

More on Major Dennis Haylock The man who broadcast the German Surrender in WW2

From Ian Parker

In the February 2020 issue (No. 48) of 'Lives & Times' we reported the story of a handwritten letter we had been sent. It was from Jack to Stan dated 14th May 1945 from 32 Tudor Close, in which it was mentioned that "... *Dennis can head his letters, Lüneburg Heath, near Hamburg. He had the amazing order to contact German High Command find out if they are willing to accept unconditional surrender and it was his Sgt. Brown to whom he gave the honour of sending this news home by BBC flash as soon as it was authorised by Monty*". That is all we had to work from.

This triggered our research into the people involved, especially Dennis. He turned out to be Dennis Haylock of the Royal Corps of Signals who, in 1939, had been living with his father John (born 1890) and mother Kathleen (born 1891) at Tudor Close in Cheam. We believe that the writer of the letter, Jack, is the familiar family name for John.

We then searched for Stan and we think that Stan is Jack's younger brother, Stanley William Haylock, born in West Bridgforth, Nottinghamshire in 1897. He became an officer in the Indian Army rising from a Captain in 1922 to a Brigadier in 1945. He served with the 5/1st Punjab Rifles and the 3/70 Burmese Rifles.



*Dennis William John Haylock
With the R106 Receiver*



*Field Marshall Montgomery (centre 2nd row) with his Signal Staff on Lüneburg Heath, late May 1945.
Looking at the photograph: to the left of Monty's is Capt. Haylock, to his right is Col. Lockhart (Royal Canadian Signals).
Third on the right of Monty is the only Sergeant we can see in the photograph and it is suggested this could be Sgt. Brown.*

Recently, a friend and former army officer, Major Graham Manders, visited the Royal Signals Museum in Blandford Camp, Dorset to show the letter to the senior archivist, Rob Gray, who showed considerable interest. He and Graham went through files and photographs and found a copy of the letter Major (Retd) Dennis Haylock sent to the Museum, on 29th April 1989, offering the HRC Receiver R106 which had been used to send and receive the surrender signals. It said “The R106 was used by me during May 1945 at Lüneburg Heath, taking surrender traffic from the German High Command, which I passed directly to the C-in-C, Field Marshal Montgomery. I also used it throughout the campaign in Europe. At the end of hostilities, it was presented to me by Royal Canadian Signals (Dennis reported to Lt. Col. W.W. (Bill) Lockhart, Royal Canadian Signals, who was the G1 (Signals) at TAC). For some thirty years it was in regular use as the main receiver on Dennis’s amateur radio station before being donated to the Museum.

The archivist also supplied photographs of the R106 on display at the Royal Signals Museum, Field Marshall Montgomery and his Signal Staff at Lüneburg Heath, a copy of each signal sent out once the surrender had been received and, for further research, e.g. to try and identify Sgt. Brown, the actual sender of the surrender message mentioned in Jack’s letter, a list of boxes/files and folders, held at The National Archives in Kew, which contain more information on 21 Army Group which commanded 165 Indep Wireless Section.



News of the surrender sent by a Royal Signals sergeant from Lüneburg Heath.

An interesting development is that in our research we have unearthed two further signallers who have stated they were also involved with transmissions about the surrender. These are their stories:

Army signaller Bill Chappell had the unique honour in history of taking down the top-secret message that ended the Second World War. The Nazi elite wanted to surrender three German armies fleeing the Russians. Monty refused, but demanded instead the surrender of all German troops in North-west Germany. Deadline for acceptance of unconditional surrender was midnight on May 6, with formal surrender on May 8. But at the last minute the telephone broke down! So, Bill, and comrades of 165

Medium Independent Wireless Section, stepped in. He said: “When we opened up the receivers on May 6 we were told to anticipate a vital secret call from a German transmitter. At 12.40am it started coming through – in German - I wrote it on a message form and handed it to the captain. He looked at me and said ‘This is it - the war is over! These are the peace terms.’ There was euphoria around the whole camp!”

The second signaller was Joe Loftin who, like Bill Chappell, was with Montgomery’s HQ at Lüneburg Heath. In May 1945 he was signalman on duty when the German forces surrendered to Montgomery. and the instruction was passed to him to send the message to all news agencies that the war in Europe was finally over. The final irony was that Hitler’s downfall was announced to the world though a Jewish hand.

It is quite possible Bill Chappell, Joe Loftin and Sgt. Brown were all involved – receiving the message from the Germans, sending the message to the news agencies and sending the message by BBC flash. Either way, could it be the officer in charge of the Signals unit handling all these transmissions was Capt. Dennis Haylock?

Sources:

Royal Signals Museum, Blandford Camp, Dorset. <https://www.royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk>

Daily Mail. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2242728/Field-Marshal-Montgomery-relaxing-Rommel-pet-dog-laughing-George-Formby.html>

Teesside Live. <https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/local-news/world-war-two-heros-diamond-3732325>

BBC – WW2 People’s War. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/15/a2754515.shtml>

William Martin, from Ewell

A long life, quietly lived?

From Peter Reed - webmaster

Whilst searching around for new items for the website (www.eche.org.uk) I came across this obituary (over page) in the ‘Illustrated London News’ dated 18th Dec 1852. I think that a person born in Ewell in 1750 and reaching 102 in 1852 must have been newsworthy enough to have an obituary in the ‘ILN’, and it should be shared in ‘Lives & Times’.

WILLIAM MARTIN - THE CENTENARIAN

This aged man who died on the 14th ult., was born at Ewell, near Epsom, on the 10th March 1750. His parents are farmers, in good circumstances, who apprenticed him to his uncle, a builder, which business he afterwards carried on himself for many years. He subsequently resided at Poole, in Dorsetshire; the goal of which town was built by him. At Poole he married. He afterwards resided for 14 years at Harrow-on-the-Hill, where he built the parsonage. He seems, however, to have been unfortunate in business; for, throughout an unusually long career, he never contrived to store up for his later years.

Martin possessed all his faculties till within a short period of his death; to the last he wrote without the aid of spectacles. The style and clearness of his writing would shame many a younger hand. Martin possessed a retentive memory, and his recollection of public events, over his pipe and cup of coffee, relieved the monotony of many an hour.

His spiritual wants were carefully tended by the Rev. Thomas Dale, the worthy Rector of St Pancras, in which parish he died. He was buried in the Old Church.

The accompanying Portrait of Martin is from a sketch by Mr. Robert Nunn, an amateur artist, through whose intervention the old man was honoured by the notice of the Queen, who, on more than one occasion, sent substantial presents, which were delivered by one of her Majesty's messengers.

Martin's widow is upwards of eighty years of age.



THE LATE WILLIAM MARTIN, AGED 102.

So, we know roughly where he lived and what he did and that he lived a very long time for that era. More importantly, it seems, we know his handwriting was excellent, he didn't need glasses and he like a coffee and a pipe, he had a good memory and his vicar was the Rev. Dale. That's it.

It would have been nice to know more about his life: his widow's name, if he had any children, did he belong to any clubs or societies, why he kept moving, did he die in poverty and, out of curiosity, what were the Queen's presents and why was there more than one? Do you not get the feeling the obituarist was struggling with what to say about William?

Ed: a quick search of Ancestry shows a William Martin married Ann Scott from Poole, Dorset on the 11th June 1799. He was 49 and she was 25.

Inspector Stephen Thornton - a detective story

By Brian Bouchard

The 'In Memoriam' card, pictured here, introduces the subject of this article – Inspector Stephen Thornton. He was born in Epsom on 6th February 1803 to Mary Thornton and her husband, Richard, and was taken to St Martin of Tours Parish Church for baptism, 30th June 1803. His father appears to have been a son of William Thornton, whose family had been tenants at West Farm, Ashted.

He entered the Metropolitan Police about 1832, and rose to the rank of Sergeant, E Division Holborn, becoming part of the teams investigating the murder of Robert Westwood in 1839, and Daniel Good's escape from the police in April 1842. He was assigned to tail Mary Good and her associates and was also involved in searching her house [*Roehampton Murder, The Times, 19 April 1842*].



During June 1842 a new investigative force was formed as the 'Detective Branch', taking over a function formerly the responsibility of the Bow Street Runners: Thornton was selected to be amongst its first six Sergeants. He, with Sergeant Jonathan Whicher*, were sent to investigate Chartist agitation in West Yorkshire in June 1848.

In 1852 Thornton was promoted detective inspector. He coordinated and oversaw detective work among uniformed

policemen, notably the periodic use of plain-clothes patrols at fairs, races and other public events.

Charles Dickens produced a number of stories about the Detective Branch in the journal *Household Words*. *Dick Datchery*, a character in 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood', is suggested to have been modelled on Sergeant *Stephen Thornton*, with his 'ruddy face and high sun-burnt forehead' [*Dickens's Household Words*, 13 July 1850].

Police reports in London newspapers indicate that the new detectives had become active during their first few months on duty. A jewel thief had been pursued to Dublin and brought back to face justice at Bow Street magistrates' court [*The Times*, 15 September 1842]. A fortnight later Thornton reappeared, at Marylebone, along with Inspector Haynes, in a case which, *The Times* described as 'of a most extraordinary and delicate nature'. The accused, Alice Lowe, had been living clandestinely with Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency as his mistress before absconding with valuable jewellery and other items. Thornton located the missing property at a local pawnbroker. Lowe was, however, acquitted at a hearing in the Old Bailey on 24 October 1842.

In June 1856, Thornton was sent to New York in order to consult American solicitors about the pursuit of Frederick Madge, former *Chief Clerk* in the Office of the Solicitor for the affairs of Her Majesty's Treasury, who had absconded to the United States after embezzling a large sum of money. Substantial restitution was obtained.

On 17th August 1860 Mrs Mary Emsley was found murdered at her home in Grove Road, off the Mile End Road, in Stepney. Inspector Thornton became deeply involved, convinced by circumstantial evidence that string, which matched that lacing James Mullin's boots, was also found on an incriminating parcel of small items taken from the house. Eventually, the disgraced former police sergeant from K Division, James Mullins, was brought to trial at the Old Bailey. On the 27th October 1860, Inspector Thornton filed his report that 'James Mullins was yesterday found guilty at the Central Criminal Court of the Wilful Murder of Mrs Emsley on the 13th August last and he was sentenced by the Lord Chief Baron Pollock to be executed'. After an appeal, and protesting his innocence to the end, Mullins was hanged in front of Newgate prison before a crowd of 30,000 people on 19 November 1860.

This case appears to have been Stephen Thornton's swansong: before the year was out Stephen is reported to have died at his home in Lambeth 'of apoplexy'. He was brought back to Ashted for burial close to his ancestors in St Giles' churchyard - Plot C65 Headstone and footstone: - 'STEPHEN THORNTON late Inspector of the Detective Force of the Metropolitan Police died 30th September 1861 aged 58 years. Erected to his memory by his brother officers of the Detective Force and a few private friends also ELIZABETH [his wife who died during 1868].



Mary Emsley, from
'The Debatable Case of Mrs Emsley'
by Arthur Conan Doyle.

Ed: Inspector Thornton has been featured in a number of books including;

- *The best-selling book 'The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher: or The Murder at Road Hill House' by Kate Summerscale.*
- *Stephen Thornton's own report on the murder of Mary Emsley can be found in 'Dark Secrets of the Black Museum 1835-1985' by Gordon Honeycombe. Available on Google Books.*
- *'The Debatable Case of Mrs Emsley' by Arthur Conan Doyle, gives a fuller description of the murder and a transcript of the murder trial. Available at <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0600441h.html>*

* Coincidentally, Mr. Whicher also figured in an attempted theft at the Epsom Derby, reported in 'The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher' as follows:

"In 1850 Charley Field told Charles Dickens of a trick that Mr. Whicher had pulled off at the Epsom Derby. Mr. Field, Mr. Whicher and a friend called Mr. Tatt were drinking together at the bar – they were on their third or fourth sherry – when they were rushed by four swell mobsmen. The gangsters knocked them over, and a fierce scuffle broke out – 'There we are, all down together, heads and heels, knocking about on the floor of the bar – perhaps you never see such a scene of confusion!' When the villains tried to flee the bar, Mr. Whicher cut them off at the door. All four were taken to the local police station. Mr. Tatt discovered that his diamond shirt-pin had been stolen during the fight, but there was no sign of it on any of the swell mobsmen. Mr. Field was feeling very 'blank' (dejected) about the thieves' victory, when Mr. Whicher opened his hand to reveal the pin in his palm. 'Why, in the name of wonder,' said Mr. Field, 'how did you come by that?' 'I'll tell you how I come by it,' said Mr. Whicher. 'I saw which of 'em took it; and when we were all down on the floor together, knocking about, I just gave him a little touch on the back of his hand, as I knew his pal would; and he thought it was his pal; and gave it me!'

‘Real Ale’ founded at The Rising Sun, Epsom

By Angela Clifford

My family has a keen CAMRA member (Campaign for Real Ale), and whilst reading Richard Holmes' book "Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Epsom, Ewell and Cheam" I found there was a Society with similar aims, which pre-dates CAMRA. The Society for the Preservation of Beer from the Wood – SPBW- is the oldest consumer-based group formed to support and encourage the production and drinking of traditional cask ales.



It all began on the evening of Friday, 6th December 1963 when seven disgruntled beer drinkers gathered in the Rising Sun in Heathcote Road in Epsom. Their concern was the growing decline in both quality and palatability of beer. This they felt was due to the increasing use of gas pressure dispense and the introduction of keg beers. They deplored the policies of the big brewers who, by forcing the sale of beer from ‘sealed dustbins’ were threatening the availability of traditional draught beer. The seven drinkers decided to form a society with the purpose of drawing attention to their plight – and so the SPBW was born.

It may have started with a few beers and bold words, but it was clearly involved in a cause dear to British hearts. By the end of the 1960s it had built up into a fairly large body with 30 – 40 branches and several thousand

individual members. There was some low-key campaigning and some useful press publicity during this time, some resulting from the holding of mock funerals at pubs that had been blighted with dustbin beers.

The SPBW aims are similar to those of CAMRA, but because of the entirely voluntary set-up the emphasis is on activity within its autonomous Branches. This is mainly of a social nature, visits to breweries being particularly popular. The SPBW’s National Executive Committee maintains contact with breweries and other relevant bodies on issues of concern. It produces a quarterly magazine ‘Pint in Hand’ and organises an annual ‘National Weekend’ which brings members together to areas of special beery interest. (*Sounds good to me – Ed.*)

The Rising Sun

The pub was first recorded in the 1881 census when Alfred Busbridge was the landlord; until then it had been a weatherboarded cottage. Busbridge had been a gas fitter before he took on the license, and still kept his trade. He lived there with his wife, Amelia, three children - Harry, Walter and Eleanor, one female domestic servant and one male ‘potman’.

In 1891 Alfred is still there with Amelia and Harry, who has become a surveyor's pupil, and two servants.

By 1901 Owen Plumridge is the occupier together with his wife and daughter and a ‘potman’. His daughter, Alice, is the barmaid.

By 1911 John Ireland has become the occupant, his wife Bertha assisting in the business with a ‘potman’.

The 1939 Register shows yet another occupant. Alfred Fuller is the landlord with his wife and daughter.

Over the years the pub has appealed to various special interests: in the early days the Epsom Cycling Club met there and in 1963 it generated the SPBW.

In 1999 the Rising Sun was acquired on a free-of-tie lease by Pilgrim Brewery of Reigate. Pilgrim was formed by David Roberts, chairman of the Society of Independent Brewers, and maker of the first wheat-beer in the UK. For seven years David’s wife, Ruth, stocked the Rising Sun with 40 beers from all over the world, until Pilgrim was turned out when the freehold was sold to Youngs Brewery.



Ed: The Rising Sun is currently being refurbished (May 2020) and, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, who knows when it will re-open.

Sources: Society for the Preservation of Beer from the Wood - <https://www.spbw.beer>

‘The Warmest Welcome – Hotels and Hostelries in Epsom and Ewell 1869-2011’ by Carol Hill

9th September 1916 -The Day the Epsom Derby went to War

From Caroline Baldock

The Battle of the Somme was one of the longest and bloodiest of the First World War, lasting five months from the 1st July 1916 until the 18th November 1916. Before the first assault, between 24th June and 1st July, some 1.7 million shells were fired onto German lines. The Germans were well dug in with a system of well-connected trenches and walkways for protection from the shelling, and good communications. When the British and French regiments were given the order to advance, believing that the shelling into the German trenches had been effective, they walked into machine gun fire from the Germans who had sheltered in their dugouts. The allies were mowed down in their thousands. First day casualties were 57,00 British and 7,000 French. The Germans suffered some 12,000 casualties.

Throughout July and August there were a series of further bitterly contested and costly battles: Bazentin Ridge, Fromelles, Delville Wood, Pozières, Guillemont and Ginchy.

Meanwhile the commanders of the battalions were planning a major strategic advance from the 15th September as the third and final general offensive by the British Army. Commander-in-Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, knew the final push would be tough and that the losses would be great and it was thought there was a brief opportunity, and need, to bolster the men's energy and optimism before the advance.

So, Lt. Gen. Sir William P. Pulteney, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, decided to organise a horseracing day. Using a clever piece of advertising, he called it 'The New Epsom September Meeting' to be run on Saturday September 9th, 1916. Not all those who took part in the race came from the 3rd Corps but it is very difficult to track down which other regiments they came from. Certainly, it was a morale booster to allow the men a day off and to enjoy the racing, although it must have been organized a little way from the front line.

There were seven races in all and, to keep spirits high, the third race of the afternoon was the 'New Derby Stakes' over 1½ miles. It was for horses of the Allied Forces which had to be ridden by officers. The entrance fee was 25 francs and there were 28 runners. The winner's purse was 500 francs of which 50 francs went to the second horse.



The Race Programme

THIRD RACE			
3.15 p.m. — THE NEW DERBY STAKES of 500 francs of which 50 francs goes to the second. For horses of the Allied Forces to be ridden by officers.			
Catch-weights 12 st. 7 lbs. or over.			
Entrance: 25 francs (25 entries) 100 soles.			
1	Capt. A. W. F. Waller's br. g.	MICHAEL.	
2	Major R. Bonsor's br. g.	RUFUS.	
3	Lt. Col. R. G. Parker's b. m.	LADY BEGG.	
4	Capt. J. M. Bonsor's b. m.	MAIDIE.	
5	Lt. Col. R. H. Tilney's b. g.	GREY DAWN.	
6	Capt. W. W. T. Torr's b. m.	GISELE.	
7	Major W. E. Bonsor's ch. g.	GINGERHEAD.	
8	Capt. Eadie's gr. g.	GREY TICK.	
9	Major Pulteney's gr. m.	PHYLIS.	
10	Capt. N. Pulteney's m. g.	TIM.	
11	Capt. Adee's ch. m.	ELLEN.	
12	Capt. G. F. Baily's b. m.	MIDLAR.	
13	Lt. Hamilton of Dalzell's b. g.	CROOK.	
14	Lt. Col. R. H. Tilney's ch. g.	MEX.	
15	Capt. Vernon's br. m.	PARMA VIOLET.	
16	Lt. Col. A. R. J. Mollie's b. m.	MAGIC.	
17	Capt. Pulteney's b. g.	TIM HEILY.	
18	Capt. M. Bonsor's b. g.	WARREN SINGH.	
19	Brig. Gen. P. Bonsor's b. g.	GEORGE.	
20	Lt. Col. G. C. H. Day's ch. g.	BRONZE.	
21	Lt. Col. H. B. Morgan's ch. g.	PIP EMMA.	
22	Lt. Dalzell's b. g.	PETIT.	
23	Capt. R. A. B. Henry's ch. g.	POPPERSGHE.	
24	Lt. Col. G. Heaman's b. m.	BELLY.	
25	Capt. Pulteney's b. g.	FAY.	
26	Capt. W. Bonsor's ch. g.	LITTLE TICH.	
27	Capt. Fox's ch. m.	PIGGY.	
28	Lt. Col. C. Grey's ch. g.	SILKMAN.	

The winning horse was No.6



*Capt. William W T Torr
Winner of the New Derby
Stakes on Gisele*

called Gisele ridden by Capt.

William Wyndham Torre Torr D.S.O., M.C. of the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Four months later the battle of the Somme finally reached a conclusion on the 18th November when the German trench lines were finally broken. But at what price, by the end of the Somme campaign casualties numbered 430,000 British (including 125,000 dead), 200,000 French and 450,000 Germans.

As for Captain Torr, he was transferred to the General Staff and ended the war a Colonel. Rather fetchingly, he was known as 'Bunny' to his friends. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), Military Cross (MC), Croix de Guerre – France, and the Companions of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) as well as the 1914/15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, and was 'mentioned in despatches' three times.

After the war he joined the diplomatic service and was, variously, the military attaché at the British Embassy in Lisbon and Madrid and Washington, where he was also responsible for Mexico and South America

The actual Epsom Derby in 1916 was won by Fifinella, and two days later she won the Oaks - she was the last horse to win both events in one year. The jockey was Joe Childs, French born who also rode for King George V; the Trainer was Dick Dawson, Irish born but based in England, British Champion Trainer in 1916, 1924 and 1929, winning four Epsom Derbys; the owner was Sir Edward Hulton, the newspaper proprietor. The winner's purse was £2,050, the equivalent of £169,500 in today's terms.

Sources:

'American Pimpernel' by Andy Marino.

Imperial War Museum: www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-happened-during-the-battle-of-the-somme

Wikipedia: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Somme#Battles_of_the_Somme,_1916

The Mystery of the District Nurse

By Linda Jackson

I wonder if this woman was as suspicious as she seemed or whether there is a reasonable explanation. She had several names, it turned out, but whilst she was a district nurse living in Epsom, mainly East Street, she answered to Ann/Anne/Annie Axon. I have no answer to who she was originally and there wouldn't even be a question had it not been for the 1927 probate record (I do mean 1927 and not 1917, the year of her death).

MOSS Sarah Ann otherwise **AXON** Annie Grattan otherwise **FLOWER** Anna Grattan of 80 East-street Epsom **Surrey** spinster died 28 June 1917 at St. Luke's House 14 Pembridge-square Kensington Middlesex Administration **London** 16 March to the solicitor for the affairs of H.M. Treasury. Effects £1291 7s. 10d. Resworn £991 8s. 1d.

Probate Record dated 16th March 1927, ten years after her death.

As her effects ended up with the Treasury Solicitor nearly 10 years after she died, and someone uncovered all these different names (maybe from paperwork left behind), presumably she didn't make a will and no relatives could be found under any of the names.

Let's start at the end to see how near we can get to the beginning. St Luke's House was a home for the 'dying poor' (i.e. a hospice) at Notting Hill Gate, founded by a Dr Howard Barrett as a dignified alternative to a workhouse infirmary. Queen Alexandra, consort of Edward VII, was its patroness until her death in 1925 and once paid an unannounced visit to a young patient there, with her daughter, Princess Victoria, after the dying child wrote asking her to come (this completely dumbfounded the unsuspecting serving girl who opened the front door – well, imagine how you'd feel if the Queen suddenly turned up on your doorstep!)



Queen Alexandra

I suppose our mystery woman could have been a nurse at the establishment, but the numerical odds are that she was a patient, especially as she died there. The bare death record on the GRO Index was for an Anna G Flower, aged 48.

Annie Grattan (sic) Axon was still listed at 80 East Street, Epsom in Kelly's Directory for 1915 and was buried in Epsom Cemetery as Anna Grattan Flower on 3 July 1917 (Grave D340 – a couple who died much later, called William and Susan Hamlin, are also in this plot, possibly because they were poor and there were spaces available in Anna's grave).

In the 1911 census, when individual households completed their own form, she was Annie Grattan Axon, being a single household at 80 East Street, and she had written that she was born in Madras, India (subterfuge or truth?). However, she was actually lodger to a Louisa Flewin, who also lived at the address and had a grocer's shop there in partnership with Frances Perry (these women had been servants together in London before going into grocery).



Dr. Howard Barrett

Curiously Miss Perry died just a few weeks before Anna in 1917. In 1901, when Anna was at 57 East Street, her birthplace was given as Prince's Gardens, London, which would be Kensington.

Going back to the 1891 census, Anne G Axon was lodging with James and Ann Weaver at London Cottages, East Street, her occupation given as sick nurse. And that's where the trail ends at present. Except, in the 1881 census there is an Ann Axon, nurse, born Kensington, living in the household of Brazil merchant Frederick Joseph Ridgway in Bootle-cum-Linacre, Lancashire. Given that we think our woman's date of birth was about 1869, this can't be her, as Bootle Ann is 19 ... and yet. If it is her, she can hardly have got away with being about 12 and passing as 19, so supposing she adjusted her age after 1881, as many women did back then.



Dr. Barrett with Matron, a nurse and a patient - 1906

And someone in the Ridgway household must have needed a lot of attention, as there were three nurses and an under-nurse on the premises. Mr Ridgway died in 1885, so they all would have been out of work at that point.

All I can think of is that she was Sarah Ann Moss in the beginning, then perhaps she dropped the Sarah and her mother married an Axon or a Flower, or both, although I can't find any records to bear out such a theory. I am not hopeful of tracking down this woman's history, since she seems to have been more or less alone in Epsom and apparently not mourned by any family when she died, but she was a district nurse (whether properly qualified or not, I don't know) and someone must have known more about her background. And what has Madras to do with it all?

Photo Source:

'A Protophospice at the Turn of the Century: St. Luke's House, London, from 1893 to 1921' by Grace Goldin.

Coach Accident in Ewell - The Gruesome Detail

From Angela Clifford



Back in September 2017 we ran an item in 'Lives & Times' (Newsletter No. 43) about a coach crash in Ewell on April 1st, 1826 (April Fools' day) which led to the death of a lady, Catherine Bailey, who was only 22 years old

In essence it read:

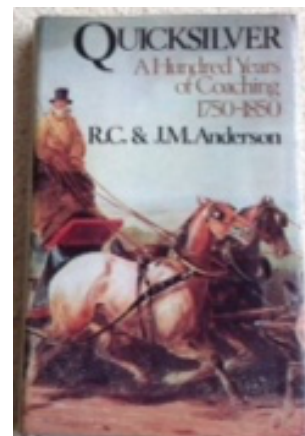
"On that day Walker's Coach, full of passengers was standing outside the King's Head in Church Street. The coachman had the habit of starting the horses by stamping on the footboard. In his absence a boy stamped on the board, the horses started and ran away. As the coach took the corner into High Street it overturned onto iron railings.

Catherine Bailey was one of the passengers thrown off the coach and killed, others were injured. Unfortunately, the messenger sent to Epsom for the surgeons was disbelieved as it was All-Fool's day and considerable delay ensued before medical help, such as it was, was available for the dying and injured."

Meanwhile, whilst reading the book – '*Quicksilver, A Hundred Years of Coaching 1750 – 1850*' by R.C. & J.M. Anderson – further, more gruesome details on the crash came to light.

"Joseph Walker, who was the proprietor, alighted and carrying no guard left the reins to a boy sitting on the box. The boy cracked the whip and the horses set off at full speed. They dashed down an awkwardly curving road by the church and into a line of wooden palings which were torn down for twelve yards.

The coach was upset and all the passengers were hurled from the roof and one unfortunate woman fell on some spiked railings and was dreadfully mutilated beyond recognition and died a lingering death in great agony."



The tragedy was compounded because of the date being April Fool's day and nobody taking it seriously. What a terrible death.

Incidentally, Coaching seems to have been a dangerous mode of transport. The very next item in the 'Quicksilver' book reads: "30 October 1832: Brighton mail upset at Reigate; coachman killed on the spot. The three outsiders suffered fractured ribs and minor injuries." – Ed.

Further comment including a lengthy article in the London Times, dated 12th April 1826, about the Ewell accident and coach safety can be found at <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=64005>

'Lives & Times' September 2017 (No.43) is online at:

<https://eehe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/NewsletterSep2017Web.pdf>

Any Ideas Where This Is?

Because of the temporary (we hope) lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Epsom & Ewell Local and Family History Centre and Ewell Library, which is where we are based, have been closed to visitors. However, we are continuing to receive email enquiries about local and family history that our volunteers can research working from home. One that arrived recently was this enquiry from Lynsey Woodland.



"This photo is of my grandparents just before they married in 1929. Family lore is that it was taken in Epsom where they were shopping for outfits as they were to travel to India after the wedding where my grandfather worked in Jaipur as polo manager for the maharajah.

I find it an interesting photo as it doesn't appear to be posed as you would expect from the time. I wondered if you may be able to place the photo? It would be so interesting if you could help."

So far we have had the following suggestions from our volunteers:

Hazel Ballan: "I think it could be Epsom High Street in between Leighton Opticians and Plaice to Eat. The hairdressers is/was up the alley that leads to the railway station. I'm having problems getting onto Hotmail page at the moment so can't show you the Google map image but the brickwork on the building looks similar."

Margaret Jones says: "I agree with Hazel. My first thought was that it was near Wilko, so not far out. None of the pictures of Epsom that I have show this exact spot but maybe there have been some since."

Joanna Reynolds also agrees: "I had a feeling that it was in the High Street as Hazel thought. One should be able to date it from what the woman is wearing. 1930 or even 20's? I have some costumes books, I will check."

Angela Clifford suggests that "it looks like it might be on a hill and so isn't the High Street, although this may be an optical illusion." She is also trying to identify the white globe light and the hairdressers sign in other photos of the High Street.

Peter Reed says: "I'm not sure the photo is Epsom as the local directories around 1929 don't mention a Ladies and Gents Hairdressing Saloon. If it was taken in Epsom then, based on the brick wall, the front edging stones and the lamp post, I think it could be between Café Rouge and Ashmore Insurance <https://goo.gl/maps/vVbowSNK5uJaXtd16> but I can't reconcile this location with local directories."

So, we have mixed views. If you think you can identify where this photograph was taken, please let us know. Just send an email to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk marked 'L&T Photo' in the subject box.

Further additions to the Epsom & Ewell History Explorer website

www.eehe.org.uk

From Peter Reed

Since the last issue of 'Lives & Times' in February there have been some 24 additional and amended items added to our website. They cover a range of subjects including:

- Epsom Methodist Church, Ashley Road, Epsom – a history
- Bunny at the Derby - a silent film from 1912
- Epsom Races – a French Perspective 1856
- Ewell County Technical College / NESCOL – featuring many photographs
- Excursion to Epsom and Ewell – 1920
- Open-Air Mission at the Derby
- Physical Geography of Epsom - 1849
- Pigeon Post – a history
- Recollections from Epsom and The Derby - 1892
- Robert Honey Fabian - 'Fabian of the Yard'
- Sherwood School, Epsom – 1931-1950 and its "New" Reincarnation – 1950-1961
- Sir Norman Wisdom OBE (1915-2010) - an Epsom resident for many years
- Tic-Tac Men – signalling the odds at the races
- Tower House, Ashley Road, Epsom, (later "Tower House Hotel") – replaced by the University of the Creative Arts
- VE Day – 75th Anniversary (2020) – with numerous pictures



You can check them all out, and much more on the 'What's New' page on our website <https://eehe.org.uk/?p=61076>

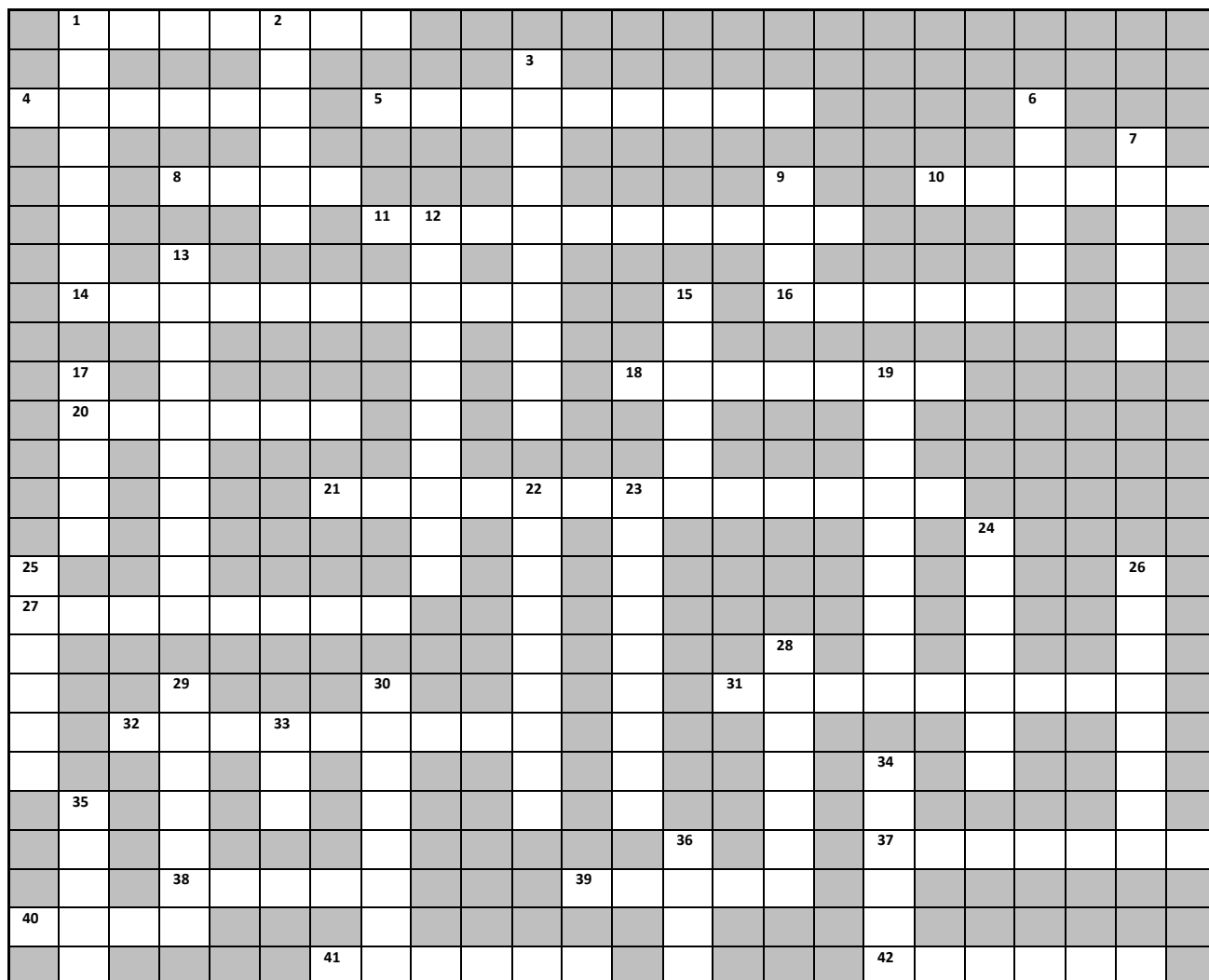
A Crossword to celebrate the end of WW2 in Europe – VE Day

From Peter Reed

The current lockdown has led to numerous ways people have entertained themselves – which for me has resulted in the following crossword (see page 11).

We thought you might enjoy doing it and remembering the sacrifices so many people made in order for us to celebrate the end of WW2 in Europe. At the same time, let's not forget the war in the Far East was still going on, and we need to remember the soldiers, sailors, airman and prisoners-of-war that were still struggling and suffering.

If you are over 70 you should find the crossword easy as it will trigger your memory. If you are much younger – ask your grand-parents for help.



Across

- 01 People took shelter from this (3,4)
- 04 Plane for delivering high explosives (6)
- 05 A type of military ship (9)
- 08 When Operation Overlord started (1,3)
- 10 German Leader (6)
- 11 Needed to buy food/clothes etc (6,4)
- 14 The term for lightning war (10)
- 16 Victoria once ruled this (6)
- 18 Italian and Germany Nazism (7)
- 20 Capital of England (6)
- 21 Enigma was decoded here (9,4)
- 27 Code name for Normandy landings (8)
- 31 German armed forces (9)
- 32 He made the Italian trains run on time (9)
- 37 Somewhere to hide during air raids (7)
- 38 A wireless set (5)
- 39 Country of Asti spumante (5)
- 40 Armoured vehicle (4)
- 41 Leader of Russia (6)
- 42 Our Side (6)

Down

- 01 Leaves a mushroom cloud (4,4)
- 02 A flying man (6)
- 03 Major battle in Russia (10)
- 06 Part of a war (6)
- 07 German capital (6)
- 09 Cipher (4)
- 12 The opposition (4,6)
- 13 American general (10)
- 15 Country of the can can (6)
- 17 Intense air bombardment of London (5)
- 19 What the losing side did (9)
- 22 Holy place rise (9)
- 23 German Air force (9)
- 24 Face protection (3,4)
- 25 Capital of this is Oslo (6)
- 26 Famous World War II plane (8)
- 28 The country of the beer stein (7)
- 29 An Evacuation Port (7)
- 30 In the dark (8)
- 33 Violette Szabo was one (3)
- 34 Stalin was its leader (6)
- 35 A gong (5)
- 36 Abbreviation for National Socialism (4)

There are no prizes for a correct solution, just the satisfaction of being right – Ed.

Have You Got News for Me?

We hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of 'Lives & Times'. Thanks to all those who have provided information, anecdotes, stories and pictures – Angela Clifford, Brian Bouchard, Caroline Baldock, Linda Jackson and Peter Reed, oh! and me. But, to keep the momentum going we need more, so I make no apologies in repeating this message - again and again – Have you got news for me, please?

I'm sure many more of you have experiences, contacts with enquirers or local or family history information that would interest us all, so let's have them - you can see from this current issue, we like gossip and comments as much as more serious subjects. So, please don't be shy. If you have any • reports on visits to various sites or centres

- intriguing Information Requests
- forthcoming projects or events
- interesting facts about local history or genealogy
- new research documents the LFHC has received
- or just strange tales to tell

please let me know. Supporting photographs and pictures, if available, would be most welcome as it will make it all the more interesting for us all.

Items are welcome from volunteers, friends and readers of 'Lives & Times' wherever you are in the world.

The next publication date will probably be around late summer/early autumn, as long as our contributors keep providing material. With the current lockdown, you could even have time on your hands to find something to interest and intrigue us.

Ian Parker – May 2020

Researching Local History or Tracing your Ancestors?

If you are interested in the history of Epsom and Ewell or want to trace your family's history then visit us at the Epsom and Ewell Local and Family History Centre located in Ewell Library at Bourne Hall, Spring Street, Ewell.

Opening Hours

The History Centre is open and staffed by volunteers at the following times

Tuesdays	10.00 am – 12 noon
Thursdays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Fridays	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
1 st Saturday of the month	10.00 am – 4.00 pm
Other Saturdays	By prior appointment

***Regrettably, under the current Covid-19 lock-down
the History Centre (and Ewell Library) are not open to visitors.
However, you can email us with your enquiries about Local and Family History at
EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk***

***and our volunteers will do their utmost to respond.
Alternatively, check our website: <https://eehe.org.uk> where you will find
a wealth of information about Epsom & Ewell.
Hopefully we will be back to normal opening hours before too long.***

**Take a look at our History Explorer Website
<https://eehe.org.uk>**

Epsom and Ewell History Explorer has numerous items of local interest including personalities, places, properties, and personal reminiscences of life in bygone times and notable events. There is also an extensive and searchable collection of local birth, christening, marriage, death records, cemetery burials, gravestone inscriptions, detailed Workhouse records and WWI and WW2 memorials with numerous stories of those remembered. It is a fascinating and continually growing source of information.

Receive 'Lives & Times' by email

If you would like to receive regular copies of 'Lives & Times' and information on forthcoming events by email, please just send your email address to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk with the heading "EMAIL ME YOUR NEWSLETTER". Your email address will not be provided to any other organisation or company and will only be used to send you 'Lives & Times' and information on our future events.

Should you no longer wish to receive 'Lives & Times' and details of forthcoming events please just email "UNSUBSCRIBE ME" to EpsomandEwellLHC@yahoo.co.uk