

# When Shall Their Glory Fade?

Survivors of the Crimean and Indian Mutiny Campaigns Among Members of the British Campaigners' Association

HERE is in Victoria a coterie of men, some now in the Autumn of life, who have played a gallant part in many stirring war dramas—the ranks of the British Campaigners' Association hold them, men who have followed the flag on many a field, in many a clime, and each one can tell of deeds such as those which won the Empire. Honored among them are the men who wear on their breasts the medals which betoken their part in the Crimean and Indian Mutiny campaigns. The accompanying photograph portrays these veterans of the veterans—Major John Wilson, 42nd Highlanders, who fought at Alma, Inkerman, Balaclava, Sevastopol, Kertsch, Yenikale, in the Crimea; Lucknow, Kudjunge, Shumabad, the Martiniere, Rooyah Fort, Allygunge and Barleily, as well as many a minor engagement; Sergeant Peter Fernie, Royal Horse Ar-

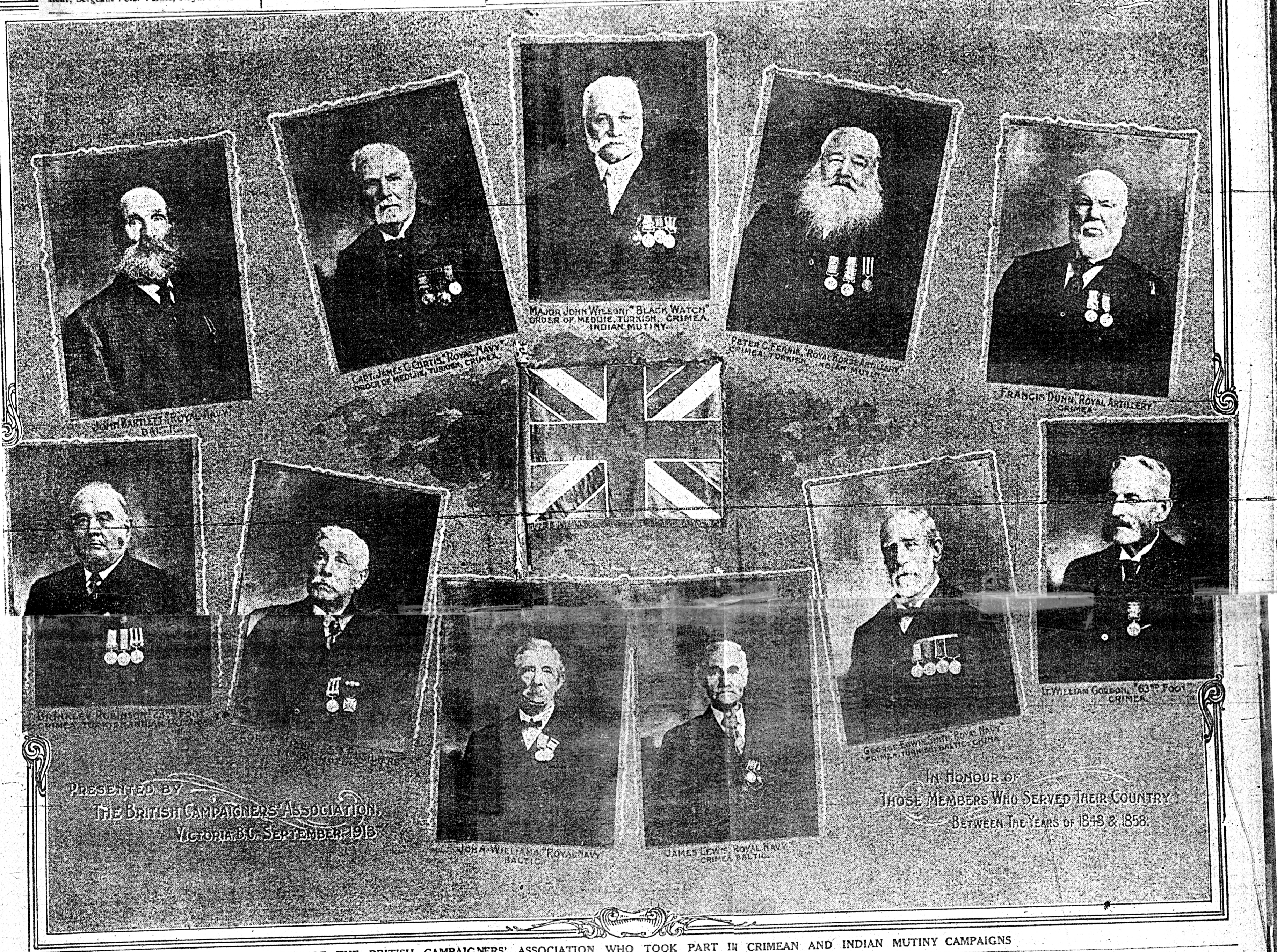
**MAJOR JOHN WILSON**  
Major John Wilson, who, if he could be induced to allow a biographer to tell the tale of his stirring career, would be able to narrate a story replete with incident, served for twenty-eight years in that well-known fighting regiment, the Gallant Forty-Two—the Black Watch—and was with his regiment when it stormed the heights of the Alma, when it fought in the mist at Inkerman and on the ridges of Balaclava. He was with the Highlanders in the capture of Kertsch and Yenikale, and in the trenches before Sevastopol. Then, ordered to China to be sent back to Calcutta, he marched with Sir Colin Campbell's force which relieved Cawnpore and Lucknow, and then, moving northward, took part in the more important struggles which smashed the rebellion. He remained in India after the Mutiny, and while there made three trips into Tibet, penetrating far into the forbidden land and meeting with

**SAW HEAVY BRIGADE CHARGE**  
When the Heavy Brigade charged at Balaclava Major Wilson was marching with his regiment to take up a position. Tennyson has written in spirited verse of the disastrous charge of the Light Brigade, that gallant mistake which General Bosquet epigrammatically described as "Magnificent, but not war"; but poets and painters have not paid the same attention to the gallant, and with more result than that of the Light Brigade, of the charge of the Heavy Brigade. The 300 horsemen pierced the centre of the 2,000 or more Russians to their front, seeming from where the Highlanders were to be engulfed, but the cavalry hacked their way through the Russian masses, and, considering the enormous disparity of the forces, with singularly small loss. The Light Brigade, 500 yards away, saw the Heavy Brigade in danger of being over-

whelmed, but was not permitted to move to its assistance. he told of his experiences, how his horse had been killed under him, and of how he had been taken prisoner. When other cavalry had ridden up, though, from a flank, the Russians who were guarding him had scuttled away and left him. He had then started to make his way back, found a riderless horse and rode in. The Russians had handled him very roughly, tearing his uniform and the cap lines from his jacket. Slowly the remains of the 600—there were 197 of them—drew up on the left of the Highlanders, some mounted, others on foot—"all that was left of them, left of six hundred." One man, a cornet, whose horse had been killed, walked in with his saddle on his head. The Light Brigade charge—albeit the Russian battery was wrecked, the Russian cavalry driven off the field and the infantry induced to fall back in squares—was nevertheless a glorious failure, the Russians being left in charge of the three redoubts and the 12-

I'll see to that," said Lord Clyde, and he proved right. With the other regiments of the Highland Brigade the 42nd was part of Sir Colin Campbell's force which moved to the relief of Lucknow and then drove the rebels northward into Nepal. The massacre of Cawnpore had taken place a few months before and that place was held by Col. Windham, who with 500 men was in an entrenchment at the river, beleaguered by the Gwalior rebels. The force, leaving Windham to hold Cawnpore, moved to the relief of Lucknow, which was relieved, the garrison brought out, and the force then moved back to relieve Cawnpore, where the rebels had seized the station, burned the bungalows and the clothing and stores for the army, and forced Windham and his party into the entrenchment at the river, which they were stoutly defending.

After pushing forward with his convoy of women and children from Lucknow, Sir Colin



MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH CAMPAIGNERS' ASSOCIATION WHO TOOK PART IN CRIMEAN AND INDIAN MUTINY CAMPAIGNS

illery, who was with his battery at Alma, Inkerman, Balaclava and Sevastopol, in the Crimea, and on many a field in the Mutiny; Francis Dunn, Royal Artillery, who was at all four battles in the Crimea and was wounded at Inkerman; Brinkley Robinson, 82nd Regiment, who fought at Sevastopol and in the Mutiny, including Lucknow and the defence of Shahjahanpore; Lieutenant Gordon, of the 63rd Regiment, who was at every engagement in the Crimea; Captain J. D. Curtis, R.N., who was at the capture of Kertsch and Yenikale and reduction of Kinburn, and who had command of the launches of the battleship Nile in the Sea of Azov; John Williams, seaman, who served with him on the Nile in the Crimean campaign; George Edward Smith, seaman, who served throughout the Crimean campaign, the China campaign and the bombardment of Shimotsuki, Japan; James Lewis, seaman, who served in the Baltic and took part in the siege of Sevastopol with the Naval Brigade; and John Bartlett, seaman, who served in the Baltic and was at the bombardment of Svoborg. In addition, Mr. Bury, now at St. Joseph's Hospital, fought in the Crimean campaign, and G. B. Martin, of the Department of Agriculture, also has the medal for the Crimea.

many adventures, of which he refuses to tell. It was as a private in the ranks of the 42nd Highlanders that Major Wilson began his career in 1844, and, after ten years in the ranks, he was promoted to his first commissioned rank, as ensign, in 1854, and, a year later, became a lieutenant. He attained his captaincy in the Mutiny in 1858, and in 1872 the rank of brevet-major. He left the service, after twenty-eight years with the colors, in 1873, and went to Kansas, where for six years he engaged in cattle ranching, and, when the mining excitement in Colorado took place, in 1879, he went to Leadville, where he engaged in mining until 1883, when he removed to San Francisco and engaged in business as a commission agent until 1885, when he came to Victoria and has since resided here. It was in September, 1854, that the heights of Alma were attacked, the 42nd Highlanders being pushed forward to engage the flank of the Russians, and, supported by the 79th and 93rd, they charged up the hill. The British forces had to cross the Alma in the face of the Russian guns and massed infantry on the hills, but the vehemence of the assault carried the heights and the Russian redoubt, and the path lay open to Sevastopol.

whelmed, but was not permitted to move to its assistance. **THE GALLANT SIX HUNDRED** The Highlanders went down and took up the ground amongst the dead and wounded. Major Wilson did not see the charge of the Light Brigade, but he saw the gallant force start on its heroic mistake and the return of the survivors. They started off at a walk, and, some time afterwards, as he was standing to the colors, some horsemen began to come from the valley. Wombwell, the officer who died a few weeks ago in England, was the first of the cavalymen to come from "the valley of death." He had no sword, was bareheaded and much excited, and, as he rolled off his horse, close to where Ensign Wilson stood at the colors of the 42nd, he said: "Thank God, I'm back. The Light Brigade's gone." Major Wilson said, recalling the scene, that soon a few others rode slowly in, and the survivors began to reform on the height. He asked Lieutenant Wombwell what went on, saying that the Highlanders had heard the awful racket and wondered what was going on. He said that they had lost everything. The Light Brigade's gone, he kept repeating. Then

pounder guns they had taken. But the terrible loss incurred by the squadrons, and the glamor thrown over their wild ride by the impressive verses of Lord Tennyson, blinded the general public to the material military value of the two charges—that of the Heavy Brigade and of the Light Brigade—with the result that the determined gallantry shown in the attack of the three leading squadrons of the Heavy Brigade has been comparatively unappreciated. **ORDERED TO INDIA** After the fall of Sevastopol, where he fought through the long montons in the various assaults with the Highlanders, Major Wilson, then a lieutenant, went to Singapore on an auxiliary steamer, his regiment being part of the force ordered to Canton to campaign against China. Meanwhile, during the four months the transport was at sea, going by way of the Cape of Good Hope, the Indian Mutiny had broken out, and the troops were ordered to India. They reached Calcutta in August, 1857, and took up quarters at Fort William to await the arrival of the transports with the other regiments. Lord Clyde met them there. Delhi had fallen, and the Highlanders were eager to get into the field. "Never mind, you'll get lots of fighting,

Campbell went back to attack the 25,000 rebels based on Cawnpore, their centre resting on the town, their left on the Ganges. The women and children had been sent on to Allahabad. The 42nd Highlanders were in the fourth division under Adrian Hope, and they were directed to turn the rebel right, driving them from mound to mound with the bayonet, and the Gwalior rebels were soon in flight, their camp, stores and materials being taken. The mutineers were then driven northward, being attacked and defeated in several places. **THE TAKING OF LUCKNOW** The city of Lucknow stretches five miles on the right bank of the Gumti River, with width from a mile to a mile and a half, a canal enclosing the place on the east and south sides, and bearing away southwest, leaving that side open, intersected by ravines. The rebels in possession after the siege was lifted held the Kaisarbagh Palace and its range of buildings, originally a fort, 400 yards square, the Residency and other places to the Martiniere beyond the canal on the east of the city. They had three lines of defence, the third covering the Kaisarbagh, and mounted a hundred guns.

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