

REED: [sic REID, READ]: siblings REED LJ & REED N

NUMISMATIC DESCRIPTION:

SERJT L. J. REID QSA: battle clasp Defence of Kimberley, the Kimberley Star (Mayor's Siege Medal) and Tpr LJ Reed Natal Rebellion clasp 1906.

NURSING SISTER N REED QSA: no bar bar

In 1997, the above medals were purchased from the Liverpool Medal Co. Historically, these medals always had been reported as being of a brother and sister, though the authenticity of the claim had often been pooh-poohed by various luminaries.

An intensive search of medal rolls relating to the 2nd Anglo-Boer War elicited the following:

SERJT L. J. REID [sic: actually REED] Sgt L J Reid, Kimberley Town Guard was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal: battle clasp Defence of Kimberley (Kimberley Town Guard: WO100/282 p.115), the Kimberley Star (Mayor's Siege Medal) and Tpr LJ Reed the Natal Rebellion with clasp 1906, confirmed on the medal roll as a Trooper in the Northern Districts Mounted Rifles (Don Forsyth, 1976 p. 122). I have not seen a medal roll for the Kimberley Star.

NURSING SISTER N REED Civilian Nursing Sister Miss N Reed served in the South African War; and for this she was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal without bar. It was customary for nurses not to receive the bars to which their service entitled them. The original entry under Civil Nursing Sisters: WO100/229 p. 84 was READ subsequently corrected to REED.

Thus, it appears that, in both instances, the family name REED was misspelt giving rise to confusion and scepticism. I think that on the basis of probability, it is reasonable to assume that the verbal history has always been correct and that this research has finally clarified the matter.

