

ISSUE 18 - February 2026

# LASTPOST

Newsletter of the Leicester City, County & Rutland At Risk War Memorials Project





The Leicester City, County & Rutland At Risk War Memorials Project welcomes any information which can help or promote their work. If you have any details of any War Memorial you feel is at risk, or can help in any way, please contact us on:



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Or contact the project's directors:

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rear of All Saints Church,  
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# Welcome

I want to extend our very warmest welcome to Steven Peachey, Assistant Curator, De Montfort University Museum, who once again has stepped in to produce the layout of our newsletter.

We are extremely grateful to him. At very short notice he picked up the task on Issue 17 and has done likewise on this issue. He tells me that he enjoys the challenge! Thanks Steven.

The reason for this is that Joe Hall, who has done it for the past few years now has the fascinating job of Editor of the new magazine Leicestershire History. We extend our grateful thanks to him for transforming our early newsletters into a professional publication and wish him well in this new role. We have some fascinating reading for you. For convenience here is an Index.



**P5** Robin Jenkins' article about Leicester's darkest day – 13th October 1915, the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

**P8** A find in a charity shop has led Ellen Zurek and her mother on a long quest.

**P10** Brian Screamon recounts the rescue of The City Boys' School war memorials.

**P13** The famous "Medallists" of the Belgrave Working Men's Club are brought to life by Sheila Banyard.

**P17** Jan de Jager tells the story of "The Twenty Faces of Vorden". How the graves of 20 Allied airmen who lost their lives in the skies above The Netherlands, are tended and honoured. Including one Old Boy of Gateway Grammar.

**P20** The next in our series on Memorialisation in Foreign Lands – Poland.

**Denis Kenyon**  
Project co-founder

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#### COVER IMAGE:

**The Bomb Thrower,  
Painted Lantern Slide;  
published by the London  
Illustrated News, 1916s**

# NEWS

## Move to The Botanic Gardens

Robin and I have had several meetings at **The Botanic Gardens** with the Director, Nick Bailey. He has been immensely supportive and fully appreciates that our presence there will draw in a completely different demographic, increasing the footfall which is one of their measures of success.

There is still further to go, but it looks probably that we will have our display in the large ex-dining hall and the stage in Beaumont House.



## Crowd Funding for a Revamp

Your generosity in the crowd funding we carried out last spring and summer produced just over £1,800. This was put to good use in paying for the design team at Vertigo Creative Studio Ltd to produce a completely fresh approach to displaying the war memorials.

The image gives a good idea of what it might look like. Exact positions of the memorials are still to be confirmed.



## Map



In the centre of the image is someone looking at a very large panel. This is a most interesting and unique map from WW2 which we have been asked to take into care. It may not be a war memorial but it is relevant to the county and an absolutely perfect item to launch the next stage of our development of a programme of talks and creation of a research centre of local military history.

**More will be revealed in due course.**

## Recognition of the valuable work of At Risk War Memorials Project

To my intense surprise, I was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours. I am naturally delighted, but I have made the point all along, that in all the projects in which I have been involved, I have been so fortunate in having a great group of colleagues – and it is the team which produces the results.

So everyone associated with ARWMP can also feel proud of what we have achieved together. It is a public recognition of the worth of what we do



## National Heritage Lottery Funding

As you can imagine the cost of all this is considerable – about £130,000. We have sent a Project Enquiry to the NLHF and along with various recommendations they have told us to go ahead with an Application. This is a big and somewhat complicated task, but Robin and I are already on the job..

## November 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

**R**obin gave a talk about “*Alf Burrows the Human Atom*” and his long service in the Leicestershire Regiment. It was absolutely riveting and quite moving. The full story will be in the next issue. **January 24<sup>th</sup> 2026**

A bitterly cold but sunny day saw Tom Bowers give a talk in the churchyard to a goodly crowd. “*The Found Fallen*” about four Lincolnshire Regiment soldiers who had been buried alive by a massive explosion and their remains found when building a new hospital near Lens. He gave an account of the process of identification right through to the formal military burial with honours.



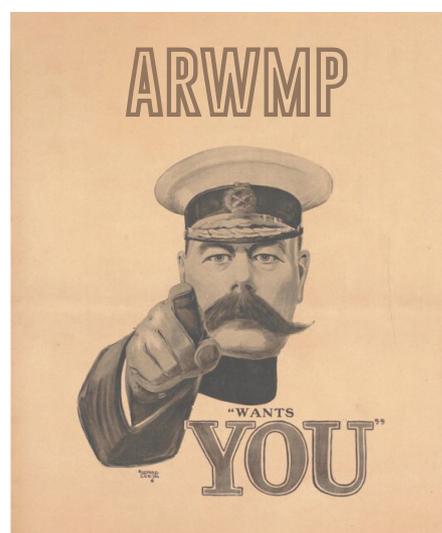
Open Days	
24 <sup>th</sup> January	11:00am - 4:00pm
14 <sup>th</sup> March	11:00am - 4:00pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	11:00am - 4:00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> July	11:00am - 4:00pm
14 <sup>th</sup> November	11:00am - 3:30pm

Heritage Open Days	
12 <sup>th</sup> September	10:00am - 6:00pm
13 <sup>th</sup> September	11:00am - 3:30pm

## Open Day Talks

**A**dding a short talk to our **Open Days** has proved to be a great success, giving a new reason to visit – and of course meet up with old friends.

**If you have an appropriate subject you would like to speak on for about 30 minutes, please do let me know via email: [denis.kenyon36@gmail.com](mailto:denis.kenyon36@gmail.com)**



## Western Front Association Meeting

16 <sup>th</sup> February	Greg Drodz	Bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Nigel Atter	The Indian Corps on the Western Front
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Jim Beach	Wyndham Lewis's War Art (1918-1919)
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Alan Robinson	The Franco-Prussian War and its consequences
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Chris Johns	German tanks at Villers-Bretonneux
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Jonathan Dale	The Young Lawrence
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Ross Beadle	Ten Decisions that settled the campaign on the Marne, 1914
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Major (Rt'd) Phil Watson	Le Cateau: A Reappraisal

Council Chamber, Braunstone Town Council, Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone Town, LEICESTER, LE3 2PP

*"They have won a name which we shall not willingly let die"*

# The Attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt

**Robin Jenkins** examines the assault on the Hohenzollern Redoubt during the Battle of Loos in October 1915, focusing on the experiences of the Leicestershire Territorial battalions who took part in one of the most costly actions of the First World War. Drawing on contemporary letters, battalion histories, and newspaper accounts, it traces the course of the attack and its devastating human cost, while reflecting on how the events at Hohenzollern were remembered at home. The story stands as both a record of military action and a testament to the courage and sacrifice of the men involved.

**T**he British offensive at Loos, in September 1915, foundered amongst the pit villages and slag heaps of French Flanders. General Haig's fifteen divisions, with insufficient artillery, attacked across an almost featureless prairie, its gentle slopes broken only by slag heaps and drainage ditches, and paid a terrible price for their bravery.

The offensive cost over 40,000 casualties and while it may have pleased hard-pressed allies, gained precious little ground. Most troubling was a bulge in the enemy lines where the Germans still clung grimly on. At the tip of this salient was the Hohenzollern Redoubt. As an old boy of Leicester's Bridge Road School wrote home: *"Don't think that the redoubt*

*named after the German dynasty was a great fortress in the sense generally used. It was really an array of trenches dug on a ridge, and of course strongly protected by wire and machine guns."*

Although hidden from the British trenches; on aerial photographs the chalky soil shows the redoubt traced in white - an intricate network of front-line and communication trenches, studded with machine-gun nests. The position was further strengthened behind by The Dump, a flattened slag heap criss-crossed with trenches and rows of battered miners' cottages, their cellars impervious to shellfire and ideal for defence. Further defensive fire came from Fosse 8, a pit head from which German observers could monitor



Above: **Portrait of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Robert Edmund Martin**

every British move.

It was decided that the Redoubt had to be taken and the salient flattened out.



Above: **Gas clouds and artillery smoke from the attack on Hohenzollern Redoubt** (courtesy of the Imperial War Museum).

*"They have won a name which we shall not willingly let die"*

Fresh troops were required and so the 46<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Division was brought down from Ypres. These were the Territorials from Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Notts. and Derbyshire, and North and South Staffordshire.

It was not until the night of 12<sup>th</sup> October that the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters began to occupy the front-line opposite the Redoubt. Behind them, filling the communication trenches was the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion in support - every man with sandbags or a shovel - to make good the captured trenches. To their left were the Lincolns, with a pioneer battalion from Monmouthshire in reserve.

One of those in the front line was Lance-corporal Pexton, a Leicester man serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters: *"On the stroke of 12 mid-day...the big guns started to roar, and the shriek of the heavy shells overhead, was like the ceaseless passage of a thousand electric cars... the two lines of trenches (German and English) were almost obscured by the clouds of thick oily black or yellow smoke from the bursting shells... At 1pm the heavy guns... were succeeded by lighter pieces, simultaneously there arose from our line a low, rising whitish cloud of vapour. Slowly, slowly it eddied and curled upwards and outwards, spreading but always advancing until the German trenches were wholly enveloped in a cloud of death."*

The British had released poison gas in an effort to lessen the devastating fire attacking troops would have to face. It may have suppressed the German frontline but from the flanks came a devastating machine gun fire. Colonel Martin, commanding Pexton's battalion was cut down immediately on leaving the trench: *"We assaulted at 2, and I wish you could have seen them go. There was nothing wrong with them then, I can tell you. And it wasn't any blooming practice either. The machine gun and rifle fire was very heavy. I suppose the Huns must have put their machine guns into deep dugouts while our guns were firing and brought them up when they lifted. I got hit by a bullet through my left leg, on our parapet, so got no distance at all, which was pretty sickening..."*

A young Territorial, whose letter home was printed in the Leicester Daily Post, had a similar experience: *"The parapet was swept by machine guns as we started...We were simply mowed down by rifle and machine gun fire... The men on the left were a little better off, as a rise in the ground shielded them a little from the machine guns...The men were simply magnificent. They went over the parapet as one man. Not one hesitated a moment, when*



Above: *The Bomb Thrower*, Painted Lantern Slide; published by the London Illustrated News, 1916.

*men were falling all around."*

The Leicesters were finally halted by fire from The Dump and the virtually impregnable cellars of the ruined miners' cottages which lay beyond the Redoubt. The Germans now threw in their reserves, with a devastating bombardment of no-man's land to cut the attackers off from any support. The battle amongst the network of trenches became a bitter fight of bayonet and hand-grenade. As the Bridge Road schoolboy observed: *"it was a bomb business... and some splendid work was done in this line"*

Some of this work was done by Drummer Gaton, of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, whose blood was clearly up: *"One bomb thrown properly will kill outright a dozen or fifteen men besides wounding many more. And the thing itself is not much larger than an egg, and much the same in shape. A man can carry fifty of them in the two bags with which we were provided for the purpose. I had one bag of twenty, and I threw eight before I was wounded... my one desire was to... kill some of the gray figures whom we could see opposite us hurling bombs as fast as they could."*

One of those killed by German grenades

was Lieutenant Thomas Whittingham, of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, who had led his men, at the double, across no-man's land, his revolver in one hand and walking stick in the other. His memorial, from St Michael and All Angels in Knighton, is preserved by the At Risk War Memorials Project.

An hour after the assault began, the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters also began to cross no-man's land. Private Fred Williamson, from Coalville, described the advance: *"It was a walk over the first line, but the second proved a bit harder. Well, after bombing and bayoneting what was there we took it, and went for the next, which, of course, proved harder still. But we took the third line. This time we took several prisoners, but not many... We had a go for a village behind. Some of my company got in the village, but could not get much further. All this time the Germans were pouring hundreds of shells into us. After holding on for about four hours, somehow or other, the order came to retire..."*

By 5 o'clock barely an officer of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion remained unhurt and increasingly desperate messages were sent appealing for bombs and officers. By this time, those Leicestershire Territorials were holding grimly

*"They have won a name which we shall not willingly let die"*

on in the front lines of the Hohenzollern Redoubt; its second and third lines untenable by either side. As Captain John Milne recorded in his history of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion: ***"The attack has been carried out with the greatest dash, courage and precision, but the odds are too great, the machine-gun fire from Fosse 8 has been devastating. No man's land is a shambles."***

With casualties in the 46<sup>th</sup> Division nearing 4,000, there was little hope of doing more than holding the nearest edge of the Redoubt - and this required reinforcements and fresh supplies of bombs and ammunition which were slow in arriving across open ground, still swept by enemy machine-guns and bombardment with high explosive and gas shells.

On the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> October, the two Leicestershire battalions were relieved. They had seized the Redoubt and against the fiercest of counter-attacks had held onto its western edge. As Private Claude Alexander described in a letter home to his parents in Leicester: ***"You can feel proud...We got as far as the third German lines, but they were too strong for us, for their trench was absolutely packed with men waiting for us. We had to pay the price for it though. We went in the trench 659 strong and came out 181 strong having nearly 500 casualties."***

Alexander's estimate wasn't far from the truth. The War Diary of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters records that 188 men answered the roll-call after the attack; representing losses in the battalion of 20 officers and 453 Other Ranks. Even in support, the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion lost 12 officers and 175 men. The casualties of the 46<sup>th</sup> Division as a whole, rose to a truly devastating 180 officers and 3,583 other ranks; most (as the Official History of the war noted) ***"in the first fifteen minutes of the attacks."***

Captain John Milne's account of the attack, in his history of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, concludes with a description of the battalion's withdrawal on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Every officer of the battalion had been killed, wounded or was missing, save for the two whose duties kept them from the front line. Milne wrote: ***"The quartermaster and the transport officer mess together alone, but they dare not look at each other."***

The news of the attack fell upon Leicestershire like a thunderclap. The Territorial Forces Association offices were besieged, newspapers sold out, and few streets did not dread the arrival of the telegram boy. Even the Petty Sessions halted in its work to acknowledge the catastrophic losses. Their



Above: Aerial photo of the Hohenzollern Redoubt, near Auchy-les-Mines, France.



Above: The Hohenzollern Redoubt, a strongly fortified defensive position (from Leicester in the Great War).

chairman, J B Everard, begged the pardon of the court ***"to refer to the grief that has fallen on the town and county... a grief that has affected all classes... We... have to mourn with some of our colleagues the loss they have sustained. We also have to mourn the loss of friends... they were given work to do, and they did it... and they have won a name which we shall not willingly let die."***

The Leicestershire Regiment's territorials long remembered the Hohenzollern Redoubt. Drummer W. G. Morris's epic poem, ***'The Great Charge'***, is but one of many accounts by participants. The old officers of the two battalions still dine together on the anniversary of the attack every year; their table

lined with black ribbon and lit with a candle for each of the officers who fell in the attack.

The Leicester Mail, even in the thick of a war filled with slaughter, had it right. On 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917 the editorial recalled: ***"At two o'clock in the afternoon of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915, the Leicesters and Lincolns went 'over the top' in their assault on the Hohenzollern fortress...The Leicesters conducted that attack as though they were on the parade ground and with a coolness which called forth a shower of compliments from all who saw them... None of their subsequent feats has... outshone the Hohenzollern... In this assurance Leicester will always cherish October 13<sup>th</sup> as a day on which memories of pride can be intermingled with those of sorrow."***

# Lost and Found: The Gale Brothers

**Ellen Zurek** recounts the discovery of two First World War memorial embroideries in a Leicester charity shop and the research undertaken to uncover the lives they commemorate, reflecting on remembrance, loss, and the responsibility of preserving memorial objects that might otherwise be forgotten.

Over ten years ago my mother found two memorial embroideries for sale in a local charity shop in Leicester. There was no indication of where they had come from prior to them gathering dust as a disregarded window display. All my mother knew was that they did not belong there and, the next day, she asked my dad to go and rescue them.

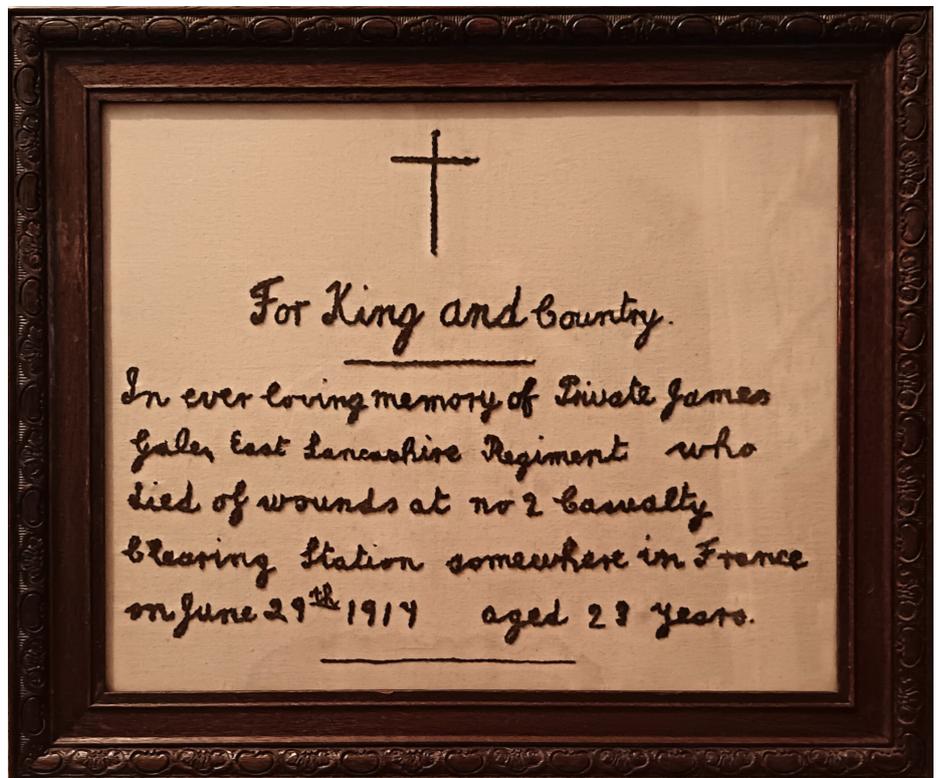
The embroideries are safely sealed away behind glass, framed in dark oak wood. A Christian cross dominates the top section of both memorials, and messages below it are meticulously stitched in with a blackish-brown thread. The words are simple, succinct and factual, but very obviously sewn with a deep love and remembrance for the men.

There is slight water damage to the linen inside the frames from a previous owner, though we have taken every care possible to preserve these remarkable finds from deteriorating any further whilst we act as their custodians.

My mother and I had countless discussions over the memorials and our curiosity over the identities of these men only grew the more we spoke. When the embroideries were found, I was still in college. My knowledge on how to research was minimal but I began my research journey nevertheless. Over the last decade, there were times when I had to put the project down for extended periods of time, yet the questions always remained: Who were these two men? Where were they from originally? What happened to them? And why were their memorials in a charity shop in Leicester?

It was a mystery I was determined to solve. Early research revealed that they were two brothers.

James Gale, born on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1894, was the first of James Gale (Snr.) and Eliza Gale's six children. He was born in Crediton, Devon and



**" For King and Country  
In ever loving memory of Private James Gale,  
East Lancashire Regiment, who died of wounds  
at no 2 Casualty Clearing Station somewhere  
in France on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1917  
aged 23 years. "**

was baptised in Sandford. Further research showed school documents, which stated that he was in education by 1900, attending the Heathcote Lace School in Tiverton. The

family remained in Tiverton for quite a while, with the 1901 census reporting they lived in Bampton Street.

James had moved away by the 1911 census

## Lost and Found: The Gale Brothers

to Sidmouth, where he worked as a Hotel Kitchen Porter at the Knowle Hotel.

When it comes to his military career, it is stated that he enlisted in Plymouth though the year is unknown. Upon further research I discovered a slightly unusual occurrence; James Gale was first enlisted in the Navy before joining the East Lancashire Regiment in France.

From this document it is learnt that James was working as an Officer's Cook and that his Naval number was L6268. The details on the naval document are a match to James, with the exception of his year of birth, which matches the incorrect data on the 1911 census rather than his actual birth year. I still need to research this further before I can fully verify its accuracy, and to ascertain how and when he transferred to the Army.

What is certain, however, is that James Gale was wounded in action whilst serving with the 1/4th Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment. The battalion was part of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division in June 1917, and was stationed in Havrincourt Wood.

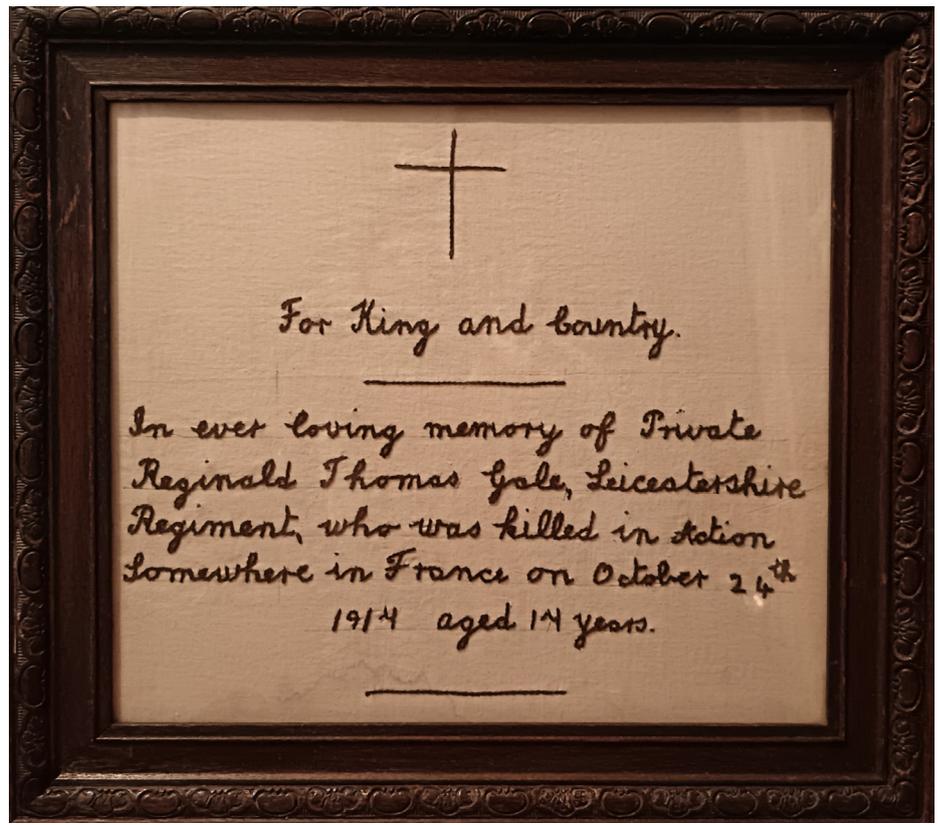
According to the war diaries, James was wounded on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1917 and, although the memorial in my care states he was taken to Casualty Clearing Station 2, I have discovered it was more likely that he was taken to CCS 21, which was stationed in Ytres at this time. Nevertheless, James died of his wounds on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1917 at the age of 23. He is buried at the Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery in Manancourt, France.

His younger brother, Reginald Thomas Gale, was the third born child of James Snr. and Eliza. Though born in Tiverton, he was baptised in Thorverton on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1900 in, and by 1911 he was living in Wellington, Somerset.

According to the Leicestershire Regiment's Have you a Tiger in your family? website, Reginald's home address was given as Torquay, Devon and he enlisted at Newton Abbot. Like his brother, the 14-15 Star is absent from his medal card so it is to be assumed that he enlisted in either 1916 or early 1917.

He first served in the North Devonshire Hussars but eventually transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment.

In October 1917, Reginald's battalion were building light railways in the Dikesbusch & Ypres area of Belgium. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> October



**“ For King and Country  
In ever loving memory of Private Reginald  
Thomas Gale, Leicestershire Regiment, who was  
killed in action somewhere in France on October  
24<sup>th</sup> 1917  
aged 17 years. ”**

the diary reported that a shell dropped, killing 8 men. The next day, on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, the diary states that “1 man was killed in action”, this man being Reginald. He was only 17 years old. He is buried at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery in Belgium.

The story of these two men has gripped me for the last decade. My initial aim had been to discover who the two soldiers on the embroideries were, but it has since spiralled into trying to bring life to those around them too; their family, their workplaces, their fellow soldiers. I have not fully exhausted my

research for James and Reginald, however. Many questions still surround them both, such as James's possible Navy stint and Reginald's time in the North Devonshire Hussars.

Some questions will never be answered, such is the way research often goes, but new documents are always coming to light. Had I shelved this project in 2015, many of the pieces of information I have found since would still be buried, and I now feel a sense of duty to bring the stories of the Gale brothers to light however I can.

# Rescue of the City Boys' School War Memorial Plaques

**Brian Screaton**

recounts the rescue of the City Boys' School memorial plaques.

**B**ack in 1959 I somehow managed to pass the 11-plus and was presented with a choice between the four Leicester grammar schools for my next place of education. Living on the Thurnby Lodge estate, on the east side of Leicester, the choice was obvious as the L38 bus from Thurnby Lodge stopped right outside the City of Leicester Boys' School on Humberstone Gate for both inward and outward journeys. The other grammar schools, Alderman Newton's, Gateway and Wyggeston, would have involved long walks across town.

Going from a modern Junior School to the City Boys' building, dating from 1878, was rather like entering Hogwarts – in fact the Great Hall could easily have doubled as a location for the Harry Potter films. It was in this Hall that memorial plaques for those former pupils who died in both wars were affixed to the back wall. Moving forward to 1965, just after I left the school, a new building to house the school was opened on Downing Drive, adjacent to the Spencefield Lane Secondary Modern school.

Along with everything else, the memorial plaques were moved to the Downing Drive building, but unfortunately were placed in

unsuitable locations. The First World War plaque was bronze and was at a height where, sadly, it was prone to vandalism with penknives and other implements. The Second World War memorial was a large oak board with the names of the fallen painted on it. This was placed at low height in an entrance lobby and the constant brushing past by pupils and others had made some of the names almost illegible.

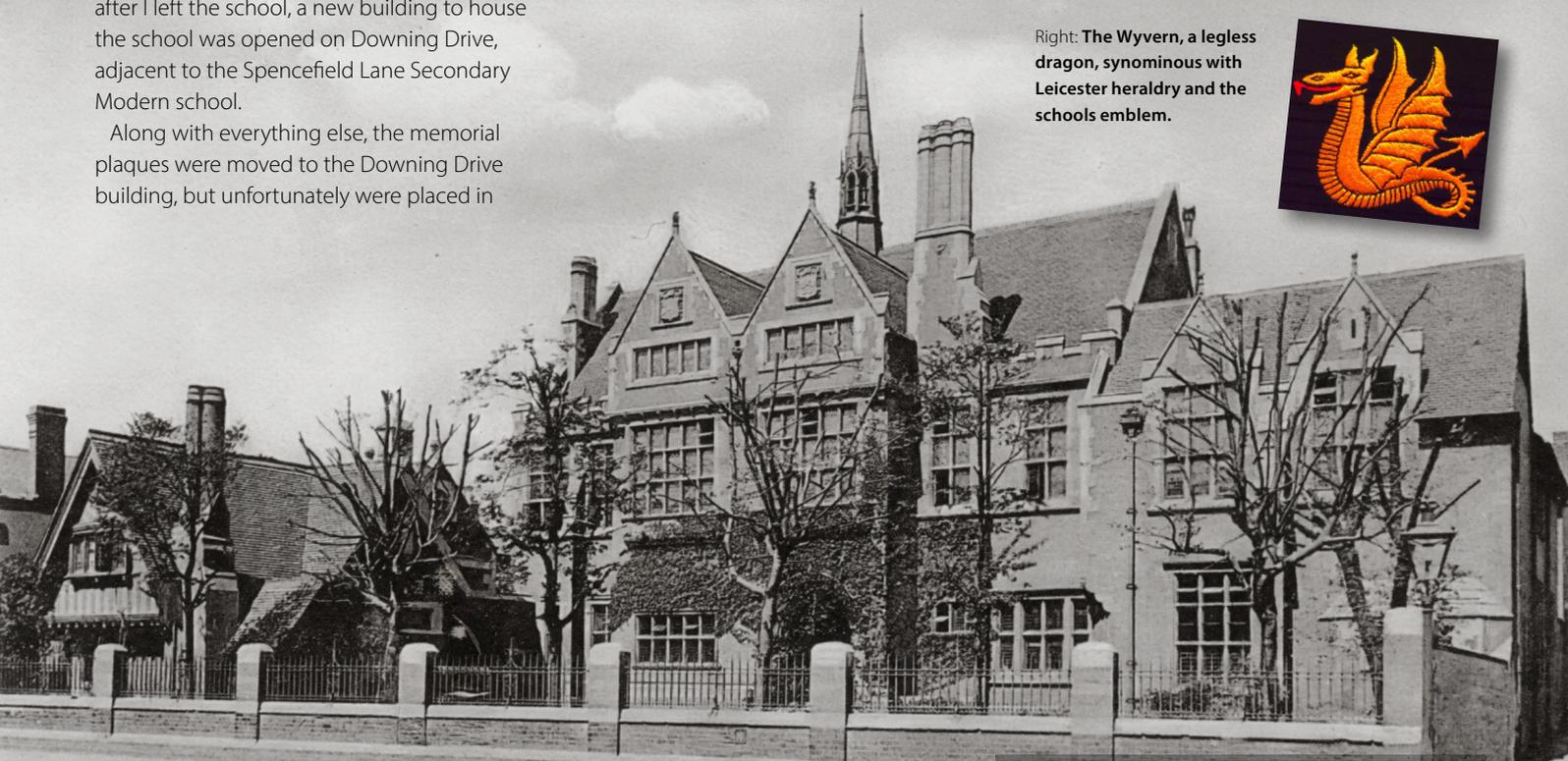
In 2006 another former pupil, Stewart Smith, had cause to visit the school and found that the memorials had disappeared. No-one seemed to know where they had gone, and they were thought to be lost, but as a result of continued enquiries by Stewart and

myself they were eventually discovered in the school's boiler room. This was alarming as the heat could of course damage the woodwork of the Second World War board. We decided that they must be rescued, and I approached Age Concern (as they then were) who were



Above: **The Great Hall of the school, June 1945 School Prospectus**

Right: **The Wyvern, a legless dragon, synonymous with Leicester heraldry and the schools emblem.**



Above: **Postcard of City Boy's School, formerly Wyggeston Hospital Girl's School, a former site of an asylum**

# From Boiler Room to Great Hall

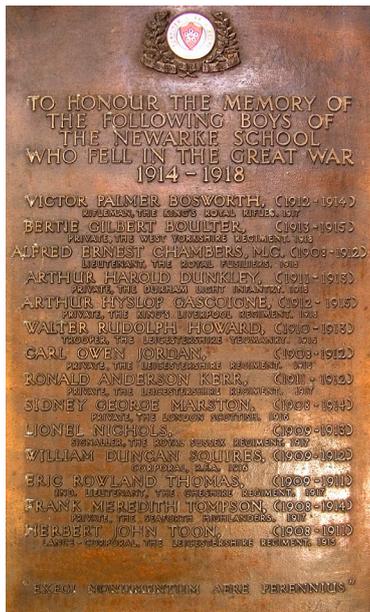
the tenants of the Humberstone Gate former school building (now called Clarence House), to see if they would allow them to be restored to their original location.

To their great credit Age Concern were very enthusiastic about this proposal, and so Stewart and I were able to

arrange to collect the plaques from Downing Drive, but they couldn't be immediately re-installed as their damage needed to be repaired, which is another story in itself. The bronze First World War plaque had been deeply scarred, and a friend in our village who knew about such things took a look at it and concluded that it had a special coating, and so would need the attention of an expert. He recommended a metalworker in Ely, by the name of Chris Bowen, who readily agreed to take on the job.

The Second World War board obviously needed a different type of attention, to repaint the names which had almost disappeared. I was fortunate here to be put in touch with a recently retired signwriter by the name of John Sargeant who lived at East Goscote. I delivered the relevant items to Chris and John and within a few weeks both phoned me to say that the work was done. They had both made really excellent jobs but were reluctant to accept any payment – they said that they had really enjoyed doing the work. We had raised funds for the restorations from our Old Boys association, called the Wyvernians, and eventually I managed to get Chris and John to accept half of what the jobs would normally have cost.

Arrangements were then made with Age Concern for the plaques to be reinstated in their former location, in the Great Hall of Clarence House, and again they excelled themselves in helpfulness, as they provided two of their maintenance staff to carry out the re-erection. When this was completed an unveiling and re-dedication of the plaques was arranged for 17th March 2007, during



Above: **The bronze plaque recordings the names of former pupils killed in the First World Wars. Right: The Second World War memorial bears seventy-seven names**

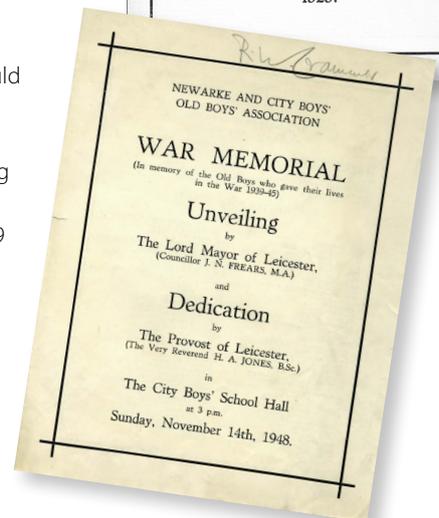
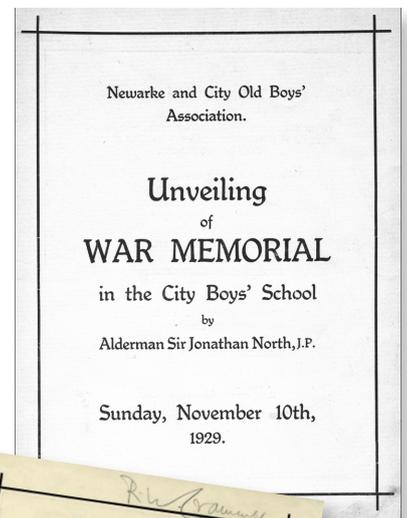
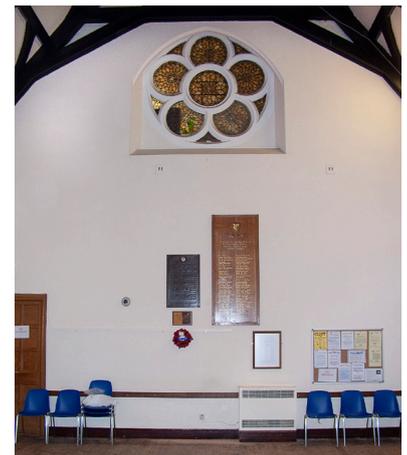


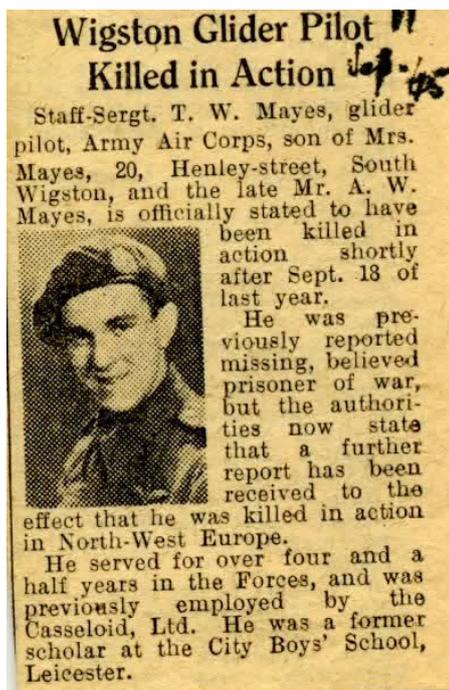
Top-right: **The memorials returned to their original location, 2007. Right: Dennis Duggan (left) founder of the Wyvernians, and the Reverend Gerald Rimmington who rededicated the memorials, after the ceremony. Right Unveiling of the First World War plaque programme, 1929. Bottom-right: Unveiling of the Second World War memorial programme, 1948.**

one of the Wyvernians' Reunions. The service was conducted by the Reverend Gerald Rimmington, who was also a former City Boys' pupil. Representatives of the City of Leicester College (as City Boys' had become by then) were also present and a wreath was laid by former pupil and a Commander in the Royal Navy, Ed Featherstone.

The First World War plaque refers to the Newark School, as you may be able to discern in the photographs, and carries fourteen names, including four who were serving in Leicestershire regiments. All would have been pupils at the Newark School, which split into separate girls and boys schools in 1919, the boys section becoming the City Boys' school. The plaque was originally unveiled on 10th December 1929 by Alderman Sir Jonathan North JP.

There are seventy-seven names on the Second World War board, which were collated by the school's headmaster Ralph Crammer MA by placing an advertisement in the Leicester Mercury in October 1946 requesting the names





Above: newspaper report of Staff Sergeant Thomas Mayes' death at Arnhem.



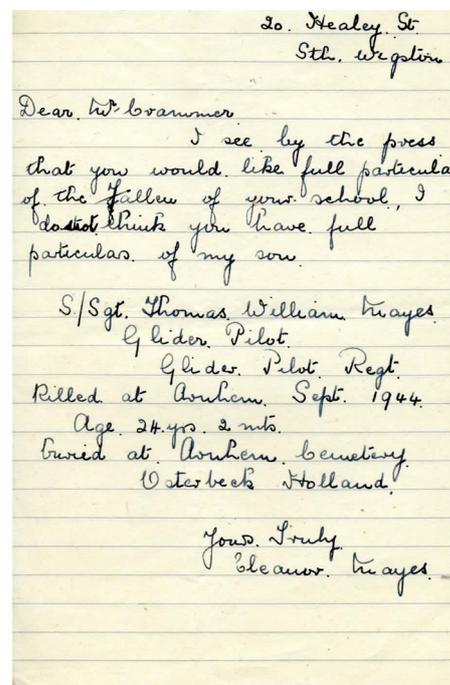
Above: Sergeant Mayes gravestone buried at Arnhem War cemetery



Above: SS Ceramic which, with Harry Murby on board, was torpedoed in December 1942 by a German U-Boat.



Right: Letter written by Thomas Mayes' mother, Eleanor, notifying the school headmaster, Ralph Crammer, of her son's death. Above: Harry Murby's school cap which somehow remained at the school for over 71 years after his sad death.



of those former pupils who had been killed during the war, for the purpose of compiling a school memorial. A small collection of the poignant letters that he received is now in the Records Office at Wigston, and what is striking about them is the matter-of-fact way in which bereaved parents notified him of their terrible loss. The memorial board was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor JN Frears MA, on Sunday 14th November 1948, and was dedicated by the Provost of Leicester, the Very Reverend NA Jones B.Sc.

Research has been carried out on some of the servicemen listed, including Lieutenant Alan Dockerty of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who was killed in Normandy on 7th June 1944, which was the day after D-Day. He was shot whilst leading his platoon into a battle against the 125th Panzer Grenadiers. His grave is at La Delivrande Cemetery, Douvres, about five miles inland from the Normandy Beaches.

Staff Sergeant Thomas Mayes was a Glider Pilot in the Army Air Corps. He was killed during Operation Market Garden at Arnhem on 18th September 1944 and is buried in Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery.

Sergeant Harry Stockton Murby RASC drowned at sea off the Azores on the 6th/7th December 1942. He was aboard the 18,713 ton steamer 'Ceramic' when it was hit by torpedoes fired by U-Boat 515, commanded by Werner Henke. Strangely, Harry's school cap came to light just before the 'new' school at Downing Drive was demolished in 2013, having spent over seventy-one years in the offices of various teachers. It bears the name 'H. Murby' and has a gold tassel indicating that he was a prefect.

Age Concern is now known as AgeUK and is now the owner of Clarence House, so the memorials now seem to be safe in their custody. Incidentally the new school on Downing Drive to which City Boys' moved

in 1965 was found to be so poorly built that it had to be demolished in 2013, whilst Clarence House, the original school building in Humberstone Gate designed by Edward Burgess and built in 1878, is still there and still fulfilling a very useful purpose.

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