

The King's Regiment Association Liverpool Branch

A Branch of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association



'Nec Aspera Terrent'

JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 56

ELECTRONIC EDITION



DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

The Committee would like to thank the following who have made a cash donation to the associations general funds:

W ASPINALL, MRS J BEITH, R DEUS,

YOUR GENEROSITY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.



TURNING OF THE LEAVES 2016 - CORECTION

IN THE PRINTED VERSION OF THE APRIL 2016 NEWSLETTER, I PUBLISHED THE WRONG DATES FOR THE 2016 TURNING OF THE LEAVES.

THE CORRECT DATES ARE:

- THURSDAY 9TH JUNE 2016 AT 5.30 PM**
- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 5.30 PM**
- THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2016 AT 5.30 PM**





We require your letters, comments, photographs, stories etc., for inclusion in the next Newsletter which will be published in:

AUGUST 2016.

The closing date for submission is:

MONDAY 25TH JULY 2016.

Please forward to:

**Eric Roper
171 Queens Drive
Liverpool
L18 1JP**

email: eric_roper@blueyonder.co.uk

I can scan photographs and return the originals, but please provide a **SAE**.

Please enclose a detailed description, ie, names, dates etc., of any photograph(s).



100 CLUB

The April 2016 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 by Committee member Brian Green, and the winners are:

1ST PRIZE (£50)

J THOMPSON (Share No 67)

2ND PRIZE (£15)

K GODBEER (Share No 83)

The May 2016 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 by Committee member John Butler, and the winners are:

1ST PRIZE (£50)

R DEUS (Share No 89)

2ND PRIZE (£15)

LT COL N SMITH (Share No 30)

The June 2016 draw was made at City Office, Liverpool on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 by Committee member Eddie McMahon, and the winners are:

1ST PRIZE (£50)

B WOODS (Share No 01)

2ND PRIZE (£15)

MAJ D VICKERS (Share No 38)



LAST POST



BILL ASHCROFT - KOREA VETERAN - LATE KINGS

It is my sad duty to inform you that Bill passed away on the 16th March 2016.

Bill served with 1 KINGS in Korea as an Ambulance driver.

His cremation took place at Springwood Crematorium, Allerton, Liverpool on the 22nd April 2016.

GIM HUGHES (24122851) - LATE KINGS

It is my sad duty to inform you that Gim passed away on the 17th March 2016 at Homerton Hospital, London His funeral took place at Golders Green, London on the 1st April.

His sister Marg went into the Liverpool Veterans in Breck Road and got in touch with Roy Mitchell, who let us use the Regiment Flag, Beret and Belt, which we proudly put on his coffin.

Gim served with 1 KINGS in England, Northern Ireland, Germany, Belize, Hong Kong, Canada and Cyprus.

JIM HUGHES (FOK) - LATE KINGS

It is my sad duty to inform you that Jim passed away at the end of March 2016.

His cremation took place at Golders Green Crematorium, London on the 5th April 2016.

MICHAEL HUGHES - LATE KINGS

It is my sad duty to inform you that Mick passed away on the 9th April 2016.

His cremation took place at Anfield Crematorium on the 28th April 2016, followed by a gathering at the Irish Centre, Boundary Lane, Everton.

ALF GARNER-JONES - LATE KINGS



It is my sad duty to inform you that Alf passed away on the 10th April 2016.

His cremation took place at Walton Lea Crematorium on the 21st April 2016.

JOHN WILLCOTT - LATE KINGS

It is my sad duty to inform you that former WO2 John Willcott passed away in Coventry Hospital on 30th April 2016 following a heart attack.

John's Funeral service took place at Oakley Wood Crematorium, Bishops Tachbrook, Warwick on 18th May 2016.

John served with 1KINGS, 2 LANCASTRIAN VOLUNTEERS (B Company) and 5/8 KINGS.

† LAST POST †

FRED JONES - LATE KINGS



It is my sad duty to inform you that Fred passed away peacefully in the Dr Kershaw's Hospice, Oldham on the 24th April 2016.

His cremation took place at Hollinwood Crematorium on the 3rd May 2016.

TRIBUTES have been paid to a “gentle giant” and have-a-go hero who dedicated his life to helping improve his local community.

Former soldier Fred Jones (67) was a tenant board member at Villages Housing Association and an integral part of key groups including the Fitton Hill Estate Management Committee. He was also extremely well-respected within the local community.

Mr Jones hit the headlines in November 2000 when he gave two masked burglars armed with a gun more than they bargained for when they burst into his Fitton Hill home while he was watching TV.

He fought them off with a 3ft-long ornamental samurai sword and later told the Chronicle: “The sword is not very sharp but I had to do something.

“These two men had broken into my house and were threatening to shoot me. “The one with a gun ran off and I just hit out at the other one, catching his arm with the sword.”

As a former member of the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment, Mr Jones travelled all over the North-West supporting the work of military veterans.

Known locally as a “gentle giant”, he was also very active within the Fitton Hill community, delighting children at the junior youth club and local schools in his role as Father Christmas.

Paul Carhart, managing director of Villages Housing Association, said: “Everyone at Villages is very sad to learn the news of Fred's death.

“As a tenant board member, he made a really valuable contribution to Villages' development.

“He was also a shining example of the positive impact that customers can have on our organisation. He will be greatly missed by the Villages board, staff and within the local community where he made a lot of friends over the years.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

(Courtesy of: Oldham Evening Chronicle)



DR ANTHONY FRITH, WRITES:

**STUDY INTO THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF MILITARY SERVICE
DURING THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONFLICT**

If you served at any time in Northern Ireland, you are invited to take part in this exciting study.

My name is Dr. Anthony Frith. I am a researcher based at the department of Health and Social Studies at Chester University

The aim of the study is to look at people who served in the British Army during the 'Troubles' (Operation Banner) and how people have coped since leaving the services. This study is necessary because research shows that military veterans especially those with mental health problems do not always get the help they need or deserve. Very little research has been done into veterans who served during the Northern Ireland troubles. We are particularly interested in what happens when you try to get help for mental health problems from medical services and the difficulties you have with this, or if you have managed well, what has helped

We would like to talk to you. Please be assured that all veterans who contact me will be treated with the utmost confidentiality as anonymity and confidentiality are an important part of the protocol for this study

The interviews are open-ended and we would like to hear anything you would like to say

We will completely respect the fact that there may be experiences and thoughts that you may wish to keep to yourself and not talk about.

This is a completely confidential study and nothing that could identify you will be disclosed to anybody else.

You have the right not to participate, or to opt out at any stage, including during or after the interview.

This study is to be submitted as a PhD thesis at Chester University. The research will be supervised by Colonel Alan Finnegan and Professor Kingston at the university

Please contact

Dr Anthony Frith

Email me at:

1430059@chester.ac.uk

Or write to me at:

Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of Chester, Riverside Campus CH1 1SL

LETTERS PAGE



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

21st April, 2016.

Dear Sergeant Major Bell,

I have been asked to thank you for the kind message you have sent to The Queen on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday.

This has been shown to Her Majesty and I now have pleasure in enclosing her reply.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Sandamas

Christopher Sandamas
Chief Clerk to The Queen



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Warrant Officer Class Two Percy Bell,
Chairman,
Warrington Branch,
The Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association.

I much appreciated the kind words you have sent on the occasion of my ninetieth birthday.

I was grateful for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send you all my warm good wishes.

ELIZABETH R.

LETTERS PAGE



BILL SERGEANT, WRITES:

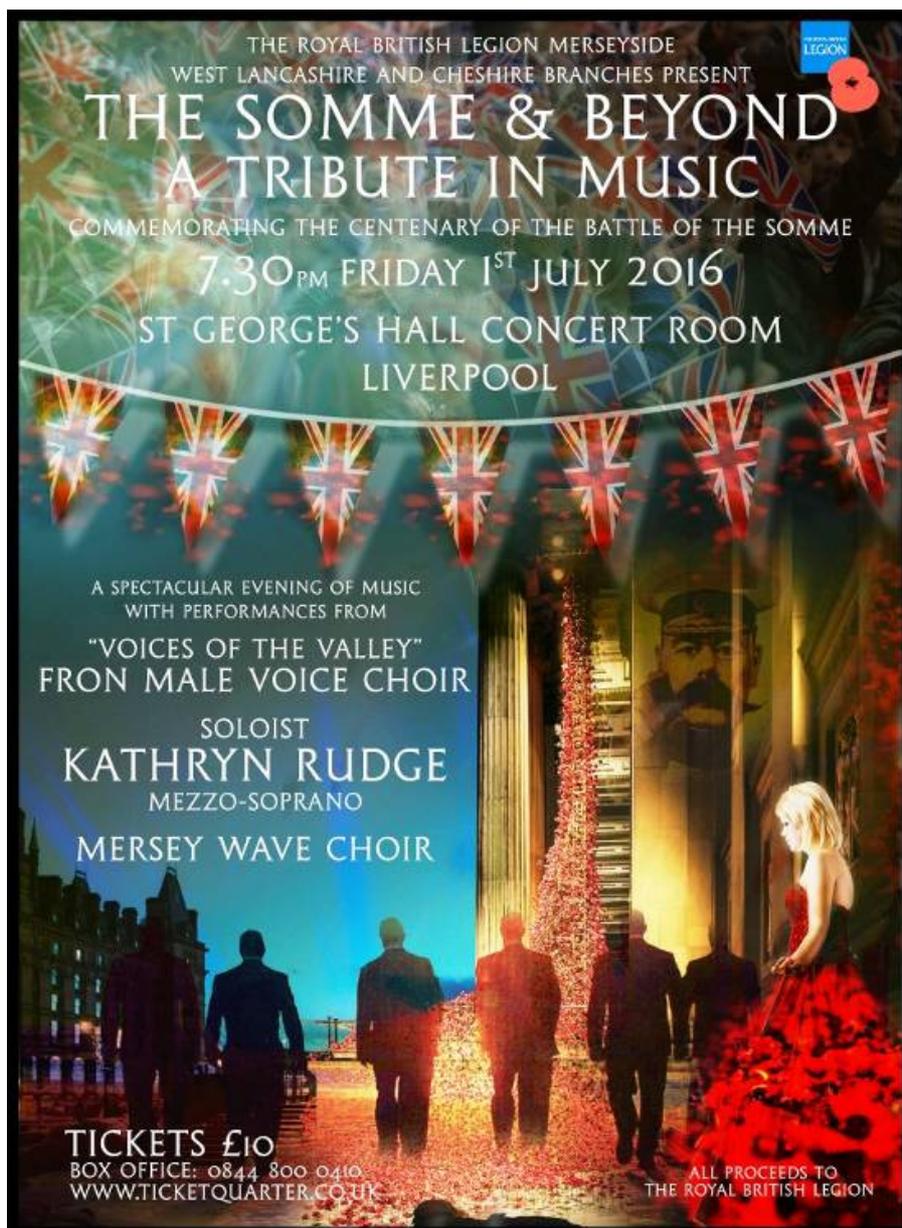
The poster below relates to a special evening to commemorate the Opening Day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. This is certain to be a first class evening and an anticipated sell out! If you are interested and want more information, please contact me; if you see enough to convince you that you would like to attend, either order tickets through Ticket Quarter (see poster) or let me know (in which case your tickets will not be subject to their admin surcharge!). Any profits will go to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

1st July 2016, the night of the "Somme and Beyond" evening, will be exactly 100 years since that black day when some 50,000 British troops were killed, wounded or taken prisoner, many hundreds of them from Merseyside - this is your chance to show your appreciation of the sacrifices they made.

Bill Sergeant

Tele: 0151 724 3171

Email: billtanat8@hotmail.co.uk



THE QUEEN UNVEILS A NEW MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S REGIMENT



The Queen laid a wreath at the Lion of England bronze statue at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire after a service earlier.



Since the regiment was set up in 2006, its soldiers have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan where 32 have died.

The dedication service held on the 17th May 2016, was attended by wounded veterans, Army personnel, families and friends.

The infantry regiment was formed on 1st July 2006, by the amalgamation of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the King's Regiment and the Queen's Lancashire Regiment.

The lion faces to the north-west of England in tribute to the origins of the regiment, of which the Queen, who holds the title of Duke of Lancaster, is Colonel-in-Chief. It recruits soldiers from Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria.

Stonemason Nick Johnson and sculptor Georgie Welch crafted the lion from clay before it was cast at a foundry.

Ms Welch said: "The Queen said it was very life-like and that it had a real look of power. She also said it looked fearless."

The new statue is one of more than 300 dedicated memorials in the 150-acre site in

Courtesy: BBC Web Site (17th May 2016)

'THE SOMME'
MERSEYSIDE REMEMBERS THE SOMME

FRIDAY 1ST JULY 2016

Friday 1st July 2016, will be the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The first day of the Somme offensive, 1st July 1, 1916, resulted in 57,470 **British** casualties, greater than the total combined **British** casualties in the Crimean, Boer, and Korean Wars which to this day remains a one-day record.

Many young men from Lancashire and Cheshire; the Liverpool Pals, the St Helens Pals and the Birkenhead Bantams, to mention but a few, lost their lives on that fateful day. A National Service, organised by the Department of Media Culture and Sport and the Royal British Legion, will be held in Manchester Cathedral, at 3pm on Fri 1 Jul. Attendance at this event will be by invitation; Merseyside will be represented.

The Lord-Lieutenant will lead a Service in Liverpool, **'The Somme' Merseyside Remembers**, and this will be conducted at Liverpool Parish Church, Our Lady & St Nicholas, in two distinct phases as follows:

Vigil. This will be a small gathering and commences at 0730 (this is the time that the Artillery Bombardment ceased and British and Allied Forces advanced against the German Frontline – so many never to return). This will be marked by the toiling of the bells at Liverpool Parish Church, the sounding of Whistles and the Pipes playing. The Vigil will last no longer than 25mins.

On current plans the Boroughs of Merseyside will replicate what is happening in Liverpool.

Service. The Service will commence at 1100. It will be a time of reflection of the activities, thoughts and memories of those who, on that morning left their trenches, crossed no-man's land, engaged the enemy, fell, were wounded and those who survived, doing their duty for their comrades, King and Country.

The Vigil at 0730 will have a number of official invitees. Representation from the 3 Senior (by appointment) Service Officers would be appropriate and welcomed. For the Royal Navy (Cdre Doyle), Army (Lt Col Ashman) and the Royal Air Force (Sqdn Ldr Rolfe). Col Mark Underhill is cordially invited to represent RFCA at the Vigil. Should you be unable to attend then a Deputy would be welcomed. .

Additional Details:

Dress (Vigil and Service):

Service Dress and Medals

Service 1100hrs.

Seated no later than 1040hrs

Car Parking.

Non available at the Church. Nearest car park Rumford St (1min walk)



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



A KINGSMAN'S TAX RETURN.

This example, shows the importance of accuracy in your tax return:

Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) have returned the Tax Return, to Kingsman Dickers, after he apparently answered one of the questions incorrectly. In response to the question:- "Do you have anyone dependant on you"?

Kingsman Dickers had written:

2.1 million Illegal Immigrants;
1.1 million Crack Heads;
4.4 million, Unemployable Jeremy Kyle scroungers;
900,000 Criminals in over 85 prisons;
635 Idiots in Parliament;
An unknown number in House of Lords;
and the whole of the European Commission.

The HMRC, stated, that the response he had given, was unacceptable.

Kingsman Dicker's response to HMRC. was:-

***Who did I miss out*???**

A MASTER CLASS

Kingsman Ommy Ickle managed to get two of the best tickets for the Augusta Masters.

As he sits down, another man comes along and asks if anyone is sitting in the seat next to him.

"No", he says, "the seat is empty."

"This is incredible!" said the man, "who in their right mind would have a seat like this, the biggest golfing event of the whole world, and not see it?"

Ommy says, "Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. My wife always should have come with me, but she passed away.

"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that, that's terrible. I guess you couldn't find someone else? A friend or relative or even a neighbour to take the seat?"

Ommy shakes his head.

"No. They're all at her funeral."



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM



WITH AGE COMES WISDOM

Ex Kingsman Cerry Taffrey turned 80 years old. He was an avid golfer, so he decided to join a new golf club.

On his first day at his new club, he was told that there wasn't anybody else available for a game just then.

Seeing his disappointment, and wanting to make him feel welcome, the assistant professional offered to play with him, and asked him how many strokes he wanted for a bet.

Cerry said, "I don't think I need any strokes, I've been playing great lately. I just have a heck of a time getting out of bunkers."

True to his word, the 80 year old Cerry played beautifully. When they came to the par four 18th, he and the pro were all even.

The pro hit a gorgeous tee shot, knocked his next one on the green, and two-putted for par.

Cerry hit a great drive, but his second shot landed in a steep-sided bunker next to the green.

Playing from the sand, he lofted a high, soft shot. It came down a few feet from the cup and rolled it in for a birdie, winning him the match and all the money.

The 80 year old Cerry was still standing in the bunker when the pro walked over and said, "Beautiful shot! I thought you said you had a problem getting out of bunkers?"

"I really do," the 80 year old Cerry replied. "Would you mind giving me a hand out?"

STUDENT IN PSYCHOLOGY

Kingsman Grian Breen goes into a bar and sees a beautiful woman sitting at the bar.

After an hour of gathering up his courage he finally goes over to her and asks, tentatively, "Um, would you mind if I chatted with you for a while?"

She responds by yelling, at the top of her lungs, "No, I won't sleep with you tonight!"

Everyone in the bar is now staring at them. Naturally, Grian is hopelessly and completely embarrassed and he slinks back to his table.

After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologizes. She smiles at him and says, "I'm sorry if I embarrassed you. You see, I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying how people respond to embarrassing situations."

To which Grian responds, at the top of his lungs, "What do you mean £100!!"

THE LADS THEY WENT TO WAR

Extracts Courtesy of "Merseyside At War" by Anthony Hogan
Published by Amberley (ISBN 978-1-4456-3760-0)

The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) were the first to be sent out to face the German Army. They consisted mainly of regular soldiers and ex-servicemen who had remained on the reserve list. As the war ground on, they were followed by the volunteers and conscripts. Alongside them were the Navy, Royal Flying Corps and the Merchant Navy; add the doctors, nurses, Labour Corps and many more, and you can see the scale of the people that were needed overseas. It is estimated that over 10 per cent of Britain's First World War dead came from the North West of England, which shows the huge sacrifice that this area made. Back home, people needed to run the country. It was the women who stood up to be counted and took on the jobs, while many men were denied the chance to serve, as their trades were considered important to the war effort. This really was a war that included almost everybody; nothing like it had been seen before.

The men of Merseyside went off to war and they would produce thousands of personal stories. The following pages include a small numbered these stories; hopefully they stand as a remembrance to all those who served.

How it must have felt to loose a child to war I cannot imagine - hopefully I will never find out. Yet thousands of mothers and fathers would endure this terrible experience during the First World War. Thomas and Bridget Fagan of No 107 Gildarts Gardens, Liverpool, knew this feeling very well as they experienced it three times. The loss of their sons James, Michael and Christopher must have torn their lives apart- you just cannot begin to understand their sorrow. I have no right to judge events that I had no part in, but I do believe that losing three of your boys should never have been allowed to happen.

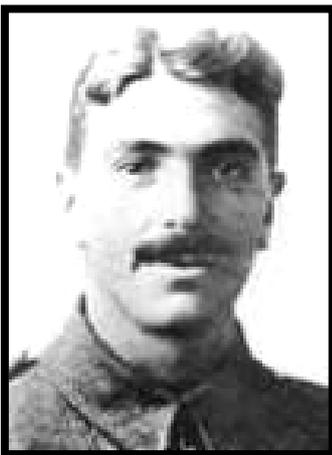
The first son to fall was Michael Fagan on 10th March 1915, aged thirty-two. Michael was married to Catherine McCool in Liverpool in 1905. He had served in South Africa before rejoining the Army at the outbreak of the war - Sgt Michael Fagan 7872, The King's Liverpool Regiment 4th Battalion. Michael is remembered at the Le Touret Memorial in France. The second son to fall was Christopher Fagan on 30th May 1917, aged twenty-four. Christopher was married to Ellen Jordan in Liverpool in 1914. Gunner Christopher Fagan 108741, Royal Field Artillery V/38th Trench Mortar Battery is buried at Bard Cottage Cemetery in Belgium. His Commanding Officer described him as, 'A brave and steady soldier, who was ever willing to do his duty.' He left a wife and a child. The third son to fall was James Fagan on 11th October 1918, aged thirty-eight. He enlisted on 12th August 1914 and was discharged in 1916 with sickness. James was unfit for service and was sent home, but his illness would claim his life two years later. James was married to Elizabeth McCool (the sister of Michael Fagan's wife Catherine), who he married on 9th December 1902 at Our Lady of Reconciliation church in Eldon Street. Pte James Fagan 10947, the King's Liverpool Regiment 3rd Battalion is buried at Liverpool Ford Cemetery.

William and Gertrude Clough of No 48 Derwent Road, Liverpool had two sons serving during the war. Gordon was serving as rifleman 1849 with the 1st/6th Battalion The King's Regiment when he was killed in action, aged twenty, on 5th May 1915 at Ypres, Belgium. He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial. William Clough, the brother of Gordon, was serving as a fifth engineer officer, mercantile marine with the *SS Feltria*. He was returning home from the USA to Avonmouth when the ship was struck by a torpedo 8 miles off the coast of Waterford, Ireland.

The ships sank with the loss of fifty-five lives, including William, who was just twenty-four. The sinking happened on the 5th May 1917, two years to the day that Gordon had been killed in Ypres, a cruel anniversary for their parents.

William Barker was the son of William and Mary Ellen Barker of No 107 Wood Street, Birkenhead. Billy, as he was known, was killed in action on 8th August 1916 at Guillemont while serving with 1/5 Battalion, King's Liverpool Regiment. He had enlisted on 17th August 1915, and after training, he was sent to France on 10th February 1916. He was aged just nineteen when he died. He has no known grave though he is commemorated on the Hamilton Square Memorial in Birkenhead and the Thiepval Memorial in France. After his death, members of his family acted as if Billy was still around; those who really had little memory of him or should have been born after his death got to know his likes and dislikes just as if he was still there. In his mother's eyes he still was, and that is what she wanted.

Sgt David Jones, 12th Battalion King's Liverpool Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross for:



Most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and ability displayed in the handling of his platoon. The platoon to which he belonged was ordered to a forward position and during the advance came under heavy machine gun fire, the officer being killed and the platoon suffering heavy losses. Sgt Jones led forward the remainder, occupied the position and held it for two days and two nights without food or water, until being relieved. On the second day he drove back three counter attacks, inflicting heavy losses. His coolness was most praiseworthy. It was due entirely to his resources and example that his men retained confidence and held their post.

On 6th October 1916, David received word that he was to be awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions in Guillemont on 3rd September and was given the choices of returning to England to receive the cross or go into action the following day. He chose the latter and was killed during the action on 7th October 1916.

David was born in Liverpool on 10th January 1891. He was a pupil at Heyworth Street School in Everton and the school mounted a plaque in his honour. His widow was presented with his Victoria Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace in 31st March 1917. She decided to give the Victoria cross to J. Blake & Co., motor company, where David had been employed as an apprentice coach builder before war broke out. The decision was made when she heard that a representative of the company had been elected each year to take a wreath at the Cenotaph ceremony in London in his memory.

The Victoria Cross, along with other memorabilia, is now held at the Museum of Liverpool.

The following is a transcript of the letter written by Pte George Williams 12th King's Liverpool Regiment, sent from Rolleston camp in Sheraton Salisbury, to his family at No 7 Bessemer Street, Dingle, on 12th December 1916.

Dear Mother and Father,

Just a few lines to let you know I am keeping well in the heart but not in spirit. I have felt proper miserable these past few days, near everyone in the Battalion is completely fed up with it, in fact they are running home on their own, but they suffer when they come back. It would break a lions heart never mind a man. I don't feel anyway homesick but it is the idea, the way they treat us, and furthering us in places like this miles from no where, no town

where we can pass a few hours. They have sent territorial's out to the front before us, I think we are as good to go out as they are, and I think that the Pals are all put in big towns, if I had my way I would put them all in a glass case. I wish they would send us out to the front, it can't be any worse than you had - we are doing all this for 1/- a week. It is a bit cowardice of me to send you letters like this, but I can't help it, I don't suppose you a can imagine what we are going through. It's a matter of coming off parade about 4, and then sit in a room waiting for next morning to parade again. I am glad that S.A is doing well and so is her baby girl, it is a good job it is not another one of Kitcheners innocent victims. I suppose Maggie Row is a bit jealous now. For goodness sake don't let John Henry join the army, I am going through it without two of us, I am just glad our Robyn is not going through it, it is enough to make a mans life not worth living, plenty of fellows have turned to drink to pass the time away, but if it kills me I will never turn to drink. I could have told you all this long ago, but I can't hold it back now, you may think I am a bit of a coward but I am not, I can't describe my feelings to you so I will say Good night to you.

From your son,

George.

The 'S.A' in the letter is his sister Sarah Ann Roe, Maggie Roe was his niece, and John Henry was his brother who did join the army and died of his wounds on 22nd October 1917 at home. Roby was too young to join up and lived a long, happy life. George dies on 21st February 1917 in Flanders. He was Pte 18030 when he sent this letter and had been promoted to lance corporal by the time of his death. He is buried at the A.I.F. burial ground at Flers, in France.

Pte William Duffy 48851, The King's Liverpool Regiment 12th Battalion was killed in action on 7th March 1917. William was educated at St Alphonsus School, St Francis Xavier's and Hammersmith. At the time of joining the army, he was a schoolmaster at Eldon Street School. He was a member of the A.O.H, the Irish club and the Gaelic league, as well as holding the position of deputy organist at Our Lady of Reconciliation church in Eldon Street. William was a most enthusiastic Irishman, whose aim was to bring to the notice of the Irish people the beautiful Irish ballads and music. The MP J.D. Nugent wrote, 'His loss was a severe one not only for his parents, but to the Nationalists of Liverpool who were personally attached to him. R.I.P', in a letter to William's mother, who

lived in No 196 Commercial Road. His officer in command wrote 'Your son performed his duty well, and was held in great esteem by all ranks of the battalion for his good comradeship and cheerful disposition. While attending to a wounded comrade, he himself received a fatal wound.

No 12 Arnold Grove in Wavertree, Liverpool, is the birthplace and early home of Beatle George Harrison, yet the house holds another story that should be told. William Coleman enlisted into the 20th Battalion of the King's Liverpool Regiment on 25th May 1915 as Pte 29172, giving his age as seventeen years and his address as No 12 Arnold Grove.

on 30th March 1916, he sails from Folkestone to France aboard SS Invicta. The 11th November 1916 sees William leave Le Touquet, France, for England. Once there he is transferred to The 4th Northern General Hospital in Lincoln, suffering from trench foot. He spends eight days in the hospital. He returns to France on 30th May 1917, then on 29th March 1918, he is transferred to the North Staffordshire Regiment at Pte 41818 (basically, they were boosting the Infantry for attack, and William was selected). Just seventeen days later, William went missing in action presumed dead on 15th April. His body was later found and he was buried at Bailluel Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

Pte John McKenna 40187 of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 2nd Battalion (formerly 30959 Manchester Regiment) was killed in action on 1st August 1918. The son of Mrs E. McKenna of No 41 Epsom Street, Liverpool, John is buried at Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire, France, and remembered on the war memorial at St Anthony's Church, Scotland Road. John has enlisted in Liverpool on 11th October 1915, joining the 1st Garrison Battalion Manchester Regiment four days later at Knowsley.

Now, John's records show he was a bit of a lad and not much bothered about Army life. I have to admire him, as it looks like he was going to do the war his own way. He trained at Knowsley and, on 2nd March 1916, he was awarded fourteen days confined to barracks and fined eight days' pay for being absent without leave from 20th February to 28th February 1916, thereby being absent from his regiment when they proceeded overseas. During his absence he was transferred to the 2nd Garrison Battalion Manchester Regiment. John stayed in Knowsley but had no intension of changing his ways, and was again in trouble on 26th April 1916, when he was charged with being absent from 22nd to 25th April. He was fined three days' pay along with fourteen days' field punishment No.2.

On 13th June 1916, John was arrested in Liverpool by Greater Manchester Police for being absent without leave. He was also charged with being drunk in Lord Nelson Street at 10.40 p.m., disobeying an officer and for being in Liverpool without a pass and given fourteen days' detention. John was then posted to Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool, maybe in the hope of changing his ways or maybe Knowsley has had enough of him. He was then charged with being asleep at his post at 4 a.m. on 13th July 1916 and awarded eighteen days' detention. Then, on 26th August 1916, he went absent without leave, before being apprehended by the Liverpool Police at 10.10 a.m. on 6th September 1916. John was given 168 hours detention and fined eleven days' pay. John was given seven days' confinement to barracks for going absent from 23rd to 24th September 1916, then, amazingly, he was confined for three days extra on 26th September 1916 for shaving his upper lip (moustache) contrary to regulations, before being confined for another seven days on 17th November 1916 for absence from guard mounting parade

By 28th November 1916, the Manchester Regiment have had enough of John and he was transferred to the 6th Garrison Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers under the service number of 62569.

He was still in Aintree when he was charged on 11th December 1916 with being in Liverpool without a pass, also added was a charge dating back to 19th September 1916 for disobeying Mersey defence order No. 8. John is confined to barracks for seven days.

On 24th January 1917 he sailed from Devenport, arriving in Port Said, Egypt, on 23rd February 1917. On 2nd August 1917, John was transferred to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 2nd Battalion, service number 40187. He is charged on 7th September 1917 with having a dirty rifle on guard mounting parade, and given two extra guard duties.

It looks like the Army was determined to change John, as his list of offences starts to get very petty; on 4th October 1917 he was given three days confinement for having long hair, yet was awarded professional pay on 11th October. On 29th January 1918, he was awarded five days' confinement for eating the biscuits of his rations without permission, then four days' confinement on 7th February 1918 for being improperly dressed on 9.15 a.m. parade and not having his sheet rolled up. on 25th March 1918, he was given one days' confinement for having a dirty canteen on company parade. He left Egypt from Port Said on 18th May 1918, sailing to France and arriving at Marseilles. On 1st August 1918 John was killed in action; he was buried at Raperie British Cemetery, Villemontoire in France. He is remembered also on the war memorial at St Anthony's church, Scotland Road.

Alfred Turner was born in Liverpool in 1900 to Alfred and Mary Ann Turner. His father Alfred was born in Liverpool and ran a number of coffee shops in the city. His mother Mary Ann was born in Kendal to a Scottish family and she also helped run the coffee shops. In 1911, the family was living at No 16 Stanhope Street in Liverpool.

When the war broke out in 1914, it had a big effect on young Alfred; he wanted to join up and serve, and not miss out on this exciting episode. He was of course too young to join, but like other young lads, he was determined.

We know that many under aged boys managed to fool the recruiting officers or get them to turn a blind eye so that they could serve in the great exciting war. We also know that their experiences turned out to be something that they could never have expected or imagined. Alfred managed to get himself signed up. The family are unsure of his regiment or even if he used a false name, but they do know that in 1916 he was acting as a stretcher-bearer during one of the most horrific battles of all times.

Alfred, not yet sixteen, was serving on the Somme. His father found out his son was serving abroad and contacted the Army. He managed to get him located and then returned home, thankfully in one piece.

Alfred's war was over. He later worked as a tram and bus driver around the streets of Liverpool.

RBL MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOMME EVENTS 1ST JULY 2016

We have just received details from the Royal British Legion (RBL) regarding the Manchester National Somme Events to be held on Friday 1st July 2016.

The Battle of the Somme was one of the defining moments of the First World War and involved thousands of British troops from across the UK. It was one of the bloodiest military battles in history. On the first day alone, the British suffered more than 57,000 casualties, and by the end of the campaign the Allies and Central Powers had lost more than 1.5 million men.

The UK's national commemoration of the battle will be held in Manchester in conjunction with commemorative events being held in the town of Thiepval, France (the site of the battle).

The day's events in Manchester are as follows:

12.30–1.00pm: Civic reception in Manchester Town Hall for invited guests;

1.30pm: Wreath laying at the Manchester Cenotaph in St Peter's Square for invited guests, led by the Bishop of Manchester;

2.00pm: Parade through Manchester City Centre, 5-6,000 people including serving personnel, cadets and Legion standards. The Royal British Legion have invited our veterans to take part in this parade, which will march through the City of Manchester.

The parade will be comprised of National Military, Regimental Associations and representatives of organisations with a direct link to those who fought in the Battle of the Somme or contributed to the war effort. Should any branch, or indeed any individual wish to participate in the National Manchester Parade, please email the RBL direct at: sommeparade@britishlegion.org.uk before **3 May 2016**.

3–3.45pm: Service at Manchester Cathedral

Attendance at the cathedral service will be restricted to 1,000–1,200 invited attendees, but large screens in Cathedral Gardens and Exchange Square will broadcast both the Manchester service and the Thiepval events.

From 4.00pm, Heaton Park will host The Experience Field, an outdoor heritage event with more than 30 original bell tents housing First World War experts, activities and artefacts bringing to life many stories of nurses, soldiers and factory workers from the Home and Western Fronts. The Experience Field is free and open to all - no booking required.

(Contained on page 18

7.30pm: A free public commemorative concert in Heaton Park featuring soldiers songs from the time performed by a national children's choir, interwoven with archive film. A breath-taking dance piece will then be followed at approx. 8.30pm by the Hallé Orchestra, who will play several well known pieces linked to the First World War, including a piece by George Butterworth, a young English composer who died at the Somme.

[For more information or to book tickets for the event in Heaton Park visit:](#)

www.quaytickets.com/sommeheatonpark.



'MERSEYSIDE CELEBRATES' THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY SUNDAY 12TH JUNE

Her Majesty' Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE), will lead a 'Service of Celebration' to mark the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty, The Queen, on Sunday 12th June 2016 in Liverpool Cathedral, at 3pm. The Service will be complimented with music by, the Choirs of the Liverpool Philharmonic and Liverpool Cathedral; it has all of the ingredients of being, an excellent celebration. The Service will end no later than 4pm.

The Lord-Lieutenant wishes to extend an invitation to the Armed Forces family, to join with her and the civilian community of Merseyside, to celebrate the birthday of the Commander-in-Chief. For addressees attending, or their appointed representatives, there will be reserved seating. This invitation extends to members of your unit, and their families who might wish to attend. Based on numbers, specific seating will be allocated to the Armed Forces personnel and their families.

Dress:

Service Dress/Lounge Suit with Medals.

Seated:

No later than 1440hrs

Car Parking:

Cathedral Car Park

SAVING PRIVATE BLOHM

CATHERINE JONES UNCOVERS THE TALE OF A SOLDIER WHO FOUGHT ON BRAVELY AS HIS FAMILY WAS TORN APART BY WAR.

But for one decision made by their father some 30 years previously, in 1914 the men of the Blohm family would have found themselves in the grey uniform of Kaiser Wilhelm's Deutsches Herr.

But in 1878, Henrich Blohm - a second generation sugar boiler born near Hamburg - had decided to emigrate from Germany to Liverpool. The same year he married fellow German Clara Gunther in the port's All Saints Church, and the couple settled down to married life, bringing up eight children, including five sons. Henry, Joseph, Richard, Frederick and John were all born first-generation Liverpoolians.

Joseph, the second eldest, joined the King's Liverpool Regiment in 1900, serving in the Boer War. In 1904 however, he died from Bright's Disease while stationed in Rangoon. Brothers Henry, Richard and Frederick would all later sign up for the King's, and John for the Machine Gun Corps.

"My tale has similarities with the film Saving Private Ryan," says Frederick's great-grandson Paul Blohm, whose great uncle on his mother's side was one of the ECHO employees who died during the war.

Richard Blohm, a regular in the 1st Battalion KLR and who had married his wife Jane just a year previously, was one of the first British soldiers to arrive on the Western Front a week after war was declared. Within three months he was dead, killed in action on October 27 1914. He is remembered on the Menin Gate.

Henry, the eldest son, had married his wife Emily in 1905 and at the outbreak of war they had five young children at home in Kirkdale.

A regular soldier also in the 1st Battalion KLR, Henry arrived at the Front at the end of May 1915. On September 25 he was killed at the Battle of Loos.

Younger brother John had joined the South Lancashire Regiment in 1906 at the age of 18, and spent the next 10 years stationed in India.

Transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, in February 1918 he headed for Europe with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. In July he was given a fortnight's leave to visit his father in Liverpool, and he had only been back at the Front for two weeks when, on August 12, he was killed in action.

That left only Frederick of the five brothers. A career soldier, who married in 1913, he was shot in the arm and wounded early in the war but recovered sufficiently to be sent back into battle. He was later taken a prisoner of war, and repatriated after the Armistice.

"Henrich, like many Germans in Liverpool, was interned during the war," says Paul. "But it's believed he was released after the authorities discovered he had lost three sons, and with a fourth wounded.

"My great-grandfather Frederick, having lost three brothers in WWI, also lost a son Robert, who was a Royal Marine, in World War II."

HOW THE BRANCH IS RUN

The Branch is managed by a management committee that meets quarterly at 1200hrs on selected Tuesdays at Walker House.

The committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting each year.

CURRENT COMMITTEE

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Brian Green, Joe McLoughlin, Norman Pickles,
John Schofield, Russell Start, Ian Williams**

STANDARD BEARERS

John Schofield, Stan Castell BEM, Brian Green, Ian Williams & Kenny Malam

Any of the above committee member can be contacted through:

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