

Chapter 30

10 October 2017

British Campaign Medals Awarded to Canadians

While Canadians potentially could be awarded any of the British campaign medals, a few are more common and so are briefly outlined here.

BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDALS TO CANADIANS

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ARMY GOLD MEDAL



TERMS

To commemorate brilliant and distinguished events in which the success of His Majesty's arms had received the royal approbation, the Army Gold Medal was awarded to general officers and such officers as might be recommended. During the War of 1812, The Army Gold Medal was awarded for Chateauguay, Chrystler's Farm, and Fort Detroit.

DESCRIPTION

A small (33-mm diameter), circular gold medal with Britannia seated on the obverse (similar to the first type of the Order of the British Empire). General Officer's medals were large (53-mm). The name of the Battle was engraved on the reverse.

RIBBON

The crimson ribbon is 44-mm wide, with narrow dark blue edge stripes. After receiving the medal, bars would be issued for subsequent battles and after three bars, the officer would receive the Army Gold Cross.

ISSUED

The following awards were made for the War of 1812:

Fort Detroit

- 1 General Officers Gold Medal (MGen Sir Isaac BROCK)
- 10 Field Officer's Gold Medals

Chateauguay

- 2 Field Officer's Gold Medals

Chrystler's Farm Bar

- 7 Field Officer's Gold Medals



The Military General Service Medal, with these three bars, was not approved until 1847!

CRIMEA MEDAL

TERMS

The medal was awarded to those who fought in the Crimea, 1854-1856.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, silver medal, with the date 1854 below a diademed effigy of Queen Victoria. The medal was authorized during the war, which was not expected to last more than one year.

RIBBON

The light blue ribbon is 30-mm wide, with narrow yellow edge stripes (3-mm).



BARs

There were 5 bars: **ALMA**, **BALAKLAVA**, **INKERMANN**, **SEBASTOPOL** and **AZOFF**.

ISSUED

Two medals are known to have been issued to Canadians, and probably others.

Recipients of this medal also received the Turkish Crimean War Medal 1854-56 from the Sultan of Turkey.



¹ Able Seaman William HALL, VC, RN, served in the Crimea and received the medal with the bar SEBASTOPOL.

Lieutenant Alexander Robert DUNN, VC, received his VC at the Charge of the Light Brigade and received the medal with the four bars (Sebastopol, Inkermann, Balaklava and Alma). Dunn's medals shown above include the VC, Crimea Medal, Sultan of Turkey's Crimean War Medal and the Abyssinian Medal.

TURKISH CRIMEAN MEDAL 1854-56

TERMS



Awarded to allied military personnel involved in the Crimea War between 1854 and 1856. All recipients of the Crimea Medal receive this medal.

OBVERSE

The Ottoman Sultan's tughra (equivalent to the Royal Cypher) with the Muslim calendar year of 1271 on all versions.

REVERSE

A cannon with four flags to its rear. The flag to the fore on the second from the left depicts the country to which the medal was intended. The inscription in the exergue reads 'Crimea 1855' for the British (Canadian) issue. The French

medal has 'La Crimée 1855 and the Sardinian issue has 'La Crimea 1855' in exergue.

NOTE

Since British medals have the Royal Cypher on the back, it was common for this medal to be worn with the reverse (4 flags) showing as the obverse. In the photo shown here, clearly the Reverse was being used as the obverse as the fold in the medal is seen on the Obverse.

MOUNTING

The ribbon goes through a steel ring which is attached to the medal by a smaller silver ring.

RIBBON

The 30-mm wide ribbon is dark crimson watered dark green edges (which in most photos looks black).

ISSUED

Able Seaman William Hall and Lieutenant Alexander Dunn, both Canadian Victoria Cross winners in the Crimea, received this medal. Dunn's Victoria Cross was won in the "Charge of The Light Brigade".

INDIAN MUTINY MEDAL 1857-1858

TERMS

This medal was issued to the troops engaged against the mutineers and to all persons who had borne arms or had been under fire.

DESCRIPTION

A silver, circular medal, 36-mm in diameter, with a diademed effigy of Queen Victoria, and the legend **VICTORIA REGINA**, on the obverse.

RIBBON

The 32-mm wide ribbon has five equal stripes, white, scarlet, white, scarlet, and white.

BARS

There were 5 bars to this medal: DELHI, DEFENCE OF LUCKNOW, RELIEF OF LUCKNOW, LUCKNOW, and CENTRAL INDIA.

ISSUED

Three medals are known to have been issued to Canadians: Able Seaman William Hall, VC and Surgeon Herbert Taylor Reade, VC, CB.; Major (later Major-General Sir John Eardley Wilmot Inglis, KCB.²



² AB William HALL, VC, RN, Captain of the foretop of the **HMS Shannon** received the VC and this medal with bars RELIEF OF LUCKNOW and LUCKNOW. Photo from the Citadel Museum in Halifax only shows the bar Sebastopol but all photos of him show two bars for the Crimea medal. Surgeon (later Surgeon-General) Herbert Taylor READE, VC, CB, QHP, 61st Regiment of Foot, received the VC and this medal with the bar DELHI.

ABYSSINIAN WAR MEDAL

TERMS



Awarded for service between 04 October 1867 and 19 April 1868 to personnel who participated in the 1868 Expedition to Abyssinia.

OBVERSE

The diademed head of Queen Victoria is in the centre of the obverse. Two circles surround the medal with nine ornate triangles between the two circles and the word ABYSSINIA spelled out between the triangles.

REVERSE

Central shield left blank for the recipient's name to be engraved surrounded by a laurel wreath.

RIBBON

A crimson ribbon 30-mm wide with narrow white edges.

MOUNTING

This is an unusual British Medal with regard to the mounting. A simple double claw attaches to the top of the medal with a ball on it. A crown is attached to the top of the claw's ball and the top of the crown is attached to a large ring through which the ribbon passes.

ISSUED

Lieutenant Alexander Robert DUNN, VC, a Canadian, received this medal.



ASHANTEE MEDAL

TERMS

Awarded to British, Colonial and Allied Native Forces deployed against the arm of the Ashanti King Koffee Kalkalli during the 3rd Anglo-Ashanti War which lasted from 1873 to 1874 and was led by General Garnet Wolseley (later 1st Viscount Wolsely, KP, GCB, OM, GCMG, VD, PC) who served in Canada during the Riel Rebellion.

OBVERSE

The veiled and diademed head of Queen Victoria with the inscription around the edge VICTORIA REGINA.

REVERSE

A bush fighting scene between British and Ashanti inspired by the campaign.

CLASP

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RIBBON

A 30-mm wide yellow ribbon with black edges and two narrow black central stripes.

ISSUED

Colonel Charles Walker Robinson, CB, the son of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Bart, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, was born in Toronto on 03 April 1836. He received this medal plus the medal and clasp for Indian Mutiny, the medal and clasp for Zulu War and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB).



SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL (1877-1879)
Zulu War Medal (1879)

TERMS



The medal was instituted in 1879 to be awarded to members of the British Army and Royal Naval Brigade involved in a series of South African tribal wars between 1877 to 1879, but most notably for the Anglo-Zulu War

OBVERSE

The Young Head portrait of Queen Victoria wearing a coronet with the words around the edge VICTORIA (left side) and REGINA (right side).

REVERSE

A lion, half-crouching watchfully, behind a protea bush, with the date 1853 in exergue.

CLASP

A clasp bearing the date or dates of the year or years in which the recipient actually served. ZULU WAR CLASP - 1879

RIBBON

A 32-mm wide golden yellow ribbon with dark blue stripes (5-mm wide) set 3-mm from each edge and thin dark blue stripes (1-mm) set 3-mm from these blue stripes.

DATES

In 1854, Queen Victoria had approved a South Africa Medal to members of the British Army who had served in the campaigns of 1835-1836, 1846-1847 or 1850- 1853 on the Eastern Frontier of the Cape Province. In 1880, it was decided that this medal, dated 1853 as noted in the description of the reverse, should be awarded to British military personnel who served between September 1877 and December 1879 including the Anglo-Zulu war.

ISSUED

Colonel Charles Walker Robinson, CB, the son of Sir John Beverley Robinson, Bart, Chief Justice of Upper Canada, was born in Toronto on 03 April 1836. He received this medal and the Medal and clasp for Indian Mutiny, the Medal and clasp for Ashantee War and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB).

INDIA GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL 1909 - 1935

TERMS

The medal was issued for specific engagements, while serving with the British and Indian armies in India between 1909 and 1935. The Royal Air Force was included for award of this medal in 1925.

DESCRIPTION

A circular, silver medal, 36-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

a) The crowned effigy of King George V in coronation robes facing left with two circles around the edge and inside the circles the words: GEORGIUS KISAR-I-HIND (the I-HIND is on the left side)

b) There was also an uncrowned King Edward VII in coronation robes facing left with the words: EDWARDVS VII KISAR-I-HIND.

c) There was a King George V in coronation robes facing left with two circles around the edge and inside the circles the words: GEORGIUS. V. D. G. BRITT. OMN. REX. ET. INDIAE. IMP.



REVERSE

The Fort at Jamrud with mountains in the background, below is a tied branch of oak and laurel with the word INDIA above.

RIBBON

The green ribbon is 32-mm wide and has a wide dark blue centre stripe.

BARS

There were 12 bars. Baker's medal had the bar Waziristan 1925.

ISSUED

³



³ Flight Lieutenant John Baker received this medal and also received the DFC at the time - later Air Marshal Sir John Walkeling Baker, GBE, KCB, MC, DFC.

INDIA GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL 1935-1939

TERMS



The medal was issued for specific engagements, while serving with the British and Indian armies in India. This medal replaced the IGSM 1909-1936 (GV Medal).

DESCRIPTION

A circular, silver medal, 36-mm in diameter.

OBVERSE

The crowned effigy of King George VI facing left with the legend:
GEORGIVS VI G:BR:OMN:REX ET INDIAE IMP:

REVERSE

A tiger, with raised right front paw.

RIBBON

The green ribbon is 32-mm wide, and has a grey/sand-coloured centre, 16-mm wide, flanked by two thin red stripes.

BARS

There were 2 bars: NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1936-1937
NORTH WEST FRONTIER 1937-1939.

ISSUED

One medal is known to have been issued to a Canadian:
Lieutenant (Later Brigadier) Dollard Menard, DSO, GOQ, CD



Lieutenant Menard served with the Indian Army after graduating from Royal Military College, Kingston. He received the medal with bar NORTHWEST FRONTIER 1937-1939.

DISCONTINUED

This medal was discontinued after 1939.