

ABRAHAM PEARCE

Together with those of GJ Brynell, R N Cochrane, W Ransley, J Ewing, Tj McKenna, H Morbey and B Wood, a brief biographical sketch of Mr Abraham Pearce was published in the Wesleyan "*The British Flag and Christian Sentinel*". It read as follows:-

"Mr Abraham Pearce is at Lord Methuen's base, being attached to the Army Service Corps at Orange River Station. His great-grandfather was converted as an outcome of the ministry of the famous Robert Brackenbury, in 1793; and his descendant was early led to make the same surrender. At nineteen years of age, he became so acceptable as a lay preacher that he was strongly urged to devote his whole time to Christian toil. His heart had been early drawn towards foreign mission work, in part by the fact that one of his kinsmen was captain of a mission ship; but Mr. Pearce was destined to influence lands beyond the sea only by the agency of soldiers won by him for Christ in the home-land. Accordingly, eighteen years ago, he came to Aldershot, where he has worked under our Society. In the midst of an ever changing garrison of about fifteen thousand men, he has, during those years, come into personal and kindly contact with an enormous host of almost all ranks and regiments; so that he is today well known by name, and by good repute, in nearly every garrison of the British Empire, from Bermuda to Hong Kong, from Quetta to Dongola."

He was awarded the Queens South Africa Medal (bars Cape Colony, Orange Free State) (inscribed MR.A.PEARCE.A.S.R.). An extract of the QSA medal roll certified by Owen S Watkins (Senior Wesleyan A.C.F : 1st Army Corps) confirms his 2 clasps and service chiefly at the Orange River Base Hospital and at Zoutpan Drift. Together with the Rev. Mr. EP Lowry, he left England aboard the *Nubia* on 21 October 1899 and returned 26th June 1900.



Medals named to an Army Scripture Reader are rare.

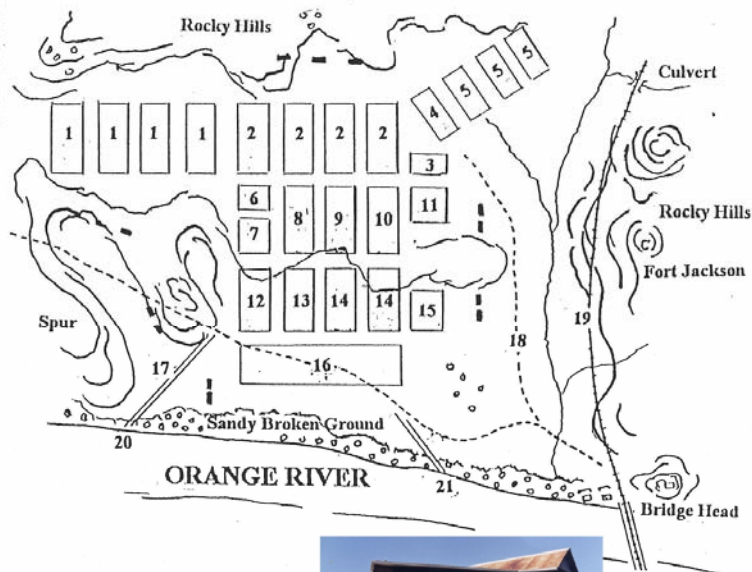
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1. "Scripture Readers in South Africa". *The British Flag and Christian Sentinel* February 1900 : 18
2. Letter to the Editor : "Methodist Troops in South Africa : What Our Chaplains Need". *Methodist Times* 19 Oct 1899 : 726
3. "Ordered to the Front. Au Revoir to the Wesleyan Chaplain." *Methodist Times* 26 Oct 1899 : 743
4. DOORNBULT at Oranjerivierstasie : R M Pelteret (published on this site)

MILITARY CAMP ON THE NORTHERN BANK OF THE ORANGE RIVER AT HOPETOWN



1. 9th Brig. Col. Fetherstonhaugh
2nd Northamptonshire Reg
2nd Yorkshire Light Infantry
1st Northumberland Fusiliers
2. Guards Brigade
Coldstream Guards
Scots Guards
Grenadier Guards
3. 9th Brigade Head Quarters
4. Vacant
5. Army Service Corps
6. 9th Brigade Head Quarters
7. 9th Brigade Bearer Company
8. 9th Brigade Field Hospital
9. 9th Brigade Field Hospital
10. Division 1 Field Hospital
11. 9th Brigade Bearer Company
12. Rimington's Horse
13. Mounted Infantry
14. 9th Lancers
15. Royal Engineers
16. Royal Artillery
17. Foot Board
18. Sandy Track
19. Railway Line
20. Water for Horses
21. Drinking Water
- Latrines
- Green Bush
- ✕✕ Railway Track



Positions 8 and 9 define the location of Methuen's 9th Brigade Field Hospital

The *Nubia*, built by Caird & Co, Greenock, was launched on 13th December 1894 for the P & O Steam Navigation Co. She had accommodation for 90 1st and 62 2nd class passengers. She was used on the intermediate service to Calcutta and for troop transport when necessity demanded. During the Anglo-Boer War frequently she was used both as a troop carrier and hospital ship. Pearce travelled to South Africa together with the 1st battalion Scots Guards and a half battalion 2nd Northamptonshire Regiment. On 20th June 1915, she was wrecked off Colombo while awaiting a pilot. At the time she was en route to Bombay, Colombo and Shanghai with a general cargo. There were no casualties.

REFERENCES :

1. Merchant Fleets (v.I). Duncan Haws
2. P & O : A Fleet History. S. Rabson & K. O'Donoghue
3. www.lascars.co.uk/shiplist.html
4. www.theshipslist.com/ships/lines.html

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