

907 TROOPER A. BARCLAY

907 Trooper A Barclay of the Imperial Light Horse was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902 with battle clasps Relief of Mafeking (17 May 1900) and Relief of Ladysmith (28 February 1900), and state clasp Transvaal. A scarce combination. Roll confirms.

The Imperial Light Horse, 5th Mounted Rifles was raised in Natal, the authority being cabled from the War Office on 21st September 1899. Lt.-Col. Scott Chisholme of the 5th Lancers was the first commanding officer. He was killed at Elandsplaagte. The original strength was six squadrons and the members were probably the pick of the British population of Johannesburg, with strong contingents of Natal and Cape men, and recruits from overseas. An analysis by the first regimental historian gives 45% born in S.A., 45% born in U.K., the rest dominion and U.S.A. citizens. There is an interesting note in the book on the very high standard of marksmanship and the effect of the cadet training received by the Natal-born men. Equipped with the old single-loader Martini-Metford, without bayonet, the unit, 600 strong, took a leading part in the battle of Elandsplaagte and served through the siege of Ladysmith, doing extremely well at Wagon Hill. One squadron was in the relief force in the Composite Regiment (see medal above). After the siege, the I.L.H. was issued with Lee Enfields and sent around to the north-east Cape to form part of the column which relieved Mafeking from the south. After hard service in the Transvaal, the unit was increased by two regiments, the first commanded by Col. Briggs (later Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles Briggs) and the second by Col. Mackenzie (later Brig.-Gen. Sir Duncan Mackenzie) with a strength in 1902 of 1200. In December 1902, the unit was reorganised into two wings.

Andrew Barclay was born on 20 October 1871 in Newhills, Aberdeen. He married Lizzie Mellis neé Ingles (d. 11 July 1931) and had three children, Andrew George, Fergus Scott and Gertrude Margaret. He died in his 68th year of a heart attack at Rossano Garcia near Komatipoort on 9 July 1938. He was a general merchant living in Port Elizabeth; and left an estate valued at £3391/0/3 MOOC 6/9/5125.60299.

REFERENCES :

1. South African Archives Repository, Roeland Street, Cape Town
2. The Armed Forces of South Africa 1659 - 1954. Tylden, G, Major. City of Johannesburg Africana Museum Frank Connock Publication No.2. Facsimile 1982.
3. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints :
<http://www.familysearch.org>

GENEALOGY

1. Alexander Barclay m. Saint Fergus, Banff, Scotland 5 December 1868 Susan Baxter (b. 13 August 1854 Slamannan, Stirling do. Nesbit Baxter and Margaret Swan)

1.1 Andrew Barclay b. 20 October 1871, Newhills, Aberdeen d. 9 July 1938 m. Lizzie Mellis neé Ingles (d. 11 July 1931)

1.1.1 Andrew George

1.1.2 Fergus Scott

1.1.3 Gertrude Margaret

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