

A RARE NAVAL OFFICERS MAORI WAR OF 1863-4 AND ZULU WAR CAMPAIGN PAIR. AGED 17, TOOK PART IN THE DISASTROUS ACTION AT GATE PA IN 1864, COMMANDED THE DARING 'TORPEDO' EXPEDITION AGAINST THE PERUVIAN IRONCLAD HUASCAR IN 1877 AND DURING THE ZULU WAR WAS TWICE MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES FOR HIS SERVICES IN THE NAVAL BRIGADE, IN PARTICULAR FOR HIS ACTIONS AT THE BATTLE OF GINGINHLOVO IN APRIL 1879



NEW ZEALAND 1845-66, REVERSE DATED 1863-1864 'C. LINDSAY, MIDN., H.M.S. ESK'; SOUTH AFRICA 1877-9, CLASP, 1879 'LIEUT. C. LINDSAY, R.N., H.M.S. SHAH'

Obituary from 'The Times' August 21, 1890

'The death was yesterday announced of Commander Charles Lindsay, at the age of 43 years, which took place suddenly at Broughty Ferry, N.B., on Sunday last. The deceased officer, who entered the service at naval cadet in 1861, became sub - lieutenant in 1867, lieutenant in 1871, commander in 1883. he was midshipman of the Esk in the New Zealand war of 1863-4 ; senior lieutenant of the Shah when he engaged the Peruvian rebel turret ship Huascar in May. 1877, and was in command of two night torpedo expeditions against her off the towns of Ylo and Iquique. He was likewise senior lieutenant of the Shah's contingent which landed in March. 1879, during the Zulu war, and accompanied the Ekowe relief column ; was present at the battle of Ginginhlovo, and afterwards joined General Crealock's column which advanced to Fort Durnford. He was twice mentioned in despatches.'

Charles Lindsay was appointed a Midshipman in H.M.S. *Esk* in the early 1860s and first witnessed active service in the Waikato War of 1863-64. As one of 115 crew members to

receive the New Zealand Medal with those dates, he served in the Naval Brigade seeing action at the storming of Gate Pa on 29 April 1864, which ended in a humiliating defeat for the British. Here *Esk's* contingent suffered losses of four killed and a dozen wounded, including Captain J. C. F. Hamilton, R.N;

'...At first light on April 29 an intense barrage began. It was said to have been the heaviest artillery bombardment of the New Zealand Wars. At 4pm, after nine hours and with a breach in the pekerangi or palisade having been made, General Cameron gave the order to attack.

"April 29 was a misty, unpleasant day...all day his guns pounded the fortification till about mid-afternoon a breach was made. Cameron moved his men up for an assault upon the pā. Led by their officers (who thus were the first to be struck down by the Māori warriors) the men swarmed into the trenches, and began to drive out the defenders. But Greer's men were at the exits, and the Māori's poured back into the trenches. The soldiers and sailors now in the pā believed this rush to be reinforcements. Without the leadership of their officers, they fled the pā, still held by Ngāiaterangi and their allies."~ (Ernest Edward Bush)



Many officers were killed or wounded during the initial assault. As well as volleys from hidden bunkers beneath their feet, British were 'subjected to galling crossfire from the two redoubts' (Belich). Cameron was forced to call off the attack and a disorderly retreat ensued leaving a hundred dead and wounded soldiers behind. 'It was a triumph of military construction for the Māori and a disaster for the British'

See the following link for an excellent description of the battle:

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/war-in-auranga/gate-pa>

The National Maritime Museum holds a collection of photos relating to the Maori War, including a two photos of young Midshipman Lindsay, one a group shot of Officers of the *Esk*, another portrait of Lindsay himself with the following description;

Lindsey Midshipman H.M.S. Esk aged 17 Annotation: "Mid of Esk & landed attack of the Gate Pah 1864."

Departing the *Esk* in October 1867, service on *Royal Oak*, *Rapid*, *Northumberland* and *Cambridge* (Gunnery Ship) followed, having been advanced to Lieutenant in May 1871. Lindsay was appointed Gunnery Lieutenant on HMS *Shah* on 14th August 1877 and participated in the attack on the Peruvian ironclad *Huascar* and commanded the daring and revolutionary torpedo boat expedition in the attempt to destroy the *Huascar* on 31st May 1877;

The naval Incident of Pacocha took place on 29 May 1877 when Nicolas de Pierola was leading a revolution to overthrow then Peruvian President Piérola's supporters used the Peruvian monitor *Huascar* as a raiding ship. She harassed the shipping especially off El Callao, the main commercial port of Peru. However, after she boarded some British merchant ships, British authorities sent Rear Admiral de Horsey to capture the vessel. The Peruvian warship managed to outrun the British squadron after a fierce exchange of fire. *Huascar* guns were undermanned, and the monitor fired just 40 rounds. *Shah*'s mast was damaged by splinters. On the British side, *Shah* fired 237 shots and *Amethyst* 190, but none of them carried armour-piercing ammunition. *Huascar* was hit 60 times, but her armour shield defeated all the rounds. There was a last-ditch effort to stop or sink the rebels when two small torpedo rams from *Shah* attempted to find the *Huascar*, but the Peruvian ship managed to escape under the cover of darkness. The rebel crew was forced to surrender their ship to the Peruvian government just two days later.

See <http://dawlischchronicles.com/hms-shah-vs-huascar-an-indecisive-but-significant-single-ship-action/>



Douglas-Morris takes up the story of the Torpedo expedition:

'Lieutenant Lindsay received a more detailed memorandum from his Captain. He was to proceed to the harbour of Iquique as close to land as possible but outside the surf, and on

entry find out the position of the Huascar from one of the English merchant ships there. The whaler was to take in tow the Whitehead torpedo and attempt to approach the target from inshore of her. Lieutenant Lindsay was 'most positively' ordered not to project the Whitehead torpedo 'unless certain that it would hit the Huascar direct ... at no more than 80 yards distance, with the torpedo set to run not more than 200 yards and then to sink.' These strictures were to ensure that there would not be a disastrous calamity from the Whitehead striking any other vessel.

The pinnace and cutter were to remain hidden in readiness on the seaward side. Only if firing had commenced or upon failure of the inshore torpedo party was the pinnace to attack, 'endeavouring to blow up with her outrigger 100-pound spar charge, taking care that the torpedo is in contact with the ship and, if possible, that engines are working astern at the time.' This mode of attack on an anchored vessel had on occasion been successful during the American Civil War, and in Russian hands against the Turks. The steam pinnace crew would have been well aware that, for success, their attacking craft would need to have physical contact with the Huascar, with the resultant explosion most probably causing the vessel to be swamped. Their Gatling armed cutter as escort was also there to save them!

The boats' crews were to be dressed in white working rig with blue clothing taken with them in the boats. All were to be provided with lifebelts, armed with revolvers, rifles and sword bayonets and silence strictly enjoined. At 5 p.m. on 31 May at some 20 miles off Iquique the Shah stopped and prepared for the torpedo expedition - which set off after dark when within seven miles of the port. Later, the Amethyst came up to Shah making the signal 'Huascar has surrendered today to the Peruvian Fleet,' and fortunately the recall of the expedition by rockets and blue lights was seen by the party when they were within one mile of the target.'

HMS *Shah* whilst returning from the Pacific in 1879 called in at St. Helena. It was here that her crew learnt of the defeat at Isandhlwana and taking on board troops from the garrison (one company of the 88th foot the Connaught Rangers and a field artillery battalion) provided by the island's Governor, she sailed for the Cape Colony Arriving on 7th March 1879, she disembarked 16 officers and 378 men of her crew at Durban, led by Commander John Brackenbury to join the newly formed Naval Brigade. Lieutenant Lindsay was the *Shah's* Senior Lieutenant



On 18th March 1879, the force heading to relieve Eshowe was joined by 10 officers and 218 seamen from HMS *Boadicea*, led by Commander Francis Romilly They

fought at the Battle of Gingindhlovo on 2nd April when the officers and ratings of the Naval Brigade manned, two deep, the waist-high rampart behind the shelter trench in Lord Chelmsford's laager, with rocket and Gatling gun detachments posted in the corners. During the battle, Lieutenant Lindsay commanded two 9 pounder guns at the Rear left corner (Southwest) of the British square.

'In this engagement, which consisted of a gallant attempt by the Zulus to capture the laager in which our troops entrenched themselves on the previous night, a detachment of seaman and marines took a prominent part. The British force consisted of 2,500 Natives and 3,400 Europeans, including the 57th, 3rd Battalion 60th, 91st and some companies of the Buffs and 99th Regiment, and a Naval Brigade drawn from H.M.S. Shah, Tenedos and Boadicea - with 2 guns, 2 Gatlings and 2 rocket-tubes, the seamen being led by Commander Brackenbury, and the marines by Captain Phillips, both of the Shah. The Naval Brigade, with the guns, defended the four angles of the laager, and though the Zulu army, about 12,000 strong, under Dabulamanzi, attacked with their accustomed intrepidity, the fire from the guns and Martini-Henrys was so deadly that they were beaten back and dispersed with a loss of 1,200 men, 470 dead Zulus being buried close to the laager. In this action the British loss was 1 officer and 3 men killed, and 5 officers, including Lieutenant Milne, R.N., and 25 men, including 6 of the Naval Brigade, wounded.'



HMS Shah's crew at Battle of Gingindhlovo 2nd April 1879

For his part in the battle that day, Lindsay was mentioned in despatches by Major-General H. Hope Crealock, commanding 1st Division: *'Did good service at Ginginhlovo and was animated by an excellent spirit'*

During the second invasion of Zululand he served with that part of the naval brigade that accompanied General Crealock's column to Port Durnford, again performing valuable service. During the War, Lindsay served ashore from 7th March to 21 July 1879. Again, for his services as a whole during the war, he was Mentioned in Despatches



Lieutenant Lindsay in Zululand 1879

Lindsay obtained his first command, the *Vigilant*, in June 1883, the same month in which he was promoted to Commander. Having then been lent to the *Conqueror* for the Naval Review of 1887, he joined the *Kingfisher* on the East Indies Station. This was to be his final seagoing appointment, for he was invalided home in the summer of 1889 and admitted to Haslar Hospital. Subsequently transferred to Yarmouth Hospital, he died on 17 August 1890

Condition VF, some contact wear, sold with copied service record and other research on CD.



Two very desirable medals in their own right but also a rare combination of awards to a naval officer