

## Alfred Chevallier PARKER

*Press.* 29 March 1915 (Papers Past) [08/05/2018]

### ON SERVICE.

#### PERSONAL NOTES ABOUT NEW ZEALANDERS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, February 16

Captain A. C. Parker, son of Mrs Parker (sister of Lord Kitchener) is at present on special service in Egypt. Captain Parker was formerly in the New Zealand Defence Forces (South Canterbury), from which he passed into the British Army. He served in Egypt for some years and then joined the Egyptian Civil Service. He was for ten years Governor of the Peninsula of Sinai, where the campaign of the Turks is now being prosecuted. Mr Parker resided at Torm, the scene of the recent fighting, where he built a fine house in European style. His wife and two children are at present staying in England.

*The Times (of London).* 19 April 1905 [09/05/2018]

From The London Gazette, Tuesday, April 18

#### APRIL 17.

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto the undermentioned Officers and Gentlemen his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by his Highness the Khedive of Egypt, authorized by his Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, in recognition of valuable services rendered to his Highness :—

Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidiéh, Fourth Class.—Capt. Alfred Chevallier Parker, Royal Sussex Reg. ; Graham Campbell Kerr, Esq. Inspector under the

*The Times (of London)*. 3 January 1936 [09/05/2018]

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. C.  
PARKER

“Some of his Friends” write:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Chevallier Parker, D.S.O., was a sterling friend to many, not only in this country but in the deserts of Sinai, where he was affectionately known as “Barkal” among the Beduin. Among his fellow-countrymen he will long be remembered as “Sinai Parker.” Originally in the Sussex Regiment, he was seconded in 1899 to the Egyptian Army, and for many years served the Egyptian Government with unfading loyalty. As the son of Lord Kitchener’s only sister, he was naturally attracted to service in the reconquered Sudan, and he passed the remainder of his service in that country and in Egypt. For a time he was on the staff in Khartum and, in that capacity, he visited the Lake Tsana region in Abyssinia. As Governor of Sinai—1906 to 1923, with a short interval—he was an immense success with the Beduin. His knowledge of Arabic was profound. In his dealings with the Beduin that motionless face and steady gaze would puzzle them, and, wondering in their perplexity what he really knew, they would blurt out the truth. His kindly knowledge of human nature won him their love and affection and the name of “Barkal” was one to conjure with in the peninsula.

Before Parker’s administration of Sinai, only primitive Arab law existed. It was the law of retribution, “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” Parker was largely instrumental in getting the Sinai Law framed and promulgated in 1911. In 1915 he conducted a completely successful minor expedition against a Turco-Arab force which was threatening the international quarantine station at Tor, in Southern Sinai, the whole enemy force being surprised and killed or taken prisoners. Later his intimate knowledge of the country and the people made him an invaluable link between the British forces and the Beduin. His last post in the Egyptian service was that of Director of the Frontier Districts Administration, in which he succeeded Hunter Pasha.

In retirement Parker kept fresh his friendships of active days and added many to their numbers. The best of companions, a wise counsellor, and a sterling friend. We tender the deepest sympathy to his wife and family in their great loss.