

# **THE BAHÁ'Í KNIGHT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE**



**AN UNTOLD STORY OF SIR ABBAS  
EFFENDI**

**DR. DAVID D'MELLO**







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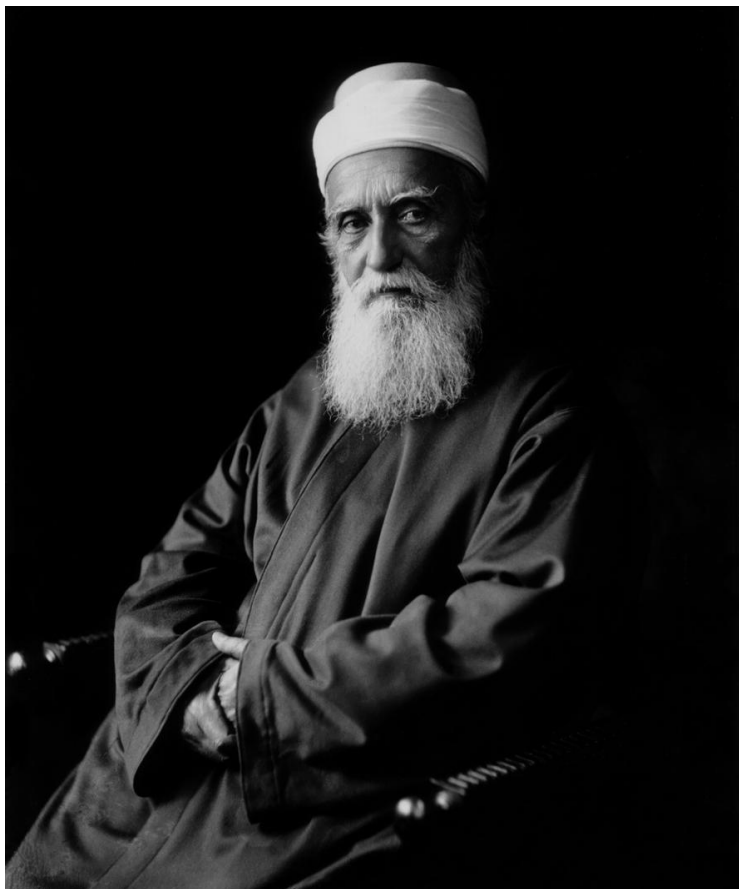
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*Abdul Baha*





## CHAPTER ONE

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### INTRODUCTION

**T**his book aims at unveiling the untold facts that had remained hidden and concealed for about a century. The secrets which every follower of Abdul Baha around the globe tends to protect and defend it in whichever way possible. It is extremely surprising to note how the Baha'is tends to spread incorrect teachings and manipulate the queries of the people concerning the basic fundamental questions which are unanswered for decades. As a matter of fact, this book which I have written was a question to several Baha'is to seek a satisfactory reply but, my question was

completely ignored. As days goes by, my curiosity to perceive more details about the matter compelled me to go further into deep and intensive research in order to achieve essential information. However, the outcome of which was beyond my expectations.

An overlook of the book “The Lost progeny of Baha’u’llah” clearly mentions several incidences where Abdul Baha as well as Shoghi Effendi persecuted and excommunicated the family members of Baha’u’llah which resulted in the total annihilation of the Baha’i faith with a huge setback. Furthermore, as generations passed some members of the faith lost their trust on the beliefs of Baha’u’llah and they either converting to other faiths or to the faith of their ancestor’s.

While referring to various books for my in-depth thesis, I came across several books one of which was by a well-known author named “Lady Bloomfield”. In her book “The Chosen Highway’ she mentions a chapter by the name Abdul Baha in War-time’ in which we understood a correspondence which had taken placed between Abdul Baha and a British soldier at the time of the British occupation in the Palestinian territory.

This overwhelmed me and I started to ponder over the circumstances as to why did Abdul Baha amassed a lot of corn. Was it to help the British army?



On several occasion I had asked several Baha'i friends in regards to the actual story of the corn. Mostly the reply was the same: "The Baha'i faith loves humanity and Abdul Baha received Knighthood on the basis of his services for humanitarian work" The answers are pretty much identical from the Baha'is including several Baha'i books to which in my opinion was completely inadequate. On many occasions, when I inquired regarding the incident of the corn yet, they turned a blind eye to it. This made me wonder, as to why the leader of the Baha'i Faith would help the British army and not the people of his country, as mentioned in their books.

I began my in-depth research on this topic which had revealed several untold and rarely known facts. I had gathered most of the information and analysis which is so massive that I had pointed out in this book. I was completely flabbergasted at the fact that the history which became totally apparent with such an extensive research and determination.

Chapter two describes in brief, the history concerning Abdul Baha and the story of the Corn which was the initial point of my research and hence, it resulted in this book.

Chapter three, we will discuss how Abdul Baha initiated his farming career which took him to great heights by

serving the people but, whether the beneficiaries were the British or the People of Palestine still remains a question.

Chapter four, discusses a short biography of Djemal Pasha, in regards to his personality and to who he actually was in the ranks of the Ottomans.

Chapter five, discusses the announcement or should I say the verdict of Djemal Pasha against Abdul Baha.

Chapter six, is about a brief history of Tudor Pole, his links and what happened after the death of Abdul Baha?

Chapter seven, is about an extraordinary mission to escort Abdul Baha from a threat which was unpredicted.

Chapter eight, is in regards to the recommendation of knighthood towards Abdul Baha for his helpful assistance during World War I.

Chapter nine, is in regards to the grand celebration of the knighthood ceremony of Abdul Baha and its occurrence.

Chapter ten, is about an exceptional type of gun salute during knighthood ceremony which was given to just a handful of people and its relevance in case of Abdul Baha.



## INTRODUCTION

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Chapter eleven, talks about an award which is still classified for years in comparison to other similar awards.

Chapter twelve, is about some of the amazing documents which were discovered and had answered to many of my questions.

Chapter thirteen, is regarding several agents who were quite similar to Abdul Baha in their missions.

Chapter fourteen, discusses about the connections of the Baha'is with Israel in regards to the documentary evidences and facts.

Chapter fifteen, discusses about the connections between the British regime and Abdul Baha for his services, which continued even after his death.

Chapter sixteen discusses how the Baha'is around the globe follow the footstep of their leader by operating undercover for espionage activities.

Chapter seventeen, is in regards to almost all the activities of Abdul Baha over the years in a very compact and a concise timeline.

Chapter eighteen, is in regards to almost all the documents which are related to Abdul Baha and his services during the World War I.

And lastly, based on all the evidences we have gathered so far, we will conclude as to who Abdul Baha was in reality.



## CHAPTER TWO

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# ABDUL BAHÁ AND THE INCIDENT OF THE CORN

**A**bdulBaha was born in Tehran, Iran on 23 May 1844 (5th of Jamadiyu'l-Avval, 1260 AH), the eldest son of Baha'u'llah and Nayyab.<sup>1</sup> Born with the given name of Abbas, he was named after his grandfather Mirza Abbas Nuri, a prominent and powerful nobleman.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bausani, Alessandro (1989), "'Abd-al-Bahā': Life and work", *Encyclopædia Iranica*.

<sup>2</sup> *Bahá'í Encyclopedia Project*, Evanston, IL: National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

He was born in Tehran to an aristocratic family. At the age of eight, his father was imprisoned during a government crackdown on the Babi Faith. His father was exiled from their native Iran, and the family went to live in Baghdad, where they stayed for nine years. They were later called by the Ottoman state to Istanbul before going into another period of confinement in Edirne and finally the prison-city of Akka (Acre). Abdul Baha remained a political prisoner there until the Young Turk Revolution freed him in 1908 at the age of 64. According to the Baha'is, he eventually made several journeys to the West to spread the Baha'i message beyond its middle-eastern roots, but the onset of World War I left him largely confined to Haifa from 1914–1918. The war replaced the openly hostile Ottoman authorities with the British Mandate, who knighted him for his help in averting famine following the war, but that was not the case.

In 1892 Abdul Baha was appointed in his father's Will to be his successor and head of the Baha'i Faith.

Abdul Baha's given name was Abbas. Depending on context, he would have gone by either "Mirza Abbas" (Persian) or "Abbas Effendi" (Turkish), both of which are equivalent to the English "Sir Abbas Effendi". He preferred the title of "Abdul Baha" ("servant of Baha", a reference to his father). He is commonly referred to in Baha'i texts as "The Master".

## THE STORY OF THE CORN

In the years leading up to World War I, Abdul Baha purchased 2,200 acres of uncultivated land near Tiberias, dammed a stream for irrigation, and invited tenant farmers to work the land in exchange for a place to live and work. The farmers returned a percentage of their crops of wheat and corn to him in payment, which Abdul Baha stored in underground Roman-era granaries.

A massive quantity of these crops was stored in underground granary, which were built by the Romans, and were now utilized for this purpose. So, it came about that Abdul Baha was; able to feed innumerable people of Haifa, Akka, and the neighboring cities, in the famine years of 1914-1918.

One of the books by the name ‘The Chosen Highway’ by Sarah Lady Blomfield<sup>3</sup> narrates an amazing incident which is as follows:

We learned that when the British marched into Haifa there was some difficulty about the commissariat. The officer in command went to consult the Master.

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<sup>3</sup> Sara Louisa Blomfield (1859 – 1939) was a distinguished early member of the Baha’i Faith in the British Isles

*"I have corn,"* was the reply.

*"But for the army?"* said the astonished soldier.

*"I have corn for the British Army,"* said Abdul Baha.<sup>4</sup>

(Lady Blomfield, often recounted how the storage of the Romans proved a safe hiding-place for the corn, during the occupation of the Turkish army.)

However, Abdul Baha has stored the corn for the entire British armies. When the British troops arrived in Palestine and consulted Abdul Baha to which the soldier was surprised to hear that Abdul Baha had stored the several types of crops for the British. The soldier even confirmed that he needed for the army to which Abdul Baha answered him in an affirmative.

Was Abdul Baha's granaries being only for the British Troops?

If it was for the famine struck people then, why did he gave it to the army and that too willingly?

As for the correspondence that took place, it seems that Abdul Baha was awaiting the armies to arrive in order to provide corns to them. The British army got the corn

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<sup>4</sup>Lady Blomfield, *The Chosen Highway*, p. 210.



without any hesitation from Abdul Baha and that to without being violent.

Why was there a need for the officer to consult Abdul Baha in the first place and not the British commanding general? Or may I say that the commanding general instructed the officers to reach Haifa and consult regarding the situation as Abdul Baha knew the shortcomings of the Ottomans army as they have regarded him as a spy who could lead them to victory.

Why was Abdul Baha the first to speak, as it is mention in the above incident that he had the corn, perhaps he was waiting for the British army to arrive, as to deliver the corn to which the soldiers were astonished.

We will further discuss the struggles how Abdul Baha, his family and friends struggled in storing the granaries with large stockpile of grains for the British occupying armies.

## CHAPTER THREE

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### ABDUL BAHA AND FARMING PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I

**I**t's a thumb rule around the globe that for every University test there is a need for preparation, or whether it is running for the president or recruitment for the soldiers. It all depends upon the aims which a person needs to achieve. The higher the target the more rigorous and harsher the preparation will be. I have mentioned a few instances below regarding the spy agents of the British in regards to their espionage services rendered. How did the British prior to their occupation in the Middle East gathered all the important and delicate information from their civil subjects and infiltrated the government system of their

respective countries. The civil subjects however, passed that information on to their high-ranking officials in order to know the shortcomings of their respective country.

For Instance, Leachman was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Royal Sussex Regiment on 20 January 1900, and the following month left with his battalion for service in South Africa during the Second Boer War.<sup>5</sup> He served there until the end of the war, in June 1902, and left Cape Town in the SS Bavarian in August, returning to Southampton the following month.<sup>6</sup> Leachman also made various expeditions further south into Arabia, where he contacted Ibn Sa'ud on behalf of the British government. He travelled as a naturalist of the Royal Geographical Society, but was in fact a British agent.

With his dark, Semitic looks and skill at riding a camel, Leachman was easily able to pass as Bedouin and often travelled incognito.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "The War - Embarcation of Troops". The Times (36063). London. 12 February 1900. p. 10.

<sup>6</sup> "The Army in South Africa - Troops returning home". The Times (36856). London. 26 August 1902. p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Omer Tarin and SD Najumddin, 'G.E. Leachman and the MacGregor Memorial Medal: Revaluation of the Life and Work of an Arabian Paladin', in *Durbar: Journal of the Indian Military*

Leachman's first major expedition south into the Arabian Peninsula was in 1909, during which he was involved in a ferocious battle between the Anaiza and Shammar tribes near Ha'il. He was awarded Macgregor Memorial medal for reconnaissance in 1910.<sup>8</sup> In 1912 Leachman made a second expedition with the intention of crossing the Rub Al Khali, but was refused permission by Ibn Sa'ud when he reached Riyadh and instead went to Al-Hasa. He was the first Briton to be received by Ibn Sa'ud in his home city.

In December, 1915, during the Siege of Kut, the British commanding officer, Major General Charles Townshend, ordered Leachman to save the British cavalry by breaking out and riding south. This he did and the cavalry were the only British unit to escape before the fall of the city to the Ottomans.

Leachman was close to Gertrude Bell's friend Fahad Bey and fought with the Muntafiq tribal federation.<sup>9</sup>

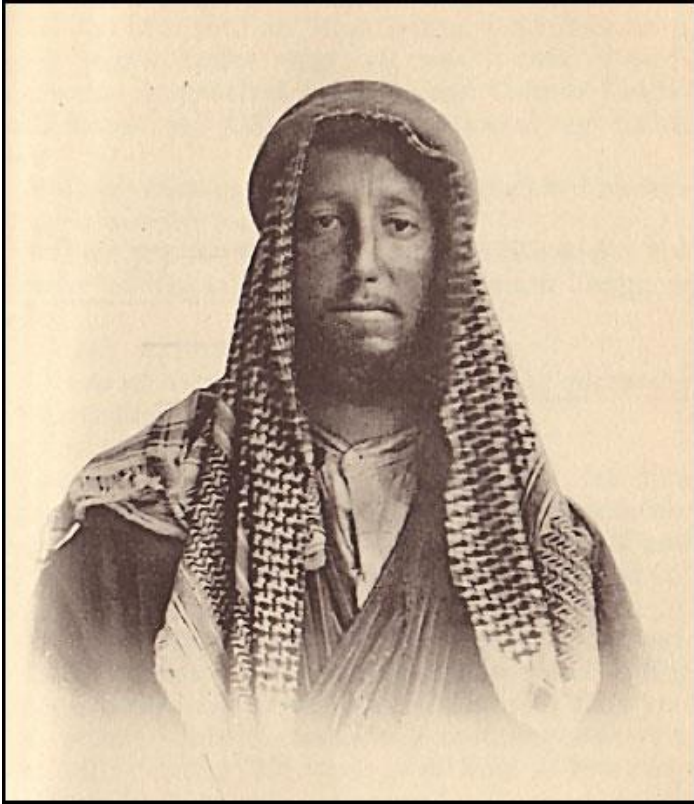
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Historical Society, UK, 2 parts: Vol 25 No 3, Autumn 2008, pp. 116–125; and Vol 25, No 4, pp. 174–184.

<sup>8</sup> Tarin and Najumddin, Vol 25, No 4, pp. 176–179.

<sup>9</sup> Wilson, Sir Arnold. *Mesopotamia 1917–1920: A Clash of Loyalties*. London: Oxford University Press, 1931. p. 11.





*Colonel Leachman disguised as a Bedouin.*

In another instance, Louise Marie Jeanne Henriette de Bettignies had been a citizen of Lille (a city at the northern tip of France) since 1903, and when the German army invaded the city in October 1914, she decided to engage in resistance and espionage. Due in

part to her ability to speak French, English, German, and Italian, she ran a vast intelligence network from her home in the North of France on behalf of the British army and the MI6 intelligence service under the pseudonym Alice Dubois. This network provided important information to the British through occupied Belgium and the Netherlands.

The network is estimated to have saved the lives of more than a thousand British soldiers during the 9 months of full operation from January to September 1915.<sup>10 11</sup>

The "Alice" network of a hundred people, mostly in forty kilometers of the front to the west and east of Lille, was so effective that she was nicknamed by her English superiors "the queen of spies". She smuggled men to England, provided valuable information to the Intelligence Service, and prepared for her superiors in London a grid map of the region around Lille.

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<sup>10</sup> Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise\\_de\\_Bettignies](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise_de_Bettignies).

<sup>11</sup> Louise de Bettignies and the women who took part in the war. Commemoration of 1916, CDIHP du Nord - Minister for War Veterans and Victims of War - POIRIER Léon, Soeurs d'armes, Tours, Maison MAME, 1938.



*Louise Marie Jeanne Henriette de Bettignies*

When the German army installed a new battery of artillery, even camouflaged, this position was bombed by the Royal Flying Corps within eight days.<sup>12</sup>

In order for the British to invade the Middle Eastern territories they have already installed their special agents or can be named as 'Spies' already working on the mission assigned by the British. Some were assigned to take care of the messages of the hidden strategies of the countries, while some were assigned to make confusion within the troops and to drop their morale in order to lose the fight the war and retreat, while some were assigned to smuggle not only arms and ammunition but also food-stocks supplies in and out of the countries in favor of the British Empire.

For instance, **NILI** was a Jewish espionage network which assisted the United Kingdom in its fight against the Ottoman Empire in Palestine between 1915-1917, during World War I. NILI is an acronym which stands for the Hebrew phrase "*Netzah Yisrael Lo Yeshaker*," which translates as "the Eternal One of Israel will not lie."<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> "Alice". Pays du Nord (84). June–July 2008.

<sup>13</sup> "*With Spy Sarah Aaronsohn's Suicide, Israeli History was Rewritten, Claims Author*," The Times of Israel, December 14, 2006.



Sarah Aaronsohn, her brothers Aaron and Alex, and their sister Rivka, together with their friend (and Rivka's fiancé) Avshalom Feinberg formed and led NILI.

From March to October 1915, a plague of locusts stripped areas in and around Palestine of almost all vegetation; and the Turkish authorities, worried about feeding their troops, turned to world-famous botanist and the region's leading agronomist, Aaron Aaronsohn. He requested the release of his friend and assistant, Avshalom Feinberg. The team fighting the locust invasion was given permission to move around the country. This enabled them to collect strategic information about Ottoman camps and troop deployment.

For months, the group was not taken seriously by British intelligence, and attempts by Aaron Aaronsohn and Avshalom Feinberg to establish communication channels in Cairo and Port Said failed. Only after Aaron Aaronsohn arrived in London (by way of Berlin and Copenhagen) and by virtue of his reputation, he was able to obtain cooperation from the diplomat Sir Mark Sykes.<sup>14 15 16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> **Sir Mark Sykes** - Colonel Sir Tatton Benvenuto Mark Sykes, 6th Baronet (16 March 1879 – 16 February 1919) was an English traveler, Conservative Party politician and diplomatic advisor,



*Sir Mark Sykes*

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particularly with regard to the Middle East at the time of the First World War. He is associated with the Sykes–Picot Agreement, drawn up while the war was in progress, regarding the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire by Britain, France and Russia.

<sup>15</sup> "Sarah Aaronsohn - Jewish Women's Archive". jwa.org. Retrieved 5 October 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nili>.



*Aaron Aaronsohn*

A short detail regarding the activities of Aaron Aaronsohn and his sister Sarah Aaronsohn which is mentioned as follows:

Aaron Aaronsohn (21 May 1876 – 15 May 1919) was a Jewish agronomist, botanist, and Zionist activist, who was born in Romania and lived most of his life in the Land of Israel, then part of the Ottoman Empire.<sup>17</sup>

During World War I, the Ottomans had joined sides with the Germans, and Aaronsohn feared the Jews would suffer the same fate as the Armenians under the Turks. Together with his assistant, Avshalom Feinberg, his sister and a few others, Aaronsohn organized Nili, a ring of Jewish residents of Palestine who spied for Britain during World War I. He recommended the plan of attack through Beersheba that General Edmund Allenby ultimately used to take Jerusalem in December 1917 as part of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. Owing to information supplied by Nili to the British Army concerning the locations of oasis in the desert, General Allenby was able to mount a surprise attack on Beersheba, bypassing strong Ottoman defenses in Gaza.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Molecular Genetic Maps in Wild Emmer Wheat

<sup>18</sup> Lawrence and Aaronsohn: T. E. Lawrence, Aaron Aaronsohn, and the Seeds of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Ronald Florence.



In 1917, Chaim Weizman sent Aaronsohn on a political campaign to the USA. While there, Aaronsohn learned that the Ottoman authorities had intercepted a NILI carrier pigeon, which led to the arrest and torture of his sister Sarah and other NILI members.

Aaron Aaronsohn died in a plane crash in 1919. Allenby's own posthumous, handwritten tribute credited him as "mainly responsible for the formation of my Field Intelligence Organization behind the Turkish lines." His death, wrote Allenby, "deprived me of a valued friend and of a staff officer impossible to replace."<sup>19</sup>

In another Instance, Sarah Aaronsohn, her sister Rivka Aaronsohn, and her brothers Aaron Aaronsohn and Alexander Aaronsohn, with their friend (and fiancé of Rivka) Avshalom Feinberg formed and led the Nili spy organization. Aaronsohn oversaw operations in Palestine of the spy-ring and passed information to British agents offshore. Sometimes she travelled widely through Ottoman territory collecting information useful to the British, and brought it directly to them in Egypt. In 1917, her brother Alex urged her to remain in British-controlled Egypt, expecting hostilities from Ottoman authorities; but Aaronsohn returned to Zichron

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<sup>19</sup> The Jewish Spies who helped the British defeat the Ottoman Empire in World War I, 13 September 2017.

Yaakov to continue Nili activities. Nili developed into the largest pro-British espionage network in the Middle East, with a network of about 40 spies.<sup>20</sup>

Following her death, Aaronsohn became widely commemorated. She was the first example of a "secular, active death of a Jewish-Zionist woman for the nation, unprecedented in both religious martyrdom and in the Zionist tradition established in Palestine."<sup>21</sup>

Among all the activities being executed by other agents of the British Empire, let us have a glance at what really happened in Palestine with the agricultural activities which Abdul Baha had taken into full swing action since 1901. All the hard work and dedication of Abdul Baha and his family concluded to one thing and that was not feeding the common people but to the British troops. Let us examine how Abdul Baha started his agricultural activities in detail.

In the year 1911 and 1912, he was able to pay all the expenses for himself and his entourage during his travels to Europe and North America.

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<sup>20</sup> "Sarah Aaronsohn - Jewish Women's Archive". jwa.org. Retrieved 5 October 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.



*Sarah Aaronsohn*

Some of Abdul Baha's business activities leading up to, and during, the First World War have been described by Iraj Poostchi, in 'Adasiyyah: A Study in Agriculture and Rural Development' (Baha'i Studies Review 16 (2010), pp. 61–105).

Adasiyyah was just one of Abdul Baha's ventures (there were also farms at Samrah, Nuqayb and Nogaile, and perhaps others I have not heard about). Thanks to Poostchi's research, the Adasiyyah estate gives us a picture of Abdul Baha's vigour and persistence in business. Briefly, sometime in 1901, Abdul Baha purchased about 2200 acres of land at Adasiyyah, on the Jordan River, for 400 Turkish lira. Soon after, he gave 1/24th of the land to the family from whom he purchased it, 3/24ths to his brother Mirza Muhammad Ali, and 1/24th to the Mufti of Akka, leaving Abdul Baha with about 1704 acres.

The land at that time was scrubland. A first attempt to grow wheat and barley was unsuccessful, due to lawlessness in the area, and Abdul Baha then leased the land for two years to a wealthy Christian merchant, on condition that he would build a house, stables and animal sheds in lieu of one year's rental, and would prepare the ground. He too failed, due to the theft of his produce.

In 1907 Abdul Baha arranged for a number of Baha'i farmers, mostly those of Zoroastrian background from the village of Mahdiyabad, to come to Palestine, and in the following years increasing numbers moved to Adasiyyah. The influx continued until 1916. Most of the land was farmed by individual families in a sharecropping arrangement. The farmers had security of tenure, and if they wished to give up the land, could ask for a payment from the incoming sharecropper. These provisions gave them an incentive to improve the land and facilities. The sharecroppers were responsible for seed, water, manure and labour for their plots. They were advised but not required to pay their labourers a portion of their profits. Before the war they paid 1/3rd of their harvest to Abdul Baha, and after the war 1/5th (the norm at that time was a 50/50 division). This would be paid in cash or in grain, which would be shipped to Haifa.

Abdul Baha took a close interest in the farming and in the little community. He advised the farmers to plant a type of eucalyptus that produces quinine in its bark, to drain a marsh, combat malaria, cool the climate and ultimately for construction timber. The Baha'i farmers also built a small stone dam in the Yarmouk river, which provided water for both the Baha'i and non-Baha'i farms in the area through an irrigation ditch that eventually extended over a kilometer. In addition to

wheat and barley (usually on the unirrigated land), they grew chickpeas, lentils, broad beans, tomatoes, bananas, citrus fruits, pomegranate, apples, pears and other fruit, vetch and sweet corn, as well as raising cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and pigeons. Crop rotation was practiced. Abdul Baha encouraged the farmers to diversify to fruit production, and suggested that they grow large yellow lemons and sesame seeds, which fetched much higher prices than other farm products. He introduced bananas by bringing a number of shoots (suckers) from India, which also proved lucrative. He also encouraged them to engage in crafts and small rural industries, and to expand their sales to markets further away.

In July 1917, with the First World War raging and rainfall also poor, Abdul Baha arrived in Adasiyyah and told the Baha'is that he needed wheat for Haifa and Akka. The Baha'i farmers offered Abdul Baha all they had, and Abdul Baha also bought all the wheat available in the area, using 200 camels to ship it to Haifa and Akka, carrying 400 sacks on each trip.<sup>22 23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Adasiyyah: A Study in Agriculture and Rural Development by Iraj Poostchi.

<sup>23</sup> Abdul Baha British Knighthood –

<https://senmcglinn.wordpress.com/2011/04/22/abdul-baha-british-knighthood/>



*Yarmouk River*



According to the struggles of Abdul Baha and his friends, we are able to conclude that since 1900, Abdul Baha had been striving with sheer determination to accumulate food supplies as much as possible. He totally used up the entire resources of the country and even imported from neighboring countries to hoard for an ideal time.

In 1919, when most parts of the territories were lost by the Ottomans and the British were gaining ground, soon Djemal Pasha came to know about the whereabouts and the planning of Abdul Baha to which he responded with extreme harshness by issuing an order for his crucifixion.

Who was Djemal Pasha? On which criteria did Djemal Pasha announced for Abdul Baha's crucifixion? Why was it so important for him?

We will figure out in-depth the personality of Djemal Pasha as to who he was in the Palestinian territories in the upcoming chapter.



*Photograph, Underwood & Underwood, N.Y.*

DJEMAL PASHA

***DJEMAL PASHA***

## CHAPTER FOUR

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### A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF DJEMAL PASHA

**A**hmed Djemal Pasha (6 May 1872 – 21 July 1922), commonly known as Djemal Basha al-Saffah or Djemal Pasha the Bloodthirsty in the Arab world, was an Ottoman military leader and one-third of the military triumvirate known as the Three Pashas (also called the "Three Dictators") that ruled the Ottoman Empire during World War I. Djemal was the Minister of the Navy. Along with the other Three Pashas he was one of the main perpetrators of the Armenian genocide, the Greek genocide, and the Assyrian

genocide.<sup>24 25</sup> He was also the Mayor of Constantinople (today known as Istanbul).<sup>26</sup>

Ahmed Djemal was born in Mytilene, Lesbos, to Mehmet Nesip Bey, a military pharmacist.

Destined for the army, Djemal passed out from Kuleli Military High School in 1890. He went on to the Military Academy (Mektebi Harbiyeyi Şahane) in 1893, the staff college in Istanbul. He was posted to serve with the 1st Department of the Imperial General Staff (Seraskerlik Erkânı Harbiye), and then he worked at the Kirkkilise Fortification Construction Department bound to Second Army. Djemal was assigned to the II Corps in 1896; being appointed two years later, the staff commander of Novice Division, stationed on the Salonica frontier.

It was in 1905, when Djemal was promoted to major and designated Inspector of Roumelia Railways. The following year he signaled democratic credentials, joined the Ottoman Liberty Society. He became

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<sup>24</sup> Benz, Wolfgang (2010). Vorurteil und Genozid. IdeologischePrämissen des Völkermords. Böhlau Verlag. p. 54.

<sup>25</sup> Scott Anderson (2014). Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East. Anchor Books.

<sup>26</sup> Mango, Andrew (1999). Atatürk: The Biography of the Founder of Modern Turkey. Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press. p. 113.

influential in the department of military issues of the Committee of Union and Progress. He became a member of Board of the III Corps, in 1907. Here, he worked with future Turkish statesmen Major Fethi (Okyar) and Mustafa Kemal (Atatürk).<sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> Between 1908 and 1918, Djemal was one of the most important leaders of the Ottoman government.

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<sup>27</sup> Turkey in World Politics: An Emerging Multiregional Power. Lynne Rienner Publishers. p. 168.

<sup>28</sup> The Kemalists: Islamic Revival and the Fate of Secular Turkey. Prometheus Books, Publishers. p. 77.

## CHAPTER FIVE

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### ABDUL BAHA 'THE MOST DEPENDABLE PERSON FOR THE BRITISH'

**A**lmost several years have passed in cultivation and in hoarding the corns and different types of crops in the massive roman made granaries by Abdul Baha and his friends. On the other hand, the Syrian and the Palestinian territories were struck with an invasion of locust in 1915. Two years into the invasion of locust the Palestinian people had started dying with starvation as it was an almost unexpected. As a result of which, the Ottomans forces started to lose their battles

against the British as they advance into the territories in 1917.

When the British forces infiltrated, they were given food supplies to which the advancement into the warzone was with complete domination. The British forces got the upper hand and started their penetration into the Palestinian territories while, the Ottomans were struggling to stay alive from locust attacks.

It surprised me to the fact what Abdul Baha had worked on since past years along with some friends in cultivating and hoarding several massive granaries. The crops were harvested and hoarded by Abdul Baha in massive underground storages in several cities. In such a critical situation, where Palestinian were suffering not just by one major crisis but by two: Famine and war.

The ottomans had closely watched the actions and endless determination of Abdul Baha in harvesting the crops. But to their surprise, they were deceived by Abdul Baha by switching sides when the British troops entered the area. The entire food stockpiles were submitted to the British troops which left Major Djemal Pasha in complete distress. As he was not expecting, a citizen residing in his own country would succor and assist his enemies by using resources and manpower of Palestine. As a matter of fact, the British troops were



satisfied with Abdul Baha and his followers services rendered and efforts in these years of famine as well as during occupation.

This led to a big setback towards the army of the Ottomans to retreat in several areas due to shortage of food supplies and their crippled morale. The British army got an upper hand on the situation with their food stock growing to full and their morale booming.

The British advancement in the Palestinian territory was growing rapidly. Djemal Pasha realized as to what had caused him to be in this critical situation. Then Djemal Pasha had taken a firm stand in taking a steady decision to annihilate one of the root causes of his retreat in several areas by passing a verdict to kill the traitor i.e. Abdul Baha.

This verdict of Djemal Pasha was spread even to overseas. The followers of Abdul Baha after hearing this took several steps in saving the life of Abdul Baha and his followers in Palestine which we have discussed in the coming chapter.



Wellesley Tudor-Pole (1884-1968)

## CHAPTER SIX

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### A SHORT HISTORY OF MAJOR TUDOR POLE

In order to comprehend the reality, we must first figure out as to who all were involved in this rescue operation of Abdul Baha either, Abdul Baha was rescued or was he arrested by the Ottomans army. Furthermore, Major Tudor Pole was one of many people who played a critical role in assisting and saving the life of Abdul Baha.

## WHO WAS TUDOR POLE?

Major Wellesley Tudor Pole O.B.E. (born Tudor Wellesley Pole 23 April 1884 – 13 September 1968).<sup>29</sup>  
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He authored many pamphlets and books and was a lifelong pursuer of religious and mystical questions and visions, being particularly involved with spiritualism as well as the quest for the Holy Grail of Arthurian Legend.

## PERSONAL HISTORY AND EVENTS TO NOTE

Born in 1884, he was educated at Blundell's School in Tiverton in Devon and at the age of 20 he became the managing director of the family firm involved in marketing grains and cereals<sup>31</sup> and also became involved in adventures to find the Holy Grail.<sup>32</sup> He pursued investigations in the Middle East.

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<sup>29</sup> Villiers O.G. (1977) Wellesley Tudor Pole: Appreciation and Valuation. Privately published.

<sup>30</sup> Births Jun 1884 Pole, Tudor Wellesley, Axbridge, 5c, 551.

<sup>31</sup> Fenge, Gerry. "Wellesley Tudor Pole.com". A few highlights from a full life (timeline). Wellesley Tudor Pole.com. Retrieved 2008-11-08.

<sup>32</sup> Francois Martine, ed. (2006-10-01). "Da Vinci Code Decoded, The Holy Grail, P.2". E.P.Wijnants. Retrieved 2006-10-01.

Tudor Pole wrote several books investigating spiritualist approaches to faith and the meaning of the times until his death in 1968. Works relating to him continued to be published after his death.

### **WHAT BAHÁ'Í HAS TO SAY REGARDING TUDOR POLE**

Wellesley Tudor Pole was an admirer of Abdul Baha, having met Him in Egypt in 1908. His interest in alternative forms of spirituality naturally drew him to the Master and to His teachings. When Abdul Baha visited England in 1911, he stayed at the Clifton Guest House owned by Major Tudor Pole.

Major Wellesley Tudor Pole was a spiritualist and became early British Baha'i.

On a visit to Constantinople prior to the Young Turk Revolution in 1908, he heard of Abdul Baha, the head of the Baha'i Faith and met and interviewed him over 9 days in late November 1910 in Cairo and Alexandria.

For the next several decades he was active in the Baha'i Faith as well as other interests. When Abdul

Baha travelled to the West, Tudor Pole spoke the English translation of his first talk on the evening of 10 September 1911.<sup>33</sup>

In 1921, while Tudor Pole was Secretary of the Local Spiritual Assembly in London<sup>34</sup>, the telegram announcing the death of Abdul Baha by his sister, Bahiyyih Khanum, arrived at Tudor Pole's home in London and it was there read by Shoghi Effendi.<sup>35</sup>

### **TUDOR POLE'S ANECDOTES WITH ABDUL BAHA**

A story which is of interest is that of the cloak<sup>36</sup> in this passage Pole recounts how he remembers giving Jesus a warm camel-hair cloak, he then recalls:

There is a strange sequel, nearly nineteen hundred years later, to this story. In the winter

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<sup>33</sup> Young, Sue. "Wellesley Tudor Pole" [sueyounghistories.com](http://sueyounghistories.com).

<sup>34</sup> Ruhiyyih Khanum's Tribute to Shoghi Effendi at the Kampala Conference Jan 1958. Baha'i Library Online.

<sup>35</sup> The Guardian of the Baha'i Faith. 27 Rutland Gate, London: Baha'i Publishing Trust. p. 13. ISBN 0-900125-59-4.

<sup>36</sup> A Man Seen Afar. Saffron Waldon: The C. W. Daniel Company Limited, Pole, W. T. (1965), pg. 75 – 77.

of 1919, when I was walking with Abdul Baha Abbas on Mount Carmel, he noticed I was suffering from the cold. Immediately he took off his camel-hair cloak and threw it around my shoulders.

At that time, I had forgotten the incidents recorded in these notes, and therefore could not understand what the wind seemed to be whispering in my ears:

Restitution after many days ....<sup>37</sup>

Pole appears to be equating Abdul Baha with Jesus and in the same book he writes

“Followers of Abdul Baha regard his spiritual status equal to that of Jesus”<sup>38</sup>, which describes both Jesus and Baha’u’llah as Manifestations of God. However, this is not the Baha’i Teaching.

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<sup>37</sup> Ibid, pg. 77.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, pg. 53.





*Abdul Baha (centre) staying in September 1911 at the  
guest house of Wellesley Tudor Pole (kneeling and  
smiling, left)*

Pole's dedication to Jesus and his belief that Jesus was the most important of messengers was consistent throughout his life.<sup>39</sup>

In another occasion, Tudor Pole narrates an incident where Abdul Baha was interviewed by newspaper correspondent;

In the early years of this century the problem of translation was a very difficult one, because no English linguists were available, and the knowledge of English among those of the Master's entourage was scanty to a degree. Only rarely, as I have recorded elsewhere, was I privileged to overcome this problem, when I spoke easily with the Master in a language which surmounted the barriers of the human tongue. I have known times when he realized instinctively that he was being translated incorrectly and then insisted on a fresh interpretation.

There was an occasion in Ramleh when one of his Persian followers was being interviewed by newspaper correspondents. The Master was in the next room but within hearing distance. When asked about his Faith, this follower proudly proclaimed that he was a Baha'i and not a Christian. Abdul Baha came into the room at

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<sup>39</sup> Baha'i Seer the Extraordinary Life and Work of Wellesley Tudor Pole -Baha'i Seer, pg 2.

this juncture and naturally the Press reporters turned their attention to him exclusively. One of them knew Arabic well and was able to glean the substance of the Master's discourse. To the surprise of most present, this consisted of an exposition of the spiritual principles which formed the basis for the teaching of "His Holiness the Christ".

He made it clear that these great principles also formed the foundations for the Message proclaimed by Baha'u'llah, but set forth in a manner most suitable for the needs of humanity in the modern world.



*Abdul Baha and visitors at the Clifton Guest House in Bristol, England, September, 1911*

He insisted that his father had come to proclaim a new the unity underlying all religions. He also spoke of the danger of exclusiveness which could only lead to the establishment of a new sect and an abandonment of all that was best and true in Christianity and the ancient world scriptures.

Coffee was then served and to show his friendly tolerance, Abdul Baha accepted a cigarette from one of the reporters, allowed it to be lighted, put it to his mouth, and then laid it aside.<sup>40</sup>

Tudor pole recounts another incident with Abdul Baha in which he states:

It was on this occasion that I presented to the Master gifts from his English friends.

I had travelled from Marseilles on a steamer called the Sphinx and intended to return overland via. Damascus, Smyrna, Constantinople and Vienna. My return ticket and reservations for the round trip were arranged before I left London. On arrival at Alexandria I lost no time in visiting my revered friend and in carrying out the commission with which I had been entrusted.

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<sup>40</sup> Pole Writing Ground (Neville Spearman Ltd, 1968), by Wellesley Tudor Pole, pg 145 – 146.



*Tudor Pole Standing at the right side of Abdul Baha*

I speak no Persian and my knowledge of Arabic is rudimentary, and so our conversation was carried on through Abdul Baha's grandson, acting as interpreter. At one point the latter was called away, but Abdul Baha continued the conversation and I found myself replying! When the interpreter returned, my ability to do so ceased. To make sure that I had understood correctly, I asked for a translation of what Abdul Baha had been saying in his absence, and this confirmed the fact that I had been able to understand and to reply accurately in a language of which I was completely ignorant. (This curious experience was repeated some years later when visiting Abdul Baha in Paris.)

On returning the next day for another interview, I asked the Master to give me his blessing for the journey that lay ahead of me. This he did, adding casually that I should be returning to Marseilles on the following day on the same steamer from which I had so recently disembarked. I then explained to the interpreter that I had made other arrangements and that all my overland bookings had been made. He replied to the effect that if the Master said I had to return to Marseilles now, then that was what would happen.

I went back to my hotel in a state of considerable annoyance because I saw no good reason for changing my plans. During the night, a very restless one, I found myself in two minds as to what I should do. Next



morning, when I went to say goodbye, and much to my own surprise, I told Abdul Baha that in fact I was leaving on the Sphinx for Marseilles later on that same day. He took this for granted and then requested me to carry out a commission for him on reaching Paris. He said that there I should meet a certain Persian student who was nearly blind, and he gave me [...] in gold to pay his fare to Alexandria. (Travelling was much cheaper in those days!) I was to tell this young man, whose name was Tammadun ul Molk, to lose no time and to present himself to his Master as soon as he arrived. I accepted this commission with very bad grace because it seemed a poor reason for upsetting all my previous plans. When I asked for the student's address in Paris I was told that this was unknown but that a way would be found for bringing me into contact with him.

Tudor pole in his book named *“Pole writing on Ground”* narrates the following incident which was astonishing:

*“Shortly before his passing in the same year, his book writing on the Ground”* was published. In this book Pole evaluates and reflects upon his relationship with the Baha’i Faith, it may be significant that he returned to his subject so near the end, on the other hand it may simply have been as he says in the book in response to requests from Baha’i friends. About a third



of the volume is concerned with Pole reminiscences of Abdul Baha and the recounting of anecdotes about the Baha'is he had met, what is particularly significant is that after a lifetime of reflection Pole clearly states:

At that time over a century ago, it did not seem to me that Abdul Baha envisaged the establishment of a new separate 'Religion'. All the stress of his teaching was laid on the leavening effect of the Baha'i message on the religious already in existence and which were themselves in such urgent need of spiritual regeneration from within. The Master made it clear that to create an entirely new and separate religious organization at that time should be resisted vigorously.<sup>41</sup>

Clearly, Pole never wavered from his refusal to accept the Baha'i Faith as a separate and independent religion, rather than an auxiliary religious movement requiring no severance from pre-existing religious beliefs and their attendant organizational structures.

Pole had, however, been deeply committed to a spiritual path which he had sought to present to the public, at least in part, in two earlier publications. In 1965 Pole had published '*A Man Seen Afar*' in which he offered far-memories of Jesus. This book

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<sup>41</sup>Ibid, pg 147.

was obviously controversial claiming as it did to throw new light on the last days of Jesus from the standpoint of a contemporary observer. Pole claimed to receive such memories from the Akashic Records, the sum of all human experience.<sup>42</sup> The source and accuracy of these memories does not reflect on Pole's relationship to the Baha'i Faith and is therefore outside of the scope of this paper, however, the nature of his memories does perhaps shed some light on his understanding of the Baha'i Teachings.<sup>43</sup>

Pole's dedication to Jesus was pretty much consistent throughout his life and his belief in Christianity had a great impact on him in comparison with the Baha'i Faith.

### **THE FALL OF HAIFA AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF ABDUL BAHÁ AND HIS FAMILY**

Tudor Pole narrates the following incident as to how they approached in escorting Abdul Baha to safety:

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<sup>42</sup>Ibid, pg 9.

<sup>43</sup>Baha'i Seer The Extraordinary Life and Work of Wellesley Tudor Pole -Baha'i Seer, pg 1-2.

It must have been in the early spring of 1918 that I began to feel acute anxiety for the safety of Abdul Baha and his family and followers in Haifa. I came out of the line in December 1917 during the attack on Jerusalem, and being temporarily incapacitated for active service, was transferred to Intelligence, first at Cairo and later at Ludd, Jaffa and Jerusalem.

Early in March 1918 information reached me from our own espionage service that the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, whose headquarters was then between Haifa and Beirut, had stated his definite intention to take the lives of Abdul Baha and those around him should the Turkish Army be compelled to evacuate Haifa and retreat north.

With an advance base in and around Jaffa, we were beginning to prepare for a move towards Haifa at that time. For several reasons, including shortage of men and munitions, our advance was to be delayed well into the summer of 1918. Meanwhile, the news reaching me personally concerning Abdul Baha's imminent danger became more and more alarming. I tried to arouse interest in the matter among those who were responsible for Intelligence activities (including

General Clayton, Sir Wyndham Deedes<sup>44</sup>, and Sir Ronald Storrs<sup>45</sup>—who had recently been



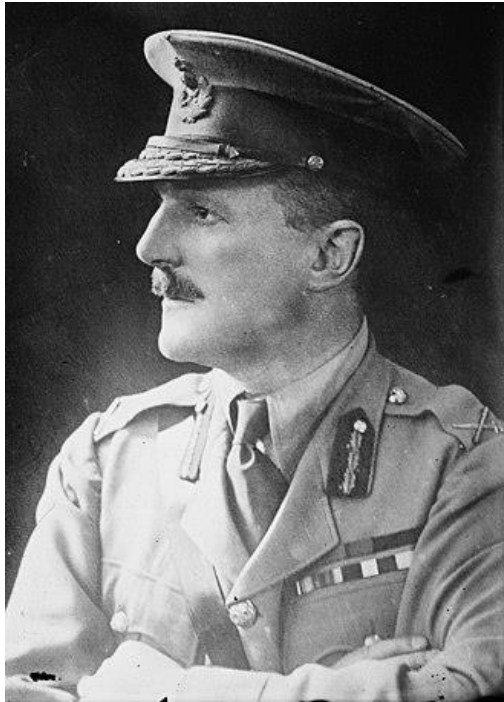
*Sir Wyndham Deedes*

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<sup>44</sup> **Sir Wyndham Deedes** - Brigadier-General Sir Wyndham Henry Deedes, CMG, DSO (10 March 1883 – 2 September 1956) was a British Army officer and civil administrator. He was the Chief Secretary to the British High Commissioner of the British Mandate of Palestine.

<sup>45</sup> **Sir Ronald Storrs** - Sir Ronald Henry Amherst Storrs KCMG CBE (19 November 1881 – 1 November 1955) was an official in the British Foreign and Colonial Office. He served as Oriental Secretary in Cairo, Military Governor of Jerusalem, Governor of Cyprus, and Governor of Northern Rhodesia.

appointed Governor of Jerusalem), and my own chief, Major-General Sir Arthur Money (Chief Administrator of Occupied Enemy Territory). None of them knew anything about Abdul Baha, nor could they be made to realize the urgent need to ensure his safety.



*Sir Ronald Storrs*

At this time chance brought me into touch with a senior officer whose social and political connection were

strong. Through his courtesy and interest, I was enabled to get an urgent message through—uncensored—to the British Foreign Office in London.

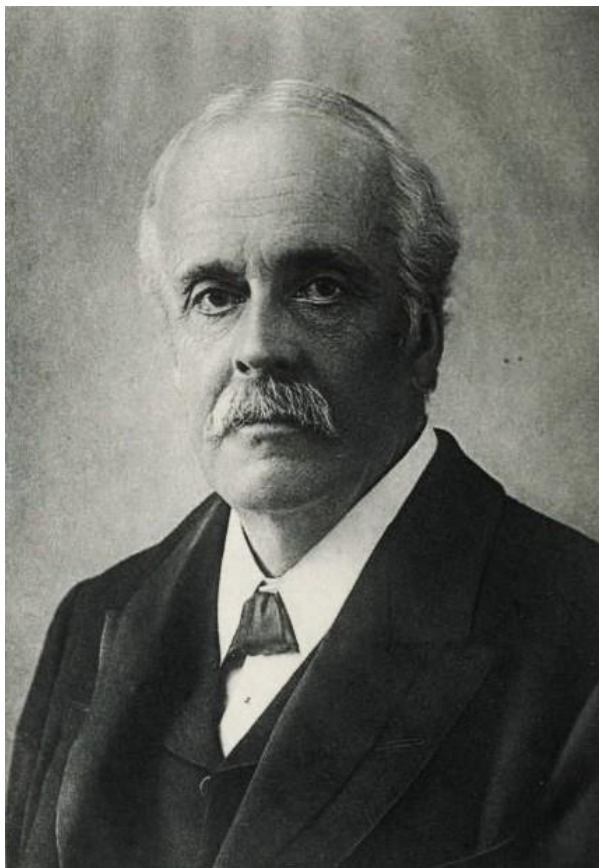
Through friends associated with the Baha'i Cause in England, and an influential member of my own circle, an independent avenue of approach to the ruling powers was discovered and utilized.

By these means Lord Balfour<sup>46</sup>, Lord Curzon, Lloyd George, Lord Milner and others in the Cabinet were warned of the critical situation at Haifa. Lord Lamington's<sup>47</sup> influence proved of special help at this time. The outcome of these various activities bore good fruit, and a Cabinet dispatch was sent to General Allenby instructing him to ensure the safety of Abdul Baha and his family and entourage as soon as the British Army captured Haifa.

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<sup>46</sup> **Lord Balfour** - Arthur James Balfour, 1st Earl of Balfour, KG, OM, PC, FRS, FBA, DL (25 July 1848 – 19 March 1930) was a British statesman and Conservative Party politician who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1902 to 1905. As Foreign Secretary under David Lloyd George, he issued the Balfour Declaration in November 1917 on behalf of the cabinet.

<sup>47</sup> **Lord Lamington** - Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Cochrane-Baillie, 2nd Baron Lamington, GCMG, GCIE (29 July 1860 – 16 September 1940) was a British politician and colonial administrator who served as Governor of Queensland from 1896 to 1901, and Governor of Bombay from 1903 to 1907.



*Lord Balfour*



*The Lord Lamington*

This dispatch passed through my hands in Cairo en route for Army H.Q. at Ludd and it was immediately passed on to be dealt with by the Staff there. No one at Headquarters had heard of Abdul Baha or of the Baha'i Movement, and Intelligence officials at Cairo were



requested to make urgent enquiry. In due course this demand for information reached the Headquarters of Intelligence at the Savoy Hotel, Cairo, and ultimately (when other enquiries had proved fruitless) was passed to me for action.

As a result, General Allenby was provided with full particulars of Abdul Baha's life and an account of the movement of which he was the leader.

Allenby then issued orders to the General in command of the Haifa operations to the effect that immediately the town was entered, a British guard should be posted around Abdul Baha's house, and a further guard placed at the disposal of his family and followers. Meanwhile, we found ways of making it known within the enemy lines that stern retribution would follow any attempt to cause death or injury to Abdul Baha or to any of his household.

I have no doubt that this warning played an important part in averting tragedy. So soon as Haifa was captured, the instructions for posting a guard were immediately carried out, and all danger to the lives of the Master and his family was averted.

It is not possible to say for certain whether disaster would have resulted otherwise, but as the town was full of Turkish spies for some time after its capture (many

of whom knew of the Turkish Commander-in-Chief's firm intention to massacre Abdul Baha and his family) action with this end in view might have been successfully attempted, were it not for the precautions which I have described above.

The honorand protection shown to the Baha'i leader at that time were greatly appreciated by him, and this gave considerable help to British prestige in Persia and elsewhere in the Middle East. He told me this himself.

It was a wonderful experience in the midst of the chaos of war to visit the Master at his Mount Carmel home, which even at that time remained a haven of peace and refreshment.<sup>48</sup>

### **WHETHER TUDOR POLE WAS A BAHÁ'Í OR A CHRISTIAN**

It was in 1959 that Pole succeeded in what was perhaps to be his most lasting legacy, the purchase of the Chalice Well at Glastonbury for the nation. This was not without some rancor and a major falling out with his former business partner Ronald Heaver. The feud as

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<sup>48</sup> Pole Writing Ground (Neville Spearman Ltd, 1968), by Wellesley Tudor Pole, pg 151 – 155.



*Tudor Pole is pictured at the Wellhead in 1960,  
aged 76.*

it is referred to between Heaven and Pole is alluded to in R J Stewart's biography of Heaven. Whilst the details of the disagreement are not relevant, they were basically over the sale of the Tor School property and the nature of the damage that compromised the safety of the building leading to its demolition. Stewart presents an interesting insight into Pole's spiritual and religious stance. Stewart is clearly unfamiliar with the Baha'i Faith as he writes "The interests of WTP, such as his years of deep commitment within the Baha'i faith, in essence a further development of Islam (albeit heretical)"<sup>49</sup> he is however deeply immersed in the esoteric traditions surrounding Glastonbury and it is in this context he describes the feud. Stewart argues that the spiritual currents which flow through Glastonbury polarise and have been symbolised as the Red and White Dragons of Bardic tradition (more usually used to represent Wales and England) and are physically embodied in the Red and White Springs of Glastonbury.<sup>50</sup> Glastonbury is claimed to be the site of the first Christian church in England, founded by Joseph of Arimathea, this Ancient British Church or Arimathean Christianity was gradually displaced by the Roman Catholic version of Christianity in England

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<sup>49</sup> The Hidden Adept & the Inward Vision The story of Ronald Heaven, Polly Wood and the Sanctuary of Avalon.  
Dexter: R J Stewart Books, pg 134.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid, pg 135.

after the Synod of Whitby in 644CE. When Henry VIII founded his own church in defiance of the Pope he claimed he was re-establishing an ancient English form of Christianity based on the Arimathean tradition. Stewart argues that Heaver “according to his own statements, was an initiate into the hidden esoteric lineages of the Arimathean and Essene spiritual streams, while Wellesley Tudor-Pole in addition to his Baha’i beliefs and long career of spiritualism and esotericism, was in his youth under the mentorship of Cardinal Gasquet”<sup>51</sup>. Pole then, represented the Roman tradition in the ancient conflict between Rome and Arimathea/Jerusalem over the spiritually significant site of Glastonbury, a site whose importance predated both churches. The spiritual conflict is outside the scope of this paper but Stewart is correct in pointing out Pole’s flirtation with the Roman Church, in particular with its monastic orders and this may be significant in analyzing his relationship with the Baha’is.

The final mention of Pole in Shoghi Effendi’s published communication to the British national Assembly is somewhat cryptic; it is a telegram, dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 1949, which reads:

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid, pg 139.

*Advise show utmost consideration Tudor-Pole  
invite him summer school participation other  
activities. Shoghi.*<sup>52</sup>

This appears to be a response to a question of how the Baha'i community should relate to Pole. Shoghi Effendi's answer is unequivocal and unsurprising, what is curious is why the question should have been raised. In 1944 Pole had been present at the opening of the Baha'i Centenary Celebrations in London. A telegram dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 1943 instructs the British NSA:

Advise contact Herbert Samuel<sup>53</sup>, Ronald Storrs, Tudor-Pole and other sympathisers which National Assembly may suggest vigorous action necessary safeguard interests faith insure success celebration Shoghi Rabbani.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Unfolding Destiny The Messages from the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith to the Baha'i Community of the British Isles. London: Baha'i Publishing Trust, 1981, pg 230.

<sup>53</sup> **Herbert Samuel** - Herbert Louis Samuel, 1st Viscount Samuel, GCB, OM, GBE, PC (6 November 1870 – 5 February 1963) was a British Liberal politician who was the party leader from 1931 to 1935.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid, pg 162.



*Herbert Louis Samuel*

The three men named in the telegram were all connected to Palestine, Herbert Samuel (1870 - 1963) was a Liberal politician and a Zionist Jew, he had served as High Commissioner of Palestine from July 1920 to June 1925, his appointment was, understandably, controversial. Ronald Storrs (1881 - 1955) in 1917 Storrs became, as he said, "the first military governor of Jerusalem since Pontius Pilate" for

which purpose he was given the army rank of colonel. In 1921 he became Civil Governor of Jerusalem and Judea. In both positions he attempted to support Zionism while protecting the rights of the Arab inhabitants of Palestine. Pole had also served in Palestine and he would have been well known to Samuel and Storrs, the invitation to two of the most prominent Zionists in Britain cannot have been incidental but rather an attempt to “safeguard interests’ faith” in Palestine.

As to what Shoghi Effendi mentions regarding Tudor pole in his telegram clearly shows that Tudor Pole wasn't a Baha’i and was just a sympathiser to the Baha’i religion. Tudor pole remained a sympathiser towards Abdul Baha and to the Baha’i Faith since he first met him but never became a Baha’i. Although he had mentioned the incredible incidences with Abdul Baha but never ever he has converted himself from Christianity.

On the contrary, there were some contradictory facts that unfolded in the eyes of Tudor pole after the death of Abdul Baha to which he stand firm in not showing any interest further into the religion.

Tudor Pole was a speaker at another centenary meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1944 at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1. The meeting was chaired



by Mary Basil Hall and addressed by well-known Spiritualists Shaw Desmond, Hannen Swaffer, academic Sir William Hornell, the Rev. Walter Winn, a spiritualist nonconformist minister and Dr Harold Moody the first Black British medical doctor, as well as Pole. Pole recounted his memories of Abdul Baha, in particular the events which brought them together during the First World War, he recalled conversations, apparently verbatim, about the fulfillment of the Lord's Prayer and quotes Abdul Baha as saying "The Baha'i teaching does not ask a man to desert a Faith of his forefathers but to live it in unity and fellowship with all men irrespective of their colour, caste, or creed, for we are all leaves of one tree."<sup>55</sup>In this statement Pole was significantly "off message", Shoghi Effendi had been insisting Baha'is relinquished membership of religious organizations other than Baha'i Faith since the early 1930's and written numerous letters to that effect:

"...we as Baha'is, must not have any affiliations with churches or political parties"

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the Baha'is of Vienna, June 24, 1947)<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Baha'i Centenary Celebrations. New World Order, pp. 2 - 4.

<sup>56</sup> Lights of Guidance. New Delhi: Baha'i Publishing Trust, 1988.

“....No Baha’i can any longer dissimulate his faith and practice the laws and ordinances of a previous Dispensation and call himself at the same time a believer. No compromise, no vacillation can any longer be tolerated. We must have the courage of our convictions and preserve the integrity of our glorious Cause...”

(Postscript to a letter written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer, May 21, 1933)<sup>57</sup>

“As regards the celebration of Christian Holidays by the believers; it is surely preferable and even highly advisable that friends should in their relation to each other discontinue observing such holidays as Christmas and New Year, and to have their festal gatherings of this nature instead during the intercalary days and NawRuz”

(From a letter written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer, March 19, 1938)<sup>58</sup>

It was this withdrawal from other religions and development of an exclusive religion as distinct from and auxiliary religious movement that Pole would

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<sup>57</sup> Ibid

<sup>58</sup> Ibid, pg 302.

never accept, however, it does not seem to bother Shoghi Effendi, who wrote in a telegram dated 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1945 to the British NSA:

Kindly cable address Tudor-Pole mail three copies every photograph taken centenary. Shoghi Rabbani (NSA UK, 1981, p. 171)<sup>59</sup>

It would seem that Pole's assertion that he could assist the Cause as a nonmember was not simply a polite exit strategy, but a genuine intention. In a postscript to a letter to David Hoffman, dated 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1938 says "Shoghi Effendi has just received your letter of May 16<sup>th</sup> and wishes your Assembly to make strenuous efforts in connection with the incorporation of the NSA. He would advise you to approach Lady Blomfield, Major Tudor-Pole and Lord Lamington". (NSA UK, 1981)<sup>60</sup> It would seem Pole was an active supporter, prepared to publicly associate himself with the Baha'is until the late 1940's when the 1949 correspondence cited above suggest some Baha'is became unsure of working with him, whilst Shoghi Effendi was keen to encourage further participation by Pole. His absence from further public meetings might reflect concerns he might not be entirely reliable in

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<sup>59</sup> Unfolding Destiny The Messages from the Guardian of the Baha'i Faith to the Baha'i Community of the British Isles. London: Baha'i Publishing Trust.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

presenting the same version of the Baha'i teachings as the official members.

Thus, Pole clearly states his belief in the primacy of Jesus as a messenger of God, refers only to his predecessors, making no reference to Mohammed, The Bab or Baha'u'llah, all of whom had ministries after Jesus. Pole remained a Christian; however, he was also a committed Baha'i within the context of the Baha'i Movement which he understood to be fully compatible with membership of other religions. What he did not share with those who would go on to join the Baha'i Faith was their understanding of the status of Baha'u'llah as the universal Messenger of God for the Age. He respected and revered both Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha but he understood them to be part of a wider spiritual awakening

## TUDOR POLE POST WORLD WAR-I



In 1922 Pole set up the Appeal for the Russian Clergy, who were being persecuted by the Communist regime in Russia; remained honorary treasurer for the next twelve years. In the same year he returned as he would

over the course of his life to The Quest, he widened his Istanbul Quest at this time to seek the lost library of the Emperor Justinian.

In 1928 his interest in the role of St. Michael caused him to initiate pilgrim group activity to revive sacred sites in Britain and Europe, with special reference to St. Michael. This was a development of his interest in the Heart centres of the British Isles and after the Second World War would develop further as is outlined below:

English esotericist Wellesley Tudor Pole is today probably most well-known for his development of Glastonbury's Chalice Well Gardens in 1959. An advocate for Steiner's theories about the role of Michael in the spiritual life of Britain, Tudor Pole made the connection between Glastonbury and Tintagel as sites which had links with both Arthur and Michael. However, in the post WWII period, Tudor Pole wished to rejuvenate Britain's sacred sites by advocating a new era of pilgrimage, which he felt could help speed up earthly evolution, and help secure Britain's place as a spiritual world leader. He called for an emphasis on sites that had been dedicated to St. Michael and suggested that pilgrims begin with St. Michael's Mount near Penzance and then travel through Tintagel to Glastonbury Tor,

also dedicated to St. Michael. Wellesley Tudor Pole's spiritual vision certainly had nativist overtones. In addition to his interest in Arthur and the Joseph of Aramathea legends about bringing the Holy Grail to Britain, he also considered St George as a manifestation of the Archangel Michael, reinforcing England's position as a potential spiritual beacon which would help to rejuvenate a deflated and war-torn Europe. (Hale, 2004)<sup>61</sup>

In 1930 Pole revised his original destination for the westernmost spiritual centre of the British Isles to Devenish Island in Lough Erne, this not only contains one of the finest monastic sites but was by 1930 still within the United Kingdom unlike some of the other sites Pole may have considered for the original Irish site of a heart centre.

In 1931 Pole began to put his Quest in Istanbul on an archaeological footing via his friend Sir Davis Russell and the Walker Trust of St. Andrews University.<sup>62</sup>

During World War I, Tudor Pole served in the Directorate of Military Intelligence in the Middle

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<sup>61</sup> The Land near the Dark Cornish sea. Journal for the Academic Study of Magic - Issue 2, 207 - 225.

<sup>62</sup> Baha'i Seer The Extraordinary Life and Work of Wellesley Tudor Pole -Baha'i Seer, pg 8.

East and was directly involved in addressing the concerns raised by the Ottoman threats against Abdul Baha which ultimately required General Allenby altering his plans for the prosecution of the war in the Palestine theatre. After the War, Tudor Pole began his writing career with Private Dowding which dealt with a soldier and his after life, and instituted The Silent Minute (in collaboration with Sir Winston Churchill), which united the British people each evening at 9 p.m. at the chiming of Big Ben on the radio. Then came The Lamplighter Movement.

In 1932 he began a long association with a project aimed at relieving the oppression of the Bolsheviks on religionists in Russia. Returning to his searches through the Middle East, Tudor Pole aided in the modern-day identification of the site of the ancient Boukoleon Palace, also known as the House of Justinian. Following Shoghi Effendi's leadership of the Baha'i Faith, and the change in style and priorities of the leadership of the religion, Tudor Pole could not leave behind his spiritualist involvements and his involvement in the religion ebbed. In 1959 Tudor Pole founded a group preserving the Chalice Well and Bride's Mound of Glastonbury, England.

To conclude, according to the Baha'is, Tudor Pole was an early British Baha'i. Moreover, he was the Secretary of the Local Spiritual Assembly in London. On the



contrary, his entire life until his death, he believed in Christianity and was a firm follower.

What could be the reason that the Baha'is introduced Tudor Pole as a British Baha'i?

However, Tudor Pole was a believer in Christianity.

Why was he so attached with Abdul Baha since World War I until the death of Abdul Baha?

Whether he was a communicator in-between the British officials and Abdul Baha?

Whether he was in-charge of the expedition in Palestine?

Whether Tudor Pole and Abdul Baha making ground for the British occupying forces in Palestine.

All these above questions can be explained by the fact that, Abdul Baha and Tudor Pole worked hand-in-hand for the British Empire in occupying Palestine to the extent that Abdul Baha as a resident of Palestine was announced to be executed by the Ottomans Empire. Not soon after the announcement of execution, a rescue mission came into action to save him.

After World War I, Tudor Pole remained with Abdul Baha until his death in 1921. As a matter of fact, both Tudor Pole and Abdul Baha being an MI6 Agent worked together for the British Empire and Abdul Baha was knighted especially for his services rendered towards the occupying forces of the British Empire.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

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### RESCUE OPERATION: SAVE ABDUL BAHA

There are some pages of history that have remained unturned or sometimes been scraped in order to keep the truth hidden from the masses. One of such kind is the British forces intervening to secure and escort an asset of the British Empire, who was created by King George V<sup>63</sup>, who was an active and enthusiastic helper to the Empire since long.

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<sup>63</sup> **King George V** - George V (George Frederick Ernest Albert; 3 June 1865 – 20 January 1936) was King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India, from 6 May 1910 until his death in 1936.



*King George V*

In the previous chapters, I have already discussed how Abdul Baha played an important role for his services rendered to the British Empire. It is obvious for the British Empire to aid with such a valuable asset for his outstanding and magnificent services in the Middle East that he could also be fruitful in the near future. As a matter of fact, the British Empire tried and was successful in escorting Abdul Baha and his close ones to safety from the imminent dangers of the Ottomans Empire.

However, there were some communications that were held between the British Military Intelligence and the Secretary of State's of Foreign Affairs that are extremely astonishing to read. I would like to separate this topic into three parts in order for the reader to comprehend the topic with a smooth transition.

Firstly, we will discuss about the communication that were held between the Military intelligence and the Officers of the British Regime.

Secondly, how General Allenby, Field Marshal who was in charge of the cavalry brigade, who was instructed to intervene with his troops in order to save Abdul Baha as a primary objective.

Lastly, we will discuss how the army without halting at Jerusalem proceeded into the territories of Haifa and

securing their important asset by dispatching the message that Abdul Baha is safe.

There were quite a few people in the British Military who knew Abdul Baha as a man with influential and convincing power to unite the people under the banner of the Baha'í Faith which in turn resulted to a massive service to the British regime. There were quite a few people who knew the motives of Abdul Baha in the Middle East out of which Tudor Pole was one of them.

Tudor Pole being the British-led Egyptian Expeditionary Force in 1910-11, was wounded in the fighting around Jerusalem. He was then transferred to the Military Intelligence in Cairo. As soon as he came to know regarding the intentions of Djemal Pasha threatening to execute Abdul Baha, he issued a letter December 24, 1917, to Sir Mark Sykes, a British MP and diplomatic advisor on Middle East affairs:

*On returning to Cairo from the hills round Jerusalem, having received the close attention of a Sniper in a fig tree; I ran across my friend Mohi-el-Dine Sabri. He was anxious to send you his greeting and friendly remembrances and I promised to oblige. The Turkish Line will probably run through Haifa shortly ... the Bahai leader and his family are in imminent danger and at the moment, of course, we are*

*powerless. His position and prestige is not understood among the Authorities here. It is not even realized that he controls a remarkable religious movement, wholly devoid of political and military associations; which can number many millions of adherents throughout the Near and Middle East. Jews, Moslems of Various Sects, Christians, Parsis, Hindoos, Kurds unite under the Bahai banner of Spiritual Fellowship. May not these people contribute much, later, to the harmonising for Sectarian and Oriental religious feuds? Is it too much to ask the Authorities at home to request the Authorities here to afford Abdul Baha every protection and consideration? Anxious enquiries reach me from America, England, France, Russia, Persia, India. A word from Whitehall works wonders.*<sup>64</sup>

That letter did not reach Sir Mark Sykes at the foreign office until February 6, 1918. In the meantime, Tudor Pole wrote to Lady Blomfield in London regarding the threat of Djemal Pasha, who in turn went to Lord Lamington, a former Governor of Bombay who as an active participant in the House of Lords had some influence in government circles. Lord Lamington wrote to Lord Balfour, the Secretary of State for Foreign

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<sup>64</sup>Momen, *The Babi and Bahai Religions*, some contemporary Western accounts, page 333.

Affairs, on January 24, asking for 'precautionary measures be taken,' and enclosing an outline of the situation.

Lord Lamington (Foreign Office) to Lord Balfour (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), January 24, 1918:

*I have been asked to intervene in the interest of Abdul Baha. I enclose a memo. about him and I should be grateful could the action indicated be taken.*

The memo:

*Abdul Baha sometimes known as Abbas Effendi, leader of the Bahai movement, having for his objective the true peace of the world is believed to be at his home in Haifa, or else on Mt Carmel. In the past he has undergone much persecution at the hands of fanatics and anxiety is felt by his many friends in Gt. Britain and America lest he, his wife and family should not receive adequate protection during the British advance owing to his identity not being known to our authorities. His friends therefore would be grateful if instructions would be cabled to*



*secure on his behalf the good offices of those in command.*<sup>65</sup>

Tudor Pole did not rely on just one line of communication. He alerted other contacts too, who duly spread the word. Not only Lady Blomfield was involved in protecting Abdul Baha but also in Edinburg similar efforts were put in to safeguard Abdul Baha.

Similarly, Mrs. Whyte received an account of danger from Mr. Russel of whom nothing further is known, who wrote to his son, the MP Frederick Whyte<sup>66</sup>, who in turn wrote a letter to Sir Mark Sykes on January 25 1918.

*“I have just received a letter from my Mother saying that she understands that Abdul Baha’i is living in some risk of his life at Haifa. My Mother’s correspondent, as you will see from the enclosed letter, seems to think that we could do something to save him. I presume I need not waste your time in giving an account of Abdul Baha himself, whose personality and*

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<sup>65</sup> Ibid, pg. 332.

<sup>66</sup> **MP Frederick Whyte** - Sir Alexander Frederick Whyte KCSI (30 September 1883 – 30 July 1970) was a British civil servant, Liberal Party politician, writer, and journalist.



*MP Frederick Whyte*

*work must be well known to you, but as you are aware, he has a good many followers, if one may so call them, in this country; and in general, there is a number of people who, like myself, are much interested in his work and will be prepared to do something to make sure that the Military Authorities in Palestine are aware of his presence. I know that at the time Lord Curzon was very deeply impressed with the Bahai Movement in Persia itself and he may be willing to interest himself in the matter now.*

*In any case I shall be glad to hear from you whether you think there is anything in the suggestion contained in Mr. Russel's letter, which please return to me.*<sup>67 68</sup>

I would like the readers to just ponder over the above statement. What made Lord Curzon so enthusiastic about the Baha'i Faith and in what matter is he interested?

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<sup>67</sup> Ibid, pg. 334.

<sup>68</sup> The Seven Candles of Unity (The Seven Candles of Unity is subtitled "*The Story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Edinburgh*". Although soft cover, it is a substantial book in size, 270 pages on quite heavy paper. It was published in 1991, and sets out to provide a comprehensive coverage of Abdul Baha's visit.)

The letters of Lamington and Whyte arrived in the Foreign Office on January 26, and were handled by Ronald Graham, a diplomat who had himself served in Egypt, who wrote as comment to Whyte's letter: "*The Baha'is are splendid people, but I do not see how we can help Abdul Baha unless and until we get to Haifa.*" All they could do, he suggested, was "*call the attention of the British Authorities in Egypt to Abdul Baha's presence at Haifa.*"

One thing here is to be noted that, the entire cultivation procedure of gathering and hoarding of grains in huge numbers from 1910 to 1918 was carried out by Abdul Baha himself along with his family and friends who were all Baha'is. The British government applauded their efforts and called them 'splendid' for their massive and spectacular efforts.

Moreover, Abdul Baha was a Palestinian resident at the time, so what was the reason behind the interest of the British Empire to save a citizen of a rival country. Furthermore, the British Regime put down their entire efforts in saving one person leaving others aside. A lot of efforts were made in order to grab attention of the British Authorities in Egypt and in London to secure Haifa for the sole purpose in safeguarding Abdul Baha who was at the time in Haifa.



**Sir Reginald Wingate**

A telegram was sent to Sir Reginald Wingate<sup>69</sup>, the British High Commissioner in Egypt who was responsible for the political affairs of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces. Dated January 30, 1918, it reads:

Foreign office to Sir Reginald Wingate the British High Commissioner in Egypt, January 30, 1918:

*My attention has been called to the presence at Haifa of Abdul Baha, head of the Baha'is. Please warn the General Officer Commanding that he and his family should be treated with special consideration in the event of our occupying Haifa.*<sup>70</sup>

One more attempt was made by Tudor Pole to Sir Reginald Wingate to give special attention towards Abdul Baha and his family. Not to mention the word 'warn' used to emphasize the harshness if special care is not taken towards Abdul Baha. Moreover, the statement which is used by Tudor Pole in his letter is

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<sup>69</sup> **Sir Reginald Wingate** - General Sir Francis Reginald Wingate, 1st Baronet, GCB, GCVO, GBE, KCMG, DSO, DL, TD (25 June 1861 – 29 January 1953) was a British general and administrator in Egypt and the Sudan. He earned the nom de guerre Wingate of the Sudan.

<sup>70</sup> Momen, *The Babi and Bahai Religions*, some contemporary Western accounts, page 334.

very much surprising as he writes ‘...with special consideration in the event of occupying Haifa’. There are few questions which still remains unanswered:

Why Abdul Baha was so extraordinary and exceptional to Tudor Pole who is associated with the Military Intelligence of Cairo and is considered to be an adversary of the Palestinian territory in saving his life?

Why is it so that a cautionary notification was issued in the letter of Tudor Pole to the Sir Reginald Wingate asking him to ‘warn’ the General Commanding Officers to take special care of Abdul Baha and his Family during the event of occupying Haifa?

Another telegram was sent on February 5, 1918, from Sykes at the Foreign Office to General Clayton, who as Chief Political Officer with the EEF was responsible for administering captured territories, asking him for information about Abdul Baha, whose “*influence in America is appreciable.*”

Sir Mark Sykes, Foreign Office, to General Clayton, Chief Political Officer attached to the EEF, February 5, 1918:

*Enquiries are being made here as to the present whereabouts of Abdul Baha the leader of the*

*Bahai movement. His usual dwelling is at Acre.  
Can you give any information; his influence in  
America is appreciable.*<sup>71</sup>

Several attempts were made by the Baha'is of America in sending inquires to Sir Mark Sykes regarding Abdul Baha's whereabouts in Haifa and asking for his safety during their British occupation of Haifa. After several efforts made by the friends of Abdul Baha, Sir Mark Sykes send a telegram to General Clayton about the situation of Abdul Baha.

Such endless efforts were made by his friends to save the life of Abdul Baha and his family and many attempts were made especially by Tudor Pole for saving his life.

During the Battle in Haifa, Edmund Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, GCB, GCMG, GCVO was the commander of the British army fighting against the Turks in Palestine. Allenby deployed the Indian 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade, 5th Cavalry Division and part of the Desert Mounted Corps to attack rearguard forces of the Ottoman Empire that resulted in the capture of the towns of Haifa and Acre. The 5th Cavalry Division was assigned the task of capturing Haifa and Acre after several earlier attempts

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<sup>71</sup> Ibid, pg 335.



were stopped by strong rearguard positions. A squadron from the Mysore Lancers, and a squadron from the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade formed the initial attack on an Austrian artillery battery before moving forward with the Jodhpur Lancers and a light car patrol, to attack the main German rearguard position and capture the town.

General Edmund forces broke through and were able to make rapid progress, reaching Haifa in the north. Having been given special instructions to ensure the safety of Abdul Baha, General Allenby had dispatched a small cavalry force to Haifa to locate and protect the home of the Master. The General himself went to meet Abdul Baha, who told him that he had enough food for the British army. The General sent a telegram to London, stating: *"Have today taken Palestine. Notify world Abdul Baha safe."*<sup>72</sup>

Lastly, General Allenby at once issued orders to the General Commanding Officer in command of the Haifa operations to the effect that immediately the town was entered, a British guard was to be posted at once around Abdul Baha's house, and a further guard was to be placed at the disposal of his family and followers.

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<sup>72</sup> [https://bahaipedia.org/General\\_Allenby](https://bahaipedia.org/General_Allenby)

See also The Servant the General and Armageddon.

Men were found for making it known within the enemy lines that stern retribution would follow any attempt to cause death or injury to the great Persian Master or to any of his household.

On September 25, with Haifa and Akka occupied by the allies, the Chief Political Officer in Palestine could telegraph London:

*“Reference to your dispatch No.41 of February 1<sup>st</sup> of High Commissioner on subject of Abdul Baha the leader of Baha'i movement. He is now at Haifa, he is in good health and being cared for.”*<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Sen McGlinn Website:

<https://senmcglinn.wordpress.com/2011/04/22/abdul-baha-british-knighthood/>

## CHAPTER EIGHT

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### THE K.B.E. RECOMMENDATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED

**W**e have observed that General Sir Arthur Money was one of those whom Tudor-Pole had asked to intervene on Abdul Baha's behalf during the months of occupation, when the British held Jerusalem and the Ottoman forces were in control of the northern part of Palestine which including Haifa and Akka. General Money became the Chief Administrator of the Southern Occupied Enemy territories, and in this capacity recommended that Abdul Baha should be awarded the order of the British Empire, in July 1919. In the recommendation, Abdul

Baha is described as the “*Leader and Head of the Baha’i religion which numbers some millions of adherents in Persia, India, America and England.*” The ‘Statement of service during the War for which this distinction is recommended’ has been filled in as follows:

*“Has given consistently loyal service to the British cause since the occupation. His advice has been most valuable to the Military Governor and officers of the Administration in Haifa, where all his influence has been for good. He was for many years placed in captivity by the Turks in the Citadel at Acre.”*

This recommendation went to the War Office, who passed it to Lord Curzon, who as we have seen had been impressed by the Baha’is he encountered in India when he was Viceroy there, and was now Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

As to what reason Lord Curzon was impressed of, whether it was the teachings of the Baha’i Faith or the espionage activities which had suited in their interest?

In the correspondence that followed, one staff officer at the Foreign Office suggested that the British Ambassador to Tehran, and the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nusratu’d-Dawlih, should be

consulted. Both of these responded that they saw no objection, and the recommendation was duly passed to the Court for royal approval, given on 29 October 1919. The medal was forwarded to Palestine through military channels, and the investiture ceremony took place on April 27, 1920, with Colonel Stanton, the Governor of Haifa, officiating.

One of those to visit Abdul Baha was the architect and town planner, C.R. Ashbee, who was serving as Civic Adviser to the City of Jerusalem in 1920. Among his impressions in A Palestine Notebook, is a discussion of the uselessness of “glosses, Talmuds, codes of divinity, and clerical law,” of the need for a league of nations, equality of the sexes, and a common language, and of Abdul Baha’s knighthood. Ashbee writes:

*When they offered Abbas his title, with whatever bit of ribbon or strip of paper it was accompanied, he said:*

*‘As it comes from the British Government I accept it, as a teacher of God’s word it will make no difference to me.’*

*It is pleasant to think that English administrators go to this wise old man for help and counsel. We dined in the evening with Colonel Stanton, the Military Governor of*

*Haifa, Lord Milner, and Herbert Samuel. The two last were rather envious of our afternoon with Abbas, and Colonel Stanton told us how he often went to get his advice. 'Of course,' he added in the characteristic manner of the British Administrator, 'I have to listen for half an hour so first to the beauty of the flowers and the wings of the mind; after that we get to business.'*<sup>74</sup>

What was the reason behind the frequent meeting with Abdul Baha by the top-ranking generals including Colonel Statson, the Military Governor of Haifa?

According to the Baha'is, Abdul Baha was awarded knighthood on humanitarian grounds but, he was totally not involved in politics. Then why did the governor meet him frequently and as Colonel Statson mentions that “*after some talks we got to business.*”?

Why would the governor of Haifa discuss the matters of the newly occupied country along with Abdul Baha? Perhaps, Abdul Baha was needed to discuss the affairs of Palestine as he was an inhabitant of the country for years, Abdul Baha had in-depth information more than the British officials especially the intelligence.

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<sup>74</sup> Momen, *The Babi and Bahai Religions*, some contemporary Western accounts, pages 341.

Ronald Storrs wrote (some time later) that “the visit of the High Commissioner” to Abdul Baha was a sign that people of all religions would be treated equally under the British mandate. The recommendation document itself mentions Abdul Baha’s position as head of the Baha’i Faith, and says

*“His advice has been most valuable to the Military Governor and officers of the Administration in Haifa, where all his influence has been for good.”*

The Handbook of Palestine (1922),<sup>75</sup> states (page 59):

*The number of Baha’is in Palestine is 158. Sir Abbas Effendi Abdul Baha had travelled extensively in Europe and America to expound his doctrines, and on the 4th December, 1919, was created by King George V. a K.B.E. for valuable services rendered to the British Government in the early days of the occupation.*<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> The Handbook of Palestine (1922), a work “issued under the authority of the Governate of Palestine,” and prepared by H.C. Luke, assistant governor of Jerusalem, and E. Keith-Roach, assistant chief secretary to the Governate of Palestine.

<sup>76</sup> The handbook of Palestine; edited by Harry Charles Luke and Edward Keith-Roach, pg 59.

of the community. The number of Baha'is in Palestine is 158. Sir 'Abbas Effendi 'Abdu'l Baha had travelled extensively in Europe and America to expound his doctrines, and on the 4th December, 1919, was created by King George V. a K.B.E. for valuable services rendered to the British Government in the early days of the Occupation. For farther information on Babism and Baha'ism the reader is referred to the works of Professor E. G. Browne, published by the Cambridge University Press.

As it clearly mentions, that Abdul Baha's advices are considered to be the most favorable and beneficial to the Military Governor and the officials, where his influence is only for the good towards the British.

Here I would like to put a question to the readers, that what kind of advices they would obtain from Abdul Baha that would benefit the Military officials?

As we all know, that neither the Military Governor nor the officials of the administration were Baha'is. So, there is not a single possibility that they would have been benefitted by the talks of religion.

Abdul Baha was knighted based on the services rendered to the British in the early days of occupation. It turns out that every advice delivered and meetings being conducted with Abdul Baha were in favor of political and in the interest of the British.

Abdul Baha's philanthropy no doubt contributed to his standing in Palestine, and that standing would be an



additional reason for the new British authorities to consult him, in line with the usual British policy of ruling through and with local notables and institutions in their colonial territories, and to choose him for an honour intended to demonstrate the new era of religious tolerance.

## CHAPTER NINE

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# THE MYSTERY OF KNIGHTHOOD CEREMONY UNFOLDS

In the history of the Baha'i movement, a great number of events took place out of which one was the Knighthood Ceremony of Abdul Baha. This knighthood ceremony holds many essentials and noticeable key points which were kept hidden from the people. But only after a century we came to know about those events that even the British Empire had kept it classified.

First and foremost we will try to understand the concept of Knighthood and who are keen to be knighted.

Secondly, we will discuss regarding those few magnificent people who were knighted since 1917 till date so as to assess Abdul Baha's positions with other glorious people and their services towards mankind.

Thirdly, we will mention the significance and importance of the title 'SIR' given to just a few people who are knighted by the Britain.

Finally, we will conclude the topic as to why Abdul Baha was given such a magnificent title and how Abdul Baha was facilitated at the ceremony and how the Universal House of Justice presents the facilitation ceremony among the masses?

## **WHAT IS KNIGHTHOOD (K.B.E.)?**

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is a British order of chivalry, rewarding contributions to the arts and sciences, work with charitable and welfare organizations, and public service outside the Civil

service.<sup>77</sup> It was established on 4 June 1917 by King George V, and comprises five classes across both civil and military divisions, the most senior two of which make the recipient either a knight if male or dame if female.<sup>78</sup>

The five classes of appointment to the Order are, in descending order of precedence:

1. Knight Grand Cross or Dame Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (GBE).
2. Knight Commander or Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE or DBE).
3. Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE).
4. Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE).
5. Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

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<sup>77</sup> *"Order of the British Empire"*. The Official Website of the British Monarchy. The Royal Household. Archived from the original on 27 March 2010. Retrieved 24 August 2009.

<sup>78</sup> The Chapel of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, with a foreword by Prince Philip.

The second highest rank is a KBE or DBE - a Knight or Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

The topmost rank in the Order is a GBE - a Knight or Dame Grand Cross - but these awards are given rarely! Since 2000, only 16 medals have been given out.<sup>79</sup>

In particular, King George V wished to create an Order to honor many thousands of those who had served in a variety of non-combatant roles during the First World War. When first established, the Order had only one division. However, in 1918, soon after its foundation, it was formally divided into Military and Civil Divisions.<sup>80</sup> The Order's motto is For God and the Empire.<sup>81</sup>

The King George V created an Order to honour people regarding their services rendered to the British Empire in Military as well as Civil Division. But, nowadays this honour is been given to almost thousands who are either Britain or Foreign citizens.

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<sup>79</sup> Article "What is the difference between an MBE, CBE, OBE, and knighthood?" dated, 16th November 2018, Smooth Radio.

<sup>80</sup> The London Gazette. 27 December 1918. p. 15135.

<sup>81</sup> "Order of the British Empire". The Official Website of the British Monarchy. The Royal Household. Archived from the original on 27 March 2010. Retrieved 24 August 2009.

## HONORARY BRITISH KNIGHTS AND DAMES

Since the creation of the Order by the King George V in 1917, around 180 people being knighted till date.

While in past centuries knighthood used to be awarded solely for military merit, today it recognizes significant contributions to national life.

Here are some of the names who were rewarded the Order of the Most Excellent Order.

Name	Nationality	Year	Category
AntalDoráti	Hungary	1983	Arts/ Entertainment
Arthur Rubinstein	United States	1977	Arts/ Entertainment
Hugh Bullock	United States	1957	Diplomatic
Louis Joxe	France	1952	Diplomatic
Emilio	Mexico	2015	Politics/

## THE MYSTERY OF KNIGHTHOOD CEREMONY UNFOLDS

Chuayffet			Government
Joseph Avenol	France	1921	Politics/ Government
Mikhail Malinin	Soviet Union	1945	Military
Tommy Franks	United States	2004	Military
Henri Deterding	Netherlands	1920	Business
Niall FitzGerald	Ireland	2002	Business
ZakiBadawi	Egypt	2004	Religion
Sheikh Ali bin Salim	Kenya	1929	Religion
Bob Geldof	Ireland	1986	Humanitarian
Paul Mellon	United States	1974	Humanitarian
Martin Hairer	Austria	2016	Science
Abdul Baha	Iran (Persia)	1920	Humanitarian?

All the above mention people have received knighthood on the basis of their skills and talents as well as their services to the Britain or to the people as for instances:

**Bob Geldof**



Bob Geldof has received many awards for his fund-raising work including being invested by Elizabeth II as an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1986.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> Elizabeth Wyse; Jo Aitchison; ZöeGullen; Eleanor Mathieson, eds. (2006). "Forms of Address". *Debrett's Correct Form* (2006 ed.). Richmond, Surrey: Debrett's Limited. pp. 98, 100.



## Bill Gates



Microsoft founder Bill Gates received an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II.

Gates said he was proud of what he called Microsoft's "special relationship" with Britain. "The U.K. was the first country in which Microsoft set up a subsidiary outside the U.S., and our experience in the U.K. has been significant in shaping our international growth," he said.

Microsoft's British facilities include Research Cambridge, a laboratory established in 1997 in the university town that employs 80 scientists. In 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a donation of \$210 million to Cambridge University to create a scholarship program for graduate students from outside Britain.<sup>83</sup>

### **Alistair Crooke**



In 1973, Alistair Cooke was awarded an honorary knighthood (KBE) for his "outstanding contribution to Anglo-American mutual understanding."<sup>84</sup>

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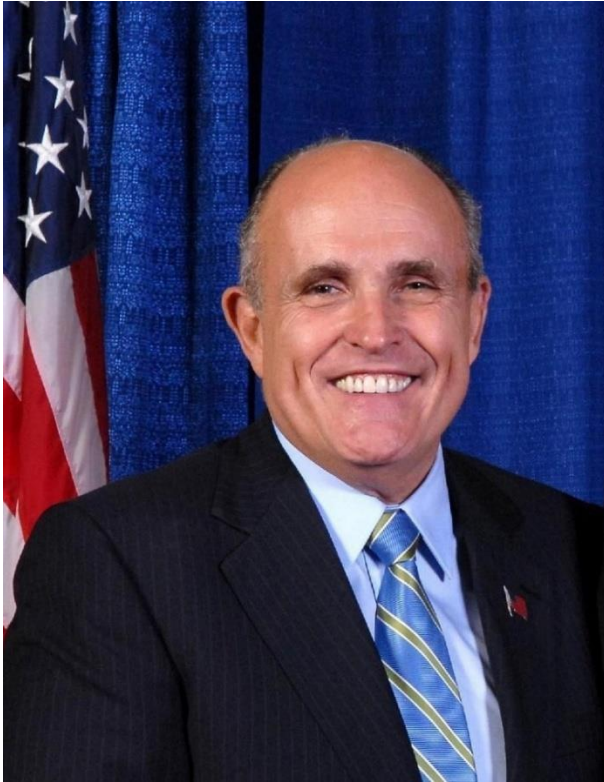
<sup>83</sup> Article "Bill Gates receives honorary knighthood" dated, 3rd February 2005, NBC News.

<sup>84</sup> Brogan, Patrick (12 April 1973). "Knighthood is conferred on Alistair Cooke". *The Times* (58756). p. 1.

The services being rendered by the knights and dames are phenomenal. They have entirely served the people in many different ways. But, when it comes to the knighthood of Abdul Baha, there is twist. For this reason we will also have to look at the title which is of utmost important that will lead us to some astonishing facts. The fact which was not understood by many is still kept a secret is really a stunning reality.

The title ‘Sir’ which is somehow a title which is given to only some people and that to only which have been knighted. The selected people who have been knighted need to fulfill a specific condition to achieve to title of ‘Sir’.

**Rudolph William Louis**



Rudolph William Louis known as Rudy Giuliani given an honorary knighthood in 2002 by Queen Elizabeth II for his leadership in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>85</sup>Article “Queen Elizabeth knights Rudy Giuliani?” date, 13th February 2002, People.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE ‘SIR’**

The importance and superiority of this title contains valuable significance that needs to be noted.

The title ‘Sir’ is an honorific address used in a number of situations in many anglophone cultures. The term can be used as a formal prefix, especially in the Commonwealth, for males who have been given certain honours or titles (such as knights and baronets), where usage is strictly governed by law and custom.

The term is also commonly used as a respectful way to address a man, usually of superior social status or holding a commissioned military rank. Equivalent terms of address to females are 'ma'am' or 'madam' in most cases, or in the case of a young woman, girl, or unmarried woman who prefers to be addressed as such, 'miss'. The equivalent term for a knighted woman or baronetess is Dame, while the title 'Lady' is used for the wife of a knight or baronet.

The senior two ranks of Knight or Dame Grand Cross, and Knight or Dame Commander, entitle their members to use the title of Sir for men and Dame for women before their forename. Most members are citizens of the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth realms that use the Imperial system of honours and awards.

Honorary knighthoods are appointed to citizens of nations where the Queen is not head of state, and may permit use of post-nominal letters but not the title of Sir or Dame. Occasionally, honorary appointees are, incorrectly, referred to as Sir or Dame – Bob Geldof, for example. Honorary appointees who later become a citizen of a Commonwealth realm can convert their appointment from honorary to substantive, then enjoy all privileges of membership of the order, including use of the title of Sir and Dame for the senior two ranks of the Order. An example is Irish broadcaster Terry Wogan, who was appointed an honorary Knight Commander of the Order in 2005, and on successful application for British citizenship, held alongside his Irish citizenship, was made a substantive member and subsequently styled as Sir Terry Wogan.<sup>8687</sup>

The title ‘Sir’ is used by only the citizens of the United Kingdom or the commonwealth realms.

What is the meaning of ‘commonwealth citizen’?

In general, a Commonwealth citizen is a citizen of a member state of the Commonwealth of Nations. This designation is given legal effect in the nationality laws of some Commonwealth countries, and Commonwealth

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<sup>86</sup> The London Gazette (1st supplement). 31 December 2005. p. 26.

<sup>87</sup> "Radio's Wogan becomes Sir Terry". BBC News. BBC. 6 December 2005.

citizens may enjoy some privileges in the United Kingdom and, less commonly, other member states. Each Commonwealth country determines what special rights, if any, are accorded to citizens of other Commonwealth countries. The status is most significant in British law and has little effect in many other Commonwealth countries, such as Australia.

In British nationality law, a Commonwealth citizen is a person who is a British citizen, Indian citizen, British Overseas citizen, British subject, British National (Overseas) or a national of a country listed in Schedule 3 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

The Countries listed in Schedule 3 of the British Nationality Act 1981 is as follows:<sup>88</sup>

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belize
- Botswana
- Brunei (since 1 January 1984[7])
- Cameroon (since 25 January 1999)

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<sup>88</sup> Schedule 3: Countries whose citizens are Commonwealth citizens, British Nationality Act 1981 (c. 61), [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk).

- Canada
- Cyprus
- Dominica
- Fiji
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guyana
- India
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Mozambique (since 25 January 1999)
- Namibia (since 25 August 1990)
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Pakistan (since 1 October 1989[8])
- Papua New Guinea
- Rwanda (since 10 March 2010)
- Saint Kitts and Nevis (since 19 September 1983)
- Saint Lucia



- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa (since 26 July 1994)
- Sri Lanka
- Eswatini
- Tanzania
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Vanuatu
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

So accordingly, we understand that for the title ‘Sir’ one must have to be a resident of the UK or should be a commonwealth citizen.

So, for this reason we understand why several people who were knighted by the UK were unable to achieve the title of ‘Sir’ as a prefix to their name. For instance, there are quite a few personalities, that I have mention below who were knighted for humanitarian grounds but

were not given the title 'Sir' as they did not qualify the criteria.

According to an article in The Register it states,

*"Foreign citizens occasionally receive honorary knighthoods; they are not dubbed, and they do not use the style 'Sir'. Such knighthoods are conferred by The Queen, on the advice of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on those who have made an important contribution to relations between their country and Britain."*<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> Article "UK knighthood for Foreigners – what it takes to get one" dated, 29th January 2004, The Register.

*Richard Lugar*



Richard Lugar was knighted as a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) for his efforts to reduce Weapons of Mass Destruction and supporting NATO.<sup>90</sup> Lugar was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit, from Germany, in 2013 for his work on

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<sup>90</sup> <http://www.washingtontimes.com>, The Washington Times. "Ex-Sen. Richard Lugar knighted by Queen Elizabeth II".

fostering transatlantic cooperation.<sup>91</sup> In 2014, Lugar received the Golden Laurel Branch award, the highest honor given by the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lugar was recognized for his contributions to Bulgaria's accession to NATO.<sup>92</sup>

In August 2016 President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine awarded Richard Lugar with the highest award for foreigners - Order of Liberty.<sup>93</sup>

In November 2016 he was awarded the 2016 J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding.<sup>94</sup>

After receiving several types of awards Richard Lugar cannot call himself as ‘Sir Richard’ as he doesn’t qualify the condition as in the article it states:

“You won’t be able to call him Sir Richard, but he’ll still be a knight.”

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<sup>91</sup> Article “Former Senator Richard Lugar Receives Grand Cross of the Order of Merit” dated, 10th May 2013, Germany.info.

<sup>92</sup> "Senator Lugar to receive Golden Laurel Branch award from Bulgaria". April 29, 2014. Retrieved November 25, 2017.

<sup>93</sup> "УКАЗ ПРЕЗИДЕНТА УКРАЇНИ №340/2016". Office of the President. August 22, 2016. Retrieved August 22, 2016.

<sup>94</sup> "2016 Fulbright Prize Laureate: Richard G. Lugar". <http://fulbright.org>. Archived from the original on 24 February 2017. Retrieved 8 March 2017.

“Lugar won’t carry the title “Sir” — that’s exclusive to subjects of the queen. Lugar joins former Sens. George Mitchell, Ted Kennedy and John Warner as senators-turned knights. Kennedy and Mitchell received the honor for their work ending the conflict in Northern Ireland, and Warner for his work strengthening ties between the American and British militaries.”<sup>95</sup>

*Martin Dempsey*



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<sup>95</sup> Article “Queen knights former Sen. Lugar” dated, 15th April 2013, Politico.

On December 7, 2011, Dempsey received the USO's Distinguished Service Award on behalf of all military members.<sup>96</sup> In October 2016, he was made an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, for commitment to British-American defense cooperation.<sup>97</sup>

Retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been named an Honorary Knight of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Queen Elizabeth II awarded the honorary knighthood to Dempsey for his commitment to defense cooperation between the United States and United Kingdom, according to a British Embassy Washington press release.

Dempsey also is credited with fostering trust and understanding between the U.K.'s Ministry of Defense and the Pentagon, with his leadership acting as "a driving force behind closer collaboration in all aspects

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<sup>96</sup> Miles, Donna (December 8, 2011). "Dempsey Accepts USO Award on Behalf of Military Members". Armed Forces Press Service. Retrieved January 3, 2017.

<sup>97</sup> "Irish speaking, all-singing US Army general Martin Dempsey made honorary knight in Britain – Irish Post". Irish Post. 18 October 2016. Retrieved 4 January 2017.

of policy, operations and welfare," according to the release.

Dempsey, who retired in 2015, said in a statement that it was an honor to serve alongside British military personnel for the past 40 years.

Dempsey said. "I accept this honor on behalf of those who have sacrificed so much for our two countries, and I thank Her Majesty the Queen for her steadfast support for those who continue to serve and their families."

As an honorary knight, Dempsey does not have the prefix 'sir' but can use the letters KBE after his name, according to British protocol.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> Article "Queen Former Joint Chiefs chairman named honorary knight" dated, 17th October 2016, Army Times.

*Steven Spielberg*



In 2001, he was appointed as an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) by Queen Elizabeth II for services to the entertainment industry of the United Kingdom.<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> "Spielberg receives Royal honour". BBC News. January 30, 2001.



But unlike British knights, Spielberg won't become Sir Steven, nor will he kneel and be tapped on each shoulder with a sword as British citizens are. He will, however, be able to put the letters "KBE" after his name.<sup>100</sup>

*Winthrop W. Aldrich*

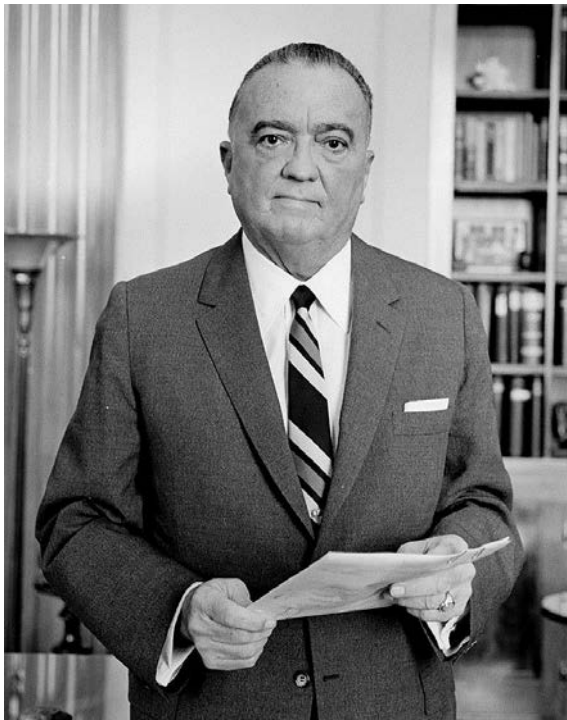


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<sup>100</sup> “Spielberg is honorary knight”. Dailymail.com.

In 1947, he was appointed an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire by King George VI.<sup>101</sup> This entitled him to use the postnominal letters GBE, but not to the prenominal title "Sir" as he was not a British subject.

*J. Edgar Hoover*



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<sup>101</sup> Time, 8 December 1952.

In 1950, King George VI of the United Kingdom awarded Hoover an honorary knighthood in the Order of the British Empire. This entitled him to the postnominal letters KBE, but not to the use of the title, "Sir."<sup>102</sup>

***Ronald Reagan***



In 1989, Reagan was made an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, one of the highest British

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<sup>102</sup> New World Encyclopedia.

orders (this entitled him to the use of the post-nominal letters "GCB" but, as a foreign national, not to be known as "Sir Ronald Reagan"); only two U.S. presidents have received this honor since attaining office, Reagan and George H. W. Bush.<sup>103</sup>

*Bill Gates*



Sir Bill? Not quite. Proclaiming himself "humbled and delighted," Microsoft founder Bill Gates received an honorary knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II — an

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<sup>103</sup> "Order of the Bath". The Official website of the British Monarchy. Archived from the original on April 26, 2007. Retrieved March 22, 2007.

accolade that allows the recipient to use "KBE" after his name, but not to put "Sir" in front of it.<sup>104</sup>

*Bob Hope*



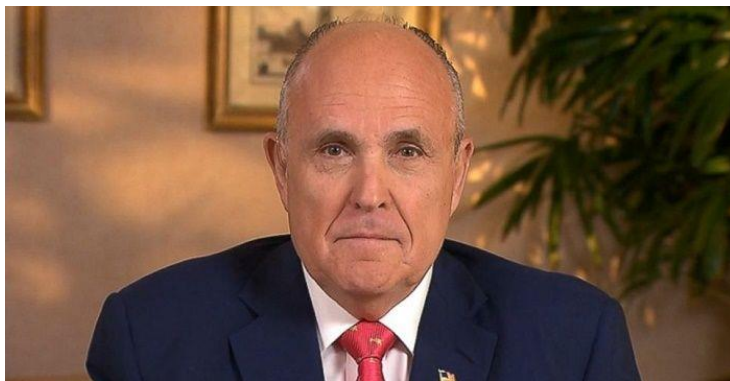
Queen Elizabeth II will give Bob Hope an honorary knighthood, but the 94-year-old comedian won't be

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<sup>104</sup> Article "Bill Gates receives honorary knighthood" dated, 3rd February 2005, NBC News.

known as Sir Bob. The title "Sir" is reserved for British subjects.<sup>105</sup>

*Rudy Giuliani*



When former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani heads back to New York after receiving his honorary knighthood from Britain's Queen Elizabeth — as he did on Wednesday — will his former constituents address him as “Sir”? Unlikely, he joked afterward at Buckingham Palace. “They won’t call me that in Brooklyn,” he said, “but there are places in Manhattan where they might.” Giuliani — who under convention is not allowed to title himself “Sir” because he is not British — was jesting on the steps of the palace after he

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<sup>105</sup> Article “Knighthood for Bob Hope - but don't call him `sir” dated, 7th February 1998, Deseret News.

was honored for his work in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy, reports PEOPLE's London bureau.<sup>106</sup>

*Ralf Dahrendorf*



In 1982, Ralf Dahrendorf was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In 1988,

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<sup>106</sup> Article “Queen Elizabeth knights Rudy Giuliani” date, 13th February 2002, People.

he acquired British citizenship.<sup>107</sup> and became known as Sir Ralf Dahrendorf (as only KBEs who are British subjects are entitled to use that title).

*Alistair Cooke*



In 1973, Alistair Cooke was awarded an honorary knighthood (KBE) for his "outstanding contribution to Anglo-American mutual understanding." Cooke was reportedly happy to accept, because in the words of Thomas Jefferson, it did not involve "the very great vanity of a title."<sup>108</sup> Having relinquished his British

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<sup>107</sup> Pick, Hella. "Lord Dahrendorf". The Guardian. Retrieved 16 October 2014.

<sup>108</sup> Brogan, Patrick (12 April 1973). "Knighthood is conferred on Alistair Cooke". The Times (58756). p. 1.



citizenship during World War II, he could not be called "Sir Alistair".

***Bono***



British ambassador David Reddaway announced that the queen had appointed the U2 singer to be an honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE). The award is in recognition of his services to the music industry and for his humanitarian work.

The award is honorary because he is not a British subject, so he cannot use the title "Sir".<sup>109</sup>

Thus, we conclude that, all the above knights were not given the title 'Sir' as they were neither citizens of the UK nor a commonwealth citizen.

On the contrary, there are few personalities with the title 'Sir', who are not actually the citizen of the UK but are a citizen of the commonwealth countries. For instance,

*Sir Patrick Alfred Caldwell-Moore*



Moore was knighted for "services to the popularisation of science and to broadcasting" in 2001. Sir Patrick

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<sup>109</sup> Article "Bono inspired by Paisley to celebrate honorary KBE" dated, 30th March 2007, The Irish Times.

Moore as a British National can attach the ‘Sir’ Prefix in his name.<sup>110</sup>

*Viv Richards*



In 1994, Richards was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to cricket. (The Herald, 1994). In 1999, he was made a Knight of the Order of the National Hero (KNH) by his native country Antigua and Barbuda.<sup>111</sup>

Viv Richards is considered as Sir Viv due to the reason being he was knighted by his native country Antigua and Barbuda, which is a country that comes under the

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<sup>110</sup> “Sir Patrick Moore displays his knighthood”. ABC News, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

<sup>111</sup>“Antiguan government bestows knighthood on Vivian Richards (4 January 1999)”. ESPN Sports Media Ltd. Retrieved 2014-08-07.

UK nationality law. The citizens of this country are commonwealth citizens.

*Donald Bradman*



In the 1949 New Year Honours, he was appointed Knight Bachelor<sup>112</sup> <sup>113</sup>(It's an Honour: Knight Bachelor,

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<sup>112</sup> United Kingdom:"No. 38493". The London Gazette (Supplement). 31 December 1948. p. 2.

<sup>113</sup> "It's an Honour: Knight Bachelor". Itsanhonour.gov.au. 1 January 1949. Retrieved 21 August 2010.

2010) for his services to the game, becoming the only Australian cricketer ever to be knighted.<sup>114</sup>

Donald Bradman can use the title ‘Sir’, as he is a native Australian citizen.

In accordance with the above examples we can conclude, that all the above-mentioned knighted personality is able to use the title ‘Sir’ who are either a resident of the United Kingdom or a commonwealth citizen.

However, when we analyze the history of Palestine during the World War-I, Abdul Baha has also received a knighting accolade along with the title ‘Sir’.

Furthermore, we will discuss regarding the events of the knighthood ceremony.

At the end of the war, the British quickly recognized Abdul Baha’s painstaking accomplishments and he knighted on 27 April 1920, at the residence of the British Governor in Haifa at a ceremony held especially for him. The British and religious dignitaries came to honor him on this auspicious occasion. His unselfish acts had won him the love and respect of high and low alike.

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<sup>114</sup> "Bradman Foundation Australia". Bradman.com.au.

Abdul Baha consented to accept the knighthood but, he was not impressed with worldly honor or ceremony... Quietly, without pomp, (Abdul Baha) arrived at the right



*The Knighting of Abdul Baha, Haifa, Palestine, April  
27, 1920*

time and the right place and did honor to those who would honor him when he was made Sir Abdul Baha Abbas, K.B.E. (Knight of the British Empire)—a title which he almost never used.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> John Ferraby, *All Things Made New*, p. 127.

On another account it's mentioned that the British Government, with its usual gesture of appreciating a heroic act, conferred a knighthood upon Abdul Baha Abbas, Who accepted this honour as a courteous gift "from a just king."<sup>116</sup>

According to the Baha'is, the dignitaries of the British crown from Jerusalem were gathered in Haifa, eager to do honour to the Master, Whom everyone had come to love and reverence for His life of unselfish service. An imposing motor-car had been sent to bring Abdul Baha to the ceremony. The Master, however, could not be found. People were sent in every direction to look for Him, when suddenly from an unexpected side He appeared, alone, walking His kingly walk, with that simplicity of greatness which always enfolded Him.

The faithful servant, Isfandiyar, whose joy it had been for many years to drive the Master on errands of mercy, stood sadly looking on at the elegant motor-car which awaited the honoured guest.

"No longer am I needed."

At a sign from Him, Who knew the sorrow, old Isfandiyar rushed off to harness the horse, and brought the carriage out at the lower gate, whence Abdul Baha

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<sup>116</sup> Lady Blomfield, The Chosen Highway.

was driven to a side entrance of the garden of the Governorate of Phoenicia.

So Isfandiyyar was needed and happy.<sup>117</sup>

On April 27, 1920, Abdul Baha was ceremonially knighted, an event which was prominently reported in the Baha'í periodical *Star of the West*...

*"The following beautiful description of this event was written by Dr. Zia M. Bagdadi who was at that time in Haifa: "Among the kings and governments of the world who have become convinced that Abdul Baha was the well-wisher and the lover of mankind are King George and his government. The King sent a medal to Abdul Baha with the title, "Sir", thus making him a member of his household. On the 27th of April, 1920, the Governor and high officials of Haifa, Palestine presented in a beautiful garden a most wonderful celebration for the knighting of Abdul Baha. Baha'í pilgrims from Persia, America and all parts of the world were present. Mohammedan, Christian, Jewish leaders, clergymen, notables and local officials from Haifa, Akka and other towns attended. A tent was pitched in the center of the garden. English*

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<sup>117</sup> Ibid.



*troops stood on both sides, from the gate of the garden to the center where Abdul Baha was seated. The military music added wonderful melody to the rustling leaves of the beautiful trees. The breezes of the spring on that sunny afternoon imparted a remarkable vigor to the physical body just as the presence of Abdul Baha strengthened the souls. The Governor stood behind Abdul Baha and, after a short speech, interpreted by Mr. Wadie Bistani, presented the medal. Then Abdul Baha, rising from his seat, gave a brief talk and a prayer for the British government.*"<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>118</sup> Baha'i periodical Star of the West.



*Abdu'l-Baha being knighted by the Military Governor of Haifa.*



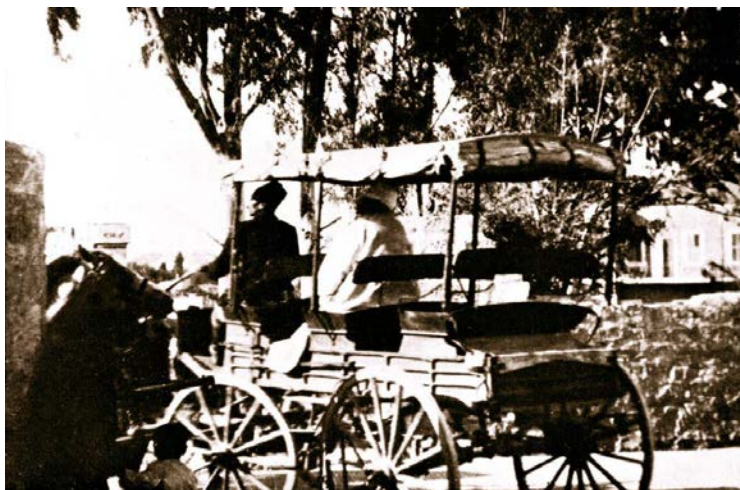
*Abdu'l-Baha given a special Gun salute in the garden with military music being played.*



*'Abdu'l-Baha at the residence of the British Governor  
of Haifa in 1920*



*'Abdu'l-Baha on the way to the knighthood ceremony*



*'Abdu'l-Baha headed towards the residence of the  
governor of Haifa*

Just a few factual points that needs to be noted here:

- He was knighted on 27 April 1920, at the residence of the British Governor in Haifa at a ceremony held especially for him.
- Abdul Baha, who accepted this honour as a courteous gift "from a just king".
- A special imposing motor-car had been sent to bring Abdul Baha to the ceremony.
- Among the kings and governments of the world who have become convinced that Abdul Baha was the well-wisher and the lover of mankind are King George V and his government.

- Abdul Baha was knighted along with the title of 'Sir'.
- The King sent a medal to Abdul Baha with the title, "Sir", thus making him a member of his household.
- The Governor and high officials of Haifa, Palestine presented the accolade in a beautiful garden, a most wonderful celebration especially and only for the knighting of Abdul Baha.
- Baha'i pilgrims from Persia, America and all parts of the world were present.
- English troops stood on both sides, from the gate of the garden to the center where Abdul Baha was seated.
- The military music added wonderful melody to the rustling leaves of the beautiful trees.
- Abdul Baha, rising from his seat, gave a brief talk and a prayer for the British government."
- Abdul Baha was created by King George V. a K.B.E. for "valuable services" rendered to the British Government in the early days of the occupation.

It was indeed an interesting ceremony that was arranged at the governor house which was especially organised for Abdul Baha. On the contrary, the entire brigades of General Allenby including himself were rewarded for their services at a different location. General Allenby

and other officials were awarded military decorations by the "Duke of Connaught", Prince Arthur, a son of Queen Victoria. General Allenby receives the GCMG (Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George). Major-General L J Bols and Lieutenant-General Bulfin received the KCMG (Knight Commander) of this decoration). The location of the ceremony was close to the Citadel Tower of David, a part of the wall surrounding the old city of Jerusalem.

**Date of photographs: spring, 1918.**



*The Generals and Soldiers being awarded for their services in the occupation of Palestine.*



*General Allenby (Right)*





*General Allenby and other Officers gathered for military decoration at the Citadel Tower of David, a part of the wall surrounding the old city of Jerusalem*



*Officers gathered for military decoration for their services*



*Officers gathered for military decoration for their services (Right: General Allenby)*



*Ongoing accolades ceremony of the British Officers in Palestine*



***Military Decoration being awarded by the "Duke of Connaught", Prince Arthur, a son of Queen Victoria.***

Abdul Baha accepted the honor of knighthood and considered the King George V as a just King. What was the reason of Abdul Baha to consider King George V as a 'Just King'? Whether there were internal connection

between the British and Abdul Baha. We would analyze in complete depth about the secret connections of the Baha'i Faith and the British Empire in the coming chapters.

On the occasion of ceremony, not only Abdul Baha was knighted at the ceremony by the governor, but also a special favour was being given to him by sending a motor-car in order to pick-up and drop Abdul Baha from his home.

The King George V and his Government were entirely satisfied with the level of efforts and dedication which Abdul Baha had provided to serve not the people but the British Empire.

As I have already discussed about the title 'Sir' which was given to a person who is neither a British resident nor a commonwealth citizen but a part of the commonwealth which is a British Subject.

Abdul Baha received an accolade along with the title 'Sir' by the King George V, which made Abdul Baha a close member British Empire. I will talk about his services in the later chapters.

Moreover, on one occasion, Abdul Baha also prayed for the British government? Was he a part of their connection or perhaps he is solely a British subject?

Furthermore, he was awarded an accolade in the house of the British Governor in Haifa and that too with a wonderful and a grand celebration. As mentioned, the British soldiers stood on both side from the gate to the center of the garden, where Abdul Baha was seated and presented him with a special gun salute. Moreover, a military music was played at the ceremony.

Why were a gun salute given and a military melody played at the event? Was he given an award for his services rendered to the people of Palestine or to the advancing army of the British Empire?

Let's discuss at to what is a Gun Salute and to whom it is given in the upcoming chapter.

## CHAPTER TEN

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### A SPECIAL GUN SALUTE

A 21-gun salute is the most commonly recognized of the customary gun salutes that are performed by the firing of cannons or artillery as a military honor.

Gun Salutes are performed by firing of cannons or artillery as a military honor, and is being a very special honor which is giving to military dignitaries and in nowadays to the Royal family.

If we analyze the situation to all those who are knighted since 1917 by the British in regards to how their

ceremonies were commemorated then, there is a vast difference in between all the other ceremonies and the one where Abdul Baha was knighted.

Initially, I would discuss how other honorary people are knighted and then I would gradually move on to the military generals followed by Abdul Baha's knighthood.

For instance, since 1917, the British government has awarding notable citizens with spots in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, which just recently welcomed Beatle Ringo Starr into its ranks. Although the Order, which was established by King George V, was originally meant to honor top-notch civilian and military behavior in wartime, it quickly expanded to include peacetime achievements as well.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>119</sup> Article "How does one become a Knight?", Mentalfloss, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.



*Ringo Starr is knighted by Prince William*





***Ringo Starr***



*Sir Francis Chichester is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1967.*



*King George VI knights Monty's second in command General Dempsey in northern France, 1944 - the first*

*person since Agincourt to be knighted on the battlefield.<sup>120</sup>*



*Leese receiving his knighthood in the field from King George VI on 26 July 1944.*

Although, several people have received knighthood but none were given the honor of being saluted by British

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<sup>120</sup> Article “Monty relaxing with Rommel (his pet dog) and laughing at George Formby: WWII snaps show hero of El Alamein on and off-duty”, Daily mail, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

troops along with military melody. As we can analyze that the Sir Francis Chichester is knighted by Queen Elizabeth II neither any salute is been given to him nor the table which is placed for giving awards is covered with the national flag of the country.

Moreover, King George VI knights Monty's second in command General Dempsey in northern France and Leese was knighted in the field from King George VI, both received the same type of honor as discussed earlier which is without any type of gun salute.

But, in the case of Abdul Baha, a special Gun Salute being offered along with a military melody and that too, a British flag placed at the table. (See picture at page 138)



***Officers gathered for military decoration for their services (Right: General Allenby)***



***General Allenby and other Officers gathered for military decoration at the Citadel Tower of David, a part of the wall surrounding the old city of Jerusalem***

The above pictures represent the awards being distributed by the British to their top ranking officers for their services rendered.

Whereas, when we analyze at the award ceremony of other brigadiers including General Allenby, there were not provided with a special gun salute, not even to General Allenby for his efforts in occupying the land of Palestine. We can even observe that the national flag is also not present.



***A Gun Salute ceremony being held in to honor Abdul Baha Abbas for his services rendered towards the British Empire***

In 1919, the event that took place had some special significance. The ceremony which was celebrated was kept at a local ground for all the generals and comrades

but not in the case of Abdul Baha which was kept at the residence of the Governor of Haifa.

One important question that immediately comes to our minds is:

Why was Abdul Baha more honored than a military General Allenby?

What was the hidden agenda which the British had planned in conquering Palestine with the help of Abdul Baha?

After various aspects which are mentioned above which comes to only one conclusion that Abdul Baha was a British Subject. Whereas, one question still remains unanswered as to where is the insignia which was awarded to Abdul Baha and the documents for his services to humanity.

I will discuss in the next chapter regarding the insignia and the certificates which was received as to where they are today.



***A CASED KBE KNIGHT COMMANDER MEDAL***



## CHAPTER ELEVEN

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### AN AWARD KEPT CLASSIFIED

Everybody knows the fact that all awards is publicized as well as promoted and everyone is tend to held a ceremony for such awards be it a small award which is organized in a small gathering or a huge Academy awards.

These types of ceremonies are recorded and are kept in archives for years to come for future generations to be remembered.



### 1925 - George V Knight Bachelor Award

And since Abdul Baha's knighthood was an honour awarded by the people to a Man of God for his humanitarian services rendered, it should have been openly publicized and kept open to the public records for the world to witness how the leader of the Baha'i Faith served the humanity in such a harsh and dangerous situation. Whereas, the reality is quite different to what is portrayed by the Baha'is today.



*George R. I.*

**George the Fifth**, by the  
Grace of God of the United Kingdom of  
Great Britain and Ireland and of the  
British Dominions beyond the Seas King,  
Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India,  
Sovereign and Chief of the Most Distinguished  
Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, to  
Our Trusty and Well beloved The Honourable James  
Alexander Loughhead, One of Our Counsel learned  
in the Law, Minister without Portfolio and Leader  
of the Government in the Senate of Our Dominion  
of Canada

*Greeting*

**Whereas** We have thought fit to nominate  
and appoint you to be a Member of the Second  
Class or Knights Commanders of Our

Grant of the Dignity of a Knight Commander  
of the Most Distinguished Order of  
Saint Michael and Saint George to  
The Honourable James Alexander Loughhead,  
H. C.

**James Alexander Loughhead Award**

The knighthood award and the documents which were provided to Abdul Baha in 1919 is kept back in concealment and hidden from the masses.

What can be the reason that the award and the certificate of General Edmund Allenby can be found while, the award of Abdul Baha is kept as Classified.

There were several highly classified documents which were locked down for decades but they have been finally declassified by the government.

For instance, the United States of America releases a secret footage of atom bomb tests.

After collecting dust in high-security vaults for more than 65 years, hundreds of reels of film showing Cold War nuclear bomb tests have been declassified by the United States.

From 1945 to 1962, the United States detonated more than 210 nuclear bombs, with multiple cameras capturing each explosion at around 2,400 frames per second.

For decades, about 10,000 of these films have been locked away, sitting idle, scattered across the US in high-security vaults.<sup>121</sup> Until now.

In another instance the, declassified U.S. cables reveal lead-up to Hiroshima A-bomb decision

On Aug. 6, 1945, Maj. Gen. Leslie Groves sent a top-secret cable to his superiors in Washington, D.C.

In the now declassified cable, Groves, who was in



***Victory Medal with MID : Captain W Errol, Australian  
Army Service Corps, AIF***

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<sup>121</sup> Article “Secret footage of atom bomb tests made public”,  
Radioz, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

charge of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, described what had happened.

“First there was a ball of fire, changing in a few seconds to purple clouds and flames boiling and swirling upward,” he wrote. “Entire city except outmost ends of dock areas was covered with a dark grey dust layer which joined the cloud column.”

It was not until the 1960s that many primary sources about the atomic bomb decision, in the form of declassified U.S. government cables, began to become available. Today, many are stored on the National Security Archive website, offering researchers, professional and amateur, a trove of official documentation about the decision.<sup>122</sup>

It took 65 years to declassify the footage of the atom bomb tests and it took 15 years to declassify the U.S. cables regarding the bombing of Hiroshima.

Surprisingly, the Award of knighthood of Abdul Baha is kept classified for almost 100 years.

Is it that the knighthood given to Abdul Baha contains extreme secret and confidential information then the Atomic bombing on Hiroshima and other atomic tests?

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<sup>122</sup> Article “Declassified U.S. cables reveal lead-up to Hiroshima A-bomb decision”, The Japan Times, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Even though the documents related to Area-51 has been declassified after more than 50 years.

Indeed the knighthood holds a special position to the UK government for not letting it to be unclassified.

### **WHY HIS DOCUMENTS IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?**

For years this document is kept CONFIDENTIAL from the masses. Is it so due to the award been based on some classified data which the Baha'is tends to keep it hidden?

Why the Baha'is claim that he was awarded for his services rendered on humanitarian grounds (Which is not the case) and evade to answers the questions related to knighthood, which is posed to them?.

Was Abdul Baha an undercover agent of the British in order to assist in occupying Palestine?

If Abdul Baha was knighted on the basis of humanitarian then why the documents are kept labeled under confidential?

For this reason, a few years ago, a person by the name of Mr. Wahid Azal has requested the Assistant Secretary of Central Chancery of St. James Palace in search for the documents of the greatest efforts for humanity by Abdul Baha. He has also asked the British Library regarding

the said document, but he failed to acquire due to been as CLASSIFIED. Normally, documents are kept in classified category for a period of around 10 – 75 years but these documents have been kept as CONFIDENTIAL and specially CLASSIFIED with reason not known.

According to the UK, the confidential government papers such as the yearly cabinet papers used routinely to be withheld formally, although not necessarily classified as secret, for 30 years under the thirty year rule, and released usually on a New Year's Day; freedom of information legislation has relaxed this rigid approach.<sup>123</sup>

While according to the U.S, the executive Order 13526 establishes the mechanisms for most declassifications, within the laws passed by Congress. The originating agency assigns a declassification date, by default 10 years. After 25 years declassification review is automatic, with nine narrow exceptions that allow information to continue to be classified. At 50 years there are two exceptions, and classifications beyond 75 years require special permission. Because of changes in policy and circumstances, agencies are expected to actively review documents that have been classified for fewer than 25 years.

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<sup>123</sup> “Declassification”, Wikipedia.



Later on, Mr. Wahid Azal approached the British Library as well as the National Archives but, to all his efforts he was denied access to even know the reason for Abdul Baha's knighthood by the authorities. Below is the reply to Mr. Wahid's mail:

*Dear Mr. Azal Thank you for your email, and I apologies that it has taken some time to get back to you.*

*I confirm that on 31st October 1919 the Central Chancery were advised by the Foreign Office that The King had appointed Mr. Abdul Baha Abbas, Leader and Head of the Bahai Religion in Palestine, to be an Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire. We have no further information as to the reasons for this award.*

*I have spoken to the Honours Secretariat at the Foreign Office; I understand their records are only held for 15 years before being sent to the National Archives so they would be unable to give assistance here. You may yourself like to contact the National Archives at Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU (website [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)) in this connection.*

*I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.*

*Rachel Wells*

*Assistant Secretary*

*Central Chancery*

*St James's Palace*

*All inquiries with the British National Archives at Kew  
Richmond, Surrey, resulted in the same answer:  
\_CLASSIFIED\_.<sup>124</sup>*

There is something exponential about the event that occurred in 1919 which the Baha'i still today, attempts to evade the fundamental question of his knighthood by mentioning his services rendered to the people of Palestine.

There are several corresponding letters between Abdul Baha and British government which exists even today and remains unclassified which evidently proves that Abdul Baha was entirely a Civil Agent working undercover for the British.

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<sup>124</sup> Google Groups/ Talk.Religion.Bahai.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

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### SOME CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS REVEALED

The insignia award ceremony of Abdul Baha was kept by the British in the gardens of the governor's palace whereas, the ceremony of General Allenby and other officials was organized at the Citadel Tower of David, a part of the wall surrounding the old city of Jerusalem.

There were several recommendations by the British Officials to award the unimaginable efforts of Abdul Baha during the World War I in the Palestinian territories.

Furthermore, there are several corresponding documents available and even accessible to the public in the libraries as well as in archives which states some remarkable and astonishing facts:

### Recommendation for award

1 – Abdul Baha's loyal services to the British cause since the occupation of the Palestinian territories:

In the Form 0137/4669 is related to the 'Form of recommendation for civilian' regarding the Order of the British Empire dated 18th July 1919 states,

Surname in full.	}	
Christian names in full.	}	ABDUL BAHÁ ABBAS.
(In the case of Ladies state whether Mrs or Miss)	}	
Present or past Corps (if any).		
Appointment and Departmental grading.	)	Leader and Head of the BAHÁ'Í religion which numbers some millions of adherents in Persia, India, America and England.
(Salary to be specified if not graded.)	)	
Length of service in present appointment.		
Full present address.		Haifa, Palestine.
Distinctions already conferred during the present War.		
Grade of the O.B.E., for which recommended.		
<u>KNIGHT COMMANDER.</u>		
Statement of service during the War for which this distinction is recommended:-		
Has given consistently loyal service to the British cause since the Occupation. His advice has been most valuable to the Military Governor and Officers of the Administration in Haifa, where all his influence has been for good.		
He was for many years placed in captivity by the Turks in the Citadel at ACRE.		

*The Major Gen: Sir A.W.Money K.C.B., K.B.E, C.S.I., Chief Administrator of the Occupied Enemy Territory (S)., E.E.F., recommended that ABDUL BAHA ABBAS, the Leader and Head of the Baha'i Religion, has given consistently loyal service to the British cause since the occupation. His advice has been most valuable to the Military Governor and Officers of the Administration in Haifa, where all his influence has been for good.*

2 – The Commander in Chief of Egypt recommended K.B.E. for Abdul Baha:

In the files under 126335/350D/T. Is related to the recommendation of the K.B.E award to Abdul Baha by General Allenby dated 16th Oct 1919, 6 p.m. states,

Abdul Baha Abbas, head of Bahai religion has been recommended by Commander in Chief Egypt for K.B.E., in recognition of services to British administration in Palestine. Do you see any objection on general political grounds.

Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs sees no objection.

Cypher telegram to Sir P.Cox (Teheran)

Foreign Office, October 16th 1919, 6 p.m., No. 543.

*Abdul Baha Abbas, head of Baha'i Religion has been recommended by Commander in Chief of Egypt for K.B.E. in recognition of services to British administration in Palestine. Do you see any objection on political grounds.*

*Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs sees no objection.*

*I am forwarding duplicate copies of these recommendations by the King's Messenger Bag leaving on the 12th August 1919.*

*Your obedient servant,*

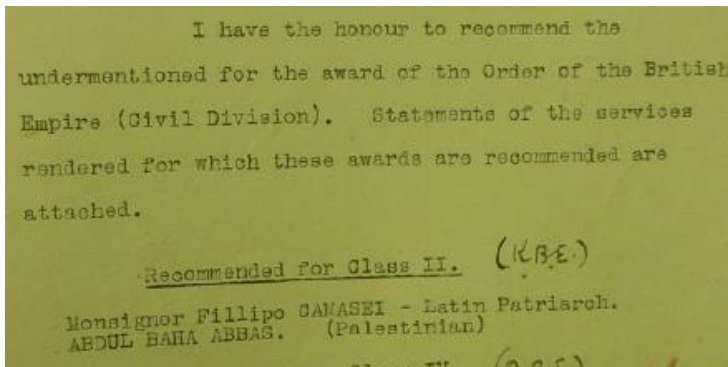
*General Edmund Allenby*

*Commanding-in-Chief*

*Egyptian Expeditionary Force*

3- The recommendation of the award of the Order of the British Empire towards Abdul Baha:

In the folio M.S. 21321/BEO/3



From: The Commander in Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

To: The Secretary of State for War, War Office, London. S.E.1.

*I have the honour to recommend the under mentioned for the award of the Order of the*

*British Empire (Civil Division). Statements of the services rendered for which these awards are recommended are attached.*

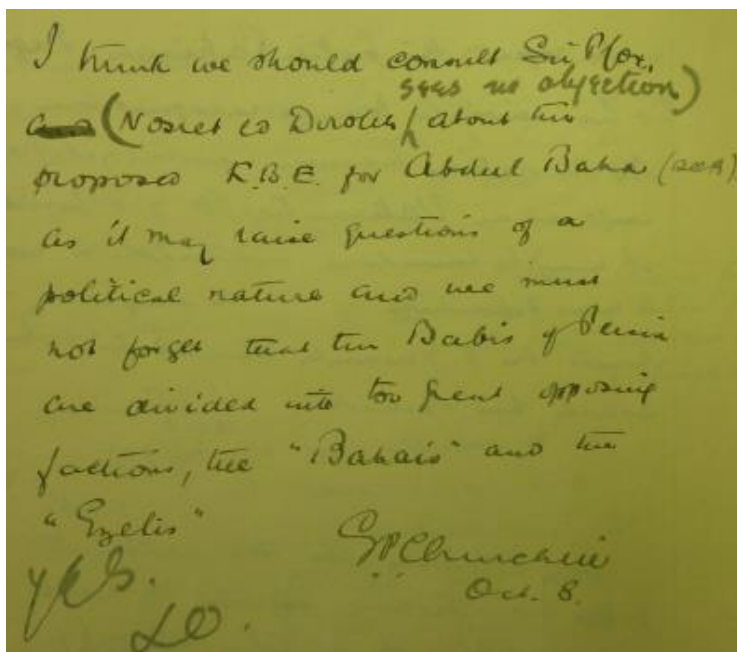
*Recommend for Class II*

*Monsignor Fillipo Camasei – Latin Patriarch*

*Abdul Baha Abbas – Palestinian*

4 – Nosrut Dowleh sees no objection about proposed K.B.E for Abdul Baha:

In another document it states that,



I think we should consult Sir [unclear] (or, <sup>see no objection</sup>)  
~~and~~ (Nosrut is Director) about the  
proposed K.B.E. for Abdul Baha (see A).  
as it may raise questions of a  
political nature and we must  
not forget that the Bahá'ís of Persia  
are divided into two great opposing  
factions, the "Bahá'ís" and the  
"Engelís".  
Y.B.  
L.O.  
McCracken  
Oct. 8.



*“we should consult Sir P Cox. Nosrut Dowleh sees no objection about the proposed K.B.E. for Abdul Baha as it may raise a question of a political nature and we must not forget that the Babis of Persia ones divided into two head opposing faction, the “Baha’is” and the “Ezelis”*

*S P. Churchill*

*October 8<sup>th</sup>*

5 – The recommendation of the award of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division):

Folio no. B.E.O.112 (M.S.3.B.) states,

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to transmit for the consideration of Earl Curzon of Kedleston, the attached recommendations for the award of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for Foreign Civilian Personnel submitted by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

I am,  
Sir,  
your obedient Servant,

8 SEP 1919

*I am commanded by the Army Counsel to transmit for the consideration of Earl Curzon of Kedleston, the attached recommendations for the award of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for Foreign Civilian Personnel submitted by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.*

*I am,*

*Sir,*

*Your Obedient Servant*

6 – The insignia of Abdul Baha is being presented through military channels

Folio No. 144519/350.D/T. Foreign Office dated 7th November 1919 states,

Sir:-

With reference to your letter B.E.O.112 (M.S.3.B) of the 3rd September last regarding the proposed bestowal of decorations of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) upon certain foreign civilians recommended by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force, I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to state for the information of the Army Council that The King has been pleased to approve the following awards:-

K.B.E.

Monsignor Filippo Camasol.  
Abdul Baha Abbas.

*With reference to your letter B.E.O.112 (M.S.3.B) of the 3rd September last regarding the proposed bestowal of decorations of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) upon certain foreign civilians recommended by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force. I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to state for the information of the Army Council that the King has been pleased to approve the following awards-*

*K.B.E.*

*Monsignor Filippo Camasel*

*Abul Baha Abbas.*

*..The appropriate insignia are herewith for presentation through military channels to the persons named...*

*Signed*

*V. Wellesley*

7- Abdul Baha, a Persian Subject:

*Eastern Dept.*

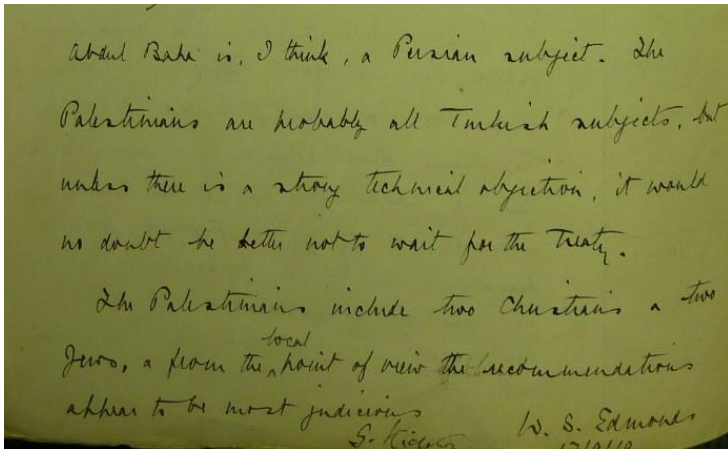
*Do you see any objection to the adoption of the recommendation of the C in C in favor of the Palestinians? It occurs to me that there might perhaps be something to be said in favor of keeping the nominees waiting until the Turkish Treaty has been signed. The Palestinians presumably are technically ottoman subjects?*

Eastern Dep't.

Do you see any objection to the adoption of the recommendations of the C. in C. in favor of the Palestinians? It occurs to me that there might perhaps be something to be said in favor of keeping the nominees waiting until the Turkish Treaty has been signed. The Palestinians presumably are technically Ottoman subjects?

*Abdul Baha is, I think, a Persian subject. The Palestinians are probably all Turkish subjects, but under there is a story technical objection, it would no doubt be better not to wait for the treaty.*

*The Palestinians involve the Christians, a true Jesus, a from the local point of view the recommendations appear to be the most judicious.*



Abdul Baha is, I think, a Persian subject. The  
Palestinians are probably all Turkish subjects, but  
unless there is a strong technical objection, it would  
no doubt be better not to wait for the Treaty.

The Palestinians include two Christians & two  
Jews, & from the <sup>local</sup> point of view the recommendations  
appear to be most judicious

S. K. K. 10. S. Edmonds  
17/10/12

8 – Regarding cruciform decoration to Abdul Baha:

*Obtaining H.H sanction for the award of K.B.E. to the Head of the Baha'i religion – Abdul Baha - and of the M.B.E. to the 14 Palestinians recommended. I suppose we may take it the Sir A. Money in recommending Abdul Baha for the K.B.E., does not think that any injury will be done to the gentlemen's religious responsibilities by giving him a cruciform decoration, but perhaps the War Department would advise on his point, which seems me of some special importance in his particular case....*

on the 14th November  
obtaining H.M. sanction for the award  
of a K.B.E. to the Head of the Bahai  
religion - Abdul Baha - and of the M.B.E.  
to the 14 Palestinians recommended. I  
suppose we may take it that Sir A. Money  
in recommending Abdul Baha for the K.B.E.,  
does not think that any injury will be  
done to the gentleman's religious susceptibilities  
by giving him a cruciform decoration. But  
perhaps the War Dep. wd. advise on this  
point, which seems me of some special  
importance in his particular case.

9- Abdul Baha Knighthood are not gazetted:

In Folio No. 144519/350/D/T dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 1919  
9 p.m.

Your telegram No. 692 (of October 21st. K.B.E.  
for Abdul Baha Abbas.)  
The King has approved. Honorary Awards of this  
kind are not gazetted.

*Your telegram No.692 (of October 21<sup>st</sup>, K.B.E.  
for Abdul Baha Abbas.)*

*The Knight has approved. Honorary Awards of  
this kind are not gazetted.*

10- The King is pleased to award Abdul Baha for his  
services towards the British occupying forces:

Folio No 144519/350.D.T. dated, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1919

The King has been pleased to approve the  
honorary appointment to the Second Class of the  
Order of the British Empire of:-  
Monsignor Filippo Camassei, Latin Patriarch of  
Jerusalem and representative of the Vatican in  
Palestine; and  
Abdul Baha Abbas, Leader and Head of the Bahai  
religion (nationality Persian) in recognition  
of their valuable services to the British occupying  
forces in Palestine.

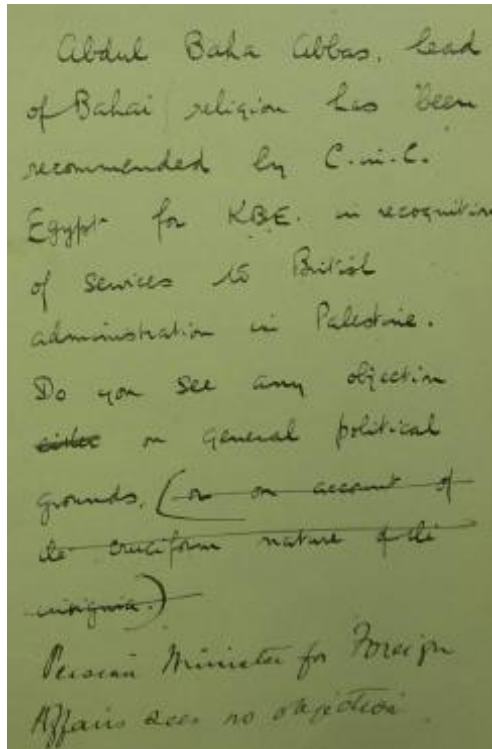
*The King has been pleased to approve the  
honorary appointment to the Second Class of the  
Order of the British Empire of:*

*...Abdul Baha Abbas, Leader and Head of the  
Baha'i religion (nationality Persian) in  
recognition of their valuable services to the  
British occupying forces in Palestine....*



11 – The Commander in Chief of Egypt recommended for Abdul Baha's Knighthood:

In the register No. 126335/350/D/T, dated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1917, is as follows:



Abdul Baha Abbas, head  
of Baha'i religion has been  
recommended by C-in-C.  
Egypt for K.B.E. in recognition  
of services to British  
administration in Palestine.  
Do you see any objection  
~~either~~ on general political  
grounds, (or on account of  
~~its~~ ~~cruciform~~ nature of the  
uniqueness.)  
Russian Minister for Foreign  
Affairs sees no objection.

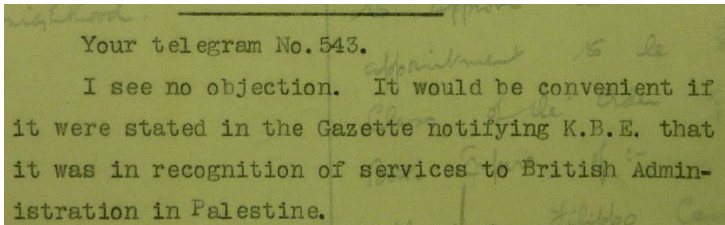
*Abdul Baha Abbas head of Baha'i religion has been recommended by Commander in Chief Egypt for K.B.E. in recognition of services to British administration in Palestine. Do you see*

*any objection either on general political grounds or on account of the cruciform nature of the insignia.*

*Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs sees no objection.*

12 – There is no objection in gazette notifying K.B.E. for Abdul Baha:

In the register No. 144519, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1919 is as follows:



Your telegram No. 543.

I see no objection. It would be convenient if it were stated in the Gazette notifying K.B.E. that it was in recognition of services to British Administration in Palestine.

*I see no objection. It would be convenient if it were stated in the Gazette notifying K.B.E. that it was in recognition of services to British Administration in Palestine.*

The above suggestions provided by the British officials proves the fact that the knighting accolade given to Abdul Baha is solely for the services provided to the British and nothing else. The British official have not mentioned in any of the above recommendation for

Abdul Baha's humanitarian works towards the people of Palestine.

All the above documents directly prove the importance and position of Abdul Baha in the British ranks which, is even greater than General Edmund Allenby. Nobody has recommended or even suggested to provide an insignia to Abdul Baha on the basis of humanitarian services towards the people of Palestine, rather the Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Expedition Forces suggested that, the Secretary of State of War Office in London to award Abdul Baha for his services rendered to the British occupying forces in Palestine.

On the contrary, most of the British officials who were involved in the occupation in Palestine were more concerned about his services rendered towards the British army or perhaps the only reason available.

He was one of many other British subjects who were stretched out throughout the Middle East especially in the territories of Persian and Palestine.

The following chapter contains those British subjects who served and provided the British Empire with vital piece of intelligence similar to Abdul Baha.

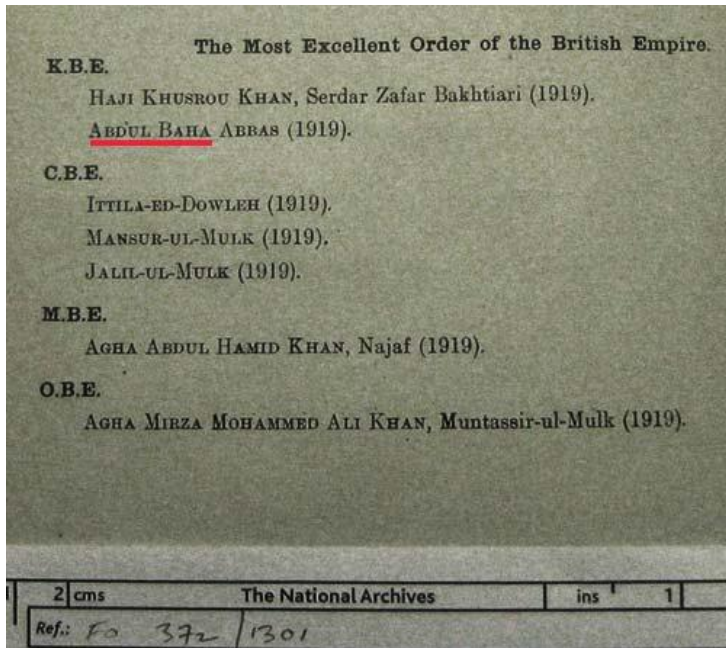
## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

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### AGENTS RESEMBLANCE TO ABDUL BAHA

**T**he List of Various Honorary Members of Various British Orders dated 1920, states quite a few people who were involved and immensely concerned to the services to the British in some way or the other. All the names of the people were British agents to which I have gathered some information regarding their services to the British Empire, which in one way or the other resembles Abdul Baha.

199



*Abdul Baha Abbas (1919) mentioned under the The  
Most Excellent Order of the British Empire*

***Sardar Arfa , Sheikh Khazal of Mohammereh***



In 1914, Sheikh Khazal was awarded the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India K.C.S.I. and in 1916, he was awarded the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire G.C.I.E.

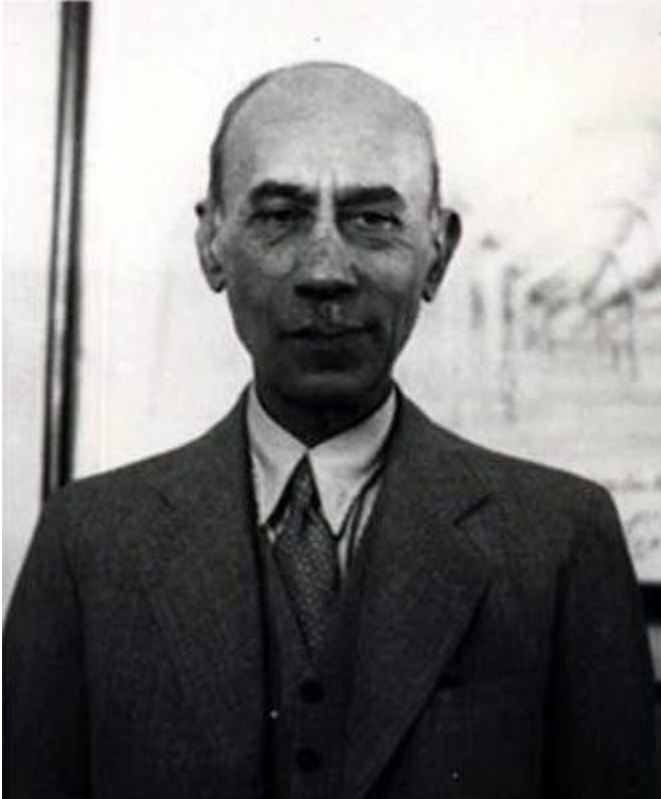
Once oil was discovered in Masjed Soleyman in 1908, by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC) which later became the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, eventually Khaz'al's ties to Britain strengthened. In 1909, the British government asked Percy Cox, British resident to Bushehr, to negotiate an agreement with Khaz'al for APOC to obtain a site on Abadan Island for a refinery, depot, storage tanks, and other operations. The refinery was built and began operating in 1912. Khaz'al was knighted in 1910 and supported Britain in World War I.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> Vassiliou, M.S (2009). Historical Dictionary of the Petroleum Industry. p. 285.



*Ali Mansur Mansur ul Mulk*



In 1919, Ali Mansur Mansur ul Mulk was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire C.B.E..

limelight. In 1938, he was rehabilitated and back in the cabinet as minister of industry and mines. Two years later, in June 1940, as the countries on Europe's periphery were gripped with fear of being consumed by the flames of World War II, Ali Mansur was appointed prime minister. It was he who received the Russo-British ultimatum about the presence of too many German advisors in Tehran and an impending invasion on August 25, 1941.

When the invasion took place, Mansur was suspected of complicity with Britain, and on August 28, 1941, he was forced to resign. But he was not entirely out of the political

loop. In February 1942, he was appointed governor of Khorasan. There, too, rumors of corruption followed him. Even the British Embassy, which certainly approved of him and had arranged for him to receive a CBE,<sup>3</sup> asserted that Mansur, in his earlier tenure as interior minister, "is believed to have made money out of the sale of promotions," and that

In 1938, he was rehabilitated and back in the cabinet as minister of industry and mines. Two years later in June 1940, as the countries on Europe's periphery were gripped with fear of being consumed by the flames of World War II, Ali Mansour was appointed prime minister. It was he who received the Russo-British ultimatum about the presence of too many German advisors in Tehran and an impending invasion on August 25, 1941.

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tenure as interior minister, “is believed to have made money out of the sale of promotions,” ...<sup>126</sup>

### *Vosseuq al Dowleh*

In 1919, Vosseuq al Dowleh was awarded the Most Honourable Order of the Bath G.C.B.

was engaged in two of Reza Shah's most controversial decisions. In the first, when the shah found that three of Iran's eminent politicians—Vosug al-Dowleh, Nosrat al-Dowleh, and Sarem al-Dowleh—had accepted a two-hundred-thousand-pound bribe from the British government, he entrusted Taqizadeh with the task of getting the money back from what the king called “these bastards.”<sup>16</sup>

In the first, when the shah found that three of Iran's eminent politician –Vosseug al Dowleh, and Sarem al-Dowleh – had accepted a two hundred thousand pound bribe from the British government, he entrusted Taqizadeh with the task of getting the money back from what the king called “these bastards.”<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> The collapse of the movements for the independence of Transcaucasia and Transcaspia, combined with the withdrawal of British interventionist forces from these areas, dictated to the British Foreign Office that its hold on Iran ought to be consolidated more firmly. To this end the British succeeded in bribing Ahmad Qajar by paying him a monthly subsidy of 15,000 toman on condition that he dismiss Premier Al es-Sultana Dowleh and replace him with Vossuq ed-Dowleh. *Documents on British Foreign Policy, 1919-1939*. WOODWARD, E. L. and BUTLER, Rohan. eds., 1st series, vol. IV, (London: 1952), pp. 1125-1126.

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<sup>126</sup> Eminent Persian, The Men and the Women Who Made Modern Iran, 1941 – 1979 – by Abbas Milani, Vol 1, Page 230 – 231.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

The collapse of the movements for the independence of Transcaucasia and Transcaspia, combined with the withdrawal of British interventionist forces from these area, dictated to the British succeeded in bribing Ahmad Qajar by paying him a monthly subsidy of 15,000 tomans on condition that he dismiss Premier Al es-Sultana Dowleh and replace him with Vossuq ed-Dowleh.<sup>128</sup>

### *Mushier al Dowleh*

Norman concluded that his admonition had no visible affect on the Shah.<sup>57</sup> Feeling more confident now, Norman answered Curzon's earlier query on a successor to Vosouq and said, 'my choice is Moshir ed Dowleh (Hassan Pirnia)\* whom I ...

In 1907, Mushier al Dowleh was awarded the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, G.C.M.G

Norman answered Curzon's earlier query on a successor to Vosouq and said, 'my choice is Moshir ed Dowleh (Hassan Pirnia)'.<sup>129</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> The Soviet Union and the Iran: Soviet Policy in Iran from the Beginnings of the Pahlavi Dynasty until the Soviet Invasion in 1941.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid pg. 77.

*Nosrat ul Dowleh*



In 1919, Nosrat ul Dowleh was awarded the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, G.C.M.G

The Anglo-Persian treaty of 1919, which had been the subject of secret negotiations with Vosseugh al-Dowleh, Sarem al-Dowleh, was made public on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1919. The terms of agreement, even though disguised, clearly showed that the country was becoming a British

protectorate. According to the agreement, the Persian government was giving Britain a special position in return for a loan of £2 million at 7 percent (Annual Register, 1919, p.255) <sup>130</sup>

***Farman Farma, son of Nosrat ul Dowleh***

In 1916, Farman Farma was awarded the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, G.C.M.G.

Firouz Mirza Nosrat al Dawleh (Firouz Firouz) was the eldest son of Abdol Hosein Mirza Farmanfarma. He, like his father, was held in the highest esteem by the British Government and King George V personally awarded him the G.C.M.G. in 1919. Firouz was highly intelligent and outshone other Iranian princes. More will be heard of him as he became one of the dominant politicians of the twenties. <sup>131</sup>

**Abdol Hosein Mirza Farmanfarma.** He, like his father, was held in the highest esteem by the British Government, and King George V personally awarded him the GCMG in 1919. Firouz was highly intelligent and outshone other Iranian princes. More will be heard of him as he became one of the dominant politicians of the twenties.

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<sup>130</sup> Revolution in Iran - By ParvizDaneshvar.

<sup>131</sup> Iran and the Rise of Reza Shah: From Qajar collapse to Pahlavi Power, By Cyrus Ghani, Sirus Ghani, pg 33.

All foreigners believe we organised 9<sup>th</sup> coup and my denials have no effect. But I am embarrassed over the arrest of pro-British Persians, especially Farmanfarma and his two sons. They have decorations and assurances in (Curzon's) telegram of 9<sup>th</sup> August 1919 (to Cox)... Several former Prime Ministers have been arrested...(Even) some opponents of the 1919 Agreement have been arrested.<sup>132</sup>

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### *Kuli Khan Nawab*

In 1903, Kuli Khan Nawab was awarded the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, C.B.

Hajj Hussein Kuli Khan Nawab was the seventh son of Mirza Agha-Khan Sadr-Azam Nouri, Prime Minister from 1851 to 1857 under Naser ad-Din Shah.

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<sup>132</sup> Ibid pg. 177.

In 1886 he was Consul General in Bombay and became an envoy in Washington.<sup>133134</sup>. In 1903 Hussein Kuli became Khan Nawab's embassy secretary in London and was inducted into the Most Distinguished Order of the Bath, Civil Division.

In 1910 Hussein Kuli Khan Nawab became Persian Foreign Minister. On October 16, 1910, the British government announced that if within three months on the southern trade routes there was no order to satisfy George V. A police intervention would take place under British command.<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> Badi Badio zamani: Iran and America. Rekindling A Love Lost . East West Understanding Press, 2005.

<sup>134</sup> 'Alī Pāshā Šāliḥ: Cultural ties between Iran and the United States. Her Imperial Majesty's National Committee for the American Revolution Bicentennial . East West Understanding Press, 1976.

<sup>135</sup> Badi Badio zamani: Iran and America. Rekindling A Love Lost . East West Understanding Press, 2005,pg 20.



*Sipahdar I A'zam Fathullah Khan:*

**SIPAHNDAR I A'ZAM, FATHULLAH KHAN, K.C.M.G.**

Born about 1860. Former title Sardar Mansur. Comes of a Gilan family and has large estates in that province. Went to Europe in 1910. Has held various Cabinet posts—Justice 1915, Posts and Telegraphs 1916, Interior 1916. Created K.C.M.G. in 1903 on occasion of Lord Doone's Garter Mission to which he was attached. Has generally been very friendly to us but has looked to the Russians for support.

Fathullah Khan was Born about 1860. Former title Sardar Mansur. Comes of a Gilan family and has large states in that province. Went to Europe in 1910. Has held various Cabinet posts—Justice 1915, Posts and Telegraphs 1916, Interior 116. Created K.C.M.G. in 1903 on occasion of Lord Doone's Gartar Mission to which he was attached. Has generally been very friendly to us but has looked to the Russians for support.<sup>136</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> "Tribes Personalities Western Persia" pg. 119.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

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### BAHA'IS CONNECTIONS WITH THE BRITISH EMPIRE

**I**n October 1917, the Russian Revolution for a while preoccupied the Russians with their domestic issues and prevented them from other hegemonist policies. On the other hand, the Bolshevik policy, in the early years of its power, showed no enthusiasm towards encouraging hegemonist tendencies. For that reason, Bab'ism and later the Baha'i Faith which were directly or indirectly under the backing of the Russian government evidently fell into the hands of the British

government. The Baha'i base in Ashqabad was thus closed down. Qarn-e-Badi, one of the reliable sources of Baha'is, writes in this connection:

*“Colonel Arnold Combal was the consul general of the British government in Baghdad. Noticing the sublime personality of Master Baha'u'llah, he wrote a friendly note to him asking him to accept the support and citizenship of his government. Being received in audience, he undertook the responsibility of making the required efforts in sending Bahaollah's letter to the British court if the Master desired to correspond with Queen Victoria. He even proposed that he was ready to provide facilities for the transfer of the residence of the Master to India or wherever he desired.”*<sup>137</sup>

On page 125, volume II of *God Passes by*, Shoghi Effendi writes

*“Colonel Sir Arnold Campbell wrote a friendly letter to His Holiness Baha'u'llah and proposed to him sovereign government acceptance to support His Holiness.*

*...He even went as far as to say that*

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<sup>137</sup> Qarn-e Badi, vol. 2, page 134, by Shoghi Effendi.

*He is prepared to arrange to settle him in India (British Colony) or any other place His Holiness might wish.*”<sup>138</sup>

In fact, even if this one document had been found on the subservience of the Baha'is to the British government, it would have been enough.

Following the sufferings of the Iraqi Moslem sat the hands of the rebellious Baha'is, the Ottoman government upon a request by the Iranian ambassador in Istanbul Mirza Hussein Qazvini, who later became the chancellor, exiled the Babis to the remotest areas of the Ottoman territory. They were later sent to Adrianopole where the Babis refer to as the... secret land. It was in Adrianopole where Baha'u'llah laid claim to Bab's mantle as the Awaited One and rejected his brother Mirza Yahya Subh-e-Azal. It is interesting that Combal offered the title of Baron before these claims were raised by Hussein Ali Mirza.

When the seditious role of the Babis was revealed to all foreign governments, the French decided to take advantage as well. To this end, the deputy consul of the French embassy secretly met Baha'u'llah and held talks with him for half an hour. It was in this meeting that the French official, according to Kavakeb-ud Dorriyeh,

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<sup>138</sup> God Passes By, Shoghi Effendi, pg 125.

asked Baha'u'llah to apply for French citizenship so that they could support him.<sup>139</sup>

It is evidently clear that the main purpose of the British and French governments by offering nationality to Baha'u'llah was to dispatch him to areas such as India on behalf of the British and to Algeria on behalf of the French governments in order to promote schism in Muslim land.

After the Azalis and Baha'is split, Mirza Hussein Ali was sent into exile to Akka where he stayed until he died in 1892 and was replaced by his son Abbas Effendi.

We have already discussed as to who was Tudor Pole and his role in the Baha'i Faith. We have mentioned one more incident at the time of Abdul Baha's death, how Tudor Pole being an intelligence officer to the British helped to nurture the Baha'i Faith in the interest of the British Empire

It was in his office in St James's Street that Shoghi Effendi learned of the death of his grandfather Abdul Baha. In the morning of Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1921 a cablegram was delivered to Pole's office, it had been sent the previous day in Haifa and read

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<sup>139</sup> Kavakeb-ud Dorriyeh, vol. 1, pages 380-1.

*“His Holiness Abdul Baha ascended to the Kingdom of Abha. Please inform friends.*

*(Signed) Greatest Holy Leaf”.*

It is a clear indication of the trust the Holy Family had in Pole that he was the first to receive this news and charged with disseminating it to believers and supports throughout the country. Pole immediately set about informing the Baha’i community and sent for Shoghi Effendi to come from Oxford without revealing the cause of the summons. Shoghi Effendi arrived at Pole’s office and has shown in while Pole himself was in another room.

When Pole entered his office he found his visitor collapsed on the floor, it transpired that he had glanced at the desk and inadvertently read the cable on Pole’s desk.<sup>140</sup>

In the period immediately following the death of Abdul Baha, Pole played an important role in the consultations around the future of the Baha’i cause. He never revealed what took place; however, the decisions taken to set up formal Baha’i organizations must have seemed to him at best a mistake at worst a betrayal, on his return to England he declined inclusion on the

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<sup>140</sup> Weinberg, Ethel Jenner Rosenberg, 1995, p.189

ballot for the election of the London Spiritual Assembly, Weinberg describes his actions thus:

One person conspicuous by his absence in the nascent Baha'i administration was Wellesley Tudor Pole. On returning from the consultations in Haifa, he more or less distanced himself completely from the Baha'i community, claiming that after discussion with Shoghi Effendi, he had reached the decision that he would be more effective as a non-member, which would give him added credibility should he be needed to defend the Faith in diplomatic circles.<sup>141</sup>

In another occasion, both Allenby and Ronald Storrs (1881 – 1951), British governor of Jerusalem, placed a great deal of trust in the Baha'i leader. Storrs, who had met Abdul Baha in London, asked for help in finding reliable people to fill administrative posts and, consequently, a number of Baha'is found themselves in 'positions of confidence' in the British administration of Palestine. Allenby settled in Haifa for a while and paid a number of visits to Abdul Baha.

Abdul Baha wrote a letter of gratitude

*“O God, the tabernacle of justice has truly been erected on this holy land, and we thank and praise Thee. O God, may Emperor George V,*

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<sup>141</sup> Weinberg, Lady Blomfield, her life and times, 2012, p. 252.

*Ruler of Britain, be assisted in his divine achievements, and May his shadow over this realm be everlasting.*”<sup>142</sup>

In his various interviews arranged during his trips to Europe, Abdul Baha once said in London: “The power which attracted me towards you was the same magnet of your love. The Britons I have met so far had pure souls and were active for the purpose of peace (the British-type peace and the kind of unity to the advantage of the British government). Therefore, London would be suitable for the spread of this task (Baha’ism).”<sup>143</sup>

In one of his speeches, quoted from the book Collections of Abdul Baha’s Orations Abdul Baha addresses his English audience and says:

*“I am satisfied with the people and government of Britain...My coming here, has resulted in consolidation of friendship between Iran and Britain. This friendship will soon reach the extent that Iranians would sacrifice their lives for the sake of Britain.”*<sup>144</sup>

During his funeral processions high-ranking British personalities such as Herbert Samuel and Sir Ronald

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<sup>142</sup> Makatib by Abbas Effendi, Vol 3, p. 347.

<sup>143</sup> Trial of the Zionist Goldziher, page 270.

<sup>144</sup> Khatabat-e Abdul Baha, vol. 1, page 23.



Stores were present. On this occasion, The British secretary of state for colonies, Mr. Winston Churchill telegraphed sent a cable of condolences to Haifa which read:

*“I hereby convey the sympathy and condolences of the Majesty government of Britain to the Baha’i community. Similar cables have been sent by other high-ranking British officials on this occasion”.*

Similarly, General Congreve (Commander in Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary force), General Sir Arthur Money (Former Chief Administrator of Palestine) and other official of the British Government transmitted similar telegraphs.

**Secret Document of British Government, dated May 1918.**

**SECRET.**

APPRECIATION OF THE ATTACHED EASTERN REPORT. No. LXX

RUSSIA.

THE Asiatic intelligence should be read with care. The prospects in Turkestan are now distinctly bad. The destruction and disintegration of the Armenians proceeds apace and paves the way for Turko-German dominion, extending through the Turanian belt right up to Afghanistan itself. From that point of vantage the Turko-Germans will work every possible form of anti-British policy; Pan-Islamism, Pan-Turanianism, and anarchistic revolution will be the three forces that they will use.

The elements which will be friendly to us, and which will combat these three forces, are:—

- (a.) The natural tendency which exists among pious Moslems to regard religion as a spiritual rather than a political force, and which lies at the back of the teachings of Mohammed Ábdu, Abdul Bahai, and the Persian Mystics.
- (b.) The natural dislike of non-Turanian peoples for Turanian ascendancy.
- (c.) The social elements which stand to gain by justice and order.

With regard to the development of these elements into political assets, we can give positive assistance in regard to (b) and (c); in regard to (a), we can do nothing positive, but on the negative side may do something by avoiding giving the impression that we are afraid of political Pan Islam or are ready to compromise with it.

PALESTINE.

The political news is satisfactory.

PERSIA.

The situation is one which must give cause for anxiety.

M. S.

May 30, 1918.

*Appreciation of the Attached Eastern Report*

The content of the document is as follows:

SECRET.

APPRECIATION OF THE ATTACHED EASTERN  
REPORT NO LXX.

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***RUSSIA***

THE Asiatic intelligence should be read with care. The Prospects in Turkestan are now distinctly bad. The destruction and disintegration of the Armenians proceeds apace and paves the way for Turko-German dominion, extending through the Turanian belt right up to Afghanistan itself. From that point of vantage the Turko-Germans will work every possible form of anti-British policy; Pan-Islamism, Pan-Turanianism, and anarchistic revolution will be the three forces that they will use.

The elements which will be friendly to us, and which will combat these three forces are: -

(a) The natural tendency which exists among pious Moslems to regard religion as a spiritual rather than a political force , and which lies at the back of the

teaching of Mohammed Abdu, Abdul Bahai, and the Persian Mystics.

(b) The natural dislike of non-Turanian people for Turanian ascendancy.

(c) The social elements which stand to gain by justice and order.

With regard to the development of these elements into political assets, we can give positive assistance in regard to (b) and (c) ; in regard to (a), we can do nothing positive, but on the negative side may do something by avoiding giving the impression that we are afraid of political Pan Islam or are ready to compromise with it.

### *Palestine*

The political news is satisfactory.

### *Persia*

The situation is one which must give cause for anxiety.

May 30, 1918

M.S.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

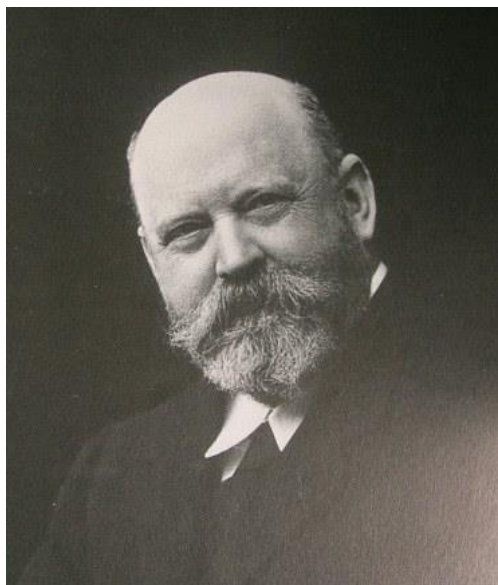
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### BAHA'IS CONNECTIONS WITH ISRAEL

One of the very important section in the political record of Baha'i Faith is the sincere relationship and close cooperation of the leaders of the sect with Israel in general and the occupier regime of Ghods in particular. The Baha'i Leaders relations with the members of Israel have been since 1909, which is even before the establishment of the Zionism regime. Ben Zvi (a Zionist activist and later the president of Israel) along with his wife has even confessed a meeting was held with Abdul Baha around

1909 -1910. The Baha'i Faith ties with the Israel is far strengthen since 1909 which was some 40 years before the establishment of the regime, which shows the strategic depths of the Baha'i faith with Israel.

Historical evidences also show Abdul Baha's relations with the members of Rothchild families who were the main organizers and investors of the plot for settlement of Jews in Palestine.



***Walter Rothschild, 2nd Baron Rothschild***

You may have heard many conspiracy theories about the Rothschilds—they've been for everything from world wars to "secret cabals" to financial collapses, and they've also been "secretly running the entire world." But one place where they did actually have a truly significant influence was the formation of Israel. Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild, a British nobleman and scion of the Rothschild family, was an active Zionist who lobbied his government to establish a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine. The Baron, in fact, was the recipient of a famous 1917 letter from the British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, now known as The Balfour Declaration, which first declared the British government's support of "a national home for the Jewish people," setting the stage for the creation of Israel.

Accordingly, Baron Rothschild travelled extensively to Palestine on several occasions, usually to visit and inspect the Jewish colonies he helped fund and establish there. One of the Baron's trips to Palestine—where Baha'u'llah had been exiled by the Ottoman Empire, and where the Baha'i World Centre in Haifa now exists—generated this fascinating commentary on the burdens and the responsibility of wealth from Abdul Baha:

*Today Baron Rothschild came to Haifa. He is one of the wealthiest men of Europe. He is much interested in the Jewish colonization of Palestine*

*and is devoting much of his time and attention to this problem. Now he has gone to Tiberias. He is busy all the time. He could not stay longer than one hour.*

*All the people are toiling and labouring to attain to the station of a rich man. Life to many rich men is nothing but a heavy burden. They are “wood carriers”. Instead of a blessing wealth becomes a great calamity to them. The supervision of their colossal fortunes and their proper financial administration becomes the sole object of their lives. Day and night, asleep and awake, they think and work to make their piles larger and that of others smaller till finally they become mere money machines devoid of any other feeling or of higher emotions, wild-eyed, always hungering for more. Greed and selfishness become the dominant influences of their lives. Grab, grab, grab; right and left they grab at everything. In the mad rush and struggle for more lucre, for more worldly goods they walk over the bodies of the toilers and the children. They become the embodiment of heartlessness and cruelty. Pride and haughtiness lord it over them and they become mere tools in the hands of sordid, fiendish passion.*



*Wealth has a tempting and drawing quality. It bewilders the sight of its charmed victims with showy appearances and draws them on and on to the edge of yawning chasms. It makes a person self-centred, self-occupied, forgetful of God and of holy things.*<sup>145146</sup>

Baron Lionel was the leader of the Jewish community in England for upward of thirty years. He was a member of the Board of Deputies, of which he had been elected president in April, 1855, but declined to serve; he was for a long period president of the Great Synagogue; and was for some time on the council of the United Synagogue. In 1843 he cooperated with Sir Moses Montefiore in the latter's efforts to ameliorate the condition of the Russian and Polish Jews; and an appeal from him on behalf of the Rumanian Jews was read at the Berlin Congress of 1878.<sup>147</sup>

*"The attitude of the Bahá'í leaders to Judaism also impressed many Jews. In 1891, Bahá'u'lláh wrote directly to Baron Rothschild, announcing to him the imminent return of the Jews to the Land of Israel. This idea remained constant in the messages to the Jews both in Iran and the*

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<sup>145</sup> <https://bahaiteachings.org/baron-rothschild-goes-haifa>

<sup>146</sup> Abdul Baha, from the Diary of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, 24 February 1914, Star of the West, Volume 5, pp. 19-20.

<sup>147</sup> Palestine: Information with Provenance

*United States that were delivered by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during his visit there in 1912. In a letter, which 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote to the Jews in Iran in 1897, he did not leave any room for ambiguity about the messianic aspects which placed the Bahá'í faith in the heart of Judaism. This intimate relation between the two religions was emphasized even more by the fact that all the most important Bahá'í holy sites were located in the Land of Israel. (Faü 2004:267)" ~ Moshe Sharon, The Hebrew University in Jerusalem<sup>148</sup>*

***Israel Presidents and Head of State visit Baha'i  
Centres***

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<sup>148</sup> Moshe Shaon, Jewish Conversion to The Baha'i Faith.

**President Mr. Izhak Ben Zvi (1954)**



The official visit of the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Izhak Ben Zvi, and Mrs. Ben Zvi, to the Guardian in April, 1954 led to a most cordial relationship between them, and Shoghi Effendi later called upon the President and Mrs. Ben Zvi in Jerusalem. On December 6, 1955 the Mayor of Haifa, Aba Khoushy, visited the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, and was

received by Mrs. Amelia Collins, Vice-President of the International Baha'i Council and Mr. Horace Holley, Secretary of the American National Spiritual Assembly.<sup>149</sup>

### **Hands of the Cause meet President Ben Zvi of Israel (1959)**



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<sup>149</sup> Baha'i World Volume 13 Page 250

### **President Zalman Shazar (1964)**



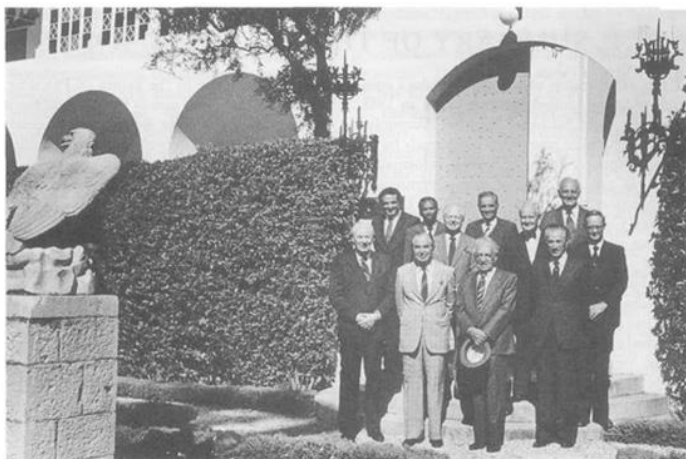
*President Zalman and Mrs. Shazar of Israel, and Mayor and Mrs. Aba Khoushy of Haifa, on the occasion of their formal visit to the Shrine of the Bab and the Baha'i gardens on Mt. Carmel in the spring of 1964.*

Israel's third President, Zalman Shazar, accepted the invitation of the Universal House of Justice in the spring of 1964 to pay a formal visit to the Shrine of the Bab and the Baha'i gardens on Mount Carmel. Included in the Presidential party on that occasion were Mrs. Shazar and Mayor and Mrs. Aba Khoushy of Haifa. Later a delegation composed of Hands of the Cause and members of the Universal House of Justice returned the visit by calling on President Shazar at Beit Hanassi in Jerusalem.

The cordial relationship which exists between the World Centre and the State of Israel was further enhanced when Mark Tobey and Bernard Leach each presented a

piece of their work to the new Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The Mayor of Jerusalem, who is also Director of the Museum, expressed great pleasure and gratitude for these gifts from Baha'is of such fame.<sup>150</sup>

### **President Chaim Herzon (21 October 1984)**



**HIS Excellency Chaim Herzog, President of the State of Israel, paid an official visit to the Baha' World Centre on 21 October 1984 at the invitation of the Universal House of Justice.**

His Excellency Chaim Herzog, President of the State of Israel, paid an official visit to the Baha'i World Centre on 21 October 1984 at the invitation of the Universal House of Justice.

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<sup>150</sup> Baha'i World Volume 14 , page 92.

At 9:40 a.m. the President was formally received in Bahji, at the Collins Gate, by the nine members of the Universal House of Justice and escorted to the Mansion where Baha'u'llah spent His final years. There the President was greeted by the Hand of the Cause of God Ali-Akbar Furutan who conducted him to the room of Baha'u'llah and showed originals of some of Baha'u'llah's Tablets. Leaving the Mansion, the President paid his respects at the Sacred Tomb.

Proceeding to Haifa by official motorcade, the party alighted at the Mount Carmel gardens and visited the Shrine of the Bab. This was followed by a visit to the Seat of the Universal House of Justice which concluded with a formal luncheon in the banquet hall, in the President's honour. The visit of the first Head of State to call on the House of Justice in its permanent Seat was the occasion for the inaugural use of the splendid dining room, readied for the occasion by the dedicated efforts of dozens of skilled and devoted Baha'is serving at the World Centre.

Among those attending the historic event, in addition to the members of the Universal House of Justice and their wives, were the Hand of the Cause 'Ali-Akbar Furutan and the Mayor of Haifa, His Worship AryeGurel, and Mrs. Gurel. An album of colour photographs of the major Baha'i Holy Places in Israel was presented to President Herzog by Mr. Hushm and Fatheazam, on

behalf of the Universal House of Justice. The President responded with expressions of sympathy for the suffering Baha'is of Iran and pride in the Baha'i community and its world-famed Holy Places.

The beauty of the Baha'i Holy Places, the splendour of the Faith's administrative centre, and the warmth of the welcome extended were the subjects of enthusiastic comment on the part of the President, his aide-de-camp and the Mayor of Haifa.<sup>151</sup>

### **Two members of the House meets Mr. Chaim Herzog, President of Israel (1986)**

During the month that followed most of the governments of the world, including those responsible for the administration of significant territories and islands, had received the Statement. The presence in the Haifa Akka area of the World Centre of the Faith made it possible for two members of the Universal House of Justice to join officers of the Baha'i International Community in calling on Mr. Chaim Herzog, President of Israel for the presentation that took place on 4 December. By Ridvan 1986 a total of 138 such

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<sup>151</sup> Baha'i World Volume 19 page 26.



presentations had occurred. Of these, 62 had been made in meetings between Baha'i delegations and the responsible Head of State, 42 through meetings with representatives of a Head of State, and 21 through the United Nations missions of the countries concerned through the intermediary of the Baha'i International Community. Through force of circumstance 13 were dispatched by mail.<sup>152</sup>

### **The Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin**



*Project manager Fariborz Sahba shows Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin models of the Terraces Project during Mr. Rabin's visit to the Bahá'í World Centre.*

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<sup>152</sup> Baha'i World Volume 19, page 377.

The Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, visited the Baha'i World Centre briefly on 13 June to view models of the Terraces Project underway on Mount Carmel.<sup>153</sup> He was escorted during his visit by project manager and architect Fariborz Sahba and the Deputy Secretary General of the Baha'i International Community, Albert Lincoln.<sup>154</sup>

**Shimon Peres, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs  
(1994)**

Shimon Peres, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs, made an official visit to the World Centre on 4 August 1994. Following an audio-visual presentation on the status of the Universal House of Justice and invited to a lunch on in his honor in the banquet hall of the Seat. The party was joined by the Mayor of Haifa, Amram Mitzna. Mr. Peres ended his visit by viewing the Terrace Projects in progress and paying his respects at the Shrine of the Bab.

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<sup>153</sup> Baha'i World 1994-1995, page 72.

<sup>154</sup> Baha'i World 1994-1995.

**7-Shimon Peres, Israel's Minister of Foreign Affairs  
(1994)**

*During his visit to  
the Bahá'í World  
Centre on  
4 August 1994,  
Shimon Peres,  
Foreign Minister of  
Israel, views one of  
the models of the  
Terraces Project.*



Among the other government officials who visited the Baha'i World Centre during 1994-95 were Israel's Minister of Education and Culture, Professor Amnon Rubinstein, in May 1994.

**Reuven Rivlin - President of Israel**



***President of Israel visits World Centre to honor  
bicentenary amid wave of commemorations in Haifa  
and across the globe Establishment of a Baha'i Court  
in Israel***

During his visit to the Baha'i World Centre, joined Dr. David Rutstein, Secretary-General of the Baha'i International Community, on a visit to the Shrine of the Bab and a walk through the surrounding gardens.



***Dr. Rutstein, left, walks with President Rivlin toward the Shrine of the Bab.***



*A reception for local leaders and dignitaries in the Haifa and Akka areas was held on Friday. Haifa Mayor Einat Kalisch-Rotem (second from the right) talks with Carmel Irandoust (center) from the Baha'i International Community in Haifa.*

**Akka Mayor Shimon Lankri and religious leaders honor 'Abdu'l-Baha at ceremony**



The mayor of Akka, Shimon Lankri, and dignitaries representing the city's religious communities and other local organizations gathered to honor 'Abdu'l-Baha at a tree-planting ceremony coinciding with the start of the construction of His Shrine.





*Mayor of Akka – Shimon Lankri*



**Tree-planting ceremony**

### **Establishment of a Baha'i Court in Israel**

Following the passing of their Guardian Shoghi Effendi, the Hands of the Cause Residing in the Holy Land made a further study of the possibility of establishing a Baha'i Court in Israel, and in November, 1959 announced:

“We wish to assure the believers that every effort will be made to establish a Baha'i Court in the Holy Land prior to the date set for this election. We should however bear in mind that the Guardian himself clearly indicated this goal, due to the strong trend towards the secularization of religious courts in this part of the world, might not be achieved.”

The International Baha'i Council made a further study of the possibility of establishing a Baha'i Court in the Holy Land. It was found that circumstances existing in the State of Israel made it impossible to attain this goal of the Crusade in the manner stipulated by Shoghi Effendi. The Hands of the Cause Residing in the Holy Land confirmed this finding.<sup>155</sup>

### **Extension of International Baha'i Endowments**

One of the most long-term works of the Guardian was the preparation of a secure foundation for the support of the World Spiritual and Administrative Centre of the

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<sup>155</sup> Baha'i World, Volume 13 Page 251.



Faith in the Holy Land. The acquisition of properties situated in the heart of Mt. Carmel and in the plain of Akka was essential to this purpose and was vigorously pressed by Shoghi Effendi throughout his ministry.

The decade of the fifties saw a marked acceleration of this process and outstanding victories were won. Foremost was the cleansing of the area immediately surrounding the Shrine of Baha'u'llah from Covenant-breakers and the acquisition of their properties, which were expropriated by the Government of Israel and transferred to the Faith. The purchase of land for the future Mashriqu'l Adhkar on Mt. Carmel was another target at the World Centre, as was the addition of the plot on Mt. Carmel, formerly owned by the sister of a "infamous enemy" of Abdul Baha, which opened the way to the building of the International Baha'i Archives. Other significant purchases provided the land needed for the development on Mt. Carmel of extensive new gardens containing the "arc", about which, in future, the various buildings of the World Administrative Centre will be built. Another important step was the purchase of five houses at the foot of Mt. Carmel, part of the German colony settled before 1870 by the Templars, in anticipation of the coming of the Lord of Hosts. The precincts of Baha'u'llah's Shrine were protected by further additions of land, and a house near Bahji which had been used by Abdul Baha was acquired.

In April, 1954 the Guardian announced that “the vast area of Baha’i holdings permanently dedicated to the Shrines of the Founder of the Faith and of its Herald” exceeded three-hundred-and-fifty thousand square metres. Within two years these endowments had been increased to over four-hundred-thousand square metres, and they were further extended before 1959. In 1954 their value had been about four million dollars. In his last message, October, 1957, Shoghi Effendi estimated the value of these International Baha’i endowments as over five-and-a-half million dollars.<sup>156</sup>

### **Israel Branches**

The Palestine Branches of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the United States and Canada and of India, Pakistan and Burma had been organized as religious societies in 1930 and 1934 respectively and were legally empowered to hold unrestricted title to movable and immovable property in the Holy Land, a status which was continued with the founding of the State of Israel. The beloved Guardian set as a goal of the Ten-Year Plan the establishment of seven additional Israel Branches of National Spiritual Assemblies, and in his Ridvan Message in 1954 he was able to announce the formation of those of the National Assemblies of the British Isles, Persia, Canada, and Australia and New

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<sup>156</sup> Baha’i World Vol 13, page 253.

Zealand. By November, 1957 separate Branches were established for the National Assemblies of New Zealand, Alaska and Pakistan, bringing the total number of Israel Branches to eleven.

After the passing of Shoghi Effendi the Government of the State of Israel recognized the status of the Custodians elected by the Hands of the Cause and took legal cognizance of the Custodians as new managers for the several Israel or Palestine Branches of National Spiritual Assemblies.

As circumstances permitted, properties were registered in the names of the various Israel Branches. These included the Shrine of Baha'u'llah, the Mansion of Bahji, the properties in the Haram-i-Aqdas which were evacuated by the Covenant-breakers, and many properties on Mt. Carmel.<sup>157</sup>

**Israel Government Renews Tax Exempt Status for  
Bahai Center**

**Government renews tax-exempt status of Bahai  
Center**

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<sup>157</sup> Baha'i World Vol 13, page 253.

By JEREMY SHARON

03/20/2012 03:19

Jerusalem Post

Tax arrangement was originally agreed upon between the state and the Baha'i movement in 1987.

The Justice Ministry announced on Monday that it has renewed a deal with the Baha'i World Center in Israel exempting it from indirect taxes for another five-year term.

The announcement comes ahead of the holiday of Naw-Ruz, the Baha'i New Year that takes place on Wednesday. The tax arrangement was originally agreed upon between the state and the Baha'i movement in 1987.

Representatives of the Baha'i faith, headed by Albert Lincoln, the secretary-general of the center, welcomed the signing of the agreement, which he said benefits both Israel and the Baha'i community....

....The implementation of the agreement is supervised by an interministerial committee, headed by the director of

the Justice Ministry, Dr. Guy Rotkoff, who approved the continuation of the arrangement.

The Baha'i have been a recognized religious community in Israel since 1971.

The main activities of the World Baha'i Center are the development and maintenance of the community's holy sites in Haifa and the Galilee, as well as increasing tourism and investment in them.

The Baha'i Gardens in Haifa, along with other Baha'i sites in the country, attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year – including those of the Baha'i faith as well as foreign tourists and the general public – and are among the most visited sites in the country.

The Justice Ministry said that the government views the Baha'i holy places as among the most important tourist sites in the whole country.

The government will transfer funds equivalent to any indirect outlays incurred by the World Baha'i Center or any of its associated non-profit organizations for activities it carries out in operating and developing the sites.

Rotkoff underlined the importance of the relationship with the Baha'i center, especially for the activities that it has done to help develop the Galilee region.<sup>158</sup>

### **Relationship with the State of Israel:**

The State of Israel has invariably accorded a high status to the international institutions of the Faith, and “this process of recognition” has constituted “an historic landmark in the evolution of the World Centre...” One of the first responsibilities of the International Council was to foster this relationship. “Contacts are maintained with Departments of Government as well as the City Authorities in Haifa, Akka, and many Cabinet officials.”<sup>159</sup>

The official visit of the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Izhak Ben Zvi, and Mrs. Ben Zvi, to the Guardian in April, 1954 led to a most cordial relationship between them, and Shoghi Effendi later called upon the President and Mrs. Ben Zvi in Jerusalem. On December 6, 1955 the Mayor of Haifa, Aba Khoushy, visited the Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Illinois, and was received by Mrs. Amelia Collins, Vice-President of the International Baha'i Council and Mr. Horace Holley, Secretary of the American National Spiritual Assembly.

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<sup>158</sup> Jerusalem Post <http://www.jpost.com/NationalNews/Article.aspx?id=262554>

<sup>159</sup> Report of International Council, May 2, 1955.

The establishment of a Baha'i Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the official acceptance of Baha'i marriage and the excusing of Baha'i children from school attendance on Baha'i Holy Days, the exemption of Baha'i properties from taxation and customs duties are all evidences of the official recognition accorded by the State of Israel to the World Centre of the Baha'i Faith. The passing of the Guardian gave indubitable proof of the stature which the Cause of Baha'u'llah had attained in Israel. "A great wave of sincere, shocked and deep-felt sympathy poured out to the Baha'i Community from the officials of the State of Israel and its peoples," wrote the Hands in Haifa in their Convention message, 1958; "from the President, Prime Minister and Cabinet members down to the simplest citizens, tributes and condolences poured in; at every point the Government of this State has responded..

So, why do Zionists support Baha'i Faith to such an extent?

The reality is that the Baha'is serve the Zionists and their sprout, Israel, with all their potentials in return for their supports and assistance .It is surprising that in their sites and media and against this question (or protest) concerning the relations of the sect with Israel , the Baha'is impudently claim that there is no relation between the sect and the Zionists and occupiers of Palestine and the centrality of the Baitul Adl (House of

Justice based in Haifa, Israel) is totally accidental! and it has nothing to do with the common interests of the two parties!. Indeed when the Baha'i Faith tie its fate to that of Zionism in this way, it cannot claim that the setting up of the headquarters of this sect in Israel is simply due to the existence of the graves of the leaders of the sect in the occupied Palestine.

With all this support to the Baha'i Faith, why teaching of the Baha'i Faith is forbidden in Israel? Not only the teaching of the faith to the Jews who reside abroad is banned but also teaching to a person who holds an Israeli passport is prohibited.



## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

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### BAHA'IS ARE RELIGIOUS SPY

**T**he planning and the strategies used by Abdul Baha in helping and assisting the British Empire in conquering the territories owned by the Ottomans as well as assisted in establishing a new state. Not only Abdul Baha and his followers assisted the British Empire during the World War I but has also helped in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The followers of the Baha'i Faith follow the same trend of Abdul Baha by gathering information of their respective countries.

For instance, few years back we found a case of Mr. Haydara of Yemen was caught red-handed by the Yemen authorities for espionage activities for Israel.

The Universal House of Justice which is based in Haifa is asking several countries to intervene in the matter of Mr Kamal Haydara in order for his release. The Universal House of Justice (UHJ) has asked hostile countries like Netherland and United Kingdom to appeal to the Yemeni Government for his release. Recently UHJ message has asked the Baha'is of every country to contact their respective political leaders to let them pressurize on the Yemeni Government. Spreading a false Religion with headquarters in Israel Impersonated his name falsified many official papers, gave false statements and changed his personal documents and used them to buy land and establish business ventures for the purpose of bringing in a large number of Baha'is to Yemen, the penal prosecution added

The Baha'is have chosen such a time to launch an attack when Yemen is facing political upheaval and severe challenges. This also is a pointer that Baha'is are behind this political disturbance.

The political letter of UHJ states:

*The National Spiritual Assemblies of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States, through their Offices of External*

*Affairs, have been making representations to their governments since his arrest. Owing to the severity of the threat facing Mr. bin Haydara and the Baha'i community in Yemen, it is now timely to request that such efforts are undertaken more widely*

*In developing the elements of the campaign you are being asked to undertake, your external affairs representatives are encouraged to confer with their contacts in your government and those in non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals of prominence, and inform them of the potentially dire situation of Mr. bin Haydara and the Baha'is in Yemen. The severity of this matter means that no avenue should be left unexplored and contact should be sought with the highest authorities possible. Your campaign will not be media based. However, if misleading articles about Mr. bin Haydara's case have appeared, or should appear in the future, in media outlets located in your country, then those media should receive robust approaches from your representatives, providing accurate information that refutes the baseless accusations made against Mr. bin Haydara. Exceptionally, the Offices of External Affairs in France, the United Kingdom, and the United States are asked to initiate contact with their Arabic*

*language media and seek to inform them of the facts of the case.*

### **Iranian national to stand trial in Yemen for espionage**

[12/January/2015]

SANA'A, Jan. 12 (Saba) – An Iranian national is to stand trial in Yemen on charges of spying with a foreign country and seeking to spread a new religion.

The defendant was arrested in Mukalla City of Hadramout province in 2014, while other suspects in the case are pursued by the security services, a judicial source at the Penal Prosecution said.

The prosecution completed the case investigation and referred it to the Specialized Penal Court in the Capital Sana'a as a prelude to start the trial, the source added.

According to the indictment, the accused, whose name is Hamid Mirza Kamali Srostani (Iranian nationality), 51, has impersonated the name of Hamid Kamal Mohammed bin Haidarah and lived in the Socotra archipelago and in Mukalla on the pretext that he has free businesses.

During the period from 1991 to 2014, Srostani has sought with a foreign country (Israel) represented in what is called the Universal House of Justice that he

works to its advantage, to spread the Baha'i Religion in the territory of the Republic of Yemen, the prosecution said in the indictment, considering that harms Yemen's political status and its independence and territorial integrity.

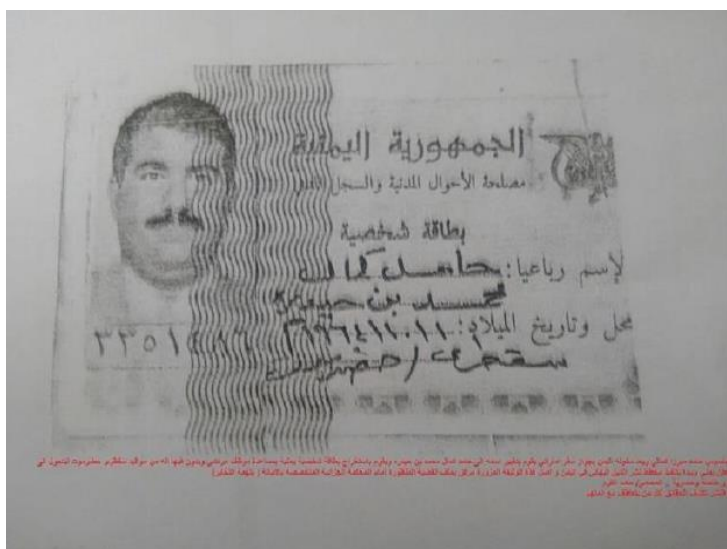
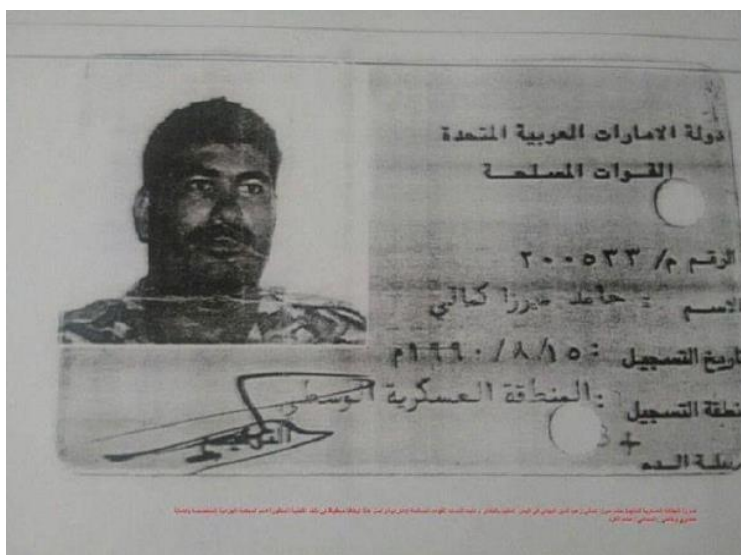
In the indictment, the prosecution revealed that the defendant incited a number of Muslims to exit from Islam and embrace the Baha'i religion by enticing the poor families and children with money and charitable aid.

The penal prosecution explained that the accused has held a number of meetings and symposiums in several forums and houses affiliated to him comprising Baha'is and Yemenis to elect members of the so-called 'the central sacred lodge' and form its branches in the provinces.

The defendant falsified many official papers, gave false statements and changed his personal documents and used them to buy land and establish business ventures for the purpose of bringing in a large number of Baha'is to Yemen, the penal prosecution added.<sup>160</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> Yemen News Agency (SABA)





Hamed Mirza Kamali, or Hamid Kamal Mohammed bin Haidara, both names for this Baha'i pioneer in Yemen, who is currently being tried by the State Security Court in Sana'a nearly two years ago.

Mirza Kamali who is of Iranian origin holds two nationalities, one Emirati and the other Yemeni. The penal prosecution in Sana'a adds a third nationality to the man, an Iranian nationality, and is accused of conspiring to communicate to a fourth country, Israel.

Mirza Kamali is 52 years old, according to the documents obtained by the viewer. These documents bear multiple birth dates, but all in 1964. Kamali entered Yemen in 1991 and became a Yemeni and one of the

businessmen who is entitled to import and export to and from this country.

After 26 years of activity in Yemen, Kamali was arrested in 2014 in Hadramout province. He was tried in January 2015 and his trial continues until today. His last trial was held on Sunday 4 December 2016 in Sana'a, where the judge of the Specialized Criminal Court

Rejected the request for his release with security, as confirmed by Baha'i spokesman in Yemen Abdullah al-Alafi.

A plot targeting the Islamic religion

Hamed al-Qurum, a lawyer familiar with the file of the case in the Specialized Criminal Court, said the Baha'i case was part of a plot and plot sought by the Baha'i founder in Yemen, the main suspect Hamid Kamali. Saying that this plot mainly targets the Islamic religion by converting people to the Baha'i faith, which calls for the end of the religion of Islam and the establishment of the new religion (Baha'i religion).

But Baha'i spokesman in Yemen Abdullah al-Alafi denies this, asserts that Kamali is not the founder of the Bahá'í Faith and that Kamali is the second-generation cleric. In an interview with Al-Sahar, he says that the Bahá'í faith is not the result of the moment and it has



existed for 172 years. The hands of Ali Mohamed Shirazi in 1844.

Al-Alafi refutes the charges of communication or employment to any country because this issue is forbidden in their religion, and the Baha'is confirm that they refuse to go out on the state and consider it a betrayal, working hand in hand with the members of their communities of different sects, affiliations, tribes and sects.

Kamali the mysterious .. How did Yemen arrive?

Far from Mirza Kamali's religious beliefs, he does not deny them, and whether he is the founder of the Bahá'í Faith or not, documents published by the "viewer" make the figure of Mirza Kamali's character five decades old. These documents point to many contradictions and, Raises many questions.

Mirza Kamali entered Yemen in 1991 with an Emirati passport issued by Dubai on April 15, 1991. His passport name was Hamed Mirza Kamali, born in Dubai, UAE in 1964, and his career in passport is employee.

The UAE passport did not indicate the type of job in which Kamali worked, but another document revealed that the man was a member of the UAE armed forces.

The document is a military card found in his house after being caught.

The UAE military card bears its name in the passport (Hamed Mirza Kamali) and a military number (300533). The card shows that he joined the Central Military Region in the UAE Army on 15 August 1990.

Kamali in the UAE and Bin Haidara in Yemen after entering Yemen in 1991, Kamali was able to extract a Yemeni identity card bearing a different name than the one he entered in Yemen, where he became known as Hamed Kamal Muhammad Bin Haidara. Instead of being born in Dubai in his UAE passport, he was born on the island of Socotra in Yemen on October 1, 1964.

On April 13, 1996 Hamed Mirza Kamali, whose name was Hamed Kamal Mohammed Bin Haidara, succeeded in extracting a commercial register from the capital Sana'a allowing him to import the goods that were registered by him. The register carried a trade name, "Yemeni Corporation for Trade and Technical Projects" Sana'a in the district of Moin Riyadh Street, with a capital of 300 million riyals.

On February 14, 2000, Kamali, who was the son of Haidara, was able to extract another trade record from an export activity from Hadramout province. He was then allowed to work in the export trade of goods after his previous record from Sana'a imported certain

commodities. Kamali also managed to extract a permit to carry a weapon from the General Military Intelligence Service, headed by the General Staff of the Ministry of Defense, from Hadramout Division in the name of Hamid Kamal Muhammad Haidara and a military number (2956). Accordingly, he was allowed to carry automatic weapons (Kalashnikov and pistol) Viewer ".

In addition to this, Kamali extracted an electronic personal card with a national number (08010050866). He was born on Socotra Island on 29 May 1964.

Kamali clings to his first identity

Although Kamali has a Yemeni identity and a Yemeni businessman who can import and export, he has maintained his UAE identity. In November 2000, Kamali published an announcement in the official Al-Thawra newspaper that he had lost his UAE passport. The announcement stated that Hamed Mirza Kamali lost his UAE passport, and who found it to the UAE embassy or call 7919289 or Bajar 5826652.

Kamali also submitted a similar communication to the Nasr police station in Sana'a, Sana'a, on November 12, 2000, which stated that Hamed Mirza Kamali lost his UAE passport number 1161720, signed by Salem Sheikh Abdullah.

The state gives Kamali a piece of land with an area of 20 km

Kamali continued his natural activities between Hadramout and Sana'a. In 2011, Kamali managed to acquire a 20-square-meter plot of land in Hadramout on the instructions of the governor of the province, Khalid Saeed Al-Dini. "On Monday 9th May 2011, Gail Bawazeer, the General Authority for Land, Survey and Urban Planning, handed over the state-owned land to Mr. Hamed Kamal Bin Haidra as Director of the Emirates Corporation for Trade and Trade," according to a report prepared for this purpose.

According to the document, the plot of land is 200 meters in the 100 meters and the area of 20 thousand meters, where the land was handed to him for an annual rent not specified in the record. The record confirmed that the land was handed over to the Governor of Hadramout Governorate.

No documents proving that he is Iranian.

The Specialized Criminal Court adheres to its Iranian nationality and treats it accordingly, even in the news published by the Saba agency in Sana'a from January to May 2015, although in the documents obtained by the "viewer" there is no evidence that he is Iranian. However, lawyer Hamed al-Qurum, who is familiar with the case file, confirms in a leaflet on his Facebook page

that Kamali is an Iranian father and his wife is an Iranian and has Iranian citizenship so far. According to the indictment filed by the Specialized Criminal Prosecution, Hamed Mirza Kamali Sroustani sought, in 1991 and until 2014, a foreign country (Israel) represented by the so-called "House of Justice," which works in its interest to spread the Bahá'í faith in the territory of the Republic of Yemen and incite to convert That religion by seeking to denigrate some Yemenis in order to remove them from the Islamic religion to embrace this alleged religion, which would damage the political status of the Republic of Yemen and undermine its independence and territorial integrity.

The indictment said that Kamali and before him his father sought to establish a national homeland for the Baha'i believers on the territory of the Republic of Yemen on one of the islands of the Archipelago of

Socotra and in Mukalla province of Hadramout and the secretariat of the capital Sana'a, where he established aliases and adopted the implementation of economic projects and housing and accommodation centers accommodate Baha'i immigrants to Yemen From the Arab states and East Asia in implementation of the so-called "Great House of Justice" in Israel.

Baha'i believers do not deny that the status of Baha'i Faith is Acre in Israel. According to Abdullah al-Alfi,

who spoke in an interview published by the "viewer" previously in Acre, the grave of Hazrat Bab Ali Muhammad al-Shirazi, who was imprisoned by the Ottoman Empire in Acre, Palestine and Israel, is currently the center of religion and the Baha'i University was established.<sup>161</sup>

Another case appeared in the following article that was published by the Indian daily the Hindustan Times in July 2006. It initially created quite a stir on USENET and various other online forums, with the Baha'is defensive or otherwise wholesale denying the story's entire validity. Two follow-ups to the story appeared later on in hindu.com and web India, which have been appended below with their links. An interpolated piece claiming to be a retraction of the story by the Hindustan Times was later posted on the USENET group talk.religion.Bahai by Baha'i Susan Maneck in September of that year. However the so-called retracted item by Maneck was soon proven to be a forgery and fake by Susan Maneck herself, with the HINDUSTAN TIMES denying it had ever published such a retraction. The New Delhi police and the clerk's office of the

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<sup>161</sup> **Note:** Original News is in Arabic which can be found here at asrar7days.com.

We have translated the following news in English with the help of Google Translate.

Indian Supreme Court were subsequently contacted by several individuals, including journalists, for comment. But they have thus far provided no further comment either to deny or to confirm the on-going nature of this story —ed.

## Bahai trustees accused of embezzling funds

NAZIYA ALVI  
New Delhi, July 13

IN A complaint filed in a city court, a few trustees of the National Spiritual Assembly of Bahais of India have been accused of espionage by their colleagues. Apparently, they were supplying classified documents from India's defence establishments to Israeli and Iranian spying agencies and making huge amounts in foreign currency.

Taking cognisance of the complaint, the additional chief metropolitan magistrate, Kamini Lau, has directed the Economic Offence Wing Cell to immediately register a case against the accused persons. The court has also asked the cell to file a status report with it by August 10.

As per the allegations in the complaint, one of the accused, N.K. Bhudhiraja, general manager of finance with the spiritual organisation, forged an identity card and af-

### SPY RING BUSTED?

fixed his photograph on an armed forces concessions form for fee baggage allowance, which is needed for military officials travelling to places in India and abroad. Apparently, he also used to travel under the fictitious name of Captain S. Budhiraja of the air force station at Yelahanka.

Apparently, the accused, by using such impersonations and forgery managed to clandestinely penetrate into the prohibited defence establishment of the country and get hold of classified documents. In turn, he supplied the sensitive documents to spying agencies in Israel and Iran in return of foreign currency.

The complaint has also alleged that the stamp of the air

force station at Yelahanka had been forged with some amount of accuracy and was being used by the accused trustees of the 'spiritual assembly'.

The complaint also alleges that another accused, Payam Shoghi, also a trustee with the society, is in truth an Iranian national. He fraudulently got his name inserted in the ration card of another accused and also got it attested.

On the basis of the ration card he managed to procure an Indian passport. The complaint also states that such passports have been issued to a number of other foreigners by the accused people through a similar fashion of forgery.

The counsel of three complainants Swadesh Kumar, Khub Singh and Gulshan Kumar told the court that they have definitive documentary evidence to prove that the accused were, in addition to the other violations, involved in a large scale Hawala transaction network.

## HINDUSTAN TIMES

July 13th, 2006

SPY RING BUSTED? - Bahai trustees accused of embezzling funds

NAZIYA Alvi

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<sup>162</sup> Hindustan Times, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2006

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

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### TIMELINE OF ABDUL BAHA

**W**e have gathered almost all of the information since 1900 until the death of Abdul Baha in 1921 from several books into a timeline so the readers can come to know the life of Abdul Baha in a precise manner.

#### 1900

Ronald Storrs met Abdul Baha first in 1900, on his way out from England and Constantinople through Syria to succeed Harry Boyle as Oriental Secretary to the British Agency in Cairo.

Ronald Storrs states *"After a few years, I had the honour of looking after him and of presenting him to Lord Kitchener, who was deeply impressed by his personality."*

### 1901

Abdul Baha purchased about 2200 acres of land at Adasiyyah, on the Jordan River, for 400 Turkish lira. Soon after, he gave 1/24th of the land to the family from whom he purchased it, 3/24ths to his brother Mirza Muhammad Ali, and 1/24th to the Mufti of Akka, leaving Abdul Baha with about 1704 acres.

### 1907

Abdul Baha arranged for a number of Baha'i farmers, mostly those of Zoroastrian background from the village of Mahdiyabad, to come to Palestine, and in the following years increasing numbers moved to Adasiyyah.

### 1909

Ronald Storrs met Abdul Baha in Akka. Ronald Storrs was very much impressed with Abdul Baha and he again met him in Egypt in 1920

### 1910

Tudor pole met Abdul Baha in Cairo and Alexander.

## **1911**

Tudor pole again met Abdul Baha in London.

## **1911 & 1912**

Abdul Baha was able to pay all the expenses for himself and his entourage during their travels to Europe and North America.

## **1912**

Abdul Baha had already been preparing for the worst. He had purchased farmland in the Galilee to grow wheat, and stored the grain underground near Haifa.

## **1912**

Lord Lamington, a former Governor of Bombay who had himself met Abdul Baha in London.

## **1912 - 5 December**

Abdul Baha left New York aboard the SS Celtic. He arrived in Liverpool, England, on December 13, 1912, traveled through England, France, Austria-Hungary, and Germany for six months, then returned to Egypt. He did not finally arrive home in Haifa until December 5, 1913, a full year after leaving America.



*Abdul Baha left New York aboard the SS Celtic*

**1916**

In 1907 Abdul Baha arranged for a number of Baha'i farmers, mostly those of Zoroastrian background from the village of Mahdiyabad, to come to Palestine, and in the following years increasing numbers moved to Adasiyyah. The influx continued until 1916.

**1917 - July**

With the First World War raging and rainfall also poor, Abdul Baha arrived in Adasiyyah and told the Baha'is that he needed wheat for Haifa and Akka.

**1917 - 24 December**

Tudor Pole alerts Mark Sykes about Abdul Baha is in eminent danger from the troops of the Ottomans.

**1918 - 24 January**

Lady Sara Blomfield received a telephone call in Paris. *“Abdul Baha in serious danger. Take immediate action.”* She reached Lord Lamington at Whitehall, a telegram was sent to General Edmund Allenby to rescue Abdul Baha.

**1918 - 24 January**

Lord Lamington wrote to Lord Balfour, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on January 24, asking that ‘action be taken,’ and enclosing an outline of the situation.

Lord Lamington (Foreign Office) to Lord Balfour (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), January 24, 1918:

I have been asked to intervene in the interest of Abdul Baha. I enclose a memo. about him and I should be grateful could the action indicated be taken.

The memo:

*Abdul Baha sometimes known as Abbas Effendi, leader of the Baha’i movement, having for its*

*object the true peace of the world is believed to be at his home in Haifa, or else on Mt. Carmel. In the past he has undergone much persecution at the hands of fanatics and anxiety is felt by his many friends in Gt. Britain and America lest he, his wife and family should not receive adequate protection during the British advance owing to his identity not being known to our authorities. His friends therefore would be grateful if instructions would be cabled to secure on his behalf the good offices of those in command.*

**1918 - 25 January**

MP Frederick Whyte wrote to Sir Mark Sykes about the danger to Abdul Baha's life

**1918 - 26 January**

Letters of Lord Lamington & Frederick Whyte reached the Foreign Office, and were handled by Ronald Graham, a diplomat who had himself served in Egypt, who wrote as comment to Whyte's letter: "The Baha'is are splendid people, but I do not see how we can help Abdul Baha unless and until we get to Haifa." All they could do, he suggested, was "call the attention of the British Authorities in Egypt to Abdul Baha's presence at Haifa.



## 1918

A telegram was sent to Sir Reginald Wingate, the British High Commissioner in Egypt who was responsible for the political affairs of the Egyptian Expeditionary Forces. Dated January 30, 1918, it reads:

*My attention has been called to the presence at Haifa of Abdul Baha, head of the Baha'is. Please warn the General Officer Commanding that he and his family should be treated with special consideration in the event of our occupying Haifa.*

### 1918 - 5 February

Another telegram was sent from Sykes at the Foreign Office to General Clayton, who as Chief Political Officer with the EEF was responsible for administering captured territories, asking him for information about Abdul Baha, whose “*influence in America is appreciable.*”

Enquiries are being made here as to the present whereabouts of Abdul Baha the leader of the Baha'i movement. His usual dwelling is at Acre. Can you give any information; his influence in America is appreciable.

### 1918 - 6 February

Tudor Pole message didn't reach the Foreign office.

### 1918 - March

The news reaching me concerning Abdul Baha's imminent danger became more and more alarming. I tried to arouse interest in the matter among those who were responsible for Intelligence Service activities (including General Clayton, Sir Wyndham Deedes, and Sir Ronald Storrs — the latter having been made Governor of Jerusalem). I also brought the matter before my own chief, General Sir Arthur [Money] (Chief Administrator of Occupied Enemy Territory). None of these personages knew anything about Abdul Baha, nor could they be made to realize the urgent need to ensure His safety."

### 1918

September 25, with Haifa and Akka occupied by the allies, the Chief Political Officer in Palestine could telegraph London:

*Reference to your dispatch No. 41 of February 1st to High Commissioner on subject of Abdul Behar the leader of Bahai movement. He is now at Haifa, he is in good health and being cared for.*

### **1918 - July**

General Money became the Chief Administrator of the Southern Occupied Enemy territories, and in this capacity recommended that Abdul Baha should be awarded the order of the British Empire.

Has given consistently loyal service to the British cause since the occupation. His advice has been most valuable to the Military Governor and officers of the Administration in Haifa, where all his influence has been for good. He was for many years placed in captivity by the Turks in the Citadel at Acre.

### **1918 - 23 September**

On 23 September 1918 the 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade was ordered to capture Haifa.

### **1918 - September**

The British defeated the Ottomans at the Battle of Megiddo and marched on Haifa. Allenby sent messengers to Abdul Baha's home to inquire about the family's condition. Then he cabled Whitehall: "Have today taken Palestine. Notify the world that Abdul Baha is safe."

### **1919 - 29 October**

This recommendation went to the War Office, who passed it to Lord Curzon, who as we have seen had been impressed by the Baha'is he encountered in India when he was Viceroy there, and was now Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In the correspondence that followed, one staff officer at the Foreign Office suggested that the British Ambassador to Tehran, and the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nusratu'd-Dawlih, should be consulted. Both of these responded that they saw no objection, and the recommendation was duly passed to the Court for royal approval.

#### **1919 - 4 December**

The number of Baha'is in Palestine is only 158. Sir Abbas Effendi had travelled extensively in Europe and America to expound his doctrines, and on the 4th December, 1919, was created by King George V. a K.B.E. for valuable services rendered to the British Government in the early days of the occupation.

#### **1920 - 27 April**

The medal was forwarded to Palestine through military channels, and the investiture ceremony took place on April 27, 1920, with Colonel Stanton, the Governor of Haifa, officiating.

## 1920

Another to visit Abdul Baha and record his impressions was the architect and town planner, C.R. Ashbee, who was serving as Civic Adviser to the City of Jerusalem in 1920, and reports in A Palestine Notebook

It is pleasant to think that English administrators go to this wise old man for help and counsel. We dined in the evening with Colonel Stanton, the Military Governor of Haifa, Lord Milner, and Herbert Samuel. The two last were rather envious of our afternoon with Abbas, and colonel Stanton told us how he often went to get his advice. ‘Of course,’ he added in the characteristic manner of the British Administrator, ‘I have to listen for half an hour so first to the beauty of the flowers and the wings of the mind; after that we get to business.’

## 1920

Ronald Storrs introduced Abdul Baha to Lord Kitchener

## 1921

I rendered my last sad tribute of affectionate homage when, early in 1921, I accompanied Sir Herbert Samuel to the funeral of Abdul Baha.

## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

---

### SECRET DOCUMENTS REVEALED

**A** special thanks to Mr. Adib Masumian for providing us with these priceless documents without which it would have been difficult for me to help the world to know the true reality of Abdul Baha.

FORM OF RECOMMENDATION FOR CIVILIANS  
 Form 0137/4669.

"B".

THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

\*\*\*\*\*

Form of recommendation for Award.

Full name and official designation of) Major Gen: Sir A.W. Money,  
 Officer or Official submitting the ) K.C.B., K.E.F., O.S.I.,  
 recommendation. ) Chief Administrator,  
 Occupied Enemy Territory (S).,  
 E. E. F.,

Descriptive particulars of Candidate Recommended.

Rank & title (if any).

Surname in full. )  
 Christian names in full. ) ABDUL BAHÄ ABBAS.  
 (In the case of ladies state )  
 whether Mrs or Miss )

Present or past Corps (if any).

Appointment and Departmental grading. ) Leader and Head of the BAHAI  
 (Salary to be specified if not graded.) ) religion which numbers some  
 millions of adherents in Persia,  
 India, America and England.

Length of service in present appointment.

Full present address. Haifa, Palestine.

Distinctions already conferred during the present War.

Grade of the O.B.E., for which recommended.

KNIGHT COMMANDER.

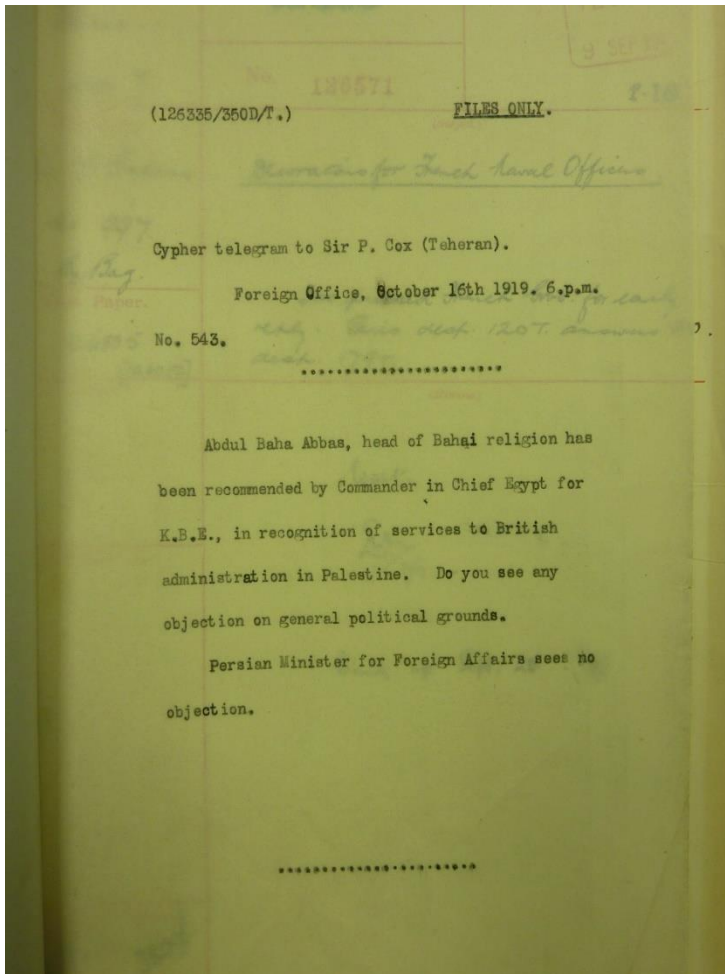
Statement of service during the War for which this distinction is recommended:-

Has given consistently loyal service to the British cause since the Occupation. His advice has been most valuable to the Military Governor and Officers of the Administration in Haifa, where all his influence has been for good. He was for many years placed in captivity by the Turks in the Citadel at ACRE.

Signature of Officer or Official) *A.W. Money*  
 submitting the recommendation. )  
 Major-General.  
 Chief Administrator.  
 O.E.T.A.(S).,

Date.. 18<sup>th</sup> JULY....1919.

*For General,*  
 Chief-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.  
 1919.





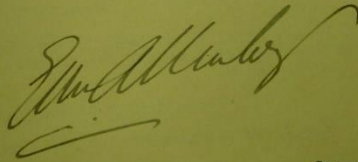
-(2)-

I am forwarding duplicate copies of these  
recommendations by the King's Messenger Bag leaving  
on the 12th August 1919.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

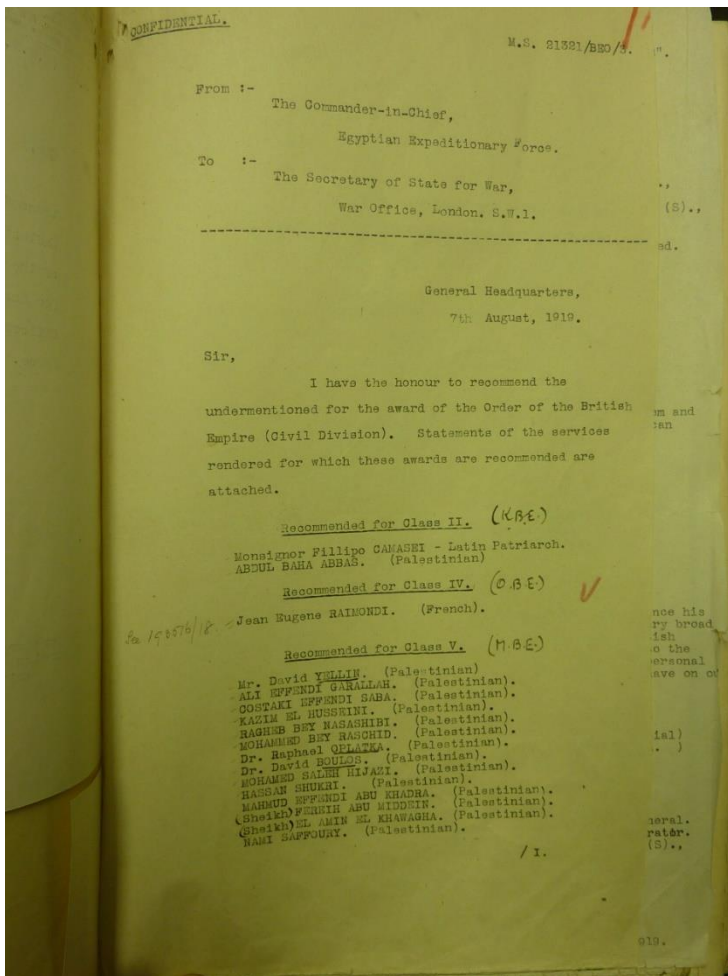


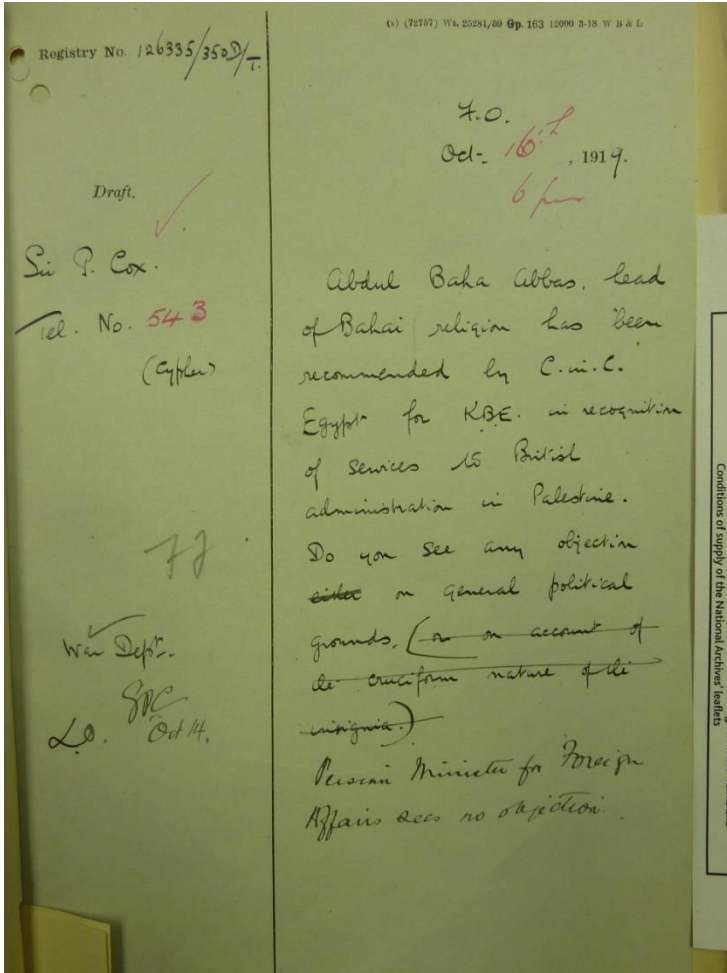
General,  
Commanding-in-Chief,  
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

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con

# THE BAHÁ'Í KNIGHT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE





I think we should consult Sir P. (or, <sup>5445 no objection</sup>)  
~~and~~ (Norel is Director) about the  
 proposed K.B.E. for Abdul Baha (204)  
 As it may raise question of a  
 political nature and we must  
 not forget that the Bahis of Persia  
 are divided into two great opposing  
 factions, the "Bahais" and the  
 "Ishtis"  
 Y.C.S. G.P. Churchill  
 L.O. Oct. 8.

4072

Further communication  
 subject should be  
 The Secretary,  
 War Office,  
 London, S  
 and the following number  
 10,112 (M.S.)

Sir  
 tra  
 Ked  
 of  
 for  
 Off  
 For

All further communications on  
this subject should be addressed  
to  
The Secretary,  
War Office,  
London, S.W. 1,  
and the following number quoted.

S.E.O.112 (M.S.3.B.)

WAR OFFICE,  
LONDON, S.W. 1.

3rd September, 1919.

126335

8 SEP 1919

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to  
transmit for the consideration of Earl Curzon of  
Kedleston, the attached recommendations for the award  
of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division)  
for Foreign Civilian Personnel submitted by the General  
Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary  
Force.

I am,  
Sir, Your obedient Servant,

*H. H. Curzon*

The Under Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

As regards the Latin Patriarch, I agree,  
 & his services deserve recognition.  
 No decorations however have as yet been  
 conferred on Vatican Rep<sup>res</sup>; & possibly  
 it may be considered undesirable to make  
 a new departure. In any case I  
 think Sir L. Ponsbury should first be  
 asked his opinion.

ad  
 23/9.

Sir L. Ponsbury has now written to  
 say that the King approves of K.B.E.  
 being given to the Latin Patriarch.  
 Perhaps his paper might now be sent  
 on to Sir Frederick with a view to  
 obtaining H.M. sanction for the award  
 of a K.B.E. to the Head of the Bahai  
 religion - Abdul Baha - and of the M.B.E.  
 to the 14 Palestinians recommended. I  
 suppose we may take it that Sir A. Murray  
 in recommending Abdul Baha for the K.B.E.,  
 does not think that any injury will be  
 done to the gentleman's religious acceptance  
 by giving him a cruciform decoration - but  
 perhaps the War Dep. wd. advise on his  
 point, which seems me of some special  
 importance in his particular case.

War Dep.

R. J. H.  
 7/10

P.T.O.

Gentlemen have rendered services of undoubted value I do not see why decisions need be withheld. Towards might I think be made without prior reference to Rome, if such cases are to be admitted.

Private Secretary as to his

Also as reason for  
Regarding any Vatican Rpts  
also should see towards

R.H. Campbell

Eastern Dept.

Do you see any objection to the adoption of the recommendations of the C. in C. in favor of the Palestinians? It seems to me that there might perhaps be something to be said in favor of keeping the nominees waiting until the Turkish Treaty has been signed. The Palestinians personally are technically Ottoman subjects?

Robert  
14/12

About Baku is, I think, a Persian subject. The Palestinians are probably all Turkish subjects, but unless there is a strong technical objection, it would no doubt be better not to wait for the Treaty.

The Palestinians include two Christians & two Jews, a from the <sup>local</sup> point of view the recommendations appear to be most judicious

S. G. Edmond

12/12/11







144519/350.D/T.

FOREIGN OFFICE  
B.W.I.  
November 7th, 1919.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter B.E.O.112 (M.B.3.B) of the 3rd September last regarding the proposed bestowal of decorations of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) upon certain foreign civilians recommended by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force, I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to state for the information of the Army Council that The King has been pleased to approve the following awards:-

M.B.E.  
Monsignor Filippo Camascl.  
Abdul Baha Abbas.

M.B.E./

The Secretary  
to the Army Council.

M.B.E.

Mr. David Yellin.  
Ali Effendi Garallah.  
Costaki Effendi Saba.  
Kazimi El Hussein.  
Ragheb Bey Nagashibi.  
Mohammed Bey Raschid.  
Doctor Raphael Oplatka.  
Doctor David Boulos.  
Mohamed Saleh Hijazi.  
Hassan Shukri.  
Mahmud Effendi Abu Khadra.  
Sheikh Fereih Abu Widgein.  
Sheikh El Amin El Khawagha.  
Nami Saffoury.

The appropriate insignia are sent herewith for presentation through military channels to the persons named.

The case of Monsieur Jean Eugene Raimondi, Deputy Chief Engineer, Egyptian State Railways, who is proposed for the O.B.E., will be dealt with in connexion with the next distribution of decorations of the Order of the British Empire among French civilians.

I am,

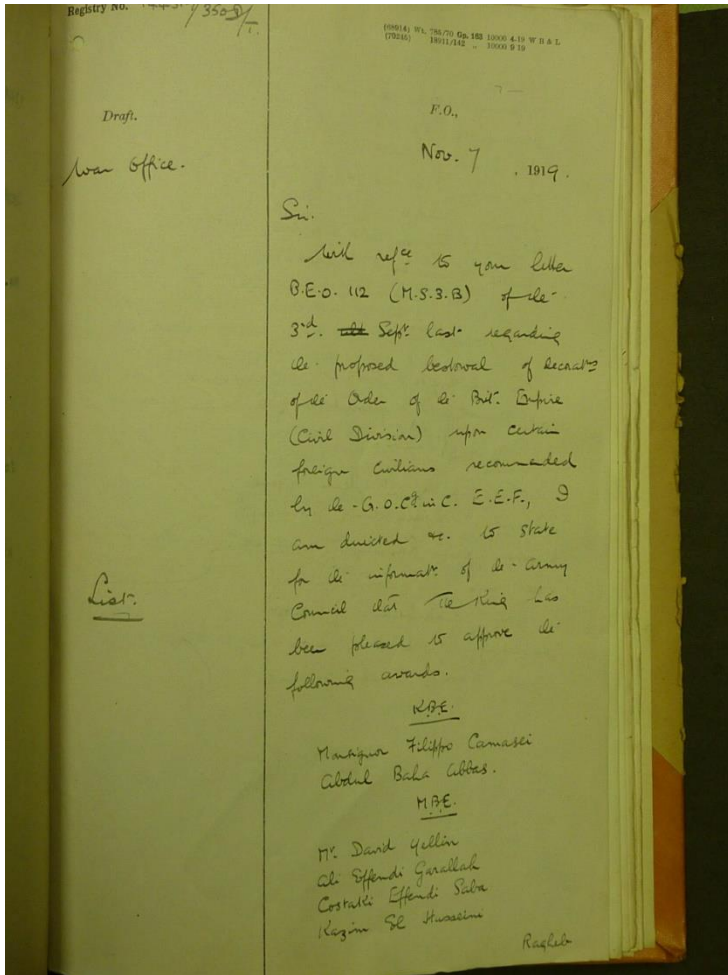
Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

*(Signed) F. Wootesley*

Draft (144519/350D/T.)  
No. 7 1919  
FILES ONLY.  
office.  
Cypher telegram to Sir P. Cox (Teheran).  
Foreign Office, November 4th 1919. 9.p.m.  
No. 583.  
B.E.O. 412 (H.S.3.3) file  
.....  
Your telegram No. 692 (of October 21st, K.B.E.  
for Abdul Baha Abbas.)  
The King has approved. Honorary Awards of this  
kind are not gazetted.  
List  
.....



Mohamed Saleh Hijazi, Commandant of Police.  
Hassan Shukri, President of the Municipality,  
Haifa.  
Mahmud Effendi Abu Khadra, President of  
Municipality, Gaza.  
Sheikh Fereih Abu Middein.  
Sheikh El Amin El Khawagha.  
Nami Saffoury.

I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston  
to request that you will be good enough to  
furnish His Lordship with the appropriate  
insignia ( 2 K.B.E. and 14 M.B.E.) for  
presentation in due course.

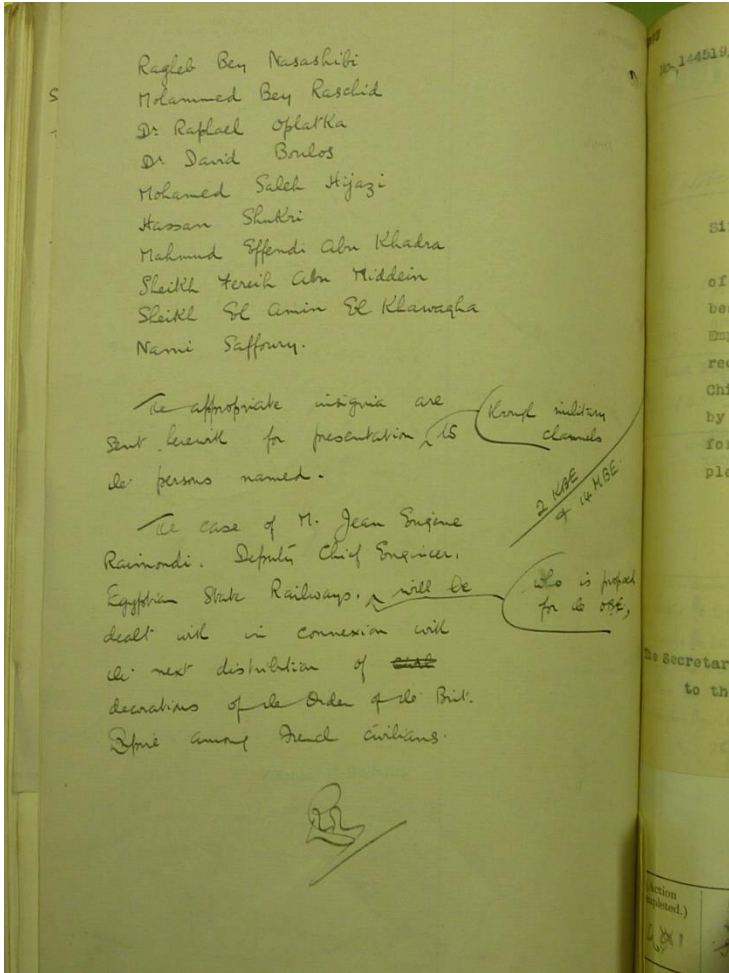
I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

*(Signed) F. Wellesley*





Copy.

144519/350.D/T.

FOREIGN OFFICE.  
S.W.I.,

October 31st, 1919.

Sir,

The King has been pleased to approve the honorary appointment to the Second Class of the Order of the British Empire of:-

Monsignor Filippo Camassei, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and representative of the Vatican in Palestine; and

Abdul Baha Abbas, Leader and Head of the Bahai religion (nationality Persian) in recognition of their valuable services to the British occupying forces in Palestine. Hmn

His Majesty has further approved the award of the badge of the Fifth Class of the Order to the following Palestinians:- are

David Yellin.  
Ali Effendi Gerallah, Judge of the Court of Assize and Appeal at Jerusalem.  
Costaki Effendi Saba, "Procureur-General" of the Court of Appeal.  
Kazim El Hussein, Mayor of Jerusalem.  
Raghab Bey Nasashibi.  
Mohammed Bey Raschid, Revenue Inspector (Mudir El Mal).  
Doctor Raphael Oplatka, Public Health Department, Jerusalem.  
Doctor David Boulos, Public Health Department, Jerusalem. Mohamed

Registrar and Secretary,  
Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

Registry No. 144519/3503/T.

(98914) W.L. 785/70 Op. 103 10000 4-19 W.B. & L.  
(70245) 18911/142 " 10000 9-19

Draft.

Sir P. Cox. ✓

Rel. No. 583  
(Cypher)

(Files only)  
✓  
War Dept.  
do.

F.O.,  
4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1919.  
9 pm

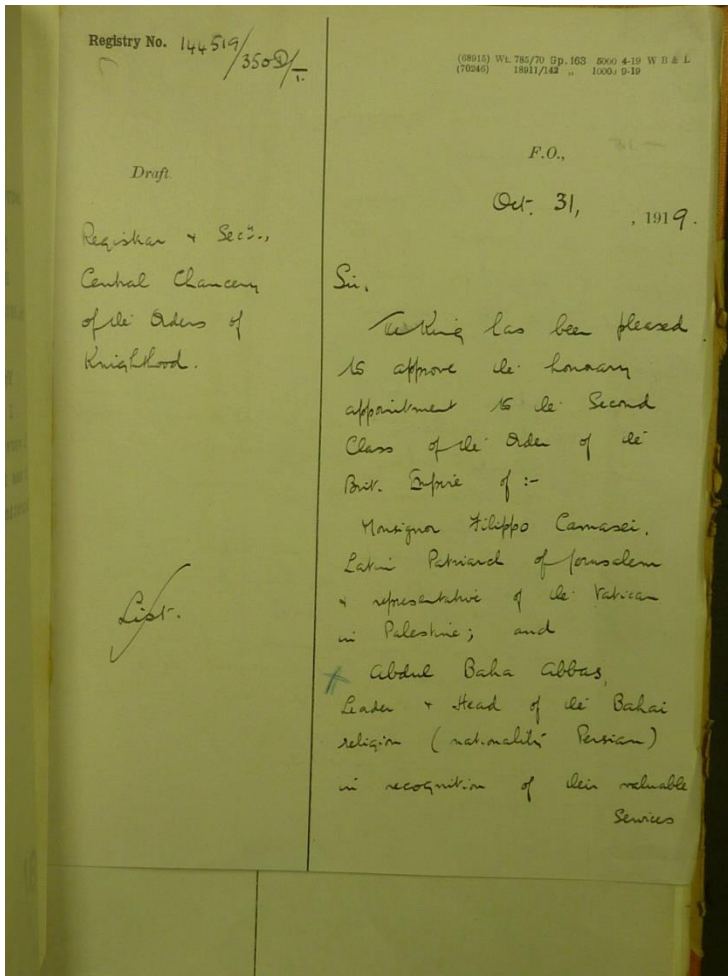
Your Rel. No. 692 [of Oct. 21  
R.D.E. for Abdul Baha  
Abbas].

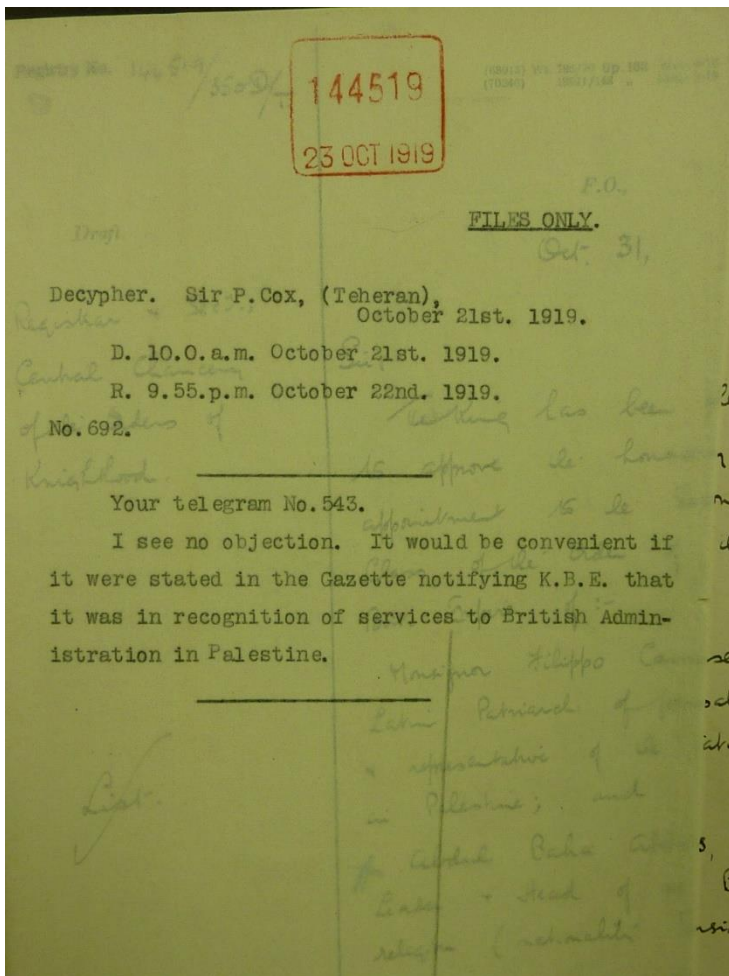
The King has approved. <sup>(Honour)</sup>

Awards of this kind are  
not gazetted.

778







Servies to the British occupying  
forces in Palestine.

His Majesty has further  
approved the award of the  
badge of the Fifth Class of  
the Order to the following  
Palestinians:-

David Yellin

Ali Effendi Garallah, Judge of the Court of Appeal & Appeal in [Jerusalem.

Costaki Effendi Saba, "Procureur-General" of the Court of Appeal.

Kazim El Husseni, Mayor of Jerusalem.

Raqeb Bey Nasashibi

Mohammed Bey Raschid, Revenue Inspector (Nadiv El Hal)

Dr. Raphael Oplatka, Public Health Dept., Jerusalem.

Dr. David Barlos, Ditto.

Mohamed Saleh Hijazi, Commandant of Police

Hassan Shukri, President of the Municipality, Haifa.

Mahmud Effendi Abu Khadra, President of Municipality, Safa.

Sheikh Fereik Abu Middein.

Sheikh El Amin El Khawagha.

Nami Saffoury.

(58915) Wt. 785/70 Gp. 163 5000 4-19 W D & L  
(70240) 18911/143 " 10000 9-19

F.O.,

, 191 .

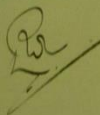
I am directed re. to  
request that you will be  
good enough to furnish  
H. L. with the appropriate  
insignia (2 KBE + 14 MBE.)  
for presentation in due course.

21.

many

2

(Signed) F. W. W. W.



1919	DECORATIONS	144519
Tehran	GENERAL	f-18
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	No. 144519	23 OCT 1919
Telegram.	(Subject)	
Sir P. Cox	A.B.E. for Abdul Raha Abbas	
No 692		
Last Paper.	No objection; Requests notification in Gazette that award was for services to British administration in Palestine	
144450 (26335)	(Minute)	
(Print)		
(How disposed of.)	These honary awards to foreigners are never gazetted, so that there is no danger of our making any announcement that might be misunderstood.	
A. Central Agency of the Orders of Knighthood		
31 Oct.		
to Tehran	Q. submit his paper to Sir F. Densbury with 126335, with a view to ascertaining whether the King approves of the award. Some time is asked for the A.B.E. to be given to Abdul Raha + de 11 BE. to de 14 Palestinians recommended by Lord Allenby at the same time.	
to 553		
to 1100		
7 Nov.		
Action explained.	Mr. Arden/Douglas.	
(Index of)	24/10.	
Next Paper.	The King approves	
(167086)	in 2. Ministry	

144450 (26335)

31 Oct.

to Tehran

to 553

to 1100

7 Nov.

Action explained.

(Index of)

Next Paper.

(167086)

Mr. Arden/Douglas.

24/10.

The King approves

24/10

in 2. Ministry

THE BAHÁ'Í KNIGHT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

144519/350.D/T. ST JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1.

3rd November, 1919.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 31st  
October, I have the honour to forward  
herewith - 2 K.B.E. (Civil)  
14 M.B.E. (Civil)  
for presentation to the Palestinian  
subjects named in your letter.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*in Dep.*  
*Douglas Dawson*  
*Boyle*  
Registrar and Secretary.

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office.

## CHAPTER NINETEEN

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### CONCLUSION

**T**he Baha'i Faith in accordance to Baha'u'llah as well as Abdul Baha is a peace loving and a humanitarian religion. It never encourages discrimination towards the people. The love of mankind is one of the fundamental principles of the Baha'i faith. Abdul Baha also states the following:

*Baha'u'llah taught the Oneness of humanity; that is to say, all the children of men are under the mercy of the Great God. They are the sons of one God; they are trained by God. He has placed the crown of humanity on the head of every one of the servants of God. Therefore, all*

*nations and peoples must consider themselves brethren. They are all descendants from Adam. They are the branches, leaves, flowers and fruits of One Tree. They are pearls from one shell.*<sup>163</sup>

The oneness of mankind is a crucial part which makes the belief of the Baha'i faith strong and unshakeable.

On one occasion, Baha'u'llah states the following regarding the politics and he also criticize it, he states:

*Those who have embraced the Cause of Baha'u'llah, while associating with the followers of other religions in a spirit of love and friendship, will not take part in or lend support to any activity which tends to run counter to this basic principle of their Faith. A prime example is their non-participation by word or deed in political affairs. It may be true to say that no human institutions today are as corrupt as political ones. They are agencies through which man's worst characteristics find expression. For the motivating principle which governs politics today is self-interest; the tools it employs are, in most cases, intrigue, compromise and deceit; and the fruits it yields are mainly discord, strife and ruin. How could the followers of*

---

<sup>163</sup> Abdul Baha, Abdul Baha in London, pg. 28.



*Baha'u'llah work within this framework? How could they take part in politics and remain loyal to those lofty principles enunciated by Baha'u'llah? The principles of universality and the oneness of the human race, of truthfulness and honesty, of uprightness and integrity, of love and fellowship are completely opposite to the way in which politics are conducted today. Recognizing the destructive nature of the present-day order in human society, the bankruptcy of its political, religious and social institutions and their inability to bring unity to the human race, the Baha'is are engaged in erecting on a global scale the framework of a new world order based on the teachings of Baha'u'llah.<sup>164</sup>*

In another instance, the Universal House of Justice states the following:

*The world situation is so confused and moral issues which were once clear have become so mixed up with selfish and battling factions, that the best way Baha'is can serve the highest interests of their country and the cause of true salvation for the world, is to sacrifice their political pursuits and affiliations and*

---

<sup>164</sup> Adib Taherzadeh, *The Revelation of Baha'u'llah* Vol 2, pg. 88.

*wholeheartedly and fully support the divine system of Baha'u'llah.*<sup>165</sup>

Apparently, the principles of the Baha'i Movement never supported the political stance and was always against the politics. As Baha'u'llah clearly mentions the non-participation by word and deed in the political affairs. Not only Baha'u'llah but also Abdul Baha himself has condemned political affairs:

*If any person wishes to speak of government affairs, or to interfere with the order of Governors, the others must not combine with him because the Cause of God is withdrawn entirely from political affairs; the political realm pertains only to the Rulers of those matters: it has nothing to do with the souls who are exerting their utmost energy to harmonizing affairs, helping character and inciting (the people) to strive for perfections. Therefore, no soul is allowed to interfere with (political) matters, but only in that which is commanded.*<sup>166</sup>

Thus, according to Abdul Baha 'the cause of God is withdrawn completely from the political affairs. Then what could be the reason that Abdul Baha supported the

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<sup>165</sup> Universal House of Justice, Lights of Guidance, pg. 444.

<sup>166</sup> Abdul Baha, Baha'i World Faith, pg. 407.

British army with corn leaving mankind in famine or perhaps with special intelligence to the British Empire.

*After the Ottomans found out that Abbas Effendi and his followers were spying for the British government in Palestine and that he was a British mercenary, as Showqi Afandi has asserted in his book Qarn-e-Badi the commander-in-chief of the Ottoman government Djemal Pasha decided to execute Abbas Effendi for his espionage acts.<sup>167</sup>*

*But Britain in an open support for Abbas Effendi, commissioned the then Foreign Minister Lord Balfour to send a cable to the commander of the British corps in Palestine General Lord Allenby, stressing protection for Master Abdul Baha (Abbas Effendi), his family and his friends.<sup>168</sup>*

*The possible arrest and execution of Abbas Effendi was reported to Lord Cruiseden by Djemal Pasha but General Allenby in a pre-emptive action, seized Haifa and cabled to London: "Palestine was seized today. Inform the world that Abdul Baha is alive."*

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<sup>167</sup> Qarn-e Badi, Vol. 3, pg 291.

<sup>168</sup> Qarn-e Badi, Vol. 3, pg 297.

Abdol Hussein Avareh writes in his book Kavakeb-ud Dorriyeh:

*“Seemingly, the British commander who seized Haifa in 1918 had received the special order to be received in audience by Abdul Baha. That is to say, he had been commissioned by the British empire to meet Master Abdul Baha upon his arrival in Haifa, and the British king decorated him with Knighthood.”<sup>169</sup>*

Lady Bloomfield wrote to the British Government according to its usual system for protecting and encouraging the personalities awarded Abdul Baha a medal of knighthood which was ordered by a just King as a sign of honour for him and Abdul Baha accepted it.

In gratitude for receiving the title of ‘Sir’, Abbas Effendi prayed for the grandeur of the British King, George V, and the continuation of his rule in Palestine:

*“O God, the royal court has been set up throughout this realm, from East to the West, and I thank you for such a powerful and just kingdom which does its best for the welfare of the people. O Lord! let the great empire of George V, the*

---

<sup>169</sup> Kavakeb-ud Dorriyeh, Vol. 2, pg 305, by Abdol hussein Avareh.

*King of Britain be victorious and make his kingdom everlasting.”*

Abdul Baha wrote a letter of gratitude

*“O God, the tabernacle of justice has truly been erected on this holy land, and we thank and praise Thee. O God, may Emperor George V, Ruler of Britain, be assisted in his divine achievements, and May his shadow over this realm be everlasting.”<sup>170</sup>*

The honorary knighthood to Abdul Baha shows a strong connection between the Baha’is and the British government, but it does not end here.

There is still one more conspiracy which behold that he might be a Moslem as he used to pray congregation prayers along with other Moslems at the mosque as it states in the book “Life of Abdul Baha by Mohd Ali Faizi page 341”

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<sup>170</sup> Makatib by Abbas Effendi Vol 3 pg 347.

( ۳۴۱ )

روز جمعه که ۲۵ نوامبر از سنه ۱۲۲۱ بود هیکل مبارک  
 برای نماز ظهر مطابق معمول بمسجد تشریف برده و بعد از  
 خروج از مسجد جمعیت فقرا و مستحقین سهم خود را از انعام  
 و اکرام آنحضرت از دست مبارک دریافت نمودند و عصر آنروز  
 به خسرو خادم بیت مبارک که بر حسب دستور آنحضرت وسایل  
 عروسی او فراهم شده بود برکت عطا فرموده و باو نصائحی  
 فرمودند و شب شنبه در مجلس احباب که در بیت مبارک منعقد  
 گشته بود تشریف آوردند .

*It was Friday 25th November 1921 Haikal Mubarak (Abdul Baha) as routine went to mosque for noon prayer, after prayers he distributed alms to poor people and by evening he has blessed Khusro his servant for whom he made jarrangements for his marriage, and on Saturday night he meet friends gathering which was arranged in his house.*

Not only Abdul Baha prayed in congregation with the Moslems but his casket was also raised in the same manner as the Moslems.

As it is mentioned in one of the websites, quoted by Brent Poirier states:



*Funeral of Abdul Baha in Haifa, British Mandate-Palestine*

In the Holy Land during the lifetime of both Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha, the Baha'i Faith was not yet recognized as an independent Faith with its own Prophet, Holy Book and its laws. (Actually, Baha'is were concealing their faith in Palestine)



### *Abdul Baha Funeral*

All ceremonies had to be conducted in accordance with Moslem, Christian or Jewish law, and by clergy of those faiths. I recently learned that the first Baha'i funeral in the Holy Land was the funeral of Mirza Muhsin, who had been married to one of Abdul Baha's daughters. He died during the ministry of Shoghi Effendi. Up to that point, Baha'i funerals were conducted in accordance with (Sunni) Moslem rites, as that was the most recent of the divine revelations. For Mirza Muhsin's funeral, Shoghi Effendi informed the Mufti of Akka — the leading Moslem clergyman — that he would not have any role in Mirza Muhsin's funeral, which was conducted at Bahji. At one point during the ceremony the mufti stood up, and Shoghi Effendi pointed at him and told him to sit down. But up to that point, Baha'is had no choice. There was no such thing as a civil funeral, and until the time when the British governed the Holy Land, the Baha'i Faith was not recognized as an



independent Faith there. Recognition by the authorities is a gradual process. Likewise, the establishment of Baha'i cemeteries in the Holy Land was a gradual process. There are now 4 of them available for burials: One in Haifa at the foot of Mount Carmel, close by the Jewish Cave of Elijah; one near the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee; one in Jerusalem; and one in Eilat. These were gradually established.

Furthermore, the Baha'i Cause is above Political Parties, but the Believers are Obligated to Whole-Heartedly Obey Existing Political Regime

*"At the outset it should be made indubitably clear that the Bahá'í Cause being essentially a religious movement of a spiritual character stands above every political party or group, and thus cannot and should not act in contravention to the principles, laws, and doctrines of any government. Obedience to the regulations and orders of the state is, indeed, the sacred obligation of every true and loyal Bahá'í. Both Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá have urged us all to be submissive and loyal to the political authorities of our respective countries. It follows, therefore, that our ... friends are under the sacred obligation to whole-heartedly obey the existing political regime, whatever be their personal views and criticisms of its actual*

*working. There is nothing more contrary to the spirit of the Cause than open rebellion against the governmental authorities of a country, specially if they do not interfere in and do not oppose the inner and sacred beliefs and religious convictions of the individual...."*

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, February 11, 1934)

In addition to the above letter, there is also a law in accordance towards obedience to one's government.

*".....and lays upon every person the duty of writing a testament and of strict obedience to one's government." <sup>171</sup>*

As mention in the above letter as well as in Kitab-i-Aqdas it states that the Baha'is should obey and be submissive to all norms of their respective country. Whereas, in the case of Abdul Baha, he had supported the British Officials in occupying Palestine but, instead of being obedient to the laws of his country i.e. the Ottoman Empire.

Moreover, during the lifetime of Abdul Baha he used to visit mosques, and used to pray similar to the Moslems until his death in 1921. As a result, the funeral

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<sup>171</sup> Kitab-i-Aqdas Pg 14.

## CONCLUSION

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procession of Abdul Baha was in accordance of the traditions of the Moslems and not in accordance with the Baha'i Faith.

Perhaps being a Baha'i, he used to visit the gathering of the Moslems for reconnaissance. The support of this claimed statement which I have quoted before is his services rendered to the British Empire during the World War I.

It is now up to the readers to conclude further as to who Abdul Baha was..

Was he a Baha'i?

Was he a Moslem?

Or

Was he a British Spy?





# AN UNTOLD STORY OF SIR ABBAS EFFENDI

The British officer in command went to consult Abdul Baha.

"I have corn," was the reply.

"But for the army?" said the astonished soldier.

"I have corn for the British Army," said Abdul Baha.

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Foreign office to Sir Reginald Wingate the British High  
Commissioner in Egypt, January 30, 1918:

"My attention has been called to the presence at Haifa of  
Abdul Baha, head of the Baha'is. Please warn the Gen-  
eral Officer Commanding that he and his family should  
be treated with special consideration in the event of our  
occupying Haifa."

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The Handbook of Palestine (1922), states:

"The number of Baha'is in Palestine is 158. Sir Abbas Ef-  
fendi Abdul Baha had travelled extensively in Europe  
and America to expound his doctrines, and on the 4th De-  
cember, 1919, was created by King George V. a K.B.E.  
for valuable services rendered to the British Government  
in the early days of the occupation."

