

Queen's Sudan Medal



The Queen's Sudan Medal was authorised in March 1899 and awarded to British and Egyptian forces which took part in the Sudan campaign between June 1896 and September 1898.

The campaign reflected the British desire to reverse the defeats of the Mahdist War in the 1880s, as well as concern that France and other European powers would take advantage of Sudan's instability to acquire parts of its territory. Initially only the Egyptian Army was engaged. British Army units joined from early 1898, with two British brigades being present at the decisive victory at Omdurman on 2 September 1898, in which Winston Churchill took part. Seventeen members of the Royal Navy and 27 Royal Marines who helped man the Nile gunboats also received the medal.

The medal was awarded in silver to soldiers of the British and Egyptian armies, and in bronze to a small number of non-combatants, comprising authorised followers, officers' servants and grooms from the Indian Army.

All recipients of the Queen's Medal also received the Khedive's Sudan Medal.

Description

A circular medal, 36.5 millimetres (1.44 in) in diameter, designed by G. W. de Saulles.[1]

- Obverse: a half length crowned figure of Queen Victoria with the legend VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX.
- Reverse: a plinth inscribed SUDAN supported by Nile lilies, where a figure of victory sits holding a laurel wreath and a palm branch. Behind her are the British and Egyptian flags.
- Ribbon: 31.7 millimetres (1.25 in) wide ribbon is half yellow, half black with a thin dividing red stripe. *Allegedly symbolic of the desert (yellow), black (the Dervish Army) and the thin red line the British Army.*
- Clasps: none were awarded.

Naming: the recipient's name and details were engraved on the edge. Those awarded to Egyptian and Sudanese troops were named in Arabic script, with some awarded unnamed.

The Khedive's Sudan Medal (1897)



The Khedive's Sudan Medal was a campaign medal awarded by the Khedivate of Egypt to both Egyptian and British forces for service during the reconquest of the Sudan, the final part of the Mahdist War. Established 12 February 1897 by Khedive Abbas Hilmi Pasha, this medal was initially to commemorate the reconquest of the Dongola province in 1896. It was subsequently authorised for later campaigns and actions until 1908. The medal was awarded with fifteen different clasps.

All those who received the Khedive's Sudan Medal for service on the Nile during 1896-98 also received the Queen's Sudan Medal.

Appearance

The medal is circular, 39 millimetres in diameter, and awarded in silver to soldiers of the Egyptian and British armies, and in bronze to a small number of non-combatants, mainly grooms from the Indian Army and officers' servants. The obverse bears the Arabic cypher of the Khedive, and the Hijri year 1314. The reverse shows an oval shield superimposed over a trophy of flags and arms. The medal hangs from a straight bar suspension.

For British troops, the recipient's name and details were engraved on the medal's edge. Those awarded to Egyptian and Sudanese recipients were named in Arabic script, although some, particularly later issues, were awarded unnamed.

The ribbon of the medal is 38 mm wide. It is yellow with a broad centre stripe of blue, representing the Nile flowing through the desert.

Clasps

As many as ten clasps on one medal have been documented to members of the Egyptian Army. The medal is seldom seen with more than two clasps to British regiments since, apart from a number of small detachments, no British unit was present at more than two actions, the principal ones being the Atbara and Khartoum. Fifteen different clasps were authorised and awarded:

- Firket (7 June 1896)
- Hafir (19-26 September 1896)
- Abu Hamed (7 July 1897)
- Sudan 1897
- The Atbara (8 April 1898)
- Khartoum (2 September 1898) (For the Battle of Omdurman)
- Gedaref (7 September to 26 December 1898)
- Gedid (22 November 1899)
- Sudan 1899
- Bahar-ed-Ghazal 1900-02
- Jerok (January to March 1902)
- Nyam-Nyam (January to May 1905)
- Talodi (2-15 June 1905)
- Katfia (April 1908)
- Nyima (1-21 November 1908)

A number of medals were awarded with no clasp, including for service during 1896 to an Indian Army force based at Suakin, and to the crews of HMS Melita and HMS Scout, that served off the Sudanese coast during the same period.