

# David REW



Born: 1876

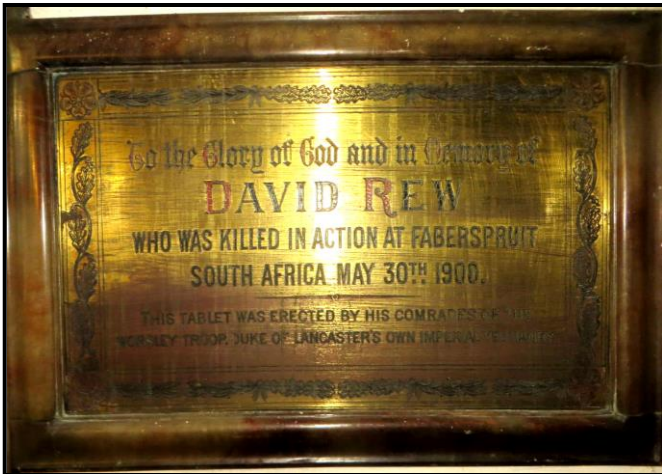
Died: 30 April 1900

*ELECTRICAL ENGINEER  
KILLED IN THE BOER WAR  
(Buried in Kimberley)*



Paul R. Speakman 2021

## David REW



*To the Glory of God and in Memory of  
**DAVID REW**  
who was killed in action at Faberspruit  
South Africa MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> 1900.  
This tablet was erected by his comrades of the  
Worsley Troop, Duke Of Lancaster's  
Own Imperial Yeomanry.*

[This memorial is fixed to the wall on the NW corner of the church, adjacent to the Book of Remembrance. It does not mean that he is buried here. Nor did his family have any connection with the area. The only reason for it being here is that it was installed in his memory by members of his troop, the Worsley troop. He was living in Manchester

at the time of his enlistment and the HQ of the Yeomanry was in Whalley Road, Manchester. The **Imperial Yeomanry** was a volunteer mounted force of the British Army that mainly saw action during the Second Boer War. The Yeomanry was not intended to serve overseas, but due to the string of defeats during Black Week in December 1899, the British government realized they were going to need more troops than just the regular army. A Royal Warrant was issued on 24 December 1899 to allow volunteer forces to serve in the Second Boer War. In March 1896 the 3rd Earl of Ellesmere was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Yeomanry Cavalry regiment].

**David Rew** was a 23 year old engineer and a serving member of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Cavalry. When he joined the Imperial Yeomanry on the 3rd of February **1900**, interestingly, at Blackpool, he gave his next of kin as his mother living on Sefton Street in Liverpool. His attestation certificate shows that he was aged 23 years 10 months and that he was an apprentice with the firm P.R. Jackson & Co., Electrical Engineers, Salford, and that he had been there for two years. The date suggests that he would have been born about April 1876.

He is also remembered on the memorial from Greenbank School, Mossley Hill, Liverpool. The school's memorial is now kept at St. Matthew and St. James' Church, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, but is not on general view; it is now in a room which used to be a vestry. Greenbank School was founded in 1888 as a preparatory school, and the building in the linked photos was built in 1895. It closed in 1980. At the bottom of the memorial is a quotation '*Be strong and of a good courage*' which was also Greenbank School's motto

Trooper **David Rew**, of the Imperial Yeomanry", was number 2788 and served with 8th I.Y. and was Killed in Action at Faber's Put on 30/5/00. There has been some debate amongst reserachers about the place. The opinion is that "Faberspruit" should be "Faber's Puts": the farm, where Sir Charles Warren's column (including the Imperial Yeomanry) was attacked by Boer commandos on 30 May **1900**.

His death officially occurred at Douglas, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape, South Africa, and he was later buried at West End Cemetery, Kimberley, Frances Baard District Municipality, Northern Cape, South Africa. **Rew** was subsequently buried at Kimberley after exhumation from Faberspruit

From: Buxton War Memorials  
Graham E Conway [2014]

### **The Battle of Faber Spruit, Cape Colony – 30th May 1900**

*"The British empire at home and abroad : an account of its origin, progress and present position, with full descriptions of Canada, Australia, South Africa, India, and other colonies and dependencies"* (S. Edgar, 1902, p. 90) describes the action where several men lost their lives as follows:

*“On May 30th a smart action took place at Faber Spruit, twelve miles from Douglas. Sir Charles Warren, with 700 men, had reached that point on the previous day, and occupied a strong defensive position. Before dawn he was fiercely attacked by a body of 1000 rebels, who, during the moonless night, had crept up and surrounded the British camp beyond the picket-lines.*

*At the same time a strong party, with their boots off, passed between the pickets up a valley into the garden of a farm a short distance from the Yeomanry quarter-guard, while another party advanced, in the open, directly up to another farmhouse where Sir Charles and the Duke's Volunteers were quartered.*

*Just before daylight firing began on all sides upon various parts of the camps, covering a considerable area. A very heavy fire was poured in from the garden upon the space between the two farmhouses. That ground was, fortunately for the British, not occupied by troops, but communication between the infantry and the mounted men was thus cut off. The English Yeomanry horses had been kraaled, and, taking fright at the firing, the animals broke through the walls and stampeded, together with the English horses of the other corps*

*Most of the Cape horses, and all the Canadian, remained quiet. For some time a very heavy fire was directed by the enemy upon the kraal where **Paget's Horse** and the Colt gun were stationed. The shield of the Colt, promptly brought into action, was smashed to pieces. As day broke, the position of the enemy in the garden was revealed, and Sir Charles Warren directed the whole of the fire of the reserves and of the Maxim gun upon that point.*

*The enemy fled thence, after heavy loss, as the Duke's Volunteers started to charge them. The Duke's Volunteers, **the Yeomanry under Colonel Hughes**, and Warren's Scouts, advancing to support the pickets, drove off the rebels surrounding the camp, the Yeomanry showing special coolness under a heavy fire as they charged out from their sheltered bivouacs to an adjacent hill, and losing heavily in their advance.*

*The action lasted nearly an hour, the Canadian guns firing shell into the retreating foe, and having a gunner killed. The British loss was 15 killed, including the gallant and popular Colonel Spence, of the Duke's Volunteers, and 30 wounded, including Major Kelly, A.D.C. Sir Charles Warren and his staff were greatly exposed in passing backwards and forwards, mounted.”*

The *Sydney Morning Herald* on Wednesday 6 June 1900 reported:

**THE GRIQUALAND REBELS.  
FABER SPRUIT ATTACK CUN- NINGLY DEVISED.  
LONDON, June 5.**

*The attack which the rebels made on Lieutenant-General Sir Charles "Warren at Faber Spruit, in the Douglas district, was cunningly planned and daringly executed.*

*The Yeomanry behaved with remarkable coolness and with courage. In the engagement several members of Sir Charles Warren's staff were wounded.*

*A number of noted Griqualand sharpshooters were killed.*

**1851** census: 19 Windsor Street, Toxteth Park.

Mary Rew	Head	W	41	Milliner & Dressmaker	b. Scotland
<b>John</b>	Son		13	Scholar	b. Liverpool

**1861** census: 44 Egerton Street, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

<b>John Rew</b>	Head	S	23	Cotton Broker's Salesman
Mary Rew	Mother	W	51	

**1873:** 1 May. **John Rew** married Jane McClymont at Kirkmichael, Ayr, Scotland.

**David Rew** was the son of **John Rew**, and his wife Jane, of Heathlands, Sefton Park, Liverpool.

**1881** census: Heathlands, Toxteth Park.

John Rew	Head	M	43	Cotton Broker	b. Liverpool
Jane	Wife	M	37		b. Scotland
<b>David</b>	Son		5		b. Liverpool
Mary	Daur.		3		b. Liverpool
Mary	Mother	W	72		b. Scotland

John Rew, (David's father) died on 15 April and was buried on 19 April **1881** in Toxteth Park Cemetery. He was 43 years old and had been a Cotton Broker. He was buried in Plots G 389 and 390, described as a Freehold Double Vault.

**REW John.**

Personal Estate under £100,000.

16 May. The Will of John Rew late of Heathlands Sefton Park Liverpool in the County of **Lancaster** Cotton Broker who died 15 April 1881 at Heathlands was proved at **Liverpool** by Jane Rew of Heathlands Widow the Relict Edward Merrifield of 16 Ullet-road Liverpool Cotton Merchant and John Roxburgh of 11 Lockerby-road Liverpool Cotton Broker the Executors.

**1891** census: Heathlands, Toxteth Park.

<b>Jane Rew</b>	Head	W	47	Living on her Own Means
Mary	Daur.	S	13	
Agnes L. McClymont	Vis.	S	48	Living on her Own Means

+ 5 servants.

September **1901:** Incoming Passengers at Liverpool, on the *Etruria*. Travelling from New York in Saloon Class.

<b>Jane Rew</b>	57
Mary Rew	23

[Her brother John was living in New York and died there in 1905 - Ed.].

**1911** census: Purley Hall, Pangbourne. (20 rooms)

<b>Jane Rew</b>	Head	W	67	b. Ayrshire, Kirkmichael
John David Rew Elkington	G'son.		20mo.	b. Berkshire, Purley
Isabella Ramsey Merrifield	Sis.	M	65	(married 40 years)

+ 6 servants



**Mary Rew**, (David's sister), married John Ford Elkington on 9 July **1908** at the parish church of Whitchurch in the diocese of Oxford. He was a major in H.M. Land Forces and his father (deceased) had been a Lieut. Gen. in H.M. Land Forces. Mary's father, a Cotton broker, was deceased. Mary Rew resided at Purley Hall, Oxon.

WILL. **Jane Rew** of Purley Hall Pangbourne near Reading widow died 16 November 1915. Probate London 4 February 1916 to John Roxburgh and Hugh Laughland Rew cotton brokers. Effects £33,398. Resworn £35,594.

+ + + + +

**John Rew. (David's father)**

The *Liverpool Mercury* on Wednesday 20 April 1881 reported:

*FUNERAL OF MR. JOHN REW.*

*Yesterday, the funeral of Mr. John Rew took at place at Smithdown-road Cemetery, in the presence of a large number of friends. The funeral cortège consisted of a hearse drawn by four horses, and twelve mourning coaches containing the relatives and intimate friends of the deceased gentleman, besides a great number of private carriages. The principal mourners were - **First Carriage** - Mrs. Rew (widow), Miss McClymont, Mr. McClymout, Rev. John Watson. **Second Carriage** - Mr. Edward Merrifield, Mrs. Merrifield, Mr. John Roxburgh, Mr. Oliver Jones. **Third Carriage** - Mr. W. H. Alexander, Mr. J. B. Hunter, Mr. W. S. Cairns, Mr. John Turner. **Fourth Carriage** - Mr. Alexander Stewart, Mr. J. Hastings Ziegler, Mr. J. H. Rankin, Mr. Andrew Campbell. **Fifth Carriage** - Miss Munn, Mr. John Patterson, Mr. W. G. Henderson, Rev. S. R. McPhail. **Sixth Carriage** - Mr. James Smith, Mr. W. P. Lockhart, Mr. William Moffatt, Rev. Archibald Gardner. **Seventh Carriage** - Mr. Edward Paul, Mr. Jack. **Eighth Carriage** - Mr. David Jardine, Rev. A. M. Symington. **Ninth Carriage** - Mr. J. M. Patterson. **Tenth Carriage** - Mr. John McClynont, Mr. John Milligan, Mr. A. C. Ziegler, Mr. James Rankin, jun. **Eleventh Carriage** - Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. J. Carlton Stitt. **Twelfth Carriage** - Mr. Chadwick, Mr. J. D. Robertson. In private carriages there were Dr. Crawford, I y Messrs. E. Paul, D. Jardine, T. Main Patterson, J. Bingham, Thomas Smith. Thomas Bell, E. Edwards. Among those who were present in the cemetery were the Rev. A. B. Barkway, Rev. R. Duff, Rev. P. White, Rev. J. McAndrew, Rev. T. McPherson, Rev. Drummond Anderson; Messrs. W. Williams, A. Balfour, B. P. Babcock, R. H. Carrick, Callender, T. Holder, J. Smith, Jackson, T. W. Harley, J. R. Darsie. David Duncan, J. Whitney, J. Whiting, D. P. Hcnuphries, Sumner, A. Hannay, J. Given. There were also present a great number of the employees of the deceased's firm, and many of the congregation of the Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, of which the deceased gentleman was a prominent member. The funeral service in the cemetery chapel and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. John Watson, minister of the church just named. The coffin, which was covered with flowers, was of polished oak with handsome brass mountings, and the shield bore the inscription - 'John Rew; died 15th April, 1881. Aged 43 years' and the interment took place in a new family vault opposite the Nonconformist chapel. The funeral arrangements were in charge of Messrs. Woolright and Co.*

From the *International Cotton Association* website:

*"Major improvement to transport and communication systems brought crucial developments. The railways reduced the time and cost of travel and improved reliability in transporting cotton to the Lancashire towns. The Liverpool Cotton Brokers' Association was established in 1841 and it quickly established a successful system of arbitration. The Transatlantic Telegraph Cable reduced long distance communication from weeks to minutes. Liverpool broker **John Rew** recognised the far-reaching implications of this development and created the hedge fund system. This led to the hugely successful Liverpool Cotton Futures Market, which doubled the business of the Liverpool Cotton Market. In 1911-12 Liverpool imported a staggering 5,230,399 bales of cotton".*

Also from the *International Cotton Association* website:

### *The Rise of King Cotton*

*John Rew is a name which has largely been forgotten by history, which, given his achievements, shows just how unfair the judgements of history can be. He started his working life in the Bank of Liverpool when he was aged just 15, and that financial experience would serve him very well later in his career. After five years, he joined the office of the cotton brokers Armour & Co., before setting up his own cotton broking firm five years later in 1863. Rew's principal achievement was what appears to be the creation of the first modern 'hedge'. The transatlantic telegraph cable allowed him to exploit the possibilities of the simultaneous deal, using the cable to get quotations from the Cotton Belt in the USA and buy the cotton he wanted in an instant, but which would not be delivered to Liverpool for another two or three months; then going to the Liverpool arrivals market to sell the cotton that he had just bought from the USA, the sale to have a date sufficiently far enough to allow his cotton to*



*be delivered and to sell it on. This appears to be the first example of the modern 'hedge' in action, and its effect was immediate. Other traders quickly followed Rew's example, and the hugely important Liverpool cotton futures market was born. Rew's great insight brought years of great prosperity to Liverpool and its cotton market – its turnover would increase by over 100 per cent in the coming years.*

*John Rew also appears to have invented a new form of contract into the bargain. Because he had no way of knowing what quality of cotton he was buying with his purchase over the telegraph, he did not specify what grade of cotton was being sold; instead, the cotton being delivered would be valued on the basis for the middling fixed in the contract – the first known example of a so-called 'Basis Middling' in Liverpool. Once again, history has been unkind to Rew; the original contract has not survived, so we have no means of knowing what the terms of the contract were, nor what grades of cotton were deliverable. One cotton historian, John A. Todd, has questioned Rew's originality, writing, 'It is equally difficult to ascertain where John Rew got the idea of this basis contract. It is extremely unlikely that he invented it; it is much more probable that the practice of selling cotton "on basis" had grown up between the Belt and New York.' But as Todd himself admits, 'no evidence of the growth of this practice can be traced', and given Rew's history of originality of thought in this area, it seems churlish to deny him here.*

*Another first he can claim to lay in his election to the Liverpool Cotton Brokers' Association. That Association passed a resolution in 1863 which stipulated that all future elections of members would be by means of ballot, rather than by a show of hands. The first member to be elected by this new method was John Rew. As his obituary reports, 'For 18 years he was known in this community as a man of high principle and blameless character.'*

*There was more to John Rew, however, than visionary thinker and successful businessman. He was regarded as a tireless philanthropist, giving money to a number of institutions, including the Young Men's Christian Association, the Town Mission and the Seamen's Orphanage, of which he was a committee member at the time of his death. He was a prominent Presbyterian, holding the office of elder in Canning Street Presbyterian church, and was one of the chief promoters of the then new Presbyterian church in Sefton Park. His obituary recorded that 'one who knew him well assures us that he literally gave away more than he spent'. He had, unfortunately, a delicate constitution, and had to spend several winters in the South of France on health grounds, dying in April 1881 aged just 48. The firm that he founded, however, would outlive him by over 100 years.*

*Show NE*

*23rd*  
Army Form B 267.

# LONG SERVICE.

*One* (12 years with the Colours).

## ATTESTATION OF

No. *2788* Name *David Rew* Corps *Imperial Yeomanry*

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? ..... *David Rew*
  2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ..... *South* in or near the Town of *Weymouth* in the County of *Dorset*
  3. Are you a British Subject? .....
  4. What is your Age? ..... *23* Years *10* Months
  5. What is your Trade or Calling? ..... *Carpenter*
  6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place, or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, if so, state where? ..... *No*
- You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years imprisonment with hard labour.
7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? if so, where? to whom? and for what period? ..... *No*
  8. Are you Married? ..... *No*
  9. Have you ever been sentenced to Imprisonment by the Civil Power? ..... *No*
  10. Do you now belong to Her Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Royal Navy, the Volunteers, the Yeomanry, the Army Reserve, or the Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what Corps? ..... *1st Cavalry*
  11. Have you ever served in Her Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, or the Royal Navy? If so, state which and cause of discharge ..... *No*
  12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? ..... *No*
  13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for Her Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ..... *No*
  14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ..... *No*
  15. For what Corps are you willing to be enlisted, or are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ..... *Imperial Yeomanry*
  16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ..... *No*
  17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided Her Majesty should so long require your services? ..... *Yes*
    - (a) For a term of 12 years in Army Service? .....
    - (b) If the above-mentioned term of 12 years expires while you are on service with the Regular Forces beyond the seas, or while a state of war exists with a Foreign Power, or while Soldiers in the Reserves are required by proclamation to continue in or re-enter upon Army Service, then to serve for a further period not exceeding 12 months. ....

I, *David Rew* 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.  
*David Rew* Signature of Recruit. *W. D. Griffiths* Signature of Witness.

### OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, *David Rew* do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of Her Majesty, Her Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.  
Witness my hand. Signature of Recruit *David Rew*  
Signature of Witness *W. D. Griffiths*

### CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and oath before me at *Weymouth*

on this *3* day of *February* 1900.  
Signature of the Justice *Walter J. Barker J.P. for County of Dorset*

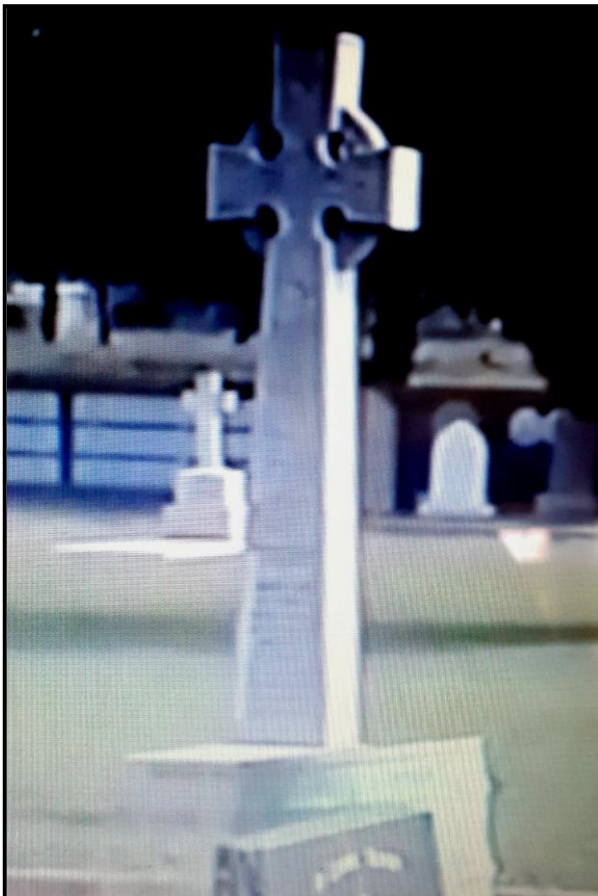
\* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former Service, and to produce, if possible, his Pardon Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed on the (Date) re-enlisted in the (Regiment)



*'In proud remembrance of British soldiers who were killed in action or who died as a result of service during the South African at places enumerated on this monument and who now lie buried here at Kimberley'*

*[Created by the South African War Graves Board, 1965]*

The name of **Pte. Rew D.** appears in the 40 names inscribed on the memorial who were members of the Imperial Yeomanry.



This beautiful bright Celtic cross stands in the cemetery at West End, Kimberley, and is the headstone to the burial site of **David Rew**. The inscription at the foot of the cross reads:

