

## DR CHARLES WILLIAM HUNTER and his duplicate Queen's South Africa medal

The rarely seen duplicate issue of a Queen's South Africa medal, first confirmed by Winifred N Scott in 1988, I suspect can be explained by the personalities and backgrounds of three people: Maj. James Wege Robertson, Surgeon Major Robert John Shaw Simpson and the recipient Dr Charles William Hunter.

The following essay is an attempt to contextualize and explain this unusual occurrence. As will become evident, the explanation offered is entirely speculative, many of the documents which may well have assisted in more definitively settling the matter not being available to the author.

### SETTING THE SCENE: KOFFIEFONTEIN

Koffiefontein<sup>i</sup>, a *dorp* (village) in the Free State of South Africa, is situated on the Rietrivier and has its origins in a diamond-diggers' camp. In 1888, it was first proposed to the then Volkraad (peoples' assembly or parliament) of the Oranje Vrij Staat Republiek that the site be declared a town, and it was formally recognized as having municipal status in 1892.

The origin of the name of the town has long been speculative and is comprehensively dealt with elsewhere<sup>ii</sup>. Suffice to say that the following spellings have been used over time: de Koffie von tijl, (1840), Koffie Fontijn (1844), Coffijvontijn (1855), Koffyfontein (English circa Anglo-Boer War), Koffiefontein (Dutch / Afrikaans prior and subsequent to the Anglo-Boer War, to the present)<sup>iii</sup>.

### MAJOR ROBERTSON and the THE KOFFYFONTEIN DEFENCE FORCE.

James Wege Robertson (1873-1950)<sup>iv</sup> joined the Kimberley Light Horse as a Lieutenant in 1899. He was appointed Assistant Resident Magistrate at Koffyfontein by the British authorities in 1900.

At the beginning of October 1900, there was a resurgence of Boer activity in the district. Robertson, the only military man in the town, armed some fifty miners, the Koffyfontein Defence Force, supervised the Koffyfontein Town Guard and commanded the town garrison from 1900-1901. On the retirement of Major Robertson, Hampden Langworthy Smithers (1857-1912) who had taken a prominent part in the defense of Koffyfontein, became Officer Commanding the Koffyfontein Defence Force.



The Koffyfontein Besieged £5 "Good For"

The rare Koffyfontein Besieged £5 “Good For” was the creation of Maj. Robertson in response to a shortage of silver coin in the village whilst it was under siege. Though fewer than a dozen are known to exist to-day, it is postulated that about 100 notes initially were placed in circulation.

## THE SIEGE and RELIEF of KOFFYFONTEIN

On 12<sup>th</sup> October 1900, a force under the command Commandant Visser demanded the surrender of Koffyfontein. The notion was rejected outright by Robertson. On the 16<sup>th</sup> Robertson withdrew from the town and occupied a position at the mines which he then entrenched. On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Boers attacked the dorp but failed to press home their advantage. Robertson retaliated by raiding a farm-house occupied by Boers, and a fierce skirmish is said to have ensued. Each side lost one man killed and two Boers were captured. On the 25<sup>th</sup> General Hertzog turned up and, again to no avail, demanded the surrender of the village; an attack which followed the next day in turn was thwarted and Hertzog withdrew.

Meanwhile a column of Cape Police and Cape Mounted Rifles commanded by Major-General Henry Hamilton Settle<sup>v</sup> which had arrived at Boshof on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1900, began moving south across the now Orange River Colony to the Bloemfontein Railway. En route, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, this formation - A and G Companies of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, under Captain Crichton-Browne and Lieutenant Neilson, equipped with a 15 pounder manned by Cape Artillerymen, and 15 wagons of food and ammunition - assisted Sir Charles Parsons' flying column - a Squadron of Imperial Yeomanry<sup>vi</sup> - in relieving Koffyfontein invested by Hertzog<sup>vii</sup>.

Lord Kitchener's memorialised these activities in his Despatches of the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1901 as follows:

- Lce.-Cpl. G. R. Mason, in action at Koffyfontein, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, a man being wounded in an exposed position Mason went to his help and remained with him under fire until an ambulance fetched him.
- Koffyfontein (Orange River Colony) Defence Force, Cpl. H. J. Jellard, promoted Sgt. on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1900, for exposing himself to heavy fire at sixty yards' range when getting on to a debris heap to connect a wire from a battery to a mine, and also for holding an advanced position with one native.

The human consequences of these inconsequential skirmishes are suggested in part through the published Koffyfontein Defence Force Medal Roll and Koffyfontein Roll of Honour, recorded below.

### Koffyfontein Defence Force Medal Roll

KOFFYFONTEIN DEFENCE FORCE MEDAL ROLL		
Issued	Recipients	Returned
30	26	4

### Koffyfontein Roll of Honour

KOFFYFONTEIN No. of Deaths		
Military Action	Disease	Unspecified
3	2	1

3120 Pte G Buckle DoW. West Riding.1 on 15.2.1900 interred Koffyfontein<sup>viii</sup>  
 12774 Pte C Hutchins DoD. R.A.M.C. on 3.1.1901 interred Koffyfontein<sup>ix</sup>  
 6311 Pte F Brooks KIA. Derbyshire.2 on 19.1.1902 interred Fauresmith<sup>x</sup>  
 3014 Pte J McDonald DoD. Highland Light Infantry.3 on 24.5.1902 interred Koffyfontein<sup>xi</sup>  
 4568 Const J McCausland KA. SA Constabulary.E on 22.6.1906 interred Koffyfontein<sup>xii</sup>

## **1900: MEDICAL SERVICES IN KIMBERLEY and vicinity**

By 1900, Kimberley was a centre of huge wealth both because of its diamondiferous alluvial deposits and an influx of medical and nursing intellectual capital.

In 1892, the Carnarvon and Diggers' Hospitals combined to become the Kimberley Hospital, the largest, best equipped healthcare facility in the Cape Colony. At the Carnarvon Hospital, Sr. Henrietta Stockdale of the Community of St Michael and All Angels, had established the first training school for nurses in southern Africa; and when the Community of St Michael and All Angels withdrew from the amalgamated Kimberley Hospital in 1895, she established a maternity nursing home and nursing co-operative at St Michael's Home.

As a consequence, the region attracted significant numbers of often extraordinarily talented medical personnel from far afield. Preparatory to the siege of Kimberley, Dr W W Stoney<sup>xiii</sup> was Medical Officer of Health for Kimberley; Dr G A Heberden<sup>xiv</sup>, a former district surgeon and general practitioner of Barkly West, was appointed Surgeon Captain to the Kimberley Light Horse; and Lieutenant C J O'Gorman<sup>xv</sup> was the only representative of the Royal Army Medical Corp in the town. The remaining medical practitioners one way or another each were allied to a military corps or ambulance brigade.

The siege of Kimberley was lifted on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1900. Thereafter, the demand for medical services increased considerably, a consequence of typhoid introduced by the occupying troops, and the many wounded generated by the military actions at Paardeberg, Poplar Grove (Modderrivierspoort), Abrahamskraal and Driefontein during Lord Robert's advance on Bloemfontein.

Of relevance to this narrative is the No. 11 General Hospital, Kimberley, established outside of the town centre. This was a modern 1000 bed structure equipped with electric light, operating theatre and X-ray facilities under the command of Col. M D O'Connell<sup>xvi</sup>. Later, it was on the staff of this hospital that Hunter was said to have been serving during the war years.

## **SURGEON MAJOR ROBERT JOHN SHAW SIMPSON**

Robert John Shaw Simpson, C.M.G, C.B. R.A.M.C., A.M.C., (1858-1931) was born in Dundee on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1858, the son of the George Buchan Simpson, The Pines, Broughty Ferry, Dundee.

He was educated at Edinburgh University, graduating with a M.A. in 1878 and M.B., C.M. in 1882. He married Jean Mary Halley in 1895.

He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Surgeon in 1883, was promoted to Surgeon Major in 1895, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1903 and Colonel in 1912. He served in China, 1883-90; Woolwich Arsenal, 1890-95; Pietermaritzburg, 1895-99. In August 1900, he was granted local rank of Lieutenant Colonel whilst he served as secretary to the Principal Medical Officer of the South African Field Force, Surgeon-General Sir W D Wilson, during the Second Anglo-Boer War. He received the Queen's South Africa medal, the King's South Africa medal, and was mentioned in despatches. He was appointed Professor of Military (Tropical) Medicine 1905 to 1909 at the R.A.M.C. College at Millbank; and retired in 1913.

He was awarded the Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1900 and Companion of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military) in 1917 for his war service as Assistant-Director (Medical Services) of the Woolwich district 1914-1918. He died at Blackheath, London on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1931.

During his lifetime, he was recognised as having made a significant contribution to military medicine and knowledge of the epidemiology of disease; and was acknowledged afresh with the development of the notion of the randomised controlled trial and the later vogue for meta-analysis. Publications associated with his name include the definitive publication *The medical history of the war in South Africa*, an epidemiological essay, the *Report on Certain Enteric Fever Inoculation Statistics* and the *Role of the Common House Fly in the spread of typhoid fever*.

## **CIVILIAN SURGEON CHARLES WILLIAM HUNTER**

Charles William Hunter (1861-1945) was born in Forfar, Angus, Scotland 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1861<sup>xvii xviii</sup>.

He qualified in Edinburgh in 1886, and registered on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1887. For 9 years he was a respected member of his father's practice in Forfar. He came to southern Africa in 1895 after the doctors in Scotland had given him 6 months to live on account of an unspecified lung ailment, presumably either severe asthma or, more likely, tuberculosis. He practised in Kimberley, Douglas<sup>xix</sup> and Campbell with the dry climate apparently affecting a complete cure.

He returned to Scotland in 1896, spending 3 years there gaining a Masters in Surgery, with special expertise in ophthalmic surgery and anaesthesiology. In 1909, he was awarded an M.D. by the University of Edinburgh.

Aside from running a private practice in association with others in Koffiefontein<sup>xx</sup>, for many years Hunter was District Surgeon, Medical Officer to the Imperial Railways and Medical Officer to the Koffiefontein Mines, which appointment he retained till the mines ceased operations. He served the community for a considerable period as Justice of the Peace (1902 onwards<sup>xxi</sup>), Municipal Councillor and for a time as Mayor.

He married Margaret Nicoll [b. 1 December 1864 Inverarity and Methy, Angus, Scotland do. James Nicoll and Mary Copeland] in Forfar on 9 April 1889. Together they had four children<sup>xxii</sup>. She died in Kimberley on 10 July 1941<sup>xxiii</sup>; and he at Koffiefontein on 17 July 1945<sup>xxiv</sup>.

## **THE DUPLICATE ISSUE OF A QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL (QSA)**

The QSA and its clasps were authorised in Army Order 94 of April 1901, the preamble stating it: “.... to be granted to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the British, Indian, and Colonial Forces, and to all nurses and nursing sisters who actually served in South Africa between October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1899 and a date to be hereafter fixed; to all troops stationed in Cape Colony and Natal at the outbreak of hostilities; and to troops stationed in St Helena between April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1900, and a date to be hereafter fixed”.

On his return to Kimberley in late October 1899, Hunter would have found the authorities preparing for what appeared an inevitable attack. The town guard had been complemented with volunteers and the Diamond Fields Artillery raised. Kimberley was placed under the command of Colonel Robert Kekewich and, much to the distress of some, Cecil Rhodes had moved into the town. Hunter was requested to leave Kimberley and to go to Koffiefontein. By the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1899, the town was under siege.

In Koffiefontein, Hunter functioned as medical officer to the Koffyfontein Mines Ltd., and surgeon to the then Republican Koffyfontein Town Hospital<sup>xxv</sup> until, in May 1901, his contract with the latter came to an end “the funds being exhausted”. When the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the King's Own Scottish Borderers were bivouacked in Koffiefontein, Hunter was appointed Civilian Surgeon in charge of the detachment. Soon he was managing two hospitals in the dorp, having turned the Town Hall into a second hospital solely for the care of Republicans. He became bilingual in English and Afrikaans, and applied himself to public service “without fear or favour”. A testimonial from the Officer Commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, Capt. Harold Crichton-Browne<sup>xxvi</sup>, bears testimony to his diligence, humanity and clinical skill.

He acted as District Surgeon to Koffyfontein from October 1899 – April 1900, again from September 1900 – May 1901 and from June – December 1901<sup>xxvii</sup>; where after he received a full-time appointment at the princely salary of £50.00 per annum<sup>xxviii</sup>. This had followed repeated but inexplicit opposition on the part of the then Acting Resident Magistrate and commander of the Koffyfontein Defence Force, Capt. (later Major) J W Robertson. In the face of admirable references which already were lodged with the Army Administration and known to local medical illuminate<sup>xxix xxx</sup>, Robertson mooted numerous other candidates rather than Hunter. Further proof of this animosity is to be found in a letter in a letter dated February 1902, wherein Walter Whitworth<sup>xxxi</sup>, Manager of Koffyfontein Mine states “[I think it] only wise to try and make sure of Dr Hunter's services – Dr Hunter had some private feud with our late Commander Major Robertson – ....., [and] I can, ..... only look upon it as an unfortunate occurrence,

but not one to make any difference as to Dr Hunter's appointment being advisable or otherwise. I should therefore personally be glad to hear that Dr Hunter's appointment as District Surgeon of Koffyfontein has been confirmed".

Unsurprisingly, Hunter appears to have been well connected within local society. Over a period of months, he cited the likes of Dr Ashe of Kimberley<sup>xxxii</sup>, Jas(per) Hill Esq., Member of the Legislative Assembly, The Very Rev. Archdeacon Holbeck, Colonel Duke R.A.M.C<sup>xxxiii</sup> and Colonel Allin<sup>xxxiv</sup> as persons who could be approached for references. However, the proposition made obliquely by H F Wilson<sup>xxxv</sup>, Secretary of the Orange River Colony Administration to Robertson that Dr Yule<sup>xxxvi</sup> be asked to adjudicate the matter, together with the correspondence from Whitworth, finally appears to have focussed minds and ended an unpleasant debate. I shall return to this later.

After the war, Hunter was warmly congratulated by the authorities for his services to both friend and foe alike, and, as we know, was awarded both the Queen's South Africa Medal (Q.S.A) and eventually the King's South Africa Medal (K.S.A) in recognition thereof.

Capt. (later Major) J W Robertson patently was a man of action, resourceful and experienced in military matters, and very likely skilled in managing men of rank and file. In Koffyfontein, he was inspector of mines, acting magistrate and officer commanding the town garrison from 1900-1901. In yet, in 1901, when he applied for full-time command of Koffyfontein, he was tersely requested to hand over command<sup>xxxvii</sup>, and a full-time magisterial appointment was denied, he being moved to Hoopstad. As late as 1910 he was seeking recognition for services he claimed to have rendered whilst in Koffyfontein<sup>xxxviii</sup>.

On reflection (and this is purely speculative), potentially there were several sources of conflict between Robertson and Hunter. Doctors are notoriously independent minded, often infuriating others with their dictatorial mannerisms and idiosyncrasies, and they generally tend to have a perspective on Life very different from the mainstream<sup>xxxix</sup>.

From a military perspective, I believe Hunter's preference would have been to be perceived as conferring his services as a Civil Surgeon, thus independent in his choice and "by appointment to" the King's Own Scottish Borderers and others, rather than allowing himself to be press-ganged into military service as a Surgeon Captain "reporting to" Robertson, and on the roll of the Koffyfontein Defence Force or Town Guard. Of course, Robertson may have wished differently for various reasons one of which would have been to enhance his position with the civil and military authorities, the better to lay claim to either the full-time position of magistrate or title of military commandant of Koffyfontein.

In a similar vein, from a professional perspective, I believe Hunter would have seen himself as being allied in a collegiate manner to No. 11 General Hospital, Kimberley and its echelon of officers. Important to remember that Hunter was a highly skilled man in whom ill health forced emigrate to southern Africa rather than it be of his own choosing. His self-assuredness and sense of self-worth would have commanded (even demanded) the respect of those about him. Some might have perceived his demeanour as being aloof and arrogant. Certainly, reading his testimonials and other official documents, though there is explicit in some a willing acknowledgment of his skills and professionalism, there is also a reserve with regard to the man himself.

Lastly, from the perspective of societal norms, Hunter could have proven quite an irritant. He is reported as treating all "without fear or favour ....." He was responsible for improving the nutritional health and living standards of the migrant black labour on the mine profoundly, a group of souls rarely given kindly consideration in those days. He supplied both ambient and in-patient medical care to both enemy and ally, and risked his own well-being by delivering critical care to combatants on the battlefield without discrimination and nor heed for personal danger. His ethics and professional mores were acknowledged as being impeccable; but for some this must have smacked of blurring the lines between what was acceptable practice and what could be construed as *ultra vires*, even downright disloyal.

Sadly, instead of agreeing to differ, the feud between Robertson and Hunter appears to have rumbled on at a time when harmony would best have served the community. Eventually, it appears that collegiate ties and common necessity caused the bureaucratic axe to fall on Roberson, but neither escaped with their reputations intact.

As a likely consequence of the above, the duplicate Queen's South Africa Medals were issued:

- Firstly on the recommendation of Robertson who claimed Hunter as being a Surgeon Captain, second in command; and thus his name appeared on the nominal roll of the Koffyfontein Defence Force; and
- Secondly on the recommendation "Major (name unclear), No. 11 General Hospital, Kimberley" who recognised Hunter as being a Civil Surgeon on his establishment.

Who was the "Major (name unclear)" ? The original transcription by Winifred N Scott of the nominal roll fails to note one important detail; it should have read "Major (name unclear) RAMC Sec to PMO No. 11 General Hospital Kimberley". The Royal Army Medical Corp Secretary to the Principal Medical Officer in July 1901 was Lieutenant-Col. R J Simpson. Simpson was a fellow Scot; and both he and Hunter having graduated from Edinburgh University within a year of each other are sure to have been well acquainted.

#### **THE ISSUANCE OF A QUEEN'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL, CLASP *ORANGE FREE STATE***

The conditions under which a clasp *Orange Free State* was issued was subject to Army Order 94 of April 1901 which clearly stated: "A clasp inscribed 'Orange Free State' will be granted to all troops in Orange River Colony at any time between February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1900, and a date to be hereafter fixed, who received no clasp which has been already specified for an action in the Orange River Colony".

Puzzlingly, here the nomenclatures appear to have been applied in reverse:

- Robertson who claimed Hunter as being a Surgeon Captain - an officer - on the nominal roll of the Koffyfontein Defence Force had the clasp Orange Free State deleted from the roll ; and
- Simpson who referred to Hunter as a Civil Surgeon on his establishment ensured that Hunter was awarded the clasp.

#### **THE ISSUANCE OF A KING'S SOUTH AFRICA MEDAL (KSA)**

The KSA and its clasps were authorised in Army Order 232 of October 1902, the preamble stating it: "Provided the claims are approved by the Commander-in-Chief, the medal, in silver, will be issued to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the British, Indian, and Colonial forces; to civilian medical practitioners and others employed with military hospitals in South Africa; and to all nursing sisters, as defined in Army Order 195 of 1901; provided that (a) they were actually serving in South Africa on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1902 and (b) that on that date they had completed 18 months' war service; or subsequently completed such service before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1902.

"6. Two clasps will also be granted - (a) a clasp, "South Africa 1901" to all who served in. South Africa between January 1<sup>st</sup> 1901, and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1901, both dates inclusive; (b) a clasp "South Africa 1902" to all who served in South Africa between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1902 and May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1902, both days inclusive.

"7. The above clasps will be worn with the medal granted by Army Order 94 of 1901 by those qualified to receive them, if they are not entitled to receive the medal granted by this Order. If they are entitled to receive the medal granted by this Order, the above clasps will be worn with it".

Material to the issue of a King's South Africa medal to Hunter is the correspondence of Captain Trollope<sup>x1</sup>, Chief Superintendent, Refugee Camps, Bloemfontein, where we learn that allegedly Hunter had travelled to Rhodesia to pursue a mining proposition, having resigned his commission preparatory to the trip. This detail is contrary to the later official record which shows him as resigning from Army service in 1905.

If indeed there was an earlier resignation from the service, then the issuance in May 1904 of the 1901 and 1902 clasps for attachment to the QSA was correct. One suspects that this decision was contested with a submission by Hunter to Simpson motivating differently. Whatever the case, the original order was altered and in January 1906, Hunter was issued with a KSA, requested to remove the 1901 and 1902 clasps from the QSA and to add them to the KSA.

No further details appear in the state archives. Charles William Hunter remained in Koffiefontein, he and his wife serving that community in various roles until their deaths in the 1940's. James Wege Robertson left Koffiefontein in 1901 and lived an active life, occupying various influential positions within government and becoming a respected author of "*A Traveller's Guide for South Africa*".

The provenance of these medals is unknown to me though I suspect that they appeared on the market with the death of Charles James Gordon Hunter in 1978.

A rare duplicate issue of the QSA first confirmed by Winifred N Scott

QSA no bar: Surg:Capt: C. W. HUNTER. KoffyFontein D.F. . engraved



QSA bar: OFS C. W. HUNTER. SURGEON. impressed

KSA: bars SA01; SA02: CIV: SURG: C. W. HUNTER. S.A.F.F. impressed



MEDAL ROLL <sup>xii</sup>										
VOLUME	UNIT	Regtl.No.	NAME	RANK	Medal	Clasp(s)	ROLL SIGNED	DATE	REMARKS	REFERENCE
283	Koffyfontein D.F.	2	C.W.Hunter	Surgeon Captain	QSA		J. Robertson Major	13th July 1901	O.F.S. clasp issued then deleted Medal only awarded	WNS
226	Civil Surgeons		C.W.Hunter	Civ. Surgeon	QSA	Orange Free State	Major (name unclear) No. 11 General Hospital Kimberley	July 15th, 1901	Employed entirely in own town Temp. Hospl. Koffyfontein Retd. 8/7/05	WNS
SUPPLEMENTARY <sup>xiii</sup>										
ROLL										
VOLUME / PG	UNIT	Regtl.No.	NAME	RANK	Medal	Clasp(s)	ROLL SIGNED	DATE	REMARKS	REFERENCE
226	Civil Surgeons		C.W.Hunter	Civ. Surgeon	QSA	Orange Free State	R.J.Simpson Lieut Col. R.A.M.C. London	10th May 1904	Issd AG2/M/15753 Medal Issd. 1/2476. King's Med only Retd. 8/12/05 Two supplementary clasps issued and then changed to K.S.A. and two clasps	WNS
MEDAL ROLL <sup>xiii</sup>										
VOLUME / PG	UNIT	Regtl.No.	NAME	RANK	Medal	Clasp(s)	ROLL SIGNED	DATE	REMARKS	REFERENCE
283 / 80 Ref: AG2/M/255	Koffyfontein Defence Force	2	Hunter, CW	Surgeon Captain	QSA		Mjr JW Robertson Commandant Koffyfontein	13th July 1901	Entitled to the SA Medal & Clasps (Army Order [94] 1st April 1901) O.F.S. clasp crossed out for whole roll	MJ
226 / 193 Ref:AG2/M/2476	Civil Surgeons		Hunter, CW	Civil Surgeon	QSA	Orange Free State	Major (name unclear) RAMC Sec to PMO No. 11 General Hospital Kimberley	July 15th, 1901	Entitled to the SA Medal & Clasps (Army Order [94] 1st April 1901) Employed entirely in own town. Tempy Hospl Koffyfontein Retd. 8/7/05	MJ
226 / 157 Ref:AG2/M/15753	Civil Surgeons		Hunter, CW	Civil Surgeon	QSA	1901; 1902 later removed	R.J.Simpson Lieut Col. R.A.M.C. London	10th May 1904	Entitled to the SA Medal & Clasps or to additional Clasps (Army Order 233 1st October 1902) Medal Issd. 1/2476. King's Med only Retd. 8/7/05	MJ
352 / 82 Ref:AG2/M/15753	Civil Surgeons		Hunter, CW	Civil Surgeon	KSA	1901; 1902 added later	Lt-Col RJS Simpson RAMC London	1st January 1906	01.02 clasps issd on /13677 24-05-1904 Request: Please detach date clasps from Queen's Medal in your possession and add to King's Medal	MJ

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**Dedicated to:**

Mrs Johanna Elsabé Marais (née Claassens), who, though we discussed its contents a good deal, will never get to reading this article.

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35. The Argus (Melbourne, Victoria. 1848-1954), Saturday 10 November 1900; pg. 13. Siege of Koffyfontein. An Heroic Defence.
36. Tylden, G, Major. The Armed Forces of South Africa 1659 – 1954. City of Johannesburg Africana Museum Frank Connock Publication No.2. Facsimile 1982.
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38. Watt, S. In Memoriam: Roll Of Honour Imperial Forces - Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902. Publ: Kwa-Natal University Press. 2000
39. Weir, R. W. (Rev. Robert Walter). The history of the 3rd batt. King's Own Scottish Borderers, 1798-1907 . Publ: Courier and Herald offices, Dumfries, Scotland. 1908
40. Wills, Walter H; Barrett, R. J. The Anglo-African who's who and biographical sketch-book. Publ: George Routledge & Sons, Ltd. London. 1905

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<sup>i</sup> Geographical co-ordinates 29 24S, 25 01E

<sup>ii</sup> Nienaber PJ. Suid-Afrikaanse Pleknaam-Woorde-boek Publ: Tafelberg-Uitgewers. 1971

<sup>iii</sup> Invariably, I have reflected the spelling used in the particular document quoted.

<sup>iv</sup> James Wege Robertson (1873-1950), a Captain in the Kaffrarian Volunteers (1874), participated in activities in Rhodesia & was awarded the British South Africa Company's Medal (clasp 1896); was awarded the Queen's South Africa medal (with four clasps), the King's South Africa medal; and was mentioned by Lord Roberts in despatches. He was appointed Assistant Resident Magistrate at Koffyfontein in 1900; Resident Magistrate at Hoopstad in 1901, at Thaba Nchu in 1904 and Krugersdorp 1931. He left written memoirs of those days. Ref: South African Archives Repository, Bloemfontein.

<sup>v</sup> Major (later Brigadier)-General Henry Hamilton Settle (1847-1923), DSO (1891); CB (Mil. 1898); KCB (Mil. 1900), R.E

<sup>vi</sup> Col. Sir Charles S B Parsons, K.C.M.G., C.B. (1855-1923) Royal Artillery (1875); South African War (1877-1881); Egypt (1882); Nile Expedition (1898) were he cemented his reputation with Kitchener; Major-General, Commander of Imperial Forces in Canada (1902)

<sup>vii</sup> Rudyard Kipling in *The Captive. Traffics and Discoveries* (1904) poked fun at these flying columns, calling that of Sir Henry Settle (1847-1913) "Settle's Circus"; of Colonel Sir Charles Parsons (1855-1923) "Parson's Pantomime"; and Colonel Sir Archibald Paris (1861-1937), "The Paris Pantomime". Ref: R. E. Harbord ORG Volume 4, page 1877 and McGivering, J H (Ed): Notes on "The Captive". 2007.

The flying column of Col. (later Major General Sir) John Adye, K.C.M.G. (1918), C.B. (Mil. 1902), R.A (1857-1930) appears to have escaped his attention.

R. E. Harbord published *The Readers' Guide to the Works of Rudyard Kipling*, aka. ORG (the *Old Readers' Guide*), now being replaced by an augmented *New Readers' Guide*; and complemented in the Bodleian, Oxford, by a *Guide to the Readers' Guide* ! (DAEP)

<sup>viii</sup> Watt, S. In Memoriam: p. 53

<sup>ix</sup> Watt, S. In Memoriam: p. 211

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<sup>x</sup> Watt, S. In Memoriam: p. 47

<sup>xi</sup> Watt, S. In Memoriam: p. 276

<sup>xii</sup> Watt, S. In Memoriam: p. 273

<sup>xiii</sup> William Walter Stoney (1870-1908) M.B., Ch.B., 1893. M.D., 1895. *Exophthalmic Goitre (Grave's Disease - Basedow's Disease) Illustrated by Diagrams and Photographs from Accompanying Microscopical Specimens*, dissertation submitted for the degree of M.D. at the Victoria University of Manchester, 1895. Leeds University: M.D., 1905. House Physician, General Infirmary, Leeds, 1893-1894. Resident Medical Officer at the Ida Convalescent Home, 1894-1895; at the Public Dispensary, Leeds, 1895-1896. Acting Medical Officer, Robben Island Leper and Lunatic Asylum, Cape Colony, in 1897. Assistant Medical Officer, Rinderpest Experimental Station, Kimberley, in 1897. Medical Officer of Health, Kimberley, 1898-1901. Assistant Director, Plague Administration, Cape Colony, in 1901.

He was followed by Dr Henry George Hawkins Monk (see elsewhere on this site)

<sup>xiv</sup> George Alfred Heberden (1860-1916) Jesus College, Cambridge (BA, Cantab, 1882) & St George's Hospital, London (MRCS, England; LRCP, London, 1888); District Surgeon of Bredasdorp, 1888-89; Surgeon, Cape Government Railway, 1890-02; District Surgeon, Kenhardt, 1893-94; Barkly West, 1895; Surgeon Captain, Kimberley Light Horse; District Surgeon & railway Medical Officer, Victoria West in the sanatorium of which dorp he died. Mentioned in Despatches, awarded Distinguished Service Order, QSA (clasp DoK).

1895 married Winifred Cottam, authoress of *The Diary Of A Doctor's Wife during the Siege of Kimberley October 1899 to February 1900* (with annotations by Colonel D.E. Peddle).

Ref: London Gazette 19 April, 1901; The V.C. and D.S.O. Book: Vol.2, Distinguished Service Order 1886-1915 Publ: Naval & Military Press. 2001; Br Med J. 1916 March 4; 1(2879): 362-363; Military History Journal 1975: 3 (4) & 1976: 3 (5).

<sup>xv</sup> Charles John O'Gorman (1872-1930) b. Buncraggy, Co. Clare 24 July 1872 d. Dublin 11 May 1930; Surgeon Lieutenant RAMC 1898, Capt. 1901; Major 1910; Lt.Col 1915. South Africa 1898-1902, seconded to SA Constabulary 1902-1905; First World War 1914-1918 as A.D.M.S. MID 1900, 1901, 1916, 1918, 1919. Obituary Ref: Br Med J 1930;1:1078 doi:10.1136/bmj.1.3622.1078

Distinguished Service Order (V.R.); Queen's South Africa 1899-1902 (3 clasps, DoK, OFS, Tvl); King's South Africa 1901-02 (2 clasps); 1914-15 Star, British War, Victory Medals, M.I.D. oak leaf; Mayor of Kimberley's Star 1900. Ref: Dix Noonan Webb December 2006.

<sup>xvi</sup> Morgan David O'Connell (1855-1924) b. Kilmallock 13 May 1855 d. Dublin 3 June 1924. LRCSI 1875, LKQCP 1876. Surgeon RAMC 1878, Major 1890, Lt.Col 1898. Retired 1903. Colonel and Officer Commanding General Hospital No. 11, Kimberley 1900. Soudan (Saukin) 1885 Egyptian medal & Khedives bronze star; Second Anglo-Boer War. QSA (clasps CC, OFS), KSA (2 clasps). Authored *Climate and Ague* (1909). Ref: Br Med J 1924;8:256/brmedj05826-0040b.pdf

<sup>xvii</sup> He was the son of (Dr) Charles Hunter m. 6 January 1856 to Jane Howell Mac Craw (b. 3 May 1833 Edinburgh Parish, Edinburgh, Midlothian to John Mac Craw & Ann Love)

<sup>xviii</sup> A sibling of Charles William Hunter was Jane Ann Hunter b. 28 November 1856, Forfar, Angus, Scotland

<sup>xix</sup> Hunter was Acting District Surgeon to Douglas and Campbell for six months prior to October 1899

<sup>xx</sup> Charles Thomas McClure (1875-1912), having contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, went to South Africa in 1905, first to Kimberley until 1908 when he left to take up a partnership with Dr. C. W. Hunter of Koffyfontein, where he practised until his death from typhoid. Qualifications: LRCP (Lond) 1900 MRCS (Eng) 1900 died of typhoid

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Koffyfontein, Orange River Colony. He married Gertrude Gane (1873-1947) in Hackney, London 1900. Together they had 3 offspring. She returned to London when he died.

Ref: SA Archives Repository, Bloemfontein; Free BMD; SA Medical Record 1912

Dr Cornelius Hermanus Marais was to join Hunter circa 1924 (see Johannes Andreas Roux M.B elsewhere on this site)

<sup>xxi</sup> He, together with Walter Stanley Whitworth, Thomas Glasson Osborne, Hampden Langworthy Smithers and Arthur Humphreys were motivated to be made Justices of the Peace on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1902 by Izak Gerhardus Horak, at the time Detached Assistant Residential Magistrate in Koffyfontein and later Assistant Resident Magistrate, Fouriesburg.

Ref: VAB CO VOLUME\_NO 91: 3207/02

<sup>xxii</sup> Offspring listed in the Death Notices of Charles William Hunter and Margaret Nicoll:

1. Ethel Mary d. 14<sup>th</sup> October 1987 (MSC CPT 8236/1987) m. Kenneth McKenzie MACLENNAN

1.1 Margaret Joyce MacLennan

2. Dorothy Jane m. ESAU

3. Eva Isobel m. Frank Newton CRITTENDEN

3.1 Patricia Crittenden b. 9<sup>th</sup> February 1925

3.2 Margaret Hunter Crittenden b. 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1926

4. Charles James Gordon HUNTER b. Koffiefontein 9<sup>th</sup> November 1899 d. Johannesburg 1978

4.1 Kenneth John Hunter b. 24<sup>th</sup> April 1928 m. Frances Louise Hunter CROSSE

4.2 Jean Donan Hunter b. 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1933

Charles James Gordon HUNTER (1899-1978) followed in his father's footsteps. He qualified in Edinburgh (LRCP & LRCS, 1926) and Glasgow (LRFPS, 1926) as a doctor and was registered on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1926. He first practised in Nelspruit, Transvaal, and was awarded the D.P.H and D.T.M&H (Univ WWR) in 1939. In 1948, he moved to Waterkloof, Pretoria, and in 1954 became a Medical Officer within the State Healthcare System in Windhoek, South West Africa.

Ref: *inter alia* The Medical Register. 1957(1):1037; Glasgow Med J 1926:105/106;221

<sup>xxiii</sup> VAB MHG Ref: 33112 Description: Hunter, Margaret. Nooiensvan: Nicoll. Eggenoot: Charles William Hunter. 1941

<sup>xxiv</sup> VAB MHG REF: 37882 Description: Hunter, Charles William. Eggenote Margaret (Gebore Nicoll). 1945

<sup>xxv</sup> In 1896, Koffyfontein Hospital is stated as having 12 beds.

Ref: SA Med Dir 1897:67

<sup>xxvi</sup> Capt. (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Harold Crichton-Browne F.R.G.S (1866-1937) was a graduate of Cambridge; and, in 1884, obtained a Commission in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers. After the Second Anglo-Boer War he became an inveterate explorer and writer of some renown. He was the only son of Sir James Crichton-Browne, M.D., L.L.D., F.R.S., which probably explains his considered tone when writing of C W Hunter.

<sup>xxvii</sup> This was in lieu of Dr F H W Cottam, District Surgeon to Koffyfontein (1899-1901), who left Koffiefontein periodically, eventually returning to England permanently for "the cure", and dying soon after.

Dr Francis Henry Warburton Cottam (1862-1901), M.R.C.S. (1886) L.R.C.P. (1890) was first appointed Resident Medical Officer to the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Throat, Manchester. He registered in the Cape Colony in 1897 his first address being Barkley West followed by Koffiefontein.

<sup>xxviii</sup> The trivial and bureaucratically parsimonious nature of much of the archived correspondence in a sense is comforting for it suggests that such actions are more part of the human condition than idiosyncratic of a particular people, process or period. (Ref: VAB CO VOLUME\_NO 568: 1088/9)

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<sup>xxix</sup> VAB CO VOLUME\_NO 18 REFERENCES 567/01 , 1538/01, 1633/01 DESCRIPTION: Application for Appointment. Received from Dr. C W Hunter, Acting District Surgeon Koffyfontein.

<sup>xxx</sup> For fuller details see Dr Charles William Hunter: a biographical sketch (elsewhere on this site)

<sup>xxxi</sup> Walter Stanley Whitworth (1867-1909) arrived at Koffyfontein in 1893. His son, Walter Stanley Whitworth Private 268613, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment), was to die in the Great War 1914-1918.

<sup>xxxii</sup> Evelyn Oliver Ashe (1864-1925) was a well-known medical practitioner in Kimberley He arrived in the Cape in 1892, his qualifications Lic. Soc. Apoth (Lond) 1888, M.B. (Univ Lond) 1888, M.D. (Univ Lond) 1889, F.R.C.S (Eng) 1892. During the Second Anglo-Boer War, he was Mentioned in Despatches by Lt. Col. Kekewich in his despatch of 15 Feb 1900. He received a QSA bar DoK (sold July 2008). With the cessation of hostilities, he authored the book: Besieged by the Boers: a diary of life and events in Kimberley during the siege. Publ: Hutchinson & Co. 1900

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Colonel Alexander William Duke, R.A.M.C. (1845-1912) MD., R.U.I (1867) joined the army in 1868 retiring in 1905.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Lieutenant Colonel (later Colonel) William Briggs Allin, R.A.M.C. (1851-1903) M.B. (Glasg), L.R.C.P. (Ed.), L.R.C.S. (Ed) joined the army in 1877 and had extensive battlefield experience (Egypt, Afghanistan, Sudan, India) and South Africa where he was P.M.O. in the Field Army in Natal and Lines of Communication (including Bloemfontein). He was mentioned in despatches four times (London Gazette 26 August 1885; 30 March, 19 June 9 November 1900). He died in India in 1903.

His decorations included The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Officer Brother's breast badge, silver; Afghanistan 1878-80, no clasp (Surgn., M.B., A.M.D.); Egypt and Sudan 1882-89, undated reverse, 1 clasp, The Nile 1884-85 (Surgn., Med. Staff); Queen's South Africa 1899-1902, 6 clasps, Cape Colony, Tugela Heights, Orange Free State, Relief of Ladysmith, Laing's Nek, Belfast (Colonel, R.A.M.C.); King's South Africa 1901-02, 2 clasps (Colonel, R.A.M.C.); Jubilee 1897, silver, Khedive's Star 1882, unnamed.

He was the uncle of Colonel Oliver Richard Archer Julian, C.B., C.M.G .

Col. Oliver Richard Archer Julian (1865-1925) first registered 1885; LSA (Lond)(1885), MRCS (Eng)(1885) LRCP (Eng)(1886), DPH (RCPS, Lond)(1905); he was a career officer in the R.A.M.C.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Sir Henry Francis Wilson (1859-1937) K.C.M.G., K.B.E., MA (Cambr), scholar and fellow of Trinity College; a barrister and civil servant; *inter alia* legal advisor in the Colonial Office; Secretary of the Trinidad Judicial Enquiry Commission (1892); Secretary of the Orange River Colony (1902-07); Secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute (1915-21), University of Cambridge Commissioner (1923).

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Dr George Pratt Yule (1874-1955) first registered in 1896; M.R.C.P. (Edin). MB CM (Edin)(1894); BSc (Public Health) 1896; M.D (1899)(Edin); Resident Phys Leith Public Health Hospital; Deputy MOH (Cholera regulations) Port of Leith; late Clin Asst Larbert Dist Asyl and Pathol and Extra Asst Crichton Roy Inst. He was PMO/MOH Oranje Vrij Staat/Orange River Colony 1901-1912, founded the Orange River Colony Medical Society, forerunner of the Medical Association of South Africa; MOH County Fife 1912-1938.  
Ref: Br Med J. 1955 (2); 421

<sup>xxxvii</sup> 1901 Appointment Of Commandant At Koffyfontein Cannot Be Sanctioned. Major Robertson Requested To Hand Over Military Duties To ....

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Claims Of Mr. JW Robertson For Difference Between Civil And Military Pay For The Period 1 August 1900 To 30th November 1911 During Which He Command The Garrison At Koffyfontein. States Army Council Cannot Consider The Claims At This Date. 1910. The Nominal Roll WO 127/12 Kimberley Light Horse Robertson. James Wege KMC (Kimberley Mounted Corps) lists his dates of service as 24/10/99 – 1/7/00

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<sup>xxxix</sup> “Medicine, the only profession that labours incessantly to destroy the reason for its existence” James Bryce, British jurist, historian and politician

<sup>xl</sup> Lt.-Col. Sir Arthur Grant Trollope, (1866-1937) Chitral Relief (1895); Justice of the Peace (J.P.); mentioned in despatches 1901; Chief Superintendent, Refugee Camps, Bloemfontein in Orange River Colony Civil Service; Lieutenant-Colonel The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) retired 1905; Great War mentioned in despatches twice; succeeded to the title of 13<sup>th</sup> Baron Trollope of Casewick, Co. Lincoln 29<sup>th</sup> May 1935.  
Ref: Gazette Issue 27850 3 November 1905: 7332; <http://thepeerage.com/p30899.htm#i308982>

<sup>xli</sup> Queen’s South Africa Medal. Verification Certificate. Winifred N Scott. 30.09.88 Medal Roll Series W.O: 100 Volume: 283 Unit: Koffyfontein Defence Force

<sup>xlii</sup> Queen’s South Africa Medal. Verification Certificate. Winifred N Scott. 30.09.88 Medal Roll Series W.O: 100 Volume: 226 Unit: Civil Surgeons

<sup>xliii</sup> Anglo-Boer War Medal Verification. Queen’s South Africa Medal. Meurig Jones (4 documents).

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