

HOW LITTLE WE REALLY KNOW ABOUT THE WAKEFIELDS!

The likeness of E.G. Wakefield is our society's logo – on our letterhead; the masthead of our Bulletin and yet little, except a runaway marriage at Greta Green – linked to politics in large part – has been mentioned of the Wakefields very considerable scope and merit in work of community worth, etc in NZ, Australia, Canada, Europe.

50 years ago (1944-1994) a Wakefield – last of the Daniel Bell Wakefield line – was killed in action while fighting with the Partisans of Yugoslavia against Hitler's army. Capt. Edward R. Wakefield, Royal Artillery Commandos) died a hero's death in the Dalmatian Islands, Yugoslavia.

It is not well-known that, as the Wakefield family tree details below left, the owner of our former national Headquarter (Wakefield House, 90 The Terrace, Wellington) was Mrs Priscilla Mitchell (formally Mrs Williams) who toured NZ more than once meeting members of our Founders Branches. Priscilla Mitchell was sister of Commando Captain E.R. Wakefield

By October 1944 the part played by the Commandos on the island of Vis was at an end, and the last of them withdrew. They had accomplished much. The garrison of Vis, of which they had formed so strong a part, had been directly responsible for tying down three German Divisions to the coast of Yugoslavia, and maintaining two more uneasily in the background to repel an invasion which, thanks to the aggressive tactics of the Commandos, seemed always imminent. This was no mean achievement, and in fulfilling it they had displayed precisely those qualities in action which made them the unique force they were. Those whom they left behind them slept in graves beside their forefathers who had fought - if with different weapons - in the same manner and with the same courage against the soldiers of the great Napoleon. In the naval cemetery at Vis there stands to-day a stone, and upon it is written:

AFTER MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS
BRITISH SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
WHO FOUGHT AND DIED FOR THEIR
COUNTRY'S HONOUR
ON THE SEAS AND ISLANDS OF DALMATIA
HAVE AGAIN BEEN LAID TO REST
IN THIS ISLAND CEMETERY

1944

HERE DEAD LIE WE BECAUSE
WE DID NOT CHOOSE
TO LIVE AND SHAME THE LAND
FROM WHICH WE SPRUNG
LIFE TO BE SURE IS NOTHING MUCH TO LOSE
BUT YOUNG MEN THINK IT IS
AND WE WERE YOUNG

Houseman



(The Times)

COMMANDO SOLDIER

(Gilbert Edward's model for the Combined Services memorial in Westminster Abbey)

Edward Roger
b. 1878-1910
Killed in action
June 3rd 1944

Mary Priscilla = Peggy Bingham Wilton
7th Dec 1907
2 Feb 1986

Blood Royal



of England.

EDWARD I, crowned 19 Aug. 1274, b. 17 June, 1229, d. 7 July, 1307. = Margaret (2nd wife), dau. of Philip III, of France, m. 8 Sept. 1259, d. 14 Feb. 1317.

Edmund, of Woodstock, b. there 5 Aug. 1251, cr. Earl of Kent (1st husband). = Margaret, dan. of John, Lord Wake of Liddell, m. 21 May, 1349.

Sir Thos. Holland, K.G., 2nd Earl of Kent, d. 25 April, 1357. = Joan, "Fair Maid" of Kent, d. 8 July, 1385. = Edward the Black Prince (2nd husband).

Thomas Holland, 2nd Earl of Kent, d. 25 April, 1357. = Alice, 2nd dau. of Richd. FitzAlan, K.G., 5th Earl of Arundel; she d. 17 March, 1417. = Richd. II.

Sir John Beaufort, cr. Earl of Somerset, d. 21 Apr. 1410. = Margaret, dau. of Thomas, Duke of Clarence, Marquis of Dorset and Holland, son of Henry IV. (2nd husband), killed at Baupé on Easter Eve, 1411, s.p.

James I. of Scotland, d. 21 Feb. 1438. = Joane, Queen of Scots. = Sir James Stewart, the Black Knight of Lorn.

Princess Annabella (1st wife), d. 8 June, 1501. = Sir John Stewart, d. 1501. = Margaret, dow. of Will. 4th Earl of Douglas (1st wife).

Alexander, 3rd Earl Huntly, d. at Perth 16 Jan. 1523-4. = Jane Stewart, contract 14 Oct. 1474.

John, Lord Gordon, o.n.p. Dec. 1517. = Margaret, "daughter" of James IV. A.

continued above.

David Barclay, of Youngbury, Herts, m. twice, Dec. 1787. = John Barclay, of Cambridge Heath, d. 18 Dec. 1787. = Catherine Barclay, b. June, 1727, m. 17 Oct. 1750, d. 19 Oct. 1784. = Daniel Bell, of Stamford, Middlesex (son of Daniel Bell), d. 19 Oct. 1802, aged 76.

A, continued from below. John, Lord Gordon = Margaret.

Alexander Gordon, titular arch-bishop of Athens 1547, etc., d. 11 Nov. 1575. = Barbara Logie, of Fessogton, in Swanwich.

John Gordon, "gentleman of the bedchamber" to Charles IX., Henry III., and Henry IV. of France, dean of Salisbury 1603, D.D. 1605, d. 3 Sept. 1619. = Genevieve (2nd wife), dau. of Gideon Botaw, lord of Mauler, d. 6 Dec. 1543.

Louisa Gordon (only dau.), b. Dec. 1557, m. 16 Feb. 1613. = Sir Robert Gordon, of Gordons-toun, Bart., vice-chamberlain, P.C. Scotland, d. 1656.

Catherine Gordon, b. 11 Jan. 1631, m. 26 Jan. 1648, d. March, 1663. = Col David Barclay, of Urie co. Kincardine, bd. 12 Oct. 1686.

Robert Barclay, of Urie, "the Apologist", b. 23 Dec. 1648, d. 10 Oct. 1690. = Christian, dau. of Gilbert Moly-Apologists, b. 30 Jan. 1670, d. 14 Feb. 1722-3.

Anne (1st wife), dau. of James Taylor, of London, merchant, b. 17 Sept. 1682, d. 3 Dec. 1720. = David Barclay, of London, merchant, b. 17 Sept. 1682, d. 18 May, 1769. = Priscilla (2nd wife), dau. of John Freame, of London, banker, m. 8 Aug. 1723, d. 9 Oct. 1769.

Richenda, m. to Nathaniel Springall, of Norwich. = Christiana, m. 1st to Joseph Freame, and 2nd to Sir W. Watson. = Lucy, m. to Robert Barclay, of Urie. = Caroline, m. to John Lindoe, of Norwich.

Daniel Bell, of Wandie House, Wandsworth, b. 11 Aug. 1753, d. 4 Dec. 1834. = Jonathan, of Hornsey, d. 9 May, 1835. = Priscilla Bell, b. 20 xi, 1750, m. 3 Jan. 1771, d. 12 Sept. 1832.

Susanna Crach, of Felstead, Essex (1st wife), b. July, 1774, d. 28 May, 1854. = Edward Wakefield, b. 29 July, 1774, d. 28 May, 1854. = Fanny, dau. of Rev. Davis, D.D. (2nd wife). = Parley, b. 1775, d. s.p. 1846. = Isabella, b. 3 March, 1773, d. 12 Sept. 1794, d. 17 Oct. 1841. = Joshua Head, b. 17 Oct. 1774, d. 17 Oct. 1817, m. 17 May, 1817.

Edward Gibbon Wakefield, chief founder of the colonies of New Zealand and So. Australia, b. 20 March, 1795, d. 16 May, 1862. = Eliza Parle. = Daniel Bell Wakefield, acting judge supreme court of New Zealand, b. 27 Feb. 1798, d. 8 Jan. 1858. = Selina (1st wife), dau. of J. G. Lill de Burgh, Esq., d. s.p. 1855. = Angela (2nd wife), dau. of Thomas Atwood, Esq., M.P., m. 1835, d. 1874.

Edward Jerningham Wakefield, d. at Ashburton, New Zealand, 3 Mar. 1879. = Charles Marcus Wakefield, b. 1 May, 1838, m. 1 Nov. 1878. = Annette Sophia, 4th dau. of W. B. Collis, Esq., of Wollastou Hall, co. Wore., D.L. = Alice Mary, m. of 1874 to Harold Freeman = Lucy Wakefield (2nd dau.), m. 1863, d. 1880. = Count Hugo Leszczyt, of Radolin-Radolinski, 1880.

Edward Marcus Attwood Wakefield, b. 12 Jan. 1877, d. 1877. = Charles William, b. 22 July, 1880, d. 10 July, 1947. = Angela Mary, d. 20 Dec 1913. = Annette Priscilla, Feb 1956. = Edith. = Alfred Bernard Howard Gurney, Count of Radolin-Radolinski, b. 18 April, 1854. = Lucy Josephine.

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The reputation of Captain E.R. Wakefield (Royal Artillery) had stood very high in the ranks of the Commandos, who did not lightly forget his constant courage and devotion. "With all possible military ceremony" these and the men who died with them were buried where they fell in a common grave, dug by their comrades who laid them there before they were marched off to captivity. (Acknowledgements for extracts from "The Green Beret" by Hilary St. George Saunders.)