

A SPORTING FAMILY

After the 1st World War the Kipling family, headed by Herbert Samuel, was still living in Kimberley.



Kipling home at 64 Main Street, Beaconsfield, Kimberley

With the exception of Victor Thomas, who was always a bit sickly, all the boys were gifted sportsmen excelling in rugby, swimming and boxing, initially as players, and in later life, as coaches and administrators. Bert played for Griquas for many years and in nine tests for the Springboks, touring the UK in 1931/2 and playing against Australia at home in 1933. His full career was nicely summarised in his obituary (see Appendix).

Kestland Mr Herbert Burt	SA Rugby Training Team, 10 Kensington	Journalist	+3
Kipling Mr Herbert George	48/422 Strand, London WC2	Electrician	27

Passenger list of RMS Windsor Castle, arrived at Southampton from Natal 21 September 1931



Springbok squad for the test match vs Australia at Durban in 1933. Bert Kipling middle row, extreme left.



Jack played for and captained both Transvaal and Griquas.

In South Africa rugby is more than just a national sport. It is closer to a religion. With the above credentials the Kipling family were a highly respected family in Kimberley. (They clearly had the physical ability to enforce the respect if need be!).

The years between the wars were not without sadness in the Kipling home. In 1926 Herbert George (Bert) 's young wife, Irene Plank, died in childbirth at the age of 21 years. The daughter born to her, Joan, was raised in the Kipling home by Herbert Samuel and Johanna Catherine as their own daughter.

TRAGIC SHOOTING ACCIDENT
REARING HORSES CAUSE FATAL DISCHARGE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
KIMBERLEY, Saturday—Mr. Edward Alexander Kipling was fatally shot near the farm Pontypridd, about 10 miles from Warrenton, on Thursday afternoon. He died in hospital late last night. Through the accidental discharge of a double-barrelled shotgun, buck shot from both barrels entered his right leg above the knee and his thigh was smashed almost to pulp.

Mr. Kipling was on a shooting trip with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kelly, to whom the farm Pontypridd belongs. Mr. Kelly had gone off to shoot buck, leaving Mr Kipling and Mrs. Kelly in a Cape cart. When Mr. Kelly fired at a buck the horses took fright and commenced plunging and rearing. Mrs. Kelly, who was holding the reins, was unable to manage the horses, and Kipling hastily grabbed the reins. As he did so the shotgun, which had the safety catch on and which Mr. Kipling held between his legs, fell out of the cart. It came in contact with the spokes of the wheel, the safety catch was broken off and both barrels exploded simultaneously.

When Baptized.	Child's Name, Son or Daughter.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Child's Age when Baptized.	The Minister by whom the Baptism was solemnized.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1896. Sept 5.	Joan Doreen daughter of	Herbert George + Johanna May	Kipling.	Main Road Beaconsfield. S.	1926 approx July	J. Evans
No. 305.						

Register of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Beaconsfield.

Edward Alexander (Teddy) was killed in a tragic hunting In 1929, accident aged just 23.

Julius John (Jack) 's wife, Grace Oosterlak, died in childbirth in 1936 at the age of 31 years.

In 1937 Herbert Samuel returned to England on an extended visit accompanied by his youngest daughter, Ivy Doreen and Victor's wife Alice. They arrived in Southampton on 27 March aboard the *MV Llangibby Castle*.

KIPLING Herbert A	61	148 Nimrod Rd. SW16	London	S Africa
KIPLING Alice T.	27	85 Ritherdon Rd.	Hammersmith	
KIPLING Ivy Doreen	23	SW17.	Dressmaker	

Given the fact that his mother, Rebecca Kipling (nee Edmonds) died in the second quarter of 1937, it is most likely that the Prodigal Son wished to spend quality time with her and to wrap up the estate, his father having died in 1926.

The address the ladies stayed at, 85 Ritherdon Road, Balham, was that of James and Edith Powrie, Edith being one of Herbert's sisters. Herbert stayed at 148 Nimrod Road, Streatham, the house of another sister, Rebecca Blowfield, where their mother was also living.

POLLING DISTRICT K.

STREATHAM WARD
NIMROD ROAD, s.w. 16—Continued.

Blowfield, Ernest Frederick 148
Blowfield, Rebecca 148
Blowfield, Doreen May 148
Kipling, Rebecca 148

1931 Register of electors

They departed Southampton for home on 30 July aboard the *Dunbar Castle*.



Herbert Samuel sailing to or from England in 1937,
most probably with May before the ship sailed.

Ivy Doreen recalled in latter years that they saw the coronation of King George VI in May 1937.

Julia Edith married in Kimberley in 1938.

G.P. S. 7924-1897-320-100, S. ORIGINAL MARRIAGE REGISTER. B.M.D. 3 (Dated).

No. 6/E 1038

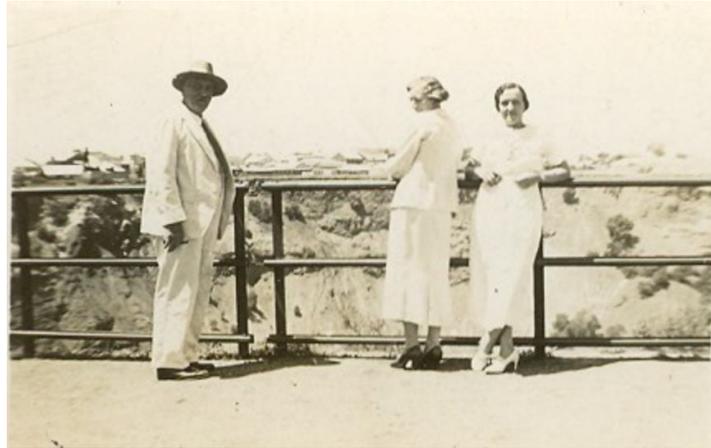
Place: { Husband European Marriage solemnized at Beaconsfield District Kimberley Province Cape
Wife European

Date of Marriage	Full Name of Person Married	Age	Country of Birth	Present Status	Occupation	Residence at Date of Marriage	Rank or Special Service	Counted by Witness	Wife or with- out Marriage in District	REMARKS
10th September 1938	Cecil Wilfred Langley	24	South Africa	Bachelor	clerk	Springo				
	Julia Edith Kipling	27	South Africa	Spinster		Johannesburg	Barras		without	

This Marriage was solemnized by me on this
the Tenth day of September 1938 P. Williams
Minister.
in the presence of the undersigned witnesses:—
1. A. L. Brand (A. L. Brand)
2. J. Kipling
Methodist Church of South Africa
Denomination.
Magistrate.

This Marriage was contracted by as W. Kipling
J. Kipling
G.P.S.
S.A.

Shortly before the outbreak of the 2nd World War the family began to spread out over South Africa. Walter Archibald Culley and Mary Rebecca (May) moved to Cape Town. Horace James & Herbert George (Bert) moved to Pretoria. Julius John (Jack) moved to Johannesburg taking with him his parents and sisters, Julia Edith and Ivy Doreen. Victor had also moved to Johannesburg.



Right : Herbert Samuel and Johanna Catherine with daughter Julia Edith and granddaughter Joan - (the dog is Joan's pet Mickey) taken at the entrance to the Kipling home in Kimberley.

Left: Herbert Samuel with daughter May and Grace Oosterlak, later to be Jack's wife, in front of the Big Hole at Kimberley.

SECOND WORLD WAR

At the outbreak of the 2nd World War, South Africa was a nation divided. It was only by a narrow Parliamentary majority that South Africa declared war in support of Britain and active service was voluntary. Walter Archibald Culley, a veteran of the 1st World War enlisted again, serving as a Sergeant Major in South Africa. The photo of Walter Archibald and his wife Mary Rebecca (May) was taken in 1941.



Herbert George (Bert), who was employed at Iscor, the state-owned iron and steel corporation, was declared a “key employee” and forbidden to volunteer. Victor Thomas was medically unfit.

Julius John (Jack), Horace James and Ivy Doreen all volunteered for service in the 1st South African Division seeing service in Kenya, Italian Somaliland, Abyssinia and the Western Desert.



Horace James Kipling

Sergeant Horace James served with the South African Engineering Corps. The inscriptions on the back of the photos below taken early in the campaign sent to his wife and family read as follows:



*“This truck has been our home since the 23rd July.
Very comfortable too I can tell you”.*



*“We have just finished dismantling a steel shed erected by the Italians.
These are made of steel tubes and are really class structures.
The Italians had first class equipment and the materials
which they left behind must total millions of 'pounds' “*



“This snap I call the League of Nations as the 4 men are German, Frenchman, South African (me) and a Scotsman”.

Corporal Ivy Doreen was attached to the Transport Division and held numerous posts in the logistic services in Cairo. She had a narrow escape when the troopship taking them from Durban to Cairo was stalked by a German U-boat forcing them to return to Durban before continuing to Cairo. The photograph below, from left to right, is of Horace James, Ivy Doreen and Guildford Bentley (Horace James' brother-in-law) taken in Cairo.



After the decisive great battle of El Alamein, the 1st South African Division ceased to be part of the 8th Army and returned to South Africa. Horace James and Ivy Doreen returned with the Division. Ivy Doreen continued to serve in the Logistics Division of the South African Defence Force in Pretoria until her discharge in 1948.

Following the return of the 1st South African Division to South Africa some South African units were attached to the Sixth Division which was the spearhead of the American 5th Army in the invasion of Italy seeing action at Monte Stanco, Caprora, Bologna and Monte Sole. Lieutenant Julius John (Jack) served in the Sixth Division and saw out the end of the war in Europe.

POST WAR – THE ROYAL VISIT

In 1947 the Royal Family comprising King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and the Princesses Royal Elizabeth and Margaret, toured South Africa to express their appreciation for the support Britain had received from South Africa during the war.

Ivy Doreen drove down from Pretoria to Durban to welcome the Royal Family.



The photograph is of her in Durban Harbour taken on 1st April 1947. In the background is the battleship HMS Vanguard on which the Royal family sailed to South Africa.

In 1952, Jack travelled to the UK on board the *Pretoria Castle*, arriving in Southampton on July. He was on his way to watch the Helsinki Olympics. Whilst there, he shipped back a DKW car to South Africa.

KIPLING, Julius	"	50	60	85, Rithenden Road, London	Foreman Fitter	S. Africa
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Victor Thomas died in 1954 aged only 45 due to prolonged ill-health.

THE END OF THE 1ST GENERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN BORN KIPLINGS

The patriarch of the South African branch of the Kipling family, Herbert Samuel Kipling (affectionately known to all as "Pa") died in 1958 at the age of 82. Shortly before his death he was visited by his brother Ernest and sister Edith who were his only siblings to ever visit South Africa.



Herbert Samuel and Johanna Kipling

MAGISTRATE - ROKSBURG
27-1-1958

DEATH NOTICE.

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN "THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT, 1913."

1. Name of the deceased HERBERT SAMUEL KIPLING.
2. Birthplace and Nationality of the Deceased LONDON, ENGLAND, S.A. NATIONAL.
Father Pre-deceased.
3. Names and Addresses of the Parents of the deceased
Mother Pre-deceased.
4. Age of the deceased 81. years 11 months.
5. Occupation in life of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband Centeen Steward.
6. Ordinary place of residence of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband 50 Angelo Plantation, Roksburg.
7. Married or unmarried, widower or widow Widower.
(a) Name of surviving spouse (if any), and whether married in community of property or not
Johanna Catherine 5048/50
(b) Name or Names and approximate date of death of pre-deceased spouse or spouses
- Died 1951.
(c) Place of last marriage Kimberley
8. The day of the decease: On 2nd January, 1958
9. Where the person died
House Roksburg, - Benoni Hospital
Town or Place Roksburg
District Roksburg
10. Names of children of deceased, and whether majors or minors
Mary Rebecca Diley (born Kipling) ^
Julius John Kipling ^
Herbert George Kipling ^
Julia Langley (born Kipling) jk ^
Ivy Doreen Kipling. jk ^

Walter Archibald Culley passed away in 1978 and Mary Rebecca Culley (May) (nee Kipling) passed away 6 months later in January 1979, both aged 79 having been married for just under 60 years and having known each other since the ages of 14 and 13 respectively

Julius John (Jack) died in 1985 aged 85. Having moved to his beach house in the Strand following his retirement, his daily routine until ill-health overtook him was to rise early, go down to the beach, swim out beyond the breakers, swim 1 kilometre down the coast before returning to the beach to jog back to collect his clothes and return home for breakfast.

False Bay is notorious for its aggressive Great White sharks. When the danger of what he was doing was pointed out to him his nephew quipped that it was no problem as he doubted whether a Great White would take the risk.

‘Mr Rugby’ dies in the Cape

Jack Kipling, “Mr Rugby” of the Transvaal and equally popular to the province as Dr Dannie Craven is to the Cape, died on Tuesday morning at Somerset Strand at the age of 85.

Jack was born in Kimberley in 1900 and he came to Boksburg in 1922 to join the ERPM where he worked apart from a short break until his retirement.

He started playing rugby for the mine club and in 1924 he was selected to play for Transvaal against the visiting English side captained by the legendary Cove Smith.

He went back to Kimberley in 1928 where he played for Griquas against the All Blacks.

It did not take him long to miss Boksburg and he was back in the town in the early thirties once again playing for ERPM, captaining the side from 1932 to 1936.

He was then elected to be a selector for the Transvaal rugby teams. Another sport in which he excelled was water polo and he captained both Griquas and Transvaal at polo.

Jack’s brother Bert played rugby for South Africa.

After he retired from



In 1949 his services to rugby were further recognised when he was elected to the Springbok selection committee.

Possibly Jack’s greatest triumph was the way in which he motivated the great Hennie Muller to become the greatest number eight the game of rugby has ever seen.

In the fifties ERPM (now Boksburg) was one of the strongest sides in the Transvaal and many of their players were selected to play for Transvaal.

The doyen of Boksburg rugby “Ossie” Oosthuizen said when he heard of Jack’s death, “Under Jack’s coaching ERPM produced many Transvaal players and personally I owe a lot to him for what he did for me as a rugby player.”

Jack is to be buried in the Cape.

was the club coach for many years.

In the early forties he was elected Chairman of ERPM, a position he held for more than twenty years.

Horace James died in 1987 at the age of 85. He retired as Chief Works' Inspector responsible for the maintenance of the rail infrastructure in the South Western Cape province in 1965. A life member of the war veterans society, the Memorial Order of the Tin Hats (MOTHS), he toured the battlefields of Europe with a MOTHS contingent following his retirement. His final trip to the UK was in 1983 when he spent time with his cousin, Geoffrey Kipling, in Surrey, with whom he had retained a close friendship.

Herbert George (Bert) died in 1981 aged 77. He was struck down whilst watching a televised recording of the final test between the Springboks and the All Blacks in their 1981 tour of New Zealand. A fitting way to go.



*Bert Kipling in later life,
wearing his Springbok tie*

Julia Edith Langley (nee Kipling), known affectionately by some members in the family as ‘The Village Newspaper’ and by other members as the ‘Central News Agency’ for her ability to know whatever was going on within a 100 kilometre radius and willing to share it with anyone willing to listen, died in 2003 aged 92, as bright and sharp as ever.

Ivy Doreen Kipling died in 2011 aged 97 years, one month short of her 98th birthday, a highly respected and much loved member of the Benoni community. Almost to the very end she was still to be seen zooming around in her car to visit the sick or assist someone in need. A character of note and a warrior for a cause to the end.

David Kramer, the South African playwright and lyricist based his famous rugby song “Haak Hom Blokkies”, on the character of Bert Kipling.

HAK HOM BLOKKIES!



Bert Kipling is the Springbok hooker, “Blokkies” Joubert, the hero of the South African hit tune “Haak hom Blokkies”.

“Blokkies”, who played for the Boks in 1931 and is now “old and grey” is the figment of composer, David Kramer’s imagination.

David told me from his home in Cape Town yesterday that he wrote the song for all old Springboks. The name “Blokkies” came from an old rugby photograph album belonging to his brother. Under one man’s picture was the caption “This man’s name is ‘Blokkies’”.

To write the song David had to research a rugby tour. That it happened to be the 1931-32 tour to Britain was

pure coincidence. David decided his “Blokkies” had to be a hooker and the dashing hooker of that tour of course was Bert Kipling.

David expressed regret at the death of Bert Kipling and said he hoped people would remember him by the song.

A sample verse:
Ja ons ouers was rof in die oue dae
But we played a gentleman’s game
But it’s all been spoiled by politics
It’s never going to be the same
So he drifts to the old days
And he hears the manne call
They say hak hom; Hak hom Blokkies!
Blokkies hak daal bal

BERT KIPLING

The first line, broadly translated into English, is “Yes, they made them tough in those days”. Indeed they did!

AFTERWORD

Herbert Samuel Kipling was my grandfather. I am the youngest son of Horace James Kipling. Walter Archibald Culley was my godfather. Ivy Doreen Kipling was my godmother. In the photo of her in Durban the toddler in her arms, aged 2 years 4 months, is me. I was born on 28th November 1944. Shortly before my birth Julius John (Jack) was reported missing in action in Italy. I was named Jack.

Jack Raymond Kipling
Kenilworth
Cape Town
South Africa

January 2015

APPENDIX



Bert Kipling takes two Oxford University men with him as he comes away from a loose scrum. Waiting for the ball on the left is Boy Louw. The Boks won 24-3. A picture taken 50 years ago

MENTION the name of Bert Kipling to the average rugby fan today and you'll probably get a blank look or a frivolous query as to whether he was related to Rudyard Kipling.

Yes, the mists of time have inevitably shrouded a rugby era of some 50 years ago when Bert Kipling and his fellow Springboks strode the rugby fields of South Africa and Britain.

Understandably to many present-day rugby followers the death of Herbert George Kipling at the age of 77 meant very little.

To others, people like Vyvyan Sobey of Queens-town and Danie Craven of Stellenbosch, both of whom knew Bert Kipling well and played rugby in the same era, the news was received with sadness and regret.

Bert Kipling died in East London early on Sunday morning after falling ill while watching the Test match on TV.

Dr Craven, who played scrumhalf to Bert Kipling on the 1931 British tour and also against the 1933 Australians, told me from Stellenbosch University this week he regarded Bert as an exceptional player and one of the best hookers ever produced by South Africa.

"He had a perfect understanding with his forwards. He had his own ideas and needed to give no signs to his scrumhalf. We just put the ball in and Bert hooked it. He was a man's man, a fine man," said Dr Craven with emotion.

Dr Craven added he considered the 1931 Springbok forwards the best ever on the first shove in the set pieces. "Pierre de Villiers (the other scrumhalf) and I were often penalised because it looked as if we were putting the ball in under Bert's feet," he recalled.

Mr Sobey, now living in retirement in Queens-town, remembered Bert as a solid, well built forward and as "an outstanding gentleman both on and off the field."

Although Bert Kipling lived in East London for 34 years and became a respected figure in busi-

Bert Kipling, the Griqua Bok who coached Border to victory over All Blacks

By Charles Beningfield

before taking up rugby, a game which was to bring him fame as a Springbok hooker.

He was capped for Griquas at the age of 19 and represented them for eight years from 1927 to 1931.

During this period he played against Cove Smith's British team and Maurice Brownlee's All Blacks in 1928.

In 1928 he was invited to the Springbok trials in Durban but a fractured foot cost him probable selection against the All Blacks.

He was rewarded in 1931 when he deservedly won his way into the Springbok side to tour the United Kingdom and was an outstanding success. He shared with Boy Louw the distinction of playing in the most matches on tour—19 of the 26 games—including all four Tests.

Captained by Bennie Osler, the Boks lost only one of those 26 matches, against Leicester in the build-up to the internationals.

They were famous for their big, fast forwards. Bert himself was six foot and 210 lbs. Among his teammates were Boy Louw, Phil Mostert, Ferdie Bergh, Phillip Nel, Fanie Louw, Andre McDonald, Nic Bierman, Bennie Osler, Danie Crave n, Gerry Brand, Morris Zimmerman, Frankie Waring and Border's Jimmy (Killer) White.

Of his nine-match Test career, the most memorable game for Bert Kipling was the one against Wales at Swansea.

It was the first of the four internationals and sports writers told fans

they would beat the Springboks and if it was wet, well they would literally swamp them.

It was a dreadful afternoon with rain falling in torrents when the teams took the field and Welsh fans were jubilant.

were going to be correct. But then came a forward display by the Springboks in the slush and mud which was to live in Bert Kipling's memory for the rest of his life.

In a titanic struggle, the Bok juggernaut, half

to level the scores, but it was Ferdie Bergh, he said, who snapped up the wet and greasy ball close on full time to dive over the line for a converted try to give the Springboks a great 8-3 win.

It was, said Bert, one of the quietest Welsh crowds on record and an even quieter Welsh press!

Later back home in South Africa, he was selected for all five Tests

man who coached Basil Kenyon's Border side in that historic victory against the All Blacks in 1949.

Bert Kipling's other love was swimming and the surf.

As a youngster he played waterpolo for Griquas and was for several years their 200 yards swimming champion.

He was at one time president of the Border Amateur Swimming Association, the East London Surf Lifesaving Club (of which he was a life member) and the Border branch of the Royal Lifesaving Society.

He held the South African Meritorious Cross and the Service Cross of the Royal Lifesaving Society.

The latter presentation really pleased him as it was awarded after South Africa had left the Commonwealth. He was proposed by Australia and seconded by New Zealand in a fine gesture of international sporting goodwill.

Later Bert Kipling served the East London community as a city councillor for 14 years with one period as deputy mayor.

Many Queenstown bowlers, too, will remember Bert as a fine bowler and as president of the West Bank Bowling Club.

Six years ago at the age of 71 he lost his right leg and was thereafter largely confined to his flat in Southernwood where he lived with his wife.

Mrs Kipling told me this week that her husband continued to follow with much interest all sport on television.

He was struck down while watching the live broadcast of last Saturday's Test match and never knew the outcome. After experiencing overwhelming hospitality on the tour to Britain in 1931 where the Springboks were treated as sportsmen and gentlemen, one wonders exactly what he thought of those exhibitions of so-called protest in New Zealand.

Goodbye Bert Kipling, Springbok of another era. Would your 1931 team led by the magni-

HAK HOM BLOKKIES!



BERT KIPLING

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The ground was soon reduced to a quagmire and Bert recalled the referee spent much of his time sitting mud out

drowned and unrecognisable in the rain and mud, who it was said would be pulverised in those conditions came

against the Wallabies. And not long after the Australian series, Bert Kipling, at the age of 28, retired from active