

The Carillon Chimes

The Newsletter of the
Carillon Tower & War
Memorial Museum



Battle of Frezenberg 13 May 1915

May 2015

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[Battle of Frezenberg "Hold hard, Leicestershire Yeomanry!"](#)

On the evening of the 12 May 1915 the Leicestershire Yeomanry were ordered forward through the mud and driving rain to the trenches East of Ypres on Frezenberg Ridge. At 3.30 am on the 13th the German artillery opened up and the barrage continued until 6 am when the German attack was launched and repulsed. A second furious barrage began and the Germans fought their way forward, the British although heavily outnumbered fought on and by the afternoon what was left of the Leicestershire Yeomanry were the only unit holding the line that had previously been held by 7th Cavalry Brigade.

Of the 280 men who went into those trenches 94 were killed and 93 were wounded. Amongst the dead were fourteen men from Loughborough. They are commemorated on the Carillon Tower and remembered each year at a service at the church at Newtown Linford and wreath laying at the Leicestershire Yeomanry War Memorial at Bradgate Park on 'Frezenberg Day' the 13 May. (The memorial is pictured below.) Those from Loughborough who died were:



Pte Thomas Brookes, aged 22, younger son of James and Elizabeth Brookes of 24 Paget Street, Loughborough.

Pte George Clowes, aged 19, son of Ernest and Sarah Clowes of Hathern Station.

Pte William Ernest Hoe Corah, aged 25, son of William and Catherine Corah of Swing Bridge House, Loughborough.

L/Cpl Bertie Diggle, aged 21, son of Sergeant Major George Davis Diggle and Mrs Ellen Diggle of 15 Swann Street, Loughborough.

Pte Henry Archer Grudgings, aged 23, son of Daniel and Emma Grudgings of 14 Beacon Road, Loughborough.

Pte Gilbert Edwin Hawker, aged 22, son of Frank and Winifred Hawker of 65 Toothill Road, Loughborough.

Pte Percy Spencer Jones, aged 21, son of Annie Jones and step-son of Herbert Jones of 76 Gladstone Street, Loughborough.

Sgt Henry Percy Kealey, aged 30, son of Henry William Cato Kealey of 14 Cartwright Street, Loughborough, and his first wife Alice Amelia Kealey (deceased), and stepson of Elizabeth Kealey; husband of Constance Kealey of 20 Freehold Street, Loughborough, and father of Constance and Dorothy.

L/Cpl William Francis Kent, aged 25, the son of Frederick Britton Kent and Lucy Mary Anne Kent of 34 High Street, Loughborough.

Tpr John Jesson Lucas, aged 20, son of Thomas and Sarah Jane Lucas of The Old Bull's Head, 18 High Street, Quorn.

Major William Francis Martin, aged 39, son of Robert Frewen Martin and Henrietta Susan Martin of The Brand, Woodhouse Eaves; husband of Violet Martin of The Holt, Woodhouse, and father of Robert and Diana.

WO1 (RSM) George Charles Parker, aged 42, son of George and Lydia Parker of 30 Eton Square, Eton, Berks; husband of Edith Jane Parker of 22 Toothill Road, Loughborough, and father of Arthur, William and Edith Mary.

Pte Charles Edgar Pritchard, aged 22, son of Charles Leppington Pritchard and Elizabeth Ann Pritchard of Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves.

Pte Thomas Joseph Sheriff, aged 20, son of Edward and Fanny Sherriff of 27 Watergate, Grantham, and cleaver forward of the Loughborough Wednesday Half-Holiday Club.

Read the full story: [Leicestershire Yeomanry: 2nd Ypres, Frezenberg](#)

[Lost Oscillator is Replaced](#)

What's an oscillator? I hear you say! Well it is an electronic circuit that produces sound and in our case it was used with the Morse key in the Yeomanry Room to transmit the Morse code and it was very popular with our younger visitors (and me).

During the work in the close season the oscillator was disconnected and disappeared, silencing us forever, however Mr Chris Walker of the Loughborough & District Amateur Radio Club came to our rescue and gave us another one and we are now back on, QRK 5

Although Morse still has some applications, aircraft radio beams and the like, it is no longer used by the military and the French Navy's last transmission was:

'Calling all. This is our last cry before our eternal silence' How poetic.

Our Morse key is part of a WW1 Trench Signalling Lamp as seen in the picture above. The lamp is so shaped that it sends a narrow beam of light towards the position of the receiver who used a periscope or telescope to pick up and read the message.

See link: [Loughborough and District Amateur Radio Club](#)



Volunteering



Do you enjoy meeting and engaging with people? Do you have time on your hands? We are always looking for help with the museum, the public cannot access the upper rooms unless a volunteer is present so the volunteer Museum Guide's role is vital.

Do not worry that you know little about military memorabilia you will be amazed how quickly you begin to sound like expert on the subject and to start you will be paired up with an experience guide. Even if you cannot commit to a regular slot you might be able to help us out covering absences, holidays, sickness etc. Email us! carillonmuseum@gmail.com

Object of Desire



On loan to us at the moment is this pocket watch which belonged to Henry Tyler, a survivor of the Battle of Frezenberg; it is now in the possession of his grandson, Stuart Tyler.

Henry was a Corporal in 'C' Sqn Leicestershire Yeomanry and was on holiday with his wife and two children in Skegness when WW1 broke out. Determined to get back as quickly as possible he loaded his family onto his pony and trap and completed the 80 mile journey back in a single day; although his horse, 'Nancy', took several days to recover.



Henry paraded in Loughborough with the rest of the regiment and sailed for France on 2 November 1914. He came through Frezenberg and was later posted to the Machine Gun Corps finally being demobbed in February 1919 having attained the rank of Squadron Quarter Master Sergeant (SQMS) and awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM)

Henry and his wife Eliza had established the Western Laundry on Derby Road in 1910 which moved in 1938 further along the Derby Road to the premises many of you will remember.

Model Maker Still Wanted



In the March Edition of this newsletter I asked if anyone could make 1:144 scale models of houses, Rows of terraced houses preferred.

They are for a display to commemorate the Zeppelin raid to be held at the Charnwood Museum during January 2015. We already have a 1:144 model Zeppelin and some figures, just need the buildings to give a sense of size. Absolutely no response! So I am asking again!

1:144 is (I believe) the equivalent to 'N' gauge in the model railway world, no model railwayers out there?

Death Plaque Goes Home



Two or three years ago we were doing an exercise, 'Significance Assessment' on some of the objects in the museum, it is used to work out the value (not the monetary value) of the object to the collection, amongst the things we looked at were our collection of Death Plaques and I remembered that we had one commemorating a man from Kilwinning, in Ayrshire. It was just a training exercise and we did nothing with the assessments.

Then a couple of weeks ago I was looking at something on the internet and Kilwinning came up. I did a search and found a photo of their war memorial, on it was a John Christie but the Death Plaque we have is named to John Chrystie, Marigold, a volunteer researcher with us came up with the following explanation:

"All the evidence points to 'Chrystie' being the form of surname commonly used by the family, which is what ultimately matters. The evidence from documents relating to John and his family is as follows:

"1911 census: **Chrystie** (The 1911 census was the first census where the form was normally filled in by the Head of the Household rather than an Enumerator.

1901 census: **Chrystie** (Census enumerator got it right)

1891 census Christie (Census enumerator wrote down the sound of the name)

1881 census Christie (Census enumerator wrote down the sound of the name)

"John Chrystie's will is apparently signed **John Chrystie**

His entry in *Soldiers' personal effects* uses the surname form of **Chrystie**

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Their records all use the form **John Chrystie**

The medal index card for John Chrystie includes a note which says: '**Chrystie**' correct spelling of surname. Auth 0/55B

"John Chrystie's older brother Henry who enlisted on 5th September 1914 signed his name on his attestation form as **Henry Chrystie**. (Unlike his brother; John Henry's service papers have survived.) When Henry was baptised, however, on 10th November 1891, the Minister of the Kirk entered his parents' names as William and Grace Stewart Christie. The Minister had presumably never seen the preferred form of the surname written down." Marigold Cleeve.

Kilwinning has no museum as such but the Kilwinning Heritage Group man the Abbey Church clock tower and have a small collection of historical objects, having made contact with them and satisfied we had the right man, it was decided to transfer John Chrystie's Death Plaque to them and they were delighted to receive it. Visit site: [Kilwinning Heritage The local history group in Kilwinning ..](#)



What our records do not show is how the plaque ended up so far from the man's home town?

The Not So Humble Jerrycan

I must thank one of our readers, C Walker (no first name?) for drawing my attention to an article about the 'jerrycan'. Having served in the army I knew that the jerrycan had a special place in military history, far superior to the petrol cans of the British Army in WW2 known as 'flimsies' a 4 gallon tin can that needed a wrench to remove the cap, a pourer and a funnel and with a thin wire handle that made carrying it any distance painful, the jerrycan was a miracle of good design.



Hitler had ordered his staff to design a fuel container that would minimize fuel losses under combat conditions and the 'Wehrmacht-Einheitskanister' (German for: Armed forces unit canister) had been developed and stored under the strictest secrecy, as a result the German army had thousands of jerrycans, as they came to be called, in storage by 1939.

Its unique features were many. It was flat-sided and rectangular in shape, consisting of two halves welded together as in a typical vehicle petrol tank. It had three handles, enabling one man to carry two cans and pass one to another man in bucket-brigade fashion. Its capacity was approximately four and half gallons, its weight filled, forty-five pounds. Thanks to an air chamber at the top, it would float on water if dropped overboard or from a plane. Its short spout was secured with a snap closure that could be propped open for pouring, making unnecessary any funnel or opener. A gasket made the mouth leak proof. An air-breathing tube from the spout to the air space kept the pouring smooth.

Most important, the can's inside was lined with an impervious plastic material developed for the insides of steel beer barrels. This enabled the jerrycan to be used alternately for gasoline and water. And here is another use to which the jerrycan is suited. Click on.. [Khowar Ghazal by Ansar Elahi](#)

And would you believe it, we haven't got one! Have you?

Is there a Korean out There?

We have an item (an A4 size envelope) written in Korean that needs translating, we believe it is an envelope for a flag and probably dates from the Korean War 1950 – 1953. But why and what for?

According to the Loughborough University webpage for potential Korean students there are currently 28 Koreans already studying here? Why can't we find one?

I no sooner finished this piece when I had an email from 박종철 volunteering to translate the piece, not sure how she knew? Perhaps through our Facebook page where a request for a Korean speaker had been made. I will let you the outcome in the next newsletter.



[The Free Adverts](#)

The Great War Centenary Debate:

“Haig - has history been fair?”

Thursday 7th May 2015, 7.30

Loughborough Library, Granby Street, LE11 3DZ
Tickets: £3 under 18's free from Loughborough Library

LoughboroughLibrary@leics.gov.uk 0116 3052420



Woodhouse & Woodhouse **Eaves**
Local History Group

**Monday 11 May 7.30 pm at the
Methodist Church, Main Street**

The Battle of Frezenberg 13 May 1915

by

Peter Spooner

Just £3.00 (pay at door)

Stop Press. 82nd Airborne book launch on May 9th at Quorn Village Hall between 4:30pm and 7:30pm. Adam Berry is giving a talk on the 82nd Airborne as well as demonstrations of uniforms, equipment, weaponry and exhibits of varying sorts pertaining to the Division and to the Troop Carrier units that flew them to combat. Tickets are £4 with all proceeds going to the RBL.

We are always looking for contributions and feedback for this newsletter if you have anything you would like to see or say, read about or questions regarding military history then please email us at: carillonmuseum@gmail.com