



Imperial Yeomanry on Patrol in South Africa

Trooper Fred Tucker and Dr. Hadley

Mr. F. A. Hadley, M. D., who was for some time assistant to Mr. R. L. Willcox, has been gazetted medical Officer, with the temporary rank of captain, in the Imperial Yeomanry. Mr. Hadley sailed for the front on Saturday last with the Duke of Cambridge's Own, taking with him his servant, a Warminster man, Fred Tucker, of Portway.

Warminster and Westbury Journal, Saturday, 24 February 1900

Among the Local Prisoners

Among those captured with the 13th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry - particulars regarding which will be found on page two - is Dr. Hadley, the medical officer, who was for a good portion of last year assistant to Dr. Willcox, of Warminster, and Frederick Tucker, a former groom with Dr. Willcox, who went to South Africa as Dr. Hadley's servant. All will hope for their speedy deliverance, which, indeed, we may confidently look for.

Warminster and Westbury Journal, Saturday, 9 June 1900

A Narrow Shave

A letter dated June 4th, from Lindley, has been received by his parents from Trooper F. Tucker, of D Company, Imperial Yeomanry. From the letter it will be seen that the report which appeared at the time that he and Dr. Hadley, with whom he went out, were captured with the rest of the Yeomanry force there was incorrect, the Boers evidently distinguishing between combatants and red cross men.

"Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite safe and well, as I hope this finds all of you at present, but we have been having an awful time of it. I never thought that one would live to tell the tale, but thank God, I am safe. This is how it happened: We left Blomfontein to go to Springfontein, but when we got there we had to go on to Kroonstad - that is about 100 miles farther on. When we got there we had to march to Lindley - that took us two days - to join General Colven's column, but we were half a day too

late, so they let him with his big force pass through quiet. But they waited for us, and let us go right into the town, then opened fire on us out of doors and windows. As there were so many of the Boers and only four hundred of us we had to retire on a kopje. It was an awful ride from the town to the hills, for they were all around us. We only had one day's ration, and we had to put up with that, for we could not get any in town. The next day it began again. I was never so frightened in all my life. We had to crawl about on our hands and knees, for the bullets whizzed around you like hail stones. We were like that from Sunday till Thursday, without anything to eat except a bit of boiled meat (a few sheep we caught) once a day, and sometimes not that. Well, I had a few shots at them, but not many, for Dr. Hadley put a red cross on my arm, then I could not have a shot, and on the Thursday they got three big guns, and would have blown us to pieces if we had not given in, so all the rest except the Doctor and myself were taken prisoners, as we had to look after the wounded. There were a great many killed and wounded. The next day Lord Methuen came into the town with over ten thousand troops. We should have been right if he had come a day before."

Warminster and Westbury Journal, Saturday, 21 July 1900