

Nathan Tidridge
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January 17th, 2024

Dear Essex and Kent Scottish,

I recently prepared a small publication entitled *An Album for Tid* that details the history of one of your members, my great-grandfather Captain "Jack" Tidridge MBE. The booklet is centered around two albums given to Jack by members of the A.I.F. while he was serving as an instructor with the School of Musketry in Hythe, England, during the First World War. *

* The booklet includes the history of Jack Tidridge, including when he immigrated to Canada, settled in Windsor, and joined the Essex Fusiliers in the 1930s.

I thought that The Essex and Scottish would like a copy for its records, and would appreciate any additional information you might have on my great-grandfather to be included in future editions of the booklet.

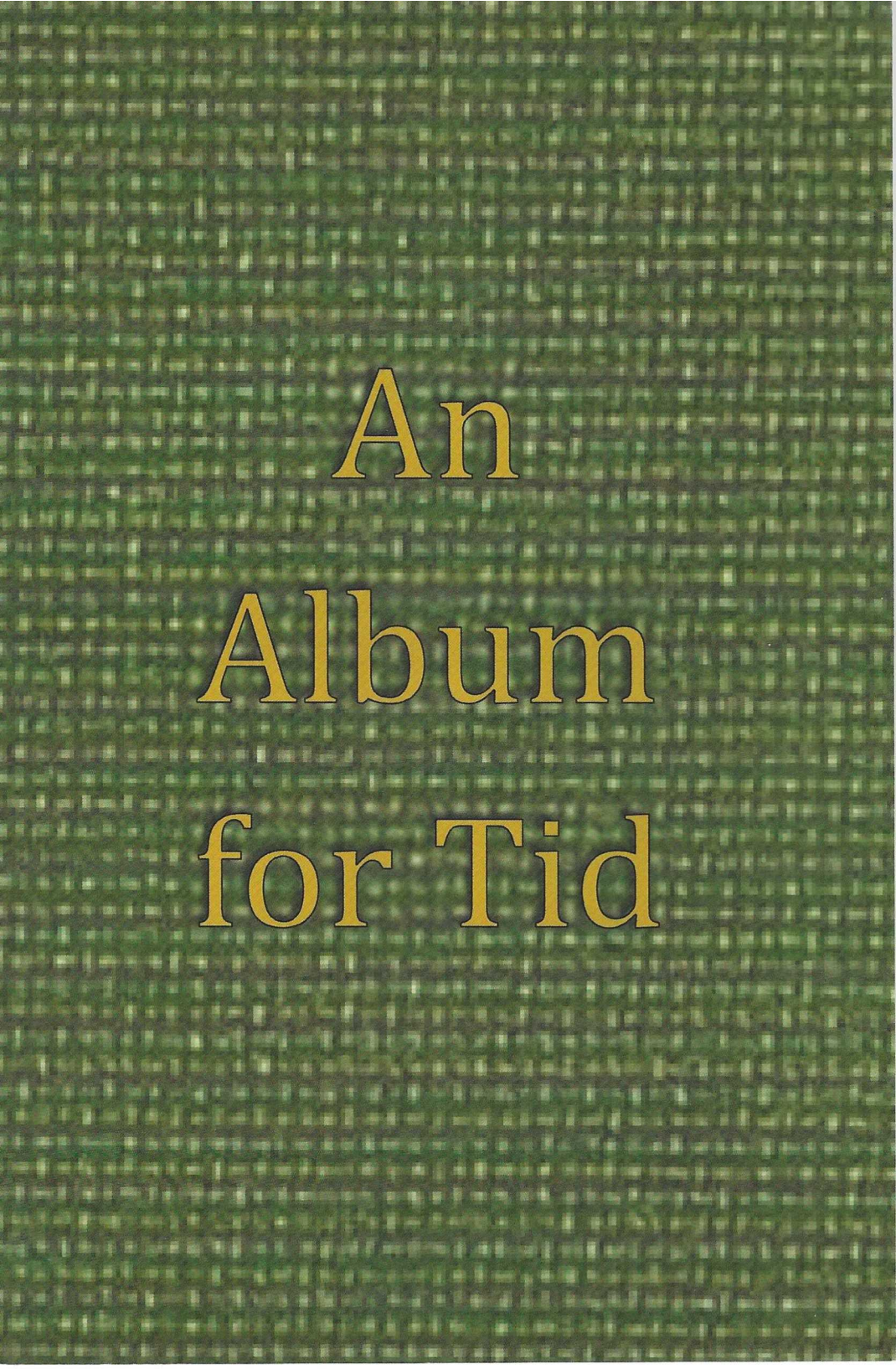
My very best to you and the regiment for the new year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nathan Tidridge

cc: Tim Tidridge (Jack Tidridge's grandson) and Jane Sparrow (Jack Tidridge's granddaughter)



An Album for Tid



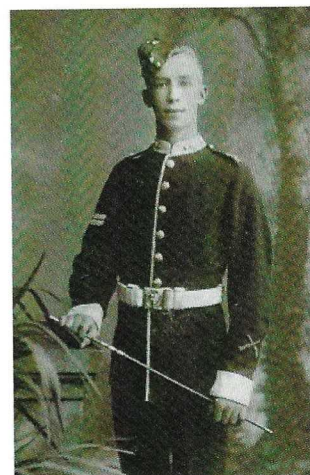
*The following pages are a
biography of Jack Tidridge created
by Nathan Tidridge in 2018.*



The Irish Tidridges, Cork, ca. 1895

John Harry Tidridge M.B.E. (1883-1947)

John "Jack" Harry was born March 16th, 1883, in a British military hospital in Cork County, Ireland, to parents Mary Baker Brown (also born in Cork County, Ireland) and William Tidridge (born in Bishops Waltham, Hampshire).



Corporal John Harry Tidridge, Lancashire Fusiliers. Photo taken at the Park Studio, 64a St. Patrick Street, Cork, ca. 1900. Notice the crossed rifles badge on his sleeve identifying him as a marksman.

Jack's father, William Tidridge, was born on December 13th, 1845, to Henry Tidridge (born in 1815 in Bishops Waltham, Hampshire) and Ann Newell (1815-1873). Jack's paternal grandparents were William Titheridge (1775-1851) and Priscilla Pargent (c. 1780-1840) who moved to Bishops Waltham after being married in Alverstoke, Hampshire. William was the one who changed the family name to "Tidridge" (all of their children were registered with the surname "Titheridge," but ultimately changed to "Tidridge" - Henry had done so by the time he married Ann Newell in 1840). Henry Tidridge was the only child of William and Priscilla Titheridge to produce offspring, meaning all descendants with the spelling "Tidridge" come from his marriage to Ann Newell. Together, Henry and Ann had eleven children including Jack's father.

By 1861 Jack's father was listed in the census as a "pot boy" working at The Crown Hotel (founded in the 16th century) in St Georges Square, Bishops Waltham. On December 22nd, 1870, William Tidridge enlisted with the British Army as a member in the 2nd Battalion of The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Through his service with The Rifle Brigade, William found himself stationed in Ireland. William received the Ashantee Medal and Coomassie Clasp for his participation in the Third Anglo-Ashanti War (1873-1874). Award the Good Conduct Medal in 1889, William Tidridge was discharged from the British Army as a Colour Sergeant on November 16th, 1891. William died on the 29th September, 1929, and is buried in St Finbarr's Cemetery, Glasheen, Cork.

Jack Tidridge was raised, along with nine siblings, along the steep Strawberry Hill Lane in Cork, and was listed as a Leather Merchant's Assistant, and a member of the Church of Ireland, in the 1901 Census of Ireland. A member of the Lancashire Fusiliers, Jack was a skilled marksman and was posted as an instructor to the School of Musketry in Hythe, Kent County, England.

B170051

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1874.

Registration District Chisleham
Birth in the Sub-District of Corham in the County of Middlesex

No.	When and Where born.	Sex.	Name at birth.	Name and Maiden Name of Father.	Name and Maiden Name of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature of Registrar.	Signature of Registrar.	Signature of Registrar.
322	1899. November Corham S.D.	Female	Evelyn Davis	Harry Davis Stone formerly Davies Gwyn	Elizabeth Davis formerly Davies Gwyn	Corham Midd.	1899	Register.	

I, Richard Robert Deputy Superintendent Registrar for the District of Chisleham do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 322 in the Register Book of Births No. 34 for the above-named Sub-District, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

Witness my Hand this 8th day of November, 1919.

Richard Robert Deputy Superintendent Registrar

Evelyn Davis' Birth Certificate

He married Evelyn Davis ("Davies" anglicized after her family moved from Wales) in Elham, Kent in 1911.

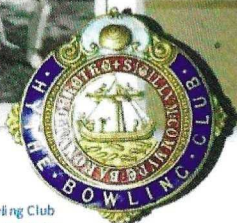
Lionel John Tidridge was born at Helena Hospital, Thornecliffe Camp, Landgate, on March 8th, 1912. William Harry Tidridge followed in 1914. The family lived in Hythe, across the military canal from the school. Jack was called "Tid" by his friends.

According to his daughter-in-law, Helen Jones (nee Musson), Jack travelled to France during the First World War and received a medal from the French for his work with Lewis Guns. He also authored a book on small arms for the British Army.



Jack Tidridge with his cricket team

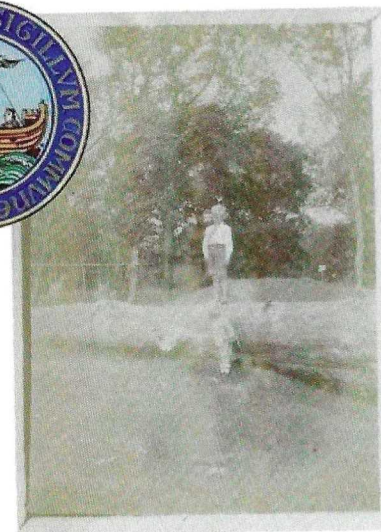
Jack's Hythe Bowling Club
lapel pin



The Tidridge Residence in Hythe, England.
Inscription on the back reads: "The Tidridge house
circa 1917 across the road from the Firing Range of
the School of Musketry, Hythe, Kent"



The family and A. O'Reilly near the remains of "Tower E"
in Hythe, England. Tower E, the remains of Martello
Tower No. 17 built in 1805, was located on 'E' Range of
the School of Musketry. Nothing remains of the ruins
today.



Lionel and William (Bill) Tidridge in Hythe, England.

The London Gazette has the following entries for John Harry Tidridge:

- Serjeant-Major John Harry Tidridge, School of Musketry, to be Second Lieutenant. Dated 13th November, 1915.
- Temporary Appointment: Assi. Instr. (Cl. GG).— Lt. J. H. Tidridge, Lan. Fus., to be sec'd, and to be temp. Capt. whilst so empld. Dated 22nd, July, 1918.
- Asst. Instr.—Lt. J. H. Tidridge, Lan. Fus., and to be temp. Capt. whilst so empld., from 6th June 1919 to 22nd July 1919.

On June 3rd, 1919, King George V appointed "John Harry Tidridge Esquire Lieutenant Temporary Captain in Our Army" to be a Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire. Jack was also awarded the British War Medal.

On December 9th, 1919, Jack, Evelyn, and their sons arrived in Halifax as immigrants aboard the Royal George. Traveling Second Class, Jack was listed as a "Motor Engineer" and Evelyn as a "Housewife." In the 1921 Census of Canada they were listed as living in Windsor (145 Hall Avenue), Ontario. Life was very difficult for the family – their first home was repossessed by the bank for failing to pay back taxes (Jack's military pension was greatly reduced following the war).



Jack Tidridge stands with sons Lionel and William (Bill). Evelyn
Tidridge stands next to him with an unidentified woman.

Jack's Award Scroll admitting him to the Order of the British Empire. Also pictured is the insignia of a Member of the British Empire (military). The top of the scroll is signed by King George V (George R. I.). The signature of the Grand Master is that of the Prince of Wales, the future King Edward VIII.

Grant of the dignity of a Marquis
of the Military Order of the Duke of the Grand Empire
to Lieutenant General (Lieutenant) John Henry Williams

George the Fifth by the Grace of
God of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and of the British Colonies
beyond the Sea, King, by Letters
Baretti, Emperor of India and Emperor
of the East, President of the British
Empire in Our trust and well beloved
Admiral Lord George Curzon
Viscount Curzon of Kedleston and
Baron Curzon of Kedleston, Captain in
Our Army
Brethren where We have thought
fit to nominate and appoint you to be
a Member
of the Military Council of Command, West
of the British Empire,
President Vice of the British Empire,

George the Fifth

George H. J.



We do by these friends grant unto you
the Dignity of a Member
of
the said Court and hereby authorize you
to have hold and enjoy the said Dignity and
Rank of a Member
of the
said Court together with all and singular
privileges thereunto belonging or appertaining.

By the Foreigners' Command.

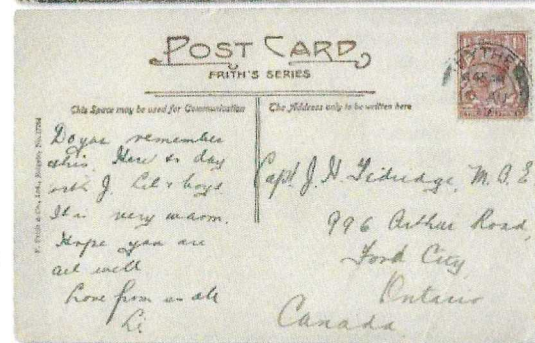
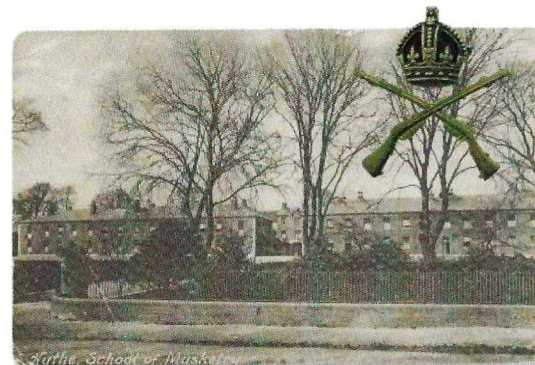
Grand Master



According to the 1924 proceedings of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada, Jack's membership in the masonic order (Windsor Lodge No. 403) was suspended due to unpaid dues. It was said that Jack did not want to come to Canada - he was about to be posted to British India with the Fusiliers - but was compelled to by Evelyn. People in Windsor remember him as a soft-spoken man who dressed and walked with military precision.

On March 16th, 1933, Captain J.H. Tidridge M.B.E. was declared too old to be called into service in the British Army. By that time he was a ticket taker at the newly built Ambassador Bridge (his son Lionel was a Canadian Customs Official, as well as an award-winning professional photographer) and a member of The Essex Fusiliers. Jack and Evelyn were living at 724 Mill Street at the time (a border crossing card from Detroit in 1943 lists Jack as 5 ft, 12 inches, of fair complexion with blue eyes and a scar on his hand).

John "Jack" Harry Tidridge died at Grace Hospital in Windsor on January 14, 1947, and was buried at Windsor Grove Cemetery with military honours. His obituary stated that he had been a clerk for the International Bridge Company for 17 years and a member of the Ambassador Branch of the Canadian Legion, No. 143, British Empire Service League. Evelyn (Davis) Tidridge died in Windsor in 1987, outliving both if her sons Lionel (1912-1980) and William (1916-1978).



Front and back of a postcard to Jack Tidridge. Insignia of the Hythe School of Musketry is superimposed.

[illegible]

Lionel Tidridge's Birth Certificate

Lionel Tidridge's marriage to Helen Jane Musson (Born in Sandwich on September 29th, 1924) produced the following children and grandchildren:

(1947) Linda Jane (married James Sparrow)

- James Scott (1967)
- Patricia Ann (1973)

(1948) Nancy Ann (married Daniel Heaney)

- Heather (1978)

(1954) Timothy John (married Lynne Charron)

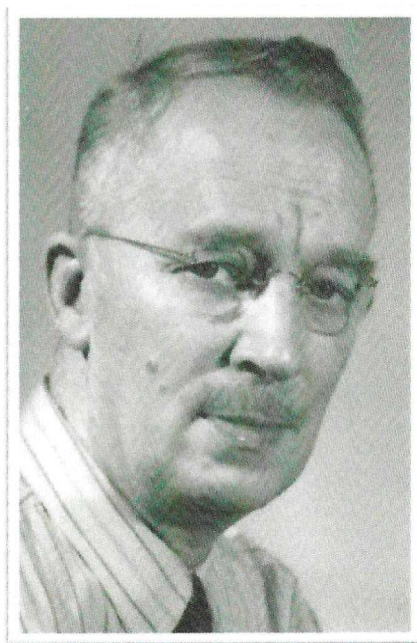
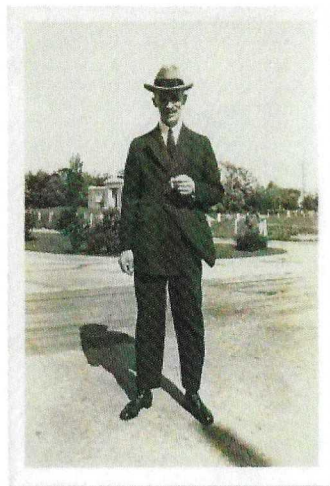
- Nathan Timothy (1978)

(married Rosemary Kelly O'Connor)

- Ryan (1984)
- Meghan (1986)
- Erin (1987)

(1957) Elizabeth (married Robert Douglas)

- Neil (1982)
- Alison (1985)
- Gwen (1989)



Jack with his sister-in-law "Win" in Windsor, Ontario.



Written and designed by Nathan Tidridge, with help from Helen Jones (nee Musson). Photographs, postcard and birth certificates come from the estate of Evelyn Tidridge (nee Davis), January 2018.