

**MEMOIR, EXTRACTED AND  
COMPILED FROM VARIOUS  
SOURCES, TO ILLUSTRATE THE  
ORIGIN AND FOUNDATION OF  
THE POLLOCK MEDAL**

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Memoir, Extracted and Compiled from Various Sources, to Illustrate the Origin and Foundation of the Pollock Medal by Anonymous

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Presented to  
Major John M. Champaign  
Royal Engineer.  
Pollock Medalist  
June 1853.

MEMOIR,

by  
J. A. Simmons.  
Lt. Genl.  
Governor  
R. M. G.  
1 July 1875

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POLLOCK MEDAL.

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WOOLWICH:  
BODDY AND CO., MILITARY PUBLISHERS.  
1875.



**Memoir,**

DEDICATED TO THE MEDALISTS,

Past and Future,

By one who has the highest veneration

For the Memory of

**The First British Artillery Officer,**

Who ever commanded an army in the field,

And whose successes,

As briefly sketched herein,

Give promise of what may be expected from those,

who,

Educated at the

**ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY,**

Follow their profession

With unwearied zeal and attention,

And are thus at all times

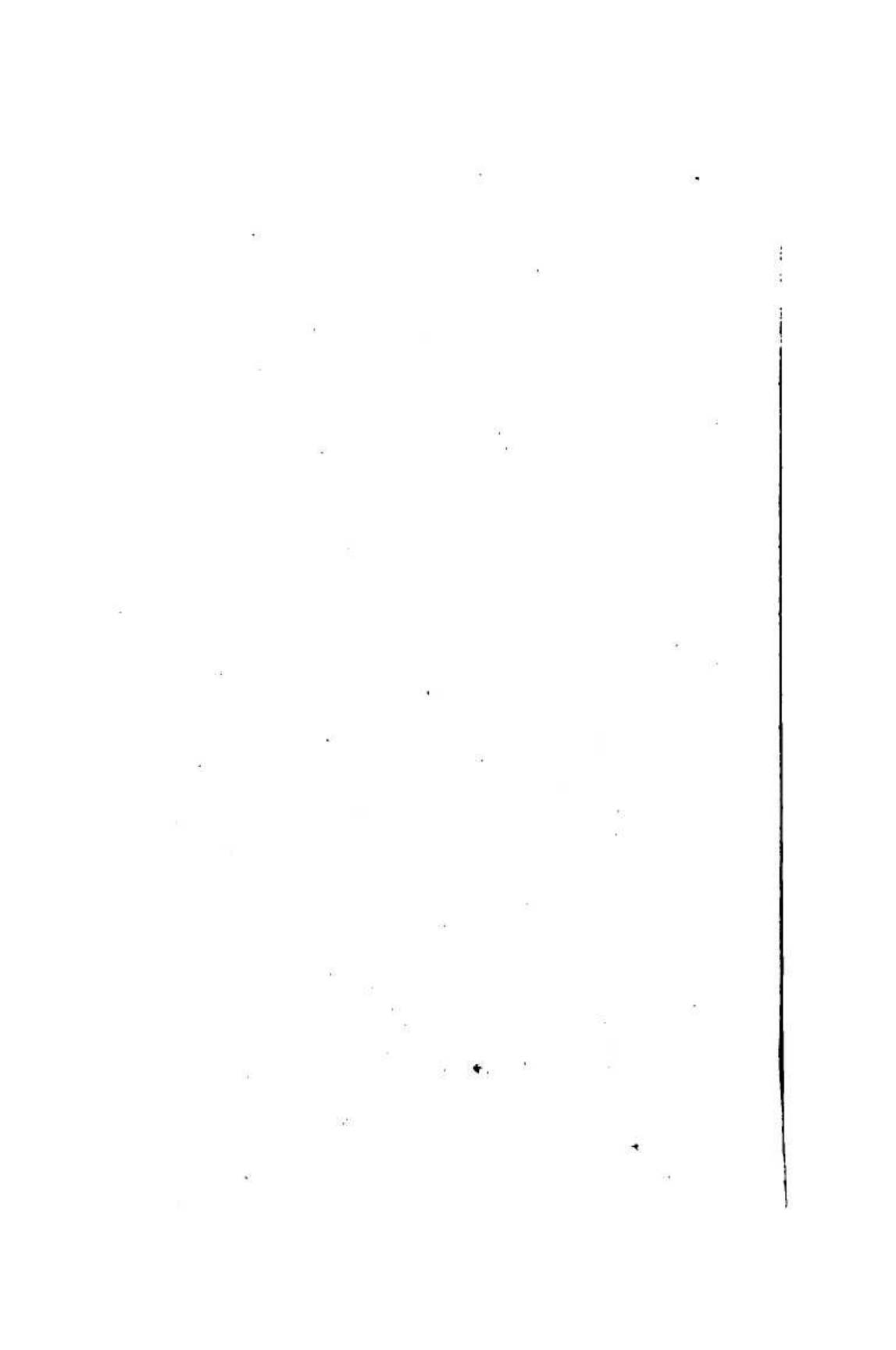
Ready to seize any opportunity that may offer

In the path of duty,

For reaping honour in the service of

Their Queen and Country.

*Royal Military Academy,  
21st January, 1875.*





# MEMOIR,

TO ILLUSTRATE THE ORIGIN AND FOUNDATION

OF

THE POLLOCK MEDAL.

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ON 4th June, 1786, within the precincts of Westminster, was born George, the youngest of the four sons of Mr. David Pollock, saddler to His Majesty George III.

The family was of Scottish extraction. Three of Mr. Pollock's sons rose to distinction. The eldest, Sir David, became a judge of the High Court of Judicature of Bombay. Sir Frederick, the second son, achieved a brilliant reputation as a scholar, lawyer, and statesman; he filled the office of Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer for 22 years, and had the dignity of a baronetcy conferred upon him.

The brothers Frederick and George went to a school at Vauxhall, from which the latter, the subject of the present Memoir, proceeded to the Royal Military Academy, at Woolwich, which he entered on the 21st January, 1801, and left on the 7th May, 1803. Though he passed an examination which entitled him to elect

service either in the Royal Artillery or Royal Engineers, he preferred the Artillery on the Bengal Establishment, at that time consisting of three battalions of seven companies each, as affording a better field for military advancement. The East India Military Seminary at Addiscombe not having been established until 1809 the officers of the Ordnance Services of the Honourable East India Company received their military education previously to that year at Woolwich.

In September, 1803, he embarked for India, and arrived, after a voyage of four months, at Calcutta. His first commission, dated November, 1803, was that of "Lieutenant Fireworker;" on the 19th April, 1804, when at the head quarters of his regiment at Dum Dum, he received his promotion as Lieutenant of Artillery.

The first action in which Lieutenant Pollock took part was the Battle of Deig, fought on the 13th November, 1804, between the British infantry of General Lake's army, under the command of General Fraser, and the famous Mahratta Chieftain Holkar. Pollock took a prominent part with his guns in this battle, described by Lord Lake as "the hardest fought on this side India," and as "a very near business," and was soon after placed in charge of a mortar battery at the siege of Deig, which city fell on Christmas-day of the same year. He was present at the siege of Bhurtpore, which proved unsuccessful after 50 days of open trenches, from

the 4th January to the 22nd February, 1805, four assaults, and a loss of 3,100 men and 103 officers in killed and wounded, out of a total force of 10,000 men engaged. The pertinacity of the British force under Lord Lake, however, served to break up the alliance between Holkar and the Rajah of Bhurtpore, who eventually signed a treaty accepting the conditions of peace imposed upon him by the English general. In the following campaign George Pollock, being still a subaltern in his teens, was given the command of a field battery of six six-pounders, which formed the only European portion of a brigade detached in pursuit of Holkar; while on this duty he was ordered to open fire on the Sepoys, who had broken out into open mutiny, if they continued to disobey orders. Fortunately the affair was arranged without recourse being had to such severity as might possibly have led to the massacre of every European in the force and the desertion of the whole body of natives.

Holkar soon sued for peace, which was signed early in 1806, when Pollock was sent with his battery to Meerut, then a frontier station. After a few months Lord Lake, as a reward for his good services, appointed him Quarter-master of one of the battalions of artillery stationed at Dum Dum, from which he was soon removed to Cawnpore, having been selected for the post of Adjutant and Quarter-master to the artillery in the field at that station, which he held until his promotion to full Captain,