

Russell Luckock

Born 1877. Army officer in the Boer and First World Wars.
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The Reminiscences and Recollections of Russell Mortimer Luckock, 1880-1948



Major General Russell Luckock.

Introduction

The following paragraphs were archived in 2021, with acknowledgement and thanks, from the Wikipedia website at www.wikipedia.org.

Major-General Russell Mortimer Luckock CB CMG DSO (27 November 1877 – 1950) was a British Army officer who served as colonel of the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster).

Mortimer Luckock, the son of Rt. Rev. Herbert Mortimer Luckock, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) on 17 February 1900, and shortly thereafter left for South Africa to serve in the Second Boer War. He took part in operations in the Orange Free State from April to June 1900, then in the Transvaal, including the defence of Vryheid in December 1900. Promotion to lieutenant came while he served in South Africa, on 21 July 1900, and he received the Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps. After the war had ended in June 1902, he returned home with the SS Kinfauns Castle, leaving Cape Town in early August 1902.

He later served in the First World War and went on to become Commandant of the Small Arms School in India in February 1922, Commander of 163rd Brigade in June 1926 and Brigadier on the General Staff at Southern Command in October 1928. After that he became General Officer Commander 54th (East Anglian) Infantry Division in September 1934. He also served as colonel of the King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) (1945–47).

Life Story

*Source: The following account of his life by Russell Luckock is an extract archived from the book *A Short History of the Descendants of Thomas Luckock of Coalbrookdale*. The book was written by Arthur Luckock's brother Edward, and was privately published in 1949.*

I was born on the 27th November 1877 at Ely in the "Cellarer's Lodgen" part of the old monastic buildings, which had become the house allotted to the Residentiary Canonry of which my Father was the holder, I must have been destined for the 'Church' as my godfathers were Bishop Woodford of Ely and Canon E. C. Lowe!! My godmother was Aunt Alice, Uncle Rodie's first wife, who died young.

CHILDHOOD AT ELY

In my early childhood there is nothing of note to recall other than that according to the old-fashioned method of bringing up children I was constantly being what was in those days considered 'naughty', which did not make my childhood happy and which was directly the reason for a tendency to untruthfulness, punished fairly constantly by my Father in the same old-fashioned manner! I was thus quite pleased when in the summer of 1887 I went to school at Stonehouse, Broadstairs, which had recently been opened by the Revd. E. D. Stone, a great classical scholar whose violent and often ungovernable temper was said to have been the cause of his having had to resign his position as Lower Master at Eton.

STONEHOUSE

Queen Victoria's Jubilee occurred during my first term there and I remember well the appalling unhappiness caused by my being left at school with two other boys and a very strict and disagreeable master for four days, when all the rest of the school, boys and masters, had gone on exeat, for no reason whatever other than that no trouble was taken to arrange for me to go somewhere. It was an episode which I have never forgiven or forgotten.

HARROW

In April 1891 I went to Harrow to the Headmaster's House under Revd. J. E. C. Welldon, who had been my Father's most distinguished Divinity pupil at Cambridge. I was there 5 terms, my only distinction being that I only obtained two 'removes', a scholarly progress which did not meet with parental approval. It was while there that I formed my very great affection for Uncle Harry (Henry Yates Thompson) and Aunt Dolly. The former, being a very distinguished old Harrovian and benefactor to the school, used to come to Harrow from town as a rule three times a term, and apart from the pleasure of being 'taken out', regularly replenished most generously my very slender financial resources. From that time right up to 1939 I invariably stayed with them for the Eton and Harrow match.

WYLLIES, CUCKFIELD

At Xmas I left Harrow and in January 1893 went to Wyllies, Cuckfield, Sussex under P. P. Lascelles. To my three years there I owe nearly all my interests in life. I worked well and enjoyed myself. We were about 20 boys with 5 masters, nearly all of whom remained my friends in later life.

It was there that I learnt to ride and during the season nearly

always had one days hunting a week with the Crawley and Horsham Hounds, and learnt to know and love that most beautiful of counties. It was at Wyllies also that I learnt to play billiards, a game in which certainly two generations of our family took great delight and at which several have risen to a standard of play above the average.

From Wyllies too, I used very often to go over to Lindfield some 6 or 7 miles away for weekends to stay with Mr. C. E. Kempe, the well-known artist in stained glass and a great friend of my Father's, to whom I became very devoted and who taught me to delight in the beauties of Church architecture and gave me a grounding in and knowledge of ecclesiastical stained glass, which has been a joy to me all my life, and has added much to the interest of travel.

In the Spring of 1892, my Father was appointed Dean of Lichfield, which became my home from then onwards.

TRINITY, CAMBRIDGE.

In October 1896 I went to Trinity College, Cambridge and spent there three very happy years. Starting to read for the Law Tripos with the idea (not my own suggestion) of becoming a solicitor, I failed ignominiously to my lasting benefit in two successive college exams and after 5 terms ended up by taking an examination with considerable success in each of my last four terms and achieving a 'Poll' degree in mathematics coming out first in order of merit. Law having now gone to the bottom of the roster, Architecture sprang to the top, but, after an interview with a firm in Birmingham, where I remember I was shown drawings of hideous Portland Stone banks and hotels which they had designed and refusing to allow me Fridays 'off' for hunting, that profession was likewise 'passed to the rear'. In despair when watching the Varsity match at Lords, my Father suddenly told me that if I wanted to be a soldier I could get busy about it. Within a week I was settled in London attending a crammer daily. The three months while cramming I lived with the greatest happiness with Uncle Harry and Aunt Dolly at 19 Portman Square.

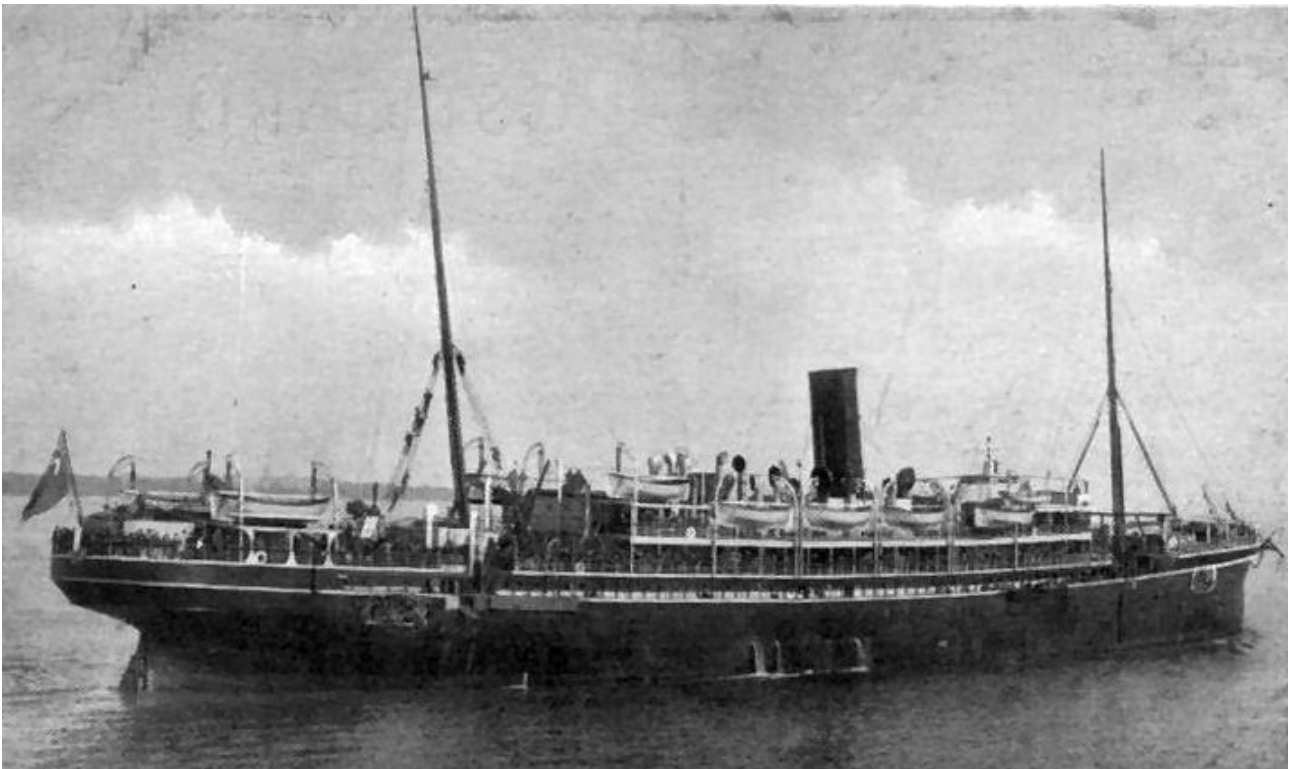
FIRST COMMISSION.

Early in November just after the outbreak of the South African War I passed the entrance exam. for Varsity candidates and on February 17th 1900 was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the King's Own Royal Regiment, which had for three years been stationed at Lichfield and in which I had already made several friends. After spending some weeks at the Barracks in Lichfield, and subsequently at Aldershot, I sailed for S. Africa in the troopship 'Assaye' in time to join the 2nd Bn. during the action at Almond's Nek in June.

It had been during the last few years that the old game of croquet had been rejuvenated, and had come greatly into vogue and it was through that game that I met Mabel Thorne Seckham, daughter of S. Lipscomb Seckham D.L. of the Old Hall, Whittington near Lichfield, with whom I played in and won the local tournament in 1892 and who afterwards became my wife.



Whittington Old Hall, home of Mabel Beckham who was to become Russell Luckock's wife. They met playing the newly popular game of croquet there.



HM Troopship Assaye, on which Russell Luckock sailed to the Boer War in 1900.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

During the three years of the S. African War, I saw practically no actual fighting other than minor engagements, though the Regiment had plenty of marching and tedious employment in guarding blockhouse lines on the Natal side where, after the relief of Ladysmith and the clearance of the colony of the enemy, the campaign had "fizzled out". In 1901, however I had my first experience of Staff work when I was appointed Staff Officer to the Ladysmith Sub-District and Provost Marshal of the town. During that time I collected quite a stud of country-bred ponies and took up Station Polo and pony racing. In 1902, soon after the Declaration of Peace I came home on leave and at once became engaged to Mable Seckham. After returning to Natal for a few months I came home with the Regiment which was quartered in Blackdown Barracks, Farnborough.

MARRIAGE

On May 7 1903 we were married in Lichfield Cathedral by my Father, the Dean, the address being given by Archdeacon George Arbuthnot, my brother-in-law. Captain Washington Hibbert of the King's Own was my best man, and my wife had 8 nephews and nieces as her attendants. The reception took place at her brother's home, The Old Hall, Whittington, about 3 miles from the City and our fortnight's honeymoon was spent in Cornwall.

Our first home was a little jerry-built villa in Mytchett called Heatherbank and about 3 miles from Barracks, the largest room in which was about 13 feet by 10. We kept a pony and trap both of which had been a wedding present from Aunt Dolly.

In the autumn of 1904 on the death of my uncle Ashton (Rev'd. S. A. Thompson-Yates) to whose will his nephews and nieces were residuary legatees, I became the first of the family to own a motor car, buying a 20 H.P. Clement-Talbot, a very fast car for its date with a live axle drive instead of the usual chain drive but which, owing to faulty design of axle and wrongly tempered material in the differential, constantly gave trouble. It had no windscreen or side doors to the front seats, the back was in the form of a tonneau, the two passengers getting in from the rear of the car and sitting one on each side of the door. The car lasted a year and I then bought a 15 H.P. Wolseley-Siddeley car, not so fast but much more reliable. It was at the time considered very smart with a coachbuilt body painted in black and green vertical stripes. Headcover was provided by a Cape-cart hood. Owing to the possession of a car, my services were in constant request to drive General Officers on Staff Exercises and on manoeuvres.

SOLDIERING AT ALDERSHOT

While stationed at Blackdown I took up rifle-shooting, a sport in which I was interested all through my service. In 1905 I won the Officer's Championship at Aldershot, and in 1907 was lucky enough to sweep the board at the Eastern Command meeting at Colchester, winning all the Officer's events and tie-ing for the All-Ranks Championship. At the same time my



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Russell Luckock's first car was a fast Clement-Talbot.

wife won most of the smallbore matches for ladies so that the meeting was talked of as a 'Luckcock' benefit,

HYTHE STAFF

Having become Assistant Adjutant to my Regiment in 1905 and so responsible for its musketry training I came in contact with the Commandant of the Hythe School of Musketry and was appointed an Assistant Instructor there at Xmas 1907. During my tour there I kept up my rifle shooting and during the last two years shot in the Hythe Eight.

STAFF COLLEGE, CAMBERLEY

In January 1912, I finished my time at Hythe and for a short time was attached to the 1st Bn. of my Regiment at Dover, but in the summer was attached to the War Office Training Branch to organise an Empire Rifle Competition for Cadets. In July I was successful in the competitive Entrance Exam for the Camberley Staff College and joined there as a student in January 1913.

THE GREAT WAR

I remained there until August 1914, when on mobilization for the Great War, I was appointed a Staff Captain (Military Landing Officer) at the Havre Base in France and sailed from England in the first ship (S/S Vega) to leave our shores on Sunday, August 9th, being seen off at Southampton by my elder brother, Henry.

In November 1914, I joined the 1st Bn. of the Regiment in the 4th Division as 2nd in command and in January was appointed Brigade Major to the 24th Inf. Bde. under Brigadier General F. C. Carter in the 8th Div. recently arrived from home. As such I was fortunate enough to have been detailed to make the reconnaissance for the 8th Division's assembly and action in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915. On August 28th, I was gazetted a member of the Distinguished Service Order, the wording of the citation being:- "For gallantry during the fighting at Neuve Chapelle from 10th to 14th March 1915 when he performed excellent work as a Brigade Major showing marked ability as a Staff Officer".

During my time as Bde. Major I was present at the actions on the Aubers Ridge on May 9th 1915 (in conjunction with the main operations at Festubert) and at Le Bridoux in September of the same year. On November 15th 1915 I was appointed 2nd grade General Staff to 17th Division under Major General T. D. Pilcher and spent the winter in the Ypres Salient.

H.Q. FOURTH ARMY

In the following February I was transferred to the newly-formed Fourth Army under General Sir Henry Rawlinson, serving under him until February 1919, first as G.S. Officer Operations and later as G.S.O. Training with the temporary rank of Lt. Colonel. During that time I was chiefly concerned with the plans for the Battle of the Somme (July-November), operations on the Belgian Coast in conjunction with the Fifth



Camberley Staff College in 1906.



The Battle of Neuve Chapelle, 1915, for his role in which Russell Luckock was awarded a DSO.

Army at Ypres and acting as Liaison Officer with the Naval Command at Dover in the plans for landing of a division at Ostend, which however did not take place owing to setbacks at Ypres. (Autumn 1917).

In March 1918, I followed General Rawlinson and Major Gen. Sir Archibald Montgomery, (his Chief of Staff) to an appointment on the General Staff of the Supreme Military Council at Versailles but within 24 hours was ordered to G.H.Q. at St. Omer to help the Staff there, during the successful German attack on General Gough's Fifth Army. On April 4th I rejoined General Rawlinson and went with him to take over the Fifth Army from General Gough as General Staff 1st Grade Operations.

BATTLE OF AMIENS, AUGUST 1918

During the spring and early summer the front was gradually stabilized and plans made for the commencement of the final campaign of the War in the Battle of Amiens on August 8th 1918.

The operations, which were continuous until the German Surrender of November 11th carried the Fourth Army as far as the Cambrai area, H.Q. being finally established at Namur.

For services during the war, in addition to the D.S.O. I was awarded the C.M.G. and a Brevet Lt. Colonelcy, and mentioned in Despatches eight times. I was also created an Officer of the Legion of Honour and awarded the Croix de Guerre Avec Palme by the French.

STAFF COLLEGE AND N. RUSSIA

In March 1919 I was appointed to the Directing Staff of the Staff College, Camberley, and held the appointment for 2 years. In the August 1919, however, I went with Lord Rawlinson to Archangel to assist him as General Staff Officer (operations) in co-ordinating the withdrawal of the British Forces which had been bolstering up the White Russians on the Murmansk and Archangel fronts. In the late autumn I returned to my duties at the Staff College.

INDIA

In the spring of 1921, I followed Lord Rawlinson, now C. in C. in India and took up the appointment of Assistant Director of Military Training at Simla, being transferred in the following year as Commandant, Small Arms Schools, India, with H.Q. at Pachmarhi in the Central Provinces. In this appointment which I held for 3 years I was instrumental in the formation of the Army Rifle Association (India) of which I was the first Chairman. As I was also responsible for the Small Arms training of the Army in India, both British and Indian forces, I spent most of my time visiting units in every portion of the vast country from the North West Frontier to Madras.

While at Pachmarhi, I was fortunate in being able to enjoy big game shooting and during three Xmas camps in the jungle, I was lucky to shoot 1 tiger, 5 panther and a fine Sambhur besides other smaller trophies.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

In March 1925, on the completion of my 4 years in India, I was placed temporarily on Half-Pay and my wife and I set out on a 6-month tour visiting Burma, Penang, Singapore, Dutch East Indies, and landed in Australia at Port Darwin. After visiting Thursday Island and travelling down the Barrier Reef we called in at Brisbane and spent some weeks in Sydney before crossing to New Zealand where we spent a month in the North Island. Here my wife took the radio-active mud baths at Rotorua in the hope, which was not fulfilled, of obtaining a cure for her arthritis.

After being hospitably entertained both in Auckland and Wellington by the Governor General, Sir. Charles Ferguson, we returned to Australia visiting Melbourne, where we were royally received by the Victoria Jockey Club at the Flemington Races, and spending the day at Adelaide before leaving by Blue Funnel Steamer, S/S Nestor, for Durban.

SOUTH AFRICA & RHODESIA

After staying a few days in Durban, we moved north through Natal visiting Ladysmith (where I was stationed in 1901-2 during the S. African War) Johannesburg and Pretoria. At Johannesburg I was taken down the City Deep Gold Mine by the Managing Director, Mr. M. Sherwin. Unfortunately while down below, the lifts broke down and as it was physically impossible for anyone to climb some 3,500 feet to the surface by the emergency ladders, we had to remain at the bottom for some 4 or 5 hours until the lifts were repaired - an unpleasant experience.

At Pretoria we were entertained to luncheon at the Garrison Mess on Robert's Heights.

In Southern Rhodesia we stayed at Government House both at Bulawayo and at Salisbury with our cousin Sir John Chancellor, the Governor and during our stay in the country visited Rhodes' grave on the Matoppos, the Mazoe Orange groves and the Victoria Falls.

Before sailing for home, we stayed a week at Capetown, visiting Rhodes' beautiful house Groote Schuur, now the official home of the Prime Minister of the S. African Union, where we were shown round by the same old retainer who showed me round in 1902, when Miss Rhodes was living there.

After an uneventful voyage home we landed at Liverpool in September and during the winter opened up our home at East Boldre, near Beaulieu, which I had bought in 1921 just before going out to India.

NORFOLK & SUFFOLK INFANTRY BDE.

In May 1926, during the General Strike I took over the appointment of Commander 163rd (Norfolk & Suffolk) Infantry Brigade with H.Q. in Norwich the area comprising my native county of Cambridgeshire as well as the two in the title. Then I began a long and most intimate connection with East Anglian Territorials which lasted in one way and



Grootte Schuur was the home of Cecil Rhodes. Russell Luckock had visited it in 1902, when Miss Rhodes was still in residence.



East Boldre, where the Russells bought their house in 1921, had played an important part in the First World War. It was the site of an airfield at which early military aircraft operated. Accidents were frequent; the picture above is of a military aircraft which suffered engine failure and crashed onto the roof of the East Boldre post office.

another until I gave up the Honorary Colonelcies of T.A. units in 1947. During my time at Norwich I was lucky in being asked to shoot at many of the big shoots in that very sporting district. The most interesting of them was the annual Covert shoot in December at Holkham, the home of the old Earl of Leicester, when in 1927 out of a total bag for the 4 days of 1862 head we shot 100 woodcock.

Holkham is one of the great partridge shoots and Lord Leicester showed me in his game book the record bag as follows:- 1905, Nov. 7, 1671, Nov. 8, 1030, Nov. 9, 1204, Nov. 10, 754, Total for 4 days, walking up only, 4749 partridges!

SOUTHERN COMMAND, SALISBURY

In the spring of 1928, after 3 happy years with the Territorial Brigade, I was offered the appointment of Chief Staff Officer, Northern Command, India, but was given the unusual opportunity which I accepted, of refusing it as I had volunteered to go to India in 1921, when after the Great War few officers of my seniority and standing wished to go abroad. Fortune was, however, with me and in September I was given a similar appointment as Senior General Staff Officer in the Southern Command at home under my old Chief of the Great War, General (later Field Marshal) Sir Archibald Montgomery-Massingbold, who had been Rawlinson's Chief Staff Officer during the Great War and Deputy Chief in India.

During my four years at Salisbury one of my chief tasks, outside normal General Staff duties, was the provision and maintenance of all the playing fields of the Southern Command, several hundreds in numbers. Intimately connected with this from the financial point of view was the management of the displays at the Tidworth Tattoo.

WEST INDIES

After 4 years at Salisbury, I was promoted Major General in 1932, and was kept on half pay waiting for a job for two years during which time nothing of note occurred. Two winters were spent in Jamaica and Trinidad; Barbadoes also being visited as well as Panama and the Spanish Main. It was in the January of 1933 during our second visit to Jamaica that I was unlucky to be taken seriously ill with malignant malaria. On the other hand I was fortunate in that on my arrival home in a very weak state I was completely cured by the new-found drug 'Atebrin'.

COMMAND E. ANGLIAN DIVISION

In September 1934 I took up command of the 54th (E. Anglian) Division and Area with H.Q. at Hertford, living at Praewood House, St. Albans on the Garhambury Estate. During my 4 years, nothing of great note happened the only item of family interest being that, having been made responsible for the provision of personnel and some technical equipment to fight the Fen Floods in March 1937 I opened an office in Ely, where I was born 60 years before.



The Tidworth Tattoo in the 1930s.

TERRITORIAL ARMY HONORARY COLONELCIES

In September 1938, I completed my 4 years in command and, being already over age (61) for my rank, retired from the Army. For many years I retained my close connections with the Territorial Army as Honorary Colonel of the Cambridgeshire Regt. 1927-1946, 54th E. Anglian Signals 1938-1948, E. Anglian Royal Army Service Corps 1938-1947.

In the summer of 1939 I was asked by the War Office to undertake the organisation of a Parade in Hyde Park of representatives of the Voluntary Civil Defence Services and of the Territorial Army. The Parade took place on Sunday, July 6th before their Majesties the King and Queen, Queen Mary and other members of the Royal Family, the salute being taken by the King. Every Civil Authority in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland was represented by detachments in strength roughly in proportion to their population - some 3000 Territorials, chiefly of the London Division and the Anti Aircraft Services, also paraded.

COLONELCY OF THE KINGS OWN

In January 1945, I was given the greatest honour that a regimental officer can be accorded by being appointed Colonel of my own Regiment, the Kings Own. I took over at a most difficult time as, owing to the six years of war, all regimental activities had become largely moribund. The work of reorganisation of the many responsibilities of the Regiment was very heavy and entailed many visits to the north chiefly to the Regimental home at Lancaster and to the H.Q. of the many old Comrades Association Branches throughout Lancashire.

During this time I had the great experience and honour seldom offered to a Colonel of the Regiment of presenting on behalf of the King new colours to the 1st Battalion in Trieste at a ceremony attended by all the occupying forces both British and of the United States. During my fortnight's official visit to Italy I visited both Venice and Milan before returning home.

In September 1947 as I was nearing 70, I resigned the Colonelcy after nearly 3 years hard and unremitting work, during which I was the organiser of the War Memorial in the Regimental Chapel at Lancaster, which I was privileged to unveil in the April following, and so, after 47 years service, years which this account of my life will show to have been full of variety and interest, I went into final retirement from the Army.

On retirement from the Army we originally intended to settle in Hythe in Kent where we had many friends, and pending finding a permanent home we lived in Folkestone and later for two years in Saltwood. On the organization of the Army Welfare Services I was appointed a Local Army Welfare Officer my area extending some 10 miles inland from the coast from approximately Dover to Dymchurch. On the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers (later renamed the Home Guard) I assisted in the formation of the local Hythe Company but owing to being fully occupied by my Welfare work on the most vulnerable portion of our coastline I shortly afterwards was compelled to resign. Owing to my wife's health it became

to our sorrow on doctor's orders imperative to move to a more equable climate and in May 1942 we established ourselves in Lymington in a house which I purchased with the curious Norwegian name of Husvig meaning "Little House". During the rest of the war and as long as the Army Welfare Organisation remained in its original form I remained a Local Welfare Officer in the New Forest (West) Area.

RIFLE SHOOTING

During all my service I kept in touch with the Small Arms Training of the Army and in particular with the Army Rifle Association of which I have been a member of Committee since 1912. In 1935, on the death of Colonel John Hopton, one of the Army's greatest rifle shots and a founder member of the Association, I was much honoured by being selected to succeed him as the permanent Vice Chairman and the only permanent member of the Committee, which I resigned early in 1949, when I was unanimously elected the only "Vice President for life".

I was also at one time Chairman of the Territorial Army Rifle Assocn. and as such an "ex officio" member of the Council of the National Rifle Association. The latter honoured me greatly in 1948 by electing me a Vice President in recognition of my work for rifle shooting over many years.

GOVERNORSHIP OF WOODARD SCHOOLS

In 1929, while at Salisbury, I inspected the Officers' Training Corps at Bloxham School near Banbury and so began an intimate association with the Schools of the Woodard Corporation. I became a Governor of Bloxham in 1936 and of Hurstpierpoint in 1940. The school with which I have been most intimately connected was Ardingly College of which I became a Governor in 1938 and Chairman in 1946. I resigned all my Governorships in 1948, while retaining my appointment as a Fellow of Lancing.

BOYS CLUBS

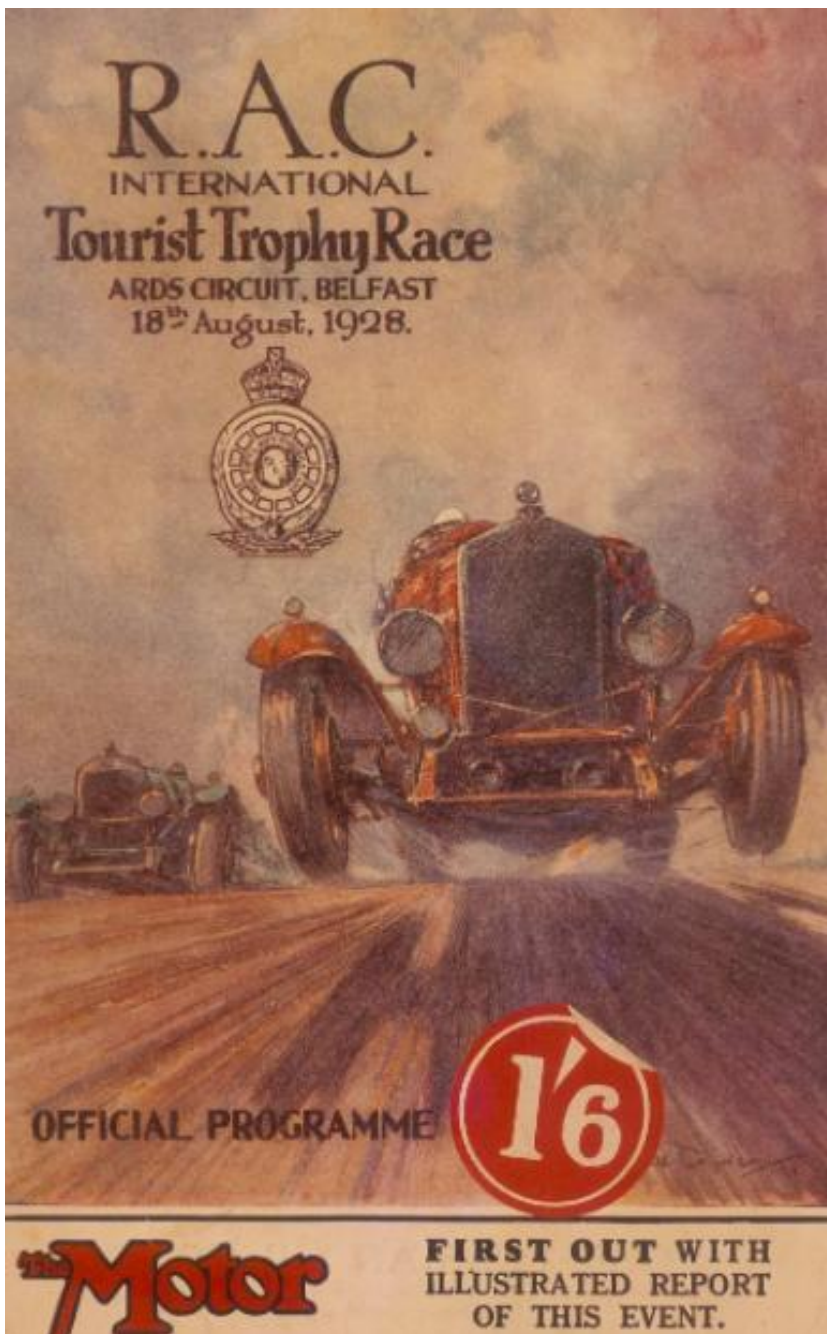
In 1939 I was asked to become Honorary Treasurer of the London Federation of Boys Clubs, in which I had taken a great interest for many years. I held the appointment for 4 years, but living so far from London, could not do justice to the Federation's interests, and reluctantly resigned the appointment.

MOTORING INTERESTS

As an early motorist I joined the Royal Automobile Club in 1904 and during my long membership served on the Committee for many years being Vice Chairman from 1940 to 1942. In 1928, I was appointed Road Control Officer for the first Tourist Trophy Race held near Belfast, a job which I held for several years until in 1938 when the Race was held at Donnington Park near Derby I was appointed a Steward of the R.A.C.

VARIED INTERESTS

In closing this short record of what in many ways has been a life



The 1928 Tourist Trophy Race, held near Belfast.

of varied incident, not solely connected with my military service, I feel I should record some of the great interests in my private life, viz, Photography, Collecting "Napoleana", and in later years Stamp Collecting.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Since 1886 when I was given a Qr. Plate Camera discarded by my elder brother for a larger one, I have never ceased to be interested in photography, and since 1912 when I bought my present $\frac{1}{4}$ plate Kodak, I have kept what has almost become a photographic diary of my life broken at times by the prohibition of photography in the First World War and by lack of films in the Second. The said diary consists of 27 volumes numbering in all 3500 photographs taken in all parts of the world and with the same camera; every volume indexed and dated for easy reference. For some years I exhibited with considerable success at the annual show of the Cambridge Photo. Society of which at one time my nephew, Herbert Bush, an Associate of the Royal Photo. Society was President.

COLLECTION OF NAPOLEANA, Military records etc.

Presumably inherited from my maternal uncles, the hobby of "collecting" has been one of my greatest interests. My collection of Napoleon prints, portraits, books, china, medals and various items of which I have recently (1948) made a detailed inventory number close on 100, while similar items connected with the Waterloo Campaign add another 50 or more.

Among them is the unique sketch made by Sir Charles Eastlake (later President, Royal Academy) from a boat in Plymouth Harbour on July 1815 of Napoleon standing in the gangway of H.M.S. Bellerophon after his final abdication. This most interesting picture together with all the papers proving its authenticity came to me as a gift from my cousin Colonel Cecil Thampson who inherited it through his father from our mutual uncle, Rev. S. A. Thampson Yates, who bought it in 1893 at St. Ives, Cornwall.

STAMP COLLECTING

In 1938, I began my collection of stamps now swollen into many volumes, which promises to give me unending interest and entertainment in my declining years.

DEATH OF MY WIFE

On March 16th in 1949 without any warning, my wife, who, although little mentioned in the above autobiographical notes, had been my constant companion in all my voyaging and interests for 46 years, only broken by the First World War, had a stroke and after lingering in complete unconsciousness for three days passed peacefully away at 11.30 p.m. on March 19th.

Ever since the First World War she had been afflicted with severe arthritis, which gradually developed to such an extent that in her right hip not only had the cartilage entirely been worn away but much of the

bone itself. Her ability to retain her mobility during the last 15 years of her life was entirely due to the skill and knowledge of Dr. Hoven at Freiburg, who by means of his recent discovery of the "deep X-ray" lamp was able to ensure flexibility in what remained of the joint. He gave her the choice of mobility with constant and increasing pain or of confinement to an invalid chair by the sealing of the joint though without pain. She chose the former alternative, a choice which I know she never regretted. It enabled her to continue an active life to the end, though few but her most intimate friends knew what she suffered at all times. Her great reward was a peaceful and entirely painless end to a life of continuous activity and work both in peace and war for the good of the community.

RUSSELL M. LUCKOCK.

Husvig,
LYMINGTON,
Hants.