AFGHANISTAN 1878-80, NO CLASP, TO A PRIVATE IN THE 66TH FOOT WHO IS CONFIRMED AS PRESENT AT KANDAHAR DURING THE PERIOD OF THE BATTLE OF MAIWAND AND IS THEREFORE A POSSIBLE SURVIVOR OF THE BATTLE



AFGHANISTAN 1878-80, CLASP, KANDAHAR 'B/351. PTE. J. WILLIAMS. 66TH. FOOT.'

B/351 Private John Williams enlisted into the army in 1876 and joined the 66th Regiment at Bombay on 7 December 1877. Musters show he was present at Kandahar in one of the 6 companies under Colonel Galbraith that arrived there towards the end of March 1880. Present at Kandahar though to 30 June 1880, musters for the period of Maiwand itself were lost during the battle (1 July – 30 September 1880) and therefore no lists of those present at the battle, or those left in Kandahar can be made up. However, the medal roll notes those men on 'Duty in Fort 1st September 1880' (Kandahar). Williams is one of those men thus noted and is also shown as present with the regiment in the musters 1 October 1880 onwards.

As such, both the musters and medal roll show Williams was clearly either one of the 231 66th Foot survivors of Maiwand or one of the small party of 25 left at Kandahar with Lieutenant Edwards when the battle took place. The latter was made up of men either sick or on other duties at the fort.

Private Williams was discharged to the Army Reserve on 29 August 1881



Condition VF. Overall contact wear