

# Ashton News



NEWSLETTER OF ASHTON LODGE No 218 OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF QUEENSLAND

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## Review on activities of Hall Committee

By Harry Crane & Peter Casper

**The South Brisbane Masonic Hall Co-Operative Society Limited is a registered trading co-operative under the Cooperatives Act 1997.**

The co-operative currently consists of 12 shareholder Masonic bodies, each holding from 50 to 1000 shares with each share having a face value of \$2.

Ashton Lodge holds the maximum 1000 shareholding.

The co-operative owned and operated a Masonic centre in South Brisbane however during the final years of ownership the cost of ownership exceeded income from the tenant lodges and a need to attend to this problem was recognised.

A Heritage Listing was applied to building, thus causing concern relating to maintenance and possibly affecting the sale value.

A purchaser for the site was subsequently found and an offer of \$1.74M was accepted by the society.

Subsequent to the sale, the co-operative continued to work with the purchaser and the Brisbane City Council and, as a result of that work, the Heritage Listing was lifted.

The base price for the warehouse at Murrarie was \$1.4M but the modifications and worst case scenario allowances for additional expenses increased the total project budget closer to \$2.6M.

The building, under construction at the time,

was to consist of a two storey office adjoining a warehouse and a Masonic facility on a mezzanine floor in the warehouse.

A sketch draft of a Masonic facility was prepared and a consultant was employed to assist with the planning approval, however the planning was halted very early by the Brisbane City Council after the expenditure of only minimal funds.

The Murrarie purchase was presented to the shareholders as an investment only venture.

A two thirds majority of shareholders would have been needed to proceed.

The proposal was supported by less than half the shareholders.

The United Grand Lodge of Queensland is investigating a property in Capalaba.

Some delays have been experienced and the future of both Stones Corner and Wynnum could affect this project.

At this time, concepts have been discussed but no proposals satisfactory to both UGL and SBMH have even passed the initial discussion point.

Furniture and fittings from the old hall remain in storage while the SBMH continues to seek a suitable site for a combined income-producing investment and a Masonic centre.

In the interim, the funds from the sale of the South Brisbane site remain invested in guaranteed, secure investments earning interest.

This interest is more than sufficient for the shareholder lodges to enjoy subsidised accommodation in temporary homes around Brisbane.

The co-operative currently has over \$1.9M invested. □

# COMPUTER STORIES

*Customer:* I'm trying to connect to the Internet with your CD, but it just doesn't work. What am I doing wrong?

*Tech support:* OK, you've got the CD in the CD drive, right?

*Customer:* Yeah....

*Tech support:* And what sort of computer are you using?

*Customer:* Computer? Oh no, I haven't got a computer. It's in the CD player and all I get is weird noises. Listen.....

*Tech support:* Aaaaarrrgggghhhh!!!

*Tech support:* What kind of computer do you have?

*Customer:* A white one...

*Customer:* Hi, this is Celine. I can't get my diskette out.

*Tech support:* Have you tried pushing the button?

*Customer:* Yes, sure, it's really stuck.

*Tech support:* That doesn't sound good; I'll make a note.

*Customer:* No.. wait a minute.. I hadn't inserted it yet... it's still on my desk... sorry....

*Tech support:* Click on the 'my computer' icon on the left of the screen.

*Customer:* Your left or my left?

*Tech support:* Good day. How may I help you?

*Customer:* Hello... I can't print.

*Tech support:* Would you click on "start" for me and...

*Customer:* Listen pal; don't start getting technical on me! I'm not Bill Gates, damn it!

*Tech support:* What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

*Customer:* A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me in the supermarket.

*Tech support:* Your password is the small letter a as in apple, a capital letter V as in Victor, the number 7.

*Customer:* Is that 7 in capital letters?

*Customer:* I can't get on the Internet.

*Tech support:* Are you sure you used the right password?

*Customer:* Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

*Tech support:* Can you tell me what the password was?

*Customer:* Five stars.

*Tech support:* What anti-virus program do you use?

*Customer:* Netscape.

*Tech support:* That's not an anti-virus program.

*Customer:* Oh, sorry...Internet Explorer.

*Customer:* I have a huge problem. A friend has placed a screen saver on my computer, but every time I move the mouse, it disappears.

*Tech support:* How may I help you?

*Customer:* I'm writing my first e-mail.

*Tech support:* OK, and what seems to be the problem?

*Customer:* Well, I have the letter 'a' in the address, but how do I get the circle around it?

A woman customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer.

*Tech support:* Are you running it under windows?

*Customer:* "No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine."

And last but not least:.... *Tech support:* "Okay Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter "P" to bring up the Program Manager."

*Customer:* I don't have a P.

*Tech support:* On your keyboard, Bob.

*Customer:* What do you mean?

*Tech support:* "P".....on your keyboard, Bob.

*Customer:* I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT!!

# How a Right can make a Wrong

## THE FATEFUL ENCOUNTER OF PRIVATE HENRY TANDEY



**T**he annals of history are full of fateful moments which scholars refer to as the great "what if's" of history, where if events had taken only a slight deviation the

**course of human affairs would have been dramatically different.**

Such a moment occurred in the last moments of the Great War in the French village of Marcoing involving 27 year old **Private Henry Tandey** of Warwickshire, UK, and 29 year old **Lance Corporal Adolf Hitler** of Braunau, Austria.

Henry Tandey was born in Leamington, Warwickshire, on the 30th August 1891, son of former soldier James Tandey.

After a difficult childhood, part of which was spent in an orphanage, he became a boiler attendant at a hotel in Leamington before enlisting in the British Army, joining the Green Howards Regiment in August 1910 and embarking on a 'Boys Own' adventurous life.

"Private Tandey served with the 2nd Battalion in South Africa and Guernsey before the outbreak of war in 1914, he fought in the 1st Battle of Ypres in October 1914, two years later he was wounded in the leg during the Battle of the Somme and when discharged from a military hospital in England transferred to the 9th Battalion in Flanders and wounded at Passchendaele in November 1917.

Once out of hospital he joined the 12th Battalion in France in 1918.

His unit was disbanded in July 1918 and he was attached to the 5th Duke of Wellington Regiment from 26th July to 4th October 1918.

It was at this time Private Tandey was

awarded the DCM for determined bravery at Vaulx Vraucourt on August 28, the MM for heroism at Havrincourt on September 12th and Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at Marcoing on 28th September 1918.

After the Great War he was posted to the 2nd Duke of Wellington Regiment in Gibraltar, Turkey and Egypt on 4th February 1921.

He was discharged from the army on 5th January 1926 at the rank of Sergeant."<sup>[1]</sup>

Being the highest decorated private soldier in the British Army during the Great War, if had he been a member of the officer class there is little doubt a knighthood would also have been one of his rewards.

Tandey was mentioned five times in dispatches and certainly earned his VC during the capture of the French village and crossing at Marcoing.

His regiment was held down by heavy machine gun fire.

Tandey crawled forward, located the machine gun nest and took it out.

Arriving at the crossing he braved heavy fire to place wooden planks over a gaping hole enabling troops to roll across and take the battle to the Germans.

The day still not over, he successfully led a bayonet charge against outnumbering enemy troops, which helped bring hostilities to an end.

As the ferocious battle wound down and enemy troops surrendered or retreated a wounded German soldier limped out of the maelstrom and into Private Tandey's line of fire.

The battle weary man never raised his rifle and just stared at Tandey, resigned to the inevitable.

"I took aim but couldn't shoot a wounded man," said Tandey, "so I let him go."<sup>[1]</sup>

The young German soldier nodded in thanks and the two men took diverging paths, that day and in history. Hitler retreated with the rem-



Fortunino Matania's famous Marcoing painting

nants of German troops and ended up in Germany, where he languished in the humiliation of defeat at wars end.

Tandey put that encounter out of his mind and rejoined his regiment, discovering soon after he had won the Victoria Cross.

It was announced in the *London Gazette* on 14th December 1918 and he was personally decorated by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 17th December 1919, in newspaper reports a picture of him carrying a wounded soldier after the Battle of Ypres was published, a dramatic image which symbolized a war which was supposed to have put an end to all wars and immortalized on canvas by Italian artist Fortunino Matania.

Leaving the army in 1926 at the rank of sergeant the 35 year old settled in Leamington where he married, settling back into civilian life he spent the next 38 years as Commissionaire, or plant security chief, at Triumph, then called the Standard Motor Company.

He lived a quiet life and although regarded as a hero by all and sundry wasn't one to brag or boast, wouldn't mention the war unless asked about it.

In 1938 Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940), Conservative PM from 1937-40, made his gloomy trip to Munich to meet Chancellor Hitler in a last ditched effort to avoid war which resulted in the ill-fated 'Munich Agreement'.

During that fateful trip Hitler invited him to his newly completed retreat in Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, a birthday present from Martin

Bormann and the Nazi Party.

Perched 1,834 metres on Kehlstein Mountain it commanded spectacular views for 200 kilometers in all directions.

While there the Prime Minister explored the hill top lair of the Fuehrer and found a reproduction of Matania's famous Marcoing painting depicting allied troops, and puzzled by the choice of art.

Hitler explained, "that man came so near to killing me that I thought I should never see Germany again, providence saved me from such devilishly accurate fire as those English boys were aiming at us". [2]

Chamberlain's thoughts aren't recorded, World War II irrupted soon after and he lost power to Winston Churchill, dying of stomach cancer within months of that event.

Hitler seized the moment to have his best wishes and gratitude conveyed to Tandey by the Prime Minister, who promised to phone him on his return to London.

It wasn't until that time Tandey knew the man he had in his gun sight 20 years earlier was Adolf Hitler and it came as a great shock, given tensions at the time it wasn't something he felt proud about.

The story first broke in 1940 but no one gave it much thought at the time.

However, in recent years it has generated greater interest.

Some historians are doubtful as it sounds too good to be true, however it has an unmistakable ring of truth to it.

No one in their right mind would make up a story about having spared the life of a tyrant



who at that time had just fire bombed Coventry, was Blitzing London and mass murdering people on the continent.

Hitler's regiment was in the Marcoing region at the time, although his presence cannot be

verified, a great deal of German records for the Great War were lost in WWII due to allied bombing of Berlin which resulted in the destruction of a significant amount of the State Archives.

So documents showing Adolf Hitler's exact whereabouts on 28 September 1918 are not available, Hitler biographers have differing opinions.

However there is irrefutable evidence that Hitler possessed a copy of the famous Matania painting featuring Tandy as early as 1937, acquiring it from Tandy's old regiment.

"Colonel Earle said that he had heard from one Dr. Schwend that Hitler had expressed a wish to have a large photograph of the Matania painting.

Obviously one was sent because Captain Weidmann, Hitler's Adjutant, wrote the following to Earle:

*"I beg to acknowledge your friendly gift which has been sent to Berlin through the good offices of Dr. Schwend.*

*The Fuehrer is naturally very interested in things connected with his own war experiences, and he was obviously moved when I showed him the picture and explained the thought which you had in causing it to be sent to him.*

*He has directed me to send you his best thanks for your friendly gift which is so rich in memories."* [3]

The Tandy family were in no doubt of the story's authenticity, they were present when Prime Minister Chamberlain phoned, "Tandy's nephew, William Whateley, from Thomaby, calls to mind a mysterious phone call almost 60 years ago, when the storm clouds of war were brewing and Prime Minister Chamberlain was futilely appeasing Herr Hitler.

One evening the telephone rang and Henry went off to answer it, when he came back he commented matter-of-factly that it had been Mr Chamberlain.

He had just returned from a meeting with Hitler and whilst at Berchtesgaden had noticed the painting by Matania of the 2nd Green Howards at the Menin Cross Roads in 1914.

Chamberlain had asked what it was doing

there and in reply Hitler had pointed out Tandy in the foreground and commented, "that's the man who nearly shot me." [4]

One crucial aspect of the event which historians have overlooked is the fact that Adolf Hitler and Henry Tandy both fought at the Battle of Ypres in 1914, a far more significant event in the life of Hitler.

He distinguished himself in combat several times and saved the life of a seriously wounded officer, his heroism resulted in him being promoted to Lance Corporal.

The famous picture by Matania depicting Tandy carrying a wounded comrade to the first aid station at the Menin Cross Roads was painted based on that battle not Marcoing.

It's possible that places got mixed up, it may well have been Ypres not Marcoing where Hitler and Tandy crossed paths and parted on amicable terms.

Tandy told a journalist that during the Great War he had, as a rule, spared wounded and disarmed German soldiers, so Marcoing wasn't the first or last time he performed a humane deed in inhumane circumstances.

The fact he was awarded the illustrious VC for heroic deeds at Marcoing may have affected Prime Minister Chamberlain's recollections of Hitler's war story, which may have included Tandy's having won the VC at Marcoing, a fact which would have undoubtedly impressed Hitler.

One thing which is clear and certain is that there must have been some significant connection between Hitler and the Fortunino Matania painting featuring Tandy.

The Fuehrer of the demonic Third Reich wasn't a collector of British wartime iconography and if he wanted propaganda images of the Battle of Ypres he would have chosen one in which the German not the enemy troops were depicted as valiant heroes.

At the outbreak of the Great War Adolf Hitler joined the 16th Bavarian Infantry Regiment as a Dispatch Runner.

He proved himself a capable and brave soldier, was twice wounded, once almost fatally gassed and awarded the Iron Cross in recognition of his bravery.

Raised a Roman Catholic he considered

entering the priesthood, mystically minded he didn't share National Socialism's nihilist credo.

He had a deep sense of destiny entwined with delusions of grandeur and a warped view of the world, influenced by melodramatic Wagnerian operas he cast himself as the saviour of the Germanic race.

He believed Private Tandy's benevolent action was part of the grand scheme of things.

The god's were watching over their emissary, which was also his sentiment upon surviving assassination attempts later on.

Hitler never forgot the moment he stared down the barrel of death, nor the face of the man who spared him, he stumbled across a newspaper featuring the famous image of Private Tandy which noted his being awarded the VC for bravery.

Hitler kept it and on becoming Chancellor of Germany ordered government officials to obtain a copy of his service record and reproduction of the Matania painting, which he hung and pointed out to loyal disciples with pride.

The reproduction was destroyed or stolen by allied troops who ransacked, looted and badly damaged the Eagles Nest as the war approached its end.

British troops were preparing a truck load of explosives to blow it off the face of the earth when American officers arrived on the scene.

Appalled by the waste of time and munitions, They ordered them back to the real war.

Tandy was haunted the remainder of his life by his good deed, the simple squeeze of a trigger would have spared the world a catastrophe which cost tens of millions of lives.

He was living in Coventry when the Luftwaffe destroyed the city in 1940, sheltered in a doorway as the building he was in crumbled and city burned like a scene from Dante's Inferno.

He was also in London during the Blitz and experienced that atrocity first hand.

He told a journalist in 1940: "If only I had known what he would turn out to be. When I saw all the people, woman and children he had killed and wounded I was sorry to God I let him go". [4]

When war erupted the 49 year old tried to

rejoin his regiment to see to it that, "he didn't escape a second time", but failed the physical due to wounds received at the Battle of the Somme.

Nonetheless, he did his bit on the home front, volunteering wherever he could be of service, but was always haunted by an act of decency to an indecent man.

Henry Tandy VC DCM MM died without issue in Coventry in 1977 aged 86, and in accordance with his wishes, was cremated and interred at the British Cemetery in Marcoing alongside fallen comrades and close to where he won his Victoria Cross 60 years earlier.

His widow sold his medals three years later for a record £27,000 and on Armistice Day 1997 they were presented to his old regiment, the Green Howards, by Sir Ernest Harrison OBE at a special ceremony at the Tower of London.



They are displayed with great pride at the Green Howards regimental museum.

#### References:

1. *Beyond Their Duty*, by Roger Chapman
2. *Sunday Graphic, Coventry, UK. December 1940*
3. *Colonel Earle, Green Howards Gazette, UK. June.1937*
4. **The Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough. UK**

#### Sources:

The Green Howards. *Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment*  
 The 19th Regiment of Foot. *By whose grace Tandy related images are reproduced.*  
 Mr. Edward McKillop Nicholl  
 The Berchtesgaden Tourist Board  
 The International Express

Extracted from an article by John Godl and appearing on the FirstWorldWar.com Website

# Putting reality into Lodge membership

How often have we, as members of the Craft assumed that new Master Masons are only too willing to become engaged in the everyday activities of the Lodge. This article, which appeared in the Grand Secretary's Newsletter, should be a timely warning that it is sometimes not in the best interests of Masonry to presume that ALL new members are keen to participate in the Lodge Ceremony. [Editor].

Below are the contents of a letter which was written by a Brother in tendering his resignation, and the Grand Secretary has commented by saying:

"I recently received a copy of a resignation letter forwarded by a Brother to his Lodge secretary.

In this letter, he mentioned numerous reasons that culminated in his letter of resignation; and there were a number of points which I feel were extremely pertinent and should be mentioned.

His comment was that although he was leaving freemasonry, he hoped Lodges would learn from his experiences and strongly recommended that all Lodges think about the following:

- 1) Let the new member settle into Masonry at their own pace, whatever that pace is?
- 2) Let members ask to be put into office and stay in that office until they feel confident to move on.
- 3) Let **them** ask to do a Charge.
- 4) Practice, what a lot of existing members consider second nature, is in reality, totally foreign to someone who is not from a Masonic background or family.
- 5) Take into consideration the massive amount of information some people are to

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**CLAYMORE** The true Claymore was as tall as a man. It was a massive, but beautifully balanced, two-handed sword.

Many of the weapons were cut down and rehilted as basket-hilt broadswords in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. True Claymores are very rare.

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process on a daily basis in their ever increasing busy life.

*(The member concerned was initiated in May 2003 and on being Raised during September 2003, was immediately put into office and is/was a member of another Order.)*

There is a lesson in this for all of us".

Rt Wor Bro John Rawlinson  
Grand Secretary.

## KNOW YOUR BEERS

**BEER:** Made from four essential ingredients – water; malted grain, yeast and hops. During the fermentation process, yeast metabolises the sugar in the malt, producing alcohol and carbon dioxide.

**HOPS:** A flower (a relative of cannabis) that contributes to the aroma and adds bitterness to balance the sweetness of the malt.

**ALES and LAGERS:** Ales are brewed using yeasts that ferment at the top of the vessel at slightly warmer temperatures while lagers use yeast that ferment at the bottom. Ales are typically more flavoursome than lagers, which tend to be crisper and drier.

**PILSNER:** A distinct type of lager named after the Czech town Pilsen, in which it was created. Saaz hops gives Pilseners a spicy zing added to its floral aromas. A refreshing beer, it's well matched to spicy foods like Thai.

**WHEAT BEERS:** Beers made primarily with malted wheat rather than the more common malted barley. Hoegaarden is an example of a Belgian 'witbier'. German wheat beers include the cloudy Hoegaarden and the filtered Kristallweizen. Redback is a well-known Australian example. Thanks to their lemony zing, these beers go well with seafood.

**M**embers of the Masonic fraternity were saddened by the passing of Rt Wor Bertram (Bert) Phin, a member of Ashton and Peninsular Daylight Lodges and an Officer of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland, after a short illness.

Being the son of a Freemason, Bert joined the fraternity at the age of 25 years in 1939, and was Initiated into **Cordiality Lodge 445**, which met in the Sydney suburb of Summer Hill.

After moving to Queensland, Bert affiliated with **Yeronga Lodge No 246** in 1963 and became its Master in 1971.

He was also a member of **Yeerongpilly Lodge No 451**.

When illness struck his wife Florence, they moved into the Masonic Home at Sandgate some 24 years ago and on her passing, he continued his residence there.

He became active in the affairs of Masonic Care and was a member of several committees concerned with the welfare of its residents.

In 1989 Bert received a Fifty Year Jewel and was presented with his Sixty Year Jewel in 1999.

He was also a Life Patron of the Aged Masons, Widows and Orphans Fund.

For his services to the Craft, Bert was awarded the rank of Past Grand Director of Ceremonies (PDGDC) in 1993, and was elevated to the rank of Past Junior Grand Warden (PJGW) in 2005, the later being particularly meaningful to him, as his father had also been awarded this rank.

At the age of 89 years, Bert became a member of Grand Lodge, with the rank of Grand Steward. He travelled extensively with the Grand Team. He was invested as Grand Pursuivant at the 2005 Grand Installation.

Immediately prior to his death, Bert would have been the oldest active member of Grand Lodge and may well have been the oldest of all time!

At the time of his 90th birthday, special mention was made by the Grand Master, of the visits Bert had made to **Lodge Carpentaria 202**, Cairns, FNQ, as their representative at Grand Lodge Communications.

In 1994 Bert became a member of



A fond  
goodbye  
to a valued  
member

**Peninsular Daylight Lodge No 522**, and immediately involved himself in the activities of the Lodge.

When Bert affiliated with **Ashton** in March 2002, without delay or hesitation, he accepted the vacant Office as Almoner of the Lodge, a position he more than ably filled with enthusiasm as can readily be authenticated by many members of the Lodge who had medical problems or had not been seen at meetings for a few months.

It was Bert who made contact with them to see if "all was right" and to make sure that they were not in need of Lodge assistance.

The widows of members were not forgotten, and at the monthly meetings he delivered a full report.

Age did not stop him from attending practice meetings and as late as November 2005, gave the After Apron Charge to our newest initiate.

Bert was born in Sydney on the 22nd June 1914, and died on the 29th December 2005.

His funeral service was on Wednesday 4th January, 2006 at the Lakeview Chapel Albany Creek.

The service was conducted by V Wor Bro Rev Ron Holt, Past Grand Chaplain, before his family, many friends and a commendable number of Masonic Brethren. □

A Reminder that copies of  
*Ashton News*  
can be obtained via e-mail by  
contacting  
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