

## **THE FIRST KIPLING TO SETTLE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Herbert Samuel Kipling (b1876, d1958) was the first Kipling to settle in South Africa. He was born in Wandsworth in South London on 20 January 1876 to John Thomas Kipling (b1844, d1926), whose occupation was given as City Missionary, and Rebecca Kipling nee Edmonds (b1846, d1937).



*John Thomas and Rebecca Kipling*

Herbert Samuel Kipling was one of eleven siblings, six sons and five daughters and was the only sibling to emigrate. Certainly there was no family fall-out as he remained in touch with his family until his death, returning to England on a number of occasions.

Herbert Samuel Kipling was an accomplished amateur light heavyweight boxer in England. Oral family history has it that his missionary father did not approve of his boxing and requested that should he wish to pursue this course he should do it in another country and under another name.



*Herbert Samuel Kipling*

He most probably travelled to the Cape on board the *Tartar* in November 1895.

Names of Passengers.	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers.	ENGLISH.						Ports at which Passengers have contracted to Land.
		Age of each Adult of 13 years and upwards.		Age of Children between 1 and 12 years.		Infants.		
		Married		Single		Males	Females	
		Males	Females	Males	Females			
<i>W. Allan</i>								<i>Natal</i>
<i>Herbert Kipling</i>								<i>Cape</i>
<i>Thos E. Clark</i>								<i>Madras</i>
<i>W. Stern</i>								<i>Cape</i>

*Passenger List of the Tartar, sailed from Southampton 23 Nov 1895.*

Kimberley was a boom mining town following the discovery of diamonds. Kimberley also had a well-established boxing fraternity thanks to the mining magnate, Barney Barnato, and his famous Boxing Circus. Herbert Samuel settled in Kimberley and boxed professionally under the alias of George Foster.

He was married aged 22 years on 4 January 1899 to Johanna Catherine Susan Fleisch, aged 21 years, in the All Saints Church in the Parish of Beaconsfield in the Division of Kimberley.

### **THE FIRST GENERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN BORN KIPLINGS**

A daughter, Mary Rebecca (May) was born in 1899, the start of the first generation of South African born Kiplings. The photograph of Herbert Samuel and Johanna Catherine with baby Mary Rebecca in arms was taken by the Eastbourne Photographic Co, address given as 2 The Pavement, Clapham Common S.W. Based on the estimated age of Mary Rebecca, the photo would have been taken early 1900 and the purpose of the trip to England most likely to introduce the new wife and baby to his parents.



*Herbert Samuel Kipling with his wife Johanna Catherine Susan Kipling (nee Fleisch) and baby Mary Rebecca*

Mary Rebecca (May) was quickly followed by Julius John (Jack) in 1901, Horace James 1902, Herbert George (Bert) 1903, Wilfred (died at birth 1905), Edward Alexander (Teddy) 1906, died in 1929 as a result of a hunting accident, Victor Thomas 1909, Julia Edith 1911 and Ivy Doreen 1913.

They resided at 21 Central Road, Beaconsfield, Kimberley.



*The Children - Mary Rebecca (May) - centre back, Julius John (Jack) - in front, Horace James - middle, Herbert George (Bert) - on Samuel's lap and Edward Alexander (Teddy) - on Johanna's lap.*

## **THE ANGLO-BOER WAR – TALE OF TWO KIPLINGS IN KIMBERLEY**

Although Herbert Samuel was the first Kipling to settle in South Africa he was not the first Kipling to set foot on South African soil. That honour most probably goes to Rudyard Kipling who first visited in 1891.

Rudyard Kipling was a very close friend of the mining magnate and great Imperialist Cecil John Rhodes to the extent that Rhodes had built a holiday home, “The Woolsack”, on his Groote Schuur estate in Newlands so that the Kipling family could spend the English winter in Cape Town every year.

Cecil John Rhodes' imperialist ambition was one of the main causes of the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in 1899. Rhodes was in Kimberley when it was besieged by the Boers.

Herbert Samuel Kipling and his young pregnant wife Johanna were living in Beaconsfield, a dormitory suburb of Kimberley. Because Beaconsfield fell outside of the Boer siege-line on Kimberley, they had to obtain a special pass from the Boer Commandos for her to be able to give birth to their first born in the Kimberley hospital.

The siege of Kimberley was raised by Lord Roberts and Rhodes returned to Cape Town, where he met Kipling who had returned from visiting field hospitals at Magersfontein and Modder River, south of Kimberley. At the request of Lord

Roberts, Kipling then travelled to Bloemfontein to assist in the establishment of a newspaper “The Friend”. The purpose of the newspaper, which was Lord Roberts’ idea, was to entertain the troops and build morale whilst simultaneously attempting to win the hearts and minds of the defeated Boer population in the conquered Orange Free State.

It explains subsequent events whereby Lord Roberts repaid the favour by nominating Rudyard's only son, John, for the Irish Guards.

Kipling again visited Kimberley in 1904. It must therefore be likely that the two branches of the Kipling family were resident in the same small South African town on one or more occasions between 1898 and 1904.



*Rudyard Kipling in South Africa in 1900 (sitting on desk)*

## **HERBERT SAMUEL KIPLING'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ANGLO-BOER WAR**

Following the relief of the siege of Kimberley, Herbert Samuel volunteered for service initially with the Kimberley Town Guard, later with Rimington's Guides and Damant's Horse.

Rimington's Guides were raised in South Africa at the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War in 1899. The unit was recruited from English speaking South Africans with knowledge of the country.

Rimington's Guides were also known as "Rimington's Tigers" due to the leopard skin hatbands worn on their slouch hats and "The Night Cats" because of their night marches and stealth like movements.

When Major Rimington left the Guides in January 1901, they were resuscitated as Danant's Horse, a unit of light horse, under Major Frederick Danant.

Danant's Horse was active throughout the Anglo-Boer War and participated in a number of key battles in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.



According to the UK National Archives, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant H S Kipling was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps for service



At the outbreak of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, Herbert Samuel was still living in Beaconsfield, Kimberley with his wife, Johanna Catherine and 8 children, the youngest of whom, Ivy Doreen, was born in 1913. He volunteered for service with the 1<sup>st</sup> South African Infantry Brigade. Walter Archibald Culley, who had not yet turned 18, falsified his age in order to also volunteer for service.



*Probably Herbert Samuel early in the war*

The King's Colours for the 1<sup>st</sup> South African Brigade which is lodged in St. Georges Cathedral in Cape Town bears the battle honours Somme (1916), Arras, Menin Road, Kemmel, Selle, Delville Wood, Ypres (1917), Messines (1918), Cambria & Agagiya.

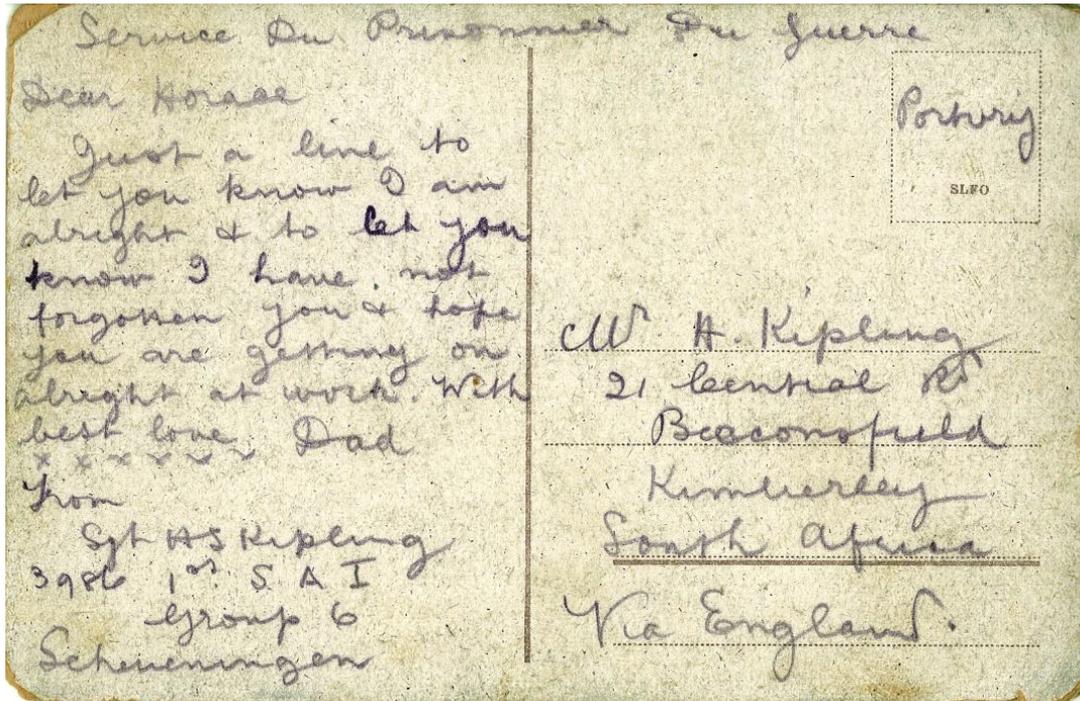
Sergeant Herbert Samuel Kipling 3986 1<sup>st</sup> SAI was taken prisoner of war by the Germans at the Battle of Dellville Wood, part of the Somme Offensive which raged from 15 July to 3 September 1916.

*Previously Officially reptd. Missing, now Unofficially reptd. Prisoners of War.*  
**SOUTH AFRICAN INF.**—ASSET, 201 A.; Ayres, 326 W. H.; Barnes, 1252 P.; Beckwith, 899 T. A.; Buckland, 354 B. W.; Charles, 2859 E.; Chowles, 3405 W.; Clarke, 3894 V.; Condon, 5810 V.; Davey, 5582 E. C.; Douglas, 1439 W.; Emanuel, 2860 J.; Gordon, 6483 H. R.; Gordon, 5877 J. K.; Harding, 485 L.-Cpl. G. E.; Harris, 1515 E. J.; Hutchins, 2271 M. E.; Keith, 2319 Sgt. W. S.; Kipling, 3986 Sgt. H. S.;

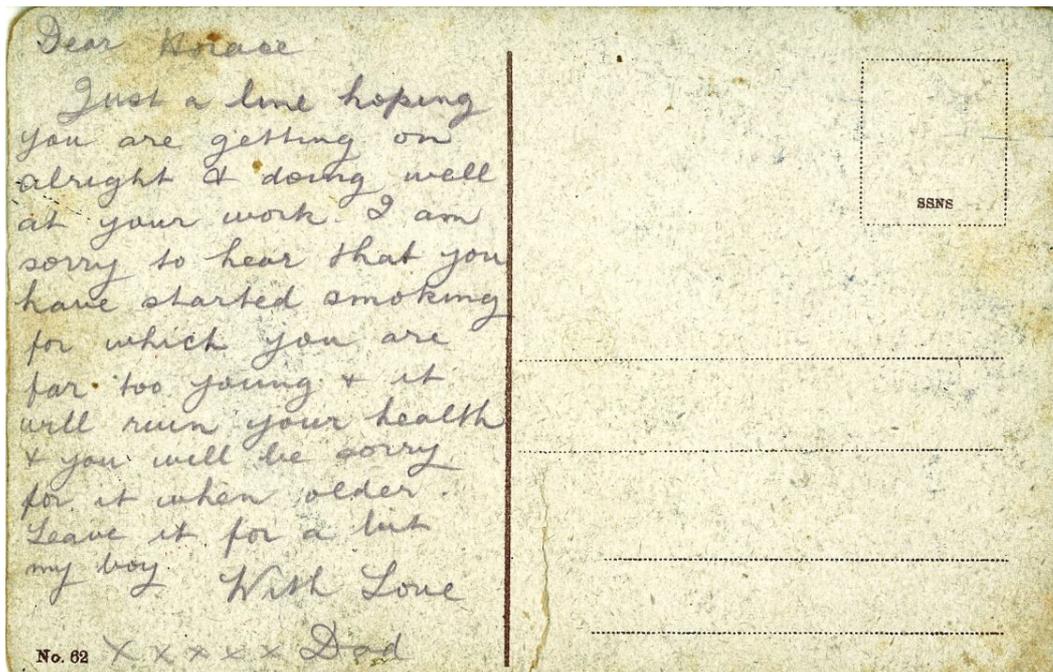
*The Times, 26 August 1916*

In January 1917, he sent the postcard below from Berlin to his mother in London. Herbert is at the right hand end of the back row.





He also sent this sound advice to Horace from Holland.



In October 1918, Herbert was released and returned to England.

Walter Archibald Culley, just turned 18, was wounded in the battle of Agagiya in the Senussi Campaign in February 1916 in Egypt. Following his recuperation in England he was again wounded at the Battle of Delville Wood. On his return he married Mary Rebecca (May) Kipling, the girl he had met on board ship in 1912.

**Jack Kipling, with additional photographs from Peter Smart**