

Chapter 21

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BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDALS

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MILITARY GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL (1793 - 1814)

TERMS

The medal was issued to any rank present at any battle commemorated, who applied for the medal. In all, 29 bars were awarded to this British medal and the three listed were awarded to Canadians for action in Canada.



BARS

FORT DETROIT (16 August 1812) BGen Issac Brock attacked Fort Detroit and the garrison surrendered.

CHATEAUGUAY (26 October 1813) Americans tried to capture Montreal but were surprised by a British force under command of LCol Charles de Salaberry, CB and were routed.

CHRYSTLER'S FARM (11 November 1813) The Americans again tried to capture Montreal and this time were defeated at Chrystler's Farm by LCol Morrison, ending the American attempts to invade of Lower Canada.

Plus 26 More Bars (29 bars in total)

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

The obverse shows a diademed effigy of Queen Victoria, facing left and the legend: **VICTORIA REGINA** with the date **1848** at the bottom.

REVERSE

The reverse depicts Queen Victoria, standing on a dais, crowning the kneeling Duke of Wellington with a wreath of laurel. A diminutive representation of the British lion crouches beside the dais. Around the top half of the circumference is the inscription: **TO THE BRITISH ARMY**, and **1783-1814** appears in exergue.

MOUNTING

A plain, straight, swivelling suspender is attached to the medal with a double-toe claw.

RIBBON

The crimson ribbon is 32-mm wide, with dark blue (3-mm) border stripes.

NAMING

The recipient's name appears in large Roman capitals.

DATES

The medal was authorized on 01 June 1847, thirty-four years after the events it commemorated.



¹



¹ Medals of Lieutenant Colonel Charles-Michel d'Irumberry de Salaberry, CB, who, in October 1813, at Chateauguay, intercepted and routed the American troops who had been advancing on Montreal under General Hampton. Medals in Canadian War Museum and include the Army Gold Medal, CB and Military General Service Medal with bar Chateauguay.

**ISSUED
908 Medals**

Bar	Upper Canada Militia	Lower Canada Militia	Indians	41st Foot	49th Foot	89th Foot	Others	Total
Fort Detroit	230	0	18	56	01	0	10	315
Chateauguay	1	251	82	0	0	0	5	339
Chrystler's Farm	28	35	11	0	63	65	9	211
Fort Detroit & Chateauguay	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Fort Detroit & Chrystler's Farm	1	1	3	0	1	0	2	8
All 3 Bars	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Fort Detroit & Other Bars	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	7
Chateauguay & Other Bars	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other Bars (x)	0	0	0	0	0	20	1	21
Totals	260	289	118	62	65	85	29	908

(x) = Mainly Royal Artillery and Royal Newfoundland Fencibles

25,650 Military General Service Medals were issued with 29 different bars including the three Canadian bars.

GENERAL SERVICE MEDAL (1866 - 1870)

TERMS

The medal was awarded to members of the Imperial and Canadian Forces who had taken part in the suppression of the Fenian Raids and Riels' First Rebellion, the latter being generally referred to as the Red River Expedition.

Because the medal was not issued until 1899, it was awarded only if applied for and the recipient must have:

- (a) Been on active service in the field; or
- (b) Served as a guard at any point where an attack from the enemy was expected; or
- (c) Been detailed for some specific service or duty.

BARs

FENIAN RAID 1866

Fenians is the name of the old Irish National Militia. After the Civil War in the USA, the American Fenians were bolstered by civil war mercenaries. In need of something to occupy this large force, John O'Neil crossed the Niagara River, captured Fort Erie and made his headquarters at Limeridge. The Fenians defeated a unit of the Canadian Militia at Ridgeway, but withdrew to the USA when a stronger force was sent to the area. President Johnson had many of the Fenians arrested.

FENIAN RAID 1870

On 26 May 1870, O'Neil again crossed the border near Franklin Vermont, but was forced back quickly and again arrested.

RED RIVER 1870

Colonel Garnet Wolseley led an expedition to Fort Gary leaving Toronto on 14 May and reaching Fort Gary on 24 August.

DESCRIPTION

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



OBERVERSE



The obverse shows a diademed and veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, wearing the Order of the Garter, facing left, and the legend: **VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX.**

REVERSE

The reverse displays the red ensign of Canada, floating with the breeze, surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves and surmounted by a ribbon on a scroll bearing the word **CANADA.**

MOUNTING

A plain, straight, swivelling suspender is attached to the medal with a double-toe claw.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 32-mm wide and consists of three equal stripes: red, white, and red. (The same ribbon used for the 1943 Canada Medal.)

NAMING

The recipient's name, service number, rank, and unit were indented, impressed or engraved on the rim.

DATES

The medal was authorized in January 1899, twenty-nine years after the last event it commemorated.

ISSUED

There were **17,644** of the medals awarded, always with bars. Of these, **approximately** 15,300 were awarded to Canadian Units.

These numbers from John Thyen who thoroughly reviewed the records.

One Bar

11,221	Fenian Raid 1866
4,510	Fenian Raid 1870
355	Red River 1870

Two Bars

1,411	Fenian Raid 1866 and Fenian Raid 1870
120	Fenian Raid 1866 and Red River 1870
15	Fenian Raid 1870 and Red River 1870

All Three Bars

4	British Forces
8	Canadian
<hr/>	
17,644	TOTAL

EGYPTIAN MEDAL (1884 - 1885)

TERMS

The medal was awarded to members of the army and navy who took part in the Egyptian Campaigns between 1882 and 1889. The medal has 13 bars and was also awarded without the bar. The Canadian boatmen were awarded the medal with the bars: **THE NILE 1884-85** and a few also received the medal with **KIRBEKAN** bar.

BARS

THE NILE 1884-85

The bar was awarded to those who served south of Assuan on or before 7 March 1885 as part of the expedition to relieve General Gordon, then under siege at Kartoum. Many Canadian Boatmen qualified for this bar.

KIRBEKAN

This bar was awarded to those members of the expedition to relieve Gordon who actually reached Khartoum, and was only awarded together with THE NILE 1884-85 bar. The Canadians who received this bar were under the command of Lord Wolseley, who had commanded the Red River Expedition of 1870.

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

A diademed, veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, faces left, and the legend: **VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX.**

The same at the North West Canada Medal.

REVERSE

The sphinx is depicted on a pedestal with the word **EGYPT** above. There was no date on the Canadian medal, but earlier medals to the British Army had the date **1882** in exergue.



MOUNTING

A plain, straight suspender attaches to the medal with a double-toe claw.

RIBBON



The ribbon is 32-mm wide, and consists of five equal stripes: blue, white, blue, white, and blue.

NAMING

The recipient's name is impressed on the rim in sloping capitals.

DATES

The Egyptian Medal was authorized on 5 November 1884. In 886, 377 Canadian civilian boatmen, their 7 officers and 8 wheelmen, were each awarded the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star for their services during Lord Wolseley's expedition to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum.

ISSUED

There were 392 medals to the Canadian Voyageurs with bar THE NILE, of which 46 also received the KIRBEKAN Bar.

CONTINGENT	MEDAL & "THE NILE 1884-85" Bar	"KIRBEKAN" Bar Added
Caughnawaga	56	3
Manitoba	88	14
Three Rivers	41	1
Ottawa	169	25
Peterborough	15	1
Sherbrooke	6	0
Sydney	1	1
Hospital Sergeant	1	0
Officers	7	1
Wheelmen	8	0

EXAMPLES

Boatman H. CHAPMAN, Manitoba Contingent

Boatman John B. OLSEN, Ottawa Contingent (Kirbekan Bar)

Medals were on display at the Glenbow Museum, Calgary

KHEDIVE'S BRONZE STAR

(Awarded by Egypt not by Great Britain)

TERMS

The Khedive (ruler) of Egypt, Tewfik Mahommed, awarded this medal to all who were awarded the Egyptian Medal. There was one bar to the medal but no Canadian received the bar. While this is officially a "foreign" medal, it is included here as it is seen in all groups containing the Egyptian Medal.

DESCRIPTION

A bronze, 5-pointed star, 48-mm across.

OBVERSE

The obverse shows an annulus with the legend **EGYPT 1884-86** above and Arabic inscription below. The head of the Sphinx is centred, with three pyramids in the background. This was the medal awarded to the Canadian Boatmen, but subsequent medals had the dates 1882 or 1884 and one had a star on it, undated.

REVERSE

A crown, surmounted by a star and crescent and the interlaced letters TM appear on the reverse.

MOUNTING

A small ring is attached to the medal between the top two points. On the ornamented bronze bar is a crescent with a star in the middle of the crescent. At the bottom of the crescent is another small ring. The medal ring and bar ring are joined by a third, small ring.

RIBBON

The dark blue ribbon is 38-mm wide.

DATES

The award was authorized on 5 November 1884, and was issued unnamed.

ISSUED

Canadians received 312 bronze stars (392 were entitled to the Star but some never received it and only received the Egyptian Medal).



NORTHWEST CANADA MEDAL

TERMS



The medal was awarded to soldiers taking part in the suppression of the Riel Rebellion of 1885, but only to those who served west of Port Arthur.

The North West Mounted Police were excluded from receiving the medal until 1900 when the medals were finally awarded to members of the NWMP who served in the campaign. A grant of 320 acres of land and script of \$80 were also awarded to the recipients.

BAR

SASKATCHEWAN Awarded to all who took part in any or all of the three main encounters during the rebellion. These took place along the Saskatchewan River, the Fish River, and the battle at Batoche.

(BATOCHÉ) Medals have been found with the **unofficial** bar for the battle of Batoche but only one bar, Saskatchewan, was officially awarded.

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

A diademed and veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, facing left, with the legend: **VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX.**

(Identical to the Egyptian Medal.)

REVERSE



The legend: **NORTH WEST / 1885 / CANADA** appears in three lines within a wreath of maple leaves.

MOUNTING

A plain, straight, suspender is attached to the medal with a double-toe claw.

RIBBON

The slate grey (blue) ribbon is 32-mm wide, with crimson (13-mm wide) stripes 3-mm from each edge.

NAMING

The medal was issued unnamed but a considerable number were named locally.

DATES

The medal was authorized on 24 July 1885, for issue on 18 September 1885. Authorization for issue to the NWMP was in 1900.

ISSUED

5,650 Medals issued (16 of them being British Officers)
1,753 Saskatchewan Bars

541 NWMP Medals
400 Medals delivered to Canada for the NWMP in March 1887
163 Medals and Clasps distributed in 1888 to members of the NWMP who were "under fire". These medals were all named.
35 Medals and Clasps distributed to the crew of the Steamer *Northcoate*. (4 returned and 1 of these later reissued) December 1887
- these were not NWMP medals
8 Medals and Clasps distributed around 1888 making a total of 171 Medals and Clasps (7 Officers, 164 NCOs) issued to the NWMP "who were under fire". These medals were named.
100 Medals delivered to Canada for the NWMP and for the Prince Albert Volunteers who accompanied Crozier's Mounties to Duck Lake on 26 March 1885. These medals had no bars and were unnamed. Some of the 100 medals were for re-issue to members who had lost their medals.
25 Medals delivered to Canada for the NWMP, June 1891
359 Medals issued to the NWMP in 1903
An Order in Council passed in 1900 to allow those members of the NWMP not "under fire" to receive the Medal. It took another two years (1902) for them to receive their unnamed medals.
11 Medals issued to the RCMP between 1926 and 1945
59 Civilian members of the Transport Service were denied the medal until April 1945 when an Order in Council finally granted the medal to the surviving members of the Transport Service. A total of 59 names appear on the list of the medals distributed.

Thus if you add the 163 issued to the NWMP in 1888, plus the 8 additional medals you have the 171 listed in a 2 June 1920 memo for the Commissioner of the RCMP. That 171 added to the 359 issued around 1902 plus the 11 further medals to the NWMP between 1926 and 1945 brings the **Medals to the NWMP** to: 541 (171 of them known to have a clasp).

NWMP on Strength at the start of the rebellion	920
20 died, 135 deserted and 47 were dismissed	-20
Still Eligible (20 to 40 questionable in this group)	718

QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL

TERMS



The medal was awarded to all troops who served in South Africa between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902 (during the Boer War).

BARS

There are twenty-six bars to the medal with the ones awarded to Canadians most often being:

CAPE COLONY Awarded to troops serving in Cape Colony between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902;

ORANGE FREE STATE Awarded to troops serving in Orange River Colony any time from 28 February 1900 to 21 May 1902;

JOHANNESBURG Awarded to those troops who, on 29 May 1900, were north of an east and

west line through Klip River Station and east of a north and south line through Krugersdorp Station;

BELFAST Awarded to troops who, on 26 or 27 August 1900, were east of a north and south line drawn through Wonderfontein, and west of a north and south line through Dalmanutha Station, and north of an east and west line through Carolina;



TRANSVAAL Awarded to those troops serving in the Transvaal at any time between 24 May 1900 and 31 May 1902, who receive no other clasp for action in the Transvaal;

NATAL Awarded to all troops in Natal between 11 October 1899 and 11 June 1900;

DRIEFONTEIN Awarded to troops with Army Headquarters and LGen French's column which advanced from Poplar Grove on 10 March 1900;

SOUTH AFRICA 1901 Awarded to those not eligible for the King's Medal though they had served at the front between 1 January and 31 December 1901;

SOUTH AFRICA 1902 Awarded to those not eligible for the King's Medal though they served at the front between 1 January and 31 May 1902.

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

The obverse shows a crowned and veiled effigy of Queen Victoria, facing left, with the legend: **VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX.**

REVERSE

Britannia is depicted holding the Union Flag in her left hand and a laurel wreath in her right hand. In the right background are troops marching to the coast and in the left background are two men-of-war. Around the top are the words:

SOUTH AFRICA.

The first medals, awarded to the Lord Strathcona's Horse, bore the dates 1899-1900. The dates were removed from subsequent medals because the war went beyond 1900. Some medals still show the 'ghost' of 1899-1900.



MOUNTING

A plain, straight swivelling suspender attached to the medal with a double-toe claw.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 32-mm wide, and consists of five stripes: red (5-mm), dark blue (5-mm), orange centre, dark blue (5-mm), and red (5-mm).

DATES

The medal was authorized in 1900 and awarded to all who served in South Africa between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902.

NAMING

Naming is in indented block or sloping capitals (e.g. 4 RSM J. HYNES LD. STRATHCONA'S H:)

ISSUED

There were 3,860 medals awarded to Canadians. Fifty of the 418 presented to the Lord Strathcona's Horse on 15 February 1901 are known to have the dates 1899-1900 on the reverse. As many as 300 may have had the dates.

EXAMPLES

Sergeant L. INGRAM, 2 RCR from Hnaua, Manitoba received the maximum 9 bars to his SA Medal: Paardeburg, Dreifontein, Johannesburg, Defence of Kimberley, Relief of Kimberley, Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal and South Africa 1902; the latter 2 bars when he transferred to 2 CMR.

Canada's four Victoria Cross Winners in South Africa

Lieutenant E.W. TURNER, VC DSO, RC Dragoons
Lieutenant E.J.G. HOLLAND, VC, RCD
Lieutenant H.Z.C. COCKBURN, VC, RC Dragoons
Sergeant A.H.L. RICHARDSON, VC, LSH

OTHER QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA BARS

RHODESIA Troops in Rhodesia between 11 October 1899 and 17 May 1900.



RELIEF OF MAFEKING All troops under Colonel Mahon who marched from Barkly West on 4 May 1900 and all troops under Colonel Plumber's command between 11 October 1899 and 17 May 1900.



DEFENCE OF KIMBERLEY Troops in the garrison of Kimberley between 14 October 1899 and 15 February 1900.



TALANA Troops under LGen Symon's command on 20th October 1899 who were north of an east and west line drawn through Waschbank Station.



DEFENCE OF LADYSMITH Troops in Ladysmith between 3 November 1899 and 28 February 1900.



BELMONT Troops under LGen Lord Methuen north of Witteputs on 23 November 1899.



MODDER RIVER Troops under LGen Lord Methuen's command that were north of Honey Nest Kloor (exclusive) and south of the Mageerfontein ride (exclusive) on 8 November 1899.



ELANDSLAAGTE Troops at Elandslaagte on 21 October 1899.



TUGELA HEIGHTS All troops of the Natal Force north of an east and west line through Chieveley Station between 14 and 27 February 1900.



RELIEF OF KIMBERLEY Troops under LGen French who marched from Klip Drift on 15 February 1900 and the troops under LGen Kelly-Kenny who were within 7,000 yards of Klip Drift on 15 February 1900.



RELIEF OF LADYSMITH Troops in Natal north of and including Estcourt between 15 December 1899 and 28 February 1900.



WEPENER Troops engaged in the defence of that place between 9 April 1900 and 25 April 1900.



DEFENCE OF MAFEKING Troops in the garrison of Mafeking between 13 October 1899 and 17 May 1900.



LAING'S NEK Troops of the Natal Field Force employed in operations and north of an east and west line through Newcastle between 2 and 9 June 1900.



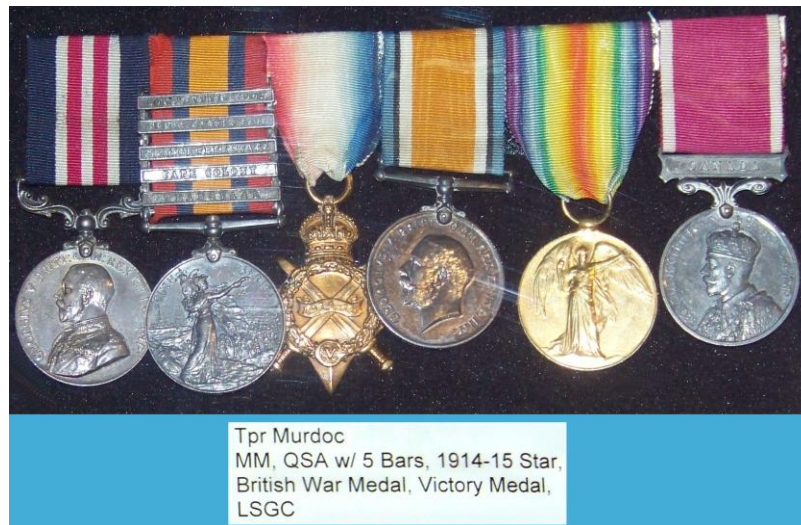
DIAMOND HILL Troops who on 11 or 12 June 1900 were east of a north and south line drawn through Silverton Siding and north of an east and west line through Vlakfontein.



WITTEBERGEN Troops inside a line drawn from Harrismith to Bethlehem, thence to Senekal and Clocolan, along the Basuto border, and back to Harrismith, between 1 and 19 July 1900.



2



² Trooper John Murdock, MM, Lord Strathcona's Horse showing reverse of Queen's South Africa Medal – LSH(RC) Museum, Calgary, Alberta

KING'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL

TERMS



The King's South Africa Medal was awarded to all troops who served in South Africa on or after 01 January 1902, and completed 18 months service before 01 June 1902. This medal was never issued alone but always in conjunction with the Queen's Medal.

BARS

SOUTH AFRICA 1901

Awarded for service during in 1901 towards the required service of 18 months;

SOUTH AFRICA 1902

Awarded to those who served during

1902.

Canadians were almost always awarded the medal and both bars, although it was possible to receive the medal with only the 1902 bar.

DESCRIPTION

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

OBVERSE

The Obverse shows King Edward VII, in Field Marshal's uniform, facing left with the legend: **EDWARDVS VII REX IMPERATOR.**

REVERSE

Britannia is depicted holding the Union Flag in her left hand and a laurel wreath in her right hand. In the right background are troops marching to the coast and in the left background are two men-of-war. Around the top are the words: **SOUTH AFRICA.**

MOUNTING

A plain, straight, swivelling suspender is attached to the medal with a double-toe claw.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 32-mm wide, and consists of three equal stripes (left to right): light green, white, and orange.

DATES

The medal was authorized in 1902.

NAMING

Indented block or sloping capitals were used for the recipient's name.

ISSUED

There were 195 medals to Canadians:

- 133 Canadian Scouts
- 15 Canadian Mounted Rifles
- 16 Lord Strathcona's Horse
- 31 Others

NOTE Approximately 200 more Canadians would have received this medal because they returned to South Africa for a second tour but due to the long sea voyages, they did not get the required 18 months service and only received the SOUTH AFRICA 1901 and/or the SOUTH AFRICA 1902 bars to their Queen's South Africa Medal. Those Canadians that did receive the King's South Africa medal were troops who remained in South Africa and transferred to units (e.g. LSH to Canadian Scouts or to the South African Constabulary / RCA to 2 Canadian Mounted Rifles or to Canadian Scouts).³



³ Poole Gabot, Alberta Mounted Rifles – South Africa pair – first medal is Northwest Canada – displayed at the Glenbow Museum, Calgary Alberta