



Lt. General Philip Sandilands (1790–1869-age 79)

Mayor of Hythe, J.P from 1852 to 1854.

Lt. General Philip Sandilands (1790, Fife, Scotland, died Hythe, Kent –1869) was a distinguished military officer and local official who resided in Hythe, Kent. He is most notable for his role in the Battle of Waterloo and his later civic contributions to the town.

Military Career

Battle of Waterloo: Sandilands served in the Royal Artillery as part of Captain Norman Ramsay's troop. After Ramsay was killed and other senior officers were wounded during the battle, Sandilands took command of the troop.

Other Service: His military career included serving at Walcheren (1809) and Malta (1827–1828). He remained with the army of occupation until 1818 and retired on full pay in June 1846.

Civic Roles in Hythe

Following his military retirement, Sandilands became an active figure in local Kent politics and administration:

Mayor of Hythe: He served as the Mayor of Hythe from 1852 to 1854.

Public Official: He held positions as a Justice of the Peace (JP) for both Hythe and the county of Kent and served as a Deputy Lieutenant for Kent.

Extract from newspaper dated 1852 *“On Monday, at the magistrates' clerk's office, before Philip Sandilands, Esq., Mayor, and the Rev. Edward Biron, two soldiers belonging to the 12th depôt were charged by the waggoner of Mr. Finnis, Dover, with having forcibly stopped his master's waggon, demanded a ride, and upon being refused they drew their bayonets and threatened him.—Fined £2, or fourteen days' imprisonment; the fine was immediately paid.”*

Personal Life and Legacy

Caroline Arabella Corbett, born 29th November 1799, Richmond, Surrey, died 19th October 1872, aged 72. They married in 1833 at St Mary Church, Middlesex. They had two sons,

The 1841 census has them living at Blackheath with 2 sons, Philip H Sandilands, age 8, and Edwin Charles, age 3.

Residence: He established his residence at Elm House on Hillside Street in Hythe from 1851 until his death, creating a nurturing environment for his wife and family, who continued to thrive there until she died in 1872.

Death: He died in 1869. His coffin was transported to his funeral on an Artillery gun carriage drawn by twelve horses.

Burial: He is buried with his wife Caroline Arabella (Corbett) at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Saltwood, near Hythe.



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November 6, 1869. THE ARMY AND NAVY GAZETTE, &c.

Lieutenant-General Philip Sandilands died on Saturday last at Hythe, aged 79. He entered the Army in 1806 and served with the expedition to Walcheren. He also served in the campaign of 1815 and was engaged on the 17th of June with the Horse Artillery in covering the retiring movement from Quatre Bras, and on the 18th of June was present at the battle of Waterloo. He had been on full pay as lieutenant-colonel of the Royal Artillery for some years. His commissions bore date as follows: - Second lieutenant, October 4, 1806; lieutenant, February 1, 1808; captain, July 29, 1825; major, June 28, 1838; lieutenant-colonel, April 1, 1846; colonel, June 20, 1854; major-general, October 26, 1858; and lieutenantgeneral, August 24, 1866.

The Hero of Waterloo

The Chaos of Command: At the Battle of Waterloo (June 18, 1815, aged 25 years), Sandilands was a young Lieutenant in the elite Royal Horse Artillery. Amid the smoke and thunder of the 9-pounder guns, his commander, the legendary Captain Norman Ramsay, was killed in action. With other senior officers like Alexander MacDonald and William Brereton also wounded, the weight of command fell suddenly on Sandilands' shoulders. He didn't just survive; he led the troop through the most decisive hours of the battle.

A Warrior's Farewell:

When he passed away in 1869 at the age of 79, Hythe witnessed a spectacle rarely seen today. His coffin, draped in a Union Flag, was placed upon a massive Royal Artillery gun carriage. In a final tribute to his many years of service, the carriage was pulled through the streets to Saltwood Parish Church by a team of twelve horses led by uniformed horsemen.

Resting Place:

He is buried at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Saltwood. Even today, local tradition occasionally sees posies laid at his grave on the anniversary of Waterloo to honour the man who once held the line against Napoleon's forces.

