

**Name of memorial:** Buchanan Riddell Memorial

**Inventory No. 421**

**Place:** St. Canice's Cathedral

**Address and map reference:** The Close, Kilkenny. Map reference: S 503 563.

**Position:** East wall of north transept.

**Description and dimensions:** Stone plaque. Height 75cms, width 65cms.

**Recorded by:** Michael Pegum, 21 June, 2007.

**Text:**

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND  
TO THE BELOVED MEMORY OF  
ROBERT GEORGE BUCHANAN RIDDELL  
WHO LEFT KILKENNY FOR SOUTH AFRICA  
IN COMMAND OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> BATTALION  
KING'S ROYAL RIFLES ON NOV 4<sup>TH</sup> 1899  
AND FELL IN ACTION AT THE HEAD  
OF HIS BATTALION ON  
THE HEIGHTS OF SPION KOP  
JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 1900**

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**THIS MEMORIAL WAS PLACED HERE  
BY HIS WIFE**

**Book:**

From **“The Black and White Budget”**, Jan – Mar 1900



Lieutenant-Colonel Robert George Buchanan-Riddell, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, and Captain Gilbert MacDonald Stewart, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, were among those who fell in the stubborn attempt to hold Spion Kop on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Buchanan-Riddell was born in 1854, and entered the Army through the Militia a quarter of a century ago. He fought the Boers before in 1881 and was in Egypt in the following year, when he received the bronze star and a medal and clasp. He was also in the Soudan campaign of 1844. From 1890 to 1895 he was an Adjutant of Volunteers. The command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps was given to him in December 1898.

From **“The Great Boer War”**, Arthur Conan Doyle, London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1902:

Before evening fell a most gallant and successful attempt had been made by the third battalion of the King's Royal Rifles from Lyttelton's Brigade to relieve the pressure upon their comrades on Spion Kop. In order to draw part of the Boer fire away they ascended from the northern side and carried the hills which formed a continuation of the same ridge. The movement was meant to be no more than a strong demonstration, but the riflemen pushed it until, breathless but victorious, they stood upon the very crest of the position, leaving nearly a hundred dead or dying to show the path which they had taken. Their advance being much further than was desired, they were recalled, and it was at the moment that Buchanan Riddell, their brave Colonel, stood up to read Lyttelton's note that he fell with a Boer bullet through his brain, making one more of those gallant leaders who died as they had lived, at the head of their regiments.