

THE FINE ZULU, EGYPTIAN AND INDIAN FRONTIER GROUP AWARDED TO A KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS COLONEL WHO AS A CAPTAIN WAS PRESENT AT THE BATTLE OF GINGINDHLOVU AND THE RELIEF OF EKOWE, COMMANDED THE ESCORT OF THE ZULU KING AFTER HIS CAPTURE, AS MAJOR DURING THE BATTLE OF TEL-EL-KEBIR, HAD HIS HORSE SHOT FROM UNDER HIM, MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES AND BREVET LT COLONEL, HE LATER COMMANDED THE 1ST BATTALION DURING THE HAZARA AND MIRANZAI EXPEDITIONS OF 1891. SEVERELY WOUNDED IN ACTION, FOR HIS SERVICES DURING THE EXPEDITIONS, HE WAS MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES AND CREATED A COMPANION OF THE BATH, ONE OF JUST FIVE OFFICERS TO BE SO HONOURED



SOUTH AFRICA 1877-79, CLASP, 1879 'CAPT. C. P CRAMER. 3/60TH FOOT', EGYPT AND SUDAN 1882-89, CLASP, TEL-EL-KEBIR 'MAJOR C. P CRAMER. 3/K.R. RIF. C.', INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1854-95, 2 CLASPS, HAZARA 1891, SAMANA 1891 'COLONEL C. P CRAMER. 1ST BN. K.R. RIF. C.', THE HAZARA CLASP A CONTEMPORARY TAILOR'S COPY, KHEDIVE'S STAR 1882

C.B. *London Gazette* 24 November 1891. For services during the Hazara and Miranzai expeditions.

Charles Pierson Cramer was born on 25 November 1837, and appointed Ensign in the 60th Rifles on 14 August 1858. He was promoted to Lieutenant in April 1863, and to Captain in May 1870. He saw service with the 3rd Battalion K.R.R.C. in the Zulu War of 1879, and was present at the action of Gingindhlovu and the relief of Ekowe. He later commanded the 2 Companies which acted as escort and guard to King Cetshwayo from Black Umvolosi to Ulundi (Medal with clasp).

Promoted to Major in July 1881, Cramer next served during the Egyptian campaign of 1882, including the engagement of Tel-El-Mahuta, the action at Kassasin, and was Brigade Major of Ashburnham's Brigade at the battle of Tel-El-Kebir, the regimental history recording:

"Major Cramer, second in Command, was wounded, and had his horse shot under him."

This is at odds with his army list entry which says it was just his horse that was shot so presumably Cramer's wound was only list and required no hospital treatment. (Brevet of Lt.-Col.; despatches

London Gazette 2 November 1882; Medal with clasp; 4th Class Osmanie; Bronze star).

Cramer was promoted to Colonel in November 1886, and appointed to the command of the 1st Battalion in 1891. He participated in the Hazara Expedition of 1891 (Medal with clasp), and later saw service with the Miranzai Expedition in the same year (Clasp). He was severely wounded at the storming of Sangar, on the Samana, on 17 April 1891, when Colonel Cramer led the 1st K.R.R.C. in a bayonet charge against the village, which was successfully taken. He was the most senior casualty during this campaign, was mentioned in despatches (London Gazette 15 September 1891) and created a Companion of the Bath for his services in the Hazara and Miranzai Expeditions (London Gazette 24 November 1891).

Colonel Cramer was obliged to retire on account of his wounds and died on 11 April 1898.

Army List:

“Colonel CP Cramer served with the 3rd Battalion 60th Rifles in the Zulu war of 1879 and was present at the action of Gingindhlovu and relief of Ekowe Medal with Clasp Served with the 3rd Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps in the Egyptian war of 1882 and was present in the engagement at Tel el Mahuta in the action at Kassasin 9th September and as Brigade Major of Ashburnham's Brigade at the battle of Tel el Kebir horse shot mentioned in despatches Brevet of Lt Colonel Medal with Clasp 4th Class of the Osmanieh and Khedive's Star Served in the Hazara Expedition in 1891 with the 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifles Medal with Clasp also with the Miranzai Expedition in 1891 in command of the 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifles including the engagement at Sangar severely wounded mentioned in despatches CB Clasp”



Lt Colonel Cramer

BATTLE OF GINGINDLOVU

On 29th March 1879 Chelmsford's column crossed the Tugela River and began its march to the relief

of Pearson's force. The country was covered by Zulu scouts and signals flashed from Pearson's camp at Eshowe. It was clear to Chelmsford that his advance would be fiercely contested, progress further impeded by the terrible weather. On 1st April 1879, Chelmsford's column reached the Royal Kraal of Gingindlovu and laagered for the night. A heavy rain came on. Chelmsford had taken careful note of the lessons from Isandlwana. At every encampment the wagons were carefully positioned to create an unbroken laager wall and the troops required to dig sections of trench around the laager. Every camp was rendered fully defensible in case of sudden attack. Chelmsford's chief scout, John Dunn, a pre-war inhabitant of Zululand for many years, scouted across the Nyezane River. Beyond the river he encountered the Zulu Army, some 11,000 warriors. Dunn returned to the British camp and reported to Chelmsford that the Zulus would attack in the morning. Chelmsford's column was laagered on the top of a hill, the sides sloping away in each direction, as good a position as any for the battle. In accordance with the new standing orders, the laager was entrenched in a square. The north face of the square was held by the 3rd Battalion, the 60th Rifles; the left by the 99th Regiment and the Buffs (3rd Foot) and the right face by the 57th Regiment. The corners of the square were reinforced by Gatling Guns, conventional artillery and rocket troughs. As the sun rose, Irregular Horse and infantry piquets patrolled towards the Nyezane River, scouting for the Zulu advance. The regiments in the camp stood to at 4am. Shortly before 6am, reports came in from the advanced piquets of the Zulu approach. A native soldier pointed to the skyline. "Impi" he declared. The officers stared at the hill top before realising that what they had taken to be a long smudge of vegetation was the mass of the advancing Zulu "chest". Zulu skirmishers opened fired from cover as they rushed forward. The first attack was received by the 60th Rifles.



One of the newly arrived regiments, the young soldiers of the 60th found the ordeal of the Zulu attack trying in the extreme and it took all the leadership of the battalion's officers to keep the line steady and firing, the Gatling guns at the ends of the line providing much needed support. Under heavy fire from the British line the Zulu charge faltered and flowed around to the west flank of the square, where the attack was renewed against the 99th Regiment. In the face of the volley firing from the two sides of the square the Zulu "chest" finally went to ground in cover. The "horns" of the Zulu advance rushed around the British position expecting to find the rear open, as at Isandlwana, only to meet the volley firing of the 91st Highland Regiment. Here too the Zulus were forced into cover. In the face of the sustained fire from the 91st, the attack on the rear of the laager ebbed away and Chelmsford ordered his mounted units out of the square to complete the victory. The mounted attack was premature and it was some time before the Zulu withdrawal took hold. Soon after 7am the battle was over and the Zulus in full retreat, pursued by the mounted troops and the native contingent. Large numbers of Zulu warriors were killed in the long pursuit. As at Khambula the Zulus wounded on the battlefield were massacred. The Zulu army was effectively dispersed. The outcome of the battle was a great relief to Chelmsford, showing him that his army's confidence was re-established and enabling

him to continue his advance to Pearson's camp and on to defeat the Zulu King, Cetshwayo, at the Battle of Ulundi.

Gingindlovu was the only pitched battle fought by the 3rd Battalion, 60th Rifles during the Zulu War, though Cramer would have commanded one of the Battalion's six companies that were then involved in the search for King Cetshwayo kaMpande following the defeat of the Zulu army at Ulundi on 4th July 1879. He is further confirmed as having the honour of commanding the two companies of the 3rd/60th that provided escort and guard to King Cetshwayo following his capture on 30th August 1879, escorting him from Black Umvolosi to Ulundi.

EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN

Cramer saw further active service in Egypt during the 1882 campaign and was present in the engagement at Tel el Mahuta in the action at Kassasin 9th September and as served as Brigade Major of Ashburnham's Brigade at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. During the battle, Major Cramer's horse was shot and for his services he was mentioned in despatches and was Brevetted Lieut Colonel.

Lieutenant Marling of the 3/60th would give a brief account of the battalion's part in the latter battle:

'We reached the lines of Tel-el-Kebir about 4.15am. Not a shot was fired until we were within 400yards of their entrenchments, and then away to our right front I heard four or five single shots, and then suddenly their whole entrenchments bust into one line of fire, rockets, bullets and shells came down like hail. We were supposed to be in support of the Highlanders but by the time we got to the second trench we were all together. The 74th had a very hot time of it and some of their men came right back through us. Baker took the left half of H and I the right and went straight ahead. When we got into the trench it was full of Highlanders. I jumped down into the ditch and a man in my company, Hall by name, gave me a leg up the parapet and pushed me up. I drew my sword as the men were hanging a little behind the parapet, and hallo'd to them to come on and jumped, or rather fell down the other side with an officer of one of the Highland regiments, it was to dark to see which, on to a dead Gippy.



The black Sudanese fought like blazes and our men like Trojans and the Gippies ran like hares. Their was very little quarter given, it was most of it bayonet work once we got inside..'

HAZARA AND MIRANZAI EXPEDITION OF 1891, WOUNDED AND C.B.

On 25 November 1890 the 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, under the command of Colonel Cramer, left Aldershot and embarked at Portsmouth for India. On 27 March 1891, when the Bunerwal tribe showed signs of trouble, the battalion marched from Rawalpindi to Durband as part of the Reserve Brigade in the Hazara Field Force. They reached Durband on 30 March but the Bunerwals problem had receded so the battalion remained there inactive.

On 7 April, when it was heard that there was trouble on the Miranzai border, they left Durband and marched to Kohat. They travelled by train from Hasan Abdal to Kushalgarh. They had to cross a 300 yard pontoon bridge across the Indus, then to Gumbat and finally Kohat on 12th April. There they established a field depot and continued on to Hangu which was the base for the Miranzai Expedition. The 7,400 strong force, led by Brigadier-General Sir William Lockhart, was split into three columns. The 1st King's Royal Rifle Corps was in no.1 Column led by Colonel Sim and included the 5th Gurkhas, two Indian regiments and a battery of Royal Artillery Mountain Artillery.

They left Hangu at 5am and marched towards a fortified village called Tsalai which was situated high in the hills. At the foot of the hills they waited while the Gurkhas and Punjab infantry skirmished. They then advanced up the hill and 3 miles beyond to Tsalai from where they were fired on. The artillery gave them covering fire as they approached but Colonel Cramer was badly wounded in the wrist and Major Egerton was also wounded. When they burst into the fort with fixed bayonets they found that the enemy had fled. The next fort was Sangar where two companies of the King's Royal Rifle Corps remained while the rest of the column continued, fighting small actions and storming 5 more forts.

The battalion was re-united at Sangar on 3 May and moved to Fort Gulistan on the Samana Range. They then marched up to the Khanki Valley as far as Mamuzai Bazar. They moved from village to village ensuring the submission of the occupants. Any fortifications were blown up. The 1st King's Royal Rifle Corps were awarded two clasps to their Indian General Service Medal: HAZARA 1891 and SAMANA 1891.

More details on the campaigns can be found here:

<https://www.britishbattles.com/north-west-frontier-of-india/black-mountain-expedition-1891/>

Colonel Cramer would be one of five Officers to be made C.B. For services during operations in Burmah and during the Hazara and Miranzai expeditions.



Condition NEF. Sold with further research. En extremely fine high ranked Rifle Corps Officers group