

Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum Trust

Newsletter Issued September 18th 2001

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Dear Friend of the Liverpool Scottish,

This is the occasional newsletter of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Museum. If you do not wish to receive future copies please accept my apologies and please read the note at the [foot of the page](#) to unsubscribe.

Watercolour of the SS Maidan



Professor Donald Ritchie FRSE, the Chairman of the Liverpool Scottish Museum Trustees, and Mrs. Jeanne Ritchie have very generously presented to the Museum a watercolour of the S.S.Maidan, the ship in which the 1/10th (Scottish) Bn, The King's (Liverpool Regiment) sailed to France on 1st November 1914. The painting is the work of Merseyside marine artist Jim Micklewright. The picture measures 15.5 inches x 24 inches (39cm x 61 cm) and has been displayed at Southport Art Gallery and at Liverpool Town Hall on the occasion of the Liverpool Scottish Officers' Association Dinner, held to mark the regimental centenary, in March 2001. An enlarged version may be seen by clicking on the illustration or [here](#). Professor Ritchie ([pictured here](#)) has taken a hands-on approach to Museum refurbishment and his wife, Jeanne, has been a strong supporter of Liverpool Scottish events. He is a member of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association and he

has recently been appointed as Honorary Colonel of the Liverpool University Officer Training Corps.

The painting, to which the web images do little justice, is the result of painstaking research carried out at the Maritime Museum (National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside) by the artist and by Major David Evans TD of the Liverpool Scottish Museum. In the picture the ship is shown on the River Mersey, with the Liverpool Pier Head in the background, accompanied by two tugs and with a Mersey ferry to the forward of the bow of the Maidan. Although in 1914 the Liverpool Scottish sailed from Southampton, in the south of the UK, to Le Havre in France, the Liverpool backdrop is appropriate as the ship was owned by T. & J. Brocklebank, a major Liverpool shipping line. On the journey to France, the Liverpool Scottish shared the ship with the Queen's Westminsters and [an account of the voyage by an NCO of the Queen's Westminsters, Sgt. BJ Brookes, can be found here](#) (courtesy of Bob Brookes).

[For a replay of Tipperary - Click Here](#)

[To find a better \(but slower-to-load\) version of Tipperary \(vintage vocal recording in .ram format\) click here](#)

[\(Courtesy of Melody Lane WW1 Songs\)](#)

The Maidan sank in the Red Sea in 1923 and the Master was found to be negligent. Although the connection with the Liverpool Scottish is indirect I have added a link; [click here for account of the wreck, the events leading up to it and the aftermath](#). (Courtesy of Ned Middleton).

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New Museum Premises - Heroic Removals and the Work Continues

Since the last electronic newsletter (No. 2 in October 2000), things have moved on a great deal. The aim of the Trustees is hold an 'opening function' in the museum by March 2002 and to be fully open by June 2002. There is an urgent need for volunteer painters and for people with joinery skills. If you can help, [please contact us](#)



- The photographs show how the museum is beginning to develop developing from its basic shell.

- A work party of Trustees with the volunteered assistance of several soldiers from the serving Liverpool Scottish element removed surplus wiring and protrusions and made good some of the surface faults in the

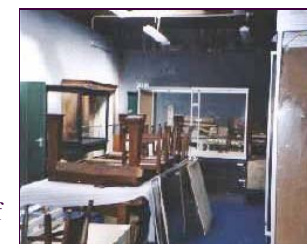


walls.

- Carpet in royal blue was provided by the RFCA (Reserve Forces and Cadet Association - the successor to TAVRA) and was laid throughout the main room. This is not exactly Wilton carpet but it is new, highly serviceable, durable and greatly enhances the appearance of the Museum. The RFCA have also made good some deficiencies in the fabric of the building.



- **Mr. Mike Swift**, a friend of the Museum who is also a keen supporter of NELC (National Employers Liaison Committee) and service charities, gave his very valuable services to make some structural alterations within the Museum and to paint the walls with a primer base coat of grey. Neither the alterations (the demolition of a storeroom wall to make provision for a built-in showcase) nor the initial painting were minor tasks and we record our profound thanks to Mike Swift who has helped us to obtain large quantities of



paint and also undertaken to rebuild and refurbish two handsome large wooden showcases.



- In March 2001, the large majority of the property of the museum together with much of the contents of the messes of the old Forbes House at Childwall were brought from storage and taken into the new premises. This was done by the King's and Cheshire Regiment (**Commanding Officer: Lt. Colonel SMJ Bell TD**). **Sergeant Major Geoff Irvine** and his team (**L/Cpl Mawson, L/Cpl Smith and xxxxxxxx**) made a truly Herculean effort to move the mountain of material with astonishing and almost unbelievable speed from its various locations in Liverpool and Manchester without damage. We

are exceptionally grateful to them and to Colonel Simon for making this possible. Only the war memorials remain to be brought to the new Museum and their location is incorporated into our overall plan. Sergeant Major Irvine continues to provide practical support for the Museum and his efforts are greatly appreciated. The Trustees acknowledge their great debt to **Major David McNeil** who helped so much with storage of items.

- A salvage team has been into the old Forbes House to recover a great deal of electrical equipment and some architectural items. We owe a considerable debt to **Mr. David Sellars**, well known to many members of the Liverpool Scottish, for his help in this and other areas of salvage. This material has also moved to Botanic Road with **Sergeant Major Irvine's** help. **Mr. Frank Dean** has recovered the electrical items and has taken responsibility for their installation at the new Museum with the assistance of **Mr. Andy Dobson**. This help is extremely welcome and we are most grateful. It has taken some time to decide the final location of showcases (your correspondent, a mathematician, is astonished at the number of combinations of location that Major David Evans manages to find for what seem to be increasingly immovable showcases) and we have now fixed the positions of power points and lighting.



- **Dennis Reeves** and **David Evans** have established the office and record centre and this was used for Trustee meetings in the spartan depths of winter. They have rebuilt some of the showcases with the assistance of **Major Mike Brimage**. Visitors have been received at the Museum since Easter including **Professor Margaret McKeith** (a trustee of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside) and her architect husband, **Gordon**, who have given welcome advice on matters of layout and colour schemes. We have also been visited by **Simon Jones**, curator of the King's Regiment collection at NMGM (National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside), who is our professional curatorial advisor.



Teams of Trustees have laboured in the main room with huge dining tables, vast display cabinets and enormous packing cases (marvelling again at the work of Sgt. Major Irvine and his team) to achieve the optimum arrangement with David Evans in the chair; *'chair' is definitely the operative word in this respect..* The room has really begun to take on a atmosphere of order. It resembles rather less the frantic and chaotic opening and closing scenes of the film *Citizen Kane* in which the vast assemblage of contents from the mansion, Xanadu, are stacked high in the semblance of some colossal Old Curiosity Shop and rather more a Museum and home of the

Liverpool Scottish tradition.

- **Dennis Reeves** has now refurbished and prepared two display cases, one dealing with Liverpool Volunteer history prior to 1900 (the Scottish volunteer companies) and the other looking at the Boer War.



Lighting and power circuits are being

installed by **Frank Dean** and, as I write, it is reported that this work is virtually complete. All that remains to be done with the electrical infra-structure is to put in wiring to illuminate pictures. Following this the lighting provision in individual cabinets will be refurbished or restored as necessary. Plans are being made for the painting of the Museum walls (members of the Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association have volunteered to give a lead in this) and a rich shade of red is to be used on professional advice. The early installation of a suspended ceiling with insulation is planned so as to improve the proportions of the the main room and to make the heating of it more manageable. A new showcase has been acquired. We have to work hard to preserve our 'provisional registration' status with the [Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries](#) (originally the Museums and Galleries Commission) and to convert this to the status of 'full registration'. We remain registered with the Army Museums Ogilby Trust and our page on the Ogilby Trust site can be seen [here](#) (search for 'Museums' and the 'Liverpool Scottish').

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Commemorative Plate - Julia Carter Preston

On Saturday 17th March 2001, at the dinner held in Liverpool Town Hall by the Liverpool Scottish Officers' Association (hosted by the Lord Mayor) to commemorate the centenary of the foundation of the Regiment, the Museum received a ceramic plate specially commissioned by the Officers' Association to mark the centenary. It is the work of the very distinguished Julia Carter Preston, one of the leading artists of the city. She has recently been the subject of a major exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

[The plate](#) is nearly eighteen inches (45 cm) in diameter and carries the badges of the Liverpool Scottish in their King's, Cameron and Highland Volunteers forms together with the sign of the 55th (West Lancashire) Division with its motto 'They win or die who wear the rose of Lancaster'.



Julia Carter Preston comes from a family at the centre of the artistic world; her father, Edward Carter Preston, was a painter, sculptor and medallist whose major works include many of the British gallantry decorations, war medals and memorial items (including the 1939-45 British War Medal and the First World War 'Next of Kin' Memorial Plaque to name but two). Her own work is in the Walker Art Gallery, the Liverpool Athenaeum Club and the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral as well as many churches within the Diocese of Liverpool.

Memin Gate Commemoration of Previously Unrecorded 1915 Casualty - Sjt. CW Ormesher

Visit to Ieper (Ypres) - Weekend Saturday/Sunday 15/16th June 2002

[Go to 'Arrangements for Trip'](#)

There will be a Liverpool Scottish visit to Ieper (Ypres) over the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 15th/16th June 2002. The focus the sad but fascinating case of Sjt. Ormesher.

Acting Serjeant Charles William Ormesher, who had joined the Liverpool Scottish in 1908, was listed as 'missing' after the Battle of Hooge on June 16th 1915. His mother remained convinced that he was in a German prisoner-of-war (POW) camp and followed this through diplomatic channels to the extent of seeking and obtaining the intervention of the King of Spain through his ambassador to Germany.

It may be that her desperate conviction that he had survived and her efforts to establish this are the reason why he is not listed amongst the dead by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and why his name appears neither on any memorial of the CWGC nor their Debt of honour register to this day. The CWGC has now accepted our case for recognition, made by Major David Evans TD as Honorary Secretary of the Museum Trust, and is to place Sjt. Ormesher's name on the Menin Gate in Ieper, the memorial to those listed as missing in the Ypres Salient before 16th August 1917. The correspondence with the CWGC has subsequently brought fascinating contemporary documents to light. We are very grateful for the assistance of Mr Rob O'Brien for his help in establishing the facts.

In a separate development, the Last Post Committee (LPC), under the Chairmanship of Guy Gruwez MBE AOM, have invited Regiments of the British Army to nominate individuals who would be specifically remembered each evening at the Last Post ceremony in Ieper (Ypres) and for whom information would be displayed in the famous Cloth Hall. We have nominated Sjt. Ormesher and we understand that his name will be central to the Last Post ceremony of 15th June 1915.



Sjt. Ormesher was a member of the Machine Gun Section led by Captain Bryden McKinnell MC, killed in the same action. Captioned photos have recently come to light from Carol Williams in Canada whose grandfather, 2748 Pte. John Bloor Watkinson, sailed to France with Ormesher and the rest of the 1/10th (Scottish) Battalion on the SS Maidan. The photo on the left shows Ormesher and others at a position in the Region of Hill 60 (about 3km east of Ypres) and the machine gun section at Hill 60. Although the photograph is known to the Museum, the importance of the contact with Mrs Williams lies in the captions. There is a fourth man in the shelter who is partially obscured by a flaw in the plate. The captions are a direction sign for 'France', a notice 'Bar' and a sign that says 'RUM - nothing doing'.



The photo on the right shows the Machine Gun Section at Hill 60 (March/April 1915)

[Arrangement for the Ieper Trip 2001](#)

[PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ITEM HAS NOW BEEN SUPERCEDED THE BULLETIN OF 1ST FEBRUARY 2002](#)

WWW.LIVERPOOLSCOTTISH.ORG.UK/IEPER2002A.HTM

The Liverpool Scottish Regimental Council has asked Lt. Col. Chris Harris TD to chair a committee to organise the Liverpool Scottish participation in the events in Ieper and we will be looking for support from serving soldiers, old comrades and friends of the Liverpool Scottish. The Liverpool Scottish Museum will take a leading rôle in this project, building on the experience of previous visits. Lt. Colonel Simon Bell TD (Commanding Officer of the King's and Cheshire regiment) is giving the event a very high profile for the Liverpool Scottish element within his training programme. A preliminary mailshot will go out over the next few months (following August 2001) to all those who might be interested, using our e-mail network and, with their co-operation, the networks of the Regimental Association and the Officers' Association. In addition we will be contacting those friends of the Liverpool Scottish who we feel might be interested. Soldiers, Old Comrades and their spouses and families are encouraged to attend.

Individuals and parties will naturally travel when they want but we are in the process of making a decision as to whether the central event,

the Last Post Ceremony dedicated to Sjt Ormesher, should be either

- the Last Post Ceremony on the Saturday 15th June 2001 with the main party travelling outward from the UK on Friday 14th and returning Sunday 16th June
- or the Last Post Ceremony Sunday 16th June 2001 (the anniversary of the Battle of Hooge and Sjt Ormesher's death) with main party outward travel from the UK on Saturday 15th June and return on Monday 17th June

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Key Events

The aim is to avoid a programme that prevents people from following the interests of their own party but it is hoped that all those making the journey would be able to attend the key events

- the Last Post Ceremony which includes a remembrance of Sjt Ormesher (decision as whether this is on the Saturday or the Sunday is awaited)
- an Act of Remembrance at the Liverpool Scottish Memorial on Bellewarde Ridge on the Hooge battlefield (this would probably be on the afternoon prior to the Last Post Ceremony)
- a short Act of Remembrance at the Menin Gate to mark the inscribing of Sjt Ormesher's name (if not incorporated in the Last Post Ceremony (the name is likely to be placed on panels away the focus of the Last Post in the central space of the Menin Gate)

Other events under consideration are

- service at St. George's Memorial Chapel in Ieper
- visit to the 'In Flanders Fields Museum' (European Museum of the Year for 2000) in the Cloth Hall for those who have not been or wish to revisit
- visit to Talbot House at Poperinge, the place where the idea TocH movement was born (TocH is derived from the WW phonetic alphabet for TH). This Flemish town house is beautifully preserved in its role as a centre for soldiers out of the front line; amongst the features are the gardens and the attic chapel.
- visit to the grave of Captain Noel Chavasse VC and Bar, MC and the associated memorial (erected by the local Belgian community) in the village of Brandhoek.
- battlefield tour of the Hooge battlefield for those who have not previously been or who wish to revisit
- visit to the Hooge Crater Museum (probably the best private museum in the Ypres salient)
- guided visit to Hill 60 and/or Sanctuary Wood, both scenes of intensive Liverpool Scottish activity in 1915 (see the picture of Sgt Ormesher at hill 60 above)

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If you wish to register an interest in joining us and being included in our arrangements, please e-mail Major Ian Riley TD. We are looking for a package which gives pleasant coach travel with economical but comfortable accommodation in Ieper (Ypres).

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New Regimental History - 'Bravest of Hearts'

The high quality, extensively researched '**Bravest of Hearts - the biography of a battalion**' took place just before Christmas 2000. This has been written by **Hal Giblin with David Evans and Dennis Reeves**. It includes a great deal of new material and is not simply a reworking of the fine

history written by Colonel McGilchrist in 1930. Much work has been done on the citations for gallantry awards and on the archive of material from the 55th (West Lancashire) Division as well as including a huge amount of biographical material culled from a huge range of sources including local newspapers and families. It is a substantial volume, handsomely bound, well printed and extensively illustrated. It has been produced in a limited run and comments on it are very favourable (e.g. the review in 'Stand To', the journal of the Western Front Association). [The Museum](#) holds a stock or alternatively contact [the publishers now](#) to ensure your copy.

From the Flyer

The Liverpool Scottish in the Great War. The story of the First and second Line fighting battalions of the 10th (Scottish) Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment (Territorial Force). in France and Flanders during the Great War, 1914-18.

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Blue Plaque - Captain Noel Chavasse VC and Bar, MC

The Heritage Group of Liverpool University are co-ordinating the arrangements for the unveiling of two 'blue plaques' on the university precinct, one in memory of Noel Chavasse (whose home, the Bishop's Palace in Abercromby Square, is now a university building) and one in memory of Sir Ronald Ross whose contribution to the field of tropical medicine and the control of malaria was outstanding. The intention is that this should happen in the autumn of 2001 but arrangements will depend on the liaison with the respective families and the School of Tropical Medicine at Liverpool University.

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Old Links, an Archive Page and the Liverpool Scottish Site Search Facility

We have added a site search facility to the website. It is at the bottom of the menu frame. You enter a key word such as 'Hooge' and it will produce all the references to Hooge throughout the site. Try not to be too specific; searching for 'Lt. Colonel Algernon McSporrans DSO' in a single entry will fail if the reference in the site is only to 'McSporrans distinguished service' without christian name or rank. Additionally there is a facility to produce a 'site map' which will show the range of pages available. This facility is only updated every few months (it's a free service but much used by our visitors) so information may appear in an update such as this newsletter but not yet be listed on the search facility. Be warned: we get a report on the keywords used in the searches so frequent attempts to find your own name will be notified to the webmaster.

In an effort to keep the Museum website manageable it is the intention to archive links that have been in place but that might not be of immediate interest to regular visitors so that the pages remain available. For instance, this will allow you to continue to access that photograph of yourself at a regimental function, clutching a glass and singing whilst standing on a table in the company of several other like-minded Liverpool Scots. An 'archive' item will appear on the menu. This link will lead to items such as previous newsletters and to pages dealing with specific events which are no longer current. You can use the search facility of the site (at the foot of the menu frame) to look for specific items through the use of keyword. The archive page is likely to be introduced from the beginning of October and we will continue this facility as long as server space for the website allows.

Some of the links from the menu page added since September 2001 and now taken off the menu

[Links Page - Boer War and SS Maidan](#) (13/01/01) [Newsletter including new book details](#) (23/10/00)

[Hooge Visit - Memorial Stone - 100 pictures or more](#) (23/10/00) [Battle of Hooge - Picture and History](#) (23/10/00)

[History - Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy Team](#) (14/09/00) [New Links: WW2 George Sands MM](#) (13/09/00)

[Akamas/Cyprus Pipe Tune](#) (18/09/00) ['Tiny' Barber Pipe Tune](#) (18/09/00)

World War Two - Liverpool Scottish Casualties

Dennis Reeves together with **Major David Evans** have now identified and documented over 135 World War 2 casualties who served either in peace or in war with the Liverpool Scottish. Anybody who wants to suggest or check a name is invited to contact Major Evans at david.evans@taurusuk.net There was a WW2 plaque placed below the WW1 war memorial (shortly to be transferred to the new Museum premises) but no names were listed. The majority of casualties died whilst serving with other units as the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Liverpool Scottish were on home defence duties during WW2, providing reinforcements to the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and other regiments of the Highland Brigade,

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Yours aye

Ian Riley

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<http://www.liverpoolscottish.org.uk/>

Museum Mail to: lriley@liverpoolscottish.org.uk

Personal mail to i.l.riley@theoffice.net

Ordinary mail/donations should be sent to Major D.S. Evans TD, Inglenook,
167 Moor Lane, Great Crosby, LIVERPOOL L23 2SH

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