

**AN OUTSTANDING AND RARE 14<sup>TH</sup> FOOT WATERLOO AND BHURTPoor PAIR TO PRIVATE WHO WAS WOUNDED BY A SWORD CUT DURING THE HAND TO HAND FIGHTING AT THE STORMING OF THE BREECH AT THE FORTRESS OF BHURTPoor WHERE THE WATERLOO VETERANS FORMED THE FRONT RANK**



**WATERLOO 1815 'RICHARD LAMBERT, 3RD BATT. 14TH REG. FOOT' FITTED WITH REPLACEMENT SILVER CLIP AND STRAIGHT BAR SUSPENSION; ARMY OF INDIA 1799-1826, 1 CLASP, BHURTPoor 'R. LAMBERT, 14TH FOOT' SHORT HYPHEN REVERSE, OFFICIALLY IMPRESSED NAMING**

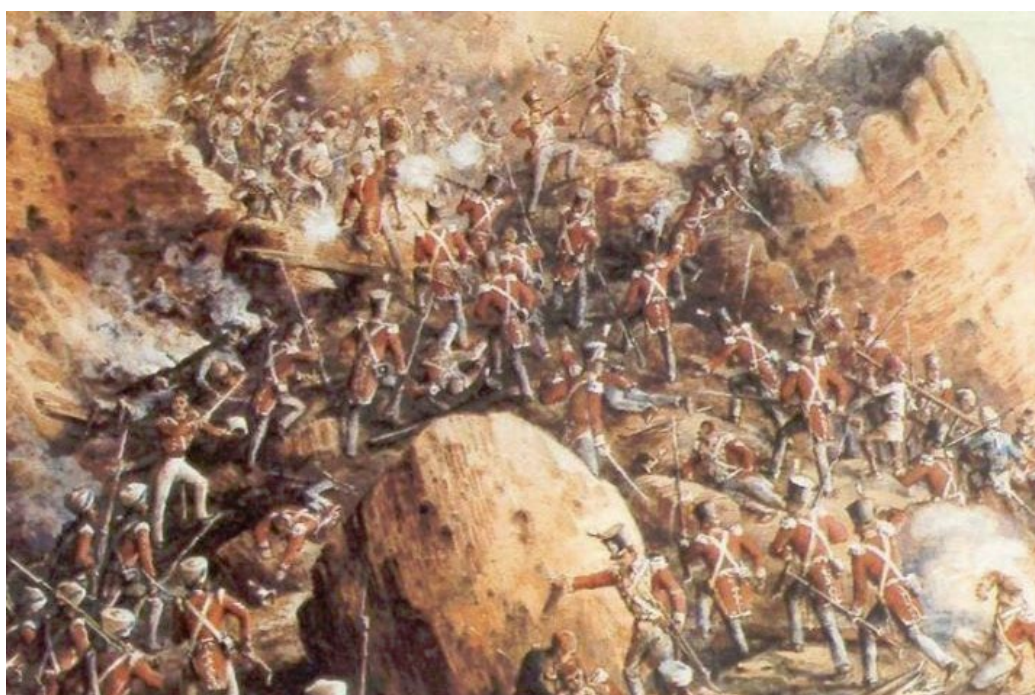
Richard Lambert, an 18 year old labourer from Kensington, Bedfordshire, enlisted into the 14th Foot at Roscommon, Ireland on 5 April 1814. He was present in Captain William Ross's Company at the battle of Waterloo, for which he is credited with 2 years service. He further served in the East Indies from 1816 and was present in Captain Mackenzie's Company at the storming and capture of Bhurtpoor on 18 January 1826. Here reputedly, the front rank of the 14<sup>th</sup>, consisting of Waterloo veterans, each of whom wore his Waterloo medal, led the storming. Captain MacKenzie was one of three Officers of the 14<sup>th</sup> singled out by the commanding General after the storming and Private Lambert himself was wounded during the battle, his papers noting he was "*Severely wounded by a sword cut to the hand*". Discharged due to his wounds in May 1827, his service papers list Lambert as being



admitted to Greenwich Hospital as an In Pensioner on 1 October 1864, an Out Pensioner 1 July 1868 (Ill health) and was still receiving a pension in January 1875.

### **STORMING OF BHURTPOOR ON 18TH JANUARY 1826**

*“Considerable progress having been made towards effecting practicable breaches, the fourteenth regiment received orders to prepare to lead one of the attacks at the storming of this celebrated fortress, and at two o'clock on the morning of the 18th of January, 1826, it marched to the front opposite the left bastion, to await the explosion of a mine. the fourteenth and fifty-ninth regiments had the honour of being selected to head the two attacks, and they were directed to wheel as soon as they had entered the breaches, one to the right and the other to the left, and, continuing their career round the ramparts, to drive the enemy before them till they met. Some delay occurred in the mine, and the soldiers stood seven hours anxiously waiting for the moment to commence the assault, during which time the thunder of the artillery was tremendous.*



The storming of Bhurtpoor.

*General Lord Combermere arrived at the spot where the fourteenth were formed, and seeing the mouth of the mine near, he anxiously enquired if all was safe, to which the engineer replied in the affirmative. his lordship returned soon afterwards, and repeated the question, when he was again assured that all was safe. in a few minutes afterwards the bastion, beneath which the mine had been formed, heaved, as if by the power of an earthquake; the ponderous wall rocked to and fro, and then sunk down again, when, with a sound far exceeding the loudest thunder, the exploding mine rent the massive bastion into fragments, forcing stones, logs of wood, guns, men, and earth, into the air, with a violence which it is impossible to describe, and filling the atmosphere for a considerable distance with so dense a cloud of smoke, dust, and fragments of the ruined bastion, that it was difficult to breathe. Brigadier Combermere was stunned, and several soldiers of the fourteenth were injured by the falling fragments and bursting mine.*



*As soon as the tremendous crash was over, the soldiers rushed through the cloud of smoke and dust, and began to ascend the breach, led by majors Everard and Bisshopp. They encountered some opposition, but nothing could withstand the bayonets of the grenadiers of the fourteenth, their valour soon overpowered all resistance, and the regiment gained the summit with little loss. As the fourteenth were scouring the ramparts, and overcoming all opposition in gallant style, they the fourteenth foot. arrived at the Anah gate, where they met the soldiers who had turned to the left at the breach, and proved victorious over every opponent; it was a moment of intense interest, and a scene of glorious emotions : Bhurtpoor was won ! the stain of a former repulse was wiped from the British arms, and they hailed each other with a hearty and cordial cheer."*

The 14th suffered the greatest number of casualties on the day of the assault, losing 9 officers and 130 O.R's. killed or wounded



*In division orders it was stated,— "Major-General Reynell congratulates the troops of his division, European and Native, engaged in the storming of Bhurtpore this morning, upon the brilliant success which attended their gallant exertions. It is impossible for him to convey half what he feels in appreciating the conduct of His Majesty's Fourteenth Regiment, that led the principal storming column. It has impressed his mind with stronger notions of what a British Regiment is capable of, when led by such officers as Major Everard, Major Bisshopp, and Captain Mackenzie, than he ever before possessed. The Major-General requests that Major Everard will assure the officers and soldiers of the Fourteenth Regiment, that they more than realized his expectations."*

The Army of India roll notes that of 265 Officers and men of the 14<sup>th</sup> entitled to the Bhurtpoor clasped Army of India medal, just 38 were additionally entitled to the Waterloo medal. Of these likely only a handful were to Bhurtpoor casualties and fewer still would have been wounded by swords; the latter confirming Private Lambert was one of those who was wounded in hand to hand combat after storming through the breach.



Condition VF/GVF, Waterloo with old replacement iron clip and ring and a little polished to obverse. Ex Glendining 1934. A rare enough pair of medals to a Bhurtpoor stormer but extremely rare to a casualty, especially so to one wounded by a sword