

Did Your Man Earn a Campaign Medal?

Knowing the Regiment that "your man" served in only serves as a precursor for more research. The majority of soldiers of the British line of Regiments managed to serve in one or two hostile campaigns that earned them a medal or two. Some were unfortunate (or lucky if you take the other view) to be stuck with a regiment that was rotating through garrison duties. The following list of medals, campaigns and regiments may assist you in pursuing more research.

The Military General Service Medal 1793-1814

The striking of this medal is unusual as it was sanctioned by Queen Victoria in 1847 and issued in 1848 for services in the Napoleonic Wars 1801-14 and campaigns backdating to 1793. The first clasp was issued for Egypt 1801 and another 28 clasps were issued covering a variety of campaigns. Most clasps were issued for services during the 2nd Peninsular War of 1811-14. One soldier was awarded fifteen clasps for various campaigns during his Army career. The time lapse between the actual entitlement and the issue in 1848 meant that only a small number of survivors from each regiment lived to receive the medal. There are too many campaigns, clasps and regiments to outline the details in this article however; only a small number of our men, if any, would have qualified for this medal. In assessing any entitlement you would have to work back and do your sums on birth dates as many of our men were born during this period.

The Waterloo Medal 1815

Though styled the Waterloo Medal, it was awarded to soldiers who had taken part in one or more of the battles in Belgium of Ligny 16th June 1815, Quatre Bras, 16th June 1815 and Waterloo 18th June 1815. It was also the first campaign medal to be issued to the next of kin of soldiers killed in action. It was also the first medal to have the recipients name impressed around the edge by machine. Approximately (not

conclusive) 16 Cavalry units, 3 Guards units, 26 Regiments of Foot and 5 Artillery units took part in these battles. Some of the units had previously served in the 1811-14 Peninsular Campaigns therefore those soldiers would have qualified for both the General Service Medal and the Waterloo Medal. Given the time frame you would also have to work back through birth dates to assess any entitlement for your man.

There was a period of relative peace after the Battle of Waterloo and most regiments were garrisoned with soldiers doing mundane duties in various parts of the world. There were however; skirmishes from time to time that resulted in the award of campaign medals.

India General Service Medals 1796-1826

There were various medals struck for general service in India during the period 1796-1826. The medals had variants which were issued to different regiments. The first India Medal was awarded to soldiers of the 84th Regiment of Foot. The India Medal with the Royal Tiger was awarded during 1807-1838 to the 14th, 65th and 67th Regiments of Foot.

The Hindoostan Medal was awarded to soldiers of the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars for service 1802-1822. The Hindoostan Medal with Royal Tiger was awarded in 1825 to the 17th Regiment of Foot for service 1804-1823. The Hindoostan Medal with Elephant was awarded to the 24th Light Dragoons for service 1803-1819.

3rd Mahratta War 1817-1819.

The Kirkee Medal was awarded in 1823 to the Kirkee Bty, Royal Regiment of Artillery. The Nagpore Medal 1817 was awarded in 1823 to the 1st and 17th Regiments of Foot. The Maheidpoor Medal 1817 was awarded in 1823 to the 2nd Light Dragoons and 1st Regiment of Foot.

Jat War

For the battle of Bhurtpore, a clasp was issued to a campaign medal but I was

unable to find out what medal. The clasp was issued to 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), 16th The Queens Lancers, 14th and 59th Regiments of Foot.

1st Anglo Burmese War.

The Arracan Medal 1825 was awarded in 1826 to the 54th Regiment of Foot. The Ava Medal was awarded in 1826 to the 1st, 13th 38th, 41st, 44th, 45th, 47th, 54th, 87th and the 89th Regiments of Foot.

Arabia 1819-1821

The Arabia medal was awarded to soldiers of the 47th and the 65th Regiments of Foot. An additional Beni Boo Ali Medal was issued to the 65th Regiment of Foot.

1st Afghan War Medals

The practice of issuing clasps for major campaigns was not adopted for the Afghanistan Campaign of 1839-1842. One medal was issued for Jellalabad in 1839, one for Ghuznee and another four medals were issued, one each for Candahar 1842, Candahar Ghuznee Cabul 1842, Ghuznee Cabul 1842 and Cabul 1842. The Afghanistan campaign was a monumental disaster and units were trying to help each other extricate themselves from oblivion. It ended when the British took out vengeful attacks on the Afghans in Cabul. The Ghuznee Medal 1839 was issued to soldiers of the 4th Kings Own Hussars, 16th Queens Lancers and the 2nd, 13th

and 17th Regiments of Foot. The Jellalabad Medal was only issued to soldiers of the 13th Regiment of Foot for the defence of Jellalabad from the 12th November 1841 to 16th April 1842 and one medal was issued to Dr Bryon the only survivor to make it to Jellalabad from the annihilation of the 44th at Gandamak during the earlier retreat from Cabul. The Candahar Medal 1842 was issued to soldiers of the 40th and 41st Regiments of Foot for services to Candahar in May 1842. The Candahar Ghuznee Cabul Medal 1842 and the Ghuznee Cabul Medal 1842 to the 40th and 41st Regiments of Foot. As the 40th and 41st were divided as part of two columns that left Candahar on 10th August 1842, the soldiers could only be awarded one of either the Candahar Ghuznee Cabul Medal or the Ghuznee Cabul Medal. The Cabul Medal 1842 was awarded to the 9th, 13th and 31st Regiment of Foot.

The South Africa Medal 1834-1853

The medals for the 6th, 7th and 8th Kaffir Wars were identical but they had a different date bar. No clasps were issued. **6th Kaffir War 1834-35.** Awarded to 27th, 72nd and 75th Regiments of Foot. **7th Kaffir War 1846-47.** Awarded to the 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, 6th, 27th, 45th, 73rd, 90th, 91st Regiments of Foot and the Rifle Brigade. **8th Kaffir War 1851-3.** Awarded to the 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales), 2nd, 6th, 12th, 43rd, 45th, 60th, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 91st Regiments of Foot and the Rifle Brigade.

First China War Medal 1840-42

This medal was issued to soldiers of the 18th, 26th, 49th, 55th and 98th Regiments of Foot who participated in the 1st China War generally known as the 1st Opium War or the 1st Anglo-Chinese War. The medal was originally not issued with a clasp; however when medals were issued for the 2nd China War 1857-60, a date clasp 1842 was struck for the first medal to distinguish between the two wars.

Sutlej Medal 1845-46

The Sutlej Medal was struck for the 1st Anglo Sikh War (Sutlej Campaign) with four clasps. **Moodkee Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th, 31st, 50th, and 80th Regiments of Foot. **Ferozeshuhur Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th, 29th, 31st, 50th, 62nd and 80th Regiments of Foot. **Aliwal Clasp** to the 16th The Queen's Lancers, 31st, 50th and 53rd Regiments of Foot. **Sobraon Clasp** to 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, 16th The Queen's Lancers, 9th, 10th, 29th, 31st, 50th, 53rd, 62nd and 80th Regiments of Foot.

Punjab Medal 1848-49

As with the 1st Sikh War a medal was struck for the 2nd War (Punjab Campaign) with three clasps. **Mooltan Clasp** to the 10th, 32nd and 60th Regiments of Foot. **Chilianwala Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th Queens Royal Lancers, 14th Kings Hussars, 24th, 29th and 61st Regiments of Foot. **Goojerat Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th Queens Royal Lancers, 14th Kings Hussars, 10th, 24th, 29th, 32nd, 53rd, 60th and 61st Regiments of Foot.

New Zealand Medal 1845-47, 1860-61 and 1863-66

The New Zealand Medal was issued for the three Maori Wars (Anglo-Maori Wars) with the 58th, 65th, 96th and 99th Regiments of Foot deploying from Australia for the 1st War. The 12th, 14th, 40th and 65th Regiments of Foot were engaged in the 2nd War with the 12th, 40th

and 65th deploying from Australia. The 12th, 14th, 18th, 43rd, 50th, 65th, 68th and 70th Regiments of Foot engaging in the 3rd War. The 12th and 65th again deployed from Australia.

Crimean War Medal 1854-56

The striking of this medal was accompanied with the Clasps ***Alma***, ***Inkerman***, ***Balaklava*** and ***Sebastopol***. The clasp Sebastopol was automatically awarded to those qualifying for the Balaklava and Inkerman clasps. Queen Victoria wanted the medals issued to her soldiers without delay; therefore the medals were issued without the impressing of names. Most medals were later either regimentally impressed or privately engraved.

For economy of space I have only listed the units for the Crimea War and not for individual battles. The **Turkish Crimea Medal** was issued by the Turkish Government to the Allies on conclusion of the War so generally all soldiers were issued with the pair. **Units:** 4th Queens Own Hussars, 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales), 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars, 10th Royal Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), 11th Royal Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales), 13th Hussars, 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own), The Royal Dragoons. Various sub units of the Horse Artillery. The Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 28th, 30th, 31st, 33rd, 34th, 38th, 39th, 41st, 2nd, 44th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 55th, 57th, 62nd, 63rd, 68th, 71st, 72nd, 77th, 79th, 82nd, 88th, 89th, 90th, 93rd and 97th Regiments of Foot and the Rifle Brigade Note: Some references refer to the Rifle Brigade as the 95th Regiment of Foot.

India General Service Medal 1854-95

This medal held an existence for 46 years and some 23 clasps were issued. I have only included those clasps that fall in the

range of our men to 1868. **North West Frontier 1849-1868** to the 20th Hussars, 6th, 7th, 19th, 22nd, 24th, 32nd, 51st, 60th, 61st, 71st, 81st, 97th and 98th Regiments of Foot. **Pegu Clasp 1853** to the 18th, 51st and 80th Regiments of Foot. **Persia Clasp 1856-57** to the 14th King's Hussars, 64th and 78th Regiment of Foot. **Umbelya Clasp 1863** to the 20th Hussars, 7th, 51st, 71st, 72nd, 93rd, 97th and 98th Regiments of Foot. **Bhootan (Bhutan) Clasp 1863-64** to 55th and 80th Regiment of Foot.

Indian Mutiny Medal 1857-59

The Indian Mutiny Medal was specifically struck for the Sepoy Rebellion with five clasps. The maximum number of clasps that could be issued to one recipient was four with less than 200 cases recorded. **Delhi Clasp** to the 6th Dragoon Guards, 9th Queen's Lancers, 8th, 52nd, 60th, 61st and 75th Regiments of Foot. **Defence of Lucknow Clasp** to 34th and 84th Regiments of Foot. **Relief of Lucknow Clasp** to the Queens Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), 7th Queen's Hussars, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, 5th, 8th, 10th, 20th, 23rd, 32nd, 34th, 38th, 42nd, 53rd, 64th, 75th, 78th, 79th, 90th, 93rd, 97th Regiments of Foot, and the Rifle Brigade. **Central India Clasp** to the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales), 14th King's Hussars, 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own), 27th, 33rd, 38th, 43rd, 71st, 72nd, 78th, 80th, 83rd, 84th, 86th, 88th, 95th Regiments of Foot and the Rifle Brigade. Note: Some references quote 101st to 108th Regiments of Foot in the medal count, this is technically wrong as these Regiments came into existence

from East India Company units as a result of; and after the Mutiny. The East India Company issued its own medals.

Second China War Medal 1857-60

This medal is the same as the 1st China War Medal with five clasps. **Fatshan 1857 Clasp** to the Royal Marines. **Canton 1857 Clasp** to the 59th Regiment of Foot. **Taku Forts 1858 Clasp** to the Royal Marines. **Taku Forts 1860 Clasp** to the 1st The King's Dragoon Guards, 1st, 2nd, 60th, 67th and 99th Regiments of Foot. **Pekin 1860 Clasp** to the 1st The King's Dragoon Guards, 1st, 2nd, 60th, 67th, and 99th Regiments of Foot.

Abyssinian War Medal 1867

This is an unusual medal with a small head of Queen Victoria and the word ABYSSINIA appearing between the points of a 9 pointed star. No Clasps were struck. Issued to soldiers of the 3rd (Prince of Wales) Dragoon Guards, 4th, 26th, 33rd and 45th Regiments of Foot.

Now that you have done the sums and determined that your man falls into the date periods of respective campaigns, you now have to determine if he actually was entitled to a medal. The fact that a soldier was on the posted strength of a Regiment does not determine if he was at the actual battle. The campaign medal records are arranged by campaign and regiment on microfilm in the WO100 list at the National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey, England.

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