

NEWSLETTER

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QUOTABLE QUOTES ON WWI

"One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans."

Otto von Bismarck (1881)

Of course, WW1 began after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand by Serbian student Gustav Princip.

Amazing that Bismarck could predict this in 1881!

"(World War I) was the most colossal, murderous, mismanaged butchery that has ever taken place on earth. Any writer who said otherwise lied, so the writers either wrote propaganda, shut up, or fought."

Ernest Hemingway

It is not often I find myself agreeing with Ernest Hemingway!

"When the war (WWI) finally ended it was necessary for both sides to maintain, indeed even to inflate, the myth of sacrifice so that the whole affair would not be seen for what it was: a meaningless waste of millions of lives. Logically, if the flower of youth had been cut down in Flanders, the survivors were not the flower: the dead were superior to the traumatized living. In this way, the virtual destruction of a generation further increased the distance between the old and the young, between the official and the unofficial."

Robert Hughes, *The Shock of the New*

"Men were snoring, twitching and whimpering, struggling with nightmares less terrible than reality."

Gabriel Chevallier, *Fear: A Novel of World War I*

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EDITORIAL

World War One Ancestors

Wow! What a response! I've received so many interesting stories and family histories about young soldiers in the First World War, I could fill two Newsletters!

Now I know that you can write about your families, why don't you do it every quarter? Seems that I have to organise a World War to get a response!

What follows in this newsletter are pictures and stories I have received, edited where appropriate to have room for all submissions, with pictures where supplied. Enjoy.

Trying a new Format.

I realised it must be frustrating for online readers to go down and up three columns per page. So I'm trying with two columns. I don't want to make the lines too long that you lose your place as you read across the page. Do let me know what you prefer.

FELTHAM & MCKAY

Jenny Dixon writes: [Here are] my grandfather, Frank Alfred Smith Feltham and my uncle, Ronald Hugh McKay's papers. Grandfather seems to have made himself a bit younger as he was really born in 1872. My father's eldest brother also bluffed his age as he was too young but I don't have any of his papers. His name was Frank Kitchener Feltham. It seems as if my grandfather was wounded in France as his little New Testament has "Richmond Park Hospital, January 1918" on the fly leaf.

Editor's comments: What has amazed me in the medical records in the Service Records of soldiers was how frequently they spent many days in hospital for what today we would consider minor sicknesses - for example the designer of the Processional Cross at my parish, George Elton Sedding, spent a week in hospital with influenza. So

(Continued on page 7)

ROBERT NORMAN PRINGLE

Lt-Col Robert Norman Pringle DSO MC (South African Medical Corps)

Keith Gardiner wrote about his grandfather, Dr Robert Norman Pringle. I've edited the article to include only the WW1 stories. I'll include the whole article in a future Newsletter.

Robert Norman PRINGLE was a respected and popular GP in King Williams Town. He was a keen sportsman and had a lasting love of the military. It was unfortunate however that for the sake of family history he was not forthcoming on the subject of his war experiences. One can surmise from his posting and the positions he held, the experience, particularly in Delville Wood in the Great War must at times have been brutal and this resulted in his reluctance to talk about his experiences..

He came from a large family and being bright and keen on medicine was sent to study at Edinburgh University. He was a big man of about 6'4 and this must have been a distinct disadvantage in the trenches in his war years.

After he qualified he returned to the Cape Colony and was soon involved in the Boer War. [Episode omitted but see future editions of the Newsletter] When the 1st World War broke out, he wasted no time in joining up and at first served in the South West Africa campaign. It was during the SWA campaign that as a Captain and acting Major he was awarded the MC. Unfortunately we have no record of the reason for this award for gallantry.

After the Germans were defeated in SWA in July 1915 his unit was sent to briefly to take part in the Egyptian campaign to March 1916 and then France and the battle of the Somme. By the end of 1916 he had been Mentioned in Dispatches and ranked as a "Temp" major. By June 1917 he was again mentioned in Dispatches and listed as acting Lt-Col. Promotions were rapid in that savage war due largely to the high rate of casualties. I have managed to extract from the National Archives (UK) these mentions in dispatches, but strangely the award of the MC won in SWA was published after the award of the DSO in June 1917. In the Mention in Dispatches by General Henry Lukin it was stated "The evacuation of the wounded was a difficult task, but this officer by his untiring efforts did everything to overcome it with the means at his disposal". I believe that this was for the action in Delville Wood.

At the time of Delville Wood he was in the SA Medical Corps of which the 1st South African Ambulance was part. It is difficult to try to picture this horrifying action. There was a constant artillery bombardment - at times estimated at reaching 400 shells a minute and including gas - and machine gun fire was followed by quieter periods occupied by snipers. To add to the misery it was raining and seriously wounded soldiers were known to have drowned in shell holes if they could not be evacuated fast enough and evacuation at times was all but impossible.

At Delville Wood they were losing men and stretcher bearers at an appalling rate and to send out more under fire or to delay



sending until hopefully there was a break in the bombardment, must have been incredibly stressful. Delay could mean the death of the wounded, but sending out bearers put the men at great risk. Stretcher bearers and medical staff were non-combatants and were not supposed to be fired on, but in reality neither side were not too concerned with this nicety.

I am sure that Grandfather was very involved the life or death decisions made on the wounded while under fire in a front line "hospital" that was probably a tent or at best a covered section of a trench. There was very little in the way of time or facilities to conduct any proper examination and everything had a coating of mud until they could be loaded onto horse drawn ambulances to be taken to the nearest rear field hospital for further treatment.

After the war General Sir Henry Lukin conducted a South African tour and in a speech at the dedication of the King Williams Town war memorial in the Eastern Cape he praised Grandfather as a war hero stating to the effect that he was given an impossible job to do, but he got it done under the most difficult circumstances. There is a photo taken of Grandfather in uniform taken outside Buckingham Palace in September 1918 after his investiture. After the war he continued his association with the military, becoming the Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Ambulance Corps.

Not much of a life.

Hamo Lewis Brady Hunt entered this world on the 1 November 1898 and left again after what must have been 19 rather lonely years. Both of his parents were Master Mariners – yes even his adventurous mother who was the daughter of the 5th Marquis of Aylesbury, the Lady Ernestine Mary Alma Georgiana Brudenell-Bruce who married an Irish commoner Harry Brady Hunt. There was an article about Ernestine in an earlier edition of this magazine.

So Hamo spent time with his paternal grandparents before being sent to boarding school in Bristol and then to the cadet training school HMS Conway.

He abandoned this life when he turned 15 and joined the Prince of Wales' Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) as a boy soldier on a seven year enlistment with the rank of Drummer.

When the war came he was deemed too young for the front line and he served with the Leinster's reserve battalion until Nov 1917 when he turned 18. Then he was sent to France with the 2nd Battalion and promoted to Corporal.

The Leinsters, as part of the 16th Irish Division took the whole force of a German onslaught. The 16th received a severe mauling during the German "kaiserschlacht" and were virtually wiped out.

Cpl Hunt was wounded and transferred to a hospital where he died of his wounds 23 days later having served four out of his seven years service with the colours.

By this time his mother had helped found the FANY organization and was driving ambulances in France. I wonder if she knew her son was injured and was she with him when he died.

Died of his wounds. 1918 Apr 15 Age 19

Buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

He was awarded the Military Medal (MM) "For Bravery in the Field."

Mel Cross.



BOY SOLDIERS

by Mel Cross

There have been boy soldiers since the Roman times when they were first engaged as messengers, carriers and for other menial tasks.

In the late 1700's boys between the ages of 10 and 16 years were recruited from orphanages as experimental regiments to relieve the parishes of their upkeep. It was later discovered that they had been sent to India and South Africa which had not been the idea at all and an enquiry into the matter was instigated. The intention had been that the boys should be the source of future recruits into the Regular army. In 1797 these boys were paid 8d per day as opposed to the soldier's pay of 1/- a day.

Boy soldiers can now be found on the regimental muster rolls serving in all the major wars and wherever their regiments were sent to, the boys went with. They were often the orphan sons of former soldiers in the regiment so could be of any age.

It is said that it was a 12 year old Boer boy who shot and killed Major-General Sir George Colley, British High Commissioner for South East Africa, in the Battle of Majuba Hill in the First Boer War (1881).

It was during the Siege of Mafeking in the 2nd Boer War that Colonel Robert Baden-Powell trained boys aged 12 to 15 to do many of the soldiers routine duties so the soldiers could be free for defenses.

It wasn't until 1876 that it was made law that boys could be officially recruited from the age of 14 as drummers, tailors, shoemakers or clerks and they had to be 18 before they could join the fighting forces..

By 1914 there were 3,826 boys serving in the British Army of which 2,984 were musicians.



WW1 ANCESTORS OF BEANS

Lynne Bean has obviously done some wonderful and thorough research on her family. She sent me a 5Mb document with the details of her and her husbands ancestors that fought in the War. Filled with pictures and digital copies of documents, it show just how thoroughly one can do ones family history and how much information can be obtained through perseverance and hard work.

If I were to include all the documents Lynne sent me we'd have a Newsletter of too many megabytes for emailing. So what I'm going to do is try to summarise the six names Lynn sent me, using the documents in the large file and a few pictures.

1...Charles Graydon BEAN

Charles Graydon Bean was stationed in Nyasaland. He was discharged with Malaria on 21st August 1917

He also served in WW11. He was born in 1890 in Alexandria, Eastern Cape and he died in 1973 in Bulawayo. He is Lynne's husband's Grandfather.

There is a picture of him in 1939 which is a nice advert for Outspan magazine - for those who remember it.



2....Lyell Cecil BEAN

Lyell Cecil Bean had immigrated to be a farm in Western Australia. He was born in 1893 in Port Elizabeth. Rather fascinating to see that he died on 18 Sep 1959 in Fiji. My online researching found a complete set of service documents for Lyell BEAN including some later requests to replace a lost medal. These came from Fiji so he must have moved there so after WW1.



Lyell Cecil Bean. Egypt. April 1st, 1915.....left front, with cup in hand.



Lyell Bean at enlistment 1914

Lyell served in Egypt as well as the famous killing ground of many Australian and New Zealand soldiers, Gallipoli. He served in the 10th Regiment of the Third Light Horse Brigade.

Lyell Cecil Bean was a brother to Lynne's husband's Grandfather (Charles Graydon Bean).

3....Gordon Willard Bean

Lynne has obtained the Military Record Card for Gordon Willard BEAN. He was cousin of Lynne's husband's grandfather Charles Graydon BEAN. Gordon was born in 1885 in Pretoria. He died in 1918 in South Africa (according to Lynne's research). The Military Record Card makes interesting reading. He signed up (no date on this on the card) as a Private, was made a temporary sergeant in May 1918 and temporary Sergeant by September 1918.

It clearly states on the card that he embarked in Cape Town on HMT Willochra on 6 September 1918 for England. But his card also says that he died of influenza on 25 October 1918. October 1918 was when the Spanish Flu reeked havoc among not only the troops but also the civilians in Europe and also in South Africa. So did Gordon BEAN die in SA? The Commonwealth War Graves website show his grave at Brooklands Military Cemetery near London. Brooklands was set up to bury Commonwealth and American military personnel who died in London from illness or wounds.

(Continued from page 4)

Name (Surname) Bean (Christian) Gordon Willard
 Reg. No. 19542 Rank Pte. Regt. 1st S. I. Bde
 Transfers.....
 Promotions Oct. 1910: S. I. B. Co. 2. P. 128. 12. 5. 1812 Oct. 1911: S. I. B. Co. 2. P. 128. 12. 5. 1812
 Next-of-kin (Relationship) Father Name Willard, Christopher Bean
 Address Rhodesia
 Age 24 Taken on Strength 2. 7. 18. 18. 2. 6. 18. 18 Religion C of E
 Embarked at C. Town for H.M.T. Willandra 18. 7. 18 for England
 Disembarked.....
 B. N. 18. 7. 18 despatched 18. 7. 18
 Regd. No. 1302 List 827 Roll 672
 REMARKS DIED of Influenza 28. 10. 18
Timberman
of

Gordon Willard Bean's Service Record

4....Orlando Leonard Bean

Orlando BEAN was born 1892 in Pretoria and died at Delville Wood in 1916. He was the son of Felix Frederick and Millicent Bean. Orlando had previously served in the German SW Africa campaign with Ensline Horse. Orlando's Military Service Card is very sad to read as one can see he is reported as wounded and missing in action. Then a report came that he is wounded and a prisoner-of-war. That report is cancelled and the stamp "Death accepted on or since date missing - report 28 November 1917. Over a year for his family to wait hoping against hope. Orlando went missing in action on the 16th July 1916 (Delville Wood or Waterlot Farm). He was 24 years old.

9239
139
BRIGADE, SOUTH AFRICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Name (Surname) B. W. & V. G. G. G. G. (Christian) B. W. & V. G. G. G.
Reg. No. 10111 Rank 1st Lt.
Battalion or Service 1st S.A. Infantry C. Coy.
Religion C of E Age 33 yrs
Next-of-kin Relationship Wife If married - Certif. Yes
Name and Address Felix Frank, Bear
Rox 82
Rethal, Natal
Children (if any):
Name Date of Birth Name Date of Birth
James Occupation Red No. 1183 1913/16 Red No. 1235
Remarks WOUNDED & MISSING 16 7 16
WOUNDED & MISSING 29 5 16
WOUNDED & MISSING 28 11 17
DEATH ACCEPTED on or since date missing
Panels, etc.

Orlando Leonard BEAN's Service Card

The last two family members that Lynne sent me cover her side of the family and both were very much past the bloom of youth that we usually mourn.

5....Louis Silverstone



Louis Silverstone

Louis Silverstone was born on 22 May 1861 in Westgate, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. When he signed up to fight for King and Country he claims that he was 49 years old but he was

in fact 56. I wonder
what made him decide

to fight in the war? Was it for 'King and Country' or just to do something exciting with his life? His attestation card tells us he served in the Road Corps of East Africa, sailing for East Africa from Durban on 20 December 1917 on HMT Ingoma. He was discharged in Durban on 20 May 1918 as "Permanently Unfit for War Service" He died abt 1940 aged 79 yrs in South Africa.

Louis is Lynne's Great Grandfather.

6....Patrick Faunt Madden.

Patrick Faunt MADDEN was born in Ireland in 1856 and died in Pietermaritzburg in 1926. He was a Military man his whole life. He was a member of the 72nd Highlanders. He the march Kabul to Khandahar in 1880 under Lord Roberts. He served as a soldier in the Boer War and Lynne has found him in a variety of Regiments all over South Africa. He was 59 years old in 1915. His card shows that he served in the Railway Regiment but the heading on the card gives his unit as the South African Veteran Regiment. I've tried googling "South African Veteran Regiment" but found nothing informative about the regiment except cap badge etc for sale.

Patrick was Lynne's Maternal Great Grandfather.

Our thanks to Lynne for sharing this information with us. Perhaps, Lynne, you could give a talk at a monthly meeting about how you researched and obtained all this wonderful information?



Patrick Faunt Madden

VINCENT ADOLPH BOULLE

Francis Boulle sent me two pictures of his father who served in the RFC. Like Percy Redver RAINER POPE I did a quick search on findmypast.co.uk and found two digital images of his service record.

Vincent Adolph J. M. BOULLLE was born on 17 September 1897 in Tongaat, Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) He was perhaps under age when he joined up with the in the Royal Flying Corps - he would have joined up in 1915/1916. He had 'matriculated' in 1914 attending the Marist Brothers College in Uitenhage.

In the first picture Vincent BOULLE is seated in front, second from the left. In the other picture with fewer people in it he is seated in the middle row, second from the left. It is interesting to note that the plane's name, "Fifi"!

Francis added in his email that his father also served in WW2 in the SADF 6th division as an engineer. I found on findmypast.co.uk a reference to Vincent being an apprentice Electrical Engineer between 1924 and 1926 while he was living in Linda Road, Claremont.

Vincent Boule died on 14th August 1969



Vincent Boulle is second from left front row

Christian Names (in full) Vincent Adolph Surname Boule
 Date of Birth SEP 10 1894 Permanent Home Address Present Service Relationship
 Name of Person to be Name Address Relationship
 Informed of Casualties 25th Sep 1911 Date Sheet Started 25/9/11 Registered Papers No. P. 19211



Vincent Boulle second from left middle row

PERCY RAINER POPE

Chris Rainer Pope writes:

My Dad was involved in WW1. He was born in 1898 and his father was a manager of the Standard Bank. In honour of the British General Redvers Buller who was billeted at the time with my grandfather, Dad was christened Percy Redvers Rainier-Pope.

At the outbreak of WW1 my Dad was still a pupil at SACS School then in Orange Street in the Gardens. Initially too young to join up (his older brother was in the Tank Corps), he altered his birth certificate Date of Birth to 1896 and was accepted into the Royal Flying Corps in 1916.

I have included the Commission he received as an officer. Unfortunately I can find no picture of him though somewhere there is a photo of him next to his biplane. Though qualified as a pilot the war came to an end and he never flew in anger against the enemy. While in uniform, the RFC changed to the RAF and he proudly wore his Wings throughout WW2 but by then too old to pilot! I have photos of him in uniform of WW2.

Editor Comment

I did a quick search on findmypast.co.uk and found Percy Rainer Popes service record. They are large sheet (about A3 size) and too large to place in this article. Also they are filled with typical abbreviations loved by military departments worldwide, and thus too complicated to understand without further research.

What I did find was they give his Date of Birth as 12 November 1899. They give his Date of Commencement of Service as 11 May 1918 and his age as 18y 6 mnths and it says "D of W" under duration of service which I presume means Duration of War and not Died of Wounds! It gives his Next-of-Kin as his mother living in Hofmeyr Street, Gardens, Cape Town. He was 5'7" tall with a 32 inch chest with blue eyes and pale complexion.

On another sheet also on findmypast.co.uk describes him as a flight cadet from 7 December 1918 and commissioned as a 2nd Lt on 15 February 1919 and was discharged 22 July 1919.

A few questions arise: What is his correct date of birth? Was the changing of date on his birth certificate a "family legend" he passed on to his children? Did he do earlier service in the RFC which is not acknowledge on these sheets?

[illegible]

RAF Service Sheet for Percy Redvers Rainer Pope

(Continued from page 1) **Feltham and McKay**

Maybe Frank Alfred Smith FELTHAM was medically ill rather than wounded.

What I did find interesting was the units that both Frank FELTHAM and Ronald McKay served in.

McKay was in the SA Pioneer Battalion. According to wikipedia "A pioneer was a soldier employed to perform engineering and construction tasks. The term is in principle similar to sapper. Pioneers were originally part of the artillery branch of European armies. Subsequently, they formed part of the engineering branch, in the logistic branch, part of the infantry; or comprised a branch in their own right. Historically the primary role of pioneer units was to assist other arms in tasks such as the construction of field fortifications, military camps, bridges and roads. Prior to and during the First World War pioneers were often engaged in the construction and repair of military railways."

Feltham served as a sergeant in the SA Native Labour Contingent. The South African Native Labour Contingent (SANLC) was formed in 1916 in response to a request from the British Imperial Government for an African labour force to alleviate the labour shortage at the Western Front and in French ports. In 1916 the Allied forces faced a particularly acute labour shortage to maintain the infrastructure for the major offensives planned for that year. In 1917 SS Mendi, carrying 823 members of the 5th Battalion of the SANLC sank off the Isle of Wight and 607 black troops and 9 white officers and NCO died. [See article in an earlier CTFHS Newsletter]

See Feltham's and McKay's Discharge papers on back page

HORACE FREDERICK LEVER

Celia Bayliss, like Lynne Bean gave me a vast collection of family members who served in WW1. What I'm going to do is to only present one of her family which I found particularly moving.



Horace Lever proudly wearing his DCM

Horace Frederick LEVER was born in 1897 and died 1973. In 1913 he lived in Woolwich and sang as a choir boy at St George's Garrison Church, Woolwich. It would have been natural for him to join up with the Royal Garrison Artillery at Woolwich

once he was old enough. Horace wrote to his aunt, one of Celia 'Hepburn' ancestors in Johannesburg, describing the ravages of war. He was about 18 at the time:

Shortly after the war broke out, when of course I was too young to take an active part in it, I started to learn motoring. I had a right royal time, driving cars and motor lorries. ...

I tried hard several times for a transfer to another regiment, so that I could get out here quickly but with no success... but at last I managed to come out here in the R.G.A. as an artificer, having past my test alright. Our work consists of keeping the guns in working order, while they are in "the line", repairing them and see generally that they are fit "for action". We have plenty of work, but then so have others, so I having nothing to complain of in that respect. I have been out here now, about 9 months. Not so long, long enough to know what Scientific Warfare is. I used to think that War was full of glory, a splendid thing, something to look upon with awe. The tramp of martial feet, the stirring music of bands and the sight of line after line of men marching to war seemed something

splendid. But that is not War. As I look out of the door of the little dug-out I am sitting in, I see nothing but Ruin and desolation. What were once beautiful smiling orchards are now disfiguring blots on the landscape, torn to pieces by shell fire. Huge holes, half full of water, are everywhere. Farmhouses, mere heaps of bricks, Trees torn up from the roots, smashed to pieces, are lying around. Old discarded clothing, equipment, tins and the all the debris of a modern battlefield are strewn around in helpless confusion. There is nothing glorious in War. All the "pomp and Circumstance of War" fade away, when one has seen it. Beautiful towns smashed beyond recognition, villages utterly destroyed, and the discernible houses mere heaps of rubble. We who are here see France and Belgium as it is now, and we can judge what it was from what we have seen of other places that have been fortunate enough to escape the Ravages of War. Those responsible for War can never realise what it all means, or there would be none.

And what of the men? The men who have fought and are fighting still. Our battery has had rather a rough time, especially in Belgium. We lost heavily. I got slightly wounded myself, but luckily it wasn't much, just a flesh wound on the arm. The war has taken its toll of our chaps. We that are left have seen our pals go down one by one. Some gone, never to return, some gone, maimed for life, others with their health seriously undermined. All this has had its effect on the men that are left. The men who return will be vastly changed, when this job is over. Their ideas will be different, and I do not think they will be content to live as they did before. But whatever happens I am sure they will be far better for what they have gone through. I myself am really glad that I have been privileged to take part in it. It has opened my eyes a lot, and nobody likes it, yet it is an education in itself, and as such, it is worth the discomforts that necessarily attend it. I do not think it will last beyond this year and we shall come out "top-dog". There is a tight struggle to come, and possibly by the time you get this it may be in progress. We are ready and waiting and I do not think there is much doubt as to the issue of it.

Well, Auntie, this is a long letter, isn't it? And I hope you have not been bored by reading it. If you care to answer it my address is

*Fitter H. Lever,
325 Siege Battery, R.G.A.
B.E.F. France*

I shall be delighted to hear from you. Give my kindest regard to Cousin Barbara and Bothwell (is that right?)

(Continued from page 8)

*and any other relatives I may have out there.
Maybe I shall run across Wallace out here, but it is
a rather big place isn't it?
Well, Auntie, I will close, wishing you and all the
very best of wishes that I can
Your affectionate nephew
Horace Lever.*

Horace Lever served in the 325 Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Siege Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. The usual armaments were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although some had huge railway- or road-mounted 12 inch howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strong points, dumps, store, roads and railways behind enemy lines.



Here is a picture of a typical howitzer. It shows an unidentified British soldier standing with a 9.2 inch howitzer Mk I, named Berdameda, which was supporting the Australians on the Somme. The camouflaged box in front of the gun is known as a dirt box, which was filled with soil and attached to the gun to act as a counterweight to the force of the blast and keep the gun in position. Hanging on the side of the box is a horseshoe. Note in the background (left) a timber structure, probably an observation tower and rows of shells in front of the structure.

Horace was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) was (until 1993) an extremely high level award for bravery. It was a second level military decoration awarded to other ranks of the British Army and formerly also to non-commissioned personnel of other Commonwealth countries. The medal was instituted in 1854, during the Crimean War, to recognise gallantry within the other

ranks, for which it was equivalent of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) awarded for bravery to commissioned officers, but the DCM ranked well below the DSO in precedence.

In the aftermath of the 1993 review of the honours system, as part of the drive to remove distinctions of rank in awards for bravery, the DCM was discontinued. It was replaced by the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, which now serves as the second level award for gallantry for all ranks across the whole armed forces.

The medal is 36mm in diameter and attached to a 1.25 inch wide ribbon. The front of the medal comprised the head of the reigning monarch; the reverse contained the legend 'For Distinguished Conduct in the Field'.

Recipients of the medal were entitled to append the letters 'DCM' to their name. Awards of the medal were announced in the London Gazette, accompanied by a citation. Horace's citation reads:

168683 Ftr/Gnr. H.F. Lever, 325th Sge. By., R.G.A. (Woolwich) (LG 11 Mar. 1920). At Hinacourt, south-west of St. Quentin on 21st March, 1918, No. 1 gun was put out of action by a direct hit, and all the detachment wounded. He with assistance volunteered to repair No. 1 gun, on which he worked for an hour under heavy enemy shelling. During the advance in September and October also he showed great gallantry.

This citation appeared in the London Gazette of 3rd June 1919.



The Distinguished Conduct Medal with George V

ROBERTS AND WARWICKS

Lucille le Roux has uncles of her father who fought in WW1. They were the three WARWICK brothers originally from Sutherland.

1. Frederick Warwick born 21 Nov 1876 Sutherland;



2. Richard Warwick born 20 Aug 1878 Sutherland who Lucille says fought in SA War of Freedom in the Colonial Forces; in the Boer War & 1914-1915 SWA Campaign with the Sutherland Commando



Fred & Richard Warwick served in British Colonial Army in Anglo South African War 1899 - 1901

The third WARWICK to fight was youngest brother Joseph who was born 28 May 1897. He too a member of the Sutherland Commando and served till the conclusion of WW1.



Lucille also has two further relatives with the surname ROBERTS who lived in Observatory here in Cape Town and served and died in WW1.

Their names are on the family graves in the DRC Cemetery in Observatory

DEPOT Genealogical Society of SA, Peter Holden
DESCRIPTION Roberts, RF - Gravestone.
STARTING 18870914

ENDING 19160717

REMARKS Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Main Road, Observatory, Cape Town.

SUMMARY + Richard Frederick Roberts. Born 14-09-1887. Died 17-07-1916 in France. Son of William Diederick Johannes and Christina Fredericka Wilhelmina Roberts.

DEPOT Genealogical Society of SA, Peter Holden
DESCRIPTION Roberts, TJ - Gravestone.

STARTING 18860110

ENDING 19170110

REMARKS Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery, Main Road, Observatory, Cape Town.

SUMMARY + Thomas John Roberts. Born 10-01-1886. Died 10-01-1917 in France. Son of William Diederick Johannes and Christina Fredericka Wilhelmina Roberts.

The Commonwealth War Graves website had the following information:

Private Richard Frederick ROBERTS

558, "D" Coy. 1st Regt., South African Infantry who died on 17 July 1916 Age 28

Son of Christina Roberts, of I, Ossian Rd., Observatory, Cape Province, South Africa, and the late William Roberts.

Remembered with Honour in Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-Sur-Somme



Bray-Sur-Somme Cemetery

Private Thomas John ROBERTS

1111, "D" Coy. 1st Regt., South African Infantry who died on 10 January 1917 Age 31

Son of Mrs. C. F. W. Roberts, of "Hildaville," I, Ossian Rd., Observatory, Cape Province.

Remembered with Honour in Faubourg D'amiens Cemetery, Arras



Faubourg D'amiens Cemetery, Arras

GEORGE WALTER MERRINGTON

Lorna White sent me information about George Walter
MERRINGTON:

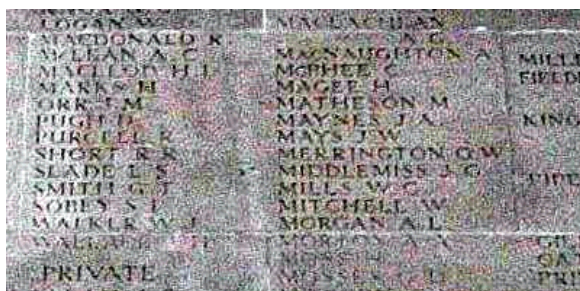
He was born in 1897 (Birth Register No.881 page 228 - 14 October 1897 George Walter. Son of Walter Moffat Merrington, Merchant's Clerk. Bay View Road, Observatory Road. Mother - Ada Jean nee Reid.)

George Walter MERRINGTON served in the A Company SA Scottish (which was an amalgamation of the Cape Town Highlanders and the Transvaal Scottish). He served at Delville Wood near Longueval and died there either on 10 July or 15 July, 1916. According to John Buchan: 'The South Africans measured their strength against the flower of the German army, and did not draw back from the challenge. As a feat of human daring and fortitude the fight is worthy of eternal remembrance by South Africa and Britain.'

George MERRINGTON was remembered in a headstone in St Peter's Cemetery, Observatory. The memorial notice reads: "In loving memory of Hettie beloved wife of Walter Merrington aged 31 years - Also of E.J. Ellert aged 83 'At Rest' ; Also of George Walter Merrington killed in action in France 10* July 1916 - Also of Walter Moffat Merrington died 21st September 1917 - Also Ada Jean Merrington second wife of W.M. Merrington 5.6.1953. [George Walter's Father and Mother]

The date 10 July 1916 appears to be incorrect. The Military records give the date as 15 July 1916. (*Editor: In the Memorial Book on the CWG site it has 15 crossed out and 10 written in in pen.*) The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record reads: 'In Memory of George Walter Merrington, Private 1874 4th Regt., South African Infantry who died on Saturday, 15th July 1916. Aged 19. Additional information: Son of Walter Moffat Merrington and Ada Jean Merrington, of 17 Cleve Road, Observatory Rd., Cape Town.'

Private George Walter Merrington, 4th Battalion
Transvaal Scottish, killed 15 July 1916 at Delville Wood -
Battle of the Somme.



MERRINGTON, Pte. George Walter, 1874.
4th Regt. South African Inf. ¹⁰5th July, 1916.
Age 19. Son of Walter Moffat Merrington and
Ada Jean Merrington, of 17, Clee Rd., Obser-
vatory Rd., Cape Town.

This is the name engraved on the THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Grave reference Pier and Face 4 C. The Thiepval Memorial can be found on the D73 off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929) near Amiens.

Before George Walter MERRINGTON joined the army he produced some oil paintings one of which, of red and yellow Watsonias in a narrow glass vase, was always on display in Lorna's mother's home in Pinelands. This was given to her by Lorna's grandmother, George's mother, when Granny gave up her home. It is now on the wall of Lorna's home at Ivan Hampshire Place in Newlands, still in the same frame. She seems to recall seeing his signature and the date 1915 on the canvas, but sadly this is no longer visible.

In a Codicil to George's Will he bequeathed another of his paintings "Eventide above Balmoral Castle" 'to my sister - her address is Mrs C Trevithick, Sawkins Buildings, opposite the Fountain in Rondebosch.'



CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

WEBSITE:

<http://www.family-history.co.za/>

Contains lots of interesting and useful information

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Third Saturday of each month at St John's Church Hall, Wynberg

COMMITTEE 2013-14

CHAIRPERSON:

David Slingsby

SECRETARY:

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TREASURER:

Vacant

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Derek Pratt

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Cheri Wright

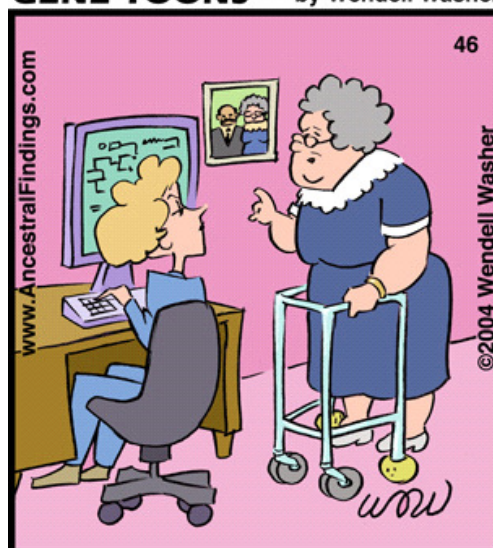
Kevin Turner

WEBMASTER

Eric Settle

BACK PAGE HUMOUR

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Great Uncle Bertrand didn't have a computer in 1880, so how will you find him on line?

PARTICULARS OF SERVICE

Date of Enlistment 22 June 1917

Proceeded on Furlough pending transfer to the Army Reserve, or Discharge on 7

Passed medically fit for the Army Reserve on 7

Due for Transfer to the Army Reserve on 7

Due for final Discharge on 28 Sept 1918

Cause of Transfer or Discharge Demobilization

Campaigns, Medals and Decorations Anglo Boer War 1900-1
South African War 1914-18

Educational and other Certificates, and dates Discharged in khaki on request.

D. P. & L., London, E.C.4. Army Form B. 2067.
April 1914. W. & W. 1914. 20000 451 Sch. 41. Form B. 2067.

Serial No. 883

CHARGE Certificate of No. 883

Name Frank Feltham

Rank Private

Regiment 1st Bn. 1st Regt.

Born in the Parish of St. Paul

near the Town of St. Paul in the County of Wiltshire on the date 19 Feb. 1874

Trade as stated by him on enlistment Miner

* DESCRIPTION ON LEAVING THE COLONIES.

Height 5 ft. 6 1/2 in. Identification Marks:—

Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue

Hair Brown

Signature of Soldier F. A. Feltham

* To prevent impersonation.

In the event of any doubt arising as to the bona fides of the bearer, the above description and signature should be carefully compared with present appearance and handwriting.

Above: Frank Feltham's discharge papers from the SA Native Labour Corps [SANLC]

Right: Certificate of discharge for Ronald Hugh McKay from the SA Pioneer Corp

7051-2 1916-40,000. S. D.D. 179.

Should this Certificate be lost or mislaid no Duplicate of it can be obtained.

CERTIFICATE of Discharge of No. 2560 (Rank) Pioneer

(Name) Mr. May Ronald Hugh

Attested at Potcheskroon on the 10th May 1917

for the South African Pioneer Corps at the age of 33 years

for active service in connection with operations:—
In German East Africa

He is discharged in consequence of being Temporarily unfit for tropical service.
Malaria. Malaria.

The service he is allowed to reckon is One years 237 days.

His conduct and character while serving have been:—
Very Good

Retains Uniform Education ...

Discharge confirmed at Durban

Place Durban (Signature) ...

Date 29 NOV 1918 Commanding ...

N.B.—Any person finding this certificate is requested to send it in an unstamped envelope to the Secretary for Defence, Pretoria, South Africa.