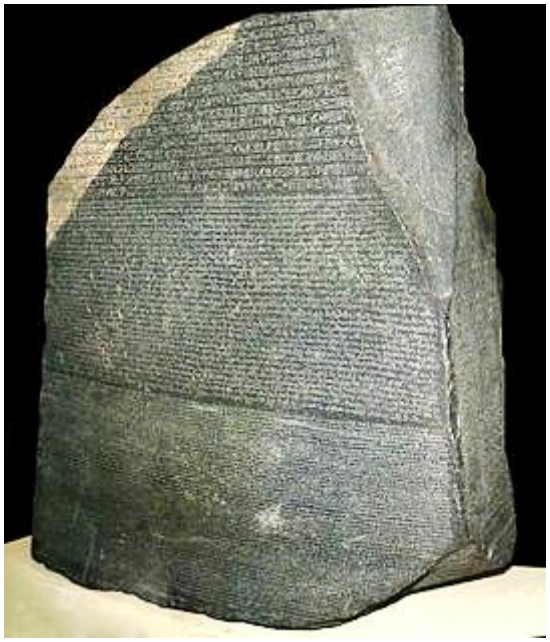
The Rosetta Stone - *compiled by Philip McDouall*



The Rosetta Stone
Material: Granodirite or Black Granite
Size: 114.4 × 72.3 × 27.93 cm (45 × 28.5 × 11 in)
Weight: 760 kilograms (1,680 lb)
Writing: Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, Demotic script, and Greek script
Created: 196 BC

The Rosetta Stone is a granodiorite stele (stone slab) inscribed with a decree issued at Memphis, Egypt, in 196 BC on behalf of King Ptolemy V. The decree appears in three scripts: the upper text is Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, the middle portion Demotic script, and the lowest Ancient Greek. Because it presents essentially the same text in all three scripts (with minor differences), the stone provided the key to the modern understanding of Egyptian hieroglyphs.

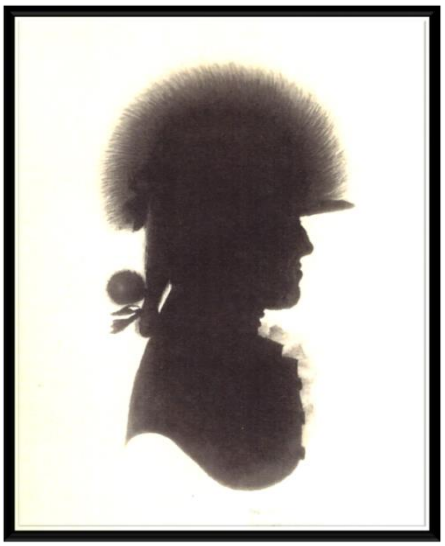
Two McDoualls were involved in the campaign which led to the Rosetta Stone finding its way to the British Museum on permanent display. **Patrick "Peter" MCDOUALL (4 Apr 1769 - 11 Jul 1801)**, Lt.Colonel of the 79th Regiment of Foot, a Freugh descendant, and **Robert McDouall (Mar1774 - 15 Nov 1848)**, Lieutenant in the 8th Regiment of Foot, a kinsman likely of Logan descent who later rose to the rank of Major General.

The Alexandria Campaign

The Napoleonic or French Revolutionary Wars were a series of conflicts fought between France, under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte, and a number of European nations between 1799 and 1815. The early part of the wars spilled over into Egypt, and the Siege of Alexandria, fought between 17 August and 2 September 1801 between French and British forces, was the last action of the Egyptian campaign. The French had occupied Alexandria, a major fortified harbour city on the Nile Delta in northern Egypt, since 2 July 1798, and the garrison there surrendered on 2 September 1801.

The battle between the British and French at Canope on 21 March 1801 resulted in a French retreat. The French under Menou, disheartened by this failure, retired to Alexandria. With Abercrombie's death, John Hely-Hutchinson succeeded as commander of the British forces in August. He intended to lay siege to Alexandria and bottle Menou up. Hutchinson left Coote with 6,000 men, and then sent part of the reserve with Baron Charles De Hompesh to capture **Rosetta** on 13 March 1801. **Lt. Col. Patrick "Peter" MCDOUALL**, Royal Fusiliers, fought in the battle and was wounded.

The British forces then advanced to Cairo, which they reached, after a few skirmishes, in mid-June. Joined by a sizable Turkish force, Hutchinson invaded Cairo, and on 27 June, the 13,000-strong French garrison under General Augustin Daniel Belliard, out-manned and out-gunned, surrendered. General John Moore then escorted them to the coast via **Rosetta**.



Patrick 'Peter' MCDOUALL
Lt. Colonel, 79th Regiment of Foot
1769 - 1801

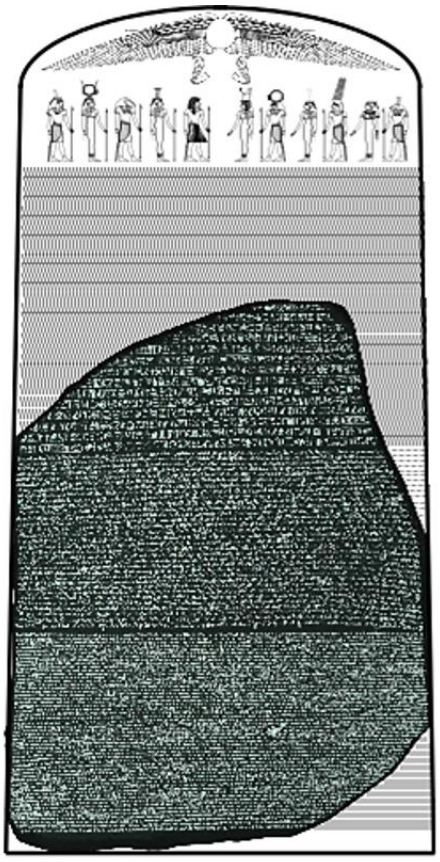
It is a noteworthy coincidence, that another famous soldier from Stranraer, Galloway, fought in the same campaign. Robert McDouall (Mar1774 - 15 Nov 1848), probably of the Logan branch, son of a merchant and magistrate John McDouall, was a Lieutenant in the 8th Regiment of Foot during the Egyptian operation. His later career took him to Canada where he was praised for his strategic skills during the war of 1812. He attained the senior rank of Major General - *read his story in the paper about him.*



Robert MCDOUALL
Major General, CB
1774 - 1848

The Rosetta Stone

After the French surrender, a dispute arose over the fate of French archaeological and scientific discoveries in Egypt. One of the key artifacts was the Rosetta Stone which had been discovered in mid-July 1799 by French scientists of the Institut d'Égypte. Menou refused to hand them over, claiming they belonged to the institute. How exactly the stone came into British hands is disputed. Colonel Tomkyns Hilgrove Turner, who escorted the stone to Britain, claimed later that he had personally seized it from Menou and carried it away on a gun carriage. Turner brought the stone to Britain aboard Egyptienne, landing in February 1802. On 11 March it was presented to the Society of Antiquaries of London. Later it was taken to the British Museum, where it remains to this day. Inscriptions painted in white on the artifact state "Captured in Egypt by the British Army in 1801" on the left side and "Presented by King George III" on the right.



The original design of the stone about 149 cm high

It is inscribed with a decree issued at Memphis, Egypt, in 196 BC on behalf of King Ptolemy V. The decree appears in three scripts: the upper text is Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, the middle portion Demotic script, and the lowest Ancient Greek. Because it presents essentially the same text in all three scripts (with some minor differences), the stone provided the key to the modern understanding of Egyptian hieroglyphs.

The stone is believed to have originally been displayed within a temple, likely at nearby Sais. It was probably moved during the early Christian or medieval period, and was eventually used as building material in the construction of Fort Julien near the town of Rashid (Rosetta) in the Nile Delta.



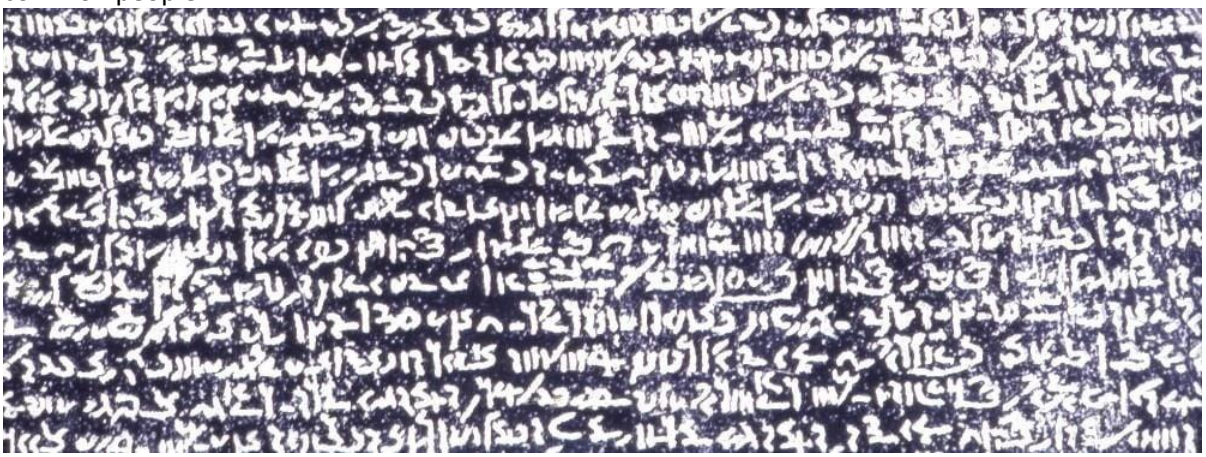
Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone

Carved in Stone

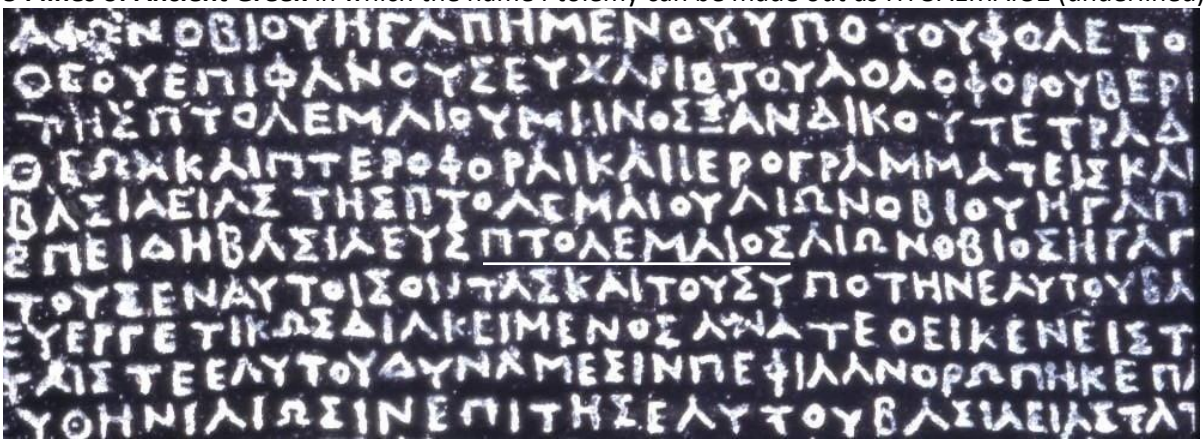
Study of the decree was already under way when the first full translation of the Greek text appeared in 1803. British polymath[1] Thomas Young made early progress by realizing royal names (encased in oval loops called cartouches) were phonetic. French scholar Jean-François Champollion made the definitive breakthrough in 1822 by using his knowledge of Coptic (the latter stage of the Egyptian language) to prove that hieroglyphs were a mix of phonetic and ideographic signs. It took longer still before scholars were able to read Ancient Egyptian inscriptions and literature confidently. The Rosetta Stone was found broken and incomplete. It features **14 lines of hieroglyphic script** including a cartouche featuring the name Ptolemy (written right to left, along with an Egyptian honorific).



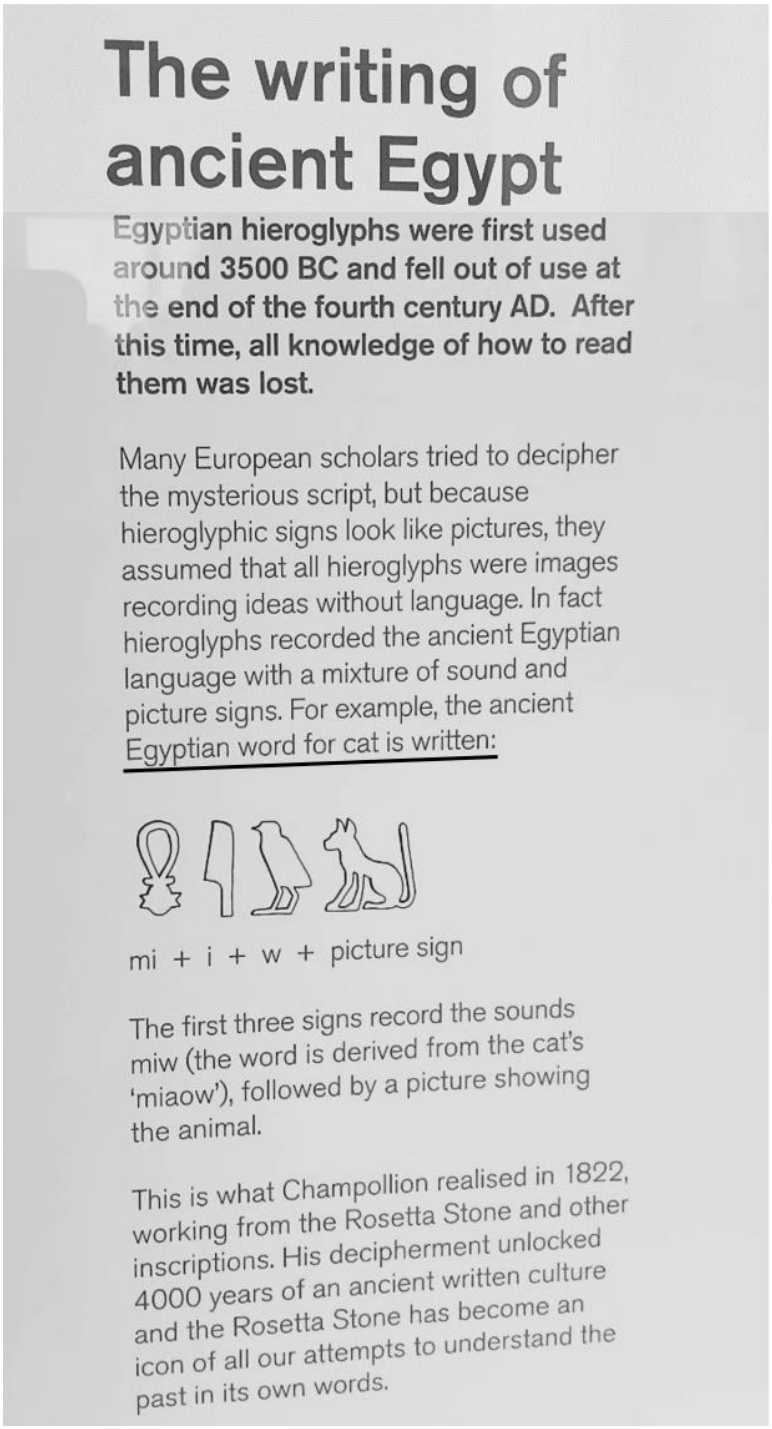
32 lines in Demotic script, a simplified, highly cursive ancient Egyptian writing system used for everyday business, legal, and literary texts from about 650 BC to the 5th century AD. "Demotic" comes from a Greek word meaning "of the common people".



54 lines of Ancient Greek in which the name Ptolemy can be made out as ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΣ (underlined):



[1] A person whose knowledge and skills span many different and unrelated subjects. Famous polymaths include Leonardo da Vinci and Benjamin Franklin.



The writing of ancient Egypt

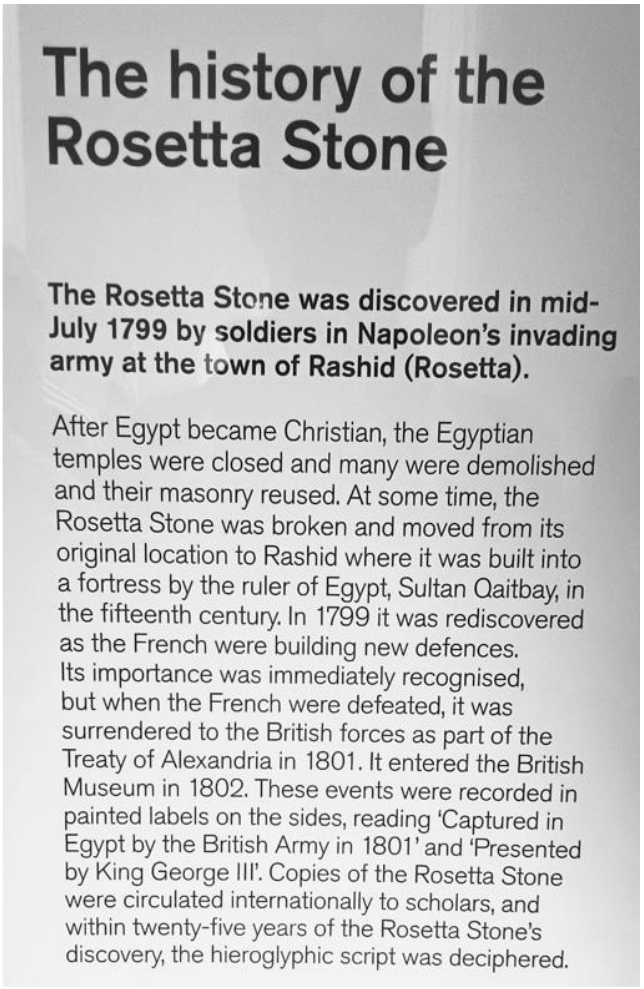
Egyptian hieroglyphs were first used around 3500 BC and fell out of use at the end of the fourth century AD. After this time, all knowledge of how to read them was lost.

Many European scholars tried to decipher the mysterious script, but because hieroglyphic signs look like pictures, they assumed that all hieroglyphs were images recording ideas without language. In fact hieroglyphs recorded the ancient Egyptian language with a mixture of sound and picture signs. For example, the ancient Egyptian word for cat is written:

mi + i + w + picture sign

The first three signs record the sounds miw (the word is derived from the cat's 'miaow'), followed by a picture showing the animal.

This is what Champollion realised in 1822, working from the Rosetta Stone and other inscriptions. His decipherment unlocked 4000 years of an ancient written culture and the Rosetta Stone has become an icon of all our attempts to understand the past in its own words.



The history of the Rosetta Stone

The Rosetta Stone was discovered in mid-July 1799 by soldiers in Napoleon's invading army at the town of Rashid (Rosetta).

After Egypt became Christian, the Egyptian temples were closed and many were demolished and their masonry reused. At some time, the Rosetta Stone was broken and moved from its original location to Rashid where it was built into a fortress by the ruler of Egypt, Sultan Qaitbay, in the fifteenth century. In 1799 it was rediscovered as the French were building new defences. Its importance was immediately recognised, but when the French were defeated, it was surrendered to the British forces as part of the Treaty of Alexandria in 1801. It entered the British Museum in 1802. These events were recorded in painted labels on the sides, reading 'Captured in Egypt by the British Army in 1801' and 'Presented by King George III'. Copies of the Rosetta Stone were circulated internationally to scholars, and within twenty-five years of the Rosetta Stone's discovery, the hieroglyphic script was deciphered.

Placards in the British Museum describing the Rosetta Stone

The Rosetta Stone is a fragment of a larger stele. No additional fragments were found in later searches of the Rosetta site. Owing to its damaged state, none of the three texts is absolutely complete. The top register, composed of Egyptian hieroglyphs, suffered the most damage. Only the last 14 lines of the hieroglyphic text can be seen; all of them are broken on the right side, and 12 of them on the left. The following register of demotic text has survived best; it has 32 lines, of which the first 14 are slightly damaged on the right side. The final register of Greek text contains 54 lines, of which the first 27 survive in full; the rest are increasingly fragmentary due to a diagonal break at the bottom right of the stone.

The stele was erected after the coronation of King Ptolemy V and was inscribed with a decree that established the divine cult of the new ruler. The decree was issued by a congress of priests who gathered at Memphis. The date is given as "4 Xandicus" in the Macedonian calendar and 18 Meshir" in the Egyptian calendar, which corresponds to March 27, 196 BC. The stele is a late example of a class of donation stelae, which depicts the reigning monarch granting a tax exemption to the resident priesthood. Pharaohs had erected these stelae over the previous 2,000 years, the earliest

examples dating from the Egyptian Old Kingdom. In earlier periods, all such decrees were issued by the king himself, but the Memphis decree was issued by the priests, as the maintainers of traditional Egyptian culture. The decree records that Ptolemy V gave a gift of silver and grain to the temples. It also records that there was particularly high Flooding of the Nile in the eighth year of his reign, and he had the excess waters dammed for the benefit of the farmers. In return for these concessions, the priesthood pledged that the king's birthday and coronation days would be celebrated annually, and that all the priests of Egypt would serve him alongside the other gods. The decree concludes with the instruction that a copy was to be placed in every temple, inscribed in the "language of the gods" (hieroglyphs), the "language of documents" (demotic), and the "language of the Greeks" as used by the Ptolemaic government.

Excerpts from the Regimental History of the 8th Regiment of Foot



The Regimental Colours of the 79th Regiment of Foot.
The inclusion of "Egypt" in the badge was granted following the 1801 campaign.

The Battle of Alexandria

In January, 1801, the fleet rendezvoused in Marmorice Bay on the coast of Caramania, in Asia Minor, where it remained until the 23rd of February. During its stay there the Cameron Highlanders were on shore collecting wood and water. When all preparations for the descent upon Egypt were made, the fleet sailed, and dropped anchor in Aboukir Bay on the 1st of March; but from the unfavourable state of the weather it was found necessary to delay the debarkation until the 8th. At 9 o'clock on the morning of that date the troops disembarked under severe fire from the French batteries; but the enemy being quickly repulsed and driven in the direction of Alexandria, a position was selected for the army across the peninsula of that name, at some distance in advance of the place of landing. The period from this date until the 12th was occupied in making the necessary dispositions for an attack and in landing artillery and stores from the fleet. On the 12th the whole army moved forward in a long line extending from the Mediterranean to Lake Mareotis, driving in the French picquets, and arrived within sight of the enemy, who was occupying an advantageous ridge of sand-hills, with his right on Lake Maadie and his left on the sea, and barring the approach to Alexandria.

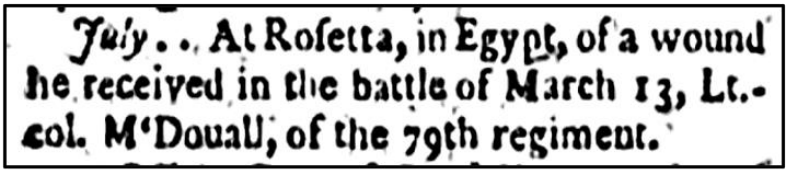
The 79th was brigaded with the 2nd and 50th regiments, under the command of Major-General Lord Cavan. On the morning of the 13th of March this brigade, with Major-General Craddocks' brigade on its right, was directed to attack the enemy's right flank, supported by a corresponding movement on his left and centre by the remainder of the army. The 90th and 92nd Highlanders, forming the advanced guards of the two left columns of attack, met at a short distance from the encampment with the enemy's first line, which offered a spirited resistance, causing a severe loss, and at the same time the enemy's cavalry charged the 90th, which received and repulsed this charge in line with the greatest steadiness. The British then pushed forward and charged the enemy, who was posted behind an elevated ridge of sand, and drove him from his position with the bayonet. The enemy was compelled to retreat, and withdrew, pursued by the British line, for several miles over plains of sand; ultimately he took refuge under the walls of Alexandria.

The loss of the regiment in this action was 5 rank and file killed; **Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick McDowall**, Lieutenants George Sutherland and John Stewart, Volunteer Allan Cameron, Surgeon Egan, and 2 sergeants. 56 rank and file were wounded.

The idea of a renewed attack on the enemy being for the present relinquished, the army retired two miles, and took up a position on some high ground with its right on the sea at an old ruin called Cleopatra's Palace and its left on the Canal of Alexandria and Lake Mareotis. The time between this and the 20th was occupied in strengthening this position by redoubts and entrenchments.

Patrick McDowall's Military Record

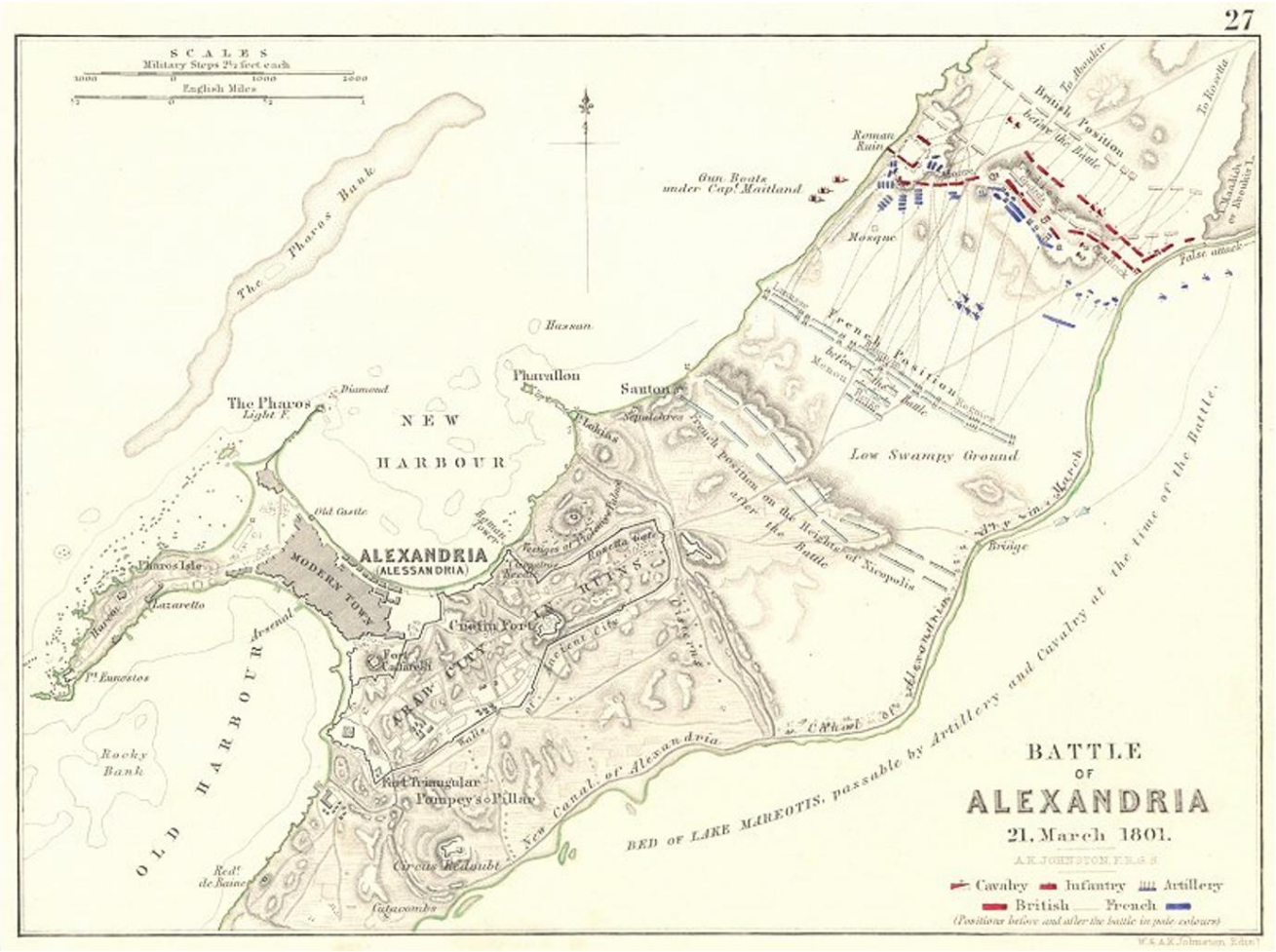
MCDOWALL. Patrick McDowall. He was appointed captain in the 79th on 18th of August, 1793; major, 31st of January, 1794; lieutenant-colonel, 1st of November, 1796. He accompanied the regiment to Holland in 1799, and was present at the battle of Egmont-op-Zee. At the battle of Alexandria on the 13th of March 1801, he was wounded in the leg. He was transferred to Rhodes and 'died in great pain, like an officer and a gentleman' four months later, shortly after his leg was amputated. Anesthetics were not discovered until 1846, and antiseptics in 1867, so surgeries were only carried out as a last resort. They were gruesome and mostly fatal.


July . . At Roſetta, in Egypt, of a wound he received in the battle of March 13, Lt.-col. M'Douall, of the 79th regiment.

The death notice of Patrick McDouall published in the Gentleman's Magazine (The London Gazette) in 1801

Rank.	Name.	Date of Appointment.
Major Commandant ..	Alan Cameron	August 17th, 1793
Major	George Rowley	April 16th, 1794
Captain	Neil Campbell	August 17th, 1793
,, ...	Patrick McDowall ...	,, 18th, 1793
,, ...	Donald Cameron ...	,, 19th, 1793
,, ...	George Carnegie	,, 20th, 1793
Captain-Lieutenant and Captain ...	Archibald McLean ...	,, 17th, 1793
Lieutenant	Archibald McLean ..	,, 17th, 1793
,, ...	Alexander McDonnell ...	,, 18th, 1793
,, ...	Duncan Stewart	,, 19th, 1793
,, ...	John Urquhart	,, 20th, 1793

An excerpt from the history of the 79th Regiment of Foot on its formation.
Later named the 79th Cameron Highlanders.



The Battle of Alexandria – the battle on the 13th March advanced the British forces to those positions occupied on the 21st.