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Thorough

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KITCHENER SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

KSA 83rd Annual Dinner, Friday 6 March 2015

The 2015 Annual Dinner of the KSA was held at The Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), in London's Belgravia, with some 49 Scholars and 31 guests attending. The Committee would like to express its gratitude to our hosts for making such an incredible venue available to the KSA and being so welcoming. Attendees enjoyed a champagne reception, after which they filed through to the lecture theatre with its striking painted ceiling. Susan Saunders, KSA Vice-Chair, welcomed those in attendance before introducing the Association's President, Emma Kitchener, The Lady Fellowes of West Stafford LVO, who presented some 18 new and recent KSs with their certificates. Although the winner of the 2015 Kitchener Prize – Callum Bartlett, could not attend, Jonathan Price, KSA Chair, was able to present the Lindsay



Phillips Book Bursary to Henry Samuels. Lt Col David Hamilton MBE, LKNMF Secretary, covered the evening photographically and his output can be found on the KSA website.

Scholars and guests then processed into the impressive RCDS Dining Room. Following The Royal Engineers' Grace, attendees enjoyed a delicious spread of Black Tiger King Prawn Cocktail, then Guinea Fowl (or Roasted Aubergines) followed by Triple Chocolate Mousse, all washed down with fine Italian and South African wines. To polish us off, cheese, biscuits, port and coffee with chocolates were served, after which the KSA Chair introduced fellow Scholar - Professor Jamie Hacker Hughes (whose biography was circulated via e-mail in January) – as the guest speaker.

Jamie opened his remarks by reporting that since last summer, he had been working through Donald Mackenzie's

The Story of The Great War. Lord Kitchener understandably loomed large within that narrative. Jamie noted a particular line by Mackenzie about



Kitchener: "It seemed as if his whole life had been spent in preparation for the great work he was destined to perform for the Empire in its hour of need." Returning to his own career, Jamie reported that his Scholarship had been awarded for dentistry at Birmingham University with him aiming to become a maxillofacial surgeon. However, at the end of his second year, Jamie said he was informed that manual dexterity was not his forte. As Jamie put it: "A very close escape for several thousand people...". Thanks to the power of poster advertising, which Kitchener himself might recognise, Jamie stated that he was persuaded to transfer to a Psychology degree. Despite loving the course, he said it was the hand of the relevant Local Education Authority that stymied his plans this time, refusing him a grant. So it was, as Jamie told us, that he found himself instead applying for and gaining a commission with 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, partly inspired by the Princess Royal's then husband, Captain Mark Phillips. Jamie relayed his experiences of Cold War Germany and, later, the somewhat hotter environment of South Fermanagh. Jamie described how, after three years' soldiering, leavened by plenty of adventurous training opportunities, he left The Welsh Cavalry and with the help of the Officers' Association found himself selling computers to City lawyers, during which time he learnt a lot about business, management and finance, yet ultimately finding it unfulfilling.

Jamie set out how he instead took a hefty pay cut to the astonishment of some and the amazement of others to become a nursing assistant at the Maudsley Psychiatric Hospital, before continuing his psychology studies at University College and King's College London via Cambridge and Surrey. Following five years in the NHS, much apparently spent banging on Ministry of Defence (MOD) doors, attempting to persuade their owners to commission him as a psychologist, he reported that they eventually surrendered allowing Jamie to become a Civil Service consultant.

Jamie told of how he first looked after the needs in Colchester of 16 Air Assault Brigade and the inmates of The Glasshouse, before adding a number of RAF bases in Eastern England and eventually the ceremonial units of London District and MoD Main Building, with a roll-call of very senior mental health appointments following. Jamie described how he now runs a university institute researching the psychological and social care needs of veterans and their families. Jamie reflected that despite this superficially twisting career path, were one writing a job specification for someone to be in charge of psychology for the MoD, his experience would tick a lot of boxes. In other words, as he put it: "Without knowing it, I'd spent the last 30 years completing absolutely the most ideal preparation for the roles I have been asked to take over the last ten." Jamie urged new Scholars to grasp every opportunity that life throws their way, particularly as they will find the next 40 years pass all too quickly. Whether one has faith or a belief in fate or destiny, he reminded attendees of Mackenzie's line about Kitchener, before concluding by saying: "One day your time will come – but, of course, it may not come your way in quite the way you are expecting....But take every chance, take every opportunity that life throws at you so that when that moment comes you will be ready for it and do it proud."



Over the last three months or so you should have received a letter, email or telephone call asking you to update the information we hold on you. This joint project with the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund and the Scholars Association has been carried out by two of our recent new Scholars, Charlotte Short and Harry Samuels. They have both done a great job but we are only at the early stages of getting a complete database. If you have not returned the letter or emailed to confirm your details by email to data@kitchenerscholars.org please do so now. The project is being overseen by the Secretary of the Fund, Lt Col David Hamilton who can be contacted at secretary@lknmf.com

Orkney Memorial



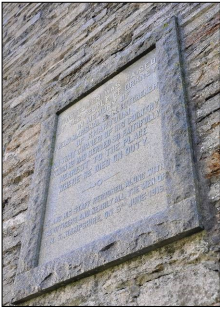
look out over the sea off Marwick Head on a stormy day and not be awed at the power of the Atlantic. But of course the Memorial marks another aspect of the sea here. The uncaring ability it has to snatch away life.

The Memorial marks the closest point on land to where, on the 5th June 1916, Lord Kitchener and his staff of 11 perished along with over 700 members of the crew of HMS Hampshire. The Devonshire-class

The site of armoured cruiser had recently taken part in the the Kitchener Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916. Days after Memorial in returning from Jutland, on 5 June, she left the Royal Orkney is Navy's anchorage at Scapa Flow, Orkney bound for very Russia. Just 2 miles out to sea, in the teeth of a evocative. It gale, their ship struck a mine laid by a German u- is impossible boat, only 12 crewmen survived. It was long thought to go up the that Lord Kitchener was one of 650 men lost from cliffs and HMS Hampshire. But recent research by local historian Brian Budge suggests the final death toll was as high as 737.

In 1926 around 4,000 people attended the opening of the memorial which cost £734 to build, paid for by public subscription from Orcadians and built by a local contractor. On the centenary of the sinking we will have worldwide media attention and are anticipating the highest level of attendance at the unveiling.

The Memorial itself is a simple tower 48 feet high with little adornment except on the shoreward face where the plaque records how the tower was erected by the people of Orkney to commemorate the loss of Lord Kitchener and the crew of the Hampshire.



The plaque is now damaged and the tower is beginning to show the effects of its exposed position high on the cliffs.

A project has been underway for four years, led by Orkney Heritage Society, to both restore the memorial in time for the centenary of the sinking and also better to remember the 736 others now believed to have died when HMS Hampshire sank. The tower is to be restored to its original condition and a low wall erected on the seaward side to bear the names of all those lost that night.

A grant has been secured for restoration work from a trust for £30,000 and the local council have just granted £50,000 for the restoration.

Donations to the project have been received from relatives of those lost and more recently The Royal Engineers have indicated they would be willing to support the work logistically. The VAT can be claimed back due to a government initiative and the scheme is eligible for Gift Aid donations.

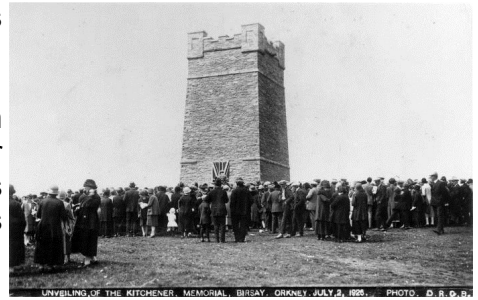
All in all they are practically 2/3rd the way to having the money.

Regrettably the project has just been turned down for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. They were over-subscribed and whilst supportive have asked the Orkney Heritage Society to re-submit at the next round. This may well be too late to get the work done in time for the centenary just 12 months away.

There has been a raft of publicity arranged by the locals in Orkney and an unveiling of the restored memorial is in planning for the 5th of June 2016.

However this is all at risk if the money to restore the tower cannot be raised in time to do the work in the short summer season in Orkney. The summer is now upon us and we have a £78,000 hole in the budget due to the lottery's present decision.

The temptation to use the 'Your Country Needs You' strapline is practically overwhelming, but it perfectly



encapsulates the position at the moment. The Kitchener Memorial really does need your help and if you can contribute to the project it would be marvellous. Small donations from relatives up to £500 have already been received and whilst more along these lines will be welcome we also really need a shot in the arm to get the project initiated.

If you would like to know more about this project then please get in touch. The centenary presents a unique opportunity to reflect on the tragic events and to leave a lasting legacy to signpost our successors to keep that reflection refreshed.



Should you like to get in touch:

Email: Kitchener.Memorial@gmail.com

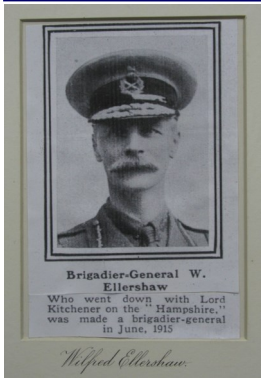
Post: Neil Kermode, Quarry House, Finstown, Orkney, KW17 2JY

2016 Orkney Trip of Remembrance

Due to logistics the KSA are unable to plan a large-scale trip to the Orkney Islands for the Centenary in 2016 but a number of members will be travelling up independently to pay their respects. Should you wish to arrange a similar trip, Ashleigh Mateer is acting as a point of contact for the KSA and can provide you with information such as how to get to Orkney and accommodation options. We have been advised to book in advance for accommodation as this is anticipated to be booked up quickly. Please contact

Help us raise funds when shopping online by signing up to EasyFundraising.org.uk for more details please visit our website and click 'Donate'

By Kitchener's Side: Brigadier-General Ellershaw



When Lord Kitchener drowned in the sinking of HMS Hampshire on 5th June 1916, the most senior of the nine members of the Field Marshal's staff was Brigadier-General Wilfred Ellershaw, an Old Boy of the school at which I teach, Bloxham School in Oxfordshire. Ellershaw was an artilleryman who had served on the North-West Frontier and in the Boer War, where he was severely wounded, and in August 1914 he commanded a battery in the BEF, taking part in the battles of the Marne and the Aisne and writing home during the latter that "I am writing this in the middle of a terrific battle, it has been awful slaughter and has been going on since yesterday morning, and seems likely to go on for some days." By early 1915 he was back in Britain in a staff role. Convinced that Russia's critical shortage of shells was due to the incompetence of Tsarist officials, Kitchener asked the War Office to find "a thoroughly up-to-date gunner of sufficient standing to be able to keep his end up

when dealing with superior Russian officials"; he must also have business capacity, tact and energy, as well as being a French speaker. Ellershaw was selected and set off for Russia in May 1915, returning from his meeting with the Grand Duke Nicholas convinced that if supplies were not found quickly, Russia would collapse. He then headed to the USA, placing orders on Kitchener's behalf for 12 million shells and 200,000 rifles, all done via JP Morgan who refused to deal directly with the prickly Russian officials. The Americans had offered 25 million rounds, but the complacent Tsarist High Command insisted that Russia was in no danger of running out of shells. By the end of the year Kitchener was being told by his representative in St Petersburg that "Ellershaw is working wonders", though encountering Russian bureaucracy, corruption and political infighting at every step. Russian appreciation of his efforts was reflected in the award of the Order of Saint Stanislas (First Class). Before taking up a permanent post in the USA, he was asked to accompany Kitchener on his fateful mission to Archangel to keep Russia supplied and fighting, which is why they found themselves sailing from Scapa Flow.

Whether the Kitchener mission would have made any difference we cannot tell, but we know that nine months later the Tsar was overthrown and within a year of that, the Russians had left the war as Ellershaw had predicted. General Callwell judged that Ellershaw "proved himself to be absolutely made for the Russian job."

Simon Batten (Kitchener Scholar 1982), Archivist, Bloxham School.

KSA Fund Promotion—Members of the committee have contacted their school alumni magazine to promote the Kitchener Scholarships. Should you wish also to do this, the committee can provide you with a copy of suggested text that you can amend for your convenience. Please contact secretary@kitchenerscholars.org

Merchandise

Full details of sizes, prices and how to order our wonderful range of merchandise can be found on the KSA website www.kitchenerscholars.org. So show your support for the KSA now with a Hoodie, tie or bag.



KSA 2015 AGM

This year the Kitchener Scholars Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 6th July at 7pm at The Goat Tavern, Piccadilly, London, W1S 4RP. We will be voting on the next committee to see us through 2016 and welcome anyone who wishes to campaign for any of the positions or simply vote on who should next represent us. Should you like to read a copy of the rules of our association please find them on the website.

Your KSA Committee

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