
As Lieutenant Viscount Fincastle, before he had inherited his father’s Earldom, he was posted to India, and became Aide de camp to the Viceroy of India from 1895 to 1897, and served in the Dongola Expedition in 1896 being awarded two medals. In 1897 he served in the Frontier War, Malakand, with the Guides Cavalry, and took part in the action at Landakai, having his horse shot from under him.

During the fighting at Nawa Bali, in Upper Swat, on 17th August 1897, Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Adams proceeded with Lieutenant H. L. S. MacLean and Viscount Fincastle, and five men of the Guides, under a very heavy and close fire, to the rescue of Lieutenant R. T. Greaves, Lancashire Fusiliers, who was lying disabled by a bullet wound and surrounded by the enemy’s swordsmen. In bringing him under cover Lieutenant Greaves was struck by a bullet and killed – Lieutenant MacLean was mortally wounded – whilst the horses of Lieutenant-Colonel Adams and Lieutenant Viscount Fincastle were shot, as well as two troop horses.

Fincastle was gazetted for the Victoria Cross on 9th November 1897, and received his medal from Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle on 28th February 1898.