

QSA curiosities WO 100.377

LORD MILNER AND HIS ANGLO-BOER WAR CAMPAIGN MEDALS

Alfred Milner (* 1854 – † 1925) , 1st Viscount Milner, KG, GCB, GCMG, PC
British statesman and colonial administrator

AG 22
17001 1572(10)
See Godfrey Lagden
K.C.V.O. Comm. Apr 25
Native affairs -
Refused K.C.V.O.

COPY.

8th. June 1906.

Dear Sir Arthur,

The question of Lord Milner's receiving the King's South African medal has been considered by the Army Council, who are of opinion that, having regard to the stringency of the conditions laid down for its award, Lord Milner cannot be regarded as entitled to receive it.

These conditions are quite different from those which governed the grant of the Egyptian medal of 1882 which Sir E. Malet received, and in the opinion of the Army Council Lord Milner could only receive the South African medal as a distinct act of grace on the King's part.

Mr. Haldane, though personally anxious that Lord Milner, with whom he is on intimate terms, should receive the medal, has some doubt as to the **prudence** of his recommending His Majesty to do anything exceptional in Lord Milner's case at this particular moment.

Believe me, to be,

Sincerely Yours,

sd. G. F. Ellison.

Col. Sir Arthur Davidson, K.C.V.O., A.D.C.



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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

30. V. 06.

Dear Col. Ellison

With reference to
the incidental allusion
to Lord Milner in
enclosed submission, the
King desires me to
say that he thinks
Lord Milner should

have the King's Medal
without a clash, if by
any means he could
be brought within the
conditions which govern
its award.

His Majesty says that
Sir Edward Malet was
awarded the Egyptian

Medal in 1882 when
Consul General in Egypt
although he did not
bear arms during the
Campaign.

Yours sincerely
Arthur Davidson

In WO 100.384 (Major A Bailey) in respect of a motivation to the King from the War Office dated May 1906, the following comment appears "So far, no exceptions whatever have been made, regarding this ruling in connection with the award of the King's Medal, and it may be mentioned that Viscount Milner, G.C.B., etc., formerly High Commissioner of South Africa, was not granted the decoration mentioned, on account of his not having borne arms during the campaign, and therefore could not be deemed to have come under the terms of the conditions alluded to".