

The Carillon Chimes

The Newsletter of the Carillon Tower & War Memorial Museum

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Battle of Loos

In the last edition of this newsletter I told the story of Rifleman Kulbir Thapa winning the VC at Loos (September - October 1915) I have since been contacted by Mr Graham Eustace, new information has come to light which casts doubt on the long held believe that it was Melton man, Bill Keightley that he saved. However the full story is to appear in another publication so I will not pre-empt them.

Bill Keightley's full service records are on Ancestry having survived the bombing of WWII, two thirds didn't. He underwent a series of difficult operations as doctors struggled to save his legs due to the severity of his wounds acquired in the battle of Neuve Chapel, before they were amputated. By any accounts a very brave man.



Royal Leicestershire Regiment Plinth at Gebeit

Another story in the last edition mentioned a plinth built by the Leicesters' in Sudan. I have made a number of enquirers over the last few years trying to establish if it was still standing. Marigold Cleeve a volunteer researcher achieved more in a month than I had achieved in eight years. This is her submission:

In Carillon Chimes (July 2015) Mel Gould asked: 'The last British infantry battalion to serve in the Sudan before they got independence in 1956 was the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. Before



1st Battalion
Plinth erected at Gebeit, Sudan, to commemorate the last British troops to serve in the Sudan. Lieut.-Col. Watson, Major Creagh and 2 Lieut. Walker are seen admiring the plinth, which was built by L/Cpt. Hubbard of Leicester and Pte. M. Bland of Melton Mowbray.

1955 the newly built plinth

leaving, to mark the occasion, they built a plinth outside of the small town of Gebeit. I have tried and failed to find if the plinth is still standing. So that is the next challenge! No one in Gebeit has email? Is the plinth still standing?'

'**Can you find the Leicesters' plinth?**' was a magnetic challenge. Having found no documentary evidence whatsoever I contacted the British Embassy in Khartoum, the University of Khartoum, and two academics who had recently published books or papers on the Sudan. I also posted a message on a Sudan discussion board where members wrote in Arabic, but which had a translation facility.

I had a very quick response from the Head of the Political, Communications and Programmes Section at the British Embassy who said that she would pass my message on to the Defence

Attaché when he returned from leave. Early in September I received an email from Lt. Col. Edward Melotte, the Defence Attaché in Khartoum, as follows:



We have identified the plinth but I am afraid that the news is not good: it sits in the middle of a Sudanese Army range area and has been destroyed over the years... Our Close Protection Team (CP) managed to identify it whilst passing near to the area – coincidentally finding a number of other British regimental cap badges emblazoned on a hillside nearby. The CP leader has written an article which I am attaching.

Major Love, of the Royal Military Police and formerly leader of the Close Protection Team at Khartoum has prepared a confidential report for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office entitled *The Lost memorials of Gebeit*. Release is currently embargoed as this report is scheduled for publication, but I have been given

permission by Lt. Col. Melotte and Major Love to provide a brief summary of its contents, as follows:

Major Love and a colleague, Corporal Hopton, set off from Khartoum and travelled for three days through inhospitable desert and off-road through wadi-ridden scrubland until they reached the range of hills near Gebeit, the probable location of the plinth.

Here, according to Major Love, they found ‘*squaddie graffiti but on a totally epic scale*’. There were 200-300ft representations of the cap badges of ten British regiments set into the hillside, together with eight more similar contributions by the Sudanese Army.

Whilst cataloguing the images Major Love and Corporal Hopton realised that they were situated in a direct line of the Sudanese Army live firing range, which rather fortunately was not in operation that day. Since, however, there was no sign of the Royal Leicestershire memorial plinth they headed into Gebeit to make further enquiries. Here they were somewhat surprised to encounter two history lecturers from the University of Khartoum who had been unsuccessfully looking for the same plinth for quite a few days and who had concluded that the plinth must have been destroyed. (I have as yet had no reply from the University of Khartoum.)

Major Love and Corporal Hopton decided to look again for the plinth when they returned through the area two days later. In the interim they planned a search strategy for five possible locations by studying satellite imagery. On checking their last potential location they finally found it. The remains of the plinth were on the top of a rocky hill on the outskirts of Gebeit, identifiable from the residual stonework and a few fragments of inscription found in the rubble.



2015 Major Love at the remains of the plinth

Marigold Cleeve



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Leicestershire Yeomanry Baboon

In the last issue I reported that we had two pictures of the LY in South Africa during the Boer War in which their pet monkey appears, however he has a different name in each, Adonse and Alphonse. Although at first Alphonse, although French, seems the more likely; if you type 'Adonse' into Google Translate it turns out that 'Adonse' is Zulu for 'Grab'. Now the British Army have always been quick to pick up and use local words and 'grab' could possibly describe the monkey's table manners.

'To add to the confusion you can buy one of the prints on Amazon and eBay and they appear to call the monkey, Count Waldersee Kobe Hamburg.

Which is it? I asked and of course that master researcher, Marigold Cleeve, came up with the answer. I have published it below in full:

Adonse or Alphonse? Adonse the Zulu word for 'Grab' seems the most likely name for the baboon. If the baboon was ever called Alphonse I suspect that some of the Yeomanry may have misheard what the baboon was actually being called and thought his name was Alphonse. There is no additional written evidence to support the name Alphonse.

Count Waldersee Kobe Hamburg? The Boer War Leicestershire Yeomanry baboon has been mistakenly elevated to *Count Waldersee Kobe Hamburg* of the continental aristocracy because of very careless cataloguing by sellers of prints, and art reproductions, notably on Amazon and eBay in this case. For example,

eBay entry: Print 1901 Pet Monkey Leicestershire Yeomanry War Count Waldersee Kobe 185G307

This sloppy description has also been copied elsewhere on the Internet, thus proliferating information which is inaccurate and very misleading.

What the seller actually wishes to sell is one page, probably cut out of an original copy of *The Sphere* magazine, dated August 17th, 1901. On the front of this page (numbered p. 185) is the illustration entitled 'A Monkey on the March'.

On the back of this same page (numbered p.186) is another illustration, this being of guests at a formal dinner entitled: '*The Return of Count Waldersee – his Reception at Kobe*' [Hamburg]. This refers to Field Marshal Count von Waldersee's return from China in 1901.

There are at least five photographs in existence with captions which record the baboon as being called 'Adonse'





Adonse riding on the Cape cart

'Adonse taking tea 10th December 1899'.

Adonse appears to have been slightly better behaved than Jim, the baboon belonging to the 2nd Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), who clearly preferred the contents of a wine bottle:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in his book *The Great Boer War* (Smith, Elder, 1900) wrote of the fighting near Nooitgedacht

'How severe was the fire may be gauged from the fact that the little pet monkey belonging to the yeomanry – a small enough object – was hit three times, though he lived to survive as a battle-scared veteran'.



Adonse of the Veldt and Woodhouse Eaves

According to the *Wikipedia* entry for the Leicestershire Yeomanry the Veldt baboon Adonse was the mascot of the Yeomanry from 1901 [sic. or rather from 1899] until his demise, and he is buried in Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire. Perhaps his grave is at The Brand, the home of Lt. W.F. Martin of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. Does anyone happen to know exactly where Adonse is buried? Marigold Cleeve. **So there is the challenge! Where is Adonse buried?**

Sponsored Walk



Morrisons Supermarket is sponsoring the 1,000 mile walk across mainland Britain by 6 ex service personnel. The Patron of the charity is Prince Harry. The national and local Press/media will be following the walkers.

They will be visiting the Loughborough Store at Gorse Covert on Friday 16th October at approximately 2.00pm. I would like to invite any veterans or standard bearers to form part of the welcoming committee.

More details. Contact Julie Stephenson Email: Champion.Loughborough@morrisonspc.co.uk
Or telephone: 01509 843618 Visit the website: [Walking with the Wounded](http://WalkingwiththeWounded)

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 Enemy Approaches

Blood all around
The enemy approaches
Bombs hit the trenches
The enemy approaches
Dying men scream
The enemy approaches
Death lurks everywhere
The enemy approaches

We wait for fate
The enemy approaches
Sergeants scream commands
The enemy approaches
My friends are crying
The enemy approaches
Gunshots fill the air
The enemy approaches
The shelling comes to a stop
We go over the top.



Edward Hefferman (year 9)

The New Tea Towel



Last month I reported that we a new tea towel in stock and was chided for not knowing the creator's name so here are a few more details. The tea towel features a number of local landmarks, the Carillon, Town Hall, Charnwood Museum and others and is printed on 100% cotton.

Commissioned by Charnwood Museum and produced by local artist Helen Rhodes. Helen studied textile design at Loughborough College of Art and Design graduating in 1992. She says, "My work has a unique style. It combines intensely rich colours, textiles and patterns with naïve compositions."



Although we are now closed for the season you can still get yours by emailing us at carillonmuseum@gmail.com £8.50 P + P free

Do you know of any outlet where we can sell items throughout the close season?

[New Website](#)



One of our volunteers, Mr Goff Sargent has been working behind the scenes on constructing a new website. We have the Roll of Honour site Loughborough-RollofHonour.com - Home originally created by Mr Kevin Mitchell and one of the best of its type on the internet. However the carillon and our museum were just one of the many pages on the site.

Following discussions it was decided that the museum should have a completely separate site and my thanks go to not only Goff but to Mr Peter Minshall another volunteer who had pushed the idea for some time and Fiona Marshall who runs the Digital Strategies Programme for East Midlands Museums for the advice she gave us.

The new site is: www.carillontower.org.uk Click on it and let us know what you think, anything you would like to see or is there something you do not like about it? Your feedback is vital for Goff to build and improve the site.

There is something else you can do to help, not only visit the site regularly but if you have any connection with a website can you make sure there is a link to our **[new site](#)**.

[A little bit of Loughborough](#)

I have just returned from France having attended the 100th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Loos. Whilst we were there we visited the small village of Berles au Bois to deliver some bunting they wanted for an event on 11 November. The Association of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment have a close relationship with the village as a result of the regiment's time there in WW1. A few years ago I gave them an album containing information about the thirty nine Leicesters' buried in the Church Graveyard Extension including five men from Loughborough.



objects from WW1 there was not only my album but pictures of the Barsby brothers, the carillon, the street that Thomas Marshall lived in (we have his medals) and a picture of L/Cpl Richard Lane, including a photograph of Richard's scarf, returned to the family and still in their possession

The Mayor invited us for a glass of wine in the local village hall, imagine my surprise when amongst the small display of photographs and

objects from WW1 there was not only my album but pictures of the Barsby brothers, the carillon, the street that Thomas Marshall lived in (we have his medals) and a picture of L/Cpl Richard Lane, including a photograph of Richard's scarf, returned to the family and still in their possession

Thomas Marshall, Richard Lane and John Barsby were all killed in Berles au Bois. You can find more information about them at: Loughborough Roll of Honour

[We are Closed](#)

The season has ended and we are now closed. However we are always ready to open for organised tours, morning, afternoon or evening. There is no charge although most groups make a donation. Evening visits need to finish by dusk when the park is locked up. If you know of a group then please let them know that we are prepared to accommodate them.

What's New?

I have been to France on a number of occasions on battlefield tours and have, without success, looked for a 'silent picket' for our museum. We do have one, or rather part of one, which has been bent double. A rather poor example.

I got this (or someone else got it for me) from the trench system at the back of the café (with the owner's permission) close to 'Hill 60' and Mount Sorrel, this is where Major Martin of the 4th Leicesters' had his HQ. He had been a Director at the Mountsorrel Granite Company before the war so named the position, 'Mountsorrel' a name retained to this day although now marked Mount Sorrel, See: [Battle of Mount Sorrel - History of Mountsorrel](#)



The silent picket or corkscrew picket as it was sometimes called could be used by wiring parties at night and avoid the noise of hammering in stakes which would invariably draw enemy fire. Also no hammer was needed, a piece of wood or an entrenching tool was passed through one of the loops to screw it into the ground and the loops were then used to support the barbed wire. Oil-tempered barbed wire was developed during World War I; it was much harder to cut than ordinary barbed wire

Congratulations

Our congratulations and thanks go to museum volunteer Mr Keith Hassell who acted as guide to a group visiting the carillon outside of normal opening hours. Not only did they make a £95.00 donation but went on to spend over £30.00 at the counter. A record! In the email thanking us for the visit they said, "The gentleman who took us around was superb". The photo shows Keith with Radio Leicester's reporter, Julie Mayer.



October Meeting



The committee meet once a month, last Wednesday in the month, but the October meeting will be different. Following a short meeting we hope that as many people as possible will join us for a drink to celebrate the end of a successful season.

The meeting will be held at the Brush Social Club, Fennel Street and will begin at 7 pm. It is hoped that we will have finished the business by 7.30 pm this will be followed by a reception, wine and cheese will be provided. Please put the time and date in your diary and it would be great to see you there.

As a group of volunteers we rarely get the opportunity to get together this is one of those opportunities.

Join us for a glass of wine; 7.30 pm Wednesday 28 October at the Brush Social Club, Fennel Street, Loughborough.