

DR SPENCER WICKS

The CORRESPONDENCE SERIES is an investigation into the background of recipients of British pre-stamped postal stationery. The "collection" was purchased in South Africa in 1999 as a job lot, the which took me six months to sort and mount, creating a collection spanning 140 years. I have no idea of the provenance.

The Reference work is British Postal Stationery, A K Huggins.1970. The first date with catalogue number refers to the year when the pre-stamped envelope was first issued; the second, the year when the envelope was actually used.

Philatelic Description of the item of Postal Stationery:

1902 (CP44)_Dr S Wicks, Medical Department, G.P.O. E.C. (actually used 7 MY 02)

Brief Comment:

Spencer Wicks was born in Bromley, London in May 1869 ¹.

Spencer Wicks was registered as a medical practitioner in England 31 January 1896 with a BA Camb; LRCP London 1896 and MRCS England 1896. He joined the (Army) Medical Department, St Martin's le Grand EC as an assistant medical officer. During the Second Anglo-Boer War, he was attached to the 5th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers ². When in Kimberley he was offered appointment as district surgeon of Hoopstad at £600 pa which he accepted. He was registered in South Africa 11 May 1903. Between 1903 and 1914, his address is given as Beaconsfield, Kimberley.

Though she hailed from Cape Town, he married Ethel Adele SOUTRY in Kensington, London during the March QRT 1904 ³. They had no offspring.

For the record, the following details are recorded:

London Times 17/05/01 (Friday)

The Bavarian left for England , May 11, 1901 with the following:

¹ the son of Spenser Wicks (1837-1893), merchant, and Kate née EATON (1846-1893), married 3 August 1865 Bromley, Kent, England. Both are buried at Kensal Green, London.

² The terminology relating to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers often appears confused. The 2nd Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 2nd Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, and 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers - the 6th or Fusilier Brigade – commanded by Major-General Geoffrey Barton, CB, C.M.G, psc, arrived in Durban aboard the Hawarden Castle in early November 1899. They participated in the Battles of Colenso, the assault on Pieter's Hill leading finally to the Relief of Ladysmith.

After the relief of Ladysmith, the 5th and 6th Brigades - the Xth Division - under the command of Lieutenant General General Sir Archibald Hunter GCB GCVO DSO (1856 - 1936), were sent via the Cape mid-April 1900 and bivouacked near Kimberley in preparation for the Relief of Mafeking and the later occupation of the Western Transvaal. The 5th Brigade, commanded by Major-General Arthur Fitzroy 'No-Bobs' Hart(-Synnot)(1844-1910) CB, psc, was utilised in the Relief of Wepener on 24th April 1900. The 6th Brigade defeated the boers at Rooidam on 5th May 1900 commanded by General Hunter.

³ The daughter of Jean and Rebecca A Soutry (RAS) (1842-1907). A John Soutry married Rebecca Andrews BLUNDEN on 16 May 1861 in Cape Town. KAB MOK 1/1/1050.1970 contains a note which states the DOD of RAS was 2 August 1905; she is buried at Kensal Green, London.

- Sick laying down, 117; convalescent, 303
- Wounded laying down, 11; convalescent, 16

With the following on passage home:

Civil Surgs. F.W.B. Fitchett, K. B. Alexander, S. Wicks

Cape Times Weekly Edition 26/03/02 (Wednesday)

The Goorkha arrived from Southampton Monday 24 March 1902 with the following named military passengers: Capts. C.S. Lakeman, R.H. Steward, Smythe, Lts. A.C. Bealey, W. Wike, R.W. Ironside, A.E. Blackwall, Upscher, H.V. Kershaw, Ralph, Tollmache, Roberts, Griffiths, Wild, E. St. G. Stockwell, Civil Surgeon S Wicks, Colour-Sgt. Speakman and 248 soldiers.

Per the R.M.S. Saxon, leaving Southampton on the 4th September 1909 approx:

Dr. Spencer Wicks, Mrs. Spencer Wicks

South African Medical Record 9 July 1909

British Medical Association, Griqualand West Branch 28th April 1909 Dr Spencer Wicks elected President whereafter he represented the branch at the Annual General meeting of the British Medical Association in Belfast in July 1909.

He died in an Nursing Home in Umkomaas, Natal on 28 June 1934 aged 64 years and 11 months. He is buried in Umkomaas ⁴.

His wife on 13 August 1940 in Liverpool, Englands aged 61 years ⁵.

References perused:

1. Shipping Lists from London Times 17 May 1901
2. Shipping Lists from Cape Times Weekly Edition 26 March 1902
3. South African Medical Record 25 May 1908; 145
4. South African Medical Record 9 July 1909; 161
5. Shipping Lists from South Africa Magazine dated 4 September, 1909
6. South African Archives Repository, Cape Town
7. Medical Register 1900-1914
8. Medical and Pharmacy Registers 1905-1935
9. Family Search. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. <http://www.familysearch.org>
10. FreeBMD Home Page <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>
11. Baker, Cmdt O.E.F., The South African Irish Regiment: An Exemplar of the Military Traditions of the Irish in South Africa. Military History Journal 1983; 6(1)

⁴ KAB MOK VOLUME_NO 1/1/846 REFERENCE R11/1526 DESCRIPTION: WICKS, SPENCER. DECEASED ESTATE PAPERS. 1934. This is a very substantial file containing several references to family and friends, named beneficiaries of his estate.

⁵ KAB MOK VOLUME_NO 1/1/1050 REFERENCE 1970 DESCRIPTION: WICKS, ETHEL ADELE. NEE SOUTRY. ESTATE PAPERS. 1940. file contains several references to family and friends, named beneficiaries of his estate. Further, the contents suggest that exploring the background of her parents Jean Soutry and Rebecca Andrews BLUNDEN may be of interest.