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The Newsletter of the Halifax Military History Society

Editor's Notes

Welcome to the Summer edition of our e-Magazine where we have two references the King's honours awards. Peter Liddle's award conferred by the recently crowned Charles III in his birthday honours, is very much set in the present day, whilst we need to go back to George V in 1917 for what was then a new awards system, recognising the exploits and achievements of many from the Great War 1914-18.

Graham Bradshaw continues the story of David Moffatt, our newly discovered Halifax hero from the Second world War, whilst a discovery in the graveyard of a magnificent church leads us to the tragic story of the mutiny at the Kinmel camp in North Wales.

We end with an intriguing and provocative photographic portrait of a soldier taken during the American Civil War, which surely must go down as one of the most unusual uniforms ever captured on camera.

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Dr. Peter Liddle OBE.

David Millichope

As was recently announced, Dr Peter Liddle, our long-standing patron, has been awarded an OBE in the recent King's birthday honours in recognition of his unique and extraordinary contribution to our understanding of the two world wars. He achieved this through a lifetime's work, tape recording interviews with those caught up in the country's conflicts, collecting documented personal experiences (diaries, letters and memoirs) as well as numerous other artefacts. His collections were eventually housed at Leeds University (The Liddle First World War Collection), and at the Second World War Experience Centre in Otley.



Peter's journey began in the 1960s as a school teacher in Sunderland, where he became passionately interested in igniting the interest of his pupils. His archive of the Great War was begun privately in Peter's own home during the early 1970s, before eventually its sheer size brought pressure to seek out a larger establishment, where it could be looked after by a full time curator and made more accessible for all users.

Housing it did not prove an easy matter, but with Peter's immense drive and the assistance of Professor David Dilks (then Professor of International History at the University of Leeds and later Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull), it was added to the Special Collections of the University of Leeds in 1988.

It is now a substantial and exceptionally valuable national archive, extensively used by students, authors and historians. Indeed, its significance is without parallel in this country and, quite probably in any other country. It holds the tape-recorded testimonies of about 4,500 veterans of the Great War. Most of these were personally taped by Peter who travelled around the UK in his own time and at his own expense, as well as to worldwide destinations including New Zealand and South Africa. A further archive was established at The Second World War Experience Centre at Otley and holds the records of 9000 men and women, 5000 of them personally taped by Peter himself.



In preparing Peter's nomination I received several testimonies from Peter's past students pointing out his passion to preserve history, feeling genuine pain at the idea of history being lost, of someone dying without telling their story. There is no question that Peter was one of the pioneers of oral history, doing in the late 1960s what virtually no one else was doing.

He developed a framework for his recordings that maximised their usefulness as primary historical evidence, basing his interviews on legal templates that would be admissible in court. He was interested solely in what the subject themselves had seen or done, and not in hearsay. It is a model which has been widely followed since.

The archives place emphasis on a fundamental sense of **equality**; the idea that the voice of the ordinary working-class citizen is no less valuable than that of the famous politician or general, capturing voices that are often missed or ignored, and in key categories of experience such as civilian internment, the wartime experience of children, and conscientious objection.

The Newsletter of the Halifax Military History Society

Peter has been a prolific author drawing considerably on the collected testimonies of his archives. His two volumes of 'Captured Memories' (Pen and Sword, 2010-11) contain a small selection of the transcripts from his recorded interviews and stand out as exemplars of his life's work. He recently edited a trilogy marking the centenary of the First World War, bringing together a wide range of expert contributors to cover all aspects of the conflict.



Celebration party at Mickley, July 29 2023

Throughout his career, and in the building of the archives, he has always been generous with his knowledge and enormously supportive of many individuals wishing to study and understand the experiences of the two world wars. Typical of this, has been Peter Liddle's involvement with our own organisation, The Halifax Great War Heritage Society, set up in 2012 to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. He had been alerted to our website by a colleague and wrote to us commending its content. A relationship developed and he was later invited to be the patron of our fledgling society. In this he has given us unstinting support and encouragement in the work we have been doing. This has gone way beyond token gestures, willingly giving talks to our meetings, entirely free of charge, and has always gone the extra mile encouraging, advising and commending the work we do.

In summary, Peter Liddle has created two truly remarkable archives. He has done this through tenacity and determination, often having to overcome difficult obstacles, and in the process has made a significant difference in our perception of oral history as an important tool for historical research. He has devoted much of his time enthusiastically disseminating the value of his archives amongst other people, as well as encouraging and supporting them in their interest and research of the two world wars. His service to our country in the preservation and understanding of British History is exceptional.

Cockleshell Heroes:

Part 2 David Gabriel Moffatt

Graham Bradshaw

The first part of the story of the Cockleshell Heroes in the last issue of the Newsletter described how only two of the ten Marines returned to England from the mission to canoe up the Gironde River, to destroy enemy ships in the port of Bordeaux. This second part tells the story of David Gabriel Moffatt from his early life in Halifax to his training for Operation Frankton to his fate in that daring raid.

Early Life in Halifax

David was two years old when he moved from Belfast, where he was born, to Halifax. It would appear that his father John had moved to Halifax sometime before, as he was living with his eldest brother, George, at No1 Buxton Street, Lee Mount, in 1921.

George was an overlooker at Crossley's Carpets at Dean Clough where John also worked. George had lived in Halifax for at least twelve years and married a Halifax girl, Mary Lister from Lee Mount who had started working at Dean Clough at the age of eleven, as a half timer.

David's mother Elizabeth who arrived in Halifax in 1922, started work at Dean Clough in November of that year and was living at No 2 Charlestown Road. Presumably this became their first family home in Halifax for John, Elizabeth and their three sons David, John and James.

David later started at St Joseph's Roman Catholic School which was still in the old building on Lister's Road, near to the Godley Bridge-a short uphill walk from Charlestown. David would have been about nine when the school occupied the building on Portland Road. It would have been about this time that David joined the 15th Halifax troop of the scouts at St Bernard's Church



Training and Operation Frankton

Before joining the Royal Marines in April 1941 David worked at Balme and Prichard Ltd, dyers of Atlas Works, Halifax which was at the bottom of Seburgh Road on the west bank of the Hebble Brook. He was five feet nine inches tall, with a strong frame and a thin face with a mop of dark brown hair. He was well known in the marines as being a mimic who would take off personalities in the Royal Marines Barracks in Eastney, particularly among the non-commissioned officers-for which he got in trouble more than once, even if it cost him a "double" to Eastney barracks and back. He would occasionally turn his shirt collar back to mimic perfectly one of the local parsons.

The marines barracks in Eastney, near Portsmouth was the base for the preparation for the mission, from there exercises were carried out along different parts of the south coast. In November the group moved to the naval basis on the Clyde from where they would be taken by submarine HMS Tuna to the Gironde estuary. In the last week before the start of Operation Frankton on 20th November 1942 David was "celebrating" his 22nd birthday with his colleagues carrying out a mock raid on the commando base at Ardnaham, then going on a cross country march followed by practice in setting chemical fuses on limpet mines.

On 30 November 1942, HMS Tuna sailed out of the naval base on the Clyde at 10:30 am. At 11:30 am Hasler briefed the rest of his team on the details of the operation for the first time. Hasler paused to ask if they had any questions to which one of the marines asked what was on everybody's mind-"How do we get back". They were told that the submarine would not be coming back for them, but they would have to split up into pairs and make their own way back through France and Spain. In the tradition of many war films Hasler finished by saying "If there is anyone feels that this operation is too much for him, I want him to say so now. No one will think any worse of him." Marine Moffatt said nothing nor did any of the other men.



The Tuna arrived at the drop off point on 7 December, a voyage which was extremely uncomfortable for the marines who were cramped in the forward torpedo compartment without bedding except for a blanket and no ventilation when the vessel was submerged, which was throughout the daylight hours. When sailing on the surface at night time the submarine rolled and pitched causing seasickness amongst the marines. During the voyage there were lectures for the marines, examining photos of approach and instructions for escape. On the fifth day the men were given pens and paper to write additional farewell letters to their relatives and loved ones in the event that they did not return. Some men did not take up the offer but some did, it is not known if David wrote.

Just after 7:30pm on 7 December 1942 the canoes were taken onto Tuna's casing for launching. When Eric Fisher's canoe was being brought up onto the deck it was damaged one of the fastenings on the forward hatch. Fisher, who was David's best mate and another member of the team with a Northern Irish connection, was devastated when he could not take part in the operation. Despite pleading from him and his partner in the damaged canoe, they were ordered to stay on the submarine. Before going down below he told David to "Hurry up back. I'll have a pint waiting for you at the Granada" a pub in Eastney they had frequented. Fisher was heartbroken at being left behind; he told a work mate many years after the war, that he just sat down and cried.



The five remaining canoes set off on the mission in reasonably good conditions and made good progress until they found themselves in an area of tidal overfalls which cause the sea to become turbulent. The marines had to canoe as fast as they could to push through the rough sea to the calmer waters on the other side. Four got through but one did not and since it was now just after midnight they had to press on and hope that their colleagues had not capsized and they would carry on alone. The remaining four had not gone much further when they came upon another overfall which was much rougher than the last with five foot high waves. Moffatt and Sheard were soon in the sea clinging to their capsized canoe. There was nothing that could be done with the water logged canoes so Moffatt and Sheard were told to cling to the stern of two other canoes with the intention of taking them closer to the shore so that they could swim to safety.

After both men had been in the water about one hour they were suffering badly from the cold with Sheard being in a worse condition than Moffatt. Hasler was aware of the danger they were all in if they did not reach the other side of the estuary before day break, so he had to make the decision to release the two marines, he said I am sorry, "But we have to leave you here. You must swim for it. I am terribly sorry".

Moffatt and Sheard were not seen again with only Hasler and his partner Bill Sparks surviving-all the others were shot by the Germans. Samuel Wallace and Jock Ewart were captured interrogated and held for two days before being shot. John MacKinnon, James Conway, Albert Laver and Bill Mills were also caught and, it is thought, handed over to the Gestapo, held for three months then shot by firing squad.

David's body was washed ashore on the island of Ile de Re, off the coast of France about 80 miles north of the Gironde estuary. A 16 year old French boy found David's body on the Gros Jonc Beach and the Germans found his identity tag on his body with the initials RC denoting his religion along with his name and service number. He was buried in the adjacent sand dunes in an unmarked grave, as were many other bodies found on that beach during the war. He lies there somewhere still.



David's parents in Lee Mount knew nothing of their son's whereabouts, his mother thought he was safe in Portsmouth, but she received a telegram on 6 April 1943 which stated that "From information received from a German Casualty List, the body of your son, David Moffatt, Mne Ply X 108881 was washed ashore on 17 December 1942 at La Bloissenre(sic) and your son was buried on the Ridge of Dunes."

On 12 May 1943 David's mother received a letter from Vice-Admiral Lord Louis Montbatten, Chief of Combined Operations. "I have only just heard of the death and burial of your son. At the time he was lost at sea, David Moffatt was taking part in a hazardous Combined Operation, for which he volunteered. I cannot give you details of this operation, but it will comfort you to know that it was successful. Your son's life was not given in vain. I sympathise deeply and share with you his loss".

There are plans for a memorial to be set up in Halifax to David Gabriel Moffatt. Part 3 of the Cockleshell Heroes will look at the memorials in the UK and France and the many commemorations over the years. It is anticipated that more detail of the memorial should be known for the next edition of the magazine.

Halifax Hero

The well known local artist J J Mulroy, who produced sketches for the Halifax Courier, writes in his book "Story of the Town that Bred Us", published in 1948 to mark the centenary of Halifax receiving the Charter of Incorporation in 1848:

"Whenever one of our local sons achieves greatness in the outer world he remains his own man, but becomes also our joint possession."

Mulroy gives J H Whitley, the former Speaker in the House of Commons, has an example of the towns sense of ownership and would have most likely have included David Moffatt if the town had known of his bravery. So although David was born in Belfast and his family would have been proud of their roots he was very much a Halifax lad who became a Halifax Hero.

Mulroy later painted the portrait of Hanson Victor Turner VC, the only VC to be awarded to a Halifax citizen in World War II. It is interesting to note that the Mulroy family came from Ireland in the mid 19th century following a recruitment campaign by Crossley's Carpets, where many of the Moffatt family worked at the beginning of the 20th century. The Mulroys also lived in Lee Mount for many years around the turn of the century.

The Marble Church and the Kinmel Mutiny

Peter Walls

St Margaret's Church, Bodelwyddan, is a Decorated Gothic Style parish church in the lower Vale of Clwyd in North Wales and is visible for many miles because its spire rises to 202 feet. It lies just off the main A55 trunk road. Perhaps for obvious reasons, it is known as "the Marble Church".

I first saw the church, from a train, on my way to uni in Bangor, in 1967, and thought that one day it might be nice to go and have a closer look at it. Over the years, I passed by on the train, later on the A55 coast road, always thinking, "One day..."



Eventually, somewhere around 2017, my wife and I were in Llandudno and decided actually to make the trip along the coast, just a few miles. The first thing that struck us, as we pulled up, was that it had quite a large car park for a church that size. The second thing, on getting out of the car, was that the graveyard that was situated between the car park and the church building contained a number of headstones that were obviously marking Commonwealth War Graves. Later investigation revealed that, in total, 112 Commonwealth service personnel from World War I are commemorated in St Margaret's Churchyard.

Going into the church and reading the information boards that are dotted around it, we discovered that nearby, immediately to the west of the church, was Kinmel Camp, a military training camp opened in 1915 and used by Canadian troops during the First World War. After the Armistice, thousands of Canadian troops remained in Europe and the military had initially planned to send the forces home at the earliest opportunity. However, considerable numbers of the troops had relatives and friends that lived in Britain and their deployment provided the opportunity to visit them, a chance they would otherwise be unlikely to have. The army gave in to these demands and stationed troops at Kinmel Camp during their stay.

Conditions in the camp were described as "basic" and the soldiers began to grow dissatisfied with their living conditions after several months. Their chances to be repatriated home were also delayed on more than one occasion when troop carriers, initially designated for them, were used to transport other units home or to take food supplies to Russia. The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-19 also claimed the lives of 80 soldiers at the barracks. In early 1919, small instances of looting occurred in the camp before, on 4-5 March, the so-called Kinmel Park Mutiny broke out, in which 20,000 war-weary soldiers expressed their anger at their treatment. The riot erupted in the Canadian section of the camp, and lasted for a night and a day. Five Canadian soldiers were killed in the disturbances, four of whom were buried in St Margaret's Churchyard, with the fifth, Gunner John Frederick Hickman, being buried in Dorchester, New Brunswick. Another 23 men were injured.

A common story is that the men who died were executed for mutiny, but this has been denied by the Canadian Department of National Defence. Of the 112 Commonwealth service personnel from World War I who are commemorated in St Margaret's Churchyard, most were victims of the Spanish Flu. More than 80 of the graves are Canadian, and there are also Special Memorial headstones to four British soldiers who were buried at St Peter's Churchyard in Holywell. There are also two war graves of British servicemen from World War II.

Munitions Explosions

Rob Hamilton

By 1917 the First World War had entered its third year and no end was in sight. The whole empire had been mobilised in the war effort and a need had arisen to recognise a wider range of services than had been the case when wars were confined largely to combatants. The difficulty was that the existing awards, except for those of civilian gallantry, were virtually restricted to persons in public service or who held public office and, in consequence, they were ill suited to the enlargement necessary. Various expedients were considered in regard to civilian and military wards but eventually the King decided that the solution lay in the creation of a new Order entitled "The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" to which persons who had rendered important services to the Empire were to be admitted. For the first time women were to be admitted equally with men, and the innovation coincided with Parliamentary acceptance of women's suffrage. It was also decided that amongst the first awards of the medal should be a generous allotment for munitions workers who had displayed courage and devotion to do duty under hazardous circumstances.

Amongst the recipients of this new order were no less than ten Calderdale citizens who had the misfortune to be involved in two incidents at munitions factories which, coincidentally, occurred on the same day, 22nd December 1917.

The first occurred at 5:30am at the premises of Brookes Chemicals Ltd, Hipperholme, which was situated on part of the site presently occupied by the former Crosslee Ltd. The company was involved in the manufacture of explosives when a serious explosion occurred which took the lives of five of the men working there.

John Cowburn (52), Agar Street, Girlington
Thomas Smith Shannon (29), Malt Shovel Yard, Halifax
Thomas Walker Wilson (58), Whitechapel Lane, Cleckheaton.
James Arthur Begg (31), Hipperholme
Herbert Moore (30), Shipley

Due to wartime reporting restrictions details of what happened were not released but no fewer than 8 people were awarded the OBE for their actions during the incident

Herbert Smith, George St, Hipperholme
Arthur Robinson , Westfield, Lightcliffe
Emily Brook, Pearson Fold, Hipperholme
Norah Eggen/Wadsworth, St Mark St, Boothtown
Maude Fisher, Filey St, Claremount
Alice Hanson, George St, Hipperholme
Harry Hepworth, George St, Hipperholme
Albert Lickess, Brooklands, Hipperholme

Once again, due to censorship, the reasons for their awards were limited to citations such as that for Maude Fisher which simply stated, 'for great courage shown at an outbreak of fire in an explosives factory'



Emily Brooke



Maude Fisher



Alice Hanson

After the war reports in the local papers were more forthcoming and a report appeared in the Halifax Weekly Courier on 11th January 1919 entitled.

HIPPERHOLME DISASTER

The Hipperholme explosion occurred at 5:30 in the morning in the concentrating plant at Messrs Brookes. Great consternation was caused in the district with people running into the streets terrified. Fortunately, apart from the loss of life, no serious damage was done though windows were broken wholesale at many of the houses. The damage was nothing compared to that at Low Moor or even at Copley. HM Inspector of explosives, who made investigations, thought that the most likely explanation for the explosion was that picric (a chemical used in the manufacture of explosives) had got into the brickwork close to the firebox but it was not definitely ascertained what the actual cause of the explosion was.

At the coroner's inquest the jury returned a verdict of accidental death and expressed the opinion that Messrs Brookes had taken all proper precautions to prevent accidents. The coroner then mentioned that Mr Herbert Smith, George Street, Hipperholme behaved in a splendid manner after the explosion, not only in helping to get the fire out but in going to the assistance of Mr Cowburn. Mr Smith was awakened by the explosion and at once dressed and ran from his home to the works, where he was employed as chemist. He heard groaning from the top end of the tank shed and, though picric was blazing about 10 yards away, he jumped down into the shed and made towards a place from whence the groans were coming. He found Cowburn standing in an acid tank holding onto an electric light wire. With help, Mr Smith got him out and dressed his injuries.



No mention was made of the activities of any of the other men and women who had received the OBE

The second incident occurred at the premises of Sharp and Mallet Ltd, Wakefield Road, Copley. The buildings, long since demolished, were on the opposite side of the canal to the present-day Railway Terrace. There were 2 explosions followed by a fire at around midday. As this was a Saturday most of the workforce had finished for the day so only one employee was seriously burned, Mrs Bridget Agnes Haigh (40) of Calder Street, Caddy Field, Halifax, who succumbed to her injuries three weeks later in the Halifax Infirmary. Unfortunately, a 4-year-old girl, Annis Pearson, was struck by falling debris as will be described later, making her the youngest Calderdale war casualty.

Two men were awarded the OBE. Mr Tom Coe of Elm cottages, Bradford Road Brighouse and Mr William Derricut, Washer Lane, Sowerby Bridge. Once again it was not until 1919 that more details of the incident were reported in the press. The Brighouse & Elland Echo of 10 January 1919 gave this account of the actions of Coe and Derricut.

Mr Coe was the foreman in the packing department of Messrs Sharpe and Mallet and was carrying out his duties at the time of the incident. He immediately ordered the turning on of all the sprinklers and there is no doubt that this action prevented large quantities of high explosives from blowing up. There was a woman working in one of the large drying stoves and at great personal risk to their lives Coe and Derricut entered the stove and with great difficulty managed to get the unfortunate woman away, but before doing so Coe was blown off his feet and when part of the roof of the store fell in, it was only by a miracle that he was not buried. Although the woman was in a state of collapse, having been badly burned, Coe and Derricut got her to the ambulance and she was at once conveyed to the Halifax Infirmary. As soon as Coe had finished at this exploit he ran for a hosepipe and was instrumental in saving large quantities of picric acid which would almost certainly have exploded had it been left in its dry state. Coe was badly bruised and his clothes torn and burnt but he sustained no harm of a serious nature and was all right again in about a month's time.



The following day the Halifax Courier contained an article under the banner headline

COPLEY EXPLOSION: AN AWESOME SPECTACLE

Before the excitement consequent on the Hipperholme explosion had time to subside many already high strung nerves were further shocked by the Copley detonations. These occurred at noon, the first about 1:45 and the second only a minute or two later. Residents of Copley were naturally alarmed, their houses were violently shaken, many of them badly damaged and, fearing there may be further calamity, many of them fled to the woods for safety. Assistance was forthcoming in remarkably quick time, the Fire Brigade, a large number of police, ambulance men and women and doctors all hastening to the village. Copley Council school was converted into a temporary first aid station but fortunately there were not many patients to attend to, only six being conveyed to the Infirmary. The houses in Railway Terrace suffered most, practically every window here being broken and the roofs were in many places shorn of their slates. Internally several houses were a wreck, plaster being torn from the ceilings and walls, soot fell down the chimneys and the furniture was in disarray. It was a rude shock which will never be forgotten and the chief compensation was the thought that it might have been much worse, especially in regard to the loss of life. In the opinion of many the railway embankment situated between Railway Terrace and the scene of the explosions saved the long row of dwelling houses from absolute destruction.

At the Coroner's enquiry held on Thursday, January 10, a pathetic story was told by Mrs Pearson of St Stephen's Street, Copley, mother of the child Annis who was killed. At the time of the explosion she was in the house with her 3 children aged 6, 4 and 2. Being alarmed she took the youngest child in her arms and Annis by the hand, running with them into the street, the eldest child following. Her intention was to take them into the wood for safety but she had only just crossed the street when a second bang was heard and then came stones and bricks flying in all directions. One brick caught her baby's arm and broke it, simultaneously striking Mrs Pearson on the breast. It then caught Annis on the head killing her instantaneously. Mrs Pearson carried her youngest child with the broken arm through the wood to West Vale travelling from there by tramcar to Halifax Infirmary.

The deceased woman, Mrs Haigh, whose duty was to clean the stoves was in the second one when it caught fire. She ran out, her clothing being ablaze, and but for prompt assistance she would probably have been killed on the spot. Her injuries, however, were so severe that she died in the infirmary about three weeks later. Seeing her in flames, a workman and a member of the works Fire Brigade, Benjamin William Derricut of Washer Lane, Sowerby Bridge, showed great courage by running towards the burning building and rescuing her. No sooner had he done so that the place blew up. He put the woman in a motor car along with an injured man and accompanied them to the Infirmary. Derricut was complemented by the Coroner on his courage and promptness.

Although both incidents had occurred on the same day and a short time apart the subsequent investigations concluded that both were caused accidentally, and the possibility of sabotage was ruled out. The manufacture of explosives at Sharp and Mallet was transferred to the nearby Government Munitions Factory at Greetland which had been built in 1917 on a site currently occupied by an industrial estate on Stainland Road. The factory was demolished in the 1920s and nothing now remains of it. It is not known if explosives continued to be manufactured at Brookes Chemicals in Hipperholme.

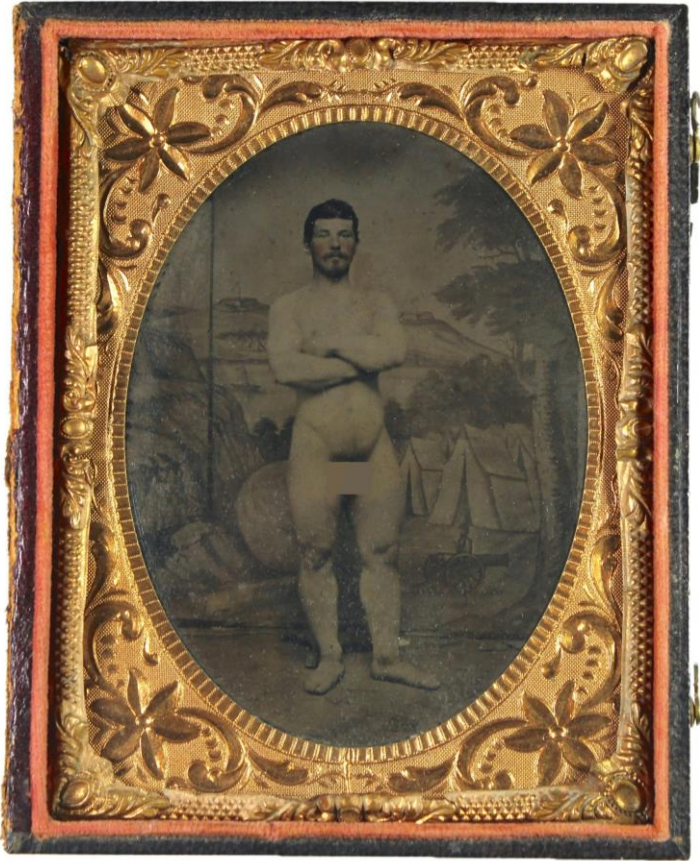
As a footnote Benjamin Derricutt was once again involved in a serious incident in July 1945 when he assisted in the rescue of a 2-year-old boy who had fallen into the Calder and Hebble Canal near to Sowerby Bridge gasworks. Fortunately, the boy survived thanks to Mr Derricutt's quick thinking by finding a plank and using it to assist two men who had bravely entered the 10 foot deep canal.

American Civil War Photographs

Alan Rhodes

A recent e-mail from the auction reporting website, *Invaluable*, caught my eye of American Civil War photographs being offered at Fleischers Auction House in Columbus, Ohio.

See: <https://www.invaluable.com/american-civil-war-photos/sc-N3K1F3L1QN/>



Quarter plate tintype. Half leatherette case.

The auctioneer's description reads as follows:

Unprecedented and significant quarter plate-sized original tintype photograph of a nude Union Civil War soldier. The muscular subject stands in the dirt with his arms folded across his chest, naked from head to toe. A crudely painted camp scene backdrop hangs behind him, strongly indicating that a photographer in the field made this image c. 1863.

ED. The photo reproduced here has been censored, of course, but the original was a full frontal in all its glory, and we can only speculate on the thinking behind it. He is a very well-built man so was he showing off and saying, 'here I am the pure warrior'.

Any thoughts?

From more recent times I seem to recall John Lennon and Yoko Ono also posing full frontal in the nude, and there may have been other celebrities doing likewise, yet surely none quite so brazen as this example.

The auctioneer makes the following general observations:

The American Civil War was fought on the eve of a technological revolution. This led to numerous firsts in terms of technology and innovation. While the American Civil War wasn't the first time we saw photographs taken during conflict, it was more heavily photographed than any war before.

Photographers during the Civil War would travel to the field of battle to attempt to capture an image they could sell to a newspaper or keep as a testament. The amount of photographs taken during this war is staggering, especially considering the time and equipment required to do so. Many well-preserved, collectible photographs still exist of some pivotal moments during the war.

Quick Facts

- Mathew Brady, often considered the father of photojournalism, started his career by taking extraordinary photographs of the Civil War
- Cameras at the time required 5 to 20 seconds of exposure time, making action shots impossible
- Photographs during the Civil War were sometimes manipulated, including images of the Battle of Gettysburg and a composite of Abraham Lincoln .

You can have a look at some of Brady's photographs at the US National Archives website:

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/brady-photos>

This website has a comprehensive collection of Brady's photographs:

<https://www.firefallphotography.com/reproducing-civil-war-photography-matthew-brady-tribute/>

In addition, there is a YouTube video which you might want to watch:

https://youtu.be/6l4nwk_-1d4

