

THE QUEEN'S CHOCOLATE



Chocolates from Queen Victoria at Christmas 1899

At Christmas 1899, the British troops in South Africa all received chocolates from Queen Victoria. The box in which they were housed was rectangular and metal with a portrait of Queen Victoria, a crown and the cypher 'VRI' and 'South Africa 1900' on the lid. The lid is mainly red with some blue and a gold coloured border.

On receipt, many of the troops promptly sent them home unopened where they became treasured family souvenirs.

The huge quantities of chocolate required were made by Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree whose names were on the chocolate they supplied ¹.

Ghandi notes that being civilians and unpaid volunteers, the members of the Indian Bearer Corps were not considered eligible to receive the Queen's South Africa medal or the Queen's Chocolate ² ³.

¹ For details, the reader is referred to "The Story of the Queen's Chocolate Tin" Lenaid Kebair, Private Publication, Durban, 1997.

² Collected Works of Gandhi Vol. 2. No.120: 339 LETTER TO COLONIAL SECRETARY dated 22 February 1900

³ The Indian Bearer Corps finally was awarded the the Queen's South Africa medal [see on this site: Royeppen: Leader Manikum Royeppen (Numismatics) & Booth: Lancelot Parker Booth (Research Notes)]