

From: Lieutenant Colonel Neil C. Smith AM Retd

MOSTLY UNSUNG MILITARY HISTORY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

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RESEARCH NOTES

Name: **James Benjamin Edward LOCKWOOD**

Rank: Trooper and Constable

Regimental Number: 342 and 151

Date of Birth: 1878

Place of Birth: Rushworth, Victoria

Occupation: Brick layer, brick maker and apiarist

Marital Status: Married Clara CROSS in 1902

Address:

Parents: Benjamin and Mary Jane (nee SMITH) LOCKWOOD,

Toolamba,

North Murchison, Victoria

Later: Mooroopna, Victoria

Religion: Church of England

Service Outline:

Served Part Time Duty with the Victorian Mounted Rifles.

Enlisted in the Victorian Mounted Rifles Contingent 1st January 1900 and to camp
Flemington under Colonel Tom PRICE.

Embarked Melbourne per Transport *Euryalus* 13th January 1900 with the 2nd Victorian
Mounted Rifles Contingent.

Disembarked Cape Town 5th February 1900 and to camp Maitland.

Operations against the Boers from 10th February 1900 near Pink Hill and Rensburg and to
Colesberg the next month.

To Bloemfontein 9th April 1900 then to the advance Westwards.

Wounded in Action with Gun Shot Wound to hand at Belfast 26th August 1900 and to
hospital Bloemfontein then Pretoria. See attached letter describing the action and subsequent
treatment.

Ceased duty with the 2nd Victorian Mounted Rifles at Cape Town 28th October 1900 having
decided to remain in South Africa with the Imperial Railway Police at Johannesburg.

Discharged 1st March 1901 but re-enlisted with the Railway Police. See attached.

Embarked Natal April 1902 per Transport *Sophocles* for Cape Town and on to Melbourne.
No further service.

Remarks:

Awarded Queen's South Africa medal with clasps Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Belfast,
Cape Colony and Orange Free State vide WO 100/291 page 19.

Copy of [photograph attached.

Died 14th July 1964.

Researched National Archives Australia and civil records.

The subject is the only match to *J.L. VMR 1900-01*. Another 14 Victorians with the initials J L noted with only 2 who served in South Africa 1900-01 but they were both Victorian Imperial Bushmen. All others served either 1899-1900 or 1901-1902. Note too that the subject is referred to as J LOCKWOOD on the attached 1901 Railway Police Orders.

J. B. E. LOCKWOOD
2VNR



*T. Humphrey & Co.,
260 Collins St. N.Y.*

Extract

Railway Police Order
By Capt C. J. Lloyd Carson Comdg
Johannesburg 1st March 1901.

(1.) The intermentioned Constables are discharged
from the Railway Police at their own request for
reasons stated against their names.

Dated 28th February 1901

x x x x x x x x x x x

No. 131 Plt S. Lockwood, Victorian M. Rifle -

Not desirous of signing on under new conditions.

Signed C. J. Lloyd Carson Capt

Comdg Rly Police

True Extract

Captain

C. J. Lloyd Carson

Comdg Rly Police

Regiment or Corps.

ROLL of Individuals entitled to the South Africa Medal and Clasps, under the Army Order granting the Medal, issued on 1st April, 1901.

I certify that the Individuals named in this Roll were actually present at the meetings for which the Mobil and Clemen were listed as classes held in 1933

Place Victoria Bonacks. Melbourne.

Unte 2.8.01 -

the Medal and Clasp are claimed as above depicted,
Yours Truly,
 E. C. S. M. R. S. C. S. T.
Signature and Rank of Officer personally signifying of the Claimant's services.

(51)

And a poor poor. And they gave us a lively time. We got to them with the rifle & questioned them a bit. But our duty was paid out their strength & not to fight that day. The next day Sunday 26th was the most fierce fight I was in yet. French engaged them on the left. And drove them back & the moment our own (our lot) charged them & beat them back about four miles. And the Infantry with the Cavalry. They walked at them in the face of a shower of lead. It was terrible. I got to see the stretchers bearers coming in with wounded men. They were shot in all sort of ways. Some in the head & by arms. It was about 4 p.m. when I tried to stop one with my finger. But it took my finger clean off by the first joint. It was on the left hand & the marriage finger. I got it dressed on the spot by a Doctor & on Monday

Wednesday 29/8/00
Batavia

My Dear Girl

I receive & your most ever welcome & loving letter on the 23rd day. I was so glad to hear from you just at that time. Because we know that a big fight was in store for us in a few days time. We marched rapidly for about a week. To get up to where French & Guller had formed the Boers in a good position in a long range of Thopjes. & we were to give a hand in driving them out. We came up on Friday 24th & had a big fight, none of us hit except one who had a bullet cut the hand of his hand. On Saturday the big guns were mostly firing. Went in the afternoon. We had to go out and find out their position & strength. We did too by firing a few hundred rounds of 24 lb. field gun.

I expect to be well again in a couple of months. I think I will be at home soon & be & will not be in the front again. As you can expect to see me about next time probably before. Although your boy is a letter, with some money in the house.

I am very pleased to hear that you go to the Dancers & I hope you can teach me how to dance. As I have forgot by this time. Mine will be waiting. I think I can meet things & spirit. I see as I see the forms. I have no more news to tell but say farewell, but not forever. How hard it is to say farewell.

So you, do me so soon.

I think that many months must pass.

Ever I shall have the near but hope does still the same with us. We grow fond one another. As a those sweet accents making farewell my love, but not forever.

I will now say good bye for a time remember me to your mother, with love & all friends. I am your affectionate

For the future
Your son & daughter
Soldier & Soldier

Morning we attended to again. On 22nd 2pm we loaded a train some fifty tons. The train started at seven at night. Being full in a open truck with fifteen other all for hospital & cases of fever. We travelled all night and got to Pretoria at 2pm in the afternoon being 24 hours in the truck.

We are well treated at the hospital having a bath all over, which is a luxury & a change of clothes. Shirts & socks we only change when we happen to get new ones. And our pants are never taken off.

One man had a new pair of pants. It was quite a treat to get new clothes. Free from lice which every man is covered with. It nothing to see a man loose himself & fall a couple of hundred times. We clean ourselves & we have as many on in the night. We have got a nice spring bed now & everything clean & tidy & some nice & strong soldiers to look to.