

Seymour, Frederick Beauchamp Paget (1821-1895)



Admiral Frederick Beauchamp Paget Seymour, 1st Baron Alcester, GCB (12 April 1821 – 30 March 1895) was a British admiral. He was the son of Colonel Sir Horace Beauchamp Seymour MP and a cousin of the 5th Marquess of Hertford. He was a great-grandson of the 1st Marquess of Hertford.

Education at Eton, he entered naval he entered the Royal Navy in 1834 and became a lieutenant in 1832 and served in the Mediterranean and the Pacific, and was for three years was Aide-de-camp to his uncle Sir George Seymour, and was promoted to Commander in 1847. He saw action in the Second Burma, War of 1852-3 when he led the Fusiliers at the storming and capture of the Pegu Pagoda. He commanded the Naval Brigade in New Zealand during the Maori Wars of 1860-61, and was made a Commander of the Bath for this. He served in the West Indies and saw action in the Crimean war.

He is best remembered fur his role in the bombardment of Alexandria on July 11, 1882. Controversy surrounds his possible violation of orders in issuing a twenty-four-hour ultimatum to Egypt's war minister leader Colonel Arab Pasha, to surrender the Fortifications at Alexandria harbour. Gladstone had sent the Seymour's squadron as a

deterrent to Egyptian nationals from further weakening the British backed government of Khedive Tewfik. The action triggered the "Alexandrian Massacres" and the eventual occupation of Egypt on a temporary basis which was to last seventy years.

In 1872, he became a Lord of the Admiralty for two years, and then commander the Channel fleet. He became a Vice Admiral on 31 December 1876, and was created a KCB in June 1877, and was upgraded to a GCB on 24 May 1881. From 1880 to 1883 he was Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet in the Mediterranean. He became an Admiral in May 1882.

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However for his action at Alexandria he was created Baron Alcester, of Alcester in the County of Warwick and was honoured with a parliamentary grant of £25,000, the Freedom of the City of London and a Sword of Honour.

He graduated from Oxford University in 1885 with the degree of honorary Doctor of Civil Laws (D.C.L.) and held the office of Lord of the Admiralty between 1883 and 1885 retiring from the navy in 1886. After his retirement "his genial nature rendered him a favourite in society, while his attention to his dress and personal appearance obtained for him the name of 'The Ocean Swell'.

He died unmarried and without issue and at his death his title became extinct.