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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**

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