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MEMOIR OF A HIGHLAND OFFICER.

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WE regret having to record the death, on the 27th May last, at 41 Queensborough Terrace, London, in his 53d year, of Major-General Alexander Mackay Mackenzie, only surviving son of the late Colonel Alexander Mackenzie of Gruinard, scion of a family which has produced several distinguished officers. General Mackenzie's father was wounded in the neck, lost an eye, and had two horses killed under him in the Peninsula. His grandfather on the mother's side was Colonel Mackenzie of Lochend, a cadet of the family of Gairloch, and a distinguished soldier. John Mackenzie, V. of Gruinard, and uncle to Major-General Mackenzie, sold the property in 1795, to Henry Davidson of Tulloch, who re-sold it to Meyrick Bankes of Letterewe, the present proprietor. Thus the later representatives of the family had to fight their way in the world, and honourably did they do it, maintaining the soldierly character of their ancestors. General Mackenzie obtained his commission as ensign on the 31st of May 1842. In 1843 and 1844 he served against the insurgents in Bundelcund, and on the 1st of December 1846 obtained his commission as a lieutenant. He commanded the 8th Irregular Cavalry at the mutiny of the native troops, at Bareilly, on the 31st May 1857. He tried hard to induce the regiment—"a regiment," according to Colonel Malleston, "remarkable for their discipline and intelligence"—to charge the guns, but failed in doing so. The regiment hitherto stood out loyally, and Captain Mackenzie had every confidence in them, even after the other regiments mutinied. He had previously been with them for several years, as adjutant and second in command. He was devoted to the regiment, gave to it his undivided care, and "was unsurpassed in all the qualities of a commanding officer." At ten o'clock on the morning of the 31st of May, it was reported to Captain Mackenzie by a Hindu Rissalder of his regiment, that some of the Hindus of his troop had heard the Sepoys of the 18th and 68th say that they intended to rise that day at eleven o'clock, and "to murder every European—man, woman, and child—in the place, seize the treasury, and open the jail." Reports of the same kind had been circulated for a fortnight previously which turned out to be unfounded, and Captain Mackenzie did not, although he had some suspicions, implicitly believe that the danger was so near. He, however, took precautionary measures, and sent orders to his native Adjutant to

warn the native officers commanding troops to be ready to turn out their men at a moment's notice. He at the same time wrote to Colonel Troup, the officer in command, informing him of the reports in circulation. He then ordered his own horse, Lieutenant Becher's, his second in command, and Dr Currie's to be saddled; breakfasted; and donned his uniform, so as to be ready, in any emergency, for immediate action. Scarcely had he done so, than Captain Brownlow rushed in to inform him that the row had already begun. The reports of the battery guns and the discharge of musketry immediately confirmed the messenger. Colonel Troup came in. Captain Mackenzie mounted and rode down where his men were to turn them out. Colonel Malleson in his "History of the Indian Mutiny" describes the subsequent action of officers and men as follows:—

"The 1st, 2nd, and 3d troops of the 8th, forming the right wing, were soon drawn up in front of their lines facing the station. But it seeming to Mackenzie that the troops of the left wing showed unusual delay, he proceeded amongst them to hasten their movements. Meanwhile, the confusion was every moment increasing. From all parts of Baréll, officers, civilians, and others, were running and riding into the lines for protection. The artillery and infantry were keeping up a constant and rapid fire on the fugitives, whilst all around bungalows were beginning to smoke and blaze. Keeping his head cool all this time, Mackenzie, gallantly aided by Becher, had turned out the troops of the left wing, and was getting them into order, when happening to look round, he saw the troops of the right wing go 'threes right,' and move off at a trot to the right and rear of the lines. Digging his spurs into his horse, Mackenzie quickly headed the wing, halted it, and asked by whose order they had moved. The Rissaldar, commanding the 1st squadron, replied that Colonel Troup had given the order. Upon this, Mackenzie rode on to Colonel Troup, who had moved ahead in company with some officers and civilians, and asked what he proposed to do. Troup, who by the death of the brigadier had become the senior officer in the station, replied that he proposed to retire on Nainí Tál. Mackenzie, still feeling sure of his men, earnestly requested permission to be allowed to take his regiment back and try and recover the guns. Troup replied that it was useless; but yielding at last to Mackenzie's urgent pleadings, he consented in these words: 'It is no use; but do as you like.'

"The fact was that Colonel Troup, influenced by the information he had received on the night of the 30th of May and the impression then formed having been strengthened by the delay of the left wing to turn out, entirely mistrusted the 8th Irregulars. Mackenzie on the other hand, whilst thoroughly believing in them, felt satisfied that the order given to them by Colonel Troup to follow the Europeans to Nainí Tál was the one order which would try their fidelity to the utmost, as the carrying it out would impose upon them the necessity to leave all their property, and, in some instances, those for whom they cared more than for their property, at the mercy of the rebels. There can be no doubt now that the information on which Colonel Troup acted was partly true. There were traitors amongst the 8th Irregulars. Prominent amongst these was the senior native officer, Mahomed Shaffí. This man had been gained over by Khán Bahádúr Khán, and had in his turn done his best to gain

the men. Yet it is to be regretted, I think, that Mackenzie's arrangements were interfered with before the temper of the men had been actually tested. The movement to the right, and the remonstrance with Colonel Troup, lost many precious moments at a most critical period.

"The value of a few moments was never more clearly demonstrated than on this occasion. Whilst Mackenzie had been talking to Colonel Troup, the left wing had been drawing up in line. The moment they were quite ready, the traitor, Mahomed Shaffi, watching his opportunity, gave the order to the men of the wing to follow him, and at once rode towards the cantonment. Mackenzie heard the tramp of their horses' feet the moment after he had received Colonel Troup's permission to do as he liked. He did not at once realise the cause of their action, for almost simultaneously with it arose the cry that they had gone to charge the guns. Mackenzie at once addressed the men of the right wing, and told them he was going to take them to recover the guns. The men received the intelligence with apparent delight, and followed Mackenzie—accompanied by Mr Guthrie, the magistrate, and some officers\*—at a steady trot to the parade-ground. On arriving there they found the left wing drawn up, apparently fraternising with the rebels. It was necessary to bring them back, if possible, to their allegiance, so Mackenzie, leaving his right wing under charge of Becher, rode up to them and addressed them. Whilst, however, in the act of speaking, and after the men had shown a disposition to follow him, there arose from the magazine of the 18th Native Infantry—the point where the mutinous sepoys were massed, and where a gun had been placed—a cry summoning all the sowars to rally round the Mahomedan flag and to uphold their religion, 'otherwise,' shouted the speaker, 'the Mahomedans will be forced to eat pork, and the Hindús beef.' At the same time a green flag was hoisted. The cry and the sight of the flag arrested the favourable disposition of the men of the left wing, and Mackenzie finding his efforts with them hopeless, rode back to the right. Here, however, a new disappointment awaited him. The men of this wing had felt the influence acting on the left, and had begun to steal off. By the time Mackenzie returned, men to the number of about one troop alone remained. Amongst these were most of the native officers. With so small a body it was hopeless to charge, and it was almost certain that an order to that effect would not have been obeyed. Mackenzie retired then in the direction taken by Colonel Troup and the others. As he passed his regimental lines more men dropped away, and before he had gone half a mile, the number of the faithful was reduced to twenty-three, of whom twelve were native officers!† They overtook Colonel Troup and his party twenty-three

\* Their names were Captain Kirby and Lieutenant Fraser of the Artillery; Captain Paterson and Lieutenant Warde, 68th Native Infantry; Lieutenant Hunter, 18th Native Infantry.

† It is due to these twenty-three men to place on record that though every possible temptation was held out to them to desert the Europeans not one of them yielded to it. Amid many trials they remained faithful, and managed to do excellent service. The Rissaldar, Mahomed Nazim Khan, not only left all his property, but three children behind, to obey the call of duty. Mackenzie's orderly, a Mahomedan, rode throughout the retreat of sixty-six miles Mackenzie's second charger, a magnificent Arab, on which it would have been easy for him to ride off. But he was faithful, and when the horse Mackenzie was riding dropped dead, the orderly at once dismounted and came on on foot.

miles from Baré. Troup was warm in his acknowledgments. In truth he never expected to see them. 'Thank God,' he exclaimed to Mackenzie, as the latter rode up, 'I feared you had gone to certain death.' The retiring party, now united, proceeded without a halt to Nainí Tál, accomplishing the distance, sixty-six miles, in twenty-two hours."

On the 20th October 1857, an order is issued by Colonel M'Ausland, in which he says that he cannot allow Captain Mackenzie, with his regiment, to leave the Province of Kumoan "without acknowledging the valuable services performed by that regiment, from the period they so nobly protected and escorted the officers and European residents from Bareilly to Nynee Tal after the mutiny of 31st May last, to the present date." The Colonel brought "the loyal and gallant conduct" of the officers and men "prominently to the notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief," and tendered to Captain Mackenzie and his men his best thanks and acknowledgements "for their services, which have so mainly contributed to the safety of the province." Colonel Troup, C.B., senior surviving officer of the Bareilly Brigade, wrote to Captain Mackenzie on the 24th January 1858:—"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the gratifying intelligence that the Supreme Government of India had been pleased to confer on the Native officers and men of the regiment under your command the ranks and distinctions to which, as a mere matter of justice, I deemed it my duty to recommend them, as some reward for their most extraordinary devotion and gallant conduct on the 31st of May last, under trials and temptations such as, in my opinion, soldiers were never before exposed to, and for their marked uniform good conduct, under no ordinary difficulties, from that to the present date. I would fain hope that, when matters become more settled to admit of your superiors having leisure to look into matters of perhaps less importance than those which, at present, engross their valuable time, your own indefatigable and unwearied exertions, and the gallant example you set your men on the occasion above referred to, and to which I can at all times bear the most ample and undeniable testimony, will not long remain unrewarded by Government."

He now joined Mr J. C. Wilson, and, in command of the faithful remnant of the 8th Irregulars, aided in preserving 48 Christian refugees who had been sheltered by friendly Hindoos at Rohilcund. He became brevet captain December 9, 1857, and raised the new 8th Irregular Cavalry (afterwards the 6th Bengal Cavalry), and served throughout the siege and capture of Lucknow, commanded a portion of the regiment on

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These men had their reward when the regiment was re-organised, and they redeemed, on the 6th of April 1858, the good name of their regiment, being commended for the "marked gallantry" they displayed at Harba in Oudh under the command of Captain Mackenzie. In the text I have recorded a plain and unadorned statement of the conduct of Captain Mackenzie and Lieutenant Becher on this trying occasion. It is but just to both those officers that the opinion of the officer commanding the brigade to which they belonged should be added. In his report on the events recorded in the text Colonel Troup thus wrote:—"In justice to Captain Mackenzie and Lieutenant Becher I consider it my duty, however much they, like others, may have been deceived by their men, to state that in my opinion no two officers could have behaved better towards, or shown a better or more gallant example to their men than they did. I was in daily, I may say hourly, communication with them, and I have great pleasure in stating that from the very first to the last they were unremitting in the performance of the many harassing duties required of them." Colonel Troup further recommended them to the favourable notice of the Commander-in-Chief.

the 5th April 1858, on which occasion he charged the rebels, and after a desperate resistance cut up the rebel leader, Lullah Singh, and the whole of his body-guard. Upwards of one-fourth of his men were killed or wounded, and his own charger wounded. Major-General Sir J. E. W. Inglis, Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, sends a report to the Secretary of the Indian Government, dated Cawnpore, 6th April 1858, which ends thus:—"In conclusion, I beg to be permitted to bring to the favourable notice of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief the excellent services rendered by Captain Mackenzie, who, with the faithful remnant of his corps, most gallantly charged and destroyed a troublesome enemy (Lullah Singh) and his body guard, all of whom rallied round their leader and fought desperately." Captain Evans, Deputy Commissioner of Oonao, in reporting the result of this engagement, says:—"The death of the rebel leader, Lullah Singh, who, with all his immediate clansmen, was cut up by the Irregular Cavalry under Captain Mackenzie, is likely to have the best effect in causing that part of my district to become more settled." Captain Mackenzie was called upon, in a letter, dated 9th April 1858, from the Deputy Adjutant-General of the Army, to recommend to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief two of the soldiers engaged under him at Hurha who most distinguished themselves, with a view to their receiving the "Order of Merit" for their gallantry.

In 1862 we find him commanding the Deolee Irregular Force, on which occasion the agent for the Governor-General at Rajpootana, after having made a minute inspection of the force under his command, expresses his "entire satisfaction with the efficiency of the force, which reflects considerable credit on yourself, the second in command, and adjutant." And he is especially pleased to find over 200 Meenas in the Infantry, and that Mackenzie was carrying out one of the chief objects in the raising and maintenance of the force, "by entirely recruiting from this wild clan." In the same year the gallant officer obtained his majority, and in 1868 he is lieutenant-colonel. In 1869 he was appointed to make enquiry as to the condition of the Banswarra State on which occasion the duties have been "both efficiently and carefully carried out," and his report "is exhaustive in detail of particulars regarding the Government, and the state of the country and its people." In 1870 he commanded the Meywar Bheel Corps, while he was at the same time first Assistant Political Agent at Meywar. Brigadier-General Montgomery, after inspecting the force, speaks most highly of them, and writes to Colonel Mackenzie that while he saw "a great deal to admire, he saw nothing to find fault with." The drill and discipline is "all that can be desired," and a spirit of cheerfulness and contentment pervaded all ranks which impressed General Montgomery most favourably. He never saw a regiment go better past at the double and "there is a spring and life in the movement of the Bheels, which show that they must take a pride in their work." Colonel Mackenzie was not, however, satisfied with the ordinary drill routine, but introduced games among his men, with which the inspecting officer is highly pleased, and on which he remarks as follows:—"My report on your corps would be incomplete if I neglected to notice the games which followed the inspection. I think the institution by you of these games most praiseworthy, and the hearty way in which the Bheels join shows that they are highly appreciated by them

I believe they will do more than merely amuse, for the people will think well of the officers who enter so cordially into their sports. The shooting for prizes will draw out skill in their weapons, and the other sports will draw out hearty, manly qualities. . . . The corps was originated to introduce civilization among the Bheels, and I believe your management will tend to further that object, and to make the Bheels appreciate serving under British officers."

He was appointed Political Superintendent of the Hilly Tracts of Meywar, in addition to his other offices, and on the 20th of February 1871 Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Nixon, Political Agent at Meywar, wrote to him as follows:—"As the time is now at hand when you are about to make over the command of the Bheel Corps and vacate your political appointment as the 1st Assistant Political Agent and Political Superintendent of the Meywar Hilly Tracts, I think it my duty to place on record the great regret I feel at losing the services of so efficient and valuable an assistant as you have proved yourself to be, and at the same time to tender you my thanks for the able and masterly way in which you have conducted the duties of your office. I must especially notice the tact and discretion you have displayed on all occasions, as also the cordial good feeling you have fostered and sustained, not only among the chiefs and native gentry of the Hilly Tracts with whom you have been associated, but also amid the wild tribes whom you have had to control. It is to be hoped that the beneficent and kindly sway with which you have managed the Bheels will increase their attachment to our Government, and continue to justify us in that policy of humanity which dictated our acceptance of the position of trust we hold towards them. His Highness the Maha Rana of Oodeypore has requested me to convey to you his sentiments of regret at your departure, and his acknowledgements of the cordial good feeling which has prevailed between yourself and the Durbar during your tenure of office, which has not only facilitated the transaction of official business, but has greatly simplified the difficulties inherent in a dual Government. I can only hope that at some future period your high abilities will procure you promotion in the Political department, in which you have served for the past eight years so devotedly and zealously." The following conveying the thanks of the Government of India is addressed to him by the officiating Agent Governor-General, Rajpootana:—"Camp Palee, 25th March 1871.—Under instructions from his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, I am directed to communicate to you the cordial thanks of the Government of India for your exertions during the calamitous famine in Rajpootana in the years 1868 and 1869. The care and attention you bestowed on the relief of distress prevented any outbreak or plunder in that most difficult part of the country, the Bheel Tracts, which were sorely oppressed by the famine. The orderly quiet which prevailed during the whole period of the distress reflects much credit on you, and I am commanded to acknowledge it on the part of Government." In 1873 he became full colonel, and major-general in 1874.

It will be seen from the above quoted official documents that the late Major-General Mackenzie, who was heir-male of the family of Gruinard, descended from the Earls of Seaforth, was a most distinguished officer, and

that he rendered excellent service to the Government. And as it is part of our object and intention to commemorate such men and such services among our Highland countrymen, where the means are available, we make no apology for the length of this notice. The form in which we have given it will, we feel sure, be considered much more valuable than if we had given the substance of the documents and other information in our own phraseology. General Mackenzie married Marion, daughter of the Rev. William Colville of Newton, Cambridge-shire, by whom he had issue, two sons—John, now the representative of the family of Gruinard, and Stuart ; also, two daughters, Lilius and Sybil, all of whom survive him. He took a great interest in the history of his ancestors, as well as in everything pertaining to the Highlands ; and on all occasions his great ambition was to send down to his successors, untarnished, as far as he was concerned, the honour of his ancestors and the good name of his beloved Highlands.

A. M.

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 R E T U R N E D .
 

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Drooping lilacs nod and sway  
 All your fragrant purple plumes ;  
 Robins sing your sweetest lay  
 'Mid the dainty apple blooms ;  
 Golden sunshine flowerets rare,  
 Smile and blossom bright I pray ;  
 Smile, O sky ! O winds, blow fair !  
 For my lover comes to-day.  
  
 Comes from sailing o'er the main,  
 Back to wed his promised bride ;  
 From the casement once again  
 I shall see his swift bark glide  
 Up the silver-crested bay,  
 Where the ripples dance and gleam  
 'Till beneath the sunlight they  
 Waves of liquid silver seem.  
  
 Just one little year ago  
 Since we parted on the strand ;  
 Then, as now, like perfumed snow,  
 Blossoms strewed the meadow land ;  
 Earth hath donned her robe of green—  
 Daisy-broidered, gemmed with gold.  
 Ah, how like a troubled dream  
 Seem the months that since have rolled  
  
 Hasten, darling, o'er the sea,  
 For to-day is due thy vow ;  
 " Love, you whispered, look for me  
 When upon the crimson bough  
 Of the maple, blue birds sing ;  
 When the swallow 'neath the eaves  
 Toy crowned are twittering,  
 And the zephyrs woo the leaves."  
  
 Drooping lilacs nod and sway  
 All your fragrant purple plumes ;  
 Robins sing your sweetest lay  
 'Mid the dainty apple blooms ;  
 For my own true lover now  
 Clasps me closely to his heart :  
 Whispers, kissing cheek and brow,  
 " Darling, mine, no more we part."