

THOMAS MOFFATT

SURVIVOR OF RORKE'S DRIFT



Thomas Moffatt was born December 1856; he was 20 when he enlisted into the British Army on the 13th December 1876. Private Moffatt 968 was posted to the 2nd Battalion, 24th (2nd Warwickshire Regiment of Foot) on the 22nd January 1877, exactly 2 years before the action at Rorke's Drift.

On the 2nd February 1878, Thomas sailed from Portsmouth on the Himalaya, for active service in the Cape Frontier War. Thomas also served in the Zulu War 1879 and was present at the Defence of Rorke's Drift.

On the 29th January he transferred to G Company to replace some of the severe losses the battalion had suffered at Isandlwana.

For his service Thomas received the South Africa Medal with 1877-8 and 1879 clasps. Thomas also received the presentation Address from the Mayor of Durban in January 1880.

Thomas then served with the battalion in Gibraltar from 13th January to 11th August 1880, and then in India from where he returned on the 27th January 1883.

He settled in Runcorn, where he lived at 9 Brunswick Street with his wife Martha nee Plant. They had 6 sons and 4 daughters.

The 1911 Census show that Thomas was living at Mount Pleasant along with his wife Martha

Daughter Catherine

Son Thomas

Daughter Eliza

Son John

Daughter Mary

Son Francis

Son James

Thomas was one of the last known survivors of the Rorke's Drift garrison when he died at his home in Brunswick Street, Runcorn on the 19th November 1936 age 80. Thomas left a widow and a large family and was buried in Runcorn Cemetery Section 13 Plot 138.

Thomas was buried on the 21st November 1936, buried with him are

Martha Ann buried 25th June 1941 age 65

Brian McCallion buried 27th September 1945 age 5

Thomas Joseph buried 10 November 1972 age 75

Thomas was presented to George V when the King opened the Old Transporter Bridge in 1925

In June 1993 his last surviving child, Nora McCallion aged 77 was interviewed by the local newspaper and stated *"When he returned from his Army service he had little or no income to fall back on and (she) thinks that the Church Street traders arranged a collection. They told dad we would have to go in the workhouse and he was absolutely livid and would not entertain the idea"*.
