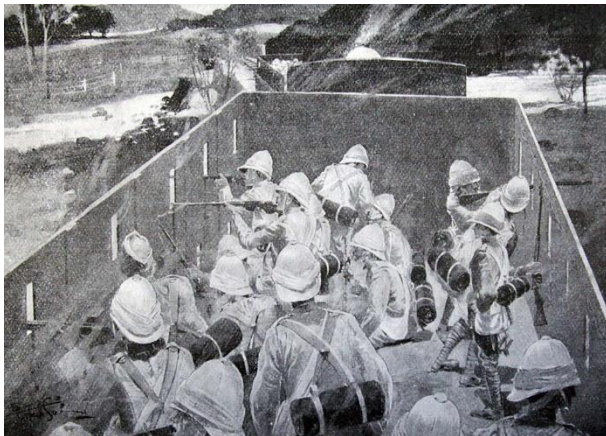


Sergeant DANIEL BONNEY

Daniel died on 23 February 1915 and we initially thought that he was a casualty of World War I but it appears not. He was born in around 1867 to John and Johanna Bonney in Chelsea. By 1891 he had enlisted with the Royal Artillery and was living in barracks in Woolwich. He saw service in South Africa with G Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) and, now a sergeant, was wounded on 11 December 1899 in the Battle of Magersfontein, during the Second Boer War. British forces advancing north along the railway line from the Cape to relieve the Siege of Kimberley found their path blocked by a Boer force entrenched in the surrounding hills. A lack of water and pack animals had made the railway line an apparently sensible choice for the British advance but it also made the route obvious. After their defeat the British were delayed at Modder River for two more months waiting for reinforcements.



Daniel was discharged from the RHA in 1906 at the age of 39 after which he is recorded as a Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea was the administrative office for the British army responsible for distributing pension payments to British soldiers. While some pensioners surrendered their pension to the hospital and lived within the premises (“in-pensioners”), many more lived outside the confines and received their pensions elsewhere (“out-pensioners”).

Daniel married Maud Mary Clarke in Leicester in October 1901. By 1911 they had moved to Walcote where Maud was born and they lived there until Daniel’s death in 1915. Maud survived until 1957.



At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.