

1856 Orderly CHARLES ORTON RUSSELL

Charles Orton Russell was born in Bradford in 1880. He was Wesleyan; and, judging by his signature, an educated man.

He served in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) at the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital (see below), first as a member of the Bradford Corps, St. John's Ambulance Brigade (SJAB)(12 months) and later in F Coy, Cape Medical Staff Corps (16 months).

For this service, he was awarded the Queen's South Africa medal (QSA) (medal roll access number 1629) and the St. John's Medal for South Africa 1899-1902. He was entitled to a Cape Colony clasp on his QSA but appears not to have received it.

The following are the numbers of SJAB medals thought to be extant [6]:

1. SJAB 'conventional' volunteers who served in South Africa: 1735 issued of which 151 (9%) are known.
2. National Fire Brigade Union Ambulance Division (NFBUAD) volunteers trained by the SJAB: 28 issued.
3. SJAB 'special service' RAMC volunteers: 83 issued of which 7 (9%) are known.
4. SJAB 'notables': 15 issued of which 5 (33%) are known.
5. SJAB 'contributors': 40 issued of which 9 (25%) are known.

Categories 1-3 were eligible for the QSA with appropriate clasps; additional to which category 2 received the NFBUAD tribute medal.

The ranks of the volunteers were usually Private (Pte) or S/O (Supernumerary Officer, the equivalent of sergeant). The units engraved on the medal(s) were the SJAB corps or divisions of which the recipient was a member. About 127 different corps or divisions were involved, the largest being the Metropolitan Corps, London (182), followed by the Oldham Corps (124) and the Bolton Corps (121).

Twenty-seven SJABs from the Bradford Corps went to South Africa. They traveled in small groups arriving at intervals on different ships; and served in various medical units in that country. In 1900, Bradford was a manufacturing town with a population of about 100,000 and much involved with the woolen industry. Beighton suggests that Russell may well have been an employee in a "dark satanic mill" and relished the fresh air and sunshine of South Africa. This is not improbable for Charles Dickens in *Hard Times* (1853) earlier had written of the contemptible relationship between mill and factory owners and their employees "All things considered there was never a people so abused as the English at this time".

Orderly Charles Orton Russell remained in South Africa after the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, dying in 1948.

C. O. Russell was an engine driver living in Mazell's Poort near Bloemfontein when, on 28 March 1917, he was recruited on attestation to the South African Field Ambulance Unit, South African Medical Corps (S.A.M.C), then part of the South African Overseas Expeditionary Force. He left Cape Town for the United Kingdom aboard *HMS Euripides* on 20 April 1917.

At that time, his physical description was given as being 5' 5½" tall, of sallow complexion, with brown eyes, brown hair, with a large vaccination scar on his left deltoid and tattoos in both forearms.

He served with the S.A.M.C. in France, doing two tours of duty attached to the 1st South African Field Artillery, part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) (22 August to 1 November 1917 and 26 April to 12 May 1918). Thereafter, he remained with the 1st South African Field Artillery in England (13 May 1918 until 28 March 1919) until he left those shores aboard *HMT Gaika* on 1 June 1919. Whist in transit to Cape Town, he continued to perform nursing duties. He was discharged from the S.A.M.C. at Maitland, Cape Town on 1 July 1919.

He was gassed on 26 October 1917 and evacuated from the 3rd Australian General Hospital at Abbeville aboard the *Carisbrook Castle* to the South African Hospital, Richmond Park, London to recuperate. Later, he sustained a gun shot wound to the right thigh on 10 November 1918, but remained at his post.

He died a caretaker of "Heath's Buildings", 43 Prichard Street, Pretoria. His Death Notice states that he died 14 August 1948; his offspring was one Frank Orton Russell; and that his estate consisted of shares and savings amounting to £1791/17/2. He was 69 years and 5 months old.

His wife died at 1 Reginald Ave., Creston Hill, Germiston on 21 August 1962, leaving an estate of £1228/0/6. She was 82 years and 5 months old.

In 1988 (17 September 1988), G G Lennox (of P O Box 820, Gallor Manor 2052 writing of "my grandfather-in-law") requested of the Master of the Supreme Court, details of his Death Certificate, reason unknown.

C. O. Russell medals were engraved as follows: 1856 ORD: C. RUSSELL. ST JOHN AMB: BDE: QSA no bar; 1856 PTE. C.O. RUSSELL BRADFORD CORPS. St. John's Medal for South Africa 1899-1902; 13876 PTE C.O. RUSSELL. S. A. M. C. British War Medal (Bilinigual); 13876 PTE C.O. RUSSELL. S. A. M. C. Allied War Medal



GENEALOGY OF CHARLES ORTON RUSSELL

At the time of the 1881 Census in England, Charles Orton Russell was living with his family in 21 Greaves St., Horton-in-Bradford, York, England

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
John RUSSELL	Head	M	Male	24	Bradford, York.	Stuff Dyers Laborer (Mr)
Sarah Anne RUSSELL	Wife	M	Female	25	Coventry, Warwick	
Charles Orton RUSSELL	Son		Male	2	Bradford, York, England	
Beatrice RUSSELL	Daughter		Female	6m	Bradford, York	
Emma RUSSELL	Boarder		Female	21	Bradford, York	Cotton Twister
John ORTON	Father-in-Law	M	Male	60	Coventry, Warwick	Silk Warp Dresser

1 Charles Orton RUSSELL b. March 1880 Bradford, York d. 14 August 1948
 TAB.MHG 3988/48 m. Margaret Alice PINDER b. Chorley, Lancashire March 1880 d. 21 August 1962 TAB.MHG 6746/62
 1.1 Frank Orton Russell

At the time of the 1881 Census in England, M A Pinder (b. 1871) was living with her family in 83 Worthy St., Chorley, Lancashire, England

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
James PINDER	Head	M	Male	32	Preston, Lancashire	Cotton Spinner (Unemployed)
Sarah Ann PINDER	Wife	M	Female	33	London, Middlesex	
Henry PINDER	Son	U	Male	10	Chorley, Lancashire,	Cotton Creeler 1/2 Time
Elizabeth Ann PINDER	Daughter		Female	9	Chorley, Lancashire,	Scholar
Joseph PINDER	Son		Male	6	Chorley, Lancashire,	Scholar
Richard PINDER	Son		Male	4	Chorley, Lancashire,	Scholar
Leah PINDER	Daughter		Female	2	Chorley, Lancashire,	
Margret A. PINDER	Daughter		Female	1	Chorley, Lancashire,	

ST. JOHN'S MEDAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA 1899-1902

With the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in 1899, a joint response from the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John enabled members of the brigade to serve both as auxiliaries to the Royal Army Medical Corps and in private hospitals established under the aegis of a Central Red Cross Committee.

King Edward VII, sovereign Head of the Order, presented the medal to a representative group of the recipients at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace. Official sanction for wearing the St. John Ambulance Brigade medal whilst in uniform was given on 26 January 1904.

REFERENCES :

1. South African Archives Repository, Cape Town
2. South African Archives Repository, Pretoria
3. South African Defence Force Archives, Pretoria
4. Hibbard, MG. Boer War Tribute Medals: The Definitive Work of Boer War Tribute Medals. Publ: Constantia Classics, 2nd ed., 1982
5. Cole-Mackintosh RE. 1975 & 1978 quoted in [7]
6. Beighton, P, de Villiers, JC. The St. John Ambulance Brigade in the South African War, 1899-1902: Casualties and Memorials in South Africa. SA Military History Journal 1997; 10(5): 188-195
7. Beighton, P. St. John Ambulance Brigade Bronze Medal for South Africa OMRS 2003;42(3):176-181
8. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints :
<http://www.familysearch.org>

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY HOSPITALS, 1900-1902

With the object of establishing a hospital in support of British war effort in South Africa, on 29 December 1899, Lady Georgiana Curzon and Lady Chesham, issued an appeal from Blenheim Palace to the British public for subscriptions. The result far exceeded their expectations, and every post brought generous donations in cash and in kind.

The Queen – then Princess of Wales – allowed herself to be nominated President; the present Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Connaught gave their names as Vice-Presidents of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals.

The working committee was composed of the following: Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, the Duchess of Marlborough, the Countesses of Essex and Dudley, the Ladies Chesham and Tweedmouth, Mesdames S. Neumann, A.G. Lucas, Blencowe Cookson, Julius Wernher (now Lady Wernher), and Madame von Andre. Amongst the gentlemen who gave valuable assistance, the most prominent were: Viscount Curzon, M.P. (later Lord Howe), Hon. Secretary; Mr. Ludwig Neumann, Hon. Treasurer; General Eaton (later Lord Cheylesmore); and Mr. Oliver Williams.

President: THE QUEEN.

Vice-Presidents: THE PRINCESS OF WALES and DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT.

Chairman of Committee: COUNTESS HOWE.

Vice-Chairmen of Committee: COUNTESS OF WARWICK and VISCOUNTESS VALENTIA.

Hon. Secretary: EARL HOWE.

Treasurer: LUDWIG NEUMANN, ESQ.

Military Adviser: MAJOR-GENERAL LORD CHEYLESMORE.

Hon. Civilian Director and Treasurer in South Africa: J.G. HAMILTON, ESQ.

General Committee:

Ninety ladies, whose names are given in the first volume of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals Report.

General Working Committee:

Lady Georgiana Curzon (Chairman).
Adeline, Duchess of Bedford.
The Duchess of Marlborough.
The Countess of Dudley.
The Countess of Essex.
The Ladies Tweedmouth and Chesham (who went to Deelfontein in early days of Imperial Yeomanry Hospitals).
Mrs. S(igmund) Neumann.
Mrs. A.G. Lucas.
Mrs. Blencowe Cookson.
Mrs. Julius Wernher (now Lady Wernher).
Madame von Andre.

Finance Committee:

Viscount Curzon, M.P. (later Earl Howe).
Mr. Ludwig Neumann.
Adeline, Duchess of Bedford.
Lady Chesham.
Lady Georgiana Curzon.

Press Committee:

The Countess of Dudley.
The Countess of Essex.
Madame von Andre.
The Duchess of Marlborough.
Lady Georgiana Curzon.

Transport Committee:

Lady Tweedmouth.
Mrs. Julius Wernher.
Mrs. S(igmund) Neumann.
Mrs. A.G. Lucas.
Lady Georgiana Curzon.
Assisted by Major Haggard and General Eaton.

Gifts and Purchase Committee:

The Countess of Essex.
Lady Tweedmouth.
Mrs. A. G. Lucas.
Mrs. S. Neumann.
Lady Georgiana Curzon.
Assisted by General Eaton, Colonel Sloggett ¹, Mr. Fripp ² and Mr.

¹ Colonel (later Sir) Arthur Thomas Sloggett CB.,CMG. (1857-1929), Lieutenant General. Joined Royal Army Medical Corps 1881; Indian Frontier 1884; Senior Medical Officer, British Troops, Dongola expedition, Sudan 1896; Nile expeditions 1897-1898; Khartoum, Sudan 1898; South African War 1899-1902; Principal Medical Officer, Home and London Districts 1903-1908; Principal Medical Officer, 6 Div, India 1908-1911; Director of Medical Services, India 1911-1914; World War I 1914-1918; Director General, Army Medical Service 1914-1918; Col Commandant Royal Army Medical Corps 1921-1928
Registered 1880; MRCS Eng 1880, LRCP Edin 1880

Oliver Williams ³.

Medical, Nursing, and General Staffs Committee:

The Duchess of Marlborough.

Adeline, Duchess of Bedford.

The Countess of Warwick.

Lady Chesham.

Madame von Andre.

Lady Georgiana Curzon.

Assisted by General Eaton, Colonel Sloggett, Mr. Fripp and Mr. A. Downing [sic]⁴

The chief workers in Ireland were: The Countess of Longford, Lady Annette La Touche, and Mrs. Pirrie; but they were only on the General Committee, not on any of the subcommittees.

From first to last, various staffs numbered over 1,400 persons, and 20,000 patients received medical aid in the different Yeomanry Hospitals.

When the staff returned to England, medals were presented to them by the Queen at Devonshire House, Piccadilly, the residence of the Cavendish family.

DEELFONTEIN BASE HOSPITAL: Opened March 5, 1900; closed March 31, 1901. Originally with 500 beds, subsequently increased to 1,000 beds. 6,093 in-patients, including 351 officers, were treated there.

MACKENZIE'S FARM, MAITLAND CAMP, BASE HOSPITAL: Opened August 2, 1900; closed March 31, 1901. Originally with 100 beds, subsequently increased to 150. 1,066 patients treated.

EASTWOOD, PRETORIA, BASE HOSPITAL: Opened August 18, 1900; closed September 30, 1901. Originally with 400 beds, subsequently increased to 564 beds. 5,227 in-patients, including 466 officers, and 1,095 out-patients, treated.

ELANDSFONTEIN BASE HOSPITAL: Opened June 29, 1901; closed December 19, 1901. Originally with 50 beds, subsequently increased to 138 beds. 823 in-patients, including 27 officers, and 900 out-patients, treated.

CHESHAM CONVALESCENT HOME AT JOHANNESBURG (for Officers only): Opened March 1, 1901; closed October 10, 1901. 8 beds. 79 patients received.

FIELD-HOSPITAL AND BEARER COMPANY, with 100 beds, left England in March, 1900; opened at the seat of war in South Africa on 12 April, 1900; closed 1 April 1901, having remained three months longer than was originally arranged for. Subsidy of £3,000 received from Government for this purpose.

² Mr (later Sir) Alfred Downing Fripp KCVO., CB of Portland Place, London (1914). Sir Alfred Downing Fripp b. Blandford, Dorset 12 September 1865 d. West Lulworth, Dorset 1930; married Lady Margaret Scott Haywood Reigate Parish Church, Surrey 8 June 1898. Registered 1889; M 1889 DF 1893 RCS Eng., LRCP Lond 1889, MB BS 1889, MS 1893 U Lond.

³ Mr. Oliver Williams of Oldham (1914). Registered 1889; MB CM 1889 U Edin.

⁴ Mr. A. Downing; I believe that this was an error

REFERENCES

- 1) Wilson, Lady Sarah. South African Memories: Social, Warlike & Sporting from diaries written at the time. Edward Arnold, London. 1909
 - 2) Watt, S A. Military History Journal 7 (4), The South African Military History Society. DEELFONTEIN (A hospital in the Karoo during the Anglo-Boer War, a cemetery today).
 - 3) Commissioned Officers of the Medical Services of the British Army 1660-1960. Vol.I. W Johnston. Gen.Ed. FNL Poynter. Publ. The Wellcome Historical Library, London. 1968
 - 4) Cloete, Pieter G. The Anglo-Boer War: A Chronology. J P v d Walt & Son, 2000
 - 5) The Medical & Pharmacy Register for the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. 1902
 - 6) The Medical Register. General Medical Council. 1914. Publ. Constable & Co. Ltd, London.
 - 7) The Register of Medical Practitioners and Dentists for the Union of South Africa for 1st January 1935
 - 8) Plarr's Lives of the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Vol. II (Mace-You). Revised Sir D'arcy Power. Publ. John Wright & Sons, Bristol. 1930.
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Nr 1 General Hospital Wynberg: the following related information, an incidental finding on the internet, is added for general interest.

[FCA] ARTHUR BLACKWOOD WARD

b. 1/7/1870 at Wandsworth; educ. Christ's Hospital, then adm. Pensioner, Selwyn College Cambridge, 1/10/1889. Classical Scholar (B.A. 1892). M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P. 1896; M.B., B.Ch., 1898. Ophthalmic House Surgeon, St. Bart's, 1896. Res. Henley on Thames 1897-1901, after which he went out to South Africa. Medical Officer, Grey College, Bloemfontein, 1902-14; Member, Orange Free State Medical and Pharmacy Council, 1905; President 1908-1914. He joined the South African Medical Corps and from 1914-15 was OC Medical Division & Nr. 1 General Hospital, Wynberg. He then went to the Western Front with the SA Expeditionary Force until 1919. T/Lt. Col. 15/3/1915; later T/Col. OC Nr. 1 SA General Hospital, France; DDMS, SA Expeditionary Force. M. in D.; D.S.O. 1917; C.B.E. 1919. After the War he remained in England (24 Westfield Court, Surbiton). Commr. Medical Services and DDG Medical Service at the Ministry of Pensions 1925-31; Medical Superintendent, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, 1932; Director of Emergency Medical Services, Ministry of Health. He died 11/3/1950 at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. He married ANGELA SUSAN DOROTHEA FINCH, 11/8/1902, in Cape Town:

[FCA/1] ANGELA SUSAN DOROTHEA FINCH

b. 16/8/1878, d. of Henry Charles Finch, J.P. of Redheath, Herts., by Catharine Sophia, d. of Henry Sedgwick Wilde of Boreham Wood, Registrar of Bankrupts. Their children, with their spouses, were:

[FCAA] Doris Angela b.1903

[FCAB] John Blackwood b.1907

 [FCAB/1] Joan Wheeler

[FCAC] Paul Kendal b.1910.

