

‘Ancient virtue and manly spirits’: The New College Men Who Fell in the Second Boer War

The Second Boer War (1899–1902), also known as the South African War and the Anglo-Boer War, was a conflict fought between the British Empire and the two Boer republics, the South African Republic (or Transvaal Republic) and the Orange Free State. At stake was the British presence and influence in South Africa, a situation complicated by the desire to control the lucrative gold-mining industry located in the South African Republic. A build-up of British troops in August and September 1899 prompted the issue of an ultimatum to the British government from the Boers, demanding the withdrawal of their forces. The deadline passed, and the war began on 11 October 1899.

Located on the south wall of the cloisters of New College, Oxford is a bronze commemorative plaque.¹



Cloisters of New College, Oxford

Photograph: Michael Burden, Imperial War Museum, War Memorials Register

Cast in relief, it features a gilded descriptive passage, flanked on one side by a soldier in classical dress and on the other by a winged angel, both kneeling and caressing the inscription which reads:



Cloisters of New College, Oxford

Photograph: Michael Burden, Imperial War Museum, War Memorials Register

¹ <www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/60031> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

The memorial, erected in 1903–1904, was designed and executed by Alfred Drury RA (1856–1944).² A former New College chorister, he was one of the foremost sculptors of the early 20th century, responsible for several major works of statuary at locations in central London. These include the Old War Office building in Whitehall (1904–1905), Vauxhall Bridge (1905), and the Victoria and Albert Museum (1908), the façade of which features his sculptures of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria. At around the time he created the New College memorial he also fashioned a statuesque Boer War monument at Clifton College, Bristol.

New College is not alone among Oxford colleges in having memorials dedicated to members who died in the conflict in South Africa. Magdalen's, for example, is located on the east wall of the ante-chapel, and honours four members of the college who fell,³ while another is located on the west wall of the chapel at University College.⁴ While not dedicated specifically to college members (or former members), Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford has plaques dedicated to the men of the Oxfordshire regiments of the Imperial Yeomanry who died in the war.⁵

A translation of the text on the New College plaque may read as follows:

Sacred to the memory of seven former members of this house
William Brian Lancelot Alt (1896–1900)
Percy Frederick Brassey A.B. (1896–1899)
Douglas Hamilton McLean A.M. (1883–1886)
Douglas Marriott A.B. (1884–1888)
George Ralston Peddie Waddell A.B. (1892–1895)
George Edward Stevenson Salt (1891–1894)
Richard Bassett Wilson (1894–1897)
who served in South Africa through the years 1899–1902
partly fulfilling the commitments of the military role
partly having taken the oath and faithfully serving beyond the call of duty
for the sake of their country
and laid down their lives so that their brave deeds might incite those who follow
to the ancient virtue and manly spirits.
The Warden and Fellows had this tablet erected

Who were these seven men, who fell during the fighting? Taking as a starting point the original entries for each in New College's Register of Undergraduates,⁶ this article aims to uncover the details of their lives and reveal how they met their deaths.⁷

² *New College Record* (June 1903–June 1904), pp. 2–3.

³ See <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31819-magdalen-college-oxford> and <www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/92387> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

⁴ See <www.univ.ox.ac.uk/college_building/chapel/> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

⁵ See <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31665-oxford-imperial-yeomanry-memorial-plaques> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

⁶ College Admissions Register 1871–1924, New College Archives, Oxford, NCA ADM/R1.

⁷ For all seven men a most useful source of information is <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023). Images in this article from this source are marked with an asterisk (*).

WILLIAM BRIAN LANCELOT ALT



William Brian Lancelot Alt*

Born in Chertsey, Surrey, on 2 March 1877,⁸ the son of Col. William John Alt and his wife Elizabeth, of Airlie Gardens, London, William Brian Lancelot Alt attended Clifton School, where he was a noted athlete, before coming up to New College to study Classics, in the Michaelmas term of 1896. In the field of sport he represented the college in rowing, being a member of the 3rd Torpid crew in 1897 (he can be seen at position 5 in the photograph below) and the 2nd Torpid in 1898.

His father was the commander of the 22nd Middlesex (Central London Rangers) Volunteer Rifle Corps, and William received a commission in this regiment in 1897, while he was at New College, being appointed to the rank of Captain in 1900. He was also one of the youngest officers in the City of London Imperial Volunteers, in which he served as a Lieutenant, from January 1899.



New College 3rd Torpid, 1897
New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/P5/3

⁸ <www.wikitree.com/wiki/Alt-255> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

William came from a noted military family, as the *Western Daily Press* of 18 June 1900 reported:

His grandfather, Colonel Alt, was an officer in the old 63rd (now the Manchester Regiment; an uncle, Lieut. H. D. Alt, of the 34th (now the Cumberland) Regiment, took part in the assault at the Redan; and another uncle of his, Lieut. Bulso Alt, first of the 1st West India Regiment and then of the 98th succumbed to fever in the Ashanti campaign of 1864.⁹

Posted to South Africa after the start of the Second Boer War, William was with his regiment at Diamond Hill, near Pretoria, on 11 June 1900, where 14,000 British troops faced 4,000 Boers and forced them from their positions on the hill. Over forty years later, in his memoirs, General Ian Hamilton believed that ‘the battle, which ensured the Boers could not recapture Pretoria, was the turning point of the war’.¹⁰ Regrettably, it was to be the scene of 23-year-old William Alt’s final action. On 12 June, he was initially wounded in the arm by a shell splinter. He had this bandaged and he returned to the front line, but the binding slipped and, standing to retire once more, he was shot in the head. A memorial to William was subsequently set up in St. Mary Abbots Church, Kensington.



Memorial to William Alt, City of London Imperial Volunteers
St. Mary Abbots Church, High Street, Kensington*

⁹ Cited in <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

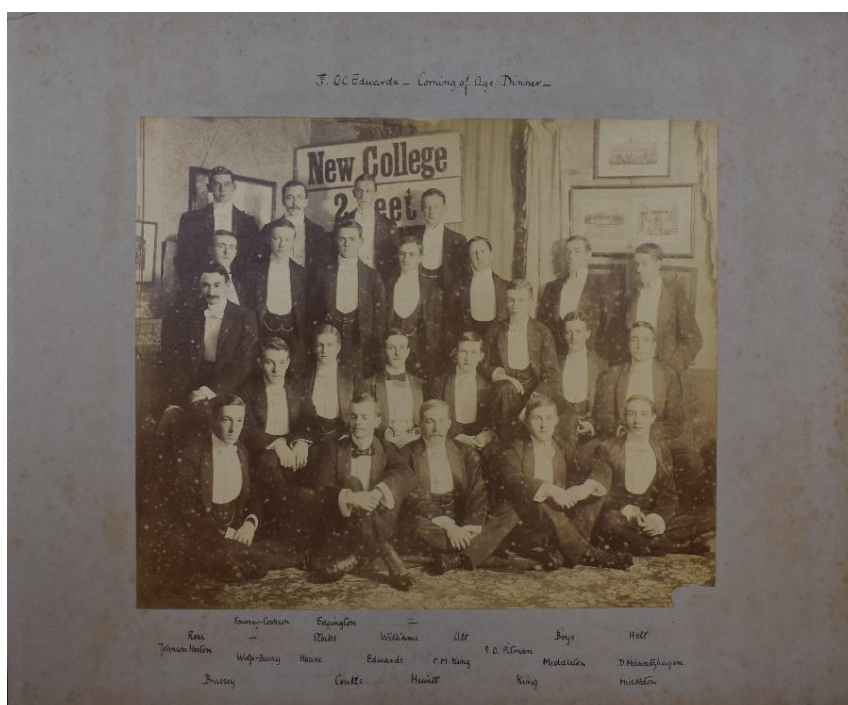
¹⁰ Cited in <www.wikitree.com/wiki/Alt-255> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

PERCY FREDERICK BRASSEY¹¹

Percy Frederick Brassey*

Percy Frederick Brassey was born on 10 December 1876 at Heythrop Hall, near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, the son of Albert Brassey, Conservative MP for Banbury (1895–1906) and his wife, the Honourable Matilda Maria Helena, daughter of Baron Clanmorris. Educated at Eton College, Percy came up to New College for the Lent term of 1896 to study law. His entry in the College's Register of Undergraduates indicates that his academic career was perhaps undistinguished, as he is noted as having failed in 'additional subjects' in 1896, in Holy Scripture in the Lent term of 1897, and in law in Trinity 1898.

Percy features in a small number of photographs from a single collection in New College Archives. In the example illustrated here, he appears to have been a guest at the ‘coming of age dinner’ (21st birthday) of G. O. C. Edwards in 1897. Interestingly, the picture features William Alt, who had also matriculated at New College in 1896, suggesting the two men were at least acquainted with each other.



G. O. C. Edwards's coming-of-age dinner, 1897
New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/R/Holt

¹¹ <www.findagrave.com/memorial/213497064/percy-frederick-brassey>; <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

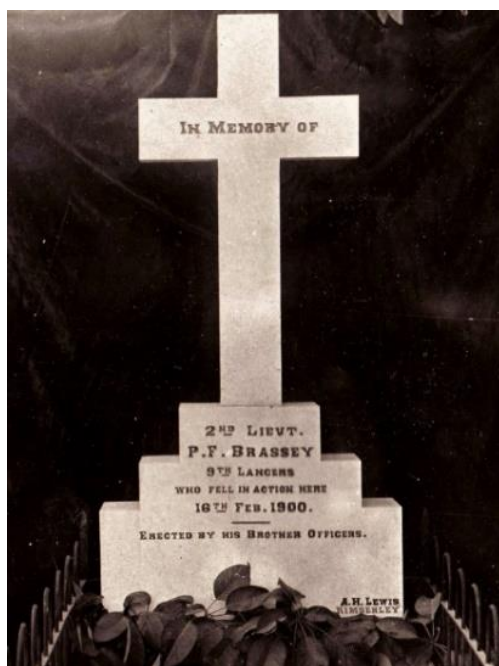
Percy was commissioned into the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry before transferring into the 9th (The Queen's Royal) Lancers on 27 May 1899, at that time based in India. Four months later, in September, the regiment was posted to Cape Town, South Africa. Under the command of Lord Methuen, the 9th Lancers saw action at the battles of Belmont (23 November 1899), Enslin (25 November 1899), Modder River (28 November 1899), and Magersfontein (11 December 1899), as they advanced with the aim of relieving the siege of Kimberley by Boer forces. Defeat at the last of these battles halted the British advance for two months, during which time the 9th Lancers participated in a raid into the Orange Free State. The 9th then joined the 16th Lancers, forming the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, when the march to Kimberley recommenced on 11 February, and they headed the charge into the Boer forces on the morning of the 15th.

It appears to have been during this latter action, in the area of Macfarlane's Farm, that 2nd Lt. Percy Brassey lost his life, on 16 February 1900, at the age of 23. There was some confusion, however, as the *Birmingham Daily Post* of Friday, 23 February reported that:

When the diamond city was entered Lieutenant Brassey was missing and . . . when the official lists were published Lieutenant Brassey was reported wounded, so that it seems probable he is in hospital or is being cared for. Since then it has been impossible . . . to obtain any information either as to his whereabouts or the nature of his wounds.¹²

The *Banbury Beacon* of 17 March clarified the situation, reporting that his father had received a telegram and confirming that Percy had died on 16 February. The following week their column stated that his body was found on the 24th, and that his death must have been instantaneous given the bullet wounds to his head and body.

Percy was buried in West End Cemetery, Kimberley. In common with fellow Etonians Douglas McLean and Richard Bassett Wilson, he is commemorated on the Boer War memorial board in Lupton Chapel, Eton College, as well as on the 9th (The Queen's Royal) Lancers Boer War memorial plaque in All Saints Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot, Hampshire.



Monument for Percy Brassey, Kimberley West End, South Africa*

¹² Cited in <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).



9th (The Queen's Royal) Lancers Boer War memorial plaque
All Saints Royal Garrison Church, Aldershot, Hampshire¹³



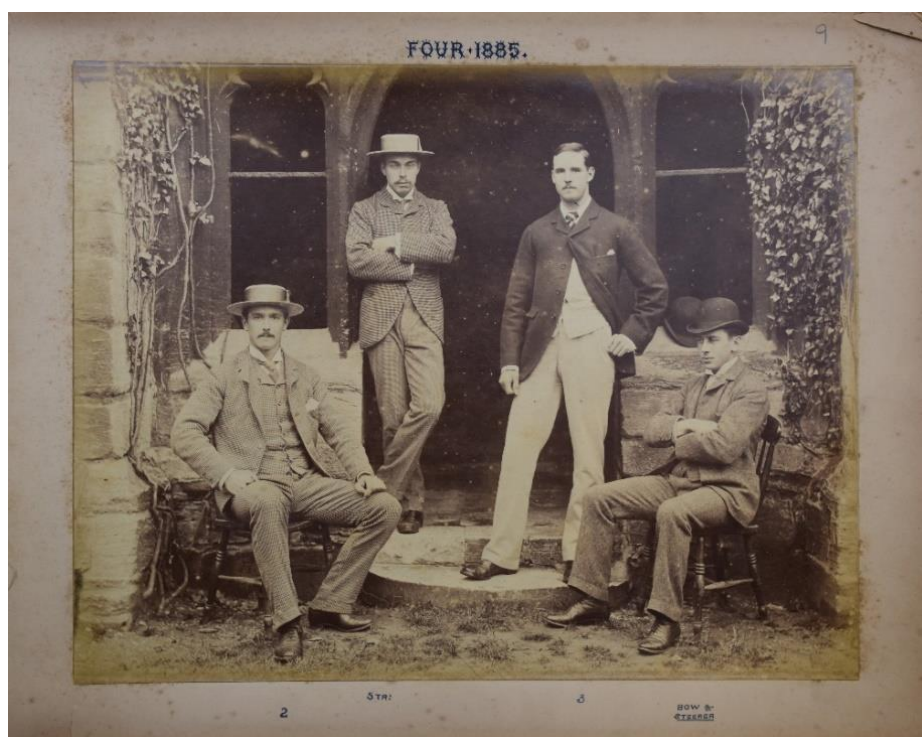
Boer War memorial board in Eton College Chapel¹⁴

¹³ <www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/50334> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

¹⁴ <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/27362-lupton-chapel-eton?start=6> (Accessed: 28 July 2023). Percy Brassey, Douglas McLean, and Richard Bassett Wilson—all featured in this article—are commemorated on this memorial.

DOUGLAS HAMILTON McLEAN

Douglas Hamilton McLean was born on 18 March 1863 in Sydney, Australia, the son of John Donald McLean, the colonial treasurer of Queensland. He was educated in England, initially at Eton College, before coming up to New College in October 1882. A keen rower, he made his first appearance at Henley that year, in the Eton eight, winning the Ladies' Challenge Plate, which he added to various trophies already won at Eton. He went on to greater achievements while at New College, winning the University Pairs in 1885 and 1886, the same years as he was President of the Oxford University Boat Club (OUBC), and rowing for Oxford in the Boat Race five times between 1883 and 1887, winning in 1883 and 1885. With his brother Hector, who was also at New College, Douglas won the Silver Goblets at Henley in 1885.¹⁵ He can be seen in various New College crew photographs from the years 1884–87, in Fours and Eights, including that seen here from 1885 (at position 3, with Hector at 2).



New College Four, 1885
New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/P5/1

After a period in India at the start of 1887, McLean returned to England and, once again, took part in the Boat Race. It seemed as though Oxford would overwhelm Cambridge but disaster struck when McLean's oar broke, contributing to Oxford's ultimate defeat. Guy Nickalls, no. 2 in the Oxford crew, bemoaned in his autobiography *Life's A Pudding* that "'Ducker' [McLean] funk'd the oncoming party steamers and . . . we had to lug his now useless body along, to lose the finish'.¹⁶

Following Hector's sudden death from fever in early 1888 Douglas became a rowing coach, training Oxford crews and even, in 1898 and 1899, taking his expertise to rivals Cambridge. In 1898 he co-wrote the book *Rowing and Punting* with William Grenfell. He had also started to play cricket, making a single appearance against Cambridge University in 1896, as wicket-keeper for Somerset.

¹⁵ See <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_McLean_\(rower\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_McLean_(rower))> and <https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/The_Rowers_of_Vanity_Fair/McLean_DH> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

¹⁶ Guy Nickalls, *Life's A Pudding: An Autobiography* (London: Faber, 1939), pp. 60–61.

Away from the sporting arena, on 16 June 1888, Douglas joined the North Somerset Yeomanry as a 2nd Lieutenant, earning promotions to initially Lieutenant, in October 1892 and, a year later, to Captain. This military service experience ultimately led him to a commission, on 28 March 1900, as lieutenant in the 69th Sussex Company Imperial Yeomanry, to serve in South Africa in the war.

A promotion to captain in August was followed by a period working with the military governor of Pretoria. Early in 1901, however, Douglas contracted enteric fever (also known as typhoid fever) and died in Johannesburg on 5 February, at the age of 37. Referring to his sporting achievements, the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* of Tuesday 12 February lamented the loss of ‘an oarsman of great distinction, and a ‘coach’ of remarkable ability . . . Not any men have so good a record as D. H. McLean and his brother achieved between 1882 and 1887 . . . his valuable qualities as a coach were at the service of his university ever afterwards’.¹⁷ He is commemorated on the Boer War memorial in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Battle, East Sussex and on the Eton College memorial, located in Lupton chapel.

DOUGLAS MARRIOTT



New College Discussion Society, 1886
New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/Q1/1

Born on 7 April 1865, the son of Mrs F. Marriott of Cheshire,¹⁸ Douglas was educated at Repton School from January 1878 until July 1884, and matriculated at New College in the Michaelmas term of the latter year to study history. He evidently joined the New College Discussion Society as a photograph of its members from 1886, held in New College Archives and included here, features him as club secretary (he can be seen in the second row, third from the left). He graduated in 1887 with a second-class degree and later became a solicitor.

¹⁷ Cited in <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

¹⁸ The undergraduate register records Douglas's family as 'Mrs F. Marriott, Oakleigh, Temperley', College Admissions Register 1871–1924, New College Archives, Oxford, NCA ADM/R1. Repton School register indicates he was the 's. of F. Marriott, Bowdon, Cheshire'. Bowdon is close to 'Timperley', so it seems likely the Register simply contains a spelling mistake. Repton School register 1557–1910 (Repton School, 1910), p. 246 <<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vz52qksa/items?canvas=296&query=marriott%2C+douglas>> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

A few years later, Douglas enlisted with the Imperial Yeomanry, ultimately being posted to South Africa. A report on his death in *The Evening News [of Portsmouth]* of Tuesday, 2 April 1901 adds valuable information in this respect:

Lieutenant D. Marriott, 50th Company Imperial Yeomanry, who died of enteric at Deelfontein on Tuesday, was commissioned in March, 1900, as Second Lieutenant in the Hampshire Yeomanry (Carabiners). On joining the Imperial Yeomanry he was appointed to the 17th Battalion with the temporary rank of Lieutenant in the Army.¹⁹

The ‘Tuesday’ referred to here is presumably the week before this edition was published, 26 March, which is the date of his death recorded in Douglas’s entry in the Repton School register.²⁰ This also indicates that Douglas left the school £400 in order to found the Douglas Marriott Exhibition.

GEORGE RALSTON PEDDIE WADDELL²¹

The only son of Alexander Peddie Waddell and his wife Georgina, of Balquhatstone Estate, Slamannan, Stirlingshire, George Ralston Peddie Waddell was born on 9 February 1874 and educated at Glenalmond College (originally, Trinity College Glenalmond).²² Here, ‘endowed with exceptional physical strength, he was always devoted to athletic exercises of all kinds, and as a half-back player at Rugby football made a name for himself second to few in Scotland’.²³ He was also noted as ‘An excellent rifle shot—he was more than once at Bisley with the Glenalmond College eight’.²⁴

George came up to New College for the Michaelmas term of 1892. Notes in his entry in the Register of Undergraduates, however, indicate that he was not gifted academically, failing exams including Law prelims and Divinity in Trinity term 1893, and that he was allowed eventually to pass as he was ‘incapable of getting honours’!

With the outbreak of the war in 1899, George volunteered for service in South Africa with the 19th (Lothians and Berwickshire) Company, Imperial Yeomanry, on the regiment’s formation, arriving at the front at the end of February 1900.

The Falkirk Herald and Midland Counties Journal of 16 February 1901 rather usefully gives a short precis of his experiences here leading up to his death:

After taking part in the severe fighting in and around Frederikstad last autumn, he was invalided and given the chance of coming home, but he chose rather to go into hospital at Johannesburg in the hope of ultimately seeing the war through with his company. Last week there came a letter from him saying that he was convalescent, and looking forward to rejoining his men; on the following day a telegram announced his dangerous illness of enteric fever, and on the 8th inst. he died.²⁵

¹⁹ Cited in <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

²⁰ An alternative date of 30 March is listed in <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/31690-new-college-oxford> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

²¹ All images in this obituary of George Waddell are to be found at <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/26129-trooper-george-ralston-peddie-waddell-19th-company-imperial-yeomanry> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

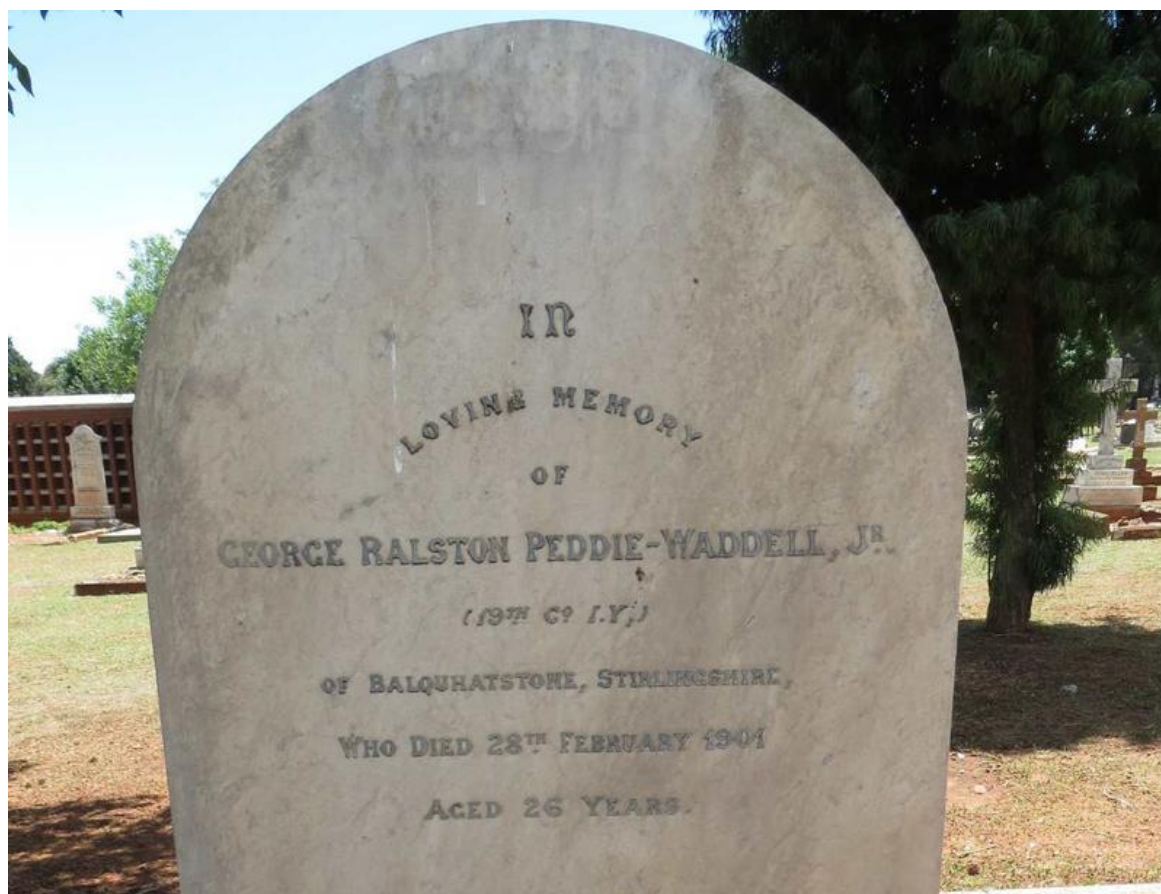
²² <www.ornaverum.org/family/waddell-peddie.html> and <www.wikitree.com/wiki/Peddie_Waddell-3> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

²³ *The Falkirk Herald and Midland Counties Journal* (Saturday, 16 February 1901).

²⁴ *ibid.*

²⁵ Cited in <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/26129-trooper-george-ralston-peddie-waddell-19th-company-imperial-yeomanry> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

Described by the paper as ‘frank, fearless, generous, singularly attractive in all his ways . . . an embodiment of youthful health, strength, and spirits’, George Peddie Waddell died at Germiston, in the Transvaal, on 8 February 1901, aged 26, and was buried in Primrose cemetery (his gravestone erroneously gives the date of his death as 28 February).



He is commemorated on a monument in the High Street, Slamannan, near Falkirk in Stirlingshire:



The inscription reads:

Erected
By the tenantry and
The inhabitants of Slamannan
And neighbourhood
In memory
Of the
Patriotic devotion
Of
George Ralston Peddie Waddell
Only son of
Mr and Mrs Peddie Waddell of Balquhatstone
Who volunteered for
Active service in South Africa
With the
Lothians and Berwickshire Imperial Yeomanry
And
After the hardships of a years campaign
Died
At Germiston Transvaal on
8th February 1901 aged 26 years

Amiable Generous Esteemed by all
He freely gave his services and life
In the cause of the country that he loved

An additional monument can be seen in Slamannan churchyard, in the Waddell family enclosure:



GEORGE EDMUND STEVENSON SALT²⁶

The third son of Sir Thomas Salt, 1st Baronet of Standon and Weeping Cross, Stafford, George Edmund Stevenson Salt was born on 19 February 1873. Educated at Charterhouse, he matriculated at New College in the Michaelmas term of 1891. It is, however, noted in his entry in the undergraduate register that he ‘took his name off the books in 1894 without taking a degree’. The reason is unrecorded.

George appears to have entered military service not long after as, in an entry under The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, *The London Gazette* of 6 December 1895 records an appointment for:

Lieutenant George Edmund Stevenson Salt, from 4th Battalion The Prince of Wales’s (North Staffordshire Regiment) to be Second Lieutenant, in succession to Lieutenant H. E. Walker, promoted. Dated 7th December, 1895.²⁷

As a member of the Fusiliers, 1st Battalion, George served in both India and Aden, before the regiment was sent to South Africa in 1899. The memorial to George in All Saints’ Church, Standon, Staffordshire records that:

He was present at the Battle of Colenso [December 1899], at the severe fighting at the Tulega Heights [February 1900] and throughout the relief of Ladysmith [1 March 1900], and was mentioned in dispatches for conspicuous gallantry at Horseshoe Hill, where he brought a Maxim gun into action till the sights were shot away. Fifty bullet marks were counted on the gun and gun carriage, and one passed through his own helmet . . .

The Lichfield Mercury newspaper, of Friday, 20 April 1900, reiterated George’s bravery, quoting a fellow Fusiliers officer who stated that, in fact, he ‘had three shots through his helmet in a minute, and one grazed his cheek’.

Tragically, having entered Ladysmith with the regiment, George caught enteric fever and died in hospital at Modderspruit on 3 April 1900. He was 27 years old, and was buried in the local cemetery. As well as the memorial to George in All Saints’ Church, Standon, another is located in Holy Trinity Churchyard, Baswich, Stafford.



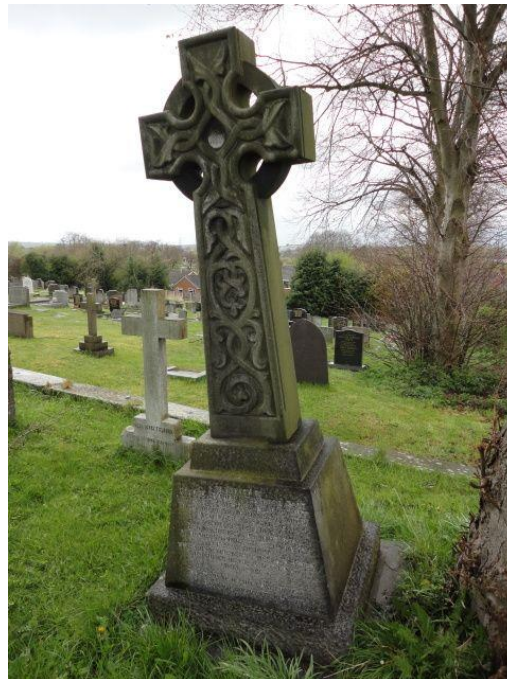
George Salt’s grave, Modderspruit

²⁶ Images in this obituary of George Salt are to be found at <www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/9315-lieutenant-g-e-s-salt-1st-royal-welch-fusiliers and www.angloboerwar.com/forum/17-memorials-and-monuments/26805-lieutenant-george-edmund-stevenson-salt-royal-welsh-fusiliers> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

²⁷ <www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/26686/page/7065/data.pdf> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).



Memorial to George Salt, All Saints' Church, Standon



Memorial to George Salt, Holy Trinity Churchyard, Baswich, near Stafford

RICHARD BASSETT WILSON²⁸

Born in Manfield, Yorkshire, on 8 September 1874, the son of Col. John Gerald Wilson, C.B. of Cliffe Hall, Darlington, Richard Bassett Wilson was educated at Eton College before coming up to New College for the Michaelmas term of 1893. A note in the undergraduate register informs the reader that he was 'Sent down for two terms in Lent Term 1894'—the reason is unrecorded

²⁸ Information and image <www.whobegotwhom.co.uk/ind357.html> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

there. Evidently, however, he later qualified in Law as another source indicates that ‘Wilson was a barrister having been called to the bar on the day of his departure [for military service in South Africa]’.²⁹

Richard’s father had been appointed, in 1883, as commander (Lt.-Col.) of the 3rd Battalion York & Lancashire Regiment. His uncle, also Richard Bassett Wilson, was a Colonel in the Durham Light Infantry. Coming from a military family, it may have been almost inevitable that Richard himself would see service and, in January 1900, he joined the Yorkshire Hussars (Alexandra, Princess of Wales’ Own) Yeomanry (Imperial Yeomanry) as a Lieutenant. He sailed for the war in South Africa on 26 January, the same month as his uncle Richard also departed for service (his father would follow them with his regiment at the end of 1901).

After serving in action for six months, news came that Richard Wilson had been injured. *The Yorkshire Herald* of Saturday, 28 July 1900 reported that, having previously taken part ‘with distinction in the fighting when the French General Villebois was killed’,³⁰ he was ‘dangerously wounded at Oliphant’s Nek’. *The North-Eastern Daily Gazette [Middlesbrough]* of Monday, 30 July confirmed that Richard had been ‘shot through the head during the fighting’, and that he had ‘had four previous narrow escapes whilst in action, having had three horses shot under him, and a bullet wound in the left arm’. On this occasion, however, Richard’s wounds proved fatal and he died, at the age of 25, at Rustenburg on 26 July 1900, of injuries received five days previously.³¹

Fellow officers of the Hussars provided a memorial tablet in York Minster to Richard, and to Stephen Wombwell, another officer killed in action. Richard is also commemorated on the Boer War memorial board in Eton College Chapel. The Wilson family were to experience further tragedy before the fighting was over, as both Richard’s uncle and his father lost their lives later in the war, in March 1901 and March 1902 respectively.



Memorial tablet to Capt, Stephen Wombwell & Lt. Richard Bassett Wilson, York Minster

²⁹ Mildred G. Dooner, *The “Last Post”: Being a Roll of All Officers—Naval, Military or Colonial—who Gave their Lives for their Queen, King and Country, in the South African War, 1899–1902* (London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co, 1903), cited in <www.whobegatwhom.co.uk/ind357.html> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

³⁰ Georges de Villebois-Mareuil was an officer, with the rank of Major-General, commanding French volunteers alongside the Boer forces against the British, and was killed in action at the Battle of Boshof on 5/6 April 1900.

³¹ Dooner, *“Last Post”*, cited in <www.whobegatwhom.co.uk/ind357.html> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).

Following the eventual surrender of the Boers, the war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging on 31 May 1902, a settlement which confirmed British sovereignty over the Boer republics, now renamed the Transvaal Colony and the Orange River Colony, and ending their independent status. The new Governor of the two colonies was Alfred Milner, former Governor of the Cape Colony and High Commissioner for Southern Africa, who had drafted the terms of the Boer surrender. A graduate of Balliol College, he was elected to a fellowship at New College in 1876. In recognition of his services in South Africa, he was appointed Viscount Milner in July 1902. He would go on to serve as Secretary of State for War in David Lloyd George's cabinet between 1918 and 1919, and as Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1919 until 1921.

The war had resulted in physical destruction on a massive scale, and the Boers were given £3,000,000 for reconstruction. It has been estimated that the total cost of the war to the British government was over £211 million, equivalent to around £33 billion today. It resulted in more than 120,000 British and Imperial casualties, including 22,000 deaths, two thirds of which were caused by disease and inadequate medical provisions³²—as noted in this article, four of the New College men ultimately died after contracting enteric, or typhoid, fever. In the aftermath of the war, the Union of South Africa was created in 1910 as a self-governing dominion of the British Empire, lasting until 1961 when it was re-established as the independent Republic of South Africa.

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³² National Army Museum: Boer War: <www.nam.ac.uk/explore/boer-war#:~:text=The%20war%20mobilised%20the%20resources,Imperial%20casualties%2C%20including%2022%2C000%20dead> (Accessed: 28 July 2023).