

THE KIPLING FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER #2

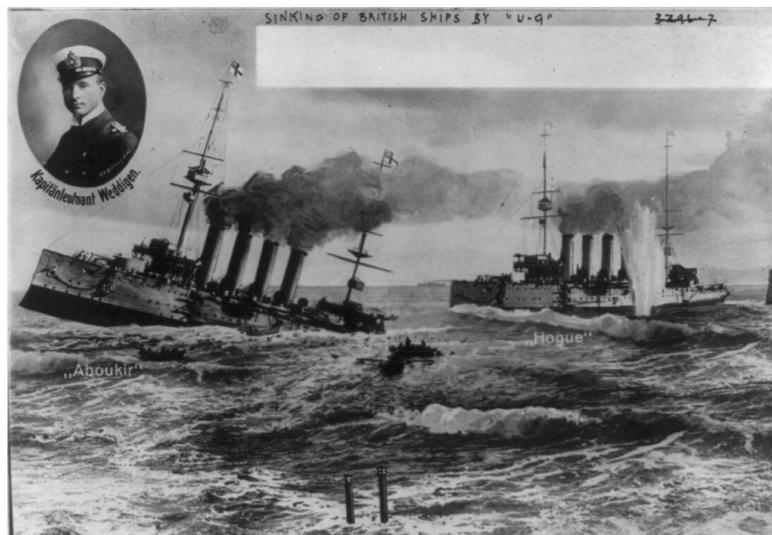
AUGUST 2014

Welcome to the second edition of The Kipling Family History Newsletter. On the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, I thought it might be interesting to focus on those Kiplings who gave their lives for their country in that conflict.

Kipling deaths in the First World War

As far as I can discover, 27 Kiplings are accounted for as war dead, although not all were in the direct field of battle. I have added a page to the website <http://genealogy.kipling.me.uk/WW1.html> which includes what I have been able to find out about each of them, including which of the known Kipling families each came from.

The first to be lost, quite literally, was Seaman Thomas W Kipling, who died when HMS Hogue was torpedoed in the North Sea on 22 September 1914. Thomas was Whitby fisherman who had been in the Royal Naval reserve, so was mobilised at the very start of the war.



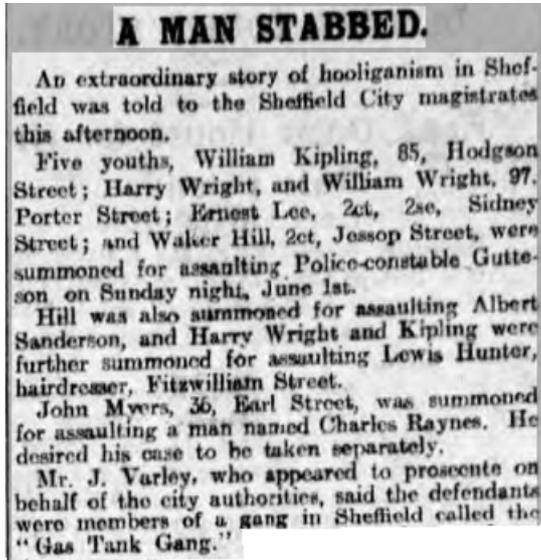
The sinking of Aboukir, Hogue and Cressy by U-9.

Thomas's name is inscribed on the Naval memorial at Chatham Dockyard. Altogether 62 officers and 1,397 enlisted men were lost that day.

The next two deaths were during the second battle of Ypres in April and May 1915. The names of Sheffield-born Lance Corporal William Kipling of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and Ulverston-born Private Wilfred Kipling of the Royal

Lancashire Regiment are both inscribed on the Menin Gate (which means that their bodies were never found).

William had had a turbulent youth, the record of which he redeemed by his service.



Campaign :-		1914-15.		(A) Where decoration was earned.	(B) Present situation
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)	
(A) KIPLING	Yorkshire L.I.	1st Lt	13428	VICTORY	012/103 28 660
(B)	Wellington	1st Lt		BRITISH	20 20
Action taken				15 STAR	012/219 343
THEATRE OF WAR				(1) France	
QUALIFYING DATE.				23.2.15	
(6 94 48) W234--HF5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(T240) K608				[Over]	

Newspaper report from 1913 and William Kipling's Medal card, showing his posthumous awards (note the "K in A" – killed in action)

Later in 1915, the most famous Kipling death occurred, that of Lieut. John Kipling, the son of Rudyard, at the battle of Loos. Controversy still rages as to whether the grave in the small St Mary's Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery at Loos contain John's remains. For many years, John was remembered only on the memorial wall at Dud Corner but in 1992 a grave until then that of an unknown Lieutenant of the Irish Guards was attributed to him. No DNA tests were carried out and the evidence that this was actually John is actually quite unconvincing.



John's story is told in the David Hare play "My Boy Jack". This was made into a television film in 2007 starring Daniel Radcliffe as John. The title of the play and film is

misleading, as there is no evidence that John was ever known as 'Jack'. Rudyard wrote to him as "Dear Old Man" and in the autobiography of a fellow Irish Guards officer he is referred to as "Johnny". The title actually refers to a poem by Rudyard of 1916 to accompany tales he had written of the Battle of Jutland, 'Jack' being a generic reference to all the young 'jack tars' lost at sea, although the true source of the grief evident in the poem is clear.

'Have you news of my boy Jack?'

Not this tide

'When d'you think that he'll come back?'

Not with this wind blowing, and this tide

ONLY SON KILLED AT THE FRONT.

The *Morning Post* says that Mr. John Kipling, of the Irish Guards, is reported "missing, believed killed." John Kipling was the child for whom his father wrote the "Just So Stories," the boy for whom Puck told immortal tales of the beloved land, for which this supreme sacrifice has been made.

Mr. John Kipling was barely eighteen, a boy of delicate health but indomitable zeal and resolution. He had been nominated for the Irish Guards by Lord Roberts, and was determined to take his share in the war.

In assenting to his urgent pleas the father—and the mother also—offered the dearest of all possible sacrifices on the altar of their country—an only son, whose youth and health might have given them a good reason for evading the ordeal. The sympathy of the whole Empire will go out to Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling in their sorrow.



John was the only Kipling of officer rank killed in the war, and almost the only Kipling to serve as an officer. The large majority of Kiplings never rose above the rank of Private or equivalent, perhaps indicative of our then still largely working class background.

In future newsletters, I will summarise the far more numerous Kipling deaths in the later years of the war, including those of Canadian and American Kiplings.

A beautiful Kipling watch



...yours for only €16,000 at a recent auction.

For more about William the watch and clockmaker, see "Newhouses Kiplings in London" on the website.

Kipling deaths in Normandy, 1944

Another anniversary recently was the 70th anniversary of the D-day landings. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists two Kiplings who died in Normandy in 1944. They were Harold Kipling, aged 32, of the Parachute Regiment, who died on 17 June and is buried at Ranville and Sidney Kipling, aged 19, of the 10th battalion of the Durham light Infantry, who died on June 28 and is buried at Hottot-les-Bagues.

Website Update

In addition to the WW1 deaths mentioned below, I have added the following papers to the website:

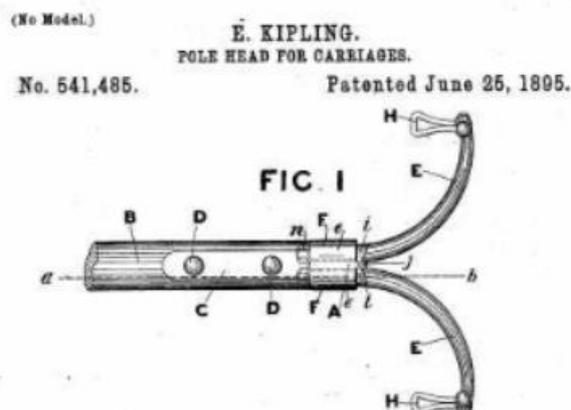
Spencer Kipling's War – my grandfather's WW1 experience with the Devonshire Regiment in India, Palestine and France, illustrated by postcards he sent to his sister.



The sad tale of Joseph and Isabella Kipling - a story of alcoholism, wife-beating and prostitution.

CHARGE OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.—Isabella Kipling charged Joseph Kipling, her husband, with committing an aggravated assault upon her on the 26th September. Complainant said: My husband behaved very badly to me on Saturday night, and ill used me. I want a separation from him. He kicked me under my chin, and knocked me about in the passage, making the marks I have upon me. He is so violent, else he is not a bad man.

Kipling Patents- some ingenious inventions registered by Kiplings with the US patent Office.



I have also started to write up the story of some of the 20-30 Kipling family groups from the 1911 census listed originally in DNA Newsletter #2. So far I have completed and uploaded Long Newton, Mickleton and Shotton. More will follow.

Under 'Early Kiplings' I have added Westwick (near Barnard Castle) and updated Kirkby Stephen following the publication of a transcription of the parish records.

THE KIPLING DNA PROJECT



Ancestry.com, which the Kipling DNA project first used for its tests, is to cease to offer y-DNA testing from September. It is also going to discontinue holding existing test results and searching for future possible matches.

Our more recent tests have been with the industry leader, FTDNA, and some have been tested with both labs. I will be asking those tested at Ancestry and not yet moved across if they would mind their results being uploaded to FTDNA. This does not involve another DNA test - although if I thought that the more detailed analysis FTDNA can do would help find more matches, I would suggest that to you.

One of the Kiplings from Saskatchewan (see Newsletter 1) has been sent a test kit. Hopefully there will be news on the result next time.

Best wishes for the remainder of the (northern hemisphere) summer.

Mike Kipling