

NEWSLETTER
THE FRIENDS OF
THE SOLDIERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE
MUSEUM



SPRING 2014

MUSEUM REFURBISHMENT ACTIVITY



The Museum encased in scaffolding as the roof and window frames are renewed or repaired.

The 'display case dressers' work on 'The Peninsular' and 'The Early Years' rooms at the Museum



CHAIRMANS REPORT

As the middle of April approaches and the Museum opens, the Trustees will welcome you to the newly renewed building – the scaffolding down, new displays, new lighting and a new layout of historical ‘time zones’ installed. A few illustrations in this edition show how the brighter colours and the new models and display cases have produced a fresh presentation of the Museum’s silver, pictures and artefacts. A visit is essential, in fact, see it in comfort before the crowded Opening Night.

The Official Opening, on Friday May 30th, will be performed by His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, who will be accompanied by The Duchess. The Friends of the Museum will be invited (please find your invitation with this Newsletter), together with civil and military guests, and members of the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire.

The Friends have donated £4,500 so far this year to maintain the improvements in IT and will fund further projects as they become apparent, after the re-furbished Museum opens to the public and, we trust, have a busy summer. Donations last year were about the average of previous years and a good attendance at the 2013 Autumn Lecture, given by Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield, maintained our support for the Museum. Peter Hennessy, brought up and schooled in the Stroud Valleys, has taken an interest in our efforts and has agreed to be the Vice-President of the Friends. In this Centenary Year of World War One, our speaker, on October 24th 2014, will be Gary Sheffield, Professor of War Studies at Wolverhampton University, a prolific author and an authority on the ‘Great War’.

Our long serving Treasurer, and that of the Museum itself, Wg. Cmd. Chris Campbell, is leaving the Committee to spend more time with the books of the ‘Jet Age Museum’, in Staverton. We fully understand his logic and thank him for his commitment to the Friends and wish him well as he concentrates on ‘flying things’. We welcome Mr. Patrick Smart, late of the RGH, to take his place and keep us on the correct financial path.

We look forward to seeing you, bring new Friends too.

Lt. Col. Ralph Stephenson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2014

THURSDAY MAY 8TH

Lunch in the Royal Wessx Yeomanry Marquee at Badminton 3 Day Event.

12.30 till 2.30 pm.

Please contact the Hon Sec: Maj. Simon Colbeck at simoncolbeck@msn.com or 01285 720146

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FRIDAY MAY 30th

**Official Opening of the Refurbished Museum
By Their Royal Highness’s The Duke & Duchess of Gloucester**

5.45 for 6.15 pm.

Invitation are included in this Newsletter, please be sure to reply otherwise entry cannot be guaranteed.

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 24th

Chavenage Autumn Lecture, Chavenage House, Tetbury.

6.45 for 7.30 pm.

Prof. Gary Sheffield on 'Why Britain had to Fight in the First World War'

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**Museum Talks – April 24th at 7.00 pm - ‘The Defence of Cirencester 1940’
May 29th at 7.00 pm – ‘Air Photography in WW1’**

LT. GEN. SIR ADRIAN CARTON DE WIART VC, KBE, CB, CMG, DSO



Carton de Wiart, left, before WW1, the silver salver and post WW2, with loss of one eye, left hand and eight wound stripes.

The RGH Trustees have recently purchased, from the internet, a silver salver presented to the then Capt. Carton de Wiart, after two years serving with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, in 1914. The inscription reads:

“Presented to Captain A Carton de Wiart, 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, by the non-commissioned officers and men, Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, on the expiration of his term as Adjutant of the Regiment, 1914 ”

This salver is now on loan to the Museum and is displayed in the WW1 Room. His period as adjutant was interesting and probably unique:

“In the early autumn, when there was no training, no fishing and no hunting I found a delightful system whereby I conducted my adjutancy from the Continent by correspondence. I had all the papers sent to me to sign and return, and occasionally resorted to the expense of a wire. All this showed a lack of national crisis and the high degree of efficiency and smartness of the RGH, who were undoubtedly the pick of the Yeomanry and quite capable of running their own show.”

Born into an aristocratic family in Brussels, in May 1880, he had an extraordinary military career, from the Boer War, fighting the ‘Mad Mullah’ in Somaliland pre First World War and then commanding the 8th Gloucestershire Regt. for a period in the Great War, when he was awarded the VC:

“Just before the start of the Somme offensive I was given command of the 8th Gloucesters, and I could never wish to meet a nicer lot of officers or men. They were a fine battalion and in wonderful training after their rest and preparation..... I also took over another goodly inheritance in the shape of my predecessor’s servant,... a delightful scoundrel giving me devoted service...

.....[he] annoyed me by letting off his rifle at a passing plane, I thereupon seized it and from then on he was armed only with my blanket and my primus stove.” All quotes from ‘Happy Odyssey’ by Carton de Wiart

He served as Head of the British Military Mission to Poland between the Wars, commanded an Anglo-French force in Norway in 1940 and headed the British-Yugoslavian Military Mission in 1941, until captured by the Italians when his plane had engine failure off the coast of Libya. Released from prison in the hope he could negotiate a peace treaty between the Italians and the British Army, he arrived back in Britain, via Spain, to be sent by Churchill to act as his personnel representative to the Nationalist Chinese Government. He retired to Ireland in 1951 and died in 1963.

Editor



MUSEUM MANAGERS REPORT

It's been a busy time for everyone at the museum. The work being carried out on the outside of the building is ahead of schedule. The craftsmanship of the work is amazing as the building is Grade II listed. The whole roof has been covered in new lead, many windows have been restored, as well as much external stone work.

The refurbishment works would not have been possible without the help of volunteers. Once the museum reopens we will require more volunteers to act as museum guides and stewards for group bookings or weekends, as well as more help in the shop and tearoom. The Tearoom has been closed during the refurbishment but the shop has remained open, on reduced hours, the takings averaging £400 a month, which is a huge help to the bank balances. There are a variety of new products coming to the shop for the reopening, including a range of children's books, poppy jewellery, Airfix kits, models plus more!

The Evening Talks program is the beginning of an events program. I am currently finalising a seven month program to include, each month, one evening lecture, a families workshop and an adults workshop, with additional planned events during school holidays as well as special events at intervals; it is important to keep the momentum of events up to attract new and repeat visitors to the museum. Several events have been planned in conjunction with the Gloucester History Festival, which will provide good free publicity for the museum. A discount is offered on events for Friends of the museum, to say thank you for your support; we aim to increase Friends membership to 500, so please tell you friends, membership makes a great gift.

There will be a Spitfire and Hurricane flypast over the museum on the 21st June 2014, for Gloucester's Armed Forces Day, which is planned to take place in front of the museum again this year, but on a larger scale, with a program of events throughout the afternoon, from 1pm. until 5pm.

Gloucester will be a host city for the Rugby World Cup 2015, when we are planning a special 'Rugby in the Army' exhibition. The Museum Lottery is up and running, four people have already won prizes, you can sign up here: <http://www.unitylottery.co.uk/charity/display/429> or in the museum shop. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Lavinia Drake

Museum work in progress, including the new Crusader tank.



THE FIRST VICTIM OF WORLD WAR 1 - FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE

It has, for many years, been recorded that the first man to die in the First World War was Private John Parr of the 4th Middlesex Regiment, who died on August 21st 1914. However a Cheltonian was the first to be killed three weeks before that.

High on the north wall of the chapel at Cheltenham College, the very first of the small brass plaques that honour every old boy killed in that war, is the memorial to Henry Hadley, who died in Germany, only a few hours after war had been declared, on August 5th. Henry was born in Cheltenham, probably at home in Needwood Lodge, Bays Hill. His father (1812-1874), also Henry Hadley, had been a surgeon in the Army, serving in the 40th Foot and the Rifle Brigade and previously, with the 11th Foot and 99th Foot in Australia, retiring from the Army in 1861, as Deputy Inspector of Military Hospitals. His mother, Alpha Dunn, had been born in Hobart, Tasmania.

Below, the unusual entry in the 1911 census

NAME AND SEX	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AGE	MARRIAGE	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY
Henry Hadley	Head	48	Single	BA Oxford. Member of the University of London. Late Cheltenham College. Good testimonials, work urgently desired. Member of the Church of England.	Late Civil and Military Tutor



He was educated at Cheltenham College and was commissioned, from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich into the 1st West India Regiment, serving from 1887 to 1890. After leaving the Army he became a language tutor. It would appear that he had a period of unemployment, whilst living in Cheswick, as his odd 1911 Census return reads as a CV and a request for a post. In addition to his name, he has curiously added:

Late Civil and Military Tutor

Late Lieut 1st West Indian Regt. (att. Royal Sussex Regt.)

BA Oxford. Member of the University of London. Late Cheltenham College.

Good testimonials, work urgently desired. Member of the Church of England.

My father was Henry Hadley, Doctor of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh and Deputy Inspector of Military Hospitals. My Grandfather was a Medical Man of Derby.

By 1914 he had been a tutor in Berlin for three years when Germany declared war against Russia on August 1st and against France, on August 3rd. Realising, as the European tensions rose, that Britain would soon be drawn into the conflict*, he and his house-keeper and travelling companion, Elizabeth Pratley, caught a train for Cologne, hoping to change there for Paris, at 11am that day. It is said that he had an argument with a waiter in the restaurant car, using several foreign languages, which was witnessed by German army officers and was 'angry and agitated'. He returned to his compartment, but on entering the corridor again, was shot in the stomach at point blank range, by a Prussian officer, Lieut. Nicolay.

*5000 British nationals were interred on the Berlin Ruhleben Racecourse for the duration of the War.

'His terrified housekeeper and travelling companion, Elizabeth Pratley, rushed out of the carriage to find him on the floor surrounded by German soldiers. He gasped: 'They have shot me, Mrs Pratley; I am a done man.'

Britain had not formally declared war on Germany when Mr Hadley was shot. He was taken to hospital [in Gelsenkirchen] and clung to life for 24 hours, but died at 3.15am, German time, on August 5, 1914. Britain had declared war on Germany just three hours before – at midnight German time, or 11pm British time, on August 4th 1914.'

- military historian Richard van Emden,

He was buried in a pauper's grave at Gelsenkirchen. Elizabeth Pratley was interrogated as a potential spy, at a military prison in Münster, but eventually was allowed to travel on to England, where she arrived in November 1914, in such a 'weakened and nervous state' that she was taken to a Roman Catholic hospital to recover. She was able to inform the British Government of Henry Hadley's death on 26 November 1914.

Lt Nicolay, at a court-martial, was cleared of any charges, having claimed that he acted in self defence. He was promoted to Captain a few months later and the British Government continued to consider this a case of murder.

Editor

'SOLDIER JACK' - TO MARCH US INTO NEW EDUCATION ACTIVITY

An expanded education programme and new outreach initiatives are under way at SoGM, being a major part of the museum's Heritage Lottery Funded activity.

Exhibition designers and staff have commissioned a new children's character, 'Soldier Jack' to guide young families and younger school groups around the museum. Jack will pop up on multi-media screens and encourage children to have a go at puzzles and digital games, as well as being present in specially designed children's literature to accompany a visit. The very popular exciting schools programme, led by Graham Gordon and Janet Hayes on site, will be added to with new workshops on Kitchener's Army, Gloster Soldier Poets, and Deacon's

India. Jack will welcome families into the new 'kit room', which will be equipped with uniforms to try on, colouring sheets and other 'hands on' activities for children of all ages.



Soldier Jack is just one of several new initiatives at the museum, designed to broaden our appeal to new audiences, and make our shared military heritage and world history more accessible. With a part time Learning and Participation Officer on board, the museum will be working on arts focussed, community projects all over Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bristol, as well as offering new activities to audiences less represented at the museum, such as minority ethnic groups.

Jack has been designed by children's illustrator, Karen Donnelly, and he is represented as an archer at the Battle of Tewkesbury, an 18thC Drummer Boy, a First World War Officer, a Second World War soldier on the Eastern Front and a modern army soldier with The Rifles.

With the First World War commemorations upon us, the first schools project to launch will be 'The First World War in 10 Objects' which will challenge pupils from three local schools to create interpretive 'flip books' of information on museum objects and their themes. Look out for these, plus other community generated art and prose throughout the year in the new community gallery at the museum.

For more information on the Museum's Outreach Programme contact:

elizabeth.roper@sogm.co.uk or call the museum on 01452 522682

Elizabeth Roper

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT

As at 17 March 2014 the Friends have 345 members in all categories: 240 Life and 105 annual members including 23 overseas. One new member joins every 4 – 6 weeks. Our finances are healthy and we remain well placed to support the Museum.

There are 25 Friends paying annually who have not paid for the year June 2013 - May 2014 yet. **Annual rates are £10 junior, £20 single and £30 couples. Conversion to Life membership is for a single £200 payment.** You can pay:

By cheque made payable to 'The Friends of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum' forwarded to the Friends at the Museum address 'Custom House, 31, Commercial Road, Gloucester, GL1 2HE'.

Over the internet through the Museum website at 'www.glost.org.uk' – follow the link to the Friends' page on the Museum's Home page.

By Banker's Standing Order. To save having to write cheques, pay for postage, or remember that you need to renew your subscription annually, why not complete a Banker's Standing Order Mandate? Receipt of your payment directly into the Friends' bank account will trigger action on my part to issue your new membership card. You can of course cancel a standing order with your bank at any stage.

If you would like a Standing Order form please contact me at the Museum.

Some Friends paying annually by Standing Order already may still need to amend their Standing Order with their Bank to reflect the increased annual membership charges effective from June 2012. Please check your SO value.

Members using internet banking should be able to do this on line and those using telephone banking should be able to contact their bank direct to make the change. Any member requiring to amend their Standing Order in writing should contact me at the Museum and I will forward a new Standing Order form for action with your bank.

This is my final Report before I hand over the duties of Membership Sec and Hon Treasurer to Patrick Smart so I can spend more time working at the new Jet Age Museum, near Gloucestershire Airport. I wish all Friends, and the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, the very best for the future and I look forward to visiting the refurbished Museum galleries in April.

Wg. Cdr. Chris Campbell



YOUR MUSEUM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Trustees are always grateful to hear from volunteers who have some spare hours a week to assist supporting the Museum.

We are happy to receive help in digitalising records and artefacts and assisting the work on special projects but help is especially sort in the shop and the café areas.

Please contact the Museum Manager on 01452 522682
THANK YOU

THE PENINSULAR WAR 1814 - The Battle of Toulouse

Having pushed the demoralised and disintegrating French Army out of Spain and over the Pyrenees, in a difficult campaign of frequent skirmishes and engagements in the autumn of 1813, the Allied British-Portuguese and Spanish army under the command of Field Marshal Lord Wellington advanced into southern France in the spring of 1814, for the last major battle of the Peninsular War.

Both the 28th and 61st were involved in three months of fighting, as it *'flickered and flared in the valleys and on the heights'* as the Allied-Anglo Army slowly pushed the French over the Pyrenees. On one occasion the latter Bn. were tasked to take a hill before the French, who were sending a brigade, could occupy it first. *'The 61st went off at the double and scrambled up one side of the hill, as the French went up the other. The 61st won the race and got to the top in time to form up and fire a steady volley down on the enemy'*. The 28th were also engaged, fighting to the *'last man – last round'* when surrounded on a rocky hilltop by ten times their number. A significant stand was taken by Marshal Soult, at Orthez, in late February 1814, when the 61st again distinguished themselves when Col. Coughlin led them *'at a running pace'* against two French battalions and broke them.



Battle of the Pyrenees July 28th 1813

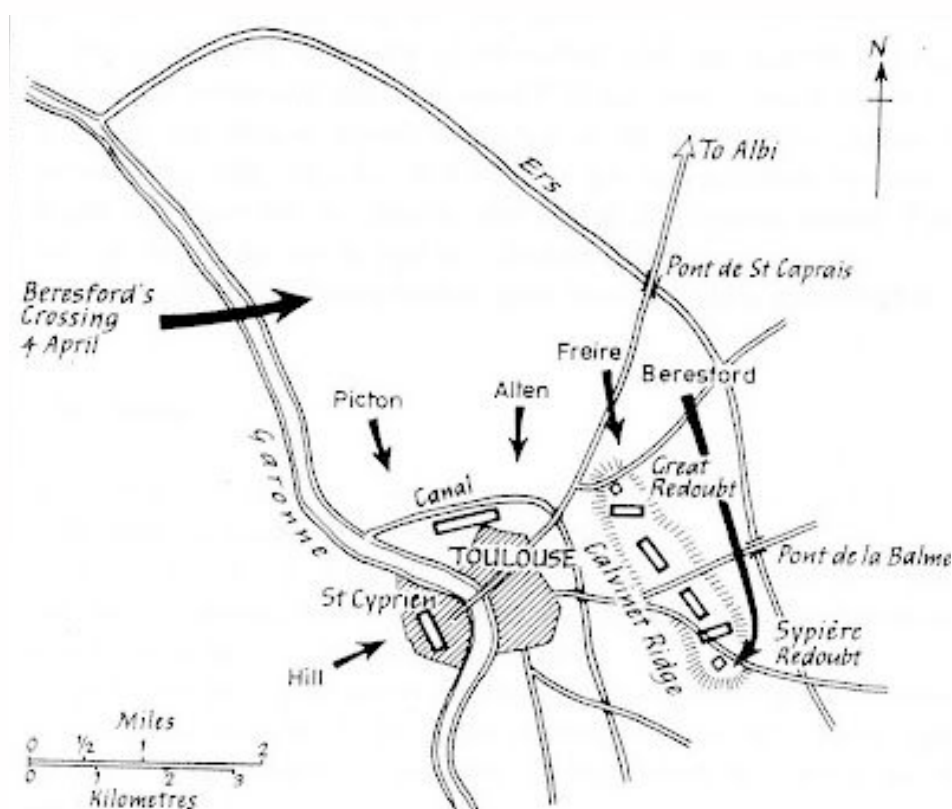
Being unable to defend both Bordeaux to the northwest or Toulouse to the east, Soult elected to base himself on Toulouse as his army would have difficulty obtaining food and forage near Bordeaux. While Soult was moving east, Wellington sent General Beresford and two divisions to seize Bordeaux and brought up 8000 Spanish infantry and the British heavy cavalry as reinforcements to attack Toulouse. Bordeaux was captured by Beresford on 12 March 1814 without resistance. Garrisoning the city with the 7th Division, he rejoined Wellington with the 4th Division, whilst Soult, reaching Toulouse, placed his soldiers behind prepared and fortifications.

Toulouse lies on the River Garonne, which approaches the city from the southwest, then turns and flows to the northwest. East of the city, the smaller river Ers, forms a narrow corridor with the city protected by water both to the west and east. On 4 April, Wellington's engineers constructed a pontoon bridge across the flooding Garonne, north of the French city, to the east bank, with the intention of advancing down the corridor between the two rivers. After 19,000 Anglo-Allies had crossed, the bridge gave way, trapping the men on the far bank for three days, but Soult failed to take advantage of this opportunity to attack a portion of Wellington's army.

Unbeknown to either commander, on 7 April at midnight, the official couriers left Paris with news that Napoleon had abdicated and that the war was effectively over, but Wellington's plan were set and he attacked on Easter Sunday, April 10th 1814.

As a diversion, Gen. Hill, with 12,600 men of the 2nd Division and a Portuguese Div. was sent to attack St. Cyprien. The remaining 36,000 men, having crossed the Garonne, attacked down the corridor, with Picton's Light Division putting in a feint close to the Garonne, Friere assaulting the northern end of the heights with his two Spanish divisions, while Beresford's 4th and 6th Div., including the 61st, marched down the corridor, exposed to enemy cannon fire before wheeling into line ready to attack the French on their defended ridge. The going had been difficult, Beresford's men encountered muddy fields and fell behind schedule but on attacking uphill, the 6th Division leading two Portuguese brigades, encountered the enemy. The French, however, could not wait, they *'charged down the hillside with loud shouts and opened heavy musket fire. The men of the 61st charged up towards them without firing, cheering as they went'*. The 61st forced the French back, over the top and to a full retreat down the other side. It had lost many men, but continued to fight that afternoon, in support of the Highland Brigade, north along the ridge to take a series of redoubts.

The 61st attacked with Beresford whilst the 28th attacked from the west with Hill



The Battle of Toulouse 10 April 1814

Exceeding his orders, Sir Thomas Picton mounted a full scale attack on his front with his 3rd Division and was repulsed with 400 casualties. The Spanish infantry forged up the northern end of the ridge and gained a momentary foothold, but they were counterattacked by French skirmishers and soon sent fleeing. Covered by the Light Division, the Spanish foot soldiers rallied, then attacked and were defeated a second time



British infantry exchanging fire with the French during the battle of Toulouse in 1814.

Print after Henri Dupray.

The 28th, on the other side of the city, one of Hills Divisions, encountered a fortified mill which *'annoyed us very much'* so it was *'carried in fine style'*, a lieutenant running through musket fire to pull the top of the wall down, allowing the grenadier company to enter and rout out the enemy. They then pushed the enemy pickets back into the town and kept them there, loosing thirty one officers and men in their action.

On seeing the heights with its redoubts lost, Soult withdrew his men into the city, behind the fortifications, to hold the town for the duration of April 11th, but by 9 pm. he withdrew towards Carcassonne and the following morning city officials handed the town over to the Allied Army. That afternoon Wellington got news, via Bordeaux from Fredrick Ponsonby, of Napoleon's's abdication. A few hours later, this was confirmed when the official couriers arrived from Paris. The unemotional commander-in-chief is said to have exclaimed *'How, abdicated. 'Ay, 'tis time indeed. You don't say so, upon my honour! Hurrah!'*

The Allied army suffered 4,558 casualties, including 1,900 from Freire's divisions and 1,500 from the 6th Division. The casualties of the 61st were heavy, so many bodies were left on the battlefield, their scarlet tunics contrasting with the grasses, that the regiment was *'honoured with a new nickname – "The Flowers of Toulouse" – a proud name tribute to their gallantry'*. At the end of the days fighting the Colours had been assigned to the sergeants, as no subalterns were left standing, and the 61st was commanded by the adjutant, a lieutenant.

"In this sanguinary Action the 61st. Regiment had nineteen Officers, eight Sergeants and one hundred and fifty three rank and File killed and wounded, and Lord Wellington in his official despatch was pleased to remark that 'the 36th, 61st and 79th had lost considerable numbers and were highly distinguished throughout the day"

- Captain Edward Charlton, 61st Regiment



The Duke of Wellington entering the city of Toulouse

Both the 28th and 61st marched to Bordeaux, there to board ship for home, but, and to the dismay of commanding officers, without leave, they were posted immediately for garrison duties in Ireland. The only mark of gratitude appears to have been the medal, cast thirty-four years later, and given to those still alive and could prove their claim. Twenty-one NCO's of the 61st were commissioned, as a reward for gallantry during the Peninsular War, but further promotion invariably depended on wealth and influence and most served as junior officers for rest of their careers. The 28th were due to embark for America, in 1815, and had, in fact, set sail when the orders were cancelled, Napoleon had escaped from Elba and before long Wellington and the British Army would meet Napoleon again, this time at Waterloo.

References - 'Cap of Honour' – David Scott Daniel



Coincidentally the Museum has recently acquired a Peninsular War medal, with eight battle clasps, including Orthes and Toulouse - there are said to be only five known medals with eight clasps and the Museum has four.

The medal was awarded to Sgt Richard Smyth of the 61st, a Gloucestershire man, born in Minchinhampton in 1784. He enlisted in 1807 in Horsham, Sussex and was discharged from Jamaica in 1819, when he was listed as a saddler. His service includes ten years as a private before promotion to Cpl. Interestingly his discharge paper is signed with a very confident signature – he was an educated soldier.

The census of 1861 gives his residence as Friday Street, Minchinhampton and his occupation as 'Chelsea Pensioner', as he is stated as being married he must have been registered as a Chelsea Out-Pensioner. He died the same year.

Editor

THE EXPLOITS OF LT. GEORGE SCOTT IN RUSSIA 1916 -1918

A letter in the files of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Historical Committee aroused interest. It is dated December 1925 and is an appeal from the commanding Officer, Lt. Col. R. Sandeman, requesting financial assistance for a brother officer who had served with the 2nd RGH during the First World War. Lt. George Scott, having been released as a prisoner was in poor health; it warranted further investigation.

The letter from his wartime Commanding Officer reads:

From Col. R. Sandeman , Dan-y-Parc, Crickhowel.

December 1925

Lt George Scott. 2/1 Roy. Glos. Hussars.

Mr. Scott left Cambridge University in 1912 and shortly after the outbreak of war received a commission in the RGH. He is now, through no fault of his own, almost penniless.

It is thought that all who knew him during the time he was with the Regiment will gladly contribute towards a fund which is being raised to assist him in his present dire misfortune; and, possibly, after reading the following short account of his terrible experiences, others may be induced to subscribe.

Mr Scott's father was an Englishman, his mother a Russian; he spent his early life in Russia but was educated in England.

In 1916 officers speaking Russian were called for by the War Office; Mr Scott speaks Russian fluently and was selected to accompany a Military Mission to Russiahis experiences as a prisoner are too terrible to relate in detail....On one occasion he was put up against a wall with other prisoners for execution; in his case the bullet miscarried and he still lives. After some years of imprisonment.....and returned to England a mental and physical wreck.

A grateful country has given him a pension of 25/- a week, which will shortly be commuted. Mr Scott has no other means, Out of this he has to pay 12/6 per week for rent, leaving him only 12/6, approximately 1/9 per day for food, clothes, fire and other necessaries. He has no relation in England or friends to whom he can apply for assistance.

Mr Scott, it will be remembered, was not robust; at the present time he is ill and weak from privation. During the last few weeks he has been unable to afford a fire and his meals have consisted of a meagre amount of porridge.

With regard to his abilities, and the possibility of finding him employment, Mr Scott is a first class musician and is no mean linguist, speaking five languages fluently..... He is also a writer; at the moment he has one book – 'Valentina' in print, which deals with the true incidents in Russia, he is now engaged on another book. It is hoped that these books will find favour with the public.There are no doubt similar cases, but this one, I feel, will especially appeal to those who were personally acquainted with this young officer.

Your contributions will be most gratefully accepted.

Yours truly,

R. Sandeman Lt. Col.

Contributions should be forward to the Hon H. Ponsonby, Lechlade Glos.

A quick search of the internet showed that he attended Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, graduating in 1912. A visit to the College to see his file produced some letters about messing costs in Hunstanton in 1915 and asking his college master if he knew of a cheaper hotel, a long poem, 'The City of Shadows' and one important letter to the Master of Fitzwilliam College, Mr Reddaway, which is reproduced in full as it describes his time in Russia, in some detail:

SERVICES CLUB, 19, STRATFORD PLACE. W.

Saturday Feb 21st 1920.

Dear Mr. Reddaway,

Allow me to give you a brief sketch of my career since my last visit to Cambridge – I was seconded from the Royal Glos'ter Hussars and received the appointment of Assistant Caucasus Military Attaché, in 1916. I immediately proceeded to Tiflis to join the staff of the Grand Duke Nicholas' Armies there.*

*Tiflis is known today as Tbilisi, capital of Georgia.

Until the outbreak of the Revolution, in March 1917, my work in the Caucasus was not fraught with any serious difficulties. As an Intelligence officer, I duly informed my chiefs of all matters connected with German and Turkish propaganda in that area. Then came the Revolution and for a year comparative Chaos ensued.

In April 1918 the British Agency was compelled to escape, owing to the expected arrival of German troops. We crossed the Caucasus range and reached Vladikavkaz* - preferring to enter Bolshevik territory rather than to become prisoners in German hands; for the Tartars had intrigued so successfully with the Turk that the advance of the Germans was, at that period, quite inevitable.....

To cut a long story short, I was successful in eluding the Bolshevik spies for a period of no less than three months, during which time I likewise succeeded in keeping the W.O. informed as to all German troop movements in the Caucasus. I was then captured, made to march, via the Astrakhan Steppe, and finally ended up in a Moscow convict gaol, where I languished in solitary confinement from January till May 1918. Subsequently, two days prior to the carrying out of my death sentence, I was exchanged for an important Bolshevik 'Admiral' by the name of Raskolnikov, and arrived in England, June 1919.

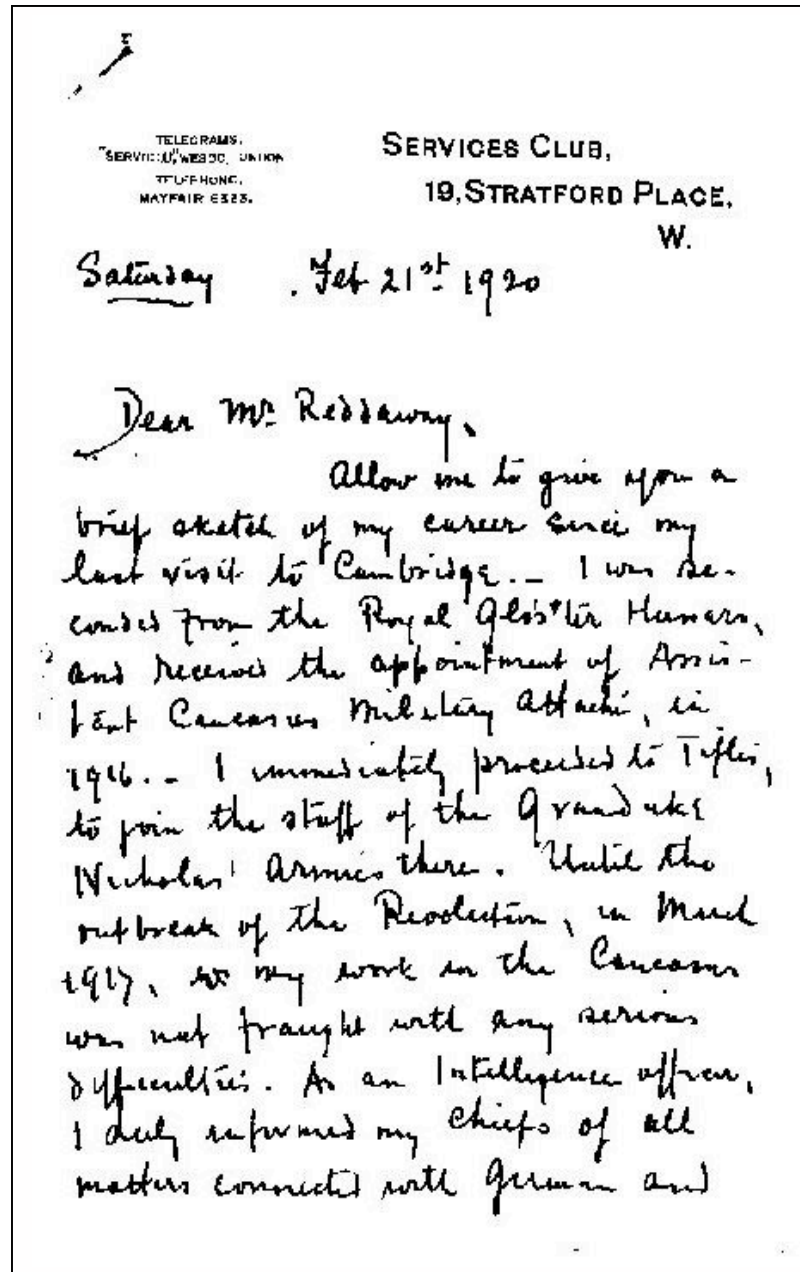
I spent two months in a mad house. Then I came out and wrote my book. Events move so rapidly these days that now my book is complete I find it obsolete. I am absolutely at rock bottom..... My father is ruined and barely escaped with his life. If you could possibly arrange for me to give a course of lectures in the provinces, immediately, or could possibly put me in touch with some lecturing agency who would take me up, I shall be most grateful. Perhaps you might arrange something for me at Cambridge?

Believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

George A. Scott.

* In Southern Russia, about 50 miles from the current border with Georgia.



The first of his six page letter to the Master of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

Another internet search located a copy of his book, 'Valentina', with a dealer in Adelaide, South Australia, from whom it was duly purchased. Certainly it appears to be autobiographical, as far as one is able to discern, but the majority of the book concentrates on the developing relationship between the British officer, John Wychcomb, (no regiment mentioned) and his 'beautiful Bolshevik' captor who accompanies him on his 1000 mile journey to Moscow. He even manages to secretly seek and find his Russian mother – it's difficult to separate fact from fiction, but certainly revolutionary turmoil existed in the Caucasus region until, in 1922, the Red Army over came the various groups of Georgian Mensheviks, Armenian Dashnaks, and Azeri Musavat.

It is impossible to know how well the book sold. In another letter to the RGH, from Col. Sandeman, in April 1926, Scott was reported to be in the Officer's Ward of Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, still in a bad state of health and living off, at a rate of £2 per week, the fund raised by 48 concerned individuals, not all fellow officers; the appeal raised £246. 9s.0d., equivalent to over £12,000 today.

No other literary works by him have been traced and, sadly, no photograph of him has been discovered. There is a note in his Cambridge file that he was living in Littlehampton, Sussex, possibly around 1949 when he received his MA. (an automatic entitlement for graduates of Cambridge), but we know no more about him.

I am grateful to Ms. Caroline Lamb of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge for locating and showing me George Scott's file.

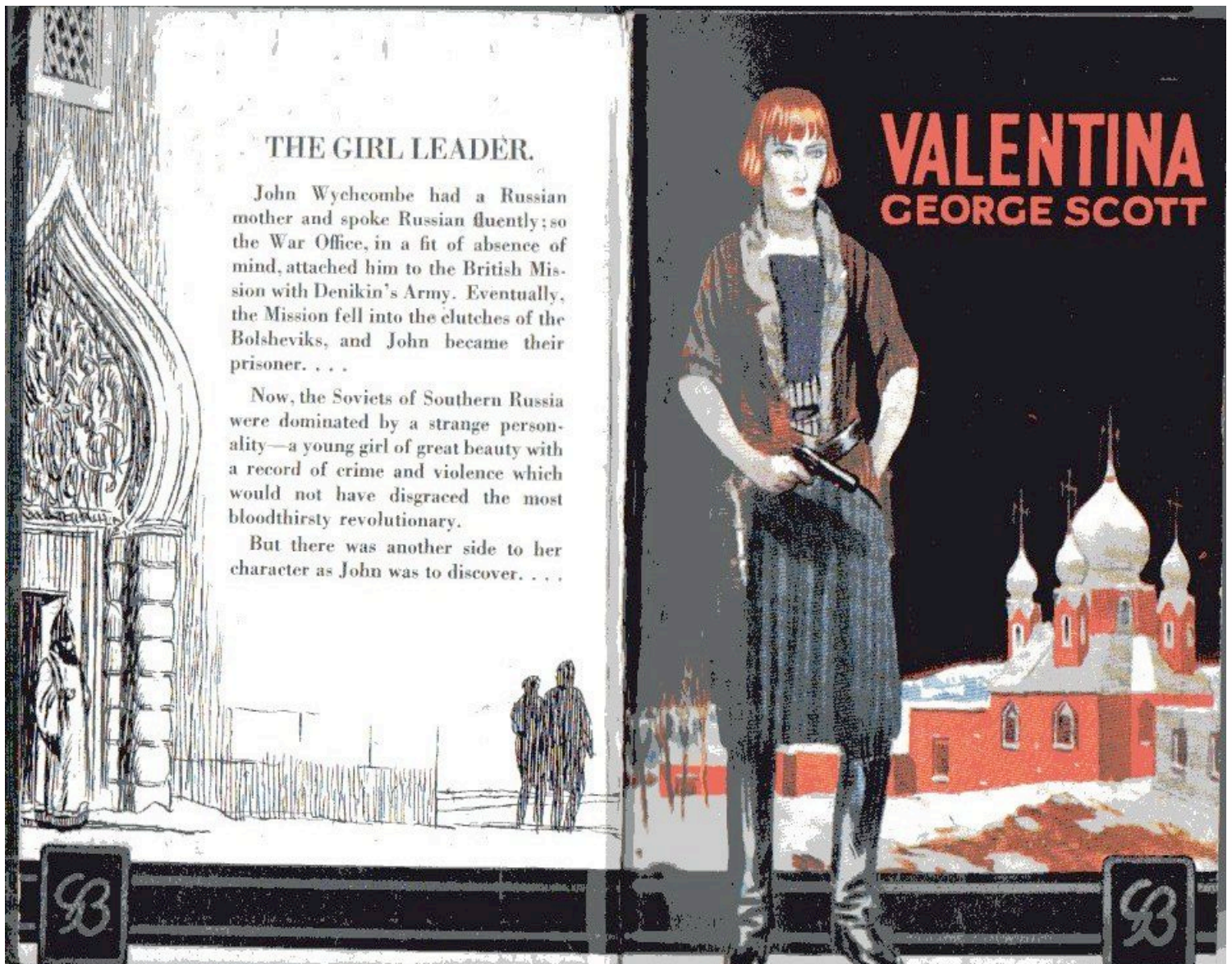
Lt. Col. Ralph Stephenson

THE GIRL LEADER.

John Wychcombe had a Russian mother and spoke Russian fluently; so the War Office, in a fit of absence of mind, attached him to the British Mission with Denikin's Army. Eventually, the Mission fell into the clutches of the Bolsheviks, and John became their prisoner. . . .

Now, the Soviets of Southern Russia were dominated by a strange personality—a young girl of great beauty with a record of crime and violence which would not have disgraced the most bloodthirsty revolutionary.

But there was another side to her character as John was to discover. . . .



FURTHER MUSEUM RENEWAL ACTIVITY



The horse to display the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Victorian finery arrives by horse-box at the Docks. The story was picked up by the BBC and placed on their 'on-line Gloucestershire' site, producing publicity for the refurbished Museum. see: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-26575139

Below, the new Peninsular Gallery incorporating Private Crawford

