

SOUTH AFRICA 1877-9 AND LONG SERVICER PAIR TO AN ABLE SEAMAN OF HMS SHAH, PRESENT AT THE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SHAH AND THE PERUVIAN IRON-CLAD TURRET SHIP HUASCAR IN 1877 AND LATER SERVED WITH THE NAVAL BRIGADE DURING THE ZULU WAR OF 1879 WHERE HE WOULD HAVE FOUGHT AT THE BATTLE OF GINGINDLOVO. LATER A BOATMAN H.M. COAST GUARD



SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL 1877-79, CLASP, 1879, 'G. BAILEY A.B. H.M.S. SHAH', ROYAL NAVY LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL 'G. BAILEY, BOATMAN, H.M. COAST GUARD'

George Bailey was born on the 30th of July 1857 in Portsmouth Hampshire, he joined the Royal Navy after two years Boy Service on the 30th of July 1875 for a period of ten years. Bailey served aboard H.M.S. Shah from the 14th of August 1876 to the 31st of October 1879, thus not only serving in the Zulu War (medal) but also took part in the engagement between Shah and the Peruvian iron-clad turret ship Huascar on 29 May 1877. In company with the corvette Amethyst, Shah engaged the rebel iron-clad in a 3 hour engagement. However, the Huascar managed to escape to shallow waters at the close of day and a subsequent cutting out expedition also failed

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Whilst returning from the Pacific in 1879, HMS Shah called in at St. Helena. It was here that her crew learnt of the defeat at Isandhlwana and taking on board troops from the garrison (one company of the 88th foot the Connaught Rangers and a field artillery battalion) provided by the island's Governor, she

sailed for the Cape Colony Arriving on 7th March 1879, she disembarked 16 officers and 378 men of her crew at Durban, led by Commander John Brackenbury to join the newly formed Naval Brigade.



On 18th March 1879, the force heading to relieve Eshowe was joined by 10 officers and 218 seamen from HMS Boadicea, led by Commander Francis Romilly They fought at the Battle of Gingindlovo on 2nd April when the officers and ratings of the Naval Brigade manned, two deep, the waist-high rampart behind the shelter trench in Lord Chelmsford's laager, with rocket and Gatling gun detachments posted in the corners:.

'In this engagement, which consisted of a gallant attempt by the Zulus to capture the laager in which our troops entrenched themselves on the previous night, a detachment of seaman and marines took a prominent part. The British force consisted of 2,500 Natives and 3,400 Europeans, including the 57th, 3rd Battalion 60th, 91st and some companies of the Buffs and 99th Regiment, and a Naval Brigade drawn from H.M.S. Shah, Tenedos and Boadicea - with 2 guns, 2 Gatlings and 2 rocket-tubes, the seamen being led by Commander Brackenbury, and the marines by Captain Phillips, both of the Shah. The Naval Brigade, with the guns, defended the four angles of the laager; and though the Zulu army, about 12,000 strong, under Dabulamanzi, attacked with their accustomed intrepidity, the fire from the guns and Martini-Henrys was so deadly that they were beaten back and dispersed with a loss of 1,200 men, 470 dead Zulus being buried close to the laager. In this action the British loss was 1 officer and 3 men killed, and 5 officers, including Lieutenant Milne, R.N., and 25 men, including 6 of the Naval Brigade, wounded.'

During the second invasion of Zululand Bailey most probably served with that part of the naval brigade that accompanied General Crealock's column to Port Durnford.

He transferred to the Coast Guard on the 3rd of September 1886 and can be found in 1894 at HM Coastguard Establishment Blatchington, Brighton, as Commissioned Boatman. He retired, Pensioned to Shore, from the Coast Guard on the 23rd of January 1896 after 23 years' service man and boy.



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