

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.
		Ages of each Adult of 13 years and upwards.		Ages 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>Madagascar</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

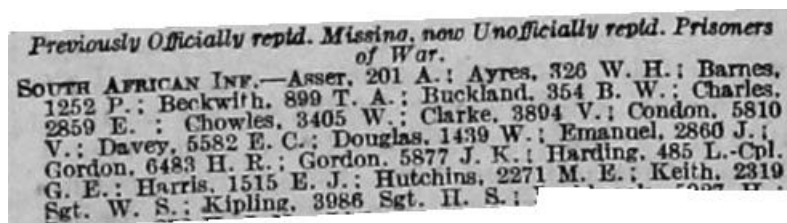
At the outbreak of the 1st World War, Herbert Samuel was still living in Beaconsfield, Kimberley with his wife, Johanna Catherine and 8 children, the youngest of whom, Ivy Doreen, was born in 1913. He volunteered for service with the 1st South African Infantry Brigade. Walter Archibald Culley, who had 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 1st 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 1st 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.

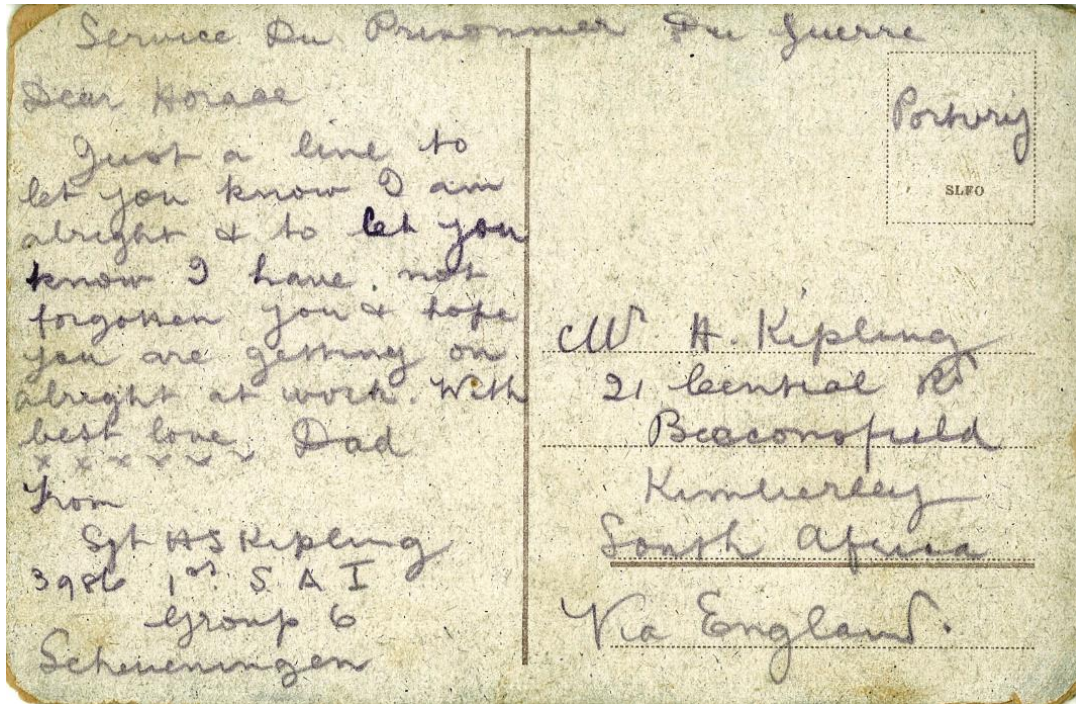


The Times, 26 August 1916

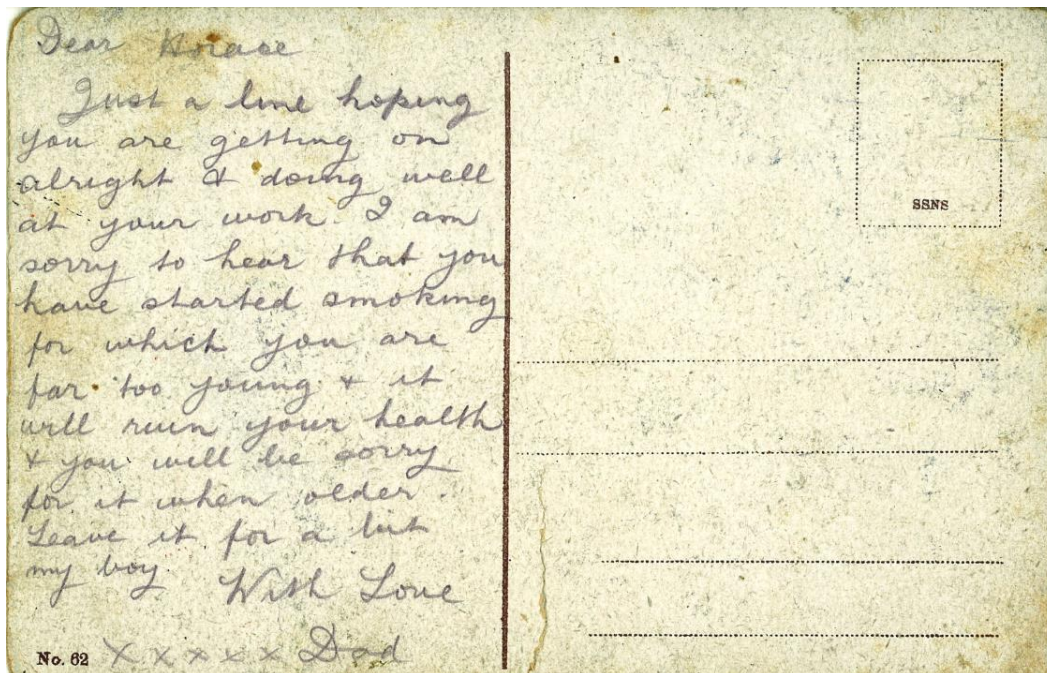
In January 1917, he sent the postcard below from Berlin to his mother in London. Herbert is at the right hand end of the back row.



In July 1918, Herbert was reported as having been transferred from Germany to Holland, where he was interned at Scheveningen on the Dutch coast, from where he wrote the card below to Horace his son.



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.

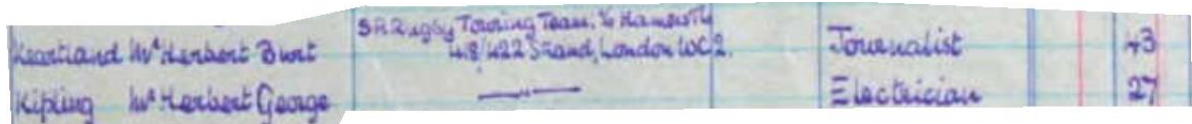
A SPORTING FAMILY

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).



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



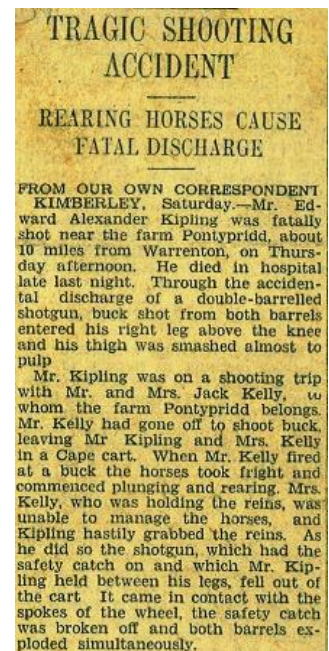
Springbok squad for the test match vs Australia at Durban in 1933. Bert Kipling middle row, extreme left.



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.



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.			
1897 Sept 30.	Joan Doreen daughter of	Herbert George Irene May	Kipling.	Main Road Beaconsfield.	1926 Sept 5	J. Evans

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	142 Norwood Rd. SW16	London	✓
KIPLING Alice T.	27	85 Ritherdon Rd. SW17.	Hampshire	✓
KIPLING Ivy Doreen	23			

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. 2926-1207-220-100, R. ORIGINAL MARRIAGE REGISTER. B.M.D. 3 (Union).

No. 6/E of 1938

Race: { 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	Religion or Special Affiliation	Consent by Whose Office	With or without Licence	REMARKS
10th September 1938	Cecil Wilfred Langley	24	South Africa	Bachelor	Clark	Springs				
	Julia Edith Kipling	27	South Africa	Spinster		Johannesburg	Banns		Without	

This Marriage was solemnized by me on this Tenth day of September 1938 A. B. Williams Minister, Methodist Church of South Africa Denomination.

This Marriage was contracted by as W. Langley J. E. Kipling

In the presence of the undersigned witnesses: A. L. Brand J. Kipling Registrar.

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

27-1-1958

DEATH NOTICE.

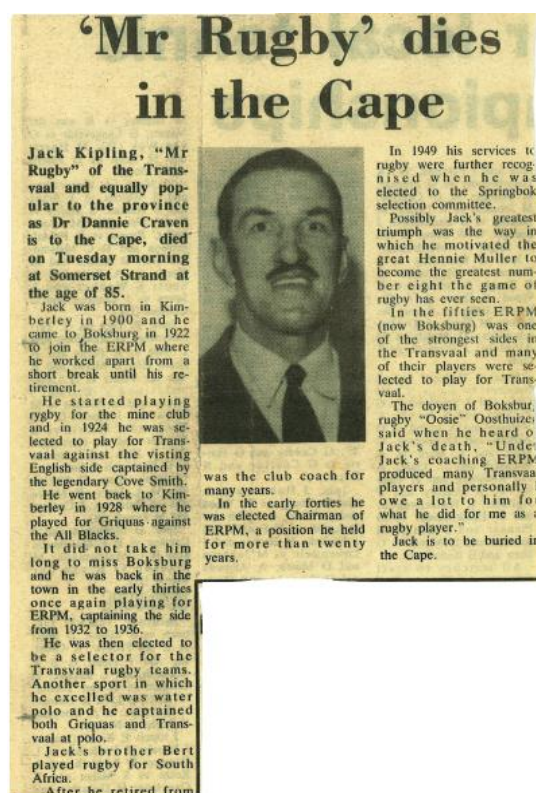
PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN "THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT, 1913."

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 Catharina 3048/50
- Died 1951.
 (b) Name or Names and approximate date of death of pre-deceased spouse or spouses
Kimberley
 (c) Place of last marriage
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 Sney (born Kipling) ^
Julius John Kipling ^
Herbert George Kipling ^
Julie Langley (born Kipling) JJK ^
Ivy Doreen Kipling. JJK ^

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.



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

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

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

With additional photographs from Peter Smart