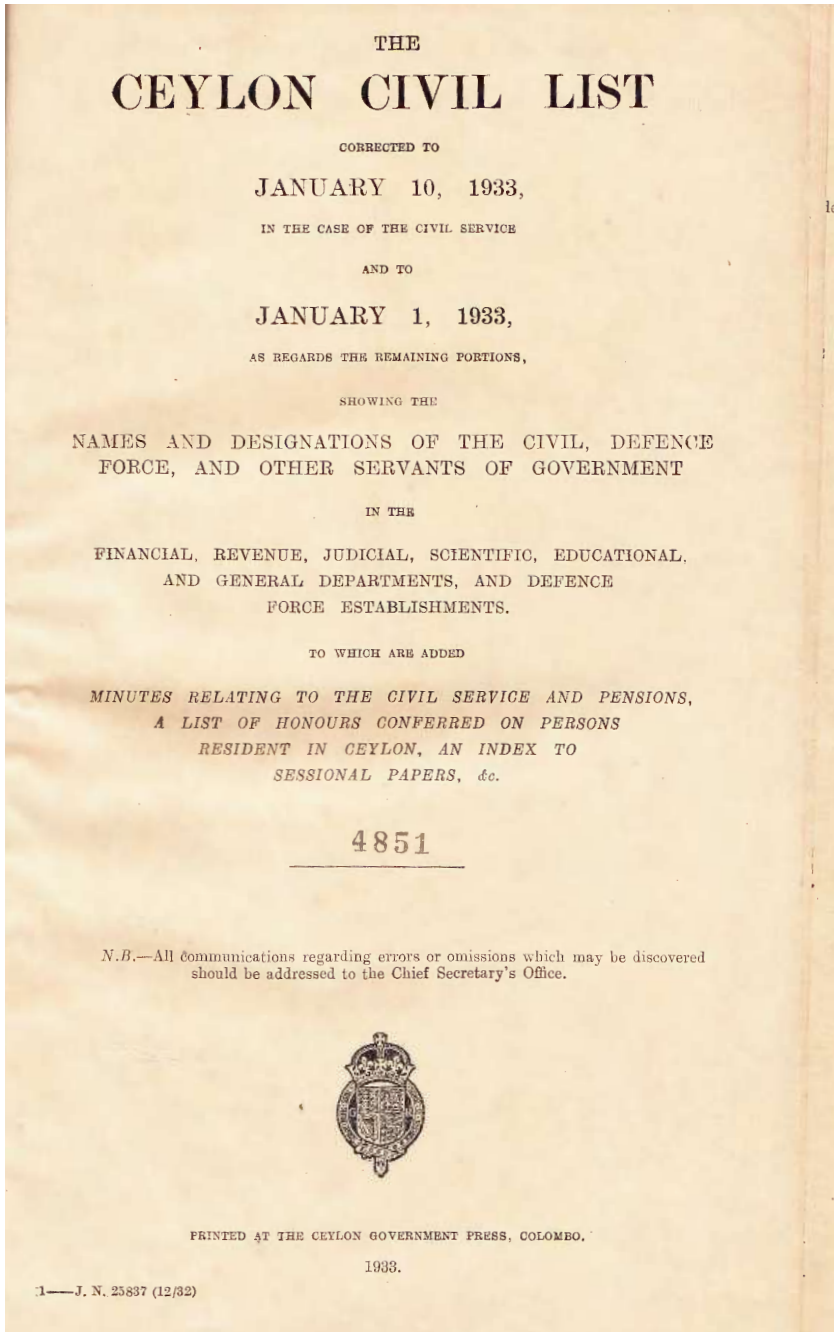
Kathleen Townsend [5A15]

Ceylon Civil List with Record of Service for Reginald Tyler



THE

CEYLON CIVIL LIST

CORRECTED TO

JANUARY 10, 1933,

IN THE CASE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

AND TO

JANUARY 1, 1933,

AS REGARDS THE REMAINING PORTIONS,

SHOWING THE

NAMES AND DESIGNATIONS OF THE CIVIL, DEFENCE FORCE, AND OTHER SERVANTS OF GOVERNMENT

IN THE

FINANCIAL, REVENUE, JUDICIAL, SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND GENERAL DEPARTMENTS, AND DEFENCE FORCE ESTABLISHMENTS.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

MINUTES RELATING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS, A LIST OF HONOURS CONFERRED ON PERSONS RESIDENT IN CEYLON, AN INDEX TO SESSIONAL PAPERS, &c.

4851

N.B.—All communications regarding errors or omissions which may be discovered should be addressed to the Chief Secretary's Office.

PRINTED AT THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT PRESS, COLOMBO.

1933.

1—J. N. 25837 (12/32)

Extract of Page 145 – Police Department

Superintendents of Police, Grade I. (£880 to £ 1,000 by six annual increments of £20;

Tyler, Reginald James. Born Ang. 2 1887. Superintendent of Police, £980 (October 1, 1933, £1,000).

Nov. 14, 1908, appointed by the Secretary of State; Dec. 11 1908, assumed duties; April 1909, passed Examination in Elementary Law; July, 1910, passed First Examination in Sinhalese; July, 1910, passed Examination in Police Orders and Police Practical Work; July 8, 1912, passed Second Examination in Sinhalese; July 8. 1912, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Colombo North; April 1913, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Nurawa Eliya; Oct., 1913, Assistant Superintendent of Police. Kurunegala; Mar., 1914, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chilaw; July, 1914, passed First Examination in Tamil; May, 1915. Assistant Superintendent of Police, North--Western Province; Oct., 1915, passed Second Examination in Tamil; Oct . 1, 1916, Superintendent of Police; April 28, 1917 to Nov. 10, 1918. Superintendent of Police, Colombo; Jan. 26, 1919, to Sept. 10, 1919, on commuted half-pay leave; Sept. 11, 1919, to Oct. 15, 1919, on half-pay leave; Oct. 16, 1919, returned from leave; Oct. 20, 1919, Superintendent of Police, Northern Province; Mar. 5, 1920. Superintendent of Police, North–Western Province; Aug. 8, 1920, Superintendent of Police, Western Province; Mar. 20, 1921, Superintendent of Police, Colombo; Oct. 1, 1923, Superintendent of Police. Grade I. June 4, 1924, to Dec. 15, 1924, on commuted half-pay leave; Dec. 16, 1924 returned from leave and resumed duties in Colombo Division; Feb. 16, 1925, Superintendent of Police, Province of Sabaragamuwa; Mar. 27. 1925, Superintendent of Po1ice, Province of Uva; April 4, 1929 to Aug. 8, 1929, on commuted half-pay leave; Aug. 9, 1929, on half-pay leave; Aug. 10 1929, to Aug. 28, 1929. Duty leave in lieu of period spent undergoing course at Scotland Yard; Aug. '29, 1929, to Sept. 1, 1929, on leave without pay; Sept. 2 1929, returned from leave; Sept. 17, 1929, Superintendent of Po1ice, North-Western Province; Mar. 29, 1931, Superintendent-of Police, Central Province; Nov. 2, 1932, on vacation leave.

Probationer Policemen in Ceylon circa 1908
Reginald Tyler - third from left



Richard Tyler's Obituary – Daily Telegraph Thursday 5th February 2009

Richard Tyler

Architect who blew up his stepmother's home and redesigned country houses for the modern age

RICHARD TYLER, who died on January 13 aged 92, was an architect whose creative imagination came to the rescue of many country house owners struggling to run their homes without the help of servants after the Second World War.

Some of Britain's finest houses profited from his ability to think in three dimensions and find elegant solutions to the problems facing those families who could no longer afford servants. He redesigned interiors to produce a manageable family home within the house. Living quarters would be rationalised and modernised without giving offence to the architecture; front carriage drives would be turfed over and motor cars sent round to the back, so that owners and visitors could enjoy an uninterrupted view over landscaped parks.

Tyler's advice was also sought by Cambridge colleges, notably King's and Emmanuel (for which he built an undergraduate hostel); and by the custodians of historic churches, ranging from family chapels to Salisbury Cathedral. He was a pioneer in making 19th-century City offices fit for the computer age with his scheme for Cater Ryder, the discount house, in King William Street.

Among the private houses Tyler worked on was Forde Abbey in Dorset, one of the most complicated and beautiful in England. He advised its owners, the Roper family, for many years. Others included Wrotham Park; the Byng family's Palladian house at Barnet; Knebworth House (for the Cobbolds); Levens Hall in Cumbria (for the Bagots); and Lord Burton's Dochfour, overlooking Loch Ness.

Tyler and Tom Bird, his partner in architectural practice, usually worked separately. When they combined to reconstruct the 17th-century Hall Barn outside Beaconsfield for Lord Burnham – a perilous operation involving the removal of two large Victorian additions – the result was spectacular. The house was restored to its original size and beauty, and reduced by half, enabling the family to continue living in it. Years later the two architects were amused to see both Hall Barn and Wrotham feature in the film *Gosford Park* (2001).



Tyler as a soldier during the war, and a view of Hall Barn, near Beaconsfield, before and after its transformation

Tyler had the patience and charm to deal with the most difficult clients, including some who expected a lot of advice and drawings in return for fine wines and a cold bedroom and were shocked to be presented with a bill. He preferred not to tangle with bureaucracy, but made an exception for housing projects for the disabled at Papworth, near Cambridge, and Enham Alamein, a village in Hampshire. He was well-qualified for this work, having himself lost a leg in the Western Desert.

Richard Michael Townsend Tyler was born on November 9 1916 in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon), where his father, James, was an officer in the colonial police. His mother, Audrey Townsend, was from a well-known Anglo-Irish family. From the age of seven, when his parents sent him to school in England, he lived with a Townsend aunt and her daughters in Bath. At Charterhouse he made it into the Classical Sixth, and was captain of the rifle Eight, competing at Bisley. His parents could not afford to send him to university, but his skill at drawing was already suggesting a career, and he enrolled at Bristol School of Architecture.

On holiday in Germany in 1937 he encountered a gang of thugs who tried to bully him into joining them in stoning a synagogue. This and other incidents indicated to him that war with Nazi Germany was inevitable, and when it was declared he signed up, using his connections to wangle his way into seeing action despite being listed "unfit for service" (he was short-sighted, and deaf in one ear; but, as a sympathetic general said to him: "There's not much whispering in the Army!").

Tyler joined the Royal Engineers and was assigned to the 7th Armoured Division's Support Group, commanded by the ebullient Brigadier Jock Campbell, who won the VC. Shortly before going into action he learned that his mother had died. In the vicious 48-hour battle of Sidi Rezegh, outside Tobruk, Tyler was hit in the thigh by shrapnel from a German tank while trying to move the munitions truck away from the airfield. He made a tourniquet to staunch the blood and was driven to the field station. By the time he reached Cairo, however, the leg was gangrenous and had to be amputated.

Though he rarely showed it, the war had a profound effect on him. After convalescing in South Africa, he returned by the long route to England, where he found that his father had remarried. His new stepmother was Madeleine (*née* Allhusen), widow of Commander Sir Geoffrey Congreve Bt, DSO, who had been killed in a commando raid on the French coast in 1941. Tyler now found that he had three stepsisters, and in 1944 he married the eldest, 19-year-old Henrietta.

His stepmother inherited Brahan Castle and estate, the seat of the Seaforth Mackenzies near Dingwall, Easter Ross. But the building was full of dry rot, and not even Madeleine's money could cover the cost of repairs. With characteristic decisiveness, the former sapper suggested laying gelignite under the Victorian additions to the old castle. The resulting explosion left a romantic ruin overlooking the River Conon, and Tyler set about converting the former coach house and stables above the castle into an elegant, if oddly attenuated, house.

After the war Tyler set up an architects' practice in London with Tom Bird, who had won a DSO, MC & Bar while serving with the Rifle Brigade. They had met in a Cairo military hospital during the war after both had been wounded on the same day.

Essentially a private man, Tyler abhorred self-advertisement and what he called "axe-grinding". He had a mischievous sense of humour, and was quick – sometimes too quick – to judge. His enthusiasms included the Italian Renaissance and 20th-century poetry, and he derived much pleasure from conversations with his Hertfordshire neighbour Henry Moore. He was a practising Anglican who swore by the King James Bible.

Perhaps because his artificial leg put an end to his riding – though he was still climbing ladders when well into his seventies – he loved the worlds of hunting and racing, and he followed the local foxhounds on car and on foot.

He was a founder of the Puckeridge Hunt Supporters' Club at Brent Pelham, a mile from Meesden Hall, his Queen Anne house on the Herts-Essex border. When he and Henrietta moved to west Dorset on his retirement, settling a few miles from Forde Abbey, he followed the Cattistock and Seavington until he could no longer drive a car.

Richard Tyler's wife predeceased him, and he is survived by their two sons and two daughters.