

The Carillon Chimes

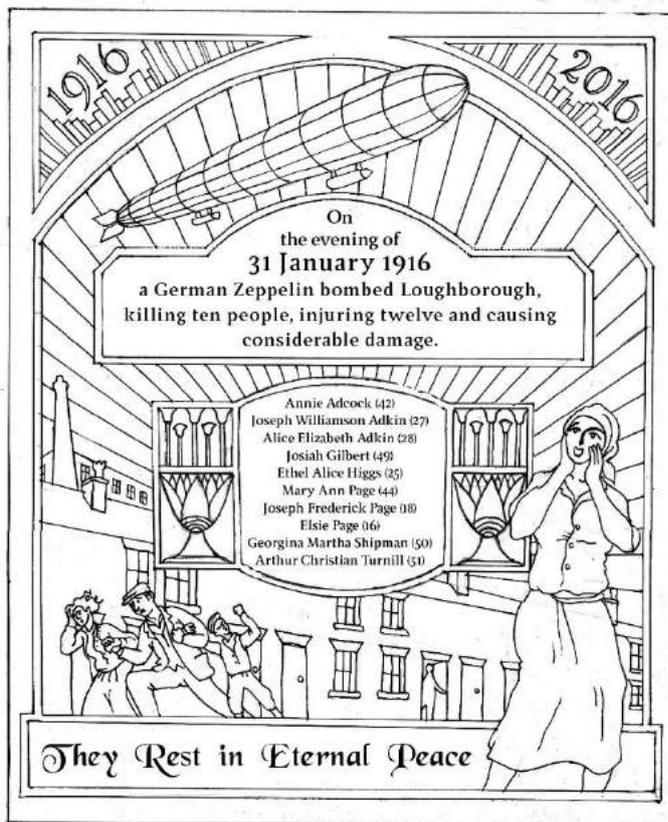
The Newsletter of the Carillon
Tower & War Memorial Museum



November 2015

Issue No. 61

[The Zeppelin Memorial Appeal](#)



How odd it is that we have such a grand memorial to the men of the town who fell in the Great War but no memorial for the victims of the bombing by a Zeppelin on 31 January 1915.

That is something we intend to put right and on the 31 January 2016 we will be unveiling a bronze plaque, designed by Mr Paul Gent and cast by Taylor & Co.

Costing £6000.00 it was always our intention that it would be funded by public subscription, as was the carillon. We have made a good start with donations from individuals and organisations but we need your help. Please, every little helps and you will be contributing not only to a memorial to the ten victims of the raid but to a piece of public art. Cheques should be made out to 'Loughborough Carillon Museum' and may be sent to Loughborough Carillon Museum (Appeal) C/O John

Storer House, Wards End, Loughborough. LE11 3HA or donate through PayPal at [PayPal](#). Using our email address: carillonmuseum@gmail.com

As well the many individual donations we have received support from the follow organisations:

Loughborough University, Shepshed History Group, Wednesday Friends Good Shepherd Church, Loughborough U3A, Blazing Glory Scooter Club, Brush Sports & Social Club, the Plough at Thorpe Acre and Loughborough Rotary Club.

Have you contributed? Now is your chance to support this most worthy cause.

Mr Ken Harris

It is with deep regret that I have to report the death of Mr Ken Harris who passed away on 21 October. Ken was a volunteer at our museum for many years, always enthusiastic about the carillon and with a keen sense of humour he will be sadly missed.

His funeral will take at 2 pm 4 November at Loughborough Crematorium.

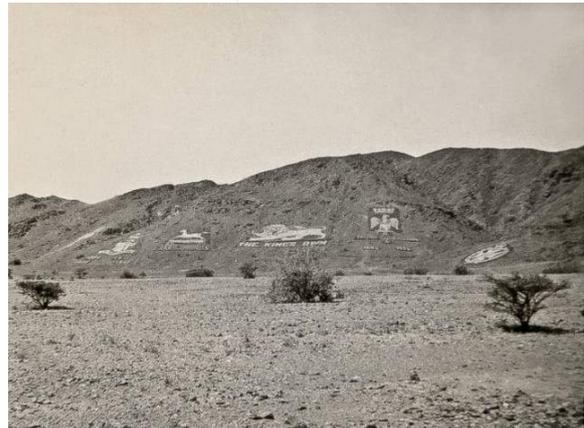
Gebeit Sudan

In the last edition of the Carillon Chimes we carried the story of the lost plinth, erected by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment outside of the small town of Gebeit in Sudan. Since the article



was published I have been talking to local 'man about town' Mr Ralph Cripps who served with the Leicesters' in Gebeit. "It was hot, very hot" he told me, "there were no windows or doors in the accommodation just holes where they should have been so that what little breeze there was could pass through".

Would he like to go back?
"Absolutely not"



The picture on the right (taken from the same spot?) clearly shows the cap badges on the surrounding foothills was sent in by Capt Bob Allen who also served in Gebeit with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday; why have two?



Although Remembrance Sunday is the formal and official day that the people of the United Kingdom remember the dead of two World Wars and continuing conflicts it has not always been the case; the original day of remembrance was called Armistice Day

The Armistice Treaty which ended World War 1 at 11am on the 11th November 1918. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. In 1919 it was first suggested that a period of silence be observed to remember the fallen. In a letter to the London Evening News a Mr Honey wrote "Five little minutes only. Five silent minutes of national remembrance. A very sacred intercession. Communion with the glorious dead who won us peace." Honey had been angered by the dancing in the streets on the day of the armistice and believed a period of silence a

more appropriate gesture in memory of those who had died.

Later that year Sir Percy Fitzpatrick forwarded a similar idea to the King, George V. The King declared that to mark the Armistice. "A complete suspension of all our normal activities, so that in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

In considering the idea George V had paraded the Grenadier Guards at Buckingham Palace for a rehearsal and had decided that five minutes was too long and that two minutes was more appropriate.

The tradition of marking the end of the 1st World War on November 11th continued until 1939 and the outbreak of the 2nd World War when services were moved to the second Sunday of November so as not to interfere with wartime production should the 11th fall on a weekday.

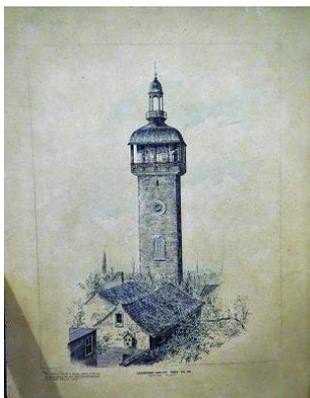
In 1945 the subject was re-visited and the government of the day had to decide which day was appropriate for remembering the dead of, now, two world wars. By coincidence November 11th in 1945 fell on a Sunday so long established services and parades took place as always and it was agreed that from then on Remembrance Services would be the second Sunday in November with the two minutes silence and an act of worship enshrined in the public proceedings.

Before the start of the two minutes silence part of a poem, written by Laurence Binyon, called 'For the Fallen' is read aloud:

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
we will remember them.

Then to signal the start of the two minutes silence a lone bugler sounds the 'Last Post' a bugle call originally used by the British Army to signal the end of the day, it was then incorporated into military funerals where it was played as a final farewell, symbolizing the fact that the dead soldier's duties were over and he could rest in peace.

Whats New?



Carillon print.

Donated by Mr John Smalley of Loughborough this large original print of the carillon (40 x 57 cms) is unusual in that the creator has used a bit of artistic licence in placing the carillon close to some cottages. On the reverse it says "Daily Express" Young Artists' Exhibition. Mr Charles Arthur Peat, 54 Wards End, presumably the artist?

Lord Beaverbrook, the owner of the Express was a patron of the arts and I believe that the Young Artists' Exhibition was held in 1955. I have asked the donor for more information but can you add anything to the story?

We will have the pictured framed and it will most likely be hung in the Clavier Room or on the wall just outside along with the other pictures related to the carillon and the bells.

Death Plaque

This, the Death Plaque of 14030 Sgt Bernard Herbert Unwin (Some confusion with his name being recorded as Herbert Bernard on some sites) was donated to us by Ms Coltman of Normanton along with the notification of his death.



Bernard enlisted at Loughborough and served with the 8th Bn Leicestershire Regt. He was killed in action, probably during the attack on the village of Gueudecourt, on 25 September 1916. It was during this attack that Capt Breacher picked up an abandoned bugle and blew the Quorn Hunt 'Tally Ho' to rally the men. Bernard is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial and Loughborough Carillon.

Signal Pistol

This WW2 No4 Mk 1 Signal Pistol has been donated by Mr Kirk of Nottingham. It was designed to be fired from aircraft, fixed to the wall by a bracket, coloured flares were fired either as a distress signal or as a means of identification, if fired on by friendly forces it fired the 'colours of the day' to indicate they were friendly. They were also used in some tanks and AFVs (Armoured Fighting Vehicles)



During the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland some were converted to fire Baton Rounds (rubber bullets) by fitting a stock.

[Shepshed LDV](#)

You may have seen this in the *Loughborough Echo*, this medallion was discovered by members of the Loughborough Coin and Search Society at Garendon. The badge is believed to date back to the summer of 1940 when the Shepshed Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) were formed. Having been nicknamed 'Look, Duck and Vanish' they were renamed as the Home Guard at the end of July despite the fact that one million LDV armbands had been produced,



It gives me an excuse to include this photograph of the Home Guard capturing a German tank whilst on exercise. I was led to believe that it is Shepshed Home Guard but can anyone confirm that? I am not the only one asking for information Zoe Higgins of the *Loughborough Echo* has also asked if anyone has information on Shepshed LDV you can contact her on 01509 635809

Rawlins War Poetry

The *Loughborough Echo* have discontinued the weekly poem feature and reading it reminded me that we have, this season, displayed a number of poems written by students of Rawlins Academy, Quorn. There has been a lot of interest in them so I thought I would publish one a month to make up for the *Echo's* decision.

The Game of War

Left, right, left
Their feet move of their own accord
Left, right, left
Their arms are swinging,
Left, right, left
They are marching.

Away from their hopes,
Throwing away their dreams,
Leaving them to drown in the dust.

The birds are singing –
The last bit of music they'll hear –
For as soon as they reach the treacherous mud-filled trenches,
The notes are silenced.

Their thoughts will shatter,
Their eyes will sting.
And their final breaths will be those of smoke.

Left, right, left
Their final footfalls echo.
As they plummet to the ground,
Their weapons are dropped,
And their eyes look skyward.

Their minds begin to wander,
Their senses begin to leave,
And their heart reaches out to everything they have left behind.
Their final thoughts go to those back home,
As they travel to dance amongst the poppies.

Phillipa Hathaway (year 9)

Final Reminder

Two things to remember then!

1. Donate to the Zeppelin Memorial Appeal
2. Attend Remembrance Sunday Service; Sunday 8 November

