

MARTYN LOVELL

The Tulloch Memorial Medal and Sleeping Sickness

THE Tulloch Memorial Medal was created to remember Lieutenant Forbes Manson Grantt Tulloch, who died of sleeping sickness after cutting his hand with an infected knife in 1906. He was working for a Royal Society Commission to investigate the disease in Entebbe, Uganda, and was brought back from Uganda by Lt Gray, with whom he had been working. Forbes died at Queen Alexandra Military Hospital at Millbank on the Thames in June 1906.

Sleeping sickness in Sub-Saharan Africa is caused by a parasite called a Trypanosome—it gets into the human and animal blood stream from a bite by the blood-sucking Tsetse fly. Whilst in the blood stream, it causes malaise, fever, and general debility. It becomes much more serious when brain involvement

occurs, including lethargy, coma and, in many cases, death. The Tsetse fly is present in trees, forests and vegetation. Numerous epidemics have occurred over the years, but the number of cases is now reduced by control of the fly, control of exposure of humans and mass treatment of infection. At one stage, animals, which carry the disease, could not be brought into infective areas. Wordsworth Poole—whose Defence of Legations medal group recently sold at auction—commented on the death of horses because of the belts of Tsetse fly in 1896 when he was at Zomba/Nyasa in present day Malawi. Bicycles were recommended instead of horses because domestic animals sometimes appeared to be more susceptible.

Lt Forbes Tulloch's obituary appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of June 30, 1906. He was the son of the late Deputy Surgeon-General John Tulloch, who also died whilst Forbes was on the way back to England. Forbes was 27 years old and

“... He had fallen on the field of battle against disease, giving his life in the noblest of all causes—the discovery of the means of doing good to his fellowmen...”

studied at St Mary's Hospital, London, qualifying in 1901. In 1902–03, he was a Civil Surgeon with the South African Field Force. He obtained a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1903. In 1906, he was invalided home and was treated at Millbank, where it was said all that was possible was done by Professor Rose Bradford and Major Leishman (also known for tropical medicine work). The course of the disease was described as unusually rapid. It was commented that

Lt Tulloch was a man of fine nature, which made him universally popular. He had fallen on the field of battle against disease, giving his life in the noblest of all causes—the discovery of the means of doing good to his fellow men.

Lt Tulloch was obviously a very keen student and wrote up staining methods for pathology in 1904. His article on the biting house fly or “stable fly” was published in 1907 in the journal of the RAMC.

Following his death a silver medal known as the Tulloch Medal was created for award to the best



Tulloch Memorial Medal.



candidate in pathology of medical officers taking the four month course and exams to join RAMC. It was 45mm in diameter, silver, made by Spink. The obverse features Lieutenant F. M. G. Tulloch in military uniform with the words "LIEUT. F. M. G. TULLOCH, R.A.M.C., UGANDA 1906" inscribed around. The reverse portrays a seated and robed figure of the female "Scientia". Forbes himself had come first on his course in pathology in 1903.

The RAMC no longer gives instruction in pathology to its medical officers or tests it as such, so the prize is now awarded to the officer who comes first in the course examination in Primary Care (general practice after four years postgraduate training). Today it consists of a bronze medal and a purse of £100. I have not been able to find when the changeover occurred, although it appears to have been awarded for pathology as late as 1960, but it had changed by 1972.

Very few medals have appeared on the market. One was sold in a Newcastle auction in 2014, named to "LT. R. B. PRICE, ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, OCTOBER 1913". Robert Bernard Price had a very full career in the RAMC as a pathologist and hospital CO, retiring as an Honorary Brigadier after World War II. Another was sold at DNW in March 2020, awarded to "LT F. C. DAVIDSON, APRIL 1913". Frederick Churchill Davidson gained the MC in World War I, serving to 1920. He served in Netley Hospital in

Animals in Uganda were one of the main sources of infection from the Tsetse fly.



World War II, being granted the honorary rank of Colonel. Another bronze award is known to have been sold on Ebay.

The RAMC discovered a great deal about sleeping sickness and other parasites. For example, the *London Gazette* of December 18, 1903, gives details of the promotion of Lt-Col David Bruce to Colonel for investigating the cause of sleeping sickness in Uganda, as well as work in connection with Malta fever (later called Brucellosis). He helped link the trypanosome in the gut of the Tsetse fly to the disease. He was later knighted. Some might say this follows on from Sir Ronald Ross, RAMC, who had identified the malarial parasite in the gut of the mosquito in 1897—the organisms both being single cell mobile protozoal parasites in the

same class of amoeba which may be more widely known. Ross' IGS 1895 medal with two clasps sold at the sale of the Lloyd Collection at Bonhams in 2013.

Lt Arthur Clayton Horner Gray, who had brought Tulloch back to England, continued the work in Uganda and later, in 1918, commanded 37th CCS. He was captured alongside his unit in the German advance and became a PoW. After World War I he saw service in Waziristan and Turkey before returning home to become Head of Army Pathology. He retired in 1932 as Colonel and Professor but was recalled in 1941 for home duties. He died near Colchester in 1963.

These examples confirm that our soldiers were often more at risk of disease than injury.

STEPHEN WHEELER MEDALS

Specialists in British, Foreign & Third Reich Orders & Decorations

Always keen to purchase, trade, sell all types of World Orders

Shop: 20 Cecil Court,
Leicester Square
London WC2N 4HE
Tel: 0207 240 6827

Or visit my stand:
Monday at the famous Jubilee Antiques Market,
Covent Garden, Stand 111, from 8am–2.30pm.

NEW STOCK COMING IN WEEKLY.

Please phone me on 0207 240 6827 or 07778 848555
Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.30pm

or visit us online at www.buymilitarymedals.com



Over 40 Years
in Business