

Kent Academic Repository

Full text document (pdf)

Citation for published version

Dunstan, Angela (2009) Cameron, John Alexander (c.1852-1885). In: Brake, Laurel, ed. Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism. Proquest.

DOI

Link to record in KAR

<https://kar.kent.ac.uk/47999/>

Document Version

Pre-print

Copyright & reuse

Content in the Kent Academic Repository is made available for research purposes. Unless otherwise stated all content is protected by copyright and in the absence of an open licence (eg Creative Commons), permissions for further reuse of content should be sought from the publisher, author or other copyright holder.

Versions of research

The version in the Kent Academic Repository may differ from the final published version.

Users are advised to check <http://kar.kent.ac.uk> for the status of the paper. **Users should always cite the published version of record.**

Enquiries

For any further enquiries regarding the licence status of this document, please contact:

researchsupport@kent.ac.uk

If you believe this document infringes copyright then please contact the KAR admin team with the take-down information provided at <http://kar.kent.ac.uk/contact.html>

CAMERON, JOHN ALEXANDER (c.1852-1885)

John Alexander Cameron was born in Inverness, Scotland and in his early career worked as a bank clerk. Moving to India, he was employed in a mercantile house in Bombay before becoming a contributor to, and occasional acting editor of, the *Bombay Gazette*. He was appointed acting editor in 1878, the year he also became special correspondent for the Afghan war. Cameron was special correspondent for *The Standard*, covering the Afghan War from 1878 and travelled with the forces under General Phayrer. Cameron was the first special to report General Roberts' victory on 1 September 1880, with his report being printed thirty-six hours before the other papers. His description of the battlefield of Maiwand in July 1880 for *The Standard* was particularly graphic and established his reputation as a serious correspondent. Cameron was also special correspondent in South Africa covering the Boer war, and his report on the bombing of Alexandria cemented his name as a leading special of the era. He was the first British correspondent to arrive at Natal on the outbreak of the Anglo Transvaal War, and reported his observations of the battles of Laing's Nek, Ingogo and Majuba Hill where he was briefly imprisoned. After reporting in Alexandria (June 1882), he travelled with the British troops to Cairo, Madagascar and to Australia. His final assignment was in the Soudan from 1884-5. Cameron's success as a special correspondence came at great cost; among other dangerous assignments, he had been taken prisoner at the battle of Majuba Hill in February 1881. Cameron was killed on assignment on 19 January 1885 at Gubat near Metammeh, where he was shot with eleven others by snipers. He was honoured by a memorial tablet in St Paul's Cathedral. **AD**

References:

- Henderson, T. F. 'Cameron, John Alexander (d. 1885).' *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Ed. H. C. G. Matthew and Brian Harrison. Oxford: OUP, 2004. Online ed. Ed. Lawrence Goldman. May 2006. 10 January 2014. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/4448>.
- Hodgson, Pat. *The War Illustrators*. London: Osprey Publishing, 1977.
- 'John Alexander Cameron'. *Scoop Database*. 1 December 2013.
- Lehmann, Joseph. *The First Boer War*. London: Buchanan and Enright, 1985.
- Prior, Melton. *Campaigns of a War Correspondent*, ed. S. L. Bensusan. London: Edward Arnold, 1912.