

**William Gould our researcher in South Africa sent this information relating to WW2:**

**Gordon Filby, whose name appears on the Filby Roll of Honour.**

One can access a photograph of the SA troops walking up Monte Capara in Italy on 15th April 1945. One of the poor fellows walking in a line is no doubt **Gordon, KIA the next day**. Available at British War Museum Photograph section.

I have a few letters from the Filby boys, sent home to Cape Town to their parents. They are mainly written home at the end of the conflict, dealing with getting home and hopes for a job, in the future.

- 1) One letter that I have transcribed is from Gordon, written 22nd October, 1944. It is so poignant, given what was to happen in early April 1945.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thanks very much for your letter of 6th Mom. Glad to hear that everything is going alright. We have had very fine weather lately but it has again started raining.

I don't think that I have told you before that I have been in action. The truth is that I have been in many barneys' since we arrived here. I didn't like to tell you because I know how you worry. However, I think that it is only right that you know, as it would shock you too much if you were not to know and then to hear that I had been wounded or something.

I have already had so many narrow escapes from being wounded that I reckon to see this through and survive without a scratch. If any man tells you that he is an atheist tell him to come up here and he will come to believe in God so much that he will probably become a minister. I'm not ashamed to say that I pray every time before we go in and so does everyone I know. It is what keeps a man going.

I will not spin any yarns about my experiences, they can keep for when I come back and the way the Russians are going ought not to be too long. **Rupert and Dennis** are both keeping very well and as Rupert was near us for a while I saw him quite a few times.

Incidentally, that watch I bought conked but I had the luck to get quite a decent one from a Jerry prisoner.

Well as the letter card is full will close till next week.

With Love  
From Gordon.

- 2) I also have some information re Roll of Honour person, **Jack Filby**, KIA some two weeks after Gordon. He was on his second flight, armed reconnaissance, and after strafing a cart he flew into the ground. The locals buried him at the site and then informed to authorities. He was no relation to my Filby connection, despite his living within a 1/2 mile of each other. He left his mum and his sister. His mum died soon after the war, but I have no information re the sister, except that she returned to the UK. His name is on the Roll of Honour above the entrance door of the Rondebosch Anglican Church. I have more info re his schooling etc. if anyone should want it.

We found Jack Filby on our largest tree and here is part of the genealogy report:

## Descendants of Michael Miles Filby born about 1610 - Tree T02

### Generation 11 (ancestors from generation 1 not shown but available)

1. **ERNEST EDWARD<sup>1</sup> FILBY** was born in 1858 in Heigham, Norfolk, England. He died between Jan-Mar 1946 in Norwich Registration District, Norfolk. He married **MARTHA SUSANNA "\_\_\_\_\_"**. She was born in 1856 in Colchester, Essex. She died in 1944.

Notes for Ernest Edward Filby:

1901 Census he was living at 39 Connaught Street, Heigham, Norfolk near his parents, He was 42, his wife, Martha was 45 and his children were Alice 19, Ernest 13 and Hilda 6. 1911 census has Ernest E. Filby dob 1859, wife Martha, daughter Ellis age 29, and daughter Hilda age 16. living 16 Ella Road, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich. Norfolk. The probate calendar for 1946 shows this:  
FILBY Ernest Edward of 16 Ella-road Norwich died 1 March 1946 at 21 Neville-street Norwich. Probate Norwich 15 April 1946 to Hilda Louise Woodhouse married woman. Effects £366 1s 4d.

And the corresponding death registration:

Death, Mar qtr 1946 Edward E FILBY aged 88 Norwich 4b 253

Ernest Edward Filby and Martha Susanna "\_\_\_\_\_" had the following children:

- i. ALICE E FILBY was born in 1882 in Heigham, Norfolk, England. She married ARTHUR W JOHNSON between Jan-Mar 1922 in Norwich Registration District, Norfolk.  
Notes for Alice E Filby:  
1901 census she was employed doing 'fancy work' from home.
- 2 ii. **ERNEST EDWARD FILBY** was born in 1888 in Heigham, Norfolk, England. He died in 1939 in Cape Province, South Africa. He married **HILDA M SMITH**. She was born about 1889. She died in 1948 in Cape Province, South Africa.
- iii. **HILDA LOUISE FILBY** was born in 1894 in Heigham, Norfolk, England. She died between Oct-Dec 1944 in Norwich Registration District, Norfolk. She married **FREDERICK W WOODHOUSE** between Jul-Sep 1931 in Norwich Reg Dist, Norfolk.

### Generation 12

2. **ERNEST EDWARD FILBY** (Ernest Edward) was born in 1888 in Heigham, Norfolk, England. He died in 1939 in Cape Province, South Africa. He married **HILDA M SMITH**. She was born about 1889. She died in 1948 in Cape Province, South Africa.

Ernest Edward Filby and Hilda M Smith had the following children:

- i. **JACK FILBY** was born in 1922. He died on 24 Apr 1945 in Padua (Killed in action WW2).

Casualty Details

Name: FILBY, JACK E.

Initials: J E

Nationality: South African

Rank: Lieutenant (Pilot)

Age: 23

Date of Death: 24/04/1945

Service No: 42988V

Additional information: Son of Ernest E. and Hilda M. Filby, of Cape Town, South Africa.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

1940 UCT Engineering student

1941-1942 1 SA div Army service in East Africa and North Africa

Joined SAAF, got wings in 1944

Joined SAAF no. 5 squadron 18/04/1945

Killed in action 24/04/1945 on his second operational flight.  
Buried at Padua War Cemetery Grave Ref. IV -A-5 KH808 MkIVA Shot down on armed  
recce op.

ii. PEGGY FILBY was born about 1920.

Ernest immigrated to South Africa.

There is a record of his passage home in 1935 to visit his parents at 16, Ella Road, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich. He was travelling with his wife, Hilda, M, his son, Jack and daughter Peggy.

*There is more about this family but as they are 'living' descendants they are not shown.  
For information go through our CONTACT page.*

With reference to Gordon's letter and his mention of Dennis and Rupert we did a search and found **Denis Filby** on our files:

### **Descendants of Michael Miles Filby About 1610 - Tree T02**

#### **Generation 13 (Ancestors from Generation 1 not shown but available)**

1. **WILLIAM<sup>1</sup> FILBY** was born on 28 Nov 1861 in Hardingham, Norfolk, England. He died on 24 Jul 1929 in Beccles, Suffolk, England. He married (1) **ALATHEA WINTER** on 21 Apr 1885 in Beverley, Yorkshire, England, daughter of James Winter and Sarah J. She was born in Jul 1868 in Beverley, Hull, Yorkshire, England.. He married (2) **W.L.BEDECKIR** about 1890 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. She died on 11 Apr 1905 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He married (3) **FLORENCE JULIA HART** on 25 Oct 1905 in Hingham, Norfolk, England. She was born on 05 Nov 1882 in Deopham, Norfolk, England.. She died on 15 Sep 1966 in Beccles, Suffolk, England.

Notes for William Filby:

William was the eldest son of William and Harriet Filby (Tree M103\_136) who had a total of 17 children. He was living with his parents at 26 Hingham Rd, Hardingham at the time of the 1871 Census. In March 1880 he joined the Army. (See Facts) While in the East Yorkshire Regiment at Beverley he married Alatheia Winter on 21st April 1885.

Nothing more is known about Alatheia. His Army career eventually took him to Wynberg, South Africa where he married his second wife, W.L. Bedeckir who died, age 46, at Wynberg of enteric fever (typhoid) on 11 April 1905 leaving William with 2 young sons. Shortly after her death William returned to England with his sons where he met Florence Julia Hart of Deopham, Norfolk who he married on 25th October 1905. Their marriage certificate gives his profession as "Baker". They all returned to Wynberg on the Union Castle Steamship "Tintagel Castle" leaving Southampton on 18 November 1905. The voyage took around 60 days.

In South Africa the family had 5 children, 3 sons (1 died) and 2 daughters, before returning to England in 1913 on the Union Castle Co ship "German" disembarking at London on 9th July 1913. The family initially took over a bakery business in Hoxne, Suffolk, not far from Denham where Florence Julia's parents now lived at College Farm. In 1915 the family moved to the bakery and confectionery business at 2 Ballygate, Beccles, Suffolk. William is buried in Beccles Cemetery. His grave is to the right of the southern gateway overlooking the London Rd. William recorded his date of birth in the family bible as 2nd February 1862 and appears to have William recorded his date of birth in the family bible as 2nd February 1862 and appears to have used this date for his Army records and his first marriage.

Notes for Alatheia Winter:

The 1881 Census for Beverley St Martin records Alatheia as age 12 born in Beverley and living with her grandparent Daniel Robinson. William's Army record contains a note that his wife lived in Hardingham, Norfolk but no trace has been found of her either there or elsewhere under her married or single name.

Notes for W.L.Bedeckir: Died of enteric fever (typhoid).

William Filby and W.L.Bedeckir had the following children:

- i. THOMAS ALAN<sup>2</sup> FILBY was born on 13 Jun 1892 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He died on 24 Mar 1918 in Somme, France..

Notes for Thomas Alan Filby:

Thomas was a member of the 4th Regiment South African Infantry (SA Scottish).He initially attended the South African Defence Force Camp in 1913. He was on duty at the Windhuk Interment Camp in 1915 and signed on for Overseas Duty on 6 November 1916.He sailed for England on the "Briton" on 28 December. Following a month in England he arrived in France on 30th January 1917. After various locations in France he left Ytres for the trenches on 3 August 1917. He was severely wounded on 20 September and after recovery in hospital he returned to the trenches. He was killed in action pn 24 March 1918. He does not have a grave but is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial which is 6km NE of the town of Albert, near Amiens. He is also commemorated on the War Memorial at Beccles, Suffolk, which became his father's home on his return to England in 1913.

2. ii. EDWARD ALBERT GEORGE FILBY was born on 02 Sep 1896 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He died in Aug 1966 in Cape Town, South Africa. He married MAUD POTE. She was born on 15 Aug 1898. She died in Apr 1980.

William Filby and Florence Julia Hart had the following children:

- iii. PERCY WILLIAM FILBY was born on 26 Oct 1906 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He died on 11 May 1983 in Beccles, Suffolk, England. He married BERTHA HELEN FOSTER on 15 Sep 1934 in Chediston, Suffolk, England. She was born on 12 Nov 1908 in Spexhall, Suffolk, England. She died on 09 Apr 1996 in Beccles, Suffolk, England.
- iv. FLORENCE EMILY FILBY was born on 15 Oct 1907 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. She died in Chelmsford, Essex, England.. She married RICHARD CAVE in 1930.
- v. ARTHUR JOHN FILBY was born on 02 Oct 1908 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He died on 07 Jan 1911 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa..
- vi. CECIL CHARLES FILBY was born on 16 Mar 1910 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He died on 14 Mar 1986 in Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, England.. He married SYBIL BRIGGS on 06 Feb 1933 in Beccles, Suffolk, England.
- vii. LILIAN GLADYS IRENE FILBY was born on 13 Apr 1912 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. She died on 09 Nov 1999 in Besthorpe, Norfolk, England.. She married FRANCIS CHESTER LEMAN in 1932.
- viii. EMMA ELIZABETH FILBY was born on 06 Jan 1915 in Hoxne, Suffolk, England. She died on 23 Mar 2007 in Hayes, Middlesex, England. (Age 92yrs). She married ROBERT CRAVEN on 17 Dec 1938 in Harlington, Middlesex, England.
- ix. NELLIE MARY FILBY was born in 1916 in Beccles, Suffolk, England. She died in 1920 in Beccles, Suffolk, England.
- x. JOHN WILLIAM FILBY was born in 1920 in Beccles, Suffolk, England. He died in 1924 in Beccles, Suffolk, England.

#### Generation 14

2. EDWARD ALBERT GEORGE<sup>2</sup> FILBY (William<sup>1</sup>) was born on 02 Sep 1896 in Wynberg, Nr. Cape Town, South Africa.. He died in Aug 1966 in Cape Town, South Africa. He married MAUD POTE. She was born on 15 Aug 1898. She died in Apr 1980.

Notes for Edward Albert George Filby:

Lived in Woodstock, Cape Town. Edward was a "saw doctor". He was laid off during the depression when he was in the middle of building the family home in Woodstock but Maud managed to raise sufficient funds to complete the house which became the family home for the next 45 or so years.

Notes for Maud Pote:

Maud was born in South Africa of parents of Irish/Cornish descent.

Edward Albert George Filby and Maud Pote had the following children:

i. MAUD<sup>3</sup> FILBY. She married ERIC ARNOT.

ii. DENIS FILBY was born on 27 Sep 1923. He died on 06 Jan 1996 in Cape Town, South Africa. He married CRISTINA MELANITTO on 05 Nov 1945 in Italy. She was born on 19 Jul 1928 in Italy.

Notes for Denis Filby:

Denis met his wife while stationed in Italy during the Second World War. After their marriage they returned to South Africa and initially lived with Denis' parents at 6 Barton Street. When Deanna was 5 years old (early 1950s) Edward and Maud moved and the Barton Street house became Denis' family home.

*We do have further information relating to the children of Denis and Cristina but as they are 'living' it is not shown. Go to our CONTACT page for further help.*

**I hope that this will be of some interest and perhaps assist a Filby researcher.**

**I am still happy to do family research for any surname for folk who are UK based, needing assistance in South Africa. (Go through our CONTACTS page for William Gould)**