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Directors of Veterinary Services in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan: James John Bonifant Tapley, 1917-1922

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Abstract

James John Bonifant Tapley was born 14 November 1877 in Torrington, Devon. He became Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) on 13 July 1899. He served as a Civilian Veterinary Surgeon (C.V.S.) in South Africa in 1901-1902 during the Anglo-Boer War (Queen's South Africa Medal, four Clasps). Commissioned Lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Corps on 16 May 1903 he returned to South Africa and commanded Number 9 Section, Army Veterinary Service, Pretoria until 1908. Promoted as Captain on 1 May 1908 he was posted to the Cavalry School at Netheravon, Wiltshire. Seconded to the Egyptian Army in November 1911, he served in Sudan until he was retransferred to the British Army when World War I began, serving in France and Belgium, 14 August 1914-7 August 1915 (Distinguished Service Order, Mentioned in Despatches) and being promoted Major. Seconded again to the Egyptian Army as Principal Veterinary Officer he supervised transport operations in Darfur during April-November 1916 (Khedive's Sudan Medal, Mentioned in Despatches). He was Director of Veterinary Services in Sudan, 1918-1922 (Order of the Nile, 3rd Class). He was Acting and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel prior to becoming substantive Lieutenant Colonel, then Colonel with seniority at 1st January 1921. He subsequently served in various administrative posts in India, Egypt and the UK. Appointed Director General of Veterinary Services in 1933-a post held until 1937-he was promoted Major General (Companion of the Bath (Military Division)). Placed on the British Army Regular Army Reserve of Officers General List in 1942, Tapley died aged 80 on 17 July 1958.

Keywords

Second Anglo-Boer War; First World War; Royal Army Veterinary Corps; Military campaigns; Army transport

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Introduction

In the final 20 years of the 19th Century a religiously-inspired uprising in the Sudan (the Mahdist War) was quelled by the Khedivate of Egypt, with assistance from the British Army, in 1898. Following eighteen years of conflict a joint-rule state of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, a Condominium of the British Empire and the Kingdom of Egypt, was established. Cavalry and transport animals (horses, mules, donkeys and camels) were required in large numbers to govern and control the Condominium. Animal health care was provided by a fledgling veterinary service staffed initially by British Army officers. Twelve veterinarians served, in turn, as Principal Veterinary Officers (to 1910) or as Directors of Veterinary Services (1910-1956) in the 55-year period from the formation of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in 1901 to independence for the Republic of Sudan on 1st January 1956. The early veterinarians were seconded, usually for short periods, from the British Army Veterinary Corps to the Egyptian Army which employed them directly or seconded them to Sudan. James John Bonifant Tapley was the fifth Director of the Sudan Veterinary Service, serving for five years from 1917 to 1922 after being Veterinary Inspector in various provinces. This paper provides material additional to and expands on an earlier biography of James Tapley [1].

Background and early life

James John Bonifant Tapley was born on 14th November 1877 at the Globe Inn in Great Torrington in North Devon (Figure 1) [2]. He was baptized just over six weeks later on 31st December 1877 at the church of St Michael and All Angels in Torrington, the son of Samuel George Tapley and Mary (née Bonifant) Tapley (Figure 2).

During the British census of 1881 James J B Tapley, aged 3, was living with his parents in High Street, Torrington. The census records him residing with his mother, father, elder sister, elder brother, aunt (mother's sister), a male visitor and six servants (Porter, Billiard Marker, Cook, Chamber Maid, Waitress, Child Maid). In 1891, John B. Tapley, aged 13 and a

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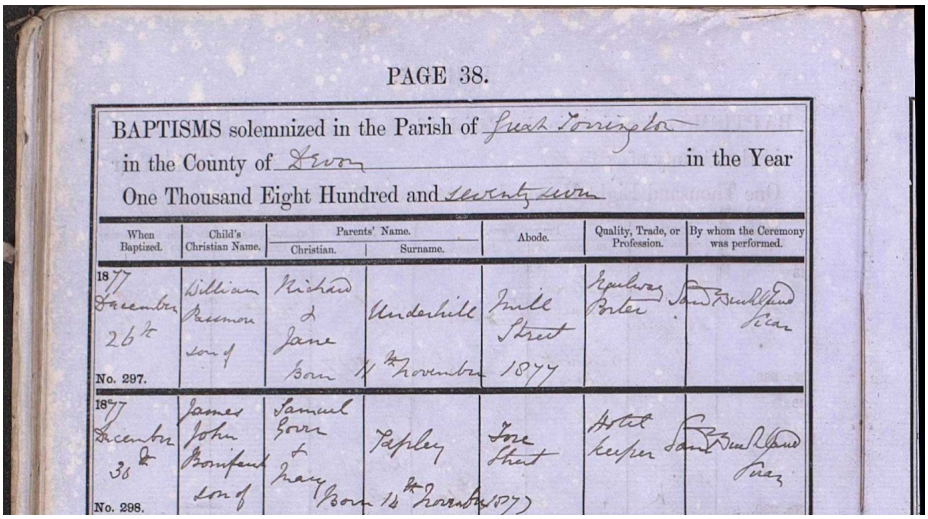
Figure 1: Globe Inn in Great Torrington in North Devon.



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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Great Torrington
in the County of Devon in the Year
One Thousand Eight Hundred and seventy seven

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name. Christian.	Parents' Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1877 December 26th No. 297.	William Passmore son of	Richard & Jane born 14th November	Underhill	Mill Street	Railway Porter	Sam Bradford Vicar
1877 December 28th No. 298.	James John Bromfield son of	Samuel born & Mary born 18th November 1877	Tapley	Fore Street	Hotel keeper	Sam Bradford Vicar

Figure 2: Baptism

Scholar, was living at the Globe Inn, Torrington. The full household comprised his father, mother, older sister, older brother, mother's sister (aunt), six domestic servants (Cook, Waitress, Chamber Maid, Boots, Billiard Marker, Barmaid) and a boarder.

Following the required period of study, Tapley graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London, (RVC) with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (B Vet Med). He was registered as a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) on 13 July 1899.

South Africa and UK, 1899-1911

Soon after graduating from the RVC James Tapley travelled to South Africa to provide veterinary care to animals during the second Anglo-Boer war. Serving as a Civilian Veterinary Surgeon (CVS) with the British Army Veterinary Department he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with four Clasps (Cape Colony, for service there between 11th October 1899 and 31st May 1902; Orange Free State for service there between 28th February 1900 and 31st May 1902; South Africa 1901 for presence in the country between 1st January and 31st December 1901; and, South Africa 1902, for presence from 1st January 1902 to the end of the war on 31st May). This was the first of a plethora of campaign medals and honours he was to receive during his military career (Figure 3). At some point during his Anglo-Boer service Tapley returned to England as in April 1901, at the time of the census of that year. J J B Tapley was recorded as a Veterinary Surgeon aged 28 living as a boarder in the household of Mary C Abbott, a single woman living on her own account as a Grocer at 25 Holland Street, Barnstaple: others in the household were two additional boarders both aged 19 and a 15-year-old niece of the household head.

Returning to England from South Africa at the end of the war, Tapley was commissioned as a Veterinary-Lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Department on 16 May 1903 [3,4]:

> **Army Veterinary Department.**
>
> The undermentioned civilian Veterinary-Surgeons to be Veterinary-Lieutenants, on augmentation.
>
> - Dated 16th May, 1903:— .
>
> James J. B. Tapley.

Veterinary-Lieutenant Tapley returned to South Africa and was put in charge of No 9 Section of the Army Veterinary Service at Pretoria[1] [5]. Tapley returned to England on leave at the end of 1904, arriving in London from Durban by S.S. Inkosi of the Aberdeen and Commonwealth Line on 5 December 1904 [6]. At the end of his leave

[1]Pretoria was important for the army as its overall force headquarters. There was also a Remount Depot there, as there was at Bloemfontein [5].

Figure 3: Campaign medals and honours he received during his military career

Lieutenant J J B Tapley sailed from Southampton, departing on 8th April 1905 on board the Kenilworth Castle, and heading for Cape Town [7].

In 1907 he published a paper describing a variety of traumatic equine injury cases he had treated while serving with the Army Veterinary Service Hospital in Pretoria. These included two cases of flexor tendon luxation, a styloid fracture of the occipital bone, a case of amaurosis, and a fracture of the femur [8]: this is the only indication of any medical skills Tapley may have possessed as the remainder of his career was spent entirely on administrative work. He returned to England on 1st May 1908 and was soon promoted to Captain after completing the statutory period of five years' service as a Lieutenant [9]:

> **Army Veterinary Service**.
>
> Army Veterinary Corps, The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains. Dated 16th May, 1908 :—
>
> James J. B. Tapley.

Upon his return from South Africa, Tapley resided at 20 Molesworth Street, Dublin where he was described as a Soldier. He was also listed as living at Fermoy [10] and was still there in 1909 under the section on "Nobility, Gentry, Merchants and Traders". In 1910 he had been moved to the Army Directory as a Captain, Army Veterinary Service Ireland, Irish Command but Netheravon was given as his permanent address [11,12]. At Netheravon in Wiltshire he was on the establishment of the Cavalry School (Figure 4)[2]. Paradoxically he was still listed in the Dublin Directory in 1914 although his name was now in italic font and his address given as "*e.a.*" (Egyptian Army). In the British census of 1911 he was listed as: J J B Tapley, British, Veterinary Officer, Captain, age 33, Duty Location: Netheravon, British Army, Army Veterinary Corps, Educational and Training Establishments, Cavalry School.

Sudan and World War I: 1911-1922

In 1911 Captain Tapley was seconded to the Egyptian Army [13]:

> **Army Veterinary Service.**
>
> Army Veterinary Corps, The undermentioned Captains are seconded for employment with the Egyptian Army: — James J. B. Tapley. Dated 9th November, 1911.

Tapley served in Sudan from 9th November 1911 to 4th August 1914 and then again from 11th September 1915 to 15th December 1922 (Table 1). He was initially posted to Kordofan in western Sudan and was there for three years until early 1914 [14]. He benefitted from a period of home leave lasting three months every year. It was during one such leave in the European summer of 1914 that the First World War broke out and Tapley was promptly transferred back to the British Army, this being quickly noted by the Sudan authorities in the country's Official Gazette "J.J.B. Tapley (Veterinary Department) retransferred to Army, 5/8/14." [15]:

> **Army Veterinary Service.**
>
> R.A.V.C.—The undermentioned are restd. to the estabt.: —
>
> 5th Aug. 1914.
>
> Capt. (now Maj. & Bt. Lt.-Col.) J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O.

It was not until six years later that this transfer was recorded in official English sources which also noted his return to the Egyptian Army (at the request of the Khedive of Egypt) [16]:

> The undermentioned are secd, for service with the Egyptian Army:— •
>
> Maj. (now Bt. Lt.-Col.) J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O. 11th Sept. 1915.

Between his transfer to the Army Veterinary Corps in 1914 and his second secondment to the Egyptian Army Tapley served in France and Belgium from 14th August to 7th December 1914 during which period

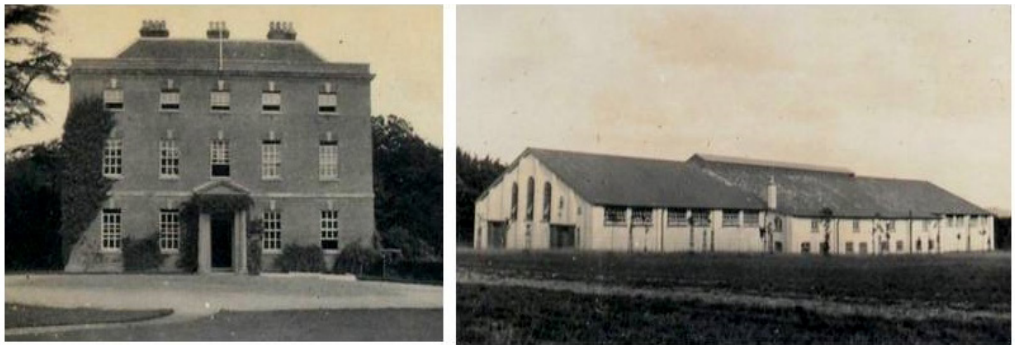

Figure 4: Cavalry School

[2]The Cavalry School opened in 1904 after Lieutenant-General Robert Baden Powell (1857-1941, of Mafeking fame and founder of the Boy Scouts) had been appointed in 1903 as Inspector-General of the Cavalry. It was built on the grounds of Netheravon House which had been compulsorily purchased by the government in 1898 as part of the Salisbury Plain military training facilities. The main building, constructed in 1734 as a hunting box for the Dukes of Beaufort, became the officers' mess. Barracks, stables, an indoor riding school and extensive training areas were constructed in the grounds. Polo was, of course, part of the curriculum as was fox hunting under the pretext "memory training"! (http://longwaytotipperary.ul.ie/wartime-life/cavalry-school).

he gained the 1914 Star with Clasp. He served on the Headquarters Staff at the Battle of the Aisne and was Mentioned in Despatches by Field-Marshal J. D. P. French, Commander-in-Chief, British Forces in the Field. He was once again Mentioned in Despatches in June 1915 and was simultaneously appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) [17-23]:

> War Office,
> 22nd June, 1915.
>
> The following despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War from the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, British Forces in the Field: —
>
> 31st May, 1915.
> MY LORD,—
>
> In accordance with the last paragraph of my Despatch of the 5th April, 1915, I have the honour to bring to notice names of those whom I recommend for gallant and distinguished service in the field (i.e. Distinguished Service Order, D.S.O. and also counts as a Mention in Despatches).
>
> I have the honour to be,
> Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,
>
> J. D. P. FRENCH,
> Field-Marshal, Commanding-in-Chief,
> The British Army in the Field.
> Tapley, Captain J. J. B., Army Veterinary Corps

Tapley served as Assistant Director of Veterinary Services with the 28th Division from 16th January to 7th August 1915. During this period he was promoted first to Major and then to Brevet Lieutenant Colonel on 10th July 1915. At the end of this period he was transferred back to the Egyptian Army as Principal Veterinary Officer while remaining on the Active List [16,21,24][3].

Upon his return to Sudan Tapley served as Veterinary Inspector in Red Sea Province (Table 1). He was then placed in charge of transport in Operations in Darfur from 13th April 1916 to 23rd November 1916 (although nominally still in Red Sea Province at least on 1st July 1916) as Senior Veterinary Officer and Senior Officer of Transport. For this expedition to remove Sultan Ali Dinar he was awarded the Khedive's Sudan Medal 1910 with Clasp "Darfur 1916" (under Special Army Order dated 8th September 1916) [25] and was once again Mentioned in Despatches [26,27]:

> War Office,
> 25th October, 1916.
>
> The following Despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War from General Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan: —
>
> Khartoum,
> 8th August, 1916.
>
> SIR,—I have the honour to forward for the information of the Secretary of State for War my Despatch on the military operations in Darfur, together with a brief report on the services of the Egyptian Army and the Sudan Administration since the outbreak of war in Europe.
> ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
> Military Operations in Darfur
> The great bulk of the transport service and all transport with the troops in Darfur, however, was carried out by camel; and very great credit is due to Major S. E. H. Giles, Army Service Corps, and his subordinates, as well as to Major J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., and Captain R. S. Audas, Army Veterinary Corps, whose powers' of organisation and improvisation were put to a high test.
> ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
> Finally, I have the honour to append a list of names of officers, officials and others whose work in connection with military operations and the situation in the Sudan created by the war is deserving of special notice and commendation.
>
> I have the honour to be,
>
> Sir,
> Your Obedient Servant,
>
> No. I.
> Darfur Operations
> Lines of Communication.
> Tapley, Maj. J. J. B., D.S.O., Army Veterinary Corps.

The end of 1916 and all of 1917 were busy for Tapley. He served in Kordofan during November 1916 albeit on a temporary basis and had the honorary title of "Bey" conferred on him by the Khedive of Egypt (Table 1) and was made Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel [28,29]. On 1st January 1917 Veterinary Inspector J.J.B. Tapley was appointed Assistant Director, Veterinary Department [30]. There was a further Mention in Despatches in the middle of the year for his role in the events in Darfur from the time of the occupation of El Fasher on 23rd May 1916 up to the conclusion of the Operations which resulted in the death of Ali Dinar [31]:

> War Office,
> 29th May, 1917.
>
> The following Despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War from H.B.M.'s High Commissioner for Egypt covering a Despatch from the Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan relative to the military operations in Darfur from the occupation of El Fasher to the conclusion of hostilities : —
>
> SIR,—
> The Residency, Cairo,
> 11th April, 1917.
>
> I have the honour to forward for the information of the Secretary of State for War a Despatch received from the Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan dealing with the events in Darfur from the time of the occupation of El Fasher on May 23rd, 1916, up to the conclusion of the operations.
> ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
> I have the honour to be, Sir,
> Your obedient servant,
> Reginald Wingate,
> General
> ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
> Khartoum,
> 5th April, 1917.
> YOUR EXCELLENCY,—
>
> In continuation of Your Excellency's Despatch, dated August 8th, 1916, on the Military Operations in Darfur, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Secretary of State for War a further Despatch dealing with the events in Darfur from the time of the occupation of El Fasher on May 23rd, 1916, up to the conclusion of the Operations which resulted in the death of Ali Dinar.
> ~~~~~
> In conclusion, I would beg to point out the magnitude of the task of feeding and supplying the El Fasher garrison and lines of communication, some 450 miles from rail-head, throughout the summer months. In this stretch two waterless belts of 100 miles each had to be crossed. The work was carried out without a hitch, and reflects the greatest credit on the officers engaged on the Lines of Communication. The troops at El Fasher suffered considerably from fever, more especially the Egyptian Artillery. The most excellent feeling prevailed between the troops and the inhabitants, and amicable relations were quickly established. When all have worked so well, it is a most difficult task to single out individuals. The names of the following officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, however, have been brought specially to my notice for exceptional good work: —
>
> Transport.
> Bt. Lt.-Colonel J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., Army Veterinary Corps.

[3]The Active List relates to officers who have retired before the end of their expected service period. They may carry out general duties and can still be called upon and deployed in times of crisis: these duties could include (but not be limited to Duties at Staff Headquarters; Duties at the War Office; Territorial Force Duties.)

Date	Appointment	Rank and name	Location	Notes
09-Nov-11				Arrived Sudan
01-Mar-14	Veterinary Inspector	El Bimbashi J J B Tapley	Kordofan Province	
01-Jul-14		El Bimbashi J J B Tapley		On leave
15-Aug-14		Veterinary Department		Retransferred to Army
11-Sep-15				Back to Egyptian Army
01-Jan-16	Veterinary Inspector	El Bimbashi J J B Tapley DSO	Red Sea Province	
01-Nov-16	Veterinary Inspector	El Bimbashi J J B Tapley DSO	Red Sea Province	
01-Jan-18	Veterinary Inspector	El Kaimakan J J B Tapley Bey DSO	Kordofan Province	Temporary Duty
01-Jan-19	Assistant Director	El Kaimakan J J B Tapley Bey DSO	Khartoum	
01-Apr-20	Director	El Miralai J J B Tapley Bey DSO	Khartoum	
01-Jan-21	Director	El Miralai J J B Tapley Bey DSO 3 Nile	Khartoum	
15-Dec-22				Left Egyptian Army

Table 1: Outline of the career of James John Bonifant Tapley in Sudan, 1911-1922 (Source: [14] and other monthly and quarterly returns in same source).

The Sudan Government staff list for 1st January 1918 has Tapley as Assistant Director of Veterinary Services (Table 1), the post of Director being vacant. The previous Director had died in London on 11th November after being ill in Cairo for some months [32]. One source notes that Tapley was appointed Director on 18th November 1917 but does not list a reference for this statement [33]. By 1st January 1919, however, Tapley was well into his tenure as Director (Table 1). Later in 1919 he was again mentioned in Despatches in connection with transport operations but this time in Administrative Services as opposed to Darfur Operations [34]:

> War Office, 5th June, 1919.
>
> The following Despatch has been received by the Secretary of State for War, from Major-General Sir L. 0. FitzM. Stack, K.B.E. C.M.G., Acting Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Acting Governor-General of the Sudan : —
>
> Headquarters, Egyptian Army and Sudan Government, Khartoum, 6th January, 1919.
>
> Sir,
>
> I have the honour to forward herewith the names of officers, officials and others whose work in connection with military operations, and the situation in the Sudan created by the War, is deserving of special notice and commendation.
>
> I have the honour to be, Sir,
>
> Your obedient servant,
> Lee Stack
>
> Major-General, Acting Sirdar of the Egyptian Army and Acting Governor-General of the Sudan
> No. II.
> Administrative Services
> Tapley, Maj. &.Bt. Lt.-Col. J. J. B., D.S.O., R.A.V.C.

The World War I campaign medals that Tapley was awarded were sent to him on 22nd March 1921. His Medal Index Card (Figure 5) notes he was also entitled to a Clasp on his 1914 Star (for action against the enemy before 23rd November 1914) and to an Oak Leaf emblem on his Victory Medal for Mentions in Despatches. The Index Card also confirms entitlement to the Khedive's Sudan Medal 1910 with Clasp "Nyala 1916" and indicates his retransfer to the British Army on 5th August 1914 and his landing in France on 13th August 1914. His two Mentions in Despatches for activities in France were also on the official record but nothing has been found for the three Sudanese Mentions in Despatches. During 1921, Tapley was honored by the Egyptian Sultan in the award of one of Egypt's highest honours, Order of the Nile, 3rd class, for work in Sudan [35]:

> Whitehall, April 19, 1921.
>
> The KING has been pleased, by Warrants under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, to grant permission to wear the undermentioned Decorations of the Order of the Nile which have been conferred by His Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered:—
>
> ORDER OF THE NILE.
> Third Class.
> Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel John James Bonifant Tapley, D.S.O.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Tapley relinquished his post as Director of Veterinary Services in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan on 15th December 1922 and left the Egyptian Army on the same date with the local rank of Miralai (Senior Colonel or Brigadier). He was restored to the British Army on 16th December 1922 [36]:

> Royal Army Veterinary Corps.
>
> Maj. &Bt. Lt.-Col. J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., is restd. to the estabt. 16th Dec. 1922.

During his tenure as Director in the Sudan there were good times and bad – and sometimes both at the same time – for the veterinary services. The complement of professional veterinarians was reduced during World War I due to the demands of the European Theatre. Towards the end of 1918, however, nine additional veterinarians arrived in the country. The war saw great demand for Sudanese animals to supply meat to the Allied armed forces. In one year 22,000 camels were exported, leading to a huge increase in prices. This meant that producers had to sell fewer animals to ensure a good livelihood and livestock numbers gradually built up. Rinderpest remained a significant problem in cattle with heavy losses in 1918 and 1919, followed by a reduction in losses in the next two years and then a recrudescence of the disease again in 1922 [33].

Post-Sudan, 1922-1958

After leaving the Egyptian Army, Tapley served as Deputy Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, Baluchistan District, India; Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, Western Command, India; Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, Eastern Command; Deputy Director of Veterinary Services, Aldershot Command; and, Assistant Director of Veterinary Services, British Troops in Egypt [37]. Leaving this last post in 1929, Tapley, aged 51,travelled to London on board the S.S. Orama of the Orient Steam Navigation Company having boarded it at Port Said on 24th October 1929 going to 96 Piccadilly, London, W1 having been resident in Egypt [38]. Meanwhile he had been promoted to substantive Lieutenant Colonel on 9th January 1928 [39]. Less than two years later he was promoted full Colonel with substantial retroactive seniority [40]:

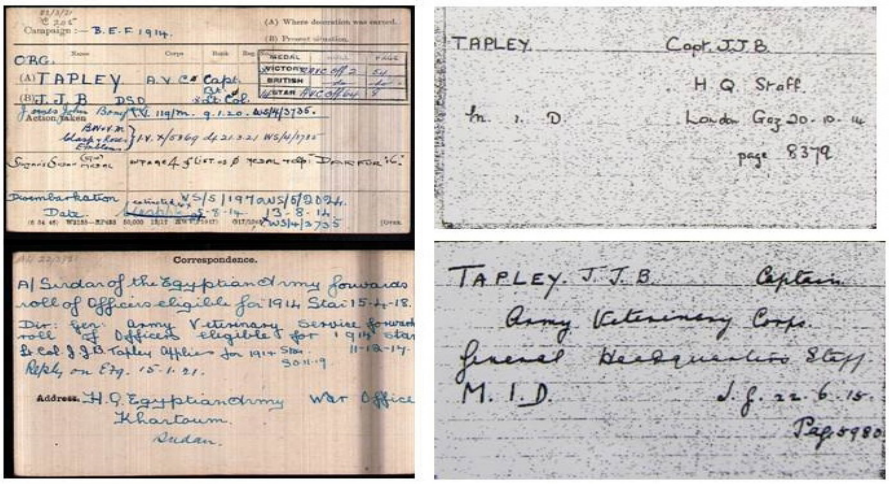

Figure 5: Index Card.

Figure 6: Colonel J. J. B. Tapley

War Office,
25th October, 1929.

REGULAR ARMY.

Lt.-Col. J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., R.A.V.C., to be Col., 25th Oct. 1929, with Army seniority as Col. 1st Jan. 1921. (Such seniority not to count for pay and allowances or ret. pay.)

In late October 1933 Colonel Tapley was placed on the Active List on half pay [41]. Some five weeks later he was restored to the Regular Army and promoted Major General [42] and at the same time was appointed to be Director General of the Army Veterinary Services (Figure 6) [43,44]:

War Office,
24th October, 1933.

REGULAR ARMY.

Col. J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., late R.A.V.C., is placed on the active list on h.p. list under Art. 500, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, 1931. 25th Oct. 1933.

REGULAR ARMY.

Maj.-Gen. W. S. Anthony, C.B., C.M.G., late R.A.V.C., on completion of his term of appt. as Dir.-Gen., A.V. Servs., is placed on ret. pay. 1st Dec. 1933. Col. J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., h.p. list, late R.A.V.C., to be Maj.-Gen. 1st Dec. 1933.

Maj.-Gen. J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., h.p. list, late R.A.V.C., is apptd. Dir.-Gen. A.V. Servs. 1st Dec. 1933.

In 1934 Major General Tapley, aged 56, travelled to the USA with a party of veterinarians and their wives, leaving Liverpool on board the SS Scythia to arrive in Boston Massachusetts on 12th August [45]. He returned with his group just under one month later on 10th September travelling Cabin Class on board the SS Laconia of the Cunard White Star Line from Boston and was on his way to the Junior United Service Club, London SW1 [46]. His companions were not military officers and no reason has been found for the visit although it is possible it was some sort of study tour. In the following year, 1935, Tapley was honoured by being appointed a Companion of the Bath, Military Division, Third Class [47,48]:

Companion of the Bath. To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Honourable Order:—

Major-General James John Bonifant Tapley, D.S.O., late Royal Army Veterinary Corps, Director General, Army Veterinary Services,

The War Office. 3rd June

He was also awarded two commemorative medals: the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935; and, the King George VI Coronation Medal in 1937. In this latter year, however, he finally retired from the army [49]:

War Office,
30th November, 1937.

REGULAR ARMY.

Maj.-Gen. J. J. B. Tapley, C.B., D.S.O., late R.A.V.C., on completion of his term of appt. as Dir.-Gen.. A.V. Servs., is placed on ret. pay. 1st Dec. 1937.

Commands and Staff
The undermentioned relinquish their appts. : —
Maj.-Gen. J. J. B. Tapley, C.B., D.S.O., as Dir.-Gen., A.V. Servs. 1st Dec. 1937.

After his retirement from the army Major General Tapley evidently led a quiet life. Just before the outbreak of World War II he was listed as living at Lawrence Hall Hotel, Upper Ham Road, Richmond being described as a Veterinary Adviser, single, born on 14 November 1877

and on the Reserve of Officers of the Army Veterinary Services. He also continued to appear in the Official Quarterly Army Lists through to at least April 1946 where he was shown to be on the British Army Regular Army Reserve of Officers, General List.

In later life Tapley lived at The Gatehouse, St Stephen's Road, Bournemouth. James John Bonifant Tapley died at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Boscombe, Bournemouth on 17th July 1958 aged 80 [50,51]. He had never married and probate of his effects of £3378 14s 1d was granted on 12th September 1958 to his brother Charles Mark Tapley, a retired bank manager London [52].

Authors Contribution

This contribution is one of a series on military personnel and civilians who served as Directors of Veterinary Services in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan who served during the Condominium Period from 1901 to 1956. The series was conceived by the first author. This paper on James John Bonifant Tapley draws on an earlier publication on Tapley authored by Oliver Knesl but greatly expands that paper and adds new material researched by the first author and includes photographs and other personal material that did not appear in the first paper. This piece was largely written by R Trevor Wilson before being thoroughly reviewed and revised by Oliver Knesl. Both authors are in agreement that this paper is a joint undertaking and is acceptable to both

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