

THE CAMERONS OF INVERAILORT.

THE Camerons of Inverailort claim to have originally sprung from the family of Erracht. The first that we know anything of is

DONALD CAMERON, who resided at Murligan, in Lochaber. He married Helen, daughter of Alexander Macdonald of Achatriachtan, Glencoe, with issue, eight sons, the six eldest of whom died young or unmarried. The seventh, the Hon. Hugh Cameron, went to Canada, where he became a member of the Legislative Council. The eighth and youngest was

SIR ALEXANDER CAMERON, K.C.B. and K.C.H., born in 1778, a distinguished Major-General in the British Army, which he first entered in 1797. We take the following account of his career from a publication issued by authority in 1816, when he held the rank of Major in the Rifle Brigade, and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army: – In 1797, this officer was appointed to an ensigncy in the Breadalbane Fencibles, and continued to serve with them for two years. In 1799, he accompanied the expedition to Holland under the command of the Duke of York, as a volunteer (an officer of Fencibles), and soon after received an ensigncy in the 92nd Regiment, and served the whole of that campaign. In March, 1800, he volunteered to serve in the Rifle Corps, then forming under the superintendence of Colonel Manningham, and in the following August succeeded to a lieutenancy. In the course of that year he accompanied the expedition to Ferrol, and was engaged with a detachment of Rifle Corps under the Hon. Colonel William Stuart. Immediately after, he volunteered

to accompany the 92nd Regiment to Egypt, and was severely wounded in the arm and side, on the 13th March, 1801, at the battle of Alexandria, after which he returned to England and rejoined the Rifle Corps. In 1805, he was promoted to a company. In the latter end of this year he went with the expedition to Germany under Lieutenant-General Lord Cathcart. The following year he once more returned to England. In 1807, he again was under the command of Lord Cathcart at Copenhagen, and was present during the whole of the operations before that place, and engaged in the action of Kioge under Major-General Sir Arthur Wellesley. In 1808, he landed in Portugal, and was present at the battle of Vimiera; marched into Spain with Lieutenant-General Sir John Moore; was constantly with the rear-guard of the army during the retreat; and engaged in the affair of Calcaballos, where he had two companies placed under his orders; and on the 16th of January, 1809, was at the battle of Corunna. In May, 1809, he again embarked for the Peninsula, under Brigadier-General Crawford, and joining the army under Lord Wellington, early in the morning after the battle of Talavera, formed the rear-guard of the army in falling back on the Guadiana.

Between the months of January and June, 1810, he was constantly on outpost duties with the Light Division, and engaged in various skirmishes on the rivers Coa and Agueda. On the 24th June, when the enemy attacked the division, he was posted with two companies of riflemen to occupy the bridge upon the Coa, which he held during the day, although the passage was repeatedly and severely attacked by the enemy. He formed the rear-guard when the army fell back on the Sierra de Busaço. On the day previous to the battle of Busaço he was engaged with the enemy's advanced guard, and commanded two companies during that battle; he composed the rear-guard when the army retired to the lines of Torres Vedras, and was present till the enemy broke up and retired to his position in Santarem; was on outpost duty in front of that place

till the 6th of March, 1811, when the enemy retreated; he was then placed in advance and was frequently engaged with the enemy's rear-guard. The Rifle Corps were on this occasion formed into wings, and attached to separate brigades of the Light Division. The left wing came under his orders after the fall of Major Stuart, and was twice led into action by him, when the command devolved on a senior officer. On the 3rd of April, he commanded three companies in the action on the Coa, under Colonel Beckwith, and after the operations of that day was recommended for the brevet rank of major. During the blockade of Almeida, he was placed in front of the army, with a separate command of 200 picked sharpshooters, and half a troop of horse artillery, for the purpose of narrowly watching the enemy, and of cutting off any supplies; again joined the Division, and was engaged at the battle of Fuentes D'Onor. In May, 1811, Captain Cameron received the brevet of major; and shortly after, the left wing of the regiment was placed under his command for outpost duty in front of Ciudad Rodrigo. He was present during the whole of the siege, and commanded the covering party at the storming of the fortress, on the night of the 18th January, 1812. He continued with the army, and proceeded to the siege of Badajoz; was present at the whole of the operations, and, with Colonel Williams of the 60th, was thanked in general orders for having repelled a sortie made by the enemy. On the night of the assault, he commanded the covering party, composed of the left wing of the Rifle Corps with 200 Cacadores, and after the fall of Major O'Hara, during that night, succeeded to the command of the battalion. On this occasion he was recommended for the brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel, and the regimental majority. On 27th April, 1812, he was appointed brevet lieutenant-colonel, and on the 14th of May following was promoted to a majority in his regiment. He still continued in command of the battalion, on the advance of the army to the Douro, and during its subsequent movements till its arrival on the heights of

Salamanca; commanded the 1st Battalion Rifle Corps, and 300 Cacadores in the battle of Salamanca; formed the advance guard after the action; followed the enemy to the Douro; and entered Madrid with the Marquis of Wellington. He retired from that capital with a corps under the command of Sir Rowland Hill, of which he formed the rear-guard; joined the army under the Marquis of Wellington, still in the rear-guard, in command of the regiment; and was occasionally sharply engaged with the enemy. He continued in command till the battalion took the field in May, 1813, when a senior officer joined. He was present and severely wounded at the battle of Vittoria in June of that year, and obliged to return to England. In the latter end of that year, he volunteered to proceed to Holland with the army under Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham, when a provisional battalion of the Rifle Corps was formed by orders of the Commander-in-Chief and placed under his command.

In that campaign he commanded the outposts of the army, and was engaged at the affair of Merxem, upon which occasion he was thanked in general orders, and mentioned in the public despatch. He continued with the army during the operations before Antwerp, and only returned to England on peace being concluded. In January, 1815, Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron was appointed a Companion of the Military Order of the Bath; and in the spring of that year he embarked for Flanders, and was engaged with Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton's Division at the battle of Quatre-Bras on the 16th June. He was present on the 17th, and commanded the light companies of the Brigade that day. On the 18th June – the battle of Waterloo – after Colonel Sir A. Barnard was wounded, he commanded the 1st Battalion of the Rifle Corps, and continued to command till near the close of the action, when he was compelled to quit the field in consequence of receiving a severe wound in the throat, from the effects of which he still [1816] greatly suffers, the ball having lodged in his body, where it is likely to be

sometime longer confined. In October, 1815, he received from the Emperor the appointment of Knight of the Military Order of St. Anne of Russia.

In addition to the crosses of the two above-mentioned Military Orders, Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron has received a medal for the campaign in Egypt, and others for Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, and Salamanca.* He was also awarded the Peninsular medal with five clasps – Vittoria, Fuentes D’Onor, Busaco, Corunna, and Vimiera – and the Waterloo medal.

Consequent on the wound he received at Waterloo, he was never again fit for active service.

On the 22nd July, 1830, he was promoted to the rank of full colonel, and on the 28th of June, 1838, to that of major-general. On the 19th of July, 1838, he was nominated a Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, and on the 24th of April, 1846, he was appointed to the colonelcy of the 74th Highlanders.

Major-General Sir Alex. Cameron, K.C.B. and K.C.H., was a most intimate personal friend of the great Duke of Wellington, under whom he so long served in the field.

In 1818, he married Christian, only daughter of Colonel Macdonell, of Barrisdale, with issue, five children –

1. Duncan, his heir.
2. Colin William, born in 1823, and died young in 1840.
3. Arthur Wellington Cameron, Colonel, 92nd Gordon Highlanders, born in 1827. He served with his regiment in India during the Mutiny; is unmarried, and now resides at Inverailort.
4. Helen, who died young, in 1839.
5. Jane, who also died young.

He died at Inverailort, on the 26th of July, 1850 – the bullet with which he was wounded, in the neck, at Waterloo, being still in his body – when he was succeeded, as representative of the family, by his eldest son –

DUNCAN CAMERON of Inverailort, born on the 28th of May, 1819. On the 23rd of October, 1835, he entered the

* *Royal Military Calendar*, Vol III. pp 286-287, 1816.

42nd Highlanders (Black Watch), as Lieutenant, and was Adjutant from the 30th of October, 1838, until he retired from the regiment, on the 8th of May, 1840.

He married, first, in 1849, Louisa Campbell, daughter of Mackay of Brighthouse, with issue—

1. Louisa Campbell Christian Campbell, who died in infancy.

He married, secondly, in 1857, Alexa Marion Macleod, second daughter of Thomas Gillespie, Ardachy, with issue (with a son who died in infancy) —

2. Christian Helen Jane.
3. Frances Alexandra.

He died on the 26th of June, 1874, when he was succeeded in the property by his daughter,

CHRISTIAN HELEN JANE CAMERON, now of Inverailort.