

# Great Britain: Boer War: Wiping Something off a Slate

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**Form:** Upright oval shield with attached loop for a ring

**By:** ?

**Date:** 1900

**Ref:** Hern: 566; Laidlaw: 0334;

**Variations:**

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
18.1 x 22.7 mm	Silver	2.6gm	\$55

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Helmeted British soldier, right, climbing on rocky ground bayoneted rifle at the ready. Above in an arc: "WIPING SOMETHING" and across on the right: "OFF A / SLATE".

**Reverse:** Across: "DUNDEE / ELANDSLAAGTE / KIMBERLEY / PAARDEBERG / LADYSMITH".

**Notes:** The reverse names five successful British battles.

The phrase, "Wiping something off a slate" comes from Kipling's jingoistic poem written to raise funds in aid of the families of British soldiers who volunteered to serve in South African. It refers to a past dishonour when the British were defeated by the Boers during the First Anglo-Boer War at the battle of Majuba Hill in 1881.