The Great War Archive
A Community Collection

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http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/gwa/
To France, love.

To all. Daddy.

Like Station.
An interview with Ian Hislop

This podcast is an interview with Ian Hislop, WW1 documentaries entitled 'Not Forgotten'. Stuart Lee and Kate Liu talk about the importance of the poetry, as well as insights.

Download the Interview.
The Great War Archive Initiative ran from March to June 2008

- A ‘Community Collection’
  - to harvest digital versions of items originating from the First World War held by members of the general public

- Innovative approach
  - collection strategies
  - digitisation
  - cataloguing

- Public involvement in major research projects

- Exploiting the rise of digital photography and home Internet access, the project attracted thousands of volunteers
The Great War Archive: Submission Website
The Great War Archive: Submission Days
## Some Technicalities

### Poetry Digital Archive
- Primary source material dispersed amongst libraries and archives in the UK, USA and Canada
- Digitisation performed by holding institutions according to project benchmarks
- Images digitised as High Quality TIFFs and delivered as ‘good enough quality’ JPGs, Audio as MP3, Video as MPEG 4
- Catalogued by trained cataloguers
- Quality Assured twice, including by a key expert in the field
  - Dates, location, provenance, etc.
- Images digitally watermarked using DigiMark
- Cost £40 / item

### The Great War Archive
- Primary source material held by individuals in the UK and abroad
- Digitisation performed by the public using scanner/digital camera or by the project team at submission days
- Digitisation guidelines provided
  - Not mandatory
- All files types accepted
- Initially catalogued by the public
- Quality Assured and metadata expanded upon by the project team
  - Dates, location, provenance, etc.
- Cost £3.50 / item
All I know about this photograph is that it shows my great uncle, Henry Kirkpatrick looking very dapper and smoking a pipe.

From his naval records I know he served on HMS Vivid and HMS Glorious. I believe he was aboard the Nottingham.

If anyone can shed any light on where this photo was taken and who the men are, I would love to know.

This photo has notes. Move your mouse over the photo to reveal them.

**Comments**

**zac191418** says:

William Henry Kirkpatrick is a 'Leading Stoker' (right sleeve propellor with a star above, within his 'branch') and a Leading Seaman for rank/responsibility (anchor) with a good conduct stripe (left sleeve).

...and smoking a pipe.

Photograph taken at Royal Naval Ordnance Depot, Bull Point, St Budeaux on the Plymouth side of the Tamar River immediately opposite Saltash. I can only assume he and his fellow Stokers have been attending a course within the building behind that carries the Vocat(ional) Train(ing) sign.

www.plymouthdata.info/Royal%20Naval%20Ordnance%20Depot.htm
The Great War Archive Initiative: The Aftermath

- Over 6,500 items collected
  - A Flickr group continues to collect items (almost 2,500 to date)
  - Used in research
  - Used extensively by the public
  - Used in teaching

- Highly commended for Times Higher Ed. award and UCISA Award for Excellence

- CoCoCoCo submission software released as open source

- RunCoCo project starts
The Great War Archive: Editor's Pick

About
The Great War Archive was an initiative run by the University of Oxford to collect digital copies of items relating to the First World War that are held by the general public.

The Editor's Pick blog will showcase interesting items that have been submitted to the project launched on the 90th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice.

Although the date has now passed, if you would like to contribute them to our First World War Digital Project, please do so.

Wednesday, 14 May 2008

Message in a matchbox

George Cavan was a Company Sergeant Major in the 9th (Glasgow Highlanders) Battalion Highland Light Infantry. He lived with his family, his wife Jean and three daughters, in the Drill Hall in Carluke, Scotland. While away at training camp the orders came through to dispatch to France. The train he was on with his troops went through his home town.

1 comments:

$safra_28$ said...

Company Sergeant Major George Cavan was my husband's Great Grandfather and although he already knew a some of his history he was amazed to see reference to this note as he never knew it existed, its great to see that his family in Australia where able to not only keep this item intact for 90 years but also able to let the Great War Archive have the item for future generations to see.

10 October 2008 13:23
The Great War Archive showed...

• How community collections can work and bring great benefits, most notably reduced costs

• And that this is possibly a model we should be pursuing in the future alongside traditional high-quality digitisation

• Moreover, that academia should try to engage the public in its research and recognise that the public not only may hold material, but also is willing to engage in these activities