

# Family History

## Hugh Norton TATE (1870–1915)

Exn. 2. Port of LIVERPOOL *Hugh T. Tate*

**APPLICATION TO BE EXAMINED**  
FOR A  
**CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AS MASTER OR MATE.**

ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE, Y

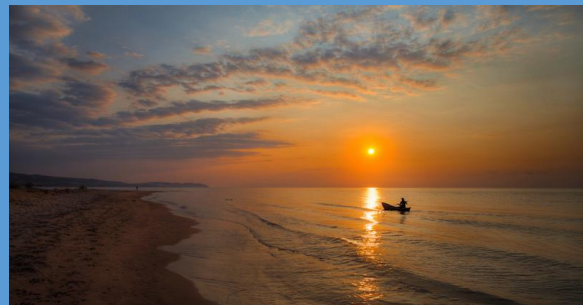
Before filling in the required particulars the Candidate should read carefully the NOTICE on pages 3 and 4, and the Declaration in Division (I.), page 2.

Registration No. 35

(A.)—Name, &c., of Candidate.

16 FEB. 95

Christian Names at full length. 1.			Surname. 2.	Permanent Address, stating Town, Street, and No. of House, and Name of Person (if any) with whom residing. 3.	
<i>Hugh Norton</i>			<i>Tate</i>	<i>c/o Mrs Frowell 29 Curlew Rd. Walton L/Pool</i>	
Date of Birth.			Where born.		
Day. 4.	Month. 5.	Year. 6.	Town. 7.	County. 8.	
<i>12<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>February</i>	<i>1870</i>	<i>Freshwater</i>	<i>Isle of Wight</i>	



By Caroline Maskill

February 2016

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## Cover illustrations

**Top:** Hugh Norton Tate's application for certificate of competency as an 'Extra Master' of a square rigged vessel, 1895. Ancestry.com. *UK and Ireland, Masters and Mates Certificates, 1850-1927* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Certificate no. 025520. (Hugh Norton's handwriting).

**Bottom left:** Ship 'Sokoto', Port Adelaide, 1907. Wikimedia Commons, detail from photo held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld\\_1\\_173567\\_Sokoto\\_\(ship\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld_1_173567_Sokoto_(ship).jpg).

(Hugh Norton was first mate on this ship from 1892–1893).

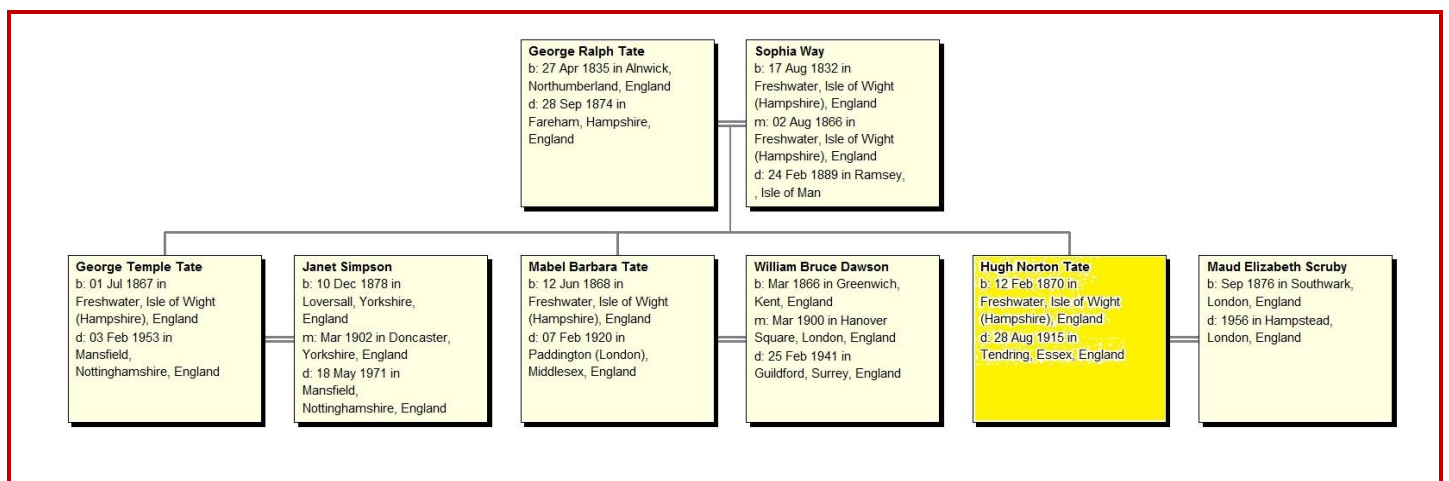
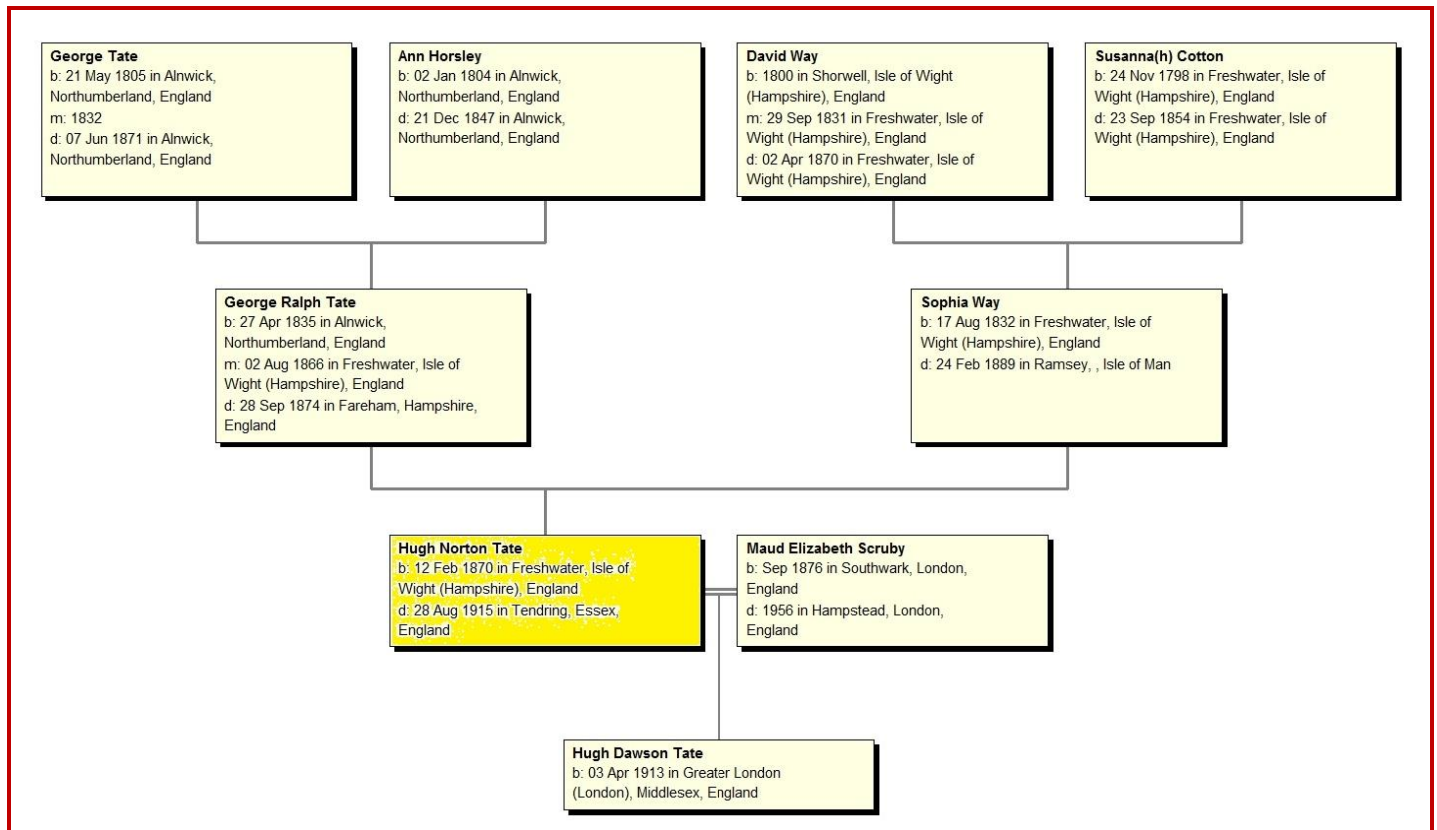
**Bottom right:** "Malawi Sunset" by Andrew K is licensed under CC BY-NC

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bluehouradmiral/>. (Hugh Norton Tate commanded steam ships on Lake Malawi from about 1897 until the end of 1914).

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## Family trees for Hugh Norton Tate

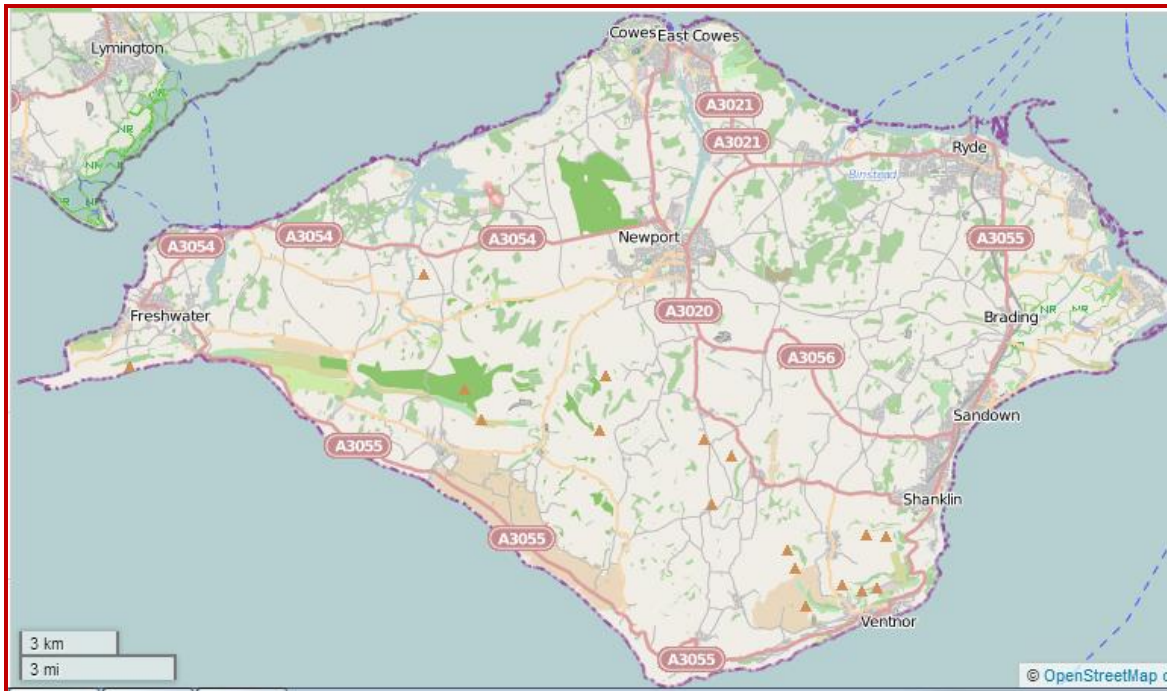


Source: Family trees by author

## Birth of Hugh Norton Tate

Hugh Norton TATE was born in Freshwater, Isle of Wight, England on 12 February 1870, the third and youngest child of George Ralph TATE and his wife Sophia (née WAY). His father George Ralph TATE was born in Alnwick, Northumberland in 1835; and was a Royal Artillery assistant surgeon posted on the Isle of Wight, probably at the Golden Hill Fort, Freshwater, which had its own hospital. Hugh Norton's mother Sophia (b. 1832) was a farmer's daughter, from nearby Afton Farm.

### Map of the Isle of Wight

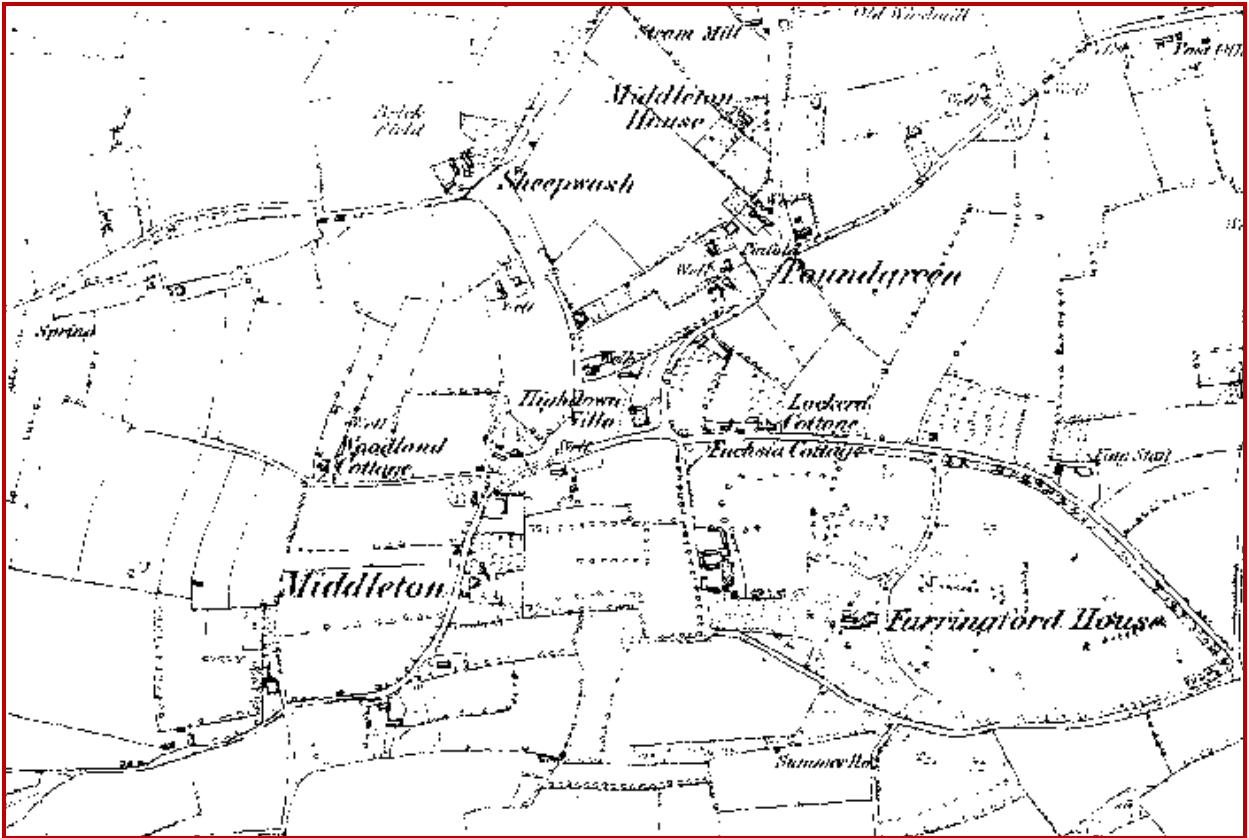


Source: ©Open StreetMap contributors

Hugh Norton was christened on 25 May 1870 at All Saints Church, Freshwater. At this time, the family was living in Middleton (at the southwestern side of Freshwater parish). They may well have been living at Highdown Villa, as that is where Sophia's father, David Way, was living at the time of his death in April 1870.<sup>1</sup>

Highdown Villa was very close to Farringford House which was owned and occupied by Alfred Lord Tennyson, with whom the family apparently socialised (see map below).

#### Map of Middleton, Freshwater, 1866



Source: Detail from map by British History Online<sup>2</sup>

#### Hugh Norton Tate's early years

When Hugh Norton was born in 1870, his older brother George Temple TATE (my great-grandfather, b. 1 July 1867) was 2½ years old, and his older sister Mabel Barbara TATE (b. 12 June 1868) was 1½ years old.

By the time of the census in April of the next year (1871), Hugh Norton's family had moved from the Isle of Wight to 'Aberfieldie', Braddons Street, Torquay, Devon. In the household, apart from George Ralph, Sophia and the three children were:

- Sophia's sister, Charlotte WAY (aged 36)
- a nurse (domestic)
- a waiting maid
- a cook (domestic)
- a housemaid (domestic).<sup>3</sup>

Then, probably because of his father's health, Hugh Norton's family moved again, this time to Fareham, Hampshire. Unfortunately, George Ralph died in Fareham on 23 September 1874, when he was aged 39 and Hugh Norton was only four years old.

According to our own family accounts, George Ralph had contracted a tropical disease while overseas with the army (he was in Hong Kong for two years from 1862–1863). Apparently he experienced a serious complication of this disease – nephritis (kidney disease).<sup>4, 5, 6</sup>

A slightly different account of the cause of George Ralph's death is contained in the following obituary, published in the 1873–1875 edition of the *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club*:

'He was ordered to Gosport [Hampshire] in 1868, and when acting professionally, caught a severe cold, which brought on a disease that quite invalidated him and rendered him unfit for duty. He was therefore put on permanent half-pay. From Gosport he returned to the Isle of Wight for a time. He then shifted to Torquay, where he remained for two years, but the climate proved unsuitable to him. He and his family removed to Fareham, in Hants, in 1872, where his health gradually declined. In 1873 he had an attack of paralysis, from which he never recovered, and he died of apoplexy [stroke], 23rd September, 1874.'<sup>7</sup>

**George Ralph Tate (Hugh Norton's father) in Alnwick, about 1858–1860s**



**Source:** Maskill family photograph collection

His probate record reads:

'**TATE** George Ralph MD. Effects under £300. 7 December [1874]. Administration of the effects of George Ralph Tate late of Wallington Lodge in the Parish of Fareham in the County of Southampton M.D. who died 23 September 1874 at Wallington Lodge was granted at **Winchester** to Sophia Tate of Wallington Lodge Widow the Relict'.<sup>8</sup>

Hugh Norton's brother – George Temple (Grandpa Tate) – apparently used to say he and his siblings were orphaned at a young age and were brought up by his mother's sister, 'Miss (Charlotte) WAY'.<sup>9</sup>

However, their mother Sophia was still alive when their father died, but later she returned to the Isle of Wight. In 1881 she was lodging with the Quinton family at Devonshire House, Hope Road, Shanklin on the eastern side of the island. She was listed on the census as being an 'officer's widow receiving a pension'.<sup>10</sup>

Meanwhile Hugh Norton (then aged 11) and his brother George Temple (aged 13) were boarding at the Lord Weymouth Grammar School, Church Street, Warminster, Wiltshire.<sup>11</sup> At the same time their sister Mabel Barbara (aged 12) was boarding at a school located at 54 Endless Street, Salisbury, in the same county.<sup>12</sup>

### Later deaths of Hugh Norton Tate's mother and aunt

On 24 February 1889, when Hugh Norton Tate was 19, his mother Sophia died at St. Hilliers, Ramsey, Isle of Man. According to her death certificate, she died at the age of 56 from carcinoma of the breast and exhaustion. The informant of her death was Susannah Kneale, a local nurse.<sup>13</sup> I have not found out why Sophia was on the Isle of Man at the time of her death, but St. Hilliers may have been some kind of special nursing home / hospice / hospital. Along with other visitors to the island (rather than established island families) Sophia was buried at Ballure Chapel, Ramsey, and the inscription on her gravestone reads:

'In loving memory of Sophia, wife of George Ralph Tate, MD, born at Freshwater, Isle of Wight, August 17 1832, died at Ramsey, Feb 24, 1889.'<sup>14</sup>

Hugh Norton's aunt, Charlotte WAY, died 22 years later in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire where Hugh Norton's brother George Temple (Grandpa Tate) also lived.<sup>15</sup> Charlotte's probate record says:

'**WAY** Charlotte of 59 Westgate Mansfield Nottinghamshire spinster died 15 June 1911 Probate **London** 6 July to George Temple Tate surgeon and Mabel Barbara Dawson (wife of Bruce Dawson). Effects £3260 17s.'<sup>16</sup>

### Hugh Norton Tate's training and experience at sea

Once Hugh Norton Tate left school, he trained in Liverpool to be a merchant seaman. At the age of 14 he was a cadet on the training ship *Conway*. Then over the next few years he sailed overseas in various ships to gain more experience and work his way up the ranks. At the age of 22 (21 July 1892) he was awarded a certificate of competency as a first mate (an officer ranking immediately below captain).<sup>17</sup> Two and a half years later (16 February 1895) he was awarded a certificate of competency as extra master of a

square-rigged vessel which was ‘master [commander / captain] of a foreign-going ship’.<sup>18</sup> At this stage, his experience at sea was a total of 8 years, 3 months and 15 days – details are shown in the table below.

**Hugh Norton Tate’s merchant seaman’s training experience 1884-1894**

Ship	Role	Period	‘Trade in which employed’
Conway	Cadet	2 February 1884 – July 1886	Training ship
Roderick Dhu (square-rigged 1642 tons)	App[rentice]	24 August 1886 – 24 August 1890	Foreign
Eurasia (square-rigged, 1825 tons)	2nd mate	17 February 1891 – 17 January 1892	San Francisco
Peveril (steam, 1974 tons )	3rd mate	19 February 1892 –27 June 1892	East Indies
Sokoto (square-rigged, 2193 tons)	1 <sup>st</sup> mate	22 August 1892 – 7 November 1893	Foreign
I.T. (or J.T.?) North (square-rigged, 793(?) tons)	1 <sup>st</sup> mate	23 January 1894 – 14 November 1894	Foreign

**Source:** Ancestry.com, *UK and Ireland, Masters Mates Certificates* database.

**Ship ‘Sokoto’, Port Adelaide, 1907**



**Source:** Wikimedia Commons, detail from photo held by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld\\_1\\_173567\\_Sokoto\\_\(ship\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld_1_173567_Sokoto_(ship).jpg)

**Note:** This photograph was taken 14 years after Hugh Norton served as first mate on the ship.



## Royal Naval Reserve

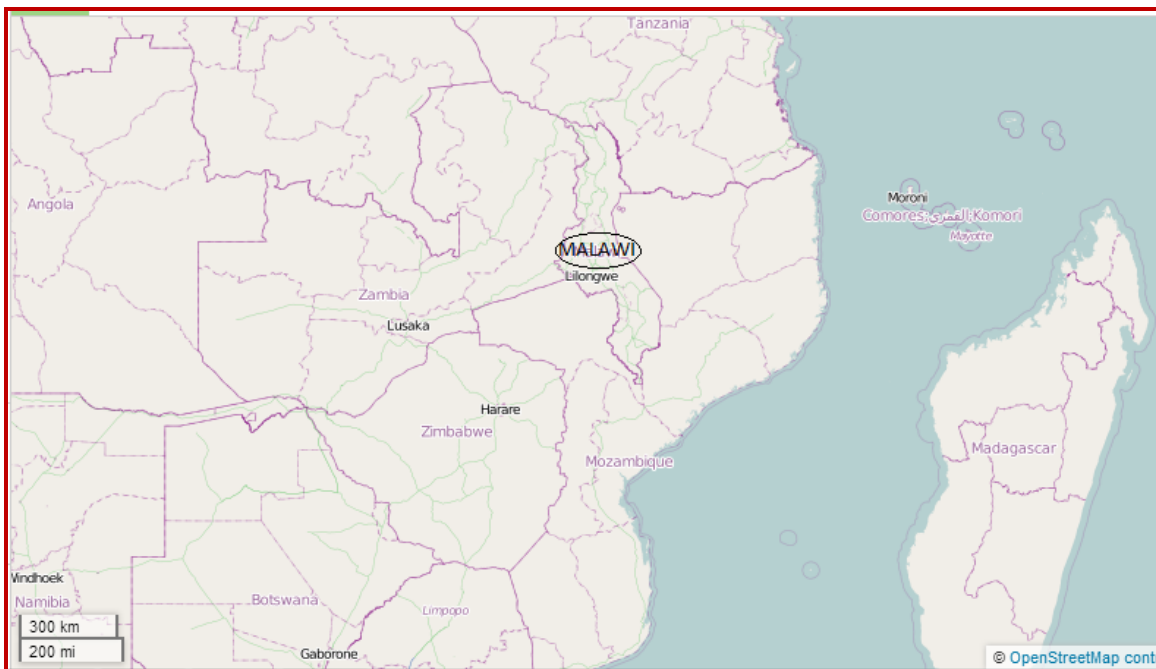
At the end of 1895, as an 'Officer of the Mercantile Marine', Hugh Norton was commissioned to be a Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Navy Reserve.<sup>19</sup> By 1898, after a year's training with the Royal Navy, including the completion of short courses on the use of guns and torpedoes, he was promoted to the office of Lieutenant.<sup>20</sup> This meant he was given an annual retainer fee of £25 a year (equivalent to about £1500 today). Presumably this meant the Navy's Admiralty was able to call him into service at any time if needed.

Hugh Norton continued to hold office as a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve until 4 June 1908, when he retired from this position.<sup>21, 22, 23</sup>

## Hugh Norton Tate goes to Nyasaland

While still in the Royal Navy Reserve, in about 1897 Hugh Norton Tate (aged 27) moved to Nyasaland (currently called Malawi) in East Africa. This was in his role with the Marine Transport Department of the Nyasaland Protectorate (Colonial Service).<sup>24, 25</sup>

### Map of East Africa showing location of Malawi (formerly Nyasaland)



Source: ©Open StreetMap contributors.

## Lake Nyasa and Nyasaland

Lake Nyasa (now called Lake Malawi) is situated in the great African Rift Valley and is approximately the size of Wales.<sup>26</sup> Its southern end drains into the Shiré River which in turn feeds the Zambesi.

The lake had been rediscovered by Dr. Livingstone in 1859, after being occupied for centuries by various African tribes such as the Bantu, Angoni and Yao; and after an earlier European discovery by Portuguese explorers. The area was then used as a passage by Arab slave traders. Partly to counter this activity, to reduce tribal warfare, and to create an oasis of 'Christian example', in 1891 Britain declared as a British Protectorate most of the lake itself, land on its western and southern shores, the Likoma Islands, and the Shiré Highlands (see map next page). Germany claimed land on the north-eastern lake shores (now in Tanganyika); and the land in the south-east (now Mozambique) was taken by Portugal.<sup>27</sup>

Ransford (1966: pages 4–5), who worked as a government medical officer at Dedza in the Angoni Highlands, describes Lake Nyasa in the early 1940s as follows:

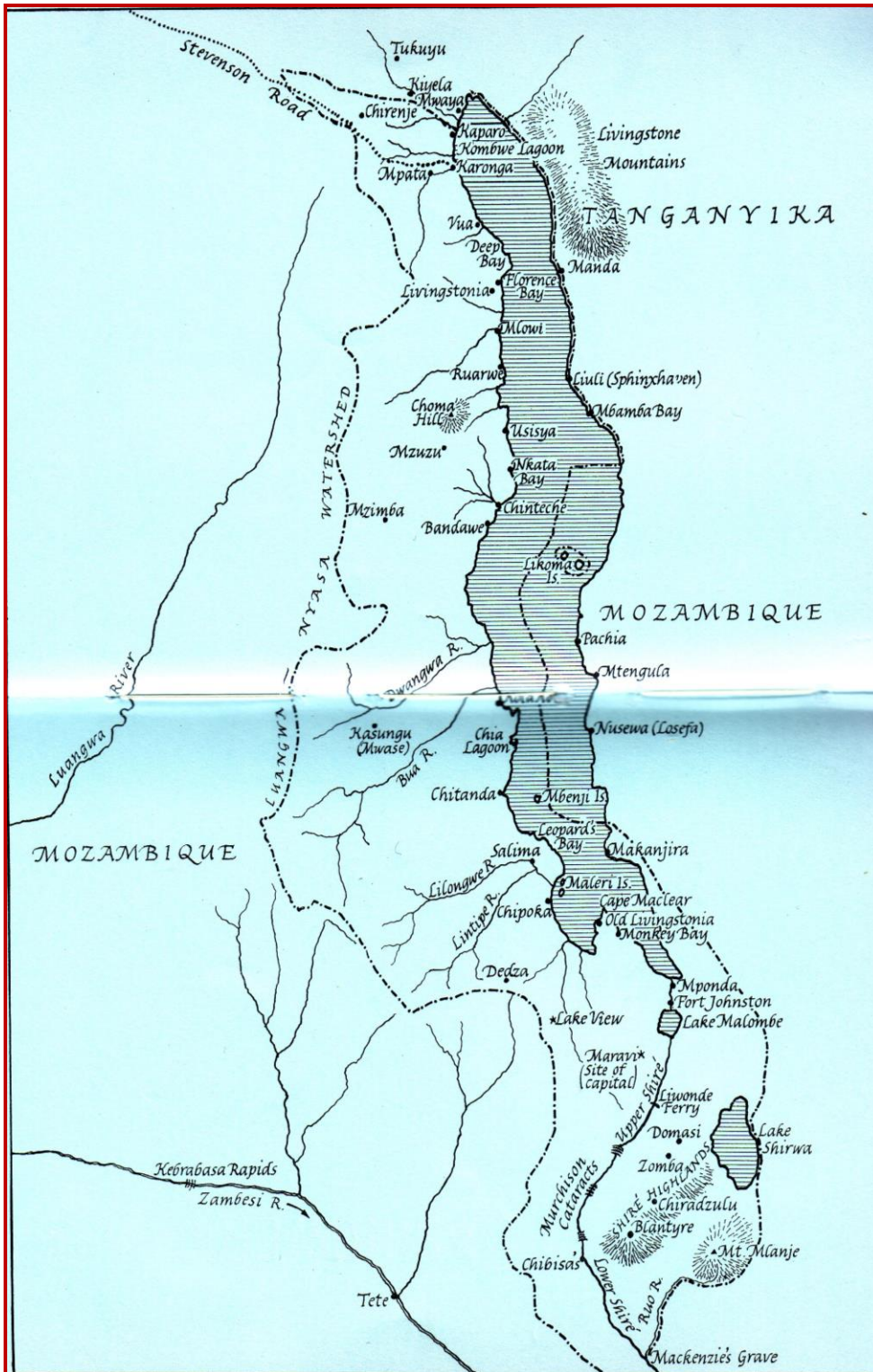
'...my work took me often to the lake. In those days there were no motor roads descending the escarpment; we scrambled to the lake shore down a steep zig-zag footpath. And at the bottom we entered a new world...

The vigorous air of the highlands which had smarted in our nostrils, was replaced on the lake shore by a hot humidity that in summer was almost solid enough to push away with the hand. In place of the rare shrunken trees of the open plateau, we walked beneath enormous baobabs and tufted palms, and strange sausage trees drooping under the weight of their surrealistic fruit. And the narrow plain literally teemed with people...

... the whole lake shore was drenched with the heavy linden-sweetness of flowering trees compounded by the fusty antique odours of bats, wood smoke and wet earth; and it pulsated to a rhythm that was unlike anything I had known before. The throbbing sounds of countless human voices rose and fell in time to the everlasting beat of native drums and the thud of pestles pounding maize in wooden mortars...

The lake itself was never out of sight for very long. With its spume-splashed rocks and golden beaches washed by gentle sleepy waves it seemed more sea than lake... We came to think of it as a sleeping giant, liable at any moment to rage with aboriginal fury. Hot springs boiled up along its shores, and hissed like angry reptiles as they poured into its cooling waters; a thrusting landscape of Eocene catastrophe trembled through the heat haze from its opposite shore, reminding us of the red-hot world that had fashioned the rift; the ungovernable storms of Genesis would sweep suddenly from a clear sky across its waters, and when clouds descended a battalion of dervish-dancing water spouts leapt 500 feet up into the air to meet them, as though the very water was trying to escape from some demon hidden in the lake.'

Map of Nyasaland / Malawi showing Lake Nyasa / Malawi



Source: Ransford (1966: page 8)

Note: The broken line — — — — — represents the geographic boundary of Nyasaland / Malawi. The large horizontally-shaded area is Lake Nyasa / Malawi.

## Lake Nyasa transport service

As land-based access around Lake Nyasa was limited due to distance, terrain and vegetation, the British established a lake transport service to help them look after their Protectorate. This service consisted of four gunboats – the *Dove*, *Guendolen* (sometimes spelt “*Gwendolen*”), *Adventure* and *Pioneer*.<sup>28</sup> It is almost certain that Hugh Norton Tate commanded, or assisted in the command, of one or more of these ships.

The 1910 *Nyasaland Directory* (page 285) lists Hugh Norton Tate as 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer, Marine Transport Department, Fort Johnston. Fort Johnston is at the southern tip of Lake Nyasa and now is called Mangochi (see map on previous page). The author Peter Charlton describes Fort Johnston at that time as being ‘a malarial-ridden base port’ where black water fever was common.<sup>29</sup>

The 1910 *Nyasaland Directory* also records Hugh Norton as belonging to the Royal Naval Reserve, Nyasaland Protectorate, 1898; and he is on the staff list for 1 November 1914.<sup>30</sup> He is also on a 1912 list of 27 ‘Europeans in Nyasaland who are willing to be trained for service with native troops and who have had some military experience’ – here he is recorded here as ‘Capt. Tate Marine Transport Dept. Naval Reserve (Lt.)’.<sup>31</sup>

The steam ships themselves were usually constructed in Europe, broken into pieces, shipped to Africa, transported up the Zambesi River and reconstructed in Port Johnston. They were fueled by wood which was obtained from local people by bartering calico fabric.<sup>32</sup>

**The Dove**



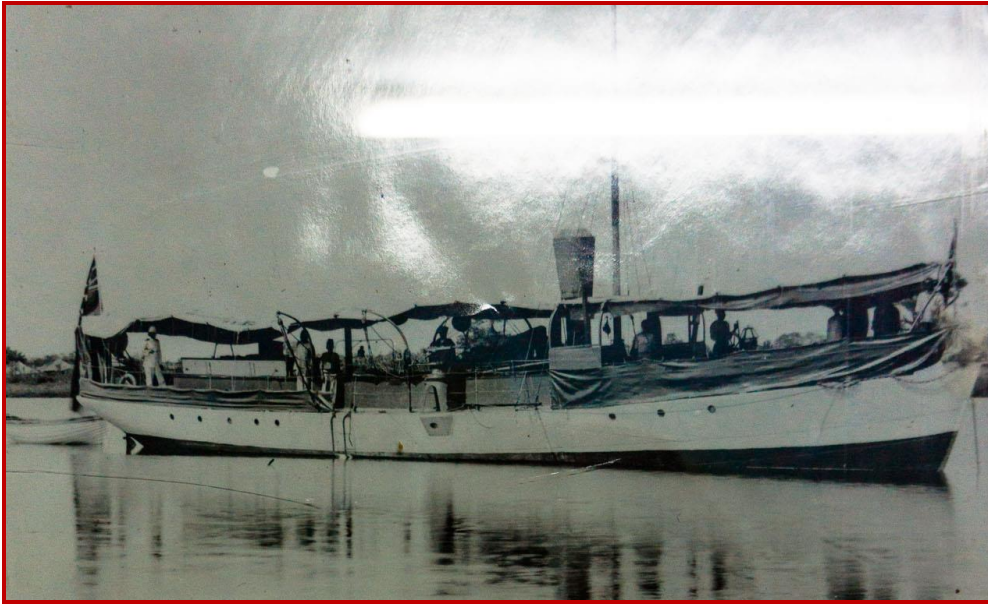
**The Guendolen**



Source:

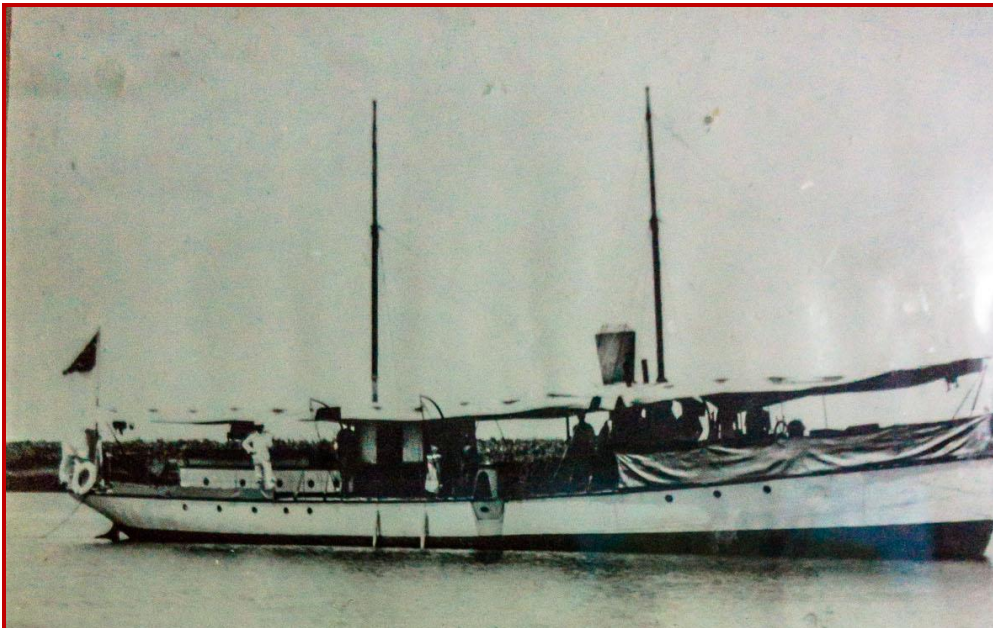
Source: Mountain stamp website [http://www.mountainstamp.com/Malawi pages/Lake Malawi.html](http://www.mountainstamp.com/Malawi_pages/Lake_Malawi.html)

**The Adventure, Fort Johnston, about 1895**



**Source:** Photo by Tim Cowley on Wikimedia Commons website  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adventure\\_boat\\_around\\_1895,\\_Lake\\_Malawi.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adventure_boat_around_1895,_Lake_Malawi.jpg)

**The Pioneer, Fort Johnston, about 1895**



**Source:** Photo by Tim Cowley on Wikimedia Commons website  
[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Pioneer\\_boat%2C\\_Lake\\_Malawi.jpg?uselang=en-gb](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Pioneer_boat%2C_Lake_Malawi.jpg?uselang=en-gb)

### **Hugh Norton Tate joins Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve**

On 28 February 1907, Hugh joined the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve (NVR) in Fort Johnston.<sup>33</sup> This organisation was established in various places in Nyasaland in 1900–1901 as a rifle club ‘with the object of providing a reserve force or trained marksmen for service in case of emergency’. By the beginning of 1902, rules for the Reserve had been drawn up and members were issued with Martini Enfield (.303) rifles, although later these were replaced by short-barrel Lee-Enfield magazine rifles (in 1907–1908).

Members of the NVR had to be nominated by two other members, and were usually British subjects aged over 16 years, resident in the Protectorate, of ‘European race or origin’, and willing to take an Oath of Allegiance (which was modified for non-British subjects). Each section of the Reserve had 10 or more men and was required to hold at least six rifle practice sessions each year, during which members had to fire no less than 21 rounds. While they had no official uniforms, members were given 200 rounds of free ammunition each year to use for practice, and were also required to hold an additional 100 rounds for use in emergency call-outs. By January 1910, the NVR had 140 members.<sup>34</sup>

### **Hugh Norton Tate marries Maud Elizabeth Scruby**

Probably between about 1905 and 1912, Hugh Norton Tate married Maud Elizabeth SCRUBY, maybe in Nyasaland, as I have been unable to find a marriage record for them elsewhere.<sup>35</sup>

Maud was born in 1876 in London, the daughter of Arthur J SCRUBY (ironmonger) and Elizabeth R Scruby who in 1881 lived at 74 Faraday Street, Newington, London.<sup>36, 37</sup> In 1901 Maud was working as a nurse in St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London.<sup>38</sup> We can perhaps assume she was working in Africa as a nurse when Hugh Norton Tate met her. Later she worked as a nurse in Nigeria.

### **Hugh Dawson Tate born in England**

In 1912 Maud and Hugh Norton Tate, travelling together, arrived on 14 December at Southampton, England on the ship ‘Kenilworth Castle’ from Durban, South Africa.<sup>39</sup> Maud was pregnant on the voyage, as nearly four months later, 3 April 1913, their son Hugh Dawson TATE was born, in Islington, London.<sup>40, 41</sup> The choice of his middle name ‘Dawson’ is interesting as it was the surname of Hugh Norton’s brother-in-law William DAWSON (his sister Mabel Barbara’s husband).

## World War I action in Nyasaland

Presumably leaving his wife and new son back in England, Hugh Norton Tate then returned on his own to Africa to resume his job running steamships on Lake Nyasa.

However, on 4 August of the following year (1914), Britain declared war on Germany. The very first naval action of World War I was on Lake Nyasa as follows...

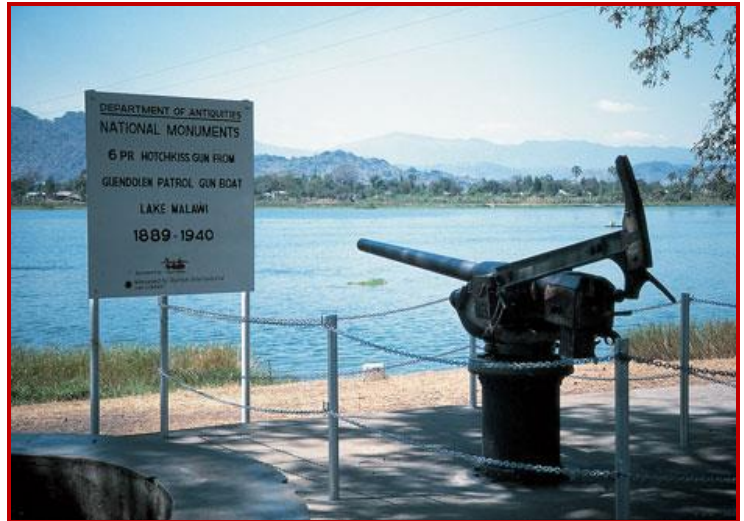
On 13 August Hugh Norton's colleague Captain Edmund Rhoades, on the steamer Guendolen, decided to launch a gun attack on the German ship, the Hermann van Wissman, which was being repaired on a slipway at Liuli (Sphinxhaven) on the eastern side of the Lake (territory that was under German control at the time). The Hermann van Wissman was commanded by Captain Berndt, a drinking friend of Captain Rhoades (and quite possibly of Hugh Norton). Apparently Captain Berndt was not aware that war had been declared and rowed out to the Guendolen in a small boat, accusing Rhoades of being drunk, but was taken prisoner.<sup>42</sup>

### German steamship Hermann von Wissmann



**Source:** T Young (2014) Action on the Lake.  
*Nyasaland*  
Police Association Chit Chat website  
<http://www.nypol.com/chitchat.html>

### Hotchkiss gun from HMS Guendolen, Mangochi, Malawi



**Source:** Malawi Tourism Guide website, 'Mangochi',  
[http://www.malawitourism.com/pages/attractions/the\\_attraction.asp?AttractionsID=33](http://www.malawitourism.com/pages/attractions/the_attraction.asp?AttractionsID=33)

This was the start of considerable military action in the region between the British and Germans. The Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve, and later the King's African Rifles Reserve, assisted by local African troops, were involved in much of this action.<sup>43, 44</sup>

Despite technically being civilians, Hugh Norton Tate and Edmund Rhoades were 'mentioned in despatches' in the London Gazette as follows:

'With regard to the Marine section, the report refers to the work of Captain Rhoades in surprising and disabling the German gun-boat " Hermann von Wissmann " in August, 1914, which gave Nyasaland the command of the Lake. Captain Rhoades and Lieutenant Tate (until their departure on leave in October and December respectively on grounds of illhealth), as well as the remainder of the staff of the Marine Transport Department, rendered efficient service in the movement of troops and stores and in attacking positions of the enemy on the Lake.'<sup>45</sup>

### Hugh Norton Tate returns to England

Early in 1915 Hugh Norton Tate left Africa on the ship 'Llandovey Castle' (which he embarked in Natal, South Africa). He disembarked at Madeira for a short time (probably a few days), and subsequently continued his journey on the ship 'Durham Castle', arriving back in London on 20 February 1915.<sup>46, 47</sup>

He then spent several months in England attempting to recover from his illness. However, tragedy struck when he committed suicide on 28 August 1915, at the age of 45 (his son Hugh Dawson Tate was only two years old).<sup>48</sup>

His death certificate gives the cause of his death as 'suicide whilst insane. Run over by a train on the GE [Great Eastern] Railway. Injury to skull and brain.'<sup>49</sup>

His probate record reads:

'**TATE** Hugh Norton of Clacton **Essex** captain Marine Transport Department Nyassaland Protectorate died 28 August 1915 Probate **London** 20 September to Maud Elizabeth Tate widow and George Temple Tate doctor of medicine. Effects £897 18s 10d.'<sup>50</sup>

Apparently George Temple Tate explained his brother's death along the lines that he committed suicide because he was too frightened / cowardly to go back to the war (it seems the Royal Navy was trying to recall him for service despite him being retired from the Royal Naval Reserve and being ill).<sup>51</sup>



On 3 September 1915 the *Essex Chronicle* published the following story which gives further details about his suicide and the reasons for it:

### **SAD TRAGEDY AT CLACTON**

An inquest was held at Clacton on Monday by Dr. Harrison on Hugh Norton Tate, 45, an officer with the African Marine Transport, who was visiting Clacton, and whose dead body was found on Saturday evening on the railway line about three-quarters of a mile from Clacton railway station.

The evidence of the widow was that her husband came to Clacton on Friday, she having been spending some time in the town previously. As he failed to keep an appointment to meet her on Saturday evening she reported that he was missing. Her husband had been for some 18 years in the tropics, and had been invalided home suffering from neurasthonia [neurasthenia].<sup>52</sup> He came home in February and had a breakdown on the passage home. Ever since then he had been more or less under treatment, having been examined by a specialist who ordered him to a nursing home in London. Deceased had been before a medical board at the Admiralty, but the report has not been received yet. There was nothing besides the illness to worry him.

P.c. Havers spoke to having noticed the deceased sitting on a seat close to the railway bridge at 5.15 p.m. on Saturday. The spot was about a quarter of a mile from where the body was afterwards found on the line.

Frederick John Burgess, fireman on the 5.26 p.m. Clacton (ex-Colchester) train, said that as the train rounded a bend near the Cemetery, he noticed something on the line, about twenty yards ahead. The train pulled up, and it proved to be the dead body of deceased. The train did not run over him.

Ernest John Scott, platelayer, Clacton, spoke to finding the deceased lying outside the up rails with his head on an iron chair and his arms crossed.

P.c. Wedlock produced a diary found on the clothing. An entry on August 27<sup>th</sup> was: "To Clacton, what luck"; and on the following day another entry "Fed up with everything; goodbye, Trottie".

Dr Mitchell said the right side of the skull was fractured, and there were other injuries.

Inspector Fredk. Norman said where deceased was found there was no footpath but two private occupation crossings near. He had not ascertained which train killed deceased.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide during temporary insanity, and expressed sympathy with the widow.'

## World War I medals

After his death Hugh Norton Tate was awarded a 1914-1915 Star World War I medal for service with the Royal Navy (as a civilian, which was quite unusual). He also received a British War and Victory Medal.<sup>53</sup>

These medals and other documents relating to Hugh Norton Tate were sold for £624 by Dix Noonan and Webb (DNW) at auction at the end of 2009 – the seller and buyer are unknown.<sup>54, 55</sup>

### Hugh Norton Tate's WW1 medals in DNW catalogue



#### Three: H. N. Tate, on "Service with the Royal Navy"

1914-15 STAR (H. N. Tate, Service with the Royal Navy); BRITISH WAR AND VICTORY MEDALS (H. N. Tate, Service with the Royal Navy) extremely fine (3) £200-250

Hugh Norton Tate was born in Freshwater, Isle of Wight, in 1870. He gained his Certificate of Competency as Extra Master, at Liverpool, on 16 February 1895. He was appointed a Sub-Lieutenant in the R.N.R. in 1895 and was advanced to a Lieutenant in 1898.

Sold with five original documents: Certificate of Competency as Extra Master, dated 16 February 1895; commission document, appointing Tate a Sub-Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve, dated 31 October 1895; a commission document appointing Tate a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve, dated 13 June 1898; a certificate from the United Grand Lodge, dated 1896; a formal letter of thanks from the British Museum (Natural History) to H. N. Tate for a collection of 150 Diptera he presented them with, dated 5 December 1910.

The trio is one of about 80 issued by the Royal Navy to civilians and so named.

Source: Dix Noonan and Webb catalogue

<http://content.yudu.com/Library/A1iejc/OrdersDecorationsand/resources/113.htm>

## References and notes

- <sup>1</sup> *The Hampshire Advertiser* (Southampton, England), Thursday, April 30, 1870, Issue 2492: 1
- <sup>2</sup> 'England - Hampshire: 093', *Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 - Epoch 1* (1866). URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/mapsheet.aspx?compid=55119&sheetid=3841&ox=3089&oy=1500&zm=1&czm=1&x=473&y=11>. Date accessed: 07 October 2013.
- <sup>3</sup> Ancestry.com. *1871 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Class: RG10; Piece: 2087; Folio: 97; Page: 61.
- <sup>4</sup> Elizabeth Anne Maskill. 1999. Family History: Bingleys, Tates, Maskills. Auckland NZ: Unpublished (handwritten notes).
- <sup>5</sup> FreeBMD. *England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Fareham, Hampshire. Volume 2b, page 317.
- <sup>6</sup> I have not yet obtained a copy of his death certificate.
- <sup>7</sup> Anon. 1873–1875. Obituary Notice of George Ralph Tate, M.D., F.L.S. *History of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club* 7: 334–337 (quotation from pages 336–337).
- <sup>8</sup> Ancestry.com. England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Page 288.
- <sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Anne Maskill. 1999. Family History: Bingleys, Tates, Maskills. Auckland NZ: Unpublished (handwritten notes)
- <sup>10</sup> Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1881 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Class: RG11; Piece: 1183; Folio: 118; Page: 32.
- <sup>11</sup> Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1881 England Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Class: RG11; Piece: 2056; Folio: 65; Page: 22.
- <sup>12</sup> Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1881 England Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Class: RG11; Piece: 2071; Folio: 85; Page: 18.
- <sup>13</sup> Extract from the Register Book of Deaths for the Registration Book of Deaths for the Registration District of Ramsey in the Isle of Man. Entry No. 221. 1889. Certified copy – certificate D006455, issued 22 Nov 2011.
- <sup>14</sup> Isle of Man website. <http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/famhist/mis/blre.htm>. Accessed 7 October 2013.
- <sup>15</sup> FreeBMD. *England & Wales, FreeBMD Death Index, 1837-1915* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006. Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Volume 7b, Page 75.
- <sup>16</sup> Ancestry.com. England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1966 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1911, Page 178.
- <sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com. Ancestry.com. *UK and Ireland, Masters and Mates Certificates, 1850-1927* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Certificate no. 025520. According to this certificate, at this time Hugh Norton was living c/o Mrs Manson at 49 Upper Pitt Street, Liverpool.
- <sup>18</sup> Ancestry.com. *UK and Ireland, Masters and Mates Certificates, 1850-1927* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Certificate no. 025520. According to this certificate, at this time Hugh Norton was living at 29 Carisbrooke Street, Walton, Liverpool. He is described as being 5ft 10in, with fair complexion, brown hair and brown eyes.

- <sup>19</sup> *The London Gazette*, 15 October 1895, p. 5641; Ancestry.com. *UK, Navy Lists, 1888-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, 1896, p. 329. This commission was effective from 31 October 1895.
- <sup>20</sup> Ancestry.com. *UK, Navy Lists, 1888-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, 1898, p.383. His new ranking was effective from 4 June 1898.
- <sup>21</sup> *The London Gazette*, 4 September 1908, p. 6450.
- <sup>22</sup> Ancestry.com. *UK, Navy Lists, 1888-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, 1908,1909, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914.
- <sup>23</sup> Ancestry.com. *UK, Navy Lists, 1888-1970* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, 1915, 1916, 1919.
- <sup>24</sup> *Essex Chronicle*, 3 September 1915, page no. unknown.
- <sup>25</sup> *England and Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861–1941*. Probate date: 20 Sep 1915; Death date: 28 Aug 1915; Death place: Essex; Registry: London. (From Ancestry.com online database). 1915, Page 8.
- <sup>26</sup> Oliver Ransford (1966). *Livingstone's Lake: The Drama of Nyasa*. London: John Murray.
- <sup>27</sup> See previous note.
- <sup>28</sup> Personal communication, Peter Charlton 27/10/2013, author of *Cinderella's Soldiers: A History of the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve: Its Formation and the Part it Played in the First World War* (2010) Berkshire: Peter Charlton (available from prscharlton@gmail.com). This book (page 6) uses photographs of the steamers from Paul Cole-King's 1987 book – *Lake Malawi Steamers*, Montfort Press.
- <sup>29</sup> Personal communication, Peter Charlton 27/10/2013 – the *Nyasaland Directory* of 1910 was an appendix to the *Nyasaland Handbook* from the same year. Appendix 2 of *Cinderella's Soldiers* (Biographical Notes) apparently also has these details.
- <sup>30</sup> See previous note.
- <sup>31</sup> Personal communication, Peter Charlton 27/10/2013 – in Appendix 3 of *Cinderella's Soldiers*, from a report written on 10 October 1912 by Captain LM Heath: *An Appreciation of the Military Situation in Nyasaland* (held by the National Archives, Zomba, Malawi).
- <sup>32</sup> Hampton, Janie. 2014. Lest We Forget – Victory on Lake Nyasa. *Face of Malawi*, October 22. <http://www.faceofmalawi.com/2014/10/lest-we-forget-victory-on-lake-nyasa/>
- <sup>33</sup> Personal communication, Peter Charlton 27/10/2013 – in Appendix 1 of *Cinderella's Soldiers*: Roll of the NVR from 1901 to the end of WWI.
- <sup>34</sup> Peter Charlton (1993), Some Notes on the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve, *The Society of Malawi Journal* 46(2): 25–51.
- <sup>35</sup> According to later records, Maud was first married at the age of 29 (i.e. in about 1905). *1930 US Federal Census*. Rochester, Monroe, New York. Roll: 1450; Page: 21A EN52; Image: 413.0. (From Ancestry.com online database). If Hugh Norton TATE was Maud's first husband, this means they were married in about 1905. However, it is also possible she was married to someone else before Hugh Norton TATE, meaning their marriage date would have been later (but before 1912 when they were recorded as being husband and wife on their travel records). We know Maud's maiden name was 'Scruby' from Hugh Dawson TATE's birth record.
- <sup>36</sup> Elizabeth Maud SCRUBY was born in London in 1876: *England and Wales Free BMD Birth Index, 1837–1915*. Year: 1876; Quarter of Registration: Jul-Aug-Sep; District: St Saviour Southwark; Volume 1d; Page:

160. (From Ancestry.com online database). Subsequent records suggest slightly different birth years for Maud, due to inconsistent reporting of her age. Also while Maud is her first name in most records, she is also listed as Elizabeth in some records.

<sup>37</sup> Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1881 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004. Class: RG11; Piece: 546; Folio: 48; Page: 23.

<sup>38</sup> Ancestry.com. *1901 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005. Class: RG13; Piece: 264; Folio: 175; Page: 12.

<sup>39</sup> *UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960*. On this record, Maud is listed as Elizabeth TATE. (From Ancestry.com online database)

<sup>40</sup> *England and Wales Free BMD Birth Index, 1837–1915*. Year: 1913; Quarter of Registration: Apr-May-Sep; District: Islington; Volume 1b; Page: 360. (From Ancestry.com online database).

<sup>41</sup> Birthday book of Janet TATE (née Simpson) (handwritten).

<sup>42</sup> T Young (2014) Action on the Lake. *Nyasaland Police Association Chit Chat* website <http://www.nypol.com/chitchat.html> (accessed 9/2/2014)

<sup>43</sup> Peter Charlton (1993), Some Notes on the Nyasaland Volunteer Reserve, *The Society of Malawi Journal* 46(2): 25–51.

<sup>44</sup> Despatch from G Smith, Governor of Nyasaland, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. *Supplement to the London Gazette*, 3 August 1916, Page 7650.

<sup>45</sup> See previous note.

<sup>46</sup> *UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960*. (From Ancestry.com online database)

<sup>47</sup> Hugh Norton TATE's departure from Nyasaland must have been very close to the date (23 January 1915) of a violent rebellion in Nyasaland, led by the Rev John Chilembwe. The dispute included concern about the way local Africans were being treated by the local colonial settlers, and the British authorities' expectations that the locals would assist in WWI military action against the Germans (Ransford 1966 – see endnote 27).

<sup>48</sup> *England and Wales Free BMD Death Index, 1837–1983*. Year: 1915; Quarter of Registration: Jul-Aug-Sep; District: Tendring; County: Essex; Volume: 4a; Page: 647. (From Ancestry.com online database) Also see endnote 5.

<sup>49</sup> Certified copy of an entry of death, GRO. Registration District Tendring, Sub-District of Clacton, County of Essex. Certificate no 163753, issued 6 December 2011.

<sup>50</sup> *England and Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861–1941*. Probate date: 20 Sep 1915; Death date: 28 Aug 1915; Death place: Essex; Registry: London. (From Ancestry.com online database). 1915, Page 8.

<sup>51</sup> See note 4.

<sup>52</sup> The term 'neurasthenia' is not usually used now, but at the time referred to an anxiety, stress or depression-related condition involving fatigue, weakness, aching muscles, loss of concentration, insomnia etc. (Originally the term referred to a physical neurological condition). An interesting comment has been made that: 'In the summer of 1916, all officers of the rank of captain and above were given an order that all cases of cowardice should be punished by death and that a medical excuse should not be tolerated. However, this was not the case if officers were found to be suffering from neurasthenia.' Trueman, CN. 2015. World War One executions. The History Learning Site, 31 Mar 2015. 17 Dec 2015 [historylearningsite.co.uk](http://historylearningsite.co.uk).

<sup>53</sup> *UK Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793–1972*. (From Ancestry.com online database).

<sup>54</sup> Dix Noonan Webb UK catalogue: Orders Decorations and Medals Auction 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009.  
[www.dnw.co.uk](http://www.dnw.co.uk).

<sup>55</sup> Token Publishing website, *Medal News*. DNW December 2009, posted by Phil Mussell, 30 January, 2010. [www.tokenpublishing.com/news.asp?gid=14&nid=567](http://www.tokenpublishing.com/news.asp?gid=14&nid=567) (Accessed 27/10/2013).