was born in 1850. He was educated in Switzerland and at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich and commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1871.

As a young officer he was employed on the survey of the Holy Land and of Cyprus before being seconded to the Egyptian Army. Disguised as an Arab, he operated an intelligence service behind enemy lines during General Wolseley's unsuccessful expedition to relieve Khartoum where General Charles Gordon was besieged by the Mahdi. He was the first to meet refugees from that city bearing news of its fall and Gordon's death on 26th January 1885.

After holding several high command and administrative posts in Egypt he was made Sirdar (Commander-in-Chief) of the Egyptian Army in 1892, and, in 1896, he led a combined British and Egyptian force whose aim was the reconquest of the Sudan. At the final battle in Omdurman on 2nd September 1898, his British and Egyptian troops overcame 50,000 dervishes under the Khalifa, and the successor to the Mahdi. He was raised to the peerage and made Governor-General of the Sudan where he laid the foundations of an enlightened civil administration and set up a university in Khartoum, which bore Gordon's name.

During the South African War he was Chief of Staff to Lord Roberts, and later succeeded him as Commander-in-Chief bringing the war to a conclusion in 1902. His vision of the needs of the future South African nation, as well as his chivalrous attitude to the defeated Boers was to influence their people in giving whole-hearted support to the British cause in two world wars.

From 1903 to 1909 Kitchener was Commander-in-Chief in India and in 1911 he returned once more to Egypt as Consul-General where he introduced vast land reclamation and irrigation projects, school buildings and native industry programmes and legal reforms to protect the smallholder from the clutches of the moneylender.

On 3rd August 1914 he was summoned to London to become Secretary of State for War, and he was one of the few European statesmen and soldiers who envisaged a world war that could last four years. He alone believed in the possibility of raising a vast volunteer national Army, and at his personal call over three million men came forward to join the colours at the time of their country's need.

On 5th June 1916 Kitchener embarked for Russia on the cruiser HMS Hampshire on a mission designed to strengthen co-operation between the Allies on the Western and Eastern fronts. Shortly after sailing the cruiser struck a mine and was lost with all on board except for a few of the ship's company.

Thus died Field Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, a soldier and statesman whose name will go down in history with those of Marlborough and Wellington.