

# The Carillon Chimes

The Newsletter of the Carillon Tower & War  
Memorial Museum

September 2015

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## Battle of Loos

September marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Loos, more men from Leicestershire were killed there than in any other battle before or since. But this not about death but selfless sacrifice.

Gurkha, Kulbir Thapa. When the Battle of Loos began on the 25th September 1915 he was 26 and serving as a Rifleman with the 2nd Bn of the 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles. The Allied Infantry assault began at 6.00 a.m. and under the cover of thick smoke Kulbir Thapa was in one of the leading companies who tried to break through the German wire.



Kulbir was wounded and became stranded on the German side when he came across a wounded soldier of the 2nd Bn the Leicestershire Regiment behind the first-line German trench. The 'Tiger' was Bill Keightley from Melton Mowbray (father of Cis for those of you who know him) and despite his injuries Kulbir Thapa stayed with him all day and all night. A mist had formed the following morning and Kulbir was able to drag Bill Keightley through the German wire and take him to a place of relative safety. He then went back and in broad daylight, fetched two wounded Gurkha soldiers and took them, too, to safety.

His courageous act attracted a great deal of attention and it is reputed that when he brought yet another wounded soldier to safety, carrying him over his shoulder, that the Germans applauded him. Rifleman Thapa was awarded the Victoria Cross and was gazetted on the 18th November 1915.

The 19 Loughborough men who died during the Battle of Loos

**Pte Joseph Thomas Ireland (20)**  
**Cpl John Glover (23)**  
**Cpl Harry Wood Moore (22)**  
**Pte Samuel Robbins (17)**  
**Cpl Edward Watson (28)**  
**Lt Edgar Faulks (36)**  
**Pte James Henry Biddles (19)**  
**2nd Lt Howard James Harding Moss (19)**  
**Cpl Thomas William Squires (22)**  
**Pte George Arthur Waterfield (31)**

**Sgt Percy Herbert Allen, aged 31**  
**Pte Arthur Monk (26)**  
**Pte Albert Peak (23)**  
**Pte Albert Stanford (17)**  
**Pte John Edward Clarke (28)**  
**Pte George Lattimore (36)**  
**Sgt William Frederick Clarke (23)**  
**Pte Ernest Newton (31)**  
**L/Cpl Charles Thorne (22)**

I will be attending the commemorations at Loos on 26 September this year.

## Tennis Question



after the WW1 French aviator Roland Garros. Our thanks and congratulations to Gordon.

In last month's newsletter I asked what the tennis connection was with the article about German air supremacy in August 1915. Only one person responded, possibly because the answer had to be written on the back of a £5.00 note. Mr Gordon Mason correctly pointed out that the French Open, a major tennis tournament is held over two weeks between late May and early June at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, named

## Pre-decimal Coins

In last month's newsletter we appealed for pre-decimal coins as we turn them into coin key rings and they are one of our best sellers. I have learnt two things, firstly how generous people can be and secondly how many pre-decimal coins were never cashed in. In fact I have been told that when in 1967 the last half pennies were minted (they were withdrawn in 1969) people actually went to the bank and bought them by the bag load.



We now have enough coins to corner the market in coin key rings. No more are needed. Thank you again all those people who donated their collection of 'old money'.

## Korean Document

A young lady, Hwa Sun Lee, recently help us out translating a document we have from Korean to English and whilst visiting the museum was delighted to see that we have a South Korean flag in one of the rooms. It is, of course a souvenir from the Korean War (1948 – 1953)

The document she translated was instruction about the protocol involved in flying and handling the Korean flag and almost certainly came with the flag. Unfortunately our catalogue does not state who donated it in the first place.



## Recent Aquisition



Normandy landings.

We have been fortunate to have had the medals of Gordon 'Crash' Parker donated to the museum.

Gordon joined as a 16 year old boy before the war and continued to serve until 1953. As you can see in the photograph he was awarded the Atlantic Star, North African Star, Italian Star and the patches show that he also took part in the ill-fated Dieppe Raid and the

The history lesson, click on: [BBC - History - World Wars: The Dieppe Raid](#)

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## Retail Sales

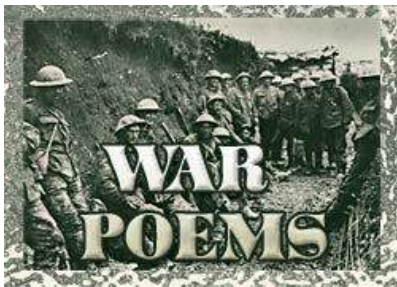
We had a market stall during the month of August, a great opportunity to meet people who may not normally visit the museum, raise our profile and sell our merchandise. We are almost totally dependent on donations and the money raised from our shop sales.



One of the problems we have is that, apart from Charnwood Museum, we have no outlet for our merchandise during the close season. **Do you know anywhere that would sell our items? We would, of course, agree on a percentage of selling price going to the vendor.**

Many of the items are 'Carillon' themed, bookmarks, key rings, fridge magnets, booklets, postcards and more and are unique to ourselves.

## 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.

Bang!

Bang! Another body fell  
Shooting soldiers, hoping not to go to hell.  
Trembling in the trenches, we wait  
Terror-stricken to find out fate.

The whistle is blown  
My future unknown.  
Shakily, I arise  
I can't help but cry at the scene in front of my eyes.

We run, fighting with all our might  
Pondering if we will again see the night.  
The ground explodes before my feet  
Still in my head, we won't get beat.  
BANG!

I'm finally re-joining my men.

By Issy Urch, Eleanor Hare and Mia Adkin (year 9)

## [Lt Hon. P C Evans - Freke, Leicestershire Yeomanry](#)



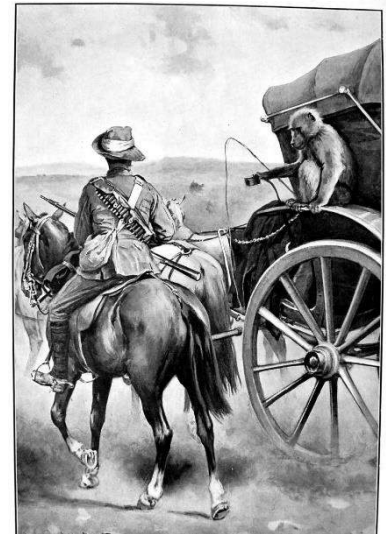
In a previous issue I asked if anyone had a copy of a 'Snaffles' painting of Lt Evans - Freke of the Leicestershire Yeomanry during the Boer War. Oakham Museum had produced it as a poster some years ago. No one owned up to having one but a lady, Mrs Phipps, did call in the carillon and drop off a postcard of the same print.

It is with Peter Minshall at the moment and we intending to enlarge and frame the print for the display in the Yeomanry Room.

Whilst on the subject of the Boer War and the Leicestershire Yeomanry in South Africa, we have two pictures 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? Can anyone find a reference to this monkey apart from the three prints which appear to credit the monkey with three different names?

A MONKEY ON THE MARCH  
*The Pet of the Leicestershire Yeomanry.*

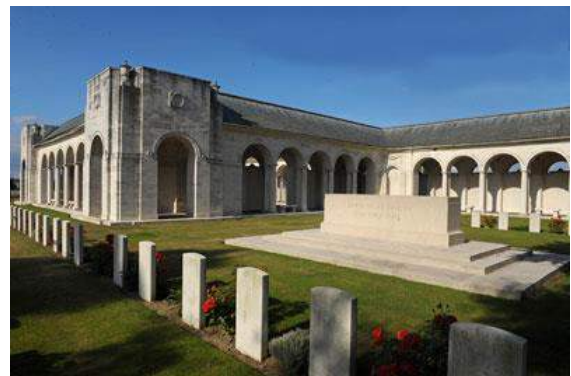


## [Another Bible Returned](#)

We have a number of WW1 Soldiers Bibles that were passed to us by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Association, we, or rather Marigold, have in the past researched the names in the front of the bibles with the intention of returning them to surviving family members. However this one belonged to 8916 Pte Simpson and we had added a note on the Royal Leicesters' date base (Click on: [Have you a Tiger in your family](#))

We were contacted by Mrs Surrige of Hassocks, Sussex, she had been researching her great uncle and had visited the Leicesters' site and spotted the note we had left and so another bible has been returned to his family.

L/Sgt Charles Walter Simpson, although from London enlisted in Leicester and served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, a regular battalion, they were in India when the war started and arrived in France in late 1914. Charles was killed in action on 15 May 1915 aged just 23. He is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, France,



**Le Touret Memorial**

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## Pizza Boxes



We have about 20 plain pizza boxes that we do not want and can think of no way to use them.

They are flat packed 300mm x 300mm x 50mm deep and free to the first person who gets back to us at [carillonmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:carillonmuseum@gmail.com)

Visit us at: [www.loughborough-rollofhonour.com](http://www.loughborough-rollofhonour.com)

Our Facebook page: [Loughborough Carillon Tower & War Memorial Museum | Facebook](#)

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What's on at Charnwood Museum