



**East Africa by Motor Lorry:  
Recollections of an ex-motor  
transport driver**

**WW Campbell**

Anne Samson (ed)

Be different: buy direct  
from [gweaa.com](http://gweaa.com) or  
[tslbooks.uk](http://tslbooks.uk)

## About

### William Wallace Campbell

The author of this book, *East Africa by Motor Lorry*, William Wallace Campbell was born on 9 or 10 February 1881 in Nottingham.<sup>1</sup> He married “Kitty” Eliza Oliver in 1902 and had four children, Mona 1903, Nora Kathleen 1907, Lorna Doreen 1912 and William Wallace 1913.

Between 1899 and March 1916 he worked as a Commission Agent, speculator and, at one time, had been managing director of a company. He spent 13 months employed by the National Projectile Company, Kings Meadow Road, Nottingham as a machine operator where he was described as “an efficient thorough workman, and good timekeeper.” He left to join HM Service. During his time as a munition worker, a role for which he volunteered, William issued two thousand 9.2 shells and had three breakdowns. It was on his third that he enlisted as a driver in the Motor Transport. His doctor recorded his first nervous breakdown in 1909: “although a well built man he is very easily upset and does not stand a strain at all well.”<sup>2</sup>

William attested on 8 December 1915 and was placed on the army reserve on 9 December 1915. At attestation, his address was recorded as 32 Priory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. He was two months short of 35 years of age.

---

<sup>1</sup> The information in this section is derived from Campbell’s military personnel file which is one of the ‘burnt documents’. He was 36 years and 24 days when he had his military medical on 5 March 1917. (WO 363/4/007287294; WO 372/3/227268)

<sup>2</sup> Doctor’s report August 1917.