

## **DR WHEELTON HIND TD (1875-77)**

He was born in 2 November 1859 at Roxeth, Middlesex, the son of Rev William Marsden Hind and Anne Wheelton. They moved to Honington, Suffolk in 1875 when he started at the College.

On leaving the College he qualified as a doctor, qualified at Guys Hospital as a MRCS in 1882, honours in Forensic and Obstetric Medicine and Surgery in 1883, Beaney Prize for Pathology in March 1883, MD in 1884 and FRCS Eng in 1888. He then practiced as a GP and General Surgeon in Stoke-on-Trent from 1884 till his death in 1920.

Lectures in geology given by JE Taylor, which he attended while at the College, gave him a deep interest in geological study and he attained great eminence in that branch of science. His earliest geological publication was an account of "The Natural Features and Geology of Suffolk" in "The Flora of Suffolk" in 1889, by his father the Rev Dr WM Hind, Rector of Honington, Suffolk and he published more than 80 geological and palaeontological papers during a period of 30 years, four of which were spent in military service.



He studied the coal measures and contributed monographs on the Carboniferous Mollusca to the Palaeontographical Society. He was awarded the balance of the proceeds of the Lyell Fund of the Geological Society of which he was a Fellow in 1902 and was awarded the Lyell Medal in 1917. This was followed by the Keith Gold Medal and Prize of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in July 1910, for his studies in the geology of Scotland. He was elected an Honorary Member of Glasgow Geological Society in recognition of his distinguished geological work in Scotland.

In 1900 he became a Surgeon-Lt in the Shropshire and Staffordshire Volunteer Artillery and was a Major when the new countrywide Territorial Force (TF) came into being in 1908 and his section became North Midlands (Staffs) Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA). In just 3 weeks in 1908 he raised an entire RGA battery. He attended Summer Camp at Okehampton in 1910 where his battery won the National Artillery Association H.M. The King's Prize for heavy batteries. By 1912 he was a Brevet (Bt) Lieut Colonel.

He was called up in August 1914 and it is believed he and his unit, 1<sup>st</sup> North Midland RGA, was sent to Luton, Bedfordshire for training as part of the national defence of the country. On February 19<sup>th</sup> 1915 King George V reviewed the complete 46<sup>th</sup> Division which included the 1<sup>st</sup> North Midland (Staffs) TF.

The 1<sup>st</sup> complete Territorial Division (46<sup>th</sup> Division) was sent to France in March 1915 and on April 18<sup>th</sup> 1/1<sup>st</sup> N. Midland (Staffs) Heavy Battery left to join the 13<sup>th</sup> Heavy Brigade RGA – a formation under the direct control of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army. The N. Midlander's were not committed to a major operation until taking part in the final phase of the Battle of Loos in October 1915 but faced the German's on Messine Ridge at Wulverghem in April 1915 and in June moved up towards Ypres at Ouderdom and then Dickesbusch. By July they were at Hill 60 on the Ypres Salient. Apparently he saw the 1<sup>st</sup> gas attack of the war which had a profound effect on him and reading between the lines he was sent home according to an article in a local newspaper.

He transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corp and was gazetted a temporary Major August 11<sup>th</sup> 1916 and as far as is known, spent the rest of the war in the Stoke-on-Trent and North Midlands area, relinquishing his command but remaining a Bt. Lt Col on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1919. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD) in March 1919.

He died near Stoke-on-Trent on 21 June 1920 at age of 60 after a short illness and is buried with his wife in the Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke-on-Trent. At the time of his death he was the senior member of the surgical staff of the North Staffordshire Infirmary as well as a much respected local GP.

His geological collection, which he bequeathed to his wife, was bought for the nation in 1923 by the Natural History Museum. It comprised about 7000 British carboniferous fossils, assembled in the course of about 30 years researches in British carboniferous stratigraphy. Included in it were about 1,270 figured specimens and about 500 type specimens and the unique collection of mollusca from the coal measures of Staffordshire made by John Ward.

We are indebted for help with the above biography from his great granddaughter, Jane Helliwell. Jane has also supplied the photo which she believes was taken around 1915.

In November 2020 we were contacted by another of his great grandchildren, Martin Bird, who kindly has provide the following photo of Wheelton Bird (seated centre) with other officers of North Midland Heavy Battery RGA. This photograph was taken at Bare Camp, Morecombe in August 1910.

