

## Annex B

Here, I record some notes of interest:-

1. Robert Keith Cannan
2. Horatius James Cannan (Nephew of *H.J.C.*)
3. Cannan
4. Reverend Eardley, notes from St John's
5. 17<sup>th</sup>. (Northern) Division

1. **ROBERT KEITH CANNAN** (The eldest Son of David Cannan).  
*April 18, 1894-May 24, 1971 - Taken from an article by John T. Edsall.*

**THE VARIED LIFE OF ROBERT KEITH CANNAN** involved four years of front-line service in the British army during the First World War, a decade of research and teaching at University College, London; more than twenty years as head of the Biochemistry Department at New York University Medical School; and a final period of some fifteen years in Washington, as chairman of the Division of Medical Sciences of the National Research Council. He was the son of a physician, David Cannan, and was named after an ancestor, one Bishop Keith, brother of Field Marshal F. J. E. Keith, the foremost general of Frederick the Great. His maternal grandfather was Robert Cunningham. Records extending back to the seventeenth century show that his ancestors were Scottish on both sides, though his parents lived in or near London. In 1890 David Cannan, his wife Mary, and son Horatius James, moved to start a new life, and settled in Fowler, California. There, after a sister Marjorie, Robert Keith Cannan—always called Keith—was born in 1894. In 1896, having decided to leave California, the family spent several months in Asheville, North Carolina, where David Cannan hoped to establish a practice. Apparently, however, too many doctors were already well established there, and in 1897 the family returned to London. Thus Keith grew up a British subject.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS**

He received his early education in Forest Gate (London) and then attended the Coopers Company School in Bow, London, a school established by one of the wealthy City Companies of the City of London. In 1911 he entered East London College (later renamed Queen Mary College) of the University of London, completing the honors course in chemistry and receiving the B.Sc. degree in 1914.

### **SERVICE IN WORLD WAR I**

When war broke out in August 1914, Keith Cannan was among the first to respond to the call for volunteers. He joined the London Scottish Regiment, but shortly obtained the King's Commission as an officer (second lieutenant) in the East Lancashire Regiment. The regiment proceeded to France in February 1915. Keith Cannan was badly wounded in one of the major battles of May 1915, was sent home, and returned to active service five months later.

Soon thereafter he was transferred to take command of a Trench Mortar Battery, was promoted to captain in the Special Reserve in 1916, and became Trench Mortar Officer of the 66th Division. He fought in the

Battle of Ypres and in other major campaigns of the British Expeditionary Force. He was twice "mentioned in dispatches" from Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig "for gallant and distinguished service in the field," and a later certificate added, "I have it in command from the King to record his Majesty's high appreciation of the services rendered" (Signed by Winston S. Churchill, Secretary of State for War, March 1919). He was finally demobilized in 1919, after four years of distinguished service.

### **IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, 1919-1930**

For about a year after demobilization, he pursued the medical course at St.Bartholomew's Hospital and University College, London.

## **2. Horatius James Cannan.** (Nephew of *HJC* and Elder Son of David)

*Born 1889 in West Ham London. Died November, 1986 Greenwich, London*

*(32v & 32vi).*

In The London Gazette, there are records of Horatius James Cannan which I presume is David's son. In December 1907, Horatius James Cannan was certified in the clerks division of the Civil Service and again in 1912 in the Customs and Excise Department <sup>(32 & 32i)</sup>. In 1914, Private Horatius James Cannan was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in to the 6th Battalion the Essex Regiment. On the 17th December, 1919, he was promoted to Captain in the same Regiment <sup>(32ii & 32iii)</sup>. He is recorded in B.T. telephone Books in 1984; address 2, The Quadrangle Morden College St. Germans. He died in November, 1986, in Greenwich <sup>(32iv)</sup>.

## **3. Cannan**

There is reference to other Cannans that most probably are ancestors of *H.J.C.*

### **a. The Commissariat Record of Edinburgh 1701- 1800 list of burials:**

Cannan, James, of Guffockland 24th July, 1732 <sup>(32)</sup>.

Cannan, John of Barley 23rd Jan, 1767 <sup>(32)</sup>.

### **b. Ancestry .co.uk:**

Midlothian, Edinburgh Register of Marriages:

Cannan, Horatius of Barley and Miss. Catherine Pyott alias Maitland daughter of deceased James Pyott, 12th November, 1779. They had a son Horatius born 1st August, 1788 <sup>(33a, 32ai & 32aii)</sup>.

c. UK and US Directory:

Horatius Cannan writer to the Signet 1787 <sup>(34)</sup>.

Horatius Cannan writer to the Signet 1819 of Hart St. Edinburgh <sup>(34a)</sup>.

Horatius Cannan writer to the Signet 1820 of Hart St. Edinburgh <sup>(34ai)</sup>.

Horatius Cannan writer to the Signet 1828 of Annandale St. Edinburgh <sup>(34aii)</sup>.

Horatius Cannan writer to the Signet 1830 of Clyde Street and 17, Howard Place, Edinburgh <sup>(34aiii)</sup>.

d. Ancestry .co.uk. Census 1841:

Horatius Cannan b. 1791, (Female?!) Checker Majestys Signet. of Howard Place <sup>(35)</sup>.

Janet Cannan Female b. 1791, of Howard Place <sup>(34ai)</sup> (Same date of birth?).

Agnes Cannan b.1796. Charlotte Cannan b.1801.

Elizabeth Cannan b.1837<sup>(34ai)</sup>

e. FIBIS- Record:

Thomas Horatius Cannan d.1854 in London aged 47 years. Retired surgeon Madras Native infantry. Eldest son of David Cannan (Deceased) <sup>(36 & 36a)</sup>.

#### 4. Notes on Rev. Eardley written from St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells.

Dear Mr. Jackson,

Thank you for your interesting enquiry. I'm afraid little of what we have here answers your question.

The Rev. Henry Edwyn Eardley was indeed the Vicar of St. John's Tunbridge Wells, as from 1891. His predecessor, the Rev. Thomas Woods Weston, died in office and kept no parish records, so we have no details of how Mr. Eardley was appointed.

The Crockford's entry for Mr. Eardley reads as follows:

Ordained 1881

Curate at Swanage 1881-4

Private Chaplain 1884-7

Assoc Sec CMS Cttee, York 1886-91

Vicar St John's TW 1891-1908

Rector Swanage & Herston 1908-16

Rector St Tudy 1916-26

He died in 1932

He overworked himself while at St J, and is said to have 'done 50 yrs' work in the 17 years he spent here'. He revived a dying parish (which had slumped to less than 50 Easter communicants), started the parish magazine, oversaw a huge enlargement of the church building itself in 1897, and set up many parish activities.

In 1907-8 he undertook a lengthy health-seeking cruise, during which time his duties were covered by a Pro-Vicar, the Rev. Charles Edward Coade, BD, LLD, who interrupted his own time as Vicar of Nocton to come here. On his return, however, Mr. Eardley had to admit his health was no longer up to running St J and so he had to seek lighter duties elsewhere.

His move to Swanage was by mutual transfer with his successor, the Rev. William Henry Parsons, who stayed until 1925. Your glimpse of Mr. Eardley's tree planting at St Tudy is most interesting!

I am afraid that's all our parish records tell us in connection with your query. If any of the people you mention were resident in Tunbridge Wells, they would presumably be mentioned in the Tunbridge Wells Directory, which is in the Reference/Reading Room at the town library.

I wish you more success in your quest.

Yours sincerely,

André Wilson,

St John's Church Archivist

## 5. History of The 17<sup>th</sup>. (Northern) Division.

The 17th Division came into existence on 11 September 1914, the third in seniority of Kitchener's Second New Army, with brigades numbered 50th, 51st and 52nd. It assembled around Wareham in Dorset. In the early days the new volunteer's had very few trained officers and NCOs to command them. Billets and equipment were also somewhat lacking. The Division completed its final training in the Winchester area, and was considered fit in the following summer and left for France in July 1915. It fought on the Western Front for the rest of the war, winning four VCs and suffering 40,258 casualties. Its first commander was Major-General W. R. Kenyon-Slaney, late Rifle Brigade, who had retired a year earlier at the age of 62; he was replaced after four months and went back into retirement. The new man was T. D. Pilcher of the Bedfords, who had come from command of the Burma Division. The division's first major action was at Hooze in July-August 1915 and it remained in the Salient for the next eight months, moving south to the Somme in June 1916 after a short spell in the Armentieres sector. On the opening day of the Somme offensive 50th Brigade attacked Fricourt and one of its battalions, 10th W Yorks, sustained 733 casualties of whom 307 were killed, eleven of them officers including the CO, 2IC, adjutant and two company commanders; this was the highest casualty rate for a single battalion on that day. Fricourt New Cemetery is in the No-man's Land across which the battalion attacked, and in it lie 159 officers and men of the battalion, the CO (Dickson) and his adjutant (Shand) side by side. Pilcher was sent home and P. R. Robertson, a Cameronian, then commanding 19th Brigade, took over command for the rest of the war. The division went on to fight in the 1917 Arras offensive and in Third Ypres. It was back on the Somme battleground during the German March 1918 onslaught and in the August counter-offensive which marked the beginning of the end for Germany.

In total, the Division suffered more than **40,200** casualties during the Great War. Demobilization was completed by May 1919.

*Below, I record the order of battle of the 17<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division to give an idea of the size and numbers involved.*

**50th Brigade:** 10th (Service) Bn, the [West Yorkshires](#) (joined September 1914). 7th (Service) Bn, the [East Yorkshires](#) (joined September 1914). 7th (Service) Bn, the [Yorkshire](#) (joined September 1914, disbanded February 1918). 6th (Service) Bn, the [Dorsets](#) (joined March 1915). 7th (Service) Bn, the [York and Lancaster](#) (joined August 1914, left March 1915). 50th Brigade Machine Gun Company (joined 12 February 1916, moved into 17 MG Bn 24 February 1918). 50th Trench Mortar Battery (joined 25 June 1916)

**51st Brigade:** 7th (Service) Bn, the [Lincolns](#) (joined September 1914). 7th (Service) Bn, the [Border](#) (joined September 1914). 8th (Service) Bn, the [South Staffordshire](#) (joined September 1914, disbanded February 1918). 10th (Service) Bn, the [Sherwood Foresters](#) (joined September 1914). 3/4th Bn, the [Royal West Kents](#) (joined June 1917, left July 1917). 51st Brigade Machine Gun Company (joined 12 February 1916, moved into 17 MG Bn 24 February 1918). 51st Trench Mortar Battery (joined 3 July 1916)

**52nd Brigade:** 9th (Service) Bn, the [Northumberland Fusiliers](#) (joined September 1914, left August 1917). 10th (Service) Bn, the [Lancashire Fusiliers](#) (joined September 1914). 9th (Service) Bn, the [Duke of Wellington's](#) (joined September 1914). 3/4th Bn, the [Royal West Kent's](#) (joined August 1917, disbanded February 1917). 12th (Service) Bn, the [Manchester's](#) (joined September 1914). 52nd Brigade Machine Gun Company (joined 12 February 1916, moved into 17 MG Bn 24 February 1918). 52nd Trench Mortar Battery (joined 15 June 1916)

Divisional Artillery: LXXVIII Brigade, RFA. (*The Brigade of Guns in*

**Divisional Troops:** 6th (Service) Bn, the [Dorset's](#) (joined September 1914, left March 1915). 3/4th Bn, the [Royal West Kent's](#) (joined July 1917, left August 1917). 7th (Service) Bn, the [York and Lancaster](#) (joined as Pioneers March 1915). 236th Machine Gun Company (joined 17 July 1917, moved into 17 MG Bn 24 February 1918). No 17 Machine Gun Battalion (created 24 February 1918). No 12 Motor Machine Gun Battery (joined 10 July 1915, left 7 May 1916 when transferred to X Corps).

**Divisional Mounted Troops:** A Squadron, the [Yorkshire Dragoons](#) (joined June 1915, left 10 May 1916). 17th Divisional Cyclist Company (formed 23 January 1915, left 24 May 1916).

*which HJC was serving when he received his fatal wounds.)* **LXXIX Brigade, RFA. LXXX Brigade, RFA (broken up 31 August 1916). LXXXI (H) Brigade, RFA (broken up 10-27 January 1917). 17th Heavy Battery, RGA (a Battery of 4 60-lbr guns raised with the Division but moved independently to France in October 1915, and joined XXIX Heavy Artillery Brigade RGA). 17th Divisional Ammunition Column. V.17 Heavy Trench Mortar Battery RFA (joined in 22 August 1916, transferred to V Corps 28 February 1918**

). X.17, Y.17 and Z.17 Medium Mortar Batteries RFA (joined by 22 August 1916; by 28 February 1918, Z broken up and batteries reorganized to have 6 x 6-inch weapons each)

**Engineer Units:** 77th Field Company (joined Sep 1914). 78th Field Company (joined Sep 1914). 93rd Field Company (joined Jan 1915). 17th Divisional Signal Company (joined Sep 1914)

Field Ambulances: **51st Field Ambulance (joined Jul 1914). 52nd Field Ambulance (joined Jul 1914). 53rd Field Ambulance (joined Jul 1914).** 17th Divisional Train **ASC** (146, 147, 148 and 149 Coys ASC). 17th Divisional MT Supply Column **ASC** (257 Coy ASC). 218th Divisional Employment Company (joined 9 June 1917). 29th Mobile Veterinary Section. 34th Sanitary Section (left 10 March 1917, for XIII Corps). 17th Divisional Motor Ambulance Workshop (on 2 April 1916, absorbed by Divisional Train) **Legal : This site is produced and copyright Chris Baker. On the internet since 1996.**