

**THE FINE SUAKIN 1885 AND BURMA GROUP TO AN OFFICER OF THE BERKSHIRE REGIMENT, WHOSE LIFE WAS SAVED AT THE BATTLE OF TOFREK BY THE GALLANTRY OF A NATIVE OFFICER OF THE 15TH SIKH'S. LATER TRANSFERRING TO THE INDIAN ARMY, HE AND HIS COMMANDING OFFICER WERE MURDERED BY A NATIVE OFFICER IN BURMA ON 11 FEBRUARY 1891**



EGYPT AND SUDAN 1882-89, DATED REVERSE, 2 CLASPS, SUAKIN 1885, TOFREK 'LIEUT. E. W. JAMIESON. 1/BERKS: R.', INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1842-1895, 1 CLASP, BURMA 1885-7 'LIEUT. E. W. JAMIESON 17TH MADRAS INFY.', KHEDIVE'S STAR 1884, UNNAMED AS ISSUED

Edmund Walter Jamieson was born in Scotland on 31 March 1862, the son of James and Hannah Jamieson of Queenstown, Ireland. The elder Jamieson was a Quartermaster with the 96th Foot and the young Jamieson was baptised at the Military Chapel, Keiiskama Hoek, Eastern Cape, South Africa. His father applied for the Queen's Indian Cadetship for him at Sandhurst and was accepted, with the Jamieson joining as a Gentleman Cadet on 3 April 1881.

#### **EGYPT 1882 AND THE BATTLES OF HASIN AND TOFREK 1885**

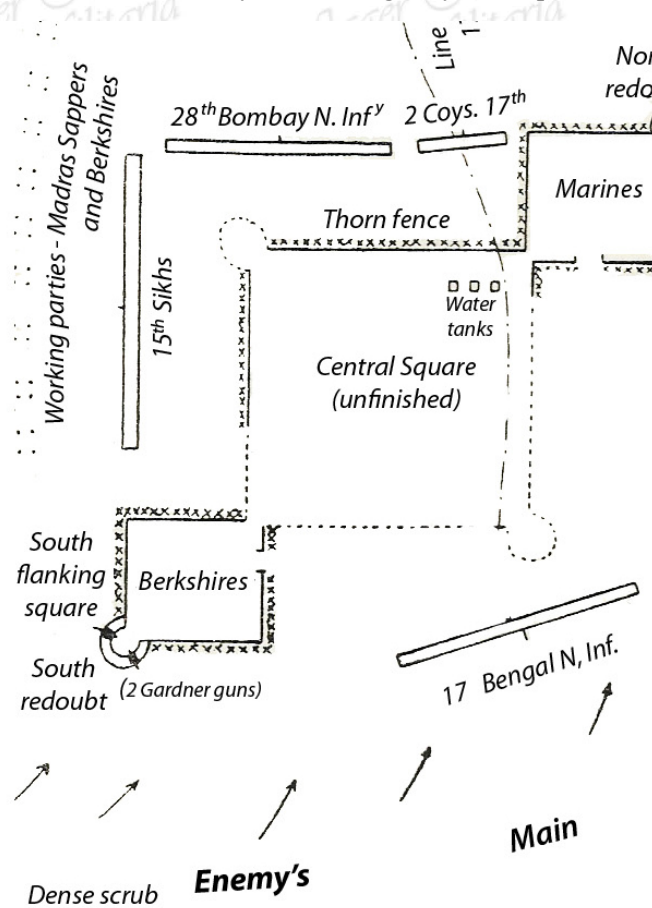
Commissioned Lieutenant with the 1st Battalion, Berkshire Regiment on 10 May 1882 he was posted to Egypt just two months later, disembarking at Alexandria on 27 July 1882. They were present at Kafr-ed-Daur during the British invasion and as such were not present at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir. Despite that they did see action several times through August 1882.

With the British victorious at Tel-el-Kabir, they found themselves committed to Egypt and Sudan. When a Dervish army threatened Suakin an expedition under General Graham sailed to intercept them. The Berkshire's landed on 30 January 1885 and went into action two months later at Hashin, storming Dihilbat Hill, driving the Dervishes back. After the action Graham ordered a column under General McNeill to Tofrek where they were to construct a zariba fence and create a supply post for the

British march on Tamaai.

Unfortunately, the Dervishes were not content to wait for the British to march on them and instead attacked McNeill's force. Half of the Battalion were stationed in the South-Western Redoubt and rest were further north and east of the zariba, outside the defences, when suddenly a patrol of lancers came in reporting a large enemy force on their heels. Lieutenant Jamieson, with a small group of soldiers, was one of those caught outside the Redoubt at this point. Pursued by Dervish who were hot on their heels, their lives were saved by the gallantry of a Native Officer of the 15th Sikh's. The incident is related to in 'The Battle of Tofrek' by Galloway, Jamieson erroneously noted as a Captain:

*"...Among other deeds of gallantry performed, that of Subadar Goordit Singh, the Native Officer Commanding this left or D Company of Sikhs, especially deserves mention. At the first alarm, when the pickets and working parties were running in, two or three of the Berkshire men with Captain Jamieson, who had been out in the bush on the west side of the clearing, were seen making their way back to the redoubt, hotly pursued by several Arabs. The Berkshire men were likely to have the worst of it, when the Subadar of the Company on whose front the little episode was taking place, rushed forward, and with three passes of his sword delivered in rapid succession, cut down as many Arabs, the weapon unfortunately breaking on the neck-bone of the third. The lives of the Berkshire men at all events were saved, and a deed of gallantry like this, performed in presence of the enemy, could not go unrecognised. Steps were at once taken for having this brave act brought to the knowledge of the Authorities, with a view to the Order of Merit being conferred upon the Subadar..."*



In the above map, Jamieson would have been where the working parties are noted when the Dervish attacked

On cue a large Dervish force attacked from the desert and stampeded the transport animals grazing outside the zariba. In the confusion a number of them managed to overwhelm the defenders of the south-western redoubt, slaughtering the sailors manning the Gardner guns. The men of the Berkshires withdrew to the north wall of the redoubt and opened fire, throwing the attackers back in confusion. To the East the other half of the Battalion formed a square and opened fire, halting the attackers as

they attempted to push north. Unable to exploit their advantage the Dervishes were forced to withdraw.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Tofrek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tofrek)



### ANGLO-BURMESE WAR AND SUBSEQUENT MURDER

Jamieson was posted to the Madras Staff Corps on 17 June 1885, seeing action during the Third Anglo-Burmese War with the 11th Madras Infantry. He was transferred to the 17th Madras Infantry in July 1886 as part of a batch of reinforcements for the Upper Burma Field Force. Jamieson is noted as Officiating Quartermaster with the Regiment in Burma in January 1890.

Posted to the 33rd Madras Infantry at Toungoo he joined a detachment manning Fort Stedman, now Maing Thauk, Southern Shan States, as the Adjutant in January 1891. Whilst there his commanding officer, Major E. B. Nixon was shot in his own home by a Naik of the Regiment whom he had passed over for promotion. The man fled to a nearby Pagoda and Jamieson led a group of soldiers to investigate, not realising who the attacker was he asked the Naik where the murderer had gone. He too was shot and seriously wounded; his attacker then shot another of the Indian soldiers before being killed himself. Jamieson died of his wounds quickly and is buried outside the former Fort.

Condition light contact wear and tiny EK to first, attractive patina, overall GVF. Sold with a fair quantity of copied research comprising Gazette entries, census data and application for cadetship as well as statement of service, correspondence relating to the recipient's family history, army lists and an article entitled 'Sudden Death in a Burmese Paradise'.



A fine group and scarce group of medals, with Tofrek clasped medals to officers of the Berkshires rarely appearing on the market.