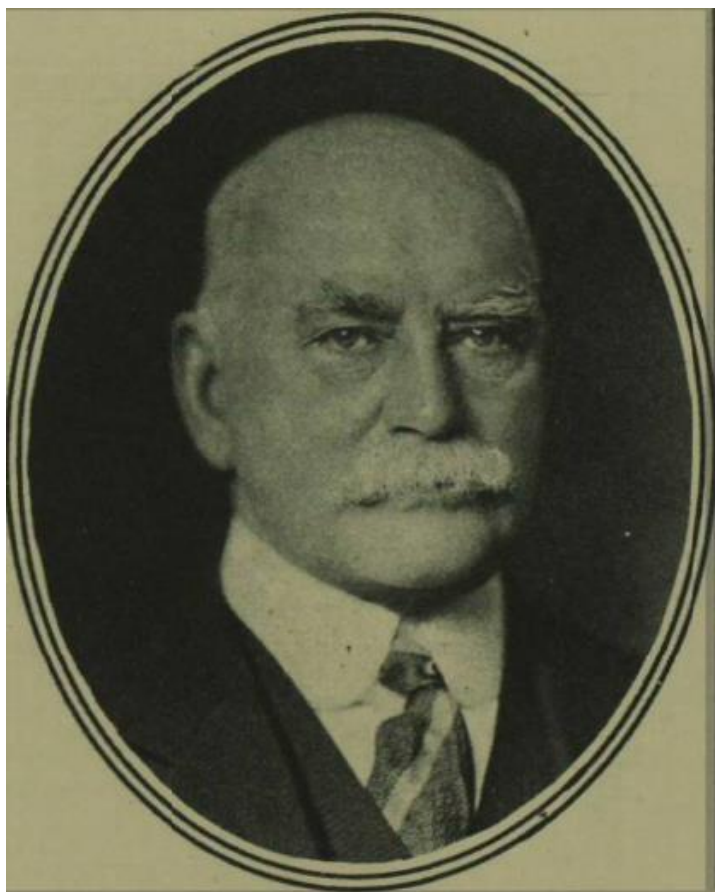


Captain William Francis Dundonald Cochrane

Cameron Simpson

Select biography of Captain William Francis Dundonald Cochrane 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment of Foot, Light Infantry; the man who survived iSandlwana and later fought at the battles of Hlobane, Khambula and Ulundi during the Anglo-Zulu War.



Illustrated London News

COCHRANE William Francis Dundonald:

Born Corsham, Wiltshire, England 7.8.1847; Resided at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey c. 1851 and Park Road Hampton Wick, Middlesex c. 1861; Educated at Kensington School; Gentleman Cadet, R.M.C. Sandhurst and was recorded to have been able to speak both French and German; Ensign, 32nd Regiment 31.8.66; Posted to Gibraltar 31.8.66; Lieutenant (By Purchase) 2.12.68; Posted to Mauritius 4.5.67; Posted to South Africa 14.11.68; Adjutant, 32nd Regiment 20.7.70; Posted to Mauritius 5.11.71; Posted to South Africa 27.8.72; Posted Home 25.5.77; Passed the Musketry Course at Hythe and obtained a First Class Certificate.

Posted to South Africa as a Special Service Officer 1.11.78; Attached for Transport duty at Pietermaritzburg 11.12.78; Orderly Officer to Colonel A.W. Durnford for a period; Transport Officer to No2 Column; Anglo-Zulu War 1879; He survived the battle of iSandlwana on 22.1.79 escaping via Fugitives Drift and proceeded to Helpmakaar where he assisted in building the Laager for the hamlets defence; Temporary Commanding Officer, Carbutt's Border Rangers being attached to No4 Column; Local Captain 12.2.79;

Commanding Officer, Natal Native Horse; Action at Hlobane (28.3.79), Khambula (29.3.79) and Ulundi (4.7.79); He was detailed to search for the Prince Imperial and found his body of which in 1926, he recalled the scene, *'I stood alone over his body for some time before the search party arrived'*; Mentioned-in-Despatches (L.G. 15.3.79, 21.3.79 and 21.8.79); Brevet Major *'in the Army for service in command of Natal Native Horse during Zulu War 1879'* (L.G. 21.8.79).

Local Captain and A.A.G. (Principal Staff Officer) Cape of Good Hope Forces 1.9.79; Local Major and Chief Staff Officer, Colonial Forces and posted to King William's Town in the Eastern Cape; BaSotho Gun War 1880-81 including the action at Kalabani (19.10.80) relief of Mafeteng the same day and the capture of Lerothodi's stronghold (31.10.80); Mentioned-in-Despatches by Brigadier General C.M. Clarke for the action at Kalabani: *'I have the honour specially to bring to the notice of Government the services performed by Major Cochrane, A.A.G., throughout the day'*;¹ Operations in the Transkei and East Griqualand from 3.12.80; Captain 14.6.81; Mentioned-in-Despatches (L.G. 15.3.81) and was deemed *'Qualified for Staff Employment as an officer of proved ability on the Staff in the Field for Service as A.A.G. Colonial Forces during the Basuto War 1880'*;²

Brevet Major, 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 18.2.82; Posted to Egypt 1.9.82; Acting Deputy Commissariat General, No2 Company, Auxiliary Commissariat and Transport Corps; Egypt operations 1882; Posted Home 16.10.82; Adjutant 14.4.83; Posted to China 1.8.83; Brigade Major, China & Hong Kong 15.9.82; Major 29.6.86; D.A.A. and Q.M.G. China and Straits Settlements 21.8.86; Posted Home 1.6.87; D.A.A. & Q.M.G., Dublin, Ireland 1.6.87; H.Q. Staff, Belfast 16.6.87; Posted to South Africa 23.5.90; Assistant Military Secretary and *Aide-de-Camp* to G.O.C. South Africa 23.5.90; Lieutenant Colonel, Half Pay 5.4.93; Married Miss Caroline Moller (1864-1936).

Brigade Commander, Egyptian Army; Lines-of-Communication, Dongola Expedition 1896; Mentioned-in-Despatches (L.G. 3.11.96); Appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath (L.G. 17.11.96); Colonel, Half Pay 5.4.97; Nile Expedition 1897 and 1898; Awarded the 3rd Class of Medjidie (L.G. 16.5.99); Colonel, A.A.G., Staff 21.2.00; A.A.G. Belfast 1.4.01; Half Pay 1.5.03; Retired List 22.8.03 (Voluntarily, one year before he was due).

1914-18; Colonel, Central Association, Volunteer Training Corps 1915; In March, 1915 he inspected the Haywards Heath Volunteer Training Corps; In April, 1915 he was recorded to have inspected the West Bridgford Corps of the Citizen Army;³ In 1918, when inspected by the King, the King looked at Cochrane and said *'You are a pretty old soldier'* to which Cochrane replied *'Yes Sire I am 66, I led your majesty around Phoenix Park at Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887'*;⁴ Honorary Brigadier General, Retired Pay attached Royal Army

¹ Cape Archives Repository., Colonial Force Order No1, 186, 1880.

²National Archives., WO 76 - Regimental Records of Officers' Services 1775-1914.

³Nottingham Evening Post., 19 April 1915.

⁴Yorkshire Evening Post., 30 May 1918.

Ordnance Corps 9.6.19; Resided at No4 Stanhope Gardens, Kensington; Resided at No.6 Wellington Court, Knightsbridge, Middlesex c. 1927; Died in London, England 23.10.1927.

His father was Colonel William Marshall Cochrane (1817-1898) of the 3rd Battalion, Highland Light Infantry whilst a brother, Major John Palmer Cochrane (1852-1921) served with the Cape Mounted Rifles during the BaSotho Gun War; He was the grandson of the 9th Earl of Dundonald.
