



David Paton Lindsay (02/04/1883-02/12/1918)

Second son of Ninian Lindsay (1847-1921) and Anne (1850-1940) Lindsay (nee Paton), David was one of a family of 3 generations of doctors.

His father Ninian was one of 10 children from a farming family who lived in Abercorn on the south bank of the River Forth. His wife, Ann, was one of 8 children from a fishing family who lived in the now derelict fishing village of Fishtown of Usan, near Montrose.

Both Ninian and Ann can be found living in Chelsea after 1871. It is thought that Ninian, a journeyman carpenter, had moved to London in search of work; Ann had also come to London with her brother although it is not known whether Ninian and Ann knew each other prior to arriving in London. Records show that Ninian and Annie married in 27th April 1880 in St Simon's Church, Chelsea. At this time they were living in Bywater Street just off the King's Road in Chelsea, moving to Draycott Terrace not far away soon after their marriage. A further move took the family to Denyer Street in Chelsea where the birth of 2 sons followed, John (15/05/1881-1950) and David Paton (02/04/1883-1918). David was christened at the Chelsea Presbyterian Church, West Halkin Street, Belgrave Square, Kensington.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number: G211235

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Chelsea

1883 BIRTH in the Sub-district of Chelsea North East in the County of Middlesex

Column	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of register	Name entered after registration
105	Second object of 1883 St James Street	David Paton	Boy	Ninian Lindsay	Annie Lindsay formerly Paton	Journeyman	Mr Lindsay Nathan St Denyon Street	Fourth April 1883	John Lindsay	Register

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Births in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 6th day of September 2002

BXBZ 620921

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE ENGLAND

Figure 1 Birth certificate. NB misspelling of the name Paton

By 1886 the family had returned to Scotland, living in East Terrace, South Queensferry where Ninian was working on the construction of the Forth Railway Bridge. Two daughters, Mary Jane (1886-1912) and Williamina (1888-1976) were born there. In 1890 another daughter, Rachel Mitchell Paton (1890-1961) was born in Murdoch Terrace,

Edinburgh where they were living at the time of the 1891 census although by 1901, they were living at Uphall Station in West Lothian where their final child, a son Ninian (1892-1892) who died soon after birth is buried.



Figure 2: Family group, possibly photographed by John Lindsay.

Figure 2 shows a family group, possibly taken at Fishtown of Usan, near Montrose, Scotland. From left to right those shown are Williamina Anne Clerk (1888-1976), Ninian Lindsay (1847-1921), Rachel Mitchell Paton Lindsay (1890-1961), Mary Jane Lindsay (seated, 1886-1912), Catherine Pert Paton (Anne's sister 1857-1950), David Paton Lindsay (1883-1918) and Ann Paton (1850-1940).

Between 1901-1912 John was a student at Edinburgh University Medical School where he graduated with an MB, ChB on 12/07/1912. For a while David worked as a butcher's apprenticeⁱ before beginning his medical studies at Edinburgh University in 1907, graduating with a MB, ChB in 1912ⁱⁱ. Having completed his medical studies, John moved to Hebburn where took up employment as a GP.



Figure 3: Brothers David and John Lindsay

On 19/17/1912, David's sister, Mary, died and is buried at Uphall Cemetery. David and his parents are also commemorated on the gravestone.

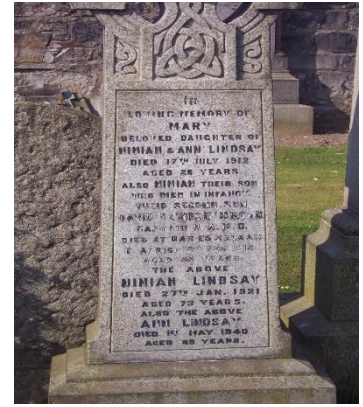


Figure 4: Family grave in Uphall Cemetery

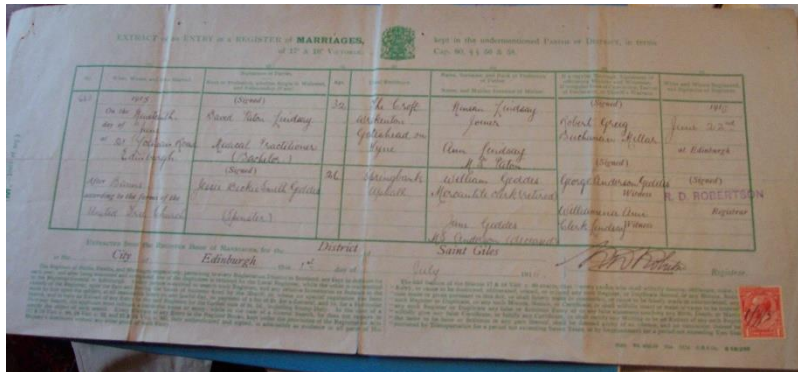


Figure 5: Marriage certificate

On 17/06/1915 he married Jessie (sometimes referred to as Janet) Dickie Smith Geddes (1889-1976), the youngest daughter of William Geddes of

Uphallⁱⁱⁱ in Edinburgh. According to the marriage certificate, David was now living at the Croft, Wrekenton, whilst Jessie's address is given as Springbank, Uphall. The witnesses are David's sister and Jessie's brother.

A son named Ninian Gordon Lindsay was born on 20th May 1916 at 16 Walmer Terrace, Eighton Banks where David was working as a doctor. The probate records for David give this as his address when he died.

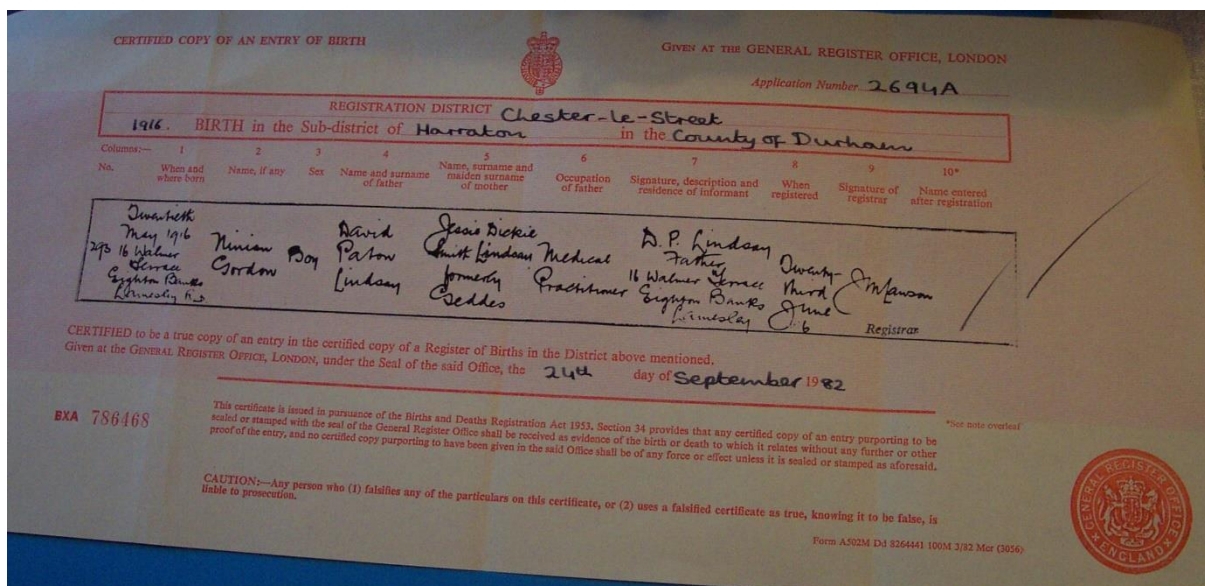


Figure 6 Ninian Gordon Lindsay birth certificate



Figure 7: Jessie, David and their son Ninian Gordon

David joined the RAMC becoming a Lieutenant in May 1917 ^{iv} with promotion to Captain in May 1918 ^v.

In May 1917 (21/07/2017 according to his British Army WW1 medal roll index card held at the National Archives) he was posted to German East Africa leaving Jessie and her young son back in the UK. Letters sent to his parents and sisters ^{vi} indicate that in June 1917 he was sent to Codford 2 Camp, Squires Gate, Blackpool, where the daily routine is one of parades, drills, lectures and he comments that they are fed well. In

preparation for his posting he received various inoculations suffering a few side effects as a result.

On 25th February 1918 he writes from Ndanda, German East Africa (now Tanzania). Another letter dated 27th June 1918 records that he had *'just recovered from my first attack of malarial fever...'* in Lindi.

His letter dated 30th July 1918 was sent from Monapo, Mozambique and thanks everyone for a huge bundle of letters and papers he has received, including a letter from a patient of his in Wrekenton. His 22nd August 1918 letter describes the sweltering heat and, whilst there are no problems with food, water is scarce. Judging by the letters received, he has received various items from home including photograph of Jessie and his baby son, commenting that *'From his photograph which I received recently I can see a very great difference in him [his baby son which he refers to as the 'wee man'] and he appears to be very strong and healthy. Jessie, I hope is keeping well. From the photograph she still looks very thin ...'* From the correspondence it is apparent that Jessie and baby Ninian Gordon lived in Wrekenton, spending time with the family in Scotland from time to time.

Writing from Monapo on 22nd September 1918, David refers to the fact that his wife Jessie has had *'a rather nasty attack ... I understand that it is a rather virulent type of influenza that is passing over the country ...'* It appears that to prevent baby Ninian Gordon from catching the influenza he stayed with one of his aunts and her family in Burntisland. By this time the hospital in Monapo was receiving fewer patients as the Germans had moved north.

On 7th October 1918 he writes *'I am keeping fairly well here, but I will not be sorry when I get out of the country. I have had another attack of fever, not nearly as bad as the last one I had. I feel I could do with a fortnights holiday at Usan now, just to get back to normal. One gets tired of the heat day after day and I would gladly welcome*

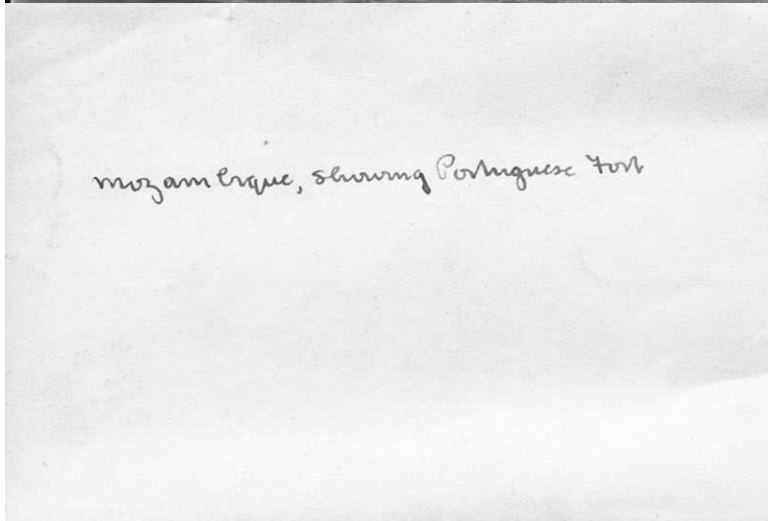
the rains for a change... there seems to be no doubt now as to the issue of the war. Germany seems to be beaten, which is a good thing, and I hope she gets a very good beating too, before Peace is declared.'

By 21st October 1918 he is looking forward to moving to Mozambique Island and by 14th November 1918 his letters show that he has arrived at Lumbo, Mozambique where he writes of being glad to be on the coast although the intense heat, dust and sandflies make life very uncomfortable. He goes on to comment that *'I can believe that there would be great rejoicings all over the country when it was known that the Germans had surrendered. When one remembers the bombastic speeches the Kaiser used to make and compare his position, with his position now, one feels that he thoroughly deserves all he has got ...'* His next move was scheduled to be to Dar-es-Salaam.



A keen photographer, David took photos and sent them home as shown right. ^{vii}

Although the Armistice was signed in Europe on 11th November, Von Lettow-Vorbeck, the German Commander did not learn of this until a couple of days later and did not finally surrender until 23rd November 1918. Although still at war, it is evident from David's letter of 14th November that news of the Armistice has reached him.



David's final letter written on 22nd November 1918 finds him moored at Port Amelia (renamed Pemba in 1975) en route to Dar-es-Salaam and hopefully the journey back to UK although, from the correspondence, it is apparent that David does not know whether he will be posted in Dar-es-Salaam or

Figure 8 Photo by David Paton Lindsay

returning home immediately.

Port Amelia
Portuguese East Africa
22 Nov 1916.

~~Dear Father & Mother & Beckie~~

Although I have written my address as above I am on board ship which is lying in the harbour. We embarked at Mozambique & are on our way to Dar-es-Salaam. Yesterday we called here, & intend to sail this afternoon about 4 o'clock, & I understand that we will proceed to Dar-es-Salaam with calling at any other port on our way. The harbour here is one of the finest on the East Coast of Africa, & is several miles wide & long. Since coming down to the coast we have had some sea bathing which we all enjoyed very much. It is cooler at the coast than it is inland & much healthier, & since we came on board we are getting excellent food & plenty good water, so we are feeling all at heights. I am glad to be able to state that I am in excellent health & feeling fit, also putting on weight.

I do not know yet what we will do when we arrive at Dar-es-Salaam, whether we will be posted to another job or sent home. I sincerely hope & trust that it will be the latter.

Figure 9: final letter

It is probable that he was aboard HMHS Ebani, one of 2 hospital ships transporting medical cases from Lindi and Kilwa to Dar-es-Salaam, Kilindini and back or at times off-loading on to one of the larger boats which cannot, owing to size, get into Lindi harbour. In 1917 an inspection report noted that it was 'Very good in every way except officers' wards which are rather low down and there are no single wards ...' ^{viii} (See Fig. 10). A family anecdote tells that he was on board a ship where there was an epidemic which he caught and died as a result which may give some credence to the anecdote.

Dar es Salaam was the capital of German East Africa. On 12 September 1916, Divisional GHQ moved to Dar es Salaam, and later No 3 East African Stationary Hospital was stationed there. The town became the chief sea base for movement of supplies and for the evacuation of the sick and wounded. The 3rd East African Stationary Hospital was inspected in 1917 and described as being 'rather cramped but doing fine work under Lieut-Colonel Rost, Indian Medical Service. ...' ^{ix}

Another major hospital in Dar Es Salaam at the time was the No 84 General Hospital, formerly the 15th British Stationary Hospital, described in 1917 as 'undoubtedly the

best medical unit yet seen. The Officer Commanding Lieut-Colonel McMunn, Royal Army Medical Corps (Regular) is indefatigable and has done an enormous amount of work ...'x.

Although it is not known for sure if David worked or was a patient there, but this may well have been the case. The War Diaries for this hospital^{xi} record the outbreak of influenza in German East Africa on 30th October 1918. An entry for 1st December 1918 records the total number of officers dying from influenza as 4; by 10th December a further 5 officers have died. On 2nd December 1918 David died. Could one of these be David?

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

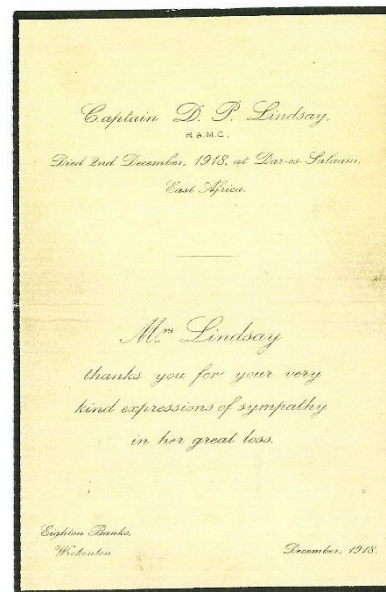
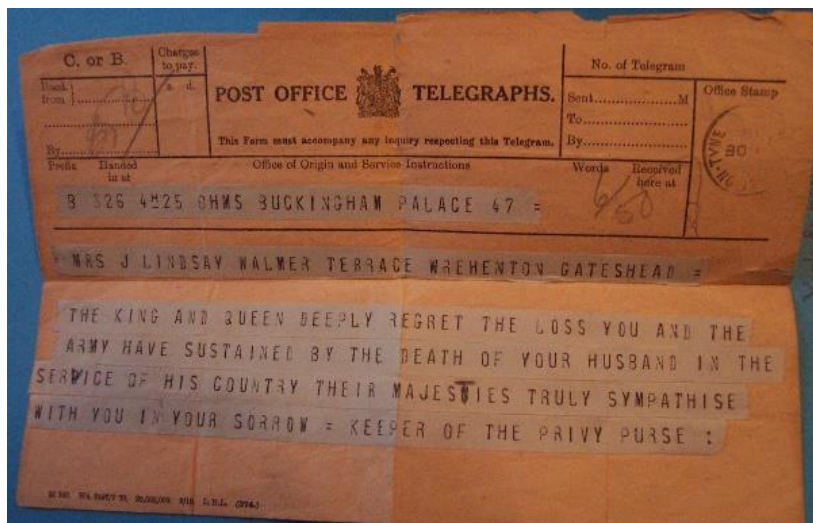
Army Form O. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
DAR-ES-SALAAM. 19-11-18.	Strict orders issued that Diet Sheets are to be more carefully entered up.	
20-11-19.	Improved routine adopted reference Inter-Hospital transfer of Patients.	
21-11-18.	Influenza Admissions:- 2 Officers, 1 Sister and 31 Other Ranks. Discharged:- 1 Sister and 25 Other Ranks. Remaining in Hospital suffering from Influenza:- 35 Officers, 11 Sisters and 442 Other Ranks.	
22-11-18.	On Dangerously Ill List:- 2 Officers, 1 Sister and 19 Other Ranks. Total number of deaths from Influenza:- 2 Officers and 14 Other Ranks. All concerned warned of the danger of relaxing measures taken for personal prophylaxis in Influenza epidemic.	
27-11-18.	4 British Officers, 4 Sisters to South Africa per H.T."Ingoma". New Orders ref. Arms, Equipment and Kit of Sick brought to notice of all concerned. (G.R.6.308/1918.)	
30-11-18.	Orders issued that all concerned should endeavour to assist to their utmost to prevent unnecessary untidiness and thus relieve the increased amount of work thrown on the Sanitation Staff owing to the Influenza Outbreak.	
1-12-18.	D E C E M B E R. War Office orders re extension of service brought to notice of all ranks. 10 Officers and 13 Other Ranks to B.E.A. Per HMHS "GASCON" Total number of Admissions to date from Influenza 1090. Total number of Deaths 4 Officers and 39 Other Ranks. Remaining in Hospital 56 Officers, 17 Sisters, 475 Other Ranks. On Dangerously Ill List 21 Other Ranks.	
9-12-18.	14 Officers, 1 Sister and 232 Other Ranks to South Africa per "EBANI"	
10-12-18.	Total Number of admission from Influenza 1513. " " " deaths " " 9 Officers 80 Other Ranks.	
11-12-18	Remaining in Hospital 59 Officers, 13 Sisters and 514 Other Ranks.	
17-12-18	On Dangerously Ill List, 4 Officers, 1 Sister, 21 Other Ranks.	
19-12-18.	19 Officer per H.T."KARAGOLA" to South Africa. 7 Officers to B.E.A. per H.T."INGOMA" Medical Officers impressed with the necessity of absolute accuracy being observed in the writings of clinical notes on patients.	
	OVER/	

Figure 10: National Archives WO 154/307^{xii}

The diary also records the evacuation of personnel on the HMHS Ebani on 9th December 1918.



Jessie received the standard telegram notifying her of his death. ^{xiii} In response to condolences received, cards were sent out. ^{xiv}



David was buried in Upanga Road Cemetery. ^{xv}



Figure 11: Postcard

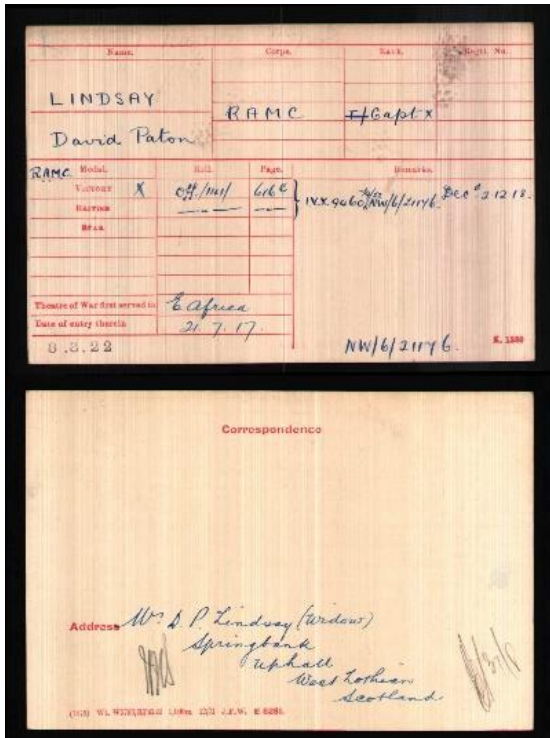
He is also remembered on the family gravestone in Uphall Cemetery as well as on the memorial tablet in the parish church there. ^{xvi}



His name also appears on the war memorial and memorial tablet at Eighton Banks. ^{xvii}

In addition, his name has been entered in the Roll of Honour of the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh.





His medal roll cards and the medal roll indicate that he was awarded the British War and Victory Medals ^{xviii} for his service which are now in the safekeeping of his grandson.

His wife, Jessie, never remarried, eventually moving to Yorkshire where she died in 1976. His son, Ninian Gordon Lindsay, known in the family as Gordon, followed the family tradition, graduating with Mb, ChB from the University of Edinburgh in 1939. By 1947 he and his family were living in Yorkshire where they remained until his death in 1997. Three further generations bear the Lindsay name today.

John Lindsay's side of the family remained in Hebburn where John married and practiced as a doctor. Of his 3 children, his daughter married a partner in the practice and their son also qualified as a doctor. Their other son and his family still live in the North East.

Biography compiled by G M Lindsay, David's great niece, with information supplied by his grandson, David Keith Lindsay.

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- i 1901 Census
- ii Britain School and University Rolls 1914-1918 accessed via <http://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=gbm%funiv-roll%2f6326>
- iii Scotsman 21/06/1915 marriage notice
- iv Britain School and University Rolls 1914-1918 - ibid
- v Britain School and University Rolls 1914-1918 - ibid
- vi Correspondence from David Paton Lindsay to his parents and sisters written on very thin paper in pencil (private archive)
- vii Private archive
- viii The Pike Report on German East Africa: Report on Medical and Sanitary Matters in German East Africa 1917 (<http://gweaa.com/home/medical-project/the-pike-report-on-german-east-africa/#Contents> accessed 21/01/2018)
- ix The Pike Report on German East Africa: Report on Medical and Sanitary Matters in German East Africa 1917 (<http://gweaa.com/home/medical-project/the-pike-report-on-german-east-africa/#Contents> accessed 21/01/2018)
- x The Pike Report on German East Africa: Report on Medical and Sanitary Matters in German East Africa 1917 (<http://gweaa.com/home/medical-project/the-pike-report-on-german-east-africa/#Contents> accessed 21/01/2018)
- xi National Archives ref: WO 157/307
- xii National Archives ref: WO 154/307
- xiii Private archive.
- xiv Private archive.
- xv Gravestone photograph taken by David Paton Lindsay's granddaughter on a visit to the cemetery. Private archive.
- xvi Postcard from private archive.
- xvii Postcards showing the war memorial and memorial tablet in Eighton Banks church from private archive.
- xviii National Archives ref: WO 329/2288