

QSA curiosities WO 100.384

SIR ABE BAILEY AND HIS ANGLO-BOER WAR CAMPAIGN MEDALS

Sir Abraham Bailey (* 1864 – † 1940), 1st Baronet KCMG was a South African diamond tycoon, politician, financier, and cricketer.

PERSONALIA:

- Edward VII (* 1841 – † 1910) King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India
- Richard Burdon Haldane, 1st Viscount Haldane, KT, OM, PC, KC, FRS, etc (* 1856 – † 1928)
- Field Marshal (then Lieutenant General) John Denton Pinkstone French (* 1852 – † 1925), 1st Earl of Ypres, KP, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCMG, ADC, PC
- Lieutenant-General (then Major General) Sir Reginald Pole-Carew, KCB, CVO (* 1849 – † 1924)
- Field Marshal (then Major-General) Douglas Haig, 1st Earl Haig, KT, GCB, OM, GCVO, KCIE (* 1861 – † 1928)
- Lieutenant-General (then Colonel) Sir George Frederick Goringe, KCB, KCMG, DSO (* 1868 – † 1945)
- Major-General (then Colonel) Sir Thompson Capper, KCMG, CB, DSO (* 1863 – † 1915)
- Colonel A R F Dorward (then local Major-General), CB, DSO (* 1848 – † 1934)
- Lieutenant Colonel John Nolan-Neylan (* – † 1936), DSO
- Major-General Sir Charles Crutchley (then Colonel) (*1856 1848 – † 1920), KCB, KCVO
- Brevet-Colonel E W D Ward, CB
- Major A M Dykes
- Abraham Bailey (* 1864 – † 1940) (local Major / Colonel) through J H Ryan

SYNOPSIS of WO 100.384

This 72-page portfolio of London War Office correspondence revolves around requests made by Abe Bailey for official recognition of his role in the Second Anglo-Boer War.

Following the declaration of war on 11 October 1899, Mr Abe Bailey returned to South Africa from the England, arriving in Cape Town on the 7 November 1899. From that time on, and until March 1902 when he returned to England, at some considerable financial cost to himself, he participated – “perhaps spasmodically” - in various poorly documented activities, both formal and informal.

Beginning May 1905, Abe Bailey motivated for medallic recognition of his services. An energetic – at times testy - correspondence followed involving all the persons listed above and facilitated by the London War Office.

In the end, he was awarded the Queen’s South Africa Medal (clasps Johannesburg, Orange Free State and Cape Colony) and denied his later claim of 1907, namely for the clasp Belfast.

Further, in June 1906, “on Petition”, Bailey was granted the King’s South Africa medal (clasps 1901 and 1902) by His Majesty the King as a special case, not to form a precedent, (but) as an act of grace “in consideration of the Officer’s services which we, during the whole period of the war, essentially of a military character”.

A. J. J. H. D.

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*Most Humbly submitted to Your Majesty
by Your Majesty's Most Humble
and Most Devoted Servant.*

That Your Majesty may be graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the King's South Africa Medal to Major Abe Bailey, as a special case which is not to form a precedent, in recognition of his services throughout the War.

A memorandum on the case, and statement of Major Bailey's services are enclosed.

R. S. Haldane

War Office.

29th May, 1906.

as

Richard Burdon Haldane, 1st Viscount Haldane, KT, OM, PC, KC, FRS, FSA, FBA (* 1856 – † 1928)
Secretary of State for War 1905 - 1912

This privilege to Abe Bailey was denied Alfred Lord Milner by the King (see WO 100.377).

R M Pelteret Sunday, 16 June 2013