

**AN OUTSTANDING PUNJAB, I.G.S 1854 AND INDIAN MUTINY GROUP TO A 32ND LIGHT INFANTRY COLONEL WHO WAS WOUNDED WHEN LEADING THE RIGHT COLUMN OF ATTACK AT THE STORM AND CAPTURE OF THE CITY OF MOOLTAN, AND COMMANDED THE 32ND THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN IN OUDH IN 1858, FOR WHICH SERVICES HE WAS AWARDED THE C.B. IN 1859**



PUNJAB 1848-9, 2 CLASPS, MOOLTAN, GOOJERAT 'CAPTN. CARMICHAEL, 32ND FOOT.', INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1854-95, 1 CLASP, NORTH WEST FRONTIER 'CAPTN. CARMICHAEL, H.M. 32ND REGT.', INDIAN MUTINY 1857-9, NO CLASP 'LIEUT.-COL. J. P. CARMICHAEL. 32ND L.I.'

James Dodington Carmichael Smyth was born on 14 August 1820, son of David Scott Carmichael Smyth and Anne Sherwood. He was educated at Eton College and was commissioned Ensign in the 31st Foot, then serving in India, on 12 July 1839, and was promoted Lieutenant on 11 May 1841. Later that year, wanting to serve in Europe, he exchanged with an officer in the 32nd Foot, whose regiment had just returned to the U.K. from Canada. He became Captain, by purchase, on 18 April 1845.

Captain Carmichael Smyth served with the 32nd Foot as Captain commanding the regiment's Grenadier Company. He was present at the first and second siege operations before Mooltan, and was at the action of Soortjkoond; he led the Right Column of attack at the storm and capture of the city of Mooltan, 2 January 1849, and was badly wounded in the head, as narrated by Private Waterfield of the 32nd in his diary:

*'There was not room to take us up in sections, so we formed four deep, and awaited the signal to advance, which was the firing of a salvo from our batteries at 3 p.m. I was in the front four, and we was headed by Captain J. D. C. Smyth of our Company... On the signal being given I waived my hand to my brother: when Captain Smyth waving his sword, gave us the 'Forward!', when onward we dashed, giving a cheer that instantly drew from the enemy showers of musketry. Though the ground was broken and narrow, and descending to the city*

wall, we soon reached the wall and found what they called a breach to be a small hole in the wall, where a small man could hardly get through. The enemy now peppered us with every kind of missiles. Our gallant leader Captain Smyth received a heavy blow on the back of the head; the blood gushed forth from the wound. I told him he was wounded, and he replied, "It's of no consequence!". But I could tell by his looks he was suffering greatly, but finding any attempt to get in the city at this point quite useless, he gave us the order to retire, and enter the town by the Bloody Bastion... our regiment took the right of the town... Our brave Captain held out to the last; he fell in the street, having fainted from loss of blood.'

And from 'Our Soldiers Gallant Deeds of the British Army during Victoria's Reign':

"On the 2nd of January 1849, the breach in the Rhoonee Boorj or Bloody Bastion of the city was declared practicable, and a second at the Delhi gate was thought sufficiently good to allow of an attempt being made on it as a diversion. General Whish determined to try both; and a party from the Bengal division was told off for the Delhi gate breach, and one from the Bombay division for the breach at the Bastion. The irregular force was to assist both by a diversion on the left. The diversion was commenced at one p.m., and the assault, by a signal from the batteries, at three p.m. The storming party destined to attack the Delhi gate was led by a fine soldier, Captain Smyth, of the grenadier company of Her Majesty's 32nd Regiment. Off they started with hearts beating high; but no sooner had they emerged from the suburbs, than they found themselves on the edge of a deep intervening hollow, after crossing which, under a heavy fire of matchlocks, they discovered, to their surprise, that the city wall in front, about thirty feet in height, was unbreached and totally impracticable. This disagreeable fact had hitherto been concealed by the hollow, both from the breaching-battery and the engineers. The gallant band had therefore to retire; and without loss of time they hurried round to the breach at the Bloody Bastion, to assist their more fortunate comrades in the city."



THE STORMING OF MOOLTAN

Carmichael Smyth was mentioned in General Frederick Markham's despatch (London



Gazette 23 March 1849). He was afterwards present at the surrender of the fortress on 22 January, as also at the surrender of the Fort and garrison of Cheniote, and at the battle of Goojerat. He returned to England for two years' furlough in March 1849 and rejoined his regiment in 1851, at which time it was stationed at Jullunder. He served with the 32nd against the Hill Tribes on the Peshawur frontier in 1851-52.

From 1855 to March 1857, the regiment was at Kasauli, in the Himalayan foothills, near Simla. During this time Carmichael received his promotion to Major in February 1855, and to Lieutenant-Colonel in February 1856, being soon after appointed Private Secretary and Aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant - Governor North Western provinces at Agra; John Russell Colvin. However at the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny in 1857, he was on leave in the hills and with the chaos that ensued, was unable to join his post for several months. As for his regiment, one company of the 32nd was at Cawnpore and became victims of the infamous massacre. The remainder of the 32nd formed the garrison of Lucknow and held the Residency in an epic defence from May to December 1857.

In 1858, Carmichael was appointed Commanding Officer of the 32nd and for the remainder of the campaign the 32nd was engaged in operations to pacify Oudh, the area east of Lucknow. He commanded the regiment at the successful attack on the entrenched position at Dehaign, capture of the Fort of Tyrhool, action of Doadpore, on which occasion he was thanked by Sir Alfred Horsford *'for the able manner in which he commanded the infantry'*; the affair at Jugdespore, surrender of the Forts of Amethee and Shunkerpore. On 1 December 1858, he was appointed by Lord Clyde to the command of a Moveable Column, which, acting in conjunction with his Lordship's force, was sent in pursuit of the rebel chief Beni Maddoo, to drive him and his troops across the river Gogra - this object the Column successfully accomplished; Carmichael was mentioned in Lord Clyde's despatch as *'distinguished for the decision and celerity of his movements'* (Medal and C.B.).



In March 1859, the 32nd embarked in the troopship Albuera for England. After five months at sea it disembarked at Portsmouth where, on 26 August, Queen Victoria inspected the regiment. The Queen congratulated Carmichael on the soldierly bearing and clean appearance

of the men, remarking that they looked rather as if they had just come from barracks than off a long voyage after an arduous campaign. It probably does not bear thinking about what kind of regime was in place on board ship to get the men into such a good state.

Carmichael's C.B. had been approved by the Queen on 16 May 1859, and was announced in the London Gazette on the following day. The regiment proceeded by rail to Dover where it was honoured with a civic reception and banquet. In August 1860 the regiment was posted to Aldershot, where it was inspected by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge. On 25 September 1860, Carmichael retired on half-pay. He transferred to the 94th Foot on 18 February 1862, was promoted to Colonel on 2 March 1863, and retired finally on 15 October 1870, to reside at Rose Cottage, Cosham, Hampshire. Colonel James Carmichael died on 13 May 1893.

## **SURNAME CHANGED AND MEDALS**

In 1853, James Carmichael Smyth and his siblings made the decision to legally change their name by royal licence, which was accordingly announced in the State Bulletin, Whitehall, June 16, 1853: *'The Queen has been pleased to grant unto James Dodington Carmichael Smyth, Esquire, Captain in the 32nd (the Cornwall) Regiment of Foot, Charles Paget Carmichael Smyth, Esquire, of the Civil Service of the East India Company on their Bengal Establishment, David Fremantle Carmichael Smyth, Esquire, of the Civil Service of the East India Company on their Madras Establishment, George Lynedoch Carmichael Smyth, Esquire, a Lieutenant in the 95th (the Derbyshire) Regiment of Foot, and to their only sister Louisa Maria Carmichael Smyth, Spinster, a minor, Her royal licence and authority that they may respectively discontinue the use of the surname of Smyth and henceforth bear and use their paternal surname of Carmichael only.'* Commission signed by the Queen.

Why the family removed the name of Smyth is unknown, possibly for reasons of inheritance, but one of Captain Carmichael's actions was to alter the naming on his recently issued Punjab medal. The Punjab medal roll as *'Capt. J. D. C. Smyth'*. Both the Indian General Service medal and Indian Mutiny medals are correctly named to *'Carmichael'*

A résumé of Colonel Carmichael's service from 'Historical Records of the 32nd, Cornwall, Light Infantry'

*"CARMICHAEL, JAMES DODINGTON, C.B. Ensign, 32nd Regiment, 12th July, 1839 ; lieutenant, 11th May, 1841 ; captain, 18th April, 1845 ; major, 20th February, 1855 ; brevet lieutenant colonel, 1st February 1856 ; lieutenant-colonel, 26th November, 1857 . Served with the 32nd Regiment at the first and second siege operations before Mooltan, and was at the action of Soorjkoond; led the right column of attack at the storm and capture of the city of Mooltan (wounded), and was present at the surrender of the fortress, as also at the surrender of the fort and garrison of Chenote, and at the battle of Goojerat (medal and clasps ). Commanded the regiment in the Indian campaign at the attack and capture of the forts of Dehaigh and Tyrhool, under Brigadier Berkeley; again at the action of Doadpore and defeat of the Nuseerabad mutineers, under Brigadier Horsford, and was thanked in that officer 's despatch " for the able " manner in which he commanded the infantry." Served in the campaign for the reduction of Oudh – commanded a movable column, which , acting under the orders of , and in conjunction with , Lord Clyde 's force , was sent in pursuit of the rebel chief Beni Maddoo, to drive him and his troops across the river Gogra, which object the column successfully accomplished mentioned in Lord Clyde 's despatch as " distinguished for the " decision and celerity of his movements " ( C .B., medal ). "*





Condition: Rank and surname neatly re-engraved on Punjab as noted above and initial 'P' officially but incorrectly impressed on Mutiny, otherwise GVF. Sold with copy research, including copy medal rolls, statements of service in relation to added amendments to his Army List entry, Gazette's etc

A very fine and rare group of medals to a high ranked Officer who had an outstanding military service, seeing a great deal of action during it.