

# **Colonel Oriel Duke MM MBE**

**1898-1975**



**By David O'Carroll OBE**

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## INTRODUCTION

Duke family tradition is that our ancestor in Ireland was Robert Duke of Newpark, Sligo who died about 1677. The first Duke descendent to go to the West Indies was Mansergh Pace DUKE. He was a doctor in Dublin. The family tradition is that after the death of his wife he decided to become a missionary doctor in the West Indies (on the Emerald Isle of Montserrat around 1890). However, on examining The Medical Register for 1879 his residence is given as Roseau, Dominica, West Indies. His brother, Valentine De Saumarez Duke went out to Ceylon as a young doctor, in the late 1870s.

I was inspired to write this history of one of his sons – Oriel St.Arnaud Duke by my second cousin Tim Warren who started asking me questions about our great uncle “Konks”. Tim and I have worked together to tease out some of the facts that had not been passed down to us. We are especially grateful to Uncle Mike (Michael Bolton) in Connecticut who grew up knowing Konks but also to the staff of the National Archives in Kew for their helpfulness, to Chris Baker for his website The Long, Long Trail and the linked Great War Forum where I got in touch with David Carter who was doing some research on the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.

There are still many gaps in what we know of his life and these will hopefully be filled in future versions of this history.

David O’Carroll

Gower, Wales, UK

December 2010

## Colonel Oriel Duke MM MBE 1898-1975

*"Commissioner of Police and Colonel Commandant of the local forces Barbados 1939 - 1948. A very loyal Christian and a very gentle man". [Memorial plaque, St.Michael's, Bridgetown]*

### EARLY LIFE & CAREER

Oriel St.Arnaud Duke was the second son of Mansergh Pace and Emily Duke. He was known by the family as "Konks". He was born on 22 June 1896 in Montserrat, the second eldest of ten children.

#### *His parents*



Mansergh & Emily Duke

His father was about 45<sup>1</sup> when Oriel was born. Mansergh had qualified as a doctor in Dublin in December 1874 and went out to the island of Dominica, British West Indies, soon after. Certainly according to the *Medical Register*<sup>2</sup> he was in Roseau by 1879. In January 1883 he resigned from his post as Colonial Assistant Surgeon and refunded the £20 he had been paid for his passage to the West Indies the previous September<sup>3</sup>. So it seems that he may well have returned to the UK after a few years in Dominica and on returning there found a better position.

Mansergh married Emily Wilkin in 1893<sup>4</sup>. Unlike her husband she came from West Indian stock. Indeed through her mother she could trace her forebears to the Tuckers of Bermuda who in their turn trace their history to Captain Daniel Tucker, Governor of Bermuda in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. By 1900 his occupation was recorded as Senior Medical Officer, Belle Vue in St.Anthony's, Montserrat<sup>5</sup>. He ended his career as Chief Medical Officer for the Leeward Islands, based in Antigua.



Valentine, Sybil & Oriel c.1901

#### *His schooling*

We do not know where the Duke children were educated. In July 1907 he arrived in Liverpool on SS Ottawa with his mother and sisters Sybil and

<sup>1</sup> I still can't find his date of birth but assume that if he qualified as a doctor in 1874 he would have been born around 1850/53. But remembering that his mother was born in 1812 that seems quite possible.

[DO'C Nov 2010.]

<sup>2</sup> Medical Register 1879, published by the General Medical Council, London, England. He did not appear in the 1875 Register and the 1876 Register has not been inspected [Nov 2010]

<sup>3</sup> Colonial Office papers held at Kew. CO 321/71/32 Colonial Office, Windward Islands, Original Correspondence.

<sup>4</sup> Mansergh had been out in the West Indies alone for nearly 14 years which makes me wonder whether his first wife was still alive when he first went to Dominica and that his daughters were not abandoned but lived with their mother. The more I find out the more questions there are!

<sup>5</sup> [source: birth certificate Ina Aileen Duke- 2.1.1900].

Aileen but we do not know the purpose of the visit.

### ***His brothers and sisters***



Family group circa 1919

The family tradition is that Mansergh had three daughters by his first wife in Dublin – Elmina, Frances and Annie. Whether he kept in contact with them is a mystery and Oriel never talked about his half-sisters and probably never met them. In contrast he appears to have a close relationship with his brothers and sisters, who although they spread around the world during their lives came back together in their final years.

The picture shows: (back row) Valentine, Sarah, Oriel, Ismay, William. (Middle row) Sybil, Emily, Aileen. (Front row) Rawson, Mansergh Pace jnr.

Oriel's siblings were:

Mansergh Valentine,	1894-1948
Sybil,	1898-1982
Aileen,	1900-1970
William,	1901-1943
Ismay,	1902-1978
Rawson,	1904-1981
Sarah,	1905-1979
Mansergh Pace (junior),	1908-1980
Basil.	1910

Of all the brothers only Mansergh Valentine and Mansergh Pace married and the Duke name in the West Indies died with Rawson in 1981.

### ***His first appointment in public service***

The *Colonial Directory* records that Oriel entered government service in May 1913 when he was still 16 years old in the administration of St.Kitts-Nevis. It is not recorded what type of work he was involved in. Nor do we know what triggered his decision to sign up for the army though his elder brother Valentine had joined the navy in 1911. His other brothers were too young to join up. Certainly he would have inherited a strong sense of public service from his father who at the time of the outbreak of war in Europe was Chief Medical Officer for the Leeward Islands, based in Antigua.

## WAR SERVICE OF ORIEL DUKE STK/1857

During the First World War Oriel volunteered (although he was exempt from conscription being domiciled in the Dominions). He enlisted in the British West India Regiment and was a Lance Corporal in 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers when he was awarded the M.M. & bar. He ended the war as a sergeant. About 16,000 enlisted from the West Indies<sup>6</sup>.

Oriel never talked about his war service or indeed even where on the Western Front he had been posted. The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion was based in France<sup>7</sup> for most of the war. The Battalion was part of the 111<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 37<sup>th</sup> Division of the Sixth New Army. The 37<sup>th</sup> Division saw service at the Somme, Arras, Ypres and Cambrai. At the Armistice on 11 November 1918 the Division was in the area of Le Quesnoy. After moving back to the Bethencourt-Caudry area, it moved forward on 1 December 1918 to Charleroi. By 20 December, units were billeted between Charleroi and the Maubeuge-Nivelles road. Demobilisation began on Boxing Day and by 25 March 1919 the Division ceased to exist. The Great War cost the 37<sup>th</sup> Division 29,969 men killed, wounded or missing.<sup>8</sup>

Michael Bolton (his nephew) related a tale to me in October 2010 that Oriel had been on the front line with his unit when one of the men started firing his gun wildly in the trench. He would not stop and fearing for the lives of himself and his comrades he had shot the soldier. This must have been a terrible event to have on his conscience despite the fact that his bravery saved the lives of many of his comrades.

The London Gazette did not go into the details of the award of the Military Medal "gazetted" in January 1918 or the award of a bar "gazetted" soon afterwards in March 1918. 115,600 Military Medals were awarded and only 5,796 soldiers were awarded a bar. He is listed as being from St. John's, Antigua. There were no citations for the award of the Military Medal until the Second World War.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion's War Diary<sup>9</sup> gives us some insight to the occasion on which the Military Medal was awarded. On 28<sup>th</sup> October 1917 the Diary reads:

*"The Corps Commander awarded the Military Medal to the undermentioned:-*

*B Coy No STK 1857 L/Cpl. O. St. Arnaud DUKE,....for courage and devotion to duty Sepr. 27<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> 1917, EAST OF YPRES."*

This was the Third Battle of Ypres. The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion had relieved the 13<sup>th</sup> Royal Sussex at 2.15am on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Two days later the Germans attacked the 13<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers on their right flank near the Menin Road and they were hit by that barrage too. On 1<sup>st</sup> October the enemy advanced but were repulsed. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> October the battalion was relieved. This respite was short lived and they were soon back in the thick of it, though not on the front line.

*"Our barrage opened at ZERO, and the enemy immediately put down a light barrage on our support line, and on support position on front line. This gradually intensified and became the heaviest we experienced in the sector. Men were continually being buried but prompt action save many casualties."*

This action appears to have taken place at Polygon Wood, adjacent to the Menin Road. The Battalion suffered 11 casualties – not many compared to earlier engagements: 67 in July 1916 at Longueval

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<sup>6</sup> The Long, Long Trail – The British Army of 1914-1918 – for family historians. <http://www.1914-1918.net/faq.htm>

<sup>7</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed in Boulogne 30 July 1915. <http://www.1914-1918.net/royalfus.htm>

<sup>8</sup> The Long, Long Trail – The British Army of 1914-1918 – for family historians. <http://www.1914-1918.net/37div.htm>

<sup>9</sup> War Office files - WO 95/2532 Available online (payment required) [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

during the Battle of Bazentin; 72 in April 1917 during the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Scarpe; or 61 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of the Scarpe. Or during later engagements: 21 on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1918; 21 on 14<sup>th</sup> September or the 39 lost at Cambrai on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1918<sup>10</sup>.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January the Diary records that:

*“The Army Commander presented medal ribands to:-*

*...  
STK 1857 Cpl DUKE O.S. M.M. and BAR to M.M.”*

There was no other record in the Diary to the second award of the MM (the BAR) nor to his promotion to Corporal.

Oriel was probably demobilised sometime in February 1919 when 253 men left the Battalion. He departed London for Trinidad & Tobago on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1919 on board SS Quillota giving his occupation as clerk aged 22. He was accompanied by his brother Mansergh Valentine Duke Lt RN aged 24.

As a colonial soldier he did well to rise through the ranks first as a Lance Corporal and then ending the war as a Sergeant – a recognition that he was good at leading his fellow men, a skill that would serve him well when he joined the colonial police force.

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<sup>10</sup> [Source: David Carter’s 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion database – unpublished.]

## POLICE SERVICE

Oriel returned to the West Indies on demobilisation in 1919. It is not known whether he entered the police service in the Leeward Islands straight away but was established in the service in the early 1920s

### *Dominica and the award of the MBE*



Colonel Duke 1940s

His service in Dominica meant that he was in close contact with two of his sisters who were also living there for some of the time. Sybil, who had married Rev. Percy (Pax) Bolton in Antigua in 1923, moved to Dominica when Pax was appointed as rector of St. George's parish church, Roseau (until his death in October 1937). Aileen who had married Herbert Gall who was the Manager of the Barclays Dominions & Colonial Bank in Roseau until his retirement in 1935 when he moved his family to Barbados. Konks was uncle to five children born in Roseau who he saw growing up at first hand and was some consolation for not having children of his own.

The M.B.E. was presented by the Administration of Dominica 1st January 1932 for quelling a riot<sup>11</sup>. By this time Oriel was Inspector of Police, Dominica, Leeward Islands.

In 1935, Oriel was awarded the King George V Jubilee medal and indeed he attended the celebrations in London. He was also awarded the King George VI Coronation medal in 1936.

### *Barbados*

He was posted to Barbados in 1939 as Inspector of Police and Commandant of local forces during WWII. There he bought "Melrose" and was again living on the same island as his sister Aileen and her two children.

In 1949 he was required to retire by the Governor in what became known as the "Duke Affair" (see below). On his departure from the police (prior to retirement leave) he gave the following address to his men on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1948<sup>12</sup>:

*I want to thank all of you very much indeed for your loyalty and help during the time we have served together. I know I have made mistakes. I want all of you as policemen to remember that you are servants of the public and you must at all times be courteous and helpful to all classes of the community irrespective of colour, class, creed, wealth or poverty. You must be honest, truthful and upright men.*

*I want you to do your duty faithfully, fairly and fearlessly and I ask you to give to your new Commissioner, whoever he may be, the same loyalty and help you have given to me.*

*Finally I ask that you uphold the dignity and, although I say it myself, the efficiency of the Barbados Police Force'.*

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<sup>11</sup> CO 448/36/24 New Years Honours List 1932. This file held in the National Archives does not reveal the reasons for the award of the MBE. Michael Bolton remembers being told that it was for quelling a riot.

<sup>12</sup> Barbados Annual Review 1948, pages 197/8.

## *The Duke Affair*

A new Governor of Barbados - Sir Hilary Blood - was appointed in February 1947 and it was clear that he did not think much of the administration that he inherited nor the ability of "West Indians" generally – white or black. He was shocked, for instance, by the slack standards of dress and behaviour of the Colonial Officer Perone which he mentions in one letter to the Colonial Office (not something that could have been said about Oriel of course!).

It appears from the information in the Colonial Office records<sup>13</sup> that Oriel was the victim of the times. The colonial governors were told that they needed to strengthen their efforts to combat the communist threat. This was very real in Malaya and Singapore and the Colonial Office was obviously very worried about communist infiltration in the Dominions and colonies. Sir Hilary may have wanted to demonstrate that he was taking a firm hand "to prevent attempts by organised and dissident elements to overthrow established order" in his new domain. Sir Hilary put great importance on the collection and co-ordination of intelligence and wanted to implement the report on the security position in Barbados which had been written by a Brigadier Page.<sup>14</sup> In his letter of 24<sup>th</sup> August 1948 to the Secretary of State for the Colonies he had to admit "*No evidence has yet come to light in Barbados of any Communist activities organised or unorganised, nor of anything that could be described as terrorism. Nevertheless, potential trouble is never very far below the surface in this overcrowded Island where unemployment is endemic; and the prospect of labour disturbances which might, if unchecked, develop into violence, rioting and arson is always before me.*"<sup>15</sup> I guess that Oriel didn't share Hilary Blood's nervousness and felt he knew the population of the island well and didn't need a modern surveillance organisation.

There were certainly a lot of ruffled feathers about his enforced retirement. There was also a fiery debate in the Barbadian Assembly which became known as the "Duke Affair" in London and the local Barbadian press. The local assembly thought it was a good example of London interfering in local matters. With impending elections it served local politicians to use the "shoddy treatment" of a local official by the high-handedness of people in London. The issue though hang around and was still being reported in June and August 1949 in the *Barbadian Advocate*.

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<sup>13</sup> CO28/340/5 held at the National Archives, Kew, UK.

<sup>14</sup> We didn't find a copy of this report nor did we find reports on Oriel's performance - though they had been mentioned in the files Tim Warren and David O'Carroll inspected at Kew, November 2010.

<sup>15</sup> CO28/350/5 *ibid*.

Saturday, June 25, 1949

## Official Shiftiness

THERE will hardly be a member of the Colonial Service who will not be in despair at the attitude of the Colonial Office in the matter of the compulsory retirement of Colonel O. St. A. Duke, from the office of Commissioner of Police in this island and the subsequent events. The matter has long passed beyond the treatment of Col. Duke. It has now reached a stage where those who have given loyal and efficient service are left to ask themselves what will be their fate.

It is to labour the point to say that this officer has been more shabbily treated than many domestics would have been at the hands of private employers. What is surprising is that a Colonial Minister in the British Government which prides itself on the standard of administration in the territories where British rule has been maintained could reach a stage where he makes contradictory statements in order to remove the ground of criticism. It is the most shameful exhibition which it has been the dishonour of the Colonial Office to give and the most potent weapon in undermining the confidence which members of the Colonial service should have in the British Government.

Colonel Duke was called upon in November to relinquish the office of Commissioner and the first explanation given was that there was nothing against his character or his administration but that this had been done because a younger man was needed for the post. The House of Assembly took up the matter and passed an address asking that the matter be investigated. The reply to this was that "this officer had been the subject of reports during the three and a half years prior to his retirement." Again the House asked that these reports be published in order that Col. Duke's character be cleared. In the meantime, Col. Duke himself asked the Secretary of State for an impartial inquiry into the matter. The Governor of this island, supported by the

Secretary of State for the Colonies refused to allow any officer in the service of the Government from attending the investigation by the Committee of the House. It may be that the House did not have the right to demand the inspection of documents which were in the secret files but it was clear that the Government and the Colonial Office wanted to hide something and this they intended to do at all costs. The House postponed its investigations and in the meantime the Secretary of State for the Colonies has replied to the request for an impartial enquiry.

In refusing to grant this request the Colonial Office stated that this would serve no useful purpose to open an impartial inquiry or to reconsider the decision. And here it must be mentioned that Colonel Duke did not ask for any reconsideration of the decision but merely for an impartial inquiry. The letter also states that the decision was taken to facilitate the appointment of a younger man.

It is clear that both these statements cannot be true. Either this officer was retired because of reports accumulating for three and a half years or in order to make place for a younger man. An the younger man is Col. Duke's contemporary. The second contradicted the first reason and now the first has been revived again. This shiftiness might give rise to sympathy if practised by some private employer who sought to avoid the revenge of the trade union but is unforgivable on the part of the Colonial Office. The circumstances now give the answer to those who would have smothered the matter for fear it might give rise to repercussions unfavourable to the officer in question. It is unlikely that anything will be done in the matter but it will stand out as a beacon to those who look forward to the fight for rights and freedoms and to prove to others who join the Colonial Service that they have no redress in the event of being wronged.

## LATER LIFE

After his retirement he worked in a department store (Harrison's) in Bridgetown until 1955. Latterly he lived in St. Anne's Court part of The Garrison with his sisters Aileen and Sybil. In April 1976 he made his final visit to England where he had arranged a hip operation. Whilst he was recovering from the operation he died of "Senile Cardiovascular Degeneration" on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1976 at East Surrey Hospital, Redhill. His funeral was held at Putney Vale Crematorium and the service was taken by Eric Inglesby. The funeral was attended by Rosemary & Joe Warren and children Francis, Melanie and Tim; Mike Clayton; Clare and son David O'Carroll; Cynthia Gall; Richard, Kate and David Inglesby; Alec, Val and Pat (Duke?). Lilian Moore. Maurice and Renee Fair as well as 14 friends of the family (but not Oriel's longstanding friend "Wilkie" who couldn't attend).



Oriel with great-great niece Sarah- Wimbledon April 1976

He left an estate valued at \$32,640 (Barbadian) which was distributed amongst his surviving sisters, nephew and nieces.

Oriel's eldest niece, Cynthia wrote to his surgeon: "he had done well until now, tennis up to the age of 75 and swimming at 79!". Captain Charles Raison, who knew Oriel in Barbados but was living in Westcliffe-on-Sea in 1976, wrote to Cynthia after the funeral that Oriel loved Sir Walford Davies' *Solemn Melody* and Sir Edward Elgar's *Nimrod*. "On his monthly visits to my band headquarters (for the authorised inspection) he asked for these pieces to be played so often that the librarian had them on the folios ready; He never ordered the bandsmen to play, but "requested" them if they would kindly digress from what they were rehearsing and always thanked them. They loved "The Old Man" as they used to call him sub rosa. So as you say in your letter, Oriel was to everyone – a gentleman."

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

Extract from a letter to Rt.Hon Arthur Creech Jones MP, Secretary of State for the Colonies 24 August 1948 from the Governor:

7. The Police are armed and a section has recently been trained in the use of tear gas. Intelligence and special branches to which you refer in paragraph 3 of your despatch are to all intents and purposes non-existent. There is a Criminal Investigation Department in charge of a trained and capable officer.

8. But as regards the adequacy of the forces to deal with any internal threat, I have grave doubts so long as Colonel O.St.A. Duke holds the position of Commissioner. The situation which Sir Grattan [Bushe?] described in his secret and personal letter to Sir Charles Jeffries on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, 1945, has not changed. It is perhaps interesting to record that this correspondence which was brought to my notice only recently entirely confirms the view which I had formed as a result of my own experience of the Commissioner not only on paper but in the course of a complete inspection of all the police stations and posts in the Island. I shall be addressing you separately regarding this officer.

...

10. The weakness of the police force referred to above naturally causes me much anxiety, particularly as Colonel Duke is the peacetime Commandant of the Local Forces by virtue of his office, and it is for this reason that I feel that any review of internal security, much as attempted in this despatch, must include the British Land Forces in the Caribbean area and the Royal Navy.

...

12. From the foregoing you will, I trust, see what the internal security position here is by no means what I would wish it to be. But so long as Colonel Duke remains Commissioner of Police it is difficult to see how it can be improved.....

Hilary Blood, Governor [Barbados]

***Commentary: this seems to indicate that Sir Hilary's concerns were about the police's ability to carry out internal security work. In his next despatch he appears to have changed his mind, saying that he can keep his ear to the ground through his own contacts, but what is weak is criminal intelligence.***

10 September 1948

“My despatch also deals with the unsatisfactory nature of our criminal intelligence which arises from the inadequacy of the Commissioner of Police. A separate despatch is being addresses to you on Duke's future and I merely refer to these matters in this letter to complete the picture.”

## Appendix 2

### **King George V Silver Jubilee Medal**

The King George V Silver Jubilee Medal was a commemorative medal made to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the coronation of King George V. For Coronation and Jubilee medals, the practice up until 1977 was that United Kingdom authorities decided on a total number to be produced, then allocated a proportion to each of the Commonwealth countries and Crown dependencies and possessions. The award of the medals was then at the discretion of the local government authority, who were free to decide who got a medal and why. In general, this medal was awarded to the Royal Family, officers of state, officials and servants of the royal household, ministers, government officials, mayors, public servants, local government officials, members of the navy, army, air force and police in Britain, her colonies and Dominions.

A total of 85,235 medals were issued.

### **King George VI's Coronation Medal 1937**

This medal was given by King George VI as a personal souvenir to commemorate his coronation. The medal was awarded throughout the Empire to members of the armed forces and officers of state, officials and servants of the royal household, ministers, government officials, mayors, public servants and local government, etc. 90,279 medals were struck.

CHILDREN OF MANSERGH PACE DUKE & EMILY DUKE (nee WILKIN)

**Mansergh Valentine Duke 1894-1948**

Mansergh was the first son of Mansergh Pace and Emily DUKE. Mansergh Val's daughter Angela married Eric Inglesby and they had three children- Richard, Kate and David. "Uncle Vanty" was a naval officer in the war ending as a Captain (S) in the secretarial division. He died some years after being adrift in a sail boat for many days on his own off Singapore.

**Oriel St.Arnaud Duke MM MBE 1898-1975**

Oriel was the second son of Mansergh Pace and Emily DUKE. He was known by the family as "Konks". During the First World War he volunteered and was a Lance Corporal in 10 Battalion Royal Fusiliers when he was awarded the M.M. & bar. He ended the war as a sergeant.

**Sybil Bolton 1898-1982**

Sybil was the daughter of Mansergh Pace and Emily DUKE. She married Pax Bolton a cleric who was sent from England to Antigua in the British West Indies about 1910. They were married about 1923 in Antigua. They had three children born in Dominica, Peggy (m. 1. Abercrombie 2. Clayton), Rosemary (m. Warren) and Michael (m. Audrey Charles).

**Ina Aileen Gall 1900-1970**

Aileen was the daughter of Mansergh Pace and Emily DUKE. She worked in the Royal Canadian Bank in Antigua until she married Herbert Frederick Douglas GALL. They had two daughters- Cynthia and Claire(m.O'Carroll).

The family came to live in Barbados from Dominica in 1936 on the retirement of her husband. They lived first at the Pavilion, Hastings and then The Garrison outside Bridgetown. She was buried in the Gall family vault at St. Michael's Cathedral, Bridgetown.

**William Duke 1901-1943**

William was unmarried. He was an estate overseer in Antigua. After losing his job he returned to his mother's home. He moved to Nevis and then St Kitts, where he died in a fire in which his home was destroyed.

**Ismay Winter 1902-1978**

Ismay married Clifford George WINTER a banker. They had a daughter Ann (lives in Canada). They lived in Trinidad, St. Lucia and St.Kitts. She was buried in the Winter family plot in Westbury cemetery in Bridgetown, Barbados.

**Randolph Rawson Duke 1904-1981**

Rawson ("Uncle Raw") was unmarried. He was an engineer- apprenticed in Scotland and then worked in the sugar factories in the West Indies (mostly in Trinidad and Jamaica). After he retired he lived in Cascais/Estoril near Lisbon, Portugal before returning to live in Hastings, Barbados where he died. He was buried in the Winter family plot in Westbury Cemetery in Bridgetown.

**Sarah Hardy 1905-1979**

Sarah (known as "Aunt Sally") married Fred HARDY who was deputy Principle of Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in St. Augustine, Trinidad. They had a daughter Betty (m. Francis VERDERY) who had three children, Katherine, David and Margaret.

**Mansergh Pace Duke jnr 1908-1980**

Mansergh Pace was known as "Uncle Tooney". He lived in Canada all his working life, first working in the RCMP and later in the tourist industry and then the Ontario Department of Tourism. He married Elsie Noble in c.1948 in Montreal. They had no children. He owned a motel in St. Catherine's, Ontario.

**Basil Ernest Vivian Duke 1910**

Basil died young.

## Appendix 4

### Fears of Communist infiltration in the Colonies

Cabinet Office papers available in the National Archives show that the UK government had concerns about communist activity in the British Dominions. *The Monthly Review of Revolutionary Movements in British Dominions Overseas and Foreign Countries* said in July 1921:

*The Leeward Islands are reported to be free from Bolshevik agitation. A very mild and quite constitutional agitation has been in progress among the better section of the coloured and black people in Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis for a change from Crown Colony to some more representative form of Government, and an association was formed in St. Kitts-Nevis to further this aim.*

The report also mentions: *the activities of Wilberforce O Norville in St. Lucia to set up a Negro Progressive Association in opposition to an American led Universal Negro Improvement Society which was "trying hard to arouse racial animosity and to consolidate politically the black people of the West Indies on a racial basis. The organ of the Society, the "Negro World", which is not without German and Sinn Fein influences, and now and again bitterly attacks the British rule of native races, circulates freely throughout the West Indies. Representatives and agents of Garvey's Society [Marcus Garvey was the leader] are established in the West Indies, or are occasional visitors there, but in the Leeward Islands the effect of the "Negro World" propaganda has not so far been very marked.*

[CAB 24/127 – National Archives web site]

The following extract from the BBC website is informative:

#### Home Front

Even more alarming to the authorities, especially those in the West Indies, was the fact that between 1916 and 1919 a number of colonies including St Lucia, Grenada, Barbados, Antigua, Trinidad, Jamaica and British Guiana experienced a series of strikes in which people were shot and killed. It was into this turmoil that the disgruntled seamen and ex-servicemen were about to return and many people in the region were hoping or anticipating - and, in the case of the authorities, fearing - that their arrival would bring the conflict to head.

West Indian participation in the war was a significant event in the still ongoing process of identity formation in the post-emancipation era of West Indian history.

When the disgruntled BWIR soldiers began arriving back in the West Indies they quickly joined a wave of worker protests resulting from a severe economic crisis produced by the war, and the influence of black nationalist ideology espoused by black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey and others. Disenchanted soldiers and angry workers unleashed a series of protest actions and riots in a number of territories including Jamaica, Grenada and especially in British Honduras.

West Indian participation in the war was a significant event in the still ongoing process of identity formation in the post-emancipation era of West Indian history. The war stimulated profound socio-economic, political and psychological change and greatly facilitated protest against the oppressive conditions in the colonies, and against colonial rule by giving a fillip to the adoption of the nationalist ideologies of Marcus Garvey and others, throughout the region. The war also laid the foundation for the nationalist upheavals of the 1930s in which World War One veterans were to play a significant role.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/west\\_indies\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/west_indies_01.shtml)