

A SUPERB ARMY OF INDIA 1799, CLASP AVA TO A LIGHT COMPANY OFFICER IN THE 89TH FOOT WHO WAS DREADFULLY WOUNDED AT THE STORMING OF RAREE IN 1819 DURING THE MAHRATTA CAMPAIGN, LOOSING HIS RIGHT EYE, AND A PORTION OF THE NOSE AND JAW-BONE. DESPITE THIS, HE WENT ON TO SERVE IN THE BURMESE WAR OF 1824 WHEN HE WAS AGAIN SEVERELY WOUNDED AT THE STORMING THE DALLA STOCKADES. FOR HIS SERVICE HE WAS LATER APPOINTED A MILITARY KNIGHT OF WINDSOR THOUGH AS A ROMAN CATHOLIC HIS APPOINTMENT CAUSED UPROAR



ARMY OF INDIA, CLASP AVA 'LIEUT A. DOWDALL, 89th FOOT'

Major Aylmer Dowdall was born in County Monaghan, Ireland and was commissioned Ensign in the 89th Foot on 20 May 1813. Promoted Lieutenant 2 March 1817, he took part in Mahratta campaign of 1818-19, leading the Light company of his regiment in a number of actions. He was also Mentioned in Dispatches for the storming of Raree (also spelt Rairee) during which he was dreadfully wounded, loosing his right eye and a portion of his nose and jaw bone:

"On this occasion I have to regret the loss of the brave officers and men killed and wounded, although infinitely less than could have been expected on such a service. Amongst the latter are Lieuts. Naylor and Dowdall, of H. M. 89th regt. two fine gallant young men, that promised fair to be an ornament to their profession. Although both are severely wounded, yet I trust and hope the army will not be deprived of their further services"

During the action, the British attackers suffered 33 killed and wounded, 8 of whom were from the 89th Foot. Presumably after a long recuperation, Lieutenant Dowdall further took part in the Burmese War of 1824 and was again severely wounded at the storming of Dalla stockade, 9

December 1824. During the action, the British attackers suffered 48 killed and wounded, 29 of whom were from the 89th Foot.

Promoted Captain 2 May 1829 and exchanged into the 54th Foot in August 1832, he retired from the Army of Full Pay, 30 October 1840

Army List entry:

“Major Dowdall served the Mahratta campaigns of 1818 and 19, including the taking of Loghur, Isapoor, Kooaree, Rhygur, Raree, besides several other small forts, and he was severely wounded at the storming of Raree, having sustained the total loss of the right eye, and a portion of the nose and jaw-bone. Served also in the Burmese war under Sir Archibald Campbell, and was severely wounded in storming the Dalla stockades near Rangoon on the 9th Dec. 1824. Captain Dowdall commanded and led the Light Company of the 89th Regt. to five different storms.”

Major Dowdall, who was on retired full pay, 54th Foot, was appointed a Military Knight of Windsor in 1865, one of just 18 Knights to have this appointment at any one time. As a Roman Catholic, Dowdall's appointment caused uproar, a most interesting 12 page article on this, accompanies the research. He died on April 10, at Windsor Castle, aged 78.

Dowdall's obituary from an Irish newspaper:

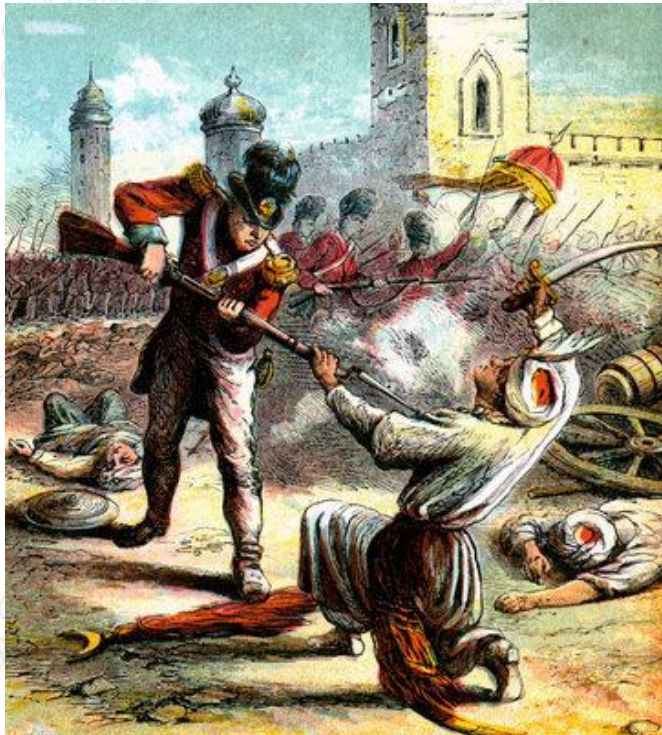
“DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED VETERAN – Major Aylmer Dowdall a Military Knight of Windsor, died at Windsor Castle on the morning of the 10th inst, aged 74. This distinguished Officer entered the army in 1813 and served with the 89th regiment during the Mahratta and Burmese wars of 1824 and 1825. When mounting the Fort of Rangoon in command of his troops, he sustained the total loss of his right eye for which he received a pension of £100 a year. Major Dowdall was uncle of Mrs Byrne of Lisnawilly, and great grandson of Sir Andrew Aylmer, Baronet of Balrath Castle, Co. Meath. He was the descendant of an ancient Louth family, many of whom sat in the old Irish Parliament and was the first Roman Catholic to obtain the Military Knighthip of Windsor”

DISPATCHES STORMING OF RAIRIEE 13 FEBRUARY 1919

To the Adjutant-General of the Army, Bombay. Dated Camp, Rairee, 14th Feb.

SIR-1 had the honour, yesterday evening, to forward a brief report of the success of the attack on the enemy's lines before Rairee, and have now the pleasure to acquaint you, that the fort was this morning taken possession of by a detachment from my camp. The difficulties experienced in the disembarkation of the ordnance and stores retarded our operations in a considerable degree, but on the night of the 12th inst. we succeeded in erecting our batteries, and opened on the fort at day-break the next morning with four battering guns and as many eight-inch mortars, which were served with such vigour and precision as to dismantle the whole of the guns in the outer works in the course of an hour, when our fire was directed against the general defence of the place. About three o'clock a breach was effected in a curtain of the advanced outworks, and a party of 350 grenadiers formed for the assault, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Clifford, H. M. 89th reg. The troops moved to the attack about four o'clock and passed the breach without difficulty, driving the enemy in considerable numbers towards the second lines, which were immediately carried, and a lodgment effected within half musquet-shot of the upper fort, to which the enemy were pursued, and many bayoneted at the lower gate, which was, for a short time, in our

possession. The spirit and rapidity of the attack added to the advantageous position which was gained by the advance of our troops, struck the enemy with such terror that nearly the whole of the garrison evacuated the fort during the night. This morning, Sambajee Sawunt proposed to surrender, and was permitted to march out with about 50 adherents, the small remnant of a garrison which is said to have consisted of near 1200 men at the commencement of the siege. I beg leave to enclose a more detailed report of the attack transmitted by Lieut.col. Clifford, whose conduct on the occasion is deserving of the highest applause. I have likewise the pleasure to forward a copy of the field-orders conveying my sentiments on the behavior of the troops, together with a list of killed and wounded. I shall march toward Warree, in order to accelerate the treaty with that government, which will, I trust, be speedily brought to a favourable conclusion.—
(signed) W. G. Keir, Maj.-gen.



SiR-I have the honour to report to you the result of the attack on the enemy's works this day, by detachments of the 1st and 2d brigades. After we had passed the breach on the left, I was proceeding to occupy the whole of the outworks on the south side, according to your verbal instructions; but seeing a disposition reign throughout the gallant band to assault the fort, and deeming the attempt feasible, after repulsing a large body of the enemy with great loss on their part, we forced an entrance through one of the eastern towers, and succeeded, under a very heavy fire, to force our way into that of an adjoining inner work, when our progress was unfortunately arrested from the perfect impossibility of either forcing an entrance or scaling the works. After leaving a sufficient body of men to occupy the towers in our possession, I proceeded to possess the whole of the outworks originally intended, which we effectually did under a heavy fire from their cannon and musquetry. Although we failed in getting complete possession of the fort, yet our present occupation of these towers and their lines must, I trust, lead to its speedy surrender. On this occasion I have to regret the loss of the brave officers and men killed and wounded, although infinitely less than could have been expected on such a service. Amongst the latter are Lieuts. Naylor and Dowdall, of H. M. 89th regt. two fine gallant young men, that

promised fair to be an ornament to their profession. Although both are severely wounded, yet I trust and hope the army will not be deprived of their further services...

(signed) —Miller Clifford, Lieut.-Col. H. M. 89th Regt. Commanding 1st Brig."

STOMING OF DALLA STOCKADE 9 DECEMBER 1824

Despatch from Brigadier-General Sir Archibald Campbell, K.C.B., to G. Swinton, Esq., Secretary to Government, Secret and Political Department. No. SO, dated Head-Quarters, Rangoon, the 10th December 1824:

Upon returning to Rangoon on the evening of the 8th instant, I found the enemy's corps of Observation on the Dalla side of the river had not been wholly withdrawn, probably from ignorance of what had taken place the previous day in front of the Great Pagoda ; and as I was well aware they would not remain long after the news of Bandula's defeat had reached them, I at once determined to assault their works.

2. Detachments from His Majesty's 89th, the Hon'ble Company's 1st Madras European Regiment, and the 43rd Madras Native Infantry were immediately ordered under arms, and just as the moon arose they moved across the river, under the command of Major Ferrior of the latter corps, landed, and jumped without a moment's hesitation into the enemy's trenches. Many Burmese were slain in the short conflict that ensued. They were driven at the point of the bayonet into the jungle in their rear, and ten good guns, with many small arms, fell into our possession.



8. Major Ferrior kept his ground during the night, and in making a reconnaissance early in the morning found the enemy still occupied some stockades in the jungle in considerable force. I, in consequence, directed Lieutenant-Colonel Parlby, with a reinforcement of His Majesty's 89th Regiment under Major Basden, and 300 of the 12th and 80th Madras Native Infantry, to join Major Ferrior, and attack the enemy wherever he might be found. Lieutenant- Colonel Parlby's coolness and judgment fully confirmed the high opinion so justly entertained of him. He drove the

enemy in great confusion from all their strongholds in the jungle, and they are now only seen in unconnected groups at a great distance on the plain.

4. Lieutenant-Colonel Parlby bears the most honorable testimony to the valour and intrepidity of Major Basden and His Majesty's 89th Regiment, and pays the highest compliment to Major Ferrior and all the other troops employed, as well as to Captain Russell, of the Bombay Artillery, who accompanied him.

FROM THE MILITARY KNIGHTS OF WINDSOR FROM THE WINDSOR CASTLE COLLEGE WEBSITE:

'The Military Knights of Windsor claim to be the oldest military establishment in the Army List. Formed by King Edward III shortly after the Battle of Crécy, the foundation consisted of Knights who, having taken their private armies to France to fight for the King, had been taken prisoner by the French who demanded heavy ransoms in return for their release. This often meant selling up their complete estates in order to raise sufficient money In 1833, King William IV, changed the designation of the Alms Knights to that of 'The Military Knights of Windsor' and at the same time granted them permission to wear uniform of Army Officers on the Unattached List. This dress is still worn today and comprises a scarlet tailcoat (in the summer), sword, sash and cocked hat with plume.

The Knights are all retired Army Officers dependent on their Army Pensions as, apart from a small stipend, they are not paid for their duties. It is usual for applicants to be married and preference is given to those in needy circumstances. Installation as a Military Knight will usually be before the age of 67. The individual has to be prepared to undertake the numerous duties expected of him over the year, most of which entail being on parade nearly every Sunday. The main event in the calendar is the Garter Ceremony when the Military Knights head this very colourful procession through the Castle precincts and into St George's Chapel, the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter. Additionally, there are four 'obits' (Remembrances of College Benefactors) in the year, plus the occasional military funeral and the laying up of a Garter Knight's Banner. A further duty involving the Military Knights is to be on parade for State Visits at Windsor Castle. On average, the Knights are on parade approximately 52 times in the year, in addition to which are a number of rehearsals. Most of these duties are linked to the Chapel, and only very occasionally are the Knights on parade away from Windsor. Some Military Knights undertake voluntary roles within the College and Castle.

The Knights' homes in the Lower Ward of the Castle are theirs for as long as they can carry out their duties, and in most cases, this takes them to the end of their days.



Condition NEF, lovely patina and original ribbon. Sold with some copied research on CD but clearly needs a good deal research into the other actions it is mentioned he took part in. A really fine medal