

**THE LIFE OF
JAMES O'MALLEY**

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The Life of James O'Malley by James O'Malley

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BY
JAMES O'MALLEY
LATE OF THE
17TH LEICESTER ROYAL BENGALL TIGERS.

DESAULNIERS' PRINTING Co., 22 St. Gabriel Street,
MONTREAL.

1883

DEDICATED BY EXPRESS PERMISSION
TO
HIS EXCELLENCY, LORD STANLEY. K.C.B.
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA.
BY
HIS GRATEFUL SERVANT,
THE AUTHOR.

DK 14

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PREFACE

In presenting this, the history of my life, to the public, I may as well say at the outset, that I do not put it forward as a work of literary merit, but as a narrative that can be read and I trust understood by others than those who have received a classical education. I am now passed middle age, and any one who knows what the condition of the middling class in Ireland was, some fifty years ago, may form some conception of the amount of schooling I had the chance to obtain. Still I have hopes that some amusement, combined with instruction may be found contained in the following pages. I have to thank my dear old comrade the late Thos. Faughnan, for some valuable assistance, without which perhaps more than one incident herein contained would have been imperfectly remembered or it might be forgotten altogether. Some one once said: "Any man over forty years should be his own doctor." Be this as it may, I am of opinion that no man

under that age, should undertake to be his own biographer, but being as I have said on the downward side of the hill of life, I may take it, that my career of a soldier being ended, the only part of my existence likely to interest the public has been passed, and I therefore feel justified in offering them these memoirs. Many of the incidents described, are known to myself. Nobody but those who have been in the battle, can form any opinion of how little any individual knows of what is going on around him, except just in his immediate vicinity, consequently if any one particular attack were described by say half a dozen men, each description would differ widely from the others as probably no two men would have the same experience even in the same battle, although they might be separated by only a few yards during the action. If I appear sometimes egotistical, please do not imagine I am claiming any special reward for good deeds. I have always endeavoured to do my duty as a British soldier, and although I have, like others, often been in places of great danger, it has pleased God to spare me. I do not pretend to have the powers of a dramatist, to present the various incidents and situations of the campaign before you in such a manner as to

cause them to appear other than as an imperfect picture, for I hold that to fully realize a battle field, it must be seen ; any description of its horrors will necessarily fall short of the reality, no matter how minutely described. I trust however that those who do me the favor of perusing the following pages, will find that I have omitted no incident of importance that occurred during my period of service in the Crimea and I can only say that I am in hopes, the very, homely style in which this book is written and absence of any high-flown language, may cause it to find favor, and prove a passport to every heart around which a soldier's life and varried experience may be found interesting.

JAMES O'MALLEY.

MONTREAL, April 1893.

ADDENDA :—

The Leicester Regiment.—Regimental district, No. 17, Leicester Royal Bengal Tigers.—Louisbourg, Hindoustan, Afghanistan, Ghuznee, Khelat, Sebastapool, Ali Masyid, Afghanistan, 1878-79.

Scarlet uniform, tilly white facings.

I certify that I have known the bearer, Mr. James O'Malley, since the year 1851, when he enlisted for the 17th Regiment at Galway, Ireland. He served over 10 years therein at Galway, Dublin, Templemore and Cork ; 7 months at Gibraltar and 17 months in the Crimea, and was present at the siege of Sebastapool, from 2nd Decenber 1854 to 8th September 1855, including the assaults on the Great Redan on the 18th June and 8th September and of the capture of that city and fortress in the latter date. He was the first man of the regiment wounded in the trenches before Sabastapool. He was also present with the 3rd Brigade of the 4th division which accompanied the English and French fleets to Odessa in Oct. 1855 and was present at the bombardment and surrender of the fortress of Kinburn, 17th Oct. He was at that time one of the smartest men in the Grenadier Company and after leaving the Crimea and landing at Quebec was promoted to corporal in charge of the Regimental Police, which position he held until his discharge from the service. He always bore an exceptionnally good character in the regiment and left as corporal and in possession of 2 badges for good conduct.

(Signed)

JOHN SNASDELL,
formerly Color Sergeant,
17th Regiment.

20 Champlain Street, }
MONTREAL. }
22nd February, 1883. }