

First World War Service Record of Roger Gillespie Drysdale

The following is from the National Archives WO 339/27837

Extracted from W.D. file 9/16/191 Army Form B. 201.
(Modified for use during Mobilization.)
APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS

A candidate will carefully complete the following particulars, obtain the certificates on page 3 and then

<i>A Household Cavalry Regiment</i> <i>The Foot Guards</i> <i>The Irish Horse</i> <i>King Edward's Horse</i>	<i>The Officer Commanding the Regiment he wishes to join</i>
<i>A Cavalry Regiment</i>	
<i>A reserve unit of the Royal Garrison Artillery</i> <i>A reserve unit of the Royal Engineers (see note (b) on p. 2)</i> <i>A reserve unit of Infantry</i> <i>The Royal Field Artillery</i>	<i>The Officer Commanding a Reserve Regiment of Cavalry, a Cavalry Depot, or the Officer in charge of Cavalry Records, Canterbury</i> <i>The Officer Commanding the Reserve unit he wishes to join</i>
<i>The Royal Garrison Artillery, but not to a reserve unit</i>	
<i>The Royal Engineers, but not to a reserve unit</i>	<i>The Officer Commanding a Reserve Brigade or Depot.</i> <i>The Lieut.-Colonel, Royal Garrison Artillery, in any Coast Defences, or the Officer Commanding a Depot</i> <i>The President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, 61, George Street, Westminster, London, S.W., (unless the applicant be a member of the Senior Division of the Officers Training Corps, in which case the application will be forwarded direct to the War Office by the Adjutant of his Contingent.)</i> <i>The Officer Commanding a Regular battalion or Depot of the Regiment he wishes to join</i>
<i>An Infantry Regiment, but not to a reserve unit</i>	
<i>The Royal Flying Corps</i> <i>The Army Service Corps</i> <i>The Royal Army Medical Corps</i> <i>The Army Veterinary Corps</i>	<i>Forward the application to—The War Office, London, S.W.</i>

Unit or branch in which the candidate desires to serve	<i>4th Batt Royal Warwick Special Reserve</i>
Name of Candidate (in full) Surname ... (See note (a) on page 2) Christian Names...	<i>Dray-dale</i> <i>Roger Gillespie</i>
Date of birth (A birth certificate or a baptismal certificate containing the date of birth to be attached or forwarded later.)	<i>March 1st 1888</i>
Whether married	<i>No</i>
Whether of pure European descent	<i>Yes</i>
Whether a British born or a naturalized British subject	<i>British Born</i>
Whether the candidate has:— (a) Obtained a leaving or qualifying certificate as required of a candidate for admission to the Royal Military College under the regulations in force up to 1st April, 1912. (Certificate to be attached). (b) Qualified at an Army Entrance Examination. (State date of examination). (c) Passed the matriculation examination of a university, or a test accepted in lieu thereof. (Certificate to be attached). or failing one of the above:— (d) Can produce a statement from the headmaster of a secondary school, or other competent educational authority, as to his educational attainments. (Statement to be attached).	<i>Honours degree History Cambridge 1911.</i>
Permanent address	<i>The Driffold Broadway Works.</i>
Present address for correspondence	<i>5th Batt. Worcester Regt Malvern Area.</i>
Profession or occupation	<i>Fruit Grower</i>
Schools and Colleges at which educated	<i>Malvern College</i>
Whether now serving, or previously served, in any branch of His Majesty's Naval or Military Forces. If so, state:— (a) Regiment or Corps ... (b) Date of appointment ... (c) Rank ... (d) Date of retirement, resignation or discharge ... (e) Circumstances of retirement, resignation or discharge ... (A Candidate who has served in the ranks should attach his discharge certificate).	<i>5th Batt. Worcester Regt</i> <i>Aug 11</i> <i>Private</i>

DECLARATION

DE
NAISSANCE

Art. 55, liv. I, ch. II du
Code Civil.

Année 1888.

N° 118, du Registre
des Naissances.

Nota. — Le présent sera
représenté au Ministre des
cultes pour les cérémonies
religieuses: et en cas de décès
de l'enfant né et de surven-
ance d'un autre enfant il
sera représenté à la Mairie.

Protection des Enfants du 1er Age

Art. 7 de la loi du 23 décembre 1874.

« Toute personne qui place un
« enfant en nourrice, en sevrage
« qu'en garde, moyennant salaire
« est tenue, sous les peines por-
« tées par l'article 346 du Code
« pénal, d'en faire la déclaration
« à la mairie de la commune ou à
« été faite la déclaration de nais-
« sance de l'enfant, ou à la mairie
« de la résidence actuelle du do-
« clarant, en indiquant dans le
« cas, le lieu de naissance de
« l'enfant, et de remettre à la
« nourrice ou à la gardeuse un
« bulletin contenant un extrait
« de l'acte de naissance de l'en-
« fant qui lui est confié. »

CANNES. — IMP. FIGÈRE-GUILLOIN

REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

DÉPARTEMENT DES ALPES-MARITIMES

MAIRIE DE LA VILLE DE CANNES

ÉTAT-CIVIL

Nous, Officier de l'État-Civil de la ville de Cannes

soussigné, certifions que l'Acte de Naissance de *Roger*

Colloque Drysdale

filz de *Alfred Edgar Drysdale*, Docteur en Médecine

et de *Bertha Chamberlain*, son épouse.

domicilié à *Cannes*

né à *Cannes*, le *1^{er} Mars 1888*

a été enregistré le *même jour*

EN L'HOTEL-DE-VILLE, le *1^{er} Mars 1888.*

L'Officier de l'Etat-Civil,

Chamberlain

Commanding 4/ Royal Warwickshire Re

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

If the Receiver of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions

Office Stamp.



Charges
to pay

Handed
in at 4.59 p.m.

Received
here at 7.13 p.m.

TO { *Coopers London*

*Second Lieut R. G. Drysdale of this
Battalion is dead believed to have
shot himself written report will be
sent tomorrow. Commanding Fourth Warwickshire*

Name
Rank
Signature of Officer
who calls for the
Attestation

TERRITORIAL FORCE
RECORD OFFICE,
WARWICK.

TERRITORIAL FORCE.

4 years' Service in the United Kingdom.

ATTESTATION OF

No. 2322 Name Roger Gillespie Drysdale Corps 8th Worcester Regt

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name and Address?

1. Roger Gillespie Drysdale
Dryfold,
Bradford, Childswickham
Bradway Worcestershire2. Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should so long require your services) for the County of Worcestershire to serve in the Worcestershire Regiment?2. yes

3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are incurring by enlisting, and do you understand them?

3. yes

4. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and, if discharged, cause of discharge

4. Malvern College Cadet Corps

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

I, Roger Gillespie Drysdale do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.Signed
Witnessed
Paper
P. 10/14Roger Gillespie Drysdale

SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

J. P. Randle

Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Roger Gillespie Drysdale swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

I, Maurice Myhill do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were put to the Recruit, above named, that the Answers written opposite to them are those which he gave to me, and that he has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath at Worcester on this 8th day ofAugust 1914.Maurice MyhillSignature of Justice of the Peace, Officer,
or other person authorized to attest Recruits.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 90 (6), Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E. 501a.

* Here insert County.

† Here insert Corps.

The entries on this page only require to be made from time to time as they occur.
 STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 2322 Name Regin Gillespie
 Showing preliminary training, other special courses of training, Annual Training,† and when

Corps	Unit	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	From	To
Service towards engagement reckons from					
		<u>8.8.14</u>	<u>PLC</u>	<u>8.8.14</u>	
	<u>8/Wmc Reg. Embodied, Wmc</u>	<u>Attested</u>	<u>PLC</u>	<u>8.8.14</u>	
			<u>"</u>	<u>8.8.14</u>	<u>1-1-15</u>

Total service towards engagement in the Territorial Force to 1st Jan'y 1915 (date of discharge) — years 147 days.

CHARACTER

Discharged in consequence of being granted a Commission in 4th Bn. R. Warwick
Regt. 2-1-15. Auth. London Gazette of 1-1-15.

The discharge of the above-named man is hereby approved.

Station Walden

Signature Walter R. Peak

Date 11th January 1915.

Commanding 8th Bn. Worcestershire Regt.

† In the case of Annual Training it will be sufficient to state if "Present," or "Absent" and the year.

Description of Roger Gillespie Drysdale on Enlistment.

MEDICAL INSPECTION REPORT.

(Applicable to all ranks.)

Name Roger Gillespie Drysdale
Apparent age 26 years 5 months.
Height 5 feet 6 3/4 inches.

*Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded _____ inches.
Range of expansion _____ inches.

Vision Fit

Physical development Good

*Chest measurement will be obtained by adjusting the tape so that its posterior upper edge touches the inferior angles of the shoulder blades, and its anterior lower edge the upper part of the nipples, while the arms hang loosely by the side.

Certificate of Medical Examination.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations. He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; he does not suffer from hernia; and declares that he is not subject to any of the diseases or defects of any description.

I consider him * fit for the Territorial Force.

Date 8th August 1914.

Place Worcester

H. R. Foster
Medical Officer.

* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing certificate only in the case of those who have been attested and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.

Certificate of Primary Military Examination.

I hereby certify that the above-named Recruit was inspected by me, and I consider him * fit for service in the † 8th Bn. Worcs Regt. and that due care has been exercised in his enlistment.

Date 8th August 1914.

Place Worcester

* Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

Mauney Spherilli
Lt. & J. Worcs. } Recruiting Officer.
† Insert the "Regiment" or "Corps."

* Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the † 8th Batt. Worcs. Regt.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 8th Aug. 1914.

Place Worcester

P. R. Whalley Capt. & Adj. } Approving Officer.
8th Bn Worcestershire Regiment

* The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
† Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

Register No. 495711.

Extract from Letters of Administration.
~~Probate Court~~

Dated 7th July 1915 Granted at The Principal Probate Registry.

1. Estate of Roger Gillespie Drysdale of the Driffold Broadway in the County of Worcester Second Lieutenant Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
2. Date and Place of Death Died on the 15th April 1915 at Lymington in the County of Hampshire intestate a bachelor without father.
3. Grantees Bertha Drysdale widow the natural and lawful mother and only next of kin of the said intestate
4. Gross value, £ 6240. 17. 1.

Extracted by }
Produced by } Simpson, North & Co., Solicitors, Liverpool.
1 Water Street.

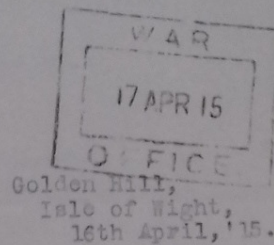
to whom returned by registered post. 18. 11. 15.

His officer shot
himself. Should his
estate be credited with
the gratuity? He
served 4 months.

W
29/6

W.

From,
The Officer Commanding,
4th (Rx) Res. Battn. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment,
To,
The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.



Sir,

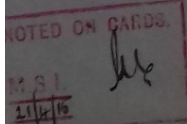
I regret to have to report the death of 2nd Lieutenant R.G. Drysdale, of the Battalion under my command.

I have not yet heard the opinion of the Coroner's inquest, but I fear there is no doubt whatever but that this Officer took his own life.

2nd Lieut. Drysdale completed a Junior Officers' Course at Portsmouth last Saturday and had leave until Wednesday night. About 7 o'clock in the evening I received a telegram from him to say that he had missed his ^{boat} train and would cross from Lymington to Yarmouth by the first boat in the morning. He was seen walking up and down the platform for some minutes before the train came in, with a revolver under his arm. Directly the train came into Lymington Town Station he got into the carriage alone and shot himself in the head. He died a few minutes afterwards.

This Officer has been suffering from fits of depression for some time and had on more than one occasion asked me to allow him to resign his Commission, giving as the reason that he did not feel competent to carry out ~~xxxxxx~~ the duties of an Officer. This idea was entirely imaginary, as he was able to and did do his work quite well. He had a bad attack of Influenza before he joined, and a Doctor informed me that the thought that the depression and insomnia he was suffering from was probably due to this cause.

Seeing



Seeing the state of mind he was in, I went out of the way to cheer him up and asked others to do so too, which I know they did.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

William

Lieut Colonel,

Commanding 4/ Royal Warwickshire Regiment.