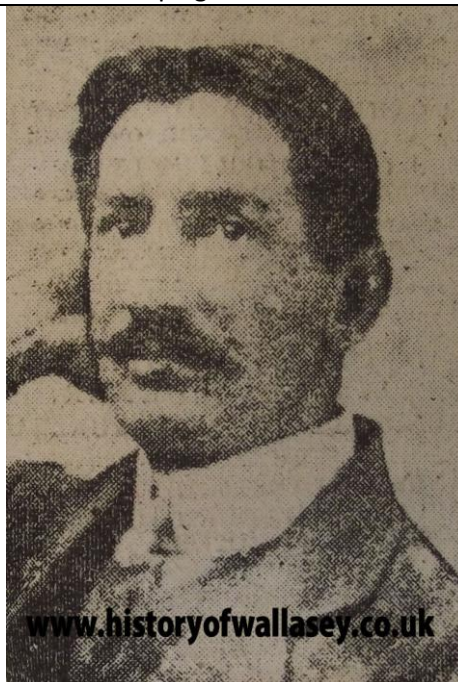


Surname	Budge
Forename(s)	Francis John
Initials	F J
Age	
Honours/Awards	
Date died	28/08/1916
Rank	Private
Regiment	South African Infantry
Unit/Squadron	6 th Regt.
Service Number	1646
Cemetery/Memorial	Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery
Grave Reference	3.D.11
Further Information	Third son of Mr and Mrs William Budge, of 11 Queen's Road, Egremont. Died of dysentery whilst serving in the East African Campaign.



News Report

Egremont Soldier's Death In East Africa

Official news has been received this week from the War Office by Mrs. William Budge, 11 Queen's Road, Egremont, of the death following an attack of dysentery, of her third son, Private John Bulge, while serving in the South African Campaign under General Smuts. The sad intelligence, which has caused profound sorrow amongst Private Bulge's many friends in the borough of Wallasey, for prior to his departure for South Africa he followed his business in Egremont, was received on Tuesday evening in the following official statement from Lieutenant-Colonel Helbut :- "It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received notifying the death of Private Francis J. Budge, [6th Regiment], South African Infantry, which occurred in East Africa on 28th August, 1916, and I am to express to you this sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was dysentery."

A further message was also received by Mrs. Budge from the Right Hon. David

Lloyd George, Secretary of State for War, conveying the Royal sympathy of his Majesty the King and also of the Queen in the following form :-

"The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of his Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."

On Wednesday morning, the day following that on which Mrs. Budge received the official intimation of her son's death, she received a letter from Frank written "somewhere in East Africa" and dates fourteen days before his death, in which the following prophetic reference is made :- "In my last letter I told you that I would not be able to write for some considerable time because we were going on a long trek through the country. I suppose you have seen more in the papers than I can tell you; we have come through country which has never been explored only by big shooting parties, and it was awful grass, twenty to twenty-five feet high, and bushes that had to be cut by natives before we could advance. I did not mind the day trekking but the marching by night was cruel, tripping over tree stumps, falling into holes, barking your shins, and pretty nearly breaking your neck, chasing and fighting the enemy all the time. You must not expect any more letters for some time because we are going out of the world again."

Private Budge was 35 years of age, and was a native of New Brighton. He was educated at the Seacombe Wesleyan Schools, under the late Councillor James Wright. On leaving school he spent a short period in a Liverpool office, but preferring a trade to office work he joined the late Mr. Robert Pemberton, of Tobin Street, Egremont, as an apprentice to the plumbing. Locally he was possibly better known by his chums and acquaintances as "Tup," which was a nickname which stuck to him for many years; in fact, it is a question whether he would be known by any other in the district. In the early days he was a very capable and skilful exponent of the winter game of soccer, and as a half-back was always considered a very reliable and strong tackler. Some fourteen years ago he emigrated to South Africa and had during the greater part of the time he was out there worked under the Port Elizabeth Harbour Board. On the outbreak of the war he joined the South African Mounted Rifles, and went through the whole of that successful campaign in German South-West Africa under General Botha. On its completion, when South African contingents were invited by the War Office to come over and fight in France, it was hoped by his relatives and friends that Private Budge would come with them and then return to Wallasey. He however, joined the East African campaign under General Smuts and had gone right through that campaign from the very commencement to almost to its completion when his lamentable death occurred apparently accelerated by the rigours of the marching, fighting, exposure, and climate. He was intending to return home on the termination of the war.

Deep sympathy will be extended to his mother and two brothers in their irreparable loss.

References and Acknowledgments

Commonwealth War Grave Commission
Wallasey Central Library – Reference Library

[back](#)