

Commission of Donovan's father, Dr. James Donovan, as ship's surgeon

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1854

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

FRAGMENT OF A SHELL with silver plate inscribed
 "This fragment of a Russian shell fell on H.M.S. SANSPAREIL.
 "SEBASTOPOL 1854".

Presented by Major General Sir William Donovan,
 K.C.B., late Army Medical Service.

The fragment is part of a Russian shell which,
 during the attack from the sea on Sebastopol on 17 October
 1854, fell on H.M.S. Pareil, near Surgeon James Donovan, R.N.,
 father of Sir William Donovan. The casualties that day on the
 Sanspareil were 11 killed and 59 wounded. In the hull alone
 were as many as 32 shot.

James Donovan, son of Hugh Donovan, Esq., a T.C.D.
 man and Principal of a well known school at Killarney, was
 born in 1800. Educated at Trinity College, he became M.B.,
 Dublin, in 1828.

Doctor James Donovan entered the Royal Navy as
 Assistant Surgeon in 1828 and was employed with the Naval
 Depot on Lake Erie till 1831 when he was nominated a
 supernumerary of the San Josef, 110, flagship at Plymouth.
 In 1832 he was posted for duty with the Royal Marines at
 that station. In 1833 in the Forester he was wrecked among
 Scilly Isles. He joined the Britomart in 1833 and while at
 the Gambia with her acted as Colonial Surgeon. Promoted
 Surgeon 1835. 1836-1837 he served with the Terror bomb
 under Sir George Back on a voyage of discovery to the
 Arctic Regions - medal.

In 1838 near Tarragona in Spain Doctor Donovan
 was again shipwrecked. 1841 - 1842 he served on the Rajah a
 convict ship, Van Diemen's Land, and in 1845 - 1846 on the
 Endymion, 44, in the West Indies.

On the Winchester, 50, he took part in the Burmese
 War of 1852 - medal with clasp.

For his services in the Crimea he was awarded the
 two medals and clasp, Sebastopol.

Dr. Donovan died in 1875.



17 April 1934.

OFFICERS MESS,

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS,

MILLBANK, S.W.1.

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 6181.

TELEGRAMS: MESMIL, CHURTON, LONDON.

My dear Sir William,

Herewith a copy of what the Mess Book contains. It is all we have.

I am sorry to have been so long sending it.

Yours sincerely,

A. G. Foster



Major General Sir William Donovan, K.C.B.,
64 FitzGeorge Avenue,
KENSINGTON, W., 14.

*Received of falling leaves from R. in. C.
from the outside. sent 2 w. 4 w. 4 w.*



By the Commissioners for executing
the Office of Lord High Admiral of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Ireland &c.

To
Dr James Donovan
herely appointed Surgeon
of Her Majesty's Ship the Sans Pareil



We do by virtue
of the Power and Authority to us given hereby constitute
and Appoint you Surgeon

of Her Majesty's Ship the Sans Pareil
authorizing and requiring you forthwith to repair
on board the said Ship and to take charge
of her as Surgeon

And you are properly to officiate in all things
relative to the Duty of your Station strictly
observing and executing the Printed Regulations
and Instructions relative to your department and
being obedient to such Commands as you shall
from time to time receive from your Captain or
other your superior Officers. And for so doing
this shall be your Commission.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the
Office of Admiralty this Twenty Fourth day of
June 1854 in the Eighteenth year
of Her Majesty's Reign.

By Command of their Lordships.
Perborne

Wm. Richard
Audmire