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**BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF REID FAMILY IN
PORTUGAL SINCE 1825**

by Robin Reid

It is not generally known that in the mid 17 hundreds, a great number of Lowland Scottish families fled from Scotland into England, to avoid being involved with the Jacobite movement of Bonnie Prince Charles. Many of these families were sheep farmers of some consequence, and the Reid family finally settled near Marlow, in the Village of Bisham, County of Berkshire. This was where my Great-Grandfather Robert Reid was born. He being the second son of a number of children. This record has been personally checked in the Berkshire Record Office, where I examined my Great-Grandfather's birth certificate, signed by my Great-Great-Grandfather and Mother, Robert and Elinor Reid. In 1825 my Great-Grandfather Robert Reid went to Portugal at the invitation of the Portuguese government, with the object of improving the quality of wool from the flocks of sheep which then existed in Portugal. We are talking of a period some ten years after the end of the Peninsular War, which had badly ravaged the whole country. The Portuguese government was desperate to export wool to the United Kingdom, and to generally develop trade. My Great Grandfather started his operations from Lisbon, where he met with considerable success over the years, and was eventually decorated with the Ordem de Cristo in 1872 by the King of Portugal D. Luis 1°.

One of the reasons for his success, was that he imported the Merino stock from Spain, and interbred them with the local flocks, thus greatly improving the quality of wool for export. In the late 18 hundreds, the family moved to Oporto where they settled in Campanhã, in the Rua Barão de Nova Sintra, in the lovely Quinta da Nova Sintra which was built by Robert Reid Senior, and where my Grandfather Robert Reid Junior was born. He had one elder brother John, who died a bachelor, and one sister Luisa who married an English gentleman, called George Mason. It is interesting to note that my Great Grandfather Robert Reid

Snr returned to England to find a bride, and married a Scots lady, Emily Maria Blagden. Robert Reid Jnr, my Grandfather, also returned to the UK to find a bride, and married a Scots lady Catherine Allan Cruickshank. Thus that it was not until my father Allan Reid married Audrey Noele Pheysey in 1923, that there was a register of a Reid family wedding in the records of the Church of St. James in Oporto. There is a gap of nearly 100 years from the date of Robert Snr.'s arrival to the marriage of my father, Allan Reid, due to the fact that Robert Snr. and Robert Jnr. did not marry until relatively late in life.

Both Robert Reid Snr., Robert Reid Jnr. and their wives, are all buried in the Churchyard of St. James in Oporto. After the death of Robert Reid Snr. his son Robert Jnr. appears to have lived in considerable comfort in the Quinta at Nova Sintra until his death in 1925. He seems to have engaged in a certain amount of import, export business and was for a brief period a partner in a Port Wine firm called Sellers & Ferro, which no longer exists. Robert Jnr. had four children, Eric Blagden, Robert William (who was killed in 1916 in France), Barbara Louisa and finally my father Allan Tilbrooke, who served in France in the Royal Flying Corp, with n° 107 Squadron Day Bombers. He was demobilized in 1919, and held both the RFC and RAF Pilot's Wings. He then returned to Portugal and set up in business with two brothers Candido and Eugenio Moreira in the Codfish import business. This lasted until the very early 1930's, when my father left the Codfish business, and joined the Port Wine shipping firm of Morgan Brothers, where he remained until the outbreak of World War Two, which effectively shut down the Port business of Morgan Brothers. He then became representative for the whole of northern Portugal of an organisation set up by the British Government, called the United Kingdom Commercial Cooperation, whose object was buy minerals, grains and tinned foods on behalf of the British Government, in order to deny them to the German War effort. The principal and most valuable product being Tungsten, which was used for the hardening of steel and thus particularly valuable. The main area where Tungsten is found is in the Beira Alta, near Urgeirica.

The UKCC was wound up in 1947 and my father Allan Reid became Manager of the Port Wine shipping firm of Smith Woodhouse, where he remained until his retirement. He died in May 1977, and is buried in the cemetery at St. James. His marriage with Audrey Noele Pheyey had produced two sons. Robin Allan, the eldest was born in 1925 and married Elsa Andresen Nicolau D'Almeida. They had four daughters, Olga, Wendy, Joanna and Christian. Stuart Charles, Allan Reid's youngest son, was born in 1929, having lived in Lisbon most of his adult life, where he worked as General Manager to Messrs Rankin & Co, cork producers and shippers. Stuart Charles died a

bachelor in April 1982, and is buried in St. George's Church in Lisbon.

Robin joined the British Army in 1943 with the Worcestershire Regiment. He trained as a Commando, and was drafted out to India in early 1944, where he was attached to the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment, and was Adjt to the second battalion for two years. He was demobilized with the rank of Captain in 1947. Robin then joined Messrs Croft & Co Ltd (Port Wine Shippers) in 1948 and retired in 1990, having been Managing Director for 28 years. Robin with his wife Elsa, children and grand children live in Oporto except for 1 daughter Wendy, who is married, and lives in the Isle of Man.

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