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Dedication

In memory of Norman and Sydney Jewell, an inspiration to their children and grandchildren. Only by delving into the past, and uncovering facets of their lives which were previously unknown to us, have we come to appreciate more fully the challenges they faced and how much they achieved.

David, Sandra, Tony and Richard

Comments about On Call in Africa

An absolutely fascinating memoir of a doctor's life in Africa and an evocative and wholly authentic account of the East African campaign, 1914-18, a forgotten corner of the Great War.

William Boyd, author of An Ice-Cream War

Jewell's diaries have a distinctive voice infused with intelligence, deep wisdom, compassion, and integrity. There are so many examples of his personal bravery but they are not highlighted or presented in that way. It is easy to read on, without pausing, past the modest and matter-of-fact descriptions that he gives. He was rightly awarded the Military Cross for treatment of 100 casualties single-handed without sleep. The fine granularity of the account captivates in a way that a military historical analysis will not always do.

Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England, 1998-2010

A fascinating account of a front-line British medical officer...it provides vivid, first-hand detail of the rigours and dangers of life...under extremely arduous conditions.

Ross Anderson, author of The Forgotten Front

Norman Jewell's memoir gives us the best eye-witness account of medical conditions among the troops fighting in East Africa that we have had so far. It is a riveting account of the horrors of warfare far removed from the Western Front trenches but existing in the heat, mud, flies and dust of Kenya and Tanganyika.

Christine Nicholls, author of Red Strangers: the White Tribes of Kenya

This book has wonderful photographs, and the Official Diary transcriptions have full National Archive citations. The Index of several hundred names is a boon to family historians; and a good Bibliography renders this a must-have book for the WWI East Africa enthusiast.

Ann Crichton- Harris, author of Seventeen Letters to Tatham

[The book] fills in many blank spaces to the East African Campaign and brings an interesting and different angle to the medical services in the colony at the height of the British Empire. The Jewell family has done a great service to the memory of these interesting times and the people that lived through them.

James Willson, author of Guerrillas of Tsavo

Jewell's depiction of the contingencies and missteps, the happenstance and fortunes of wartime medical practice are a real boon to the historian of global war in Africa.

Dr John Manton, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Norman Jewell shows himself to be a keen observer who manifestly delighted in his work as a medical officer. His intensely human account adds much about everyday medicine and reveals an exemplary member of the East African Medical Service.

Sir Eldryd Parry, editor of Principles of Medicine in Africa

...a dedicated family project that provides a fascinating source that will be of great use to historians, as well as the general reader, interested in the complex interrelationships of colonialism, medicine and war.

Anna Greenwood, author of Practising Colonial Medicine

Dr. Jewell states 'Africans had a natural aptitude for mechanics and had their senses developed to a degree unknown to Europeans.' There are accounts of the Wandoboro tribe's ability to solve murder crimes, Nandi women nurses... and a Kikuyu who won every race from 100 yards to a marathon in a span of six hours.... This book will be of interest to public health professionals, policy makers and students.

Professor George Karani, Africa Partnership Initiative, Cardiff Metropolitan University.

I confess that it was the chapter on Norman's wife, Sydney Elise Auchinleck and Trinity's first female graduate in Chemistry, that captured my interest. This was a time of immense change in Trinity's educational landscape and the account of Sydney's experience certainly made all the more real what previously I had understood in more abstract terms.

Dónall MacDonaill, Chemistry Dept, Trinity College, Dublin.

The memoir re-centers the conversation on the development and institutionalization of health systems in Africa, the colonial state and the cultural engagement during the infancy of colonial governance.

George Ndege, author of Health, State, and Society in Kenya