



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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The definition of success?

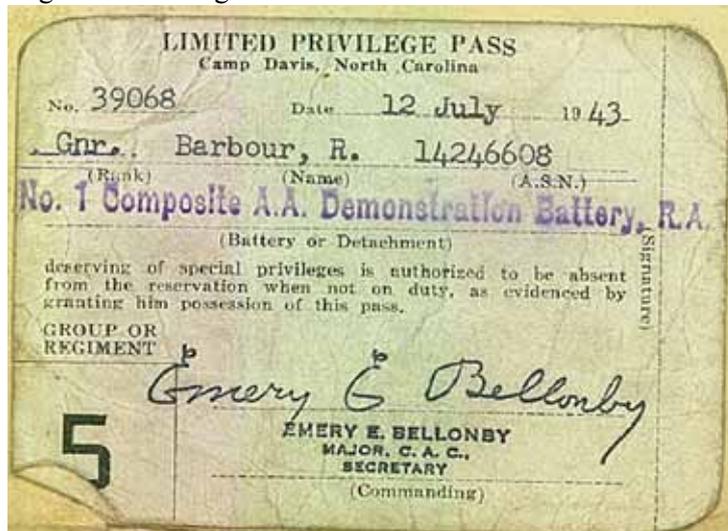
At the height of his career Henry James told the best-selling Edith Wharton that, with the royalties from his previous novel, he had managed to buy a wheelbarrow and with the proceeds from the next he hoped to have it repainted. When a drip developed in our bookstore we bought a bucket...

Getting in touch

Trying to work out what will appeal to readers is never easy, but a good story about unusual experiences is usually of interest. *Invading America 1943*, recording the demonstration battery of British gunners and their PR journey around the US is one such story. We're constantly surprised that it's not better known and so were delighted when the daughter of one of the gunners who took part contacted us.

Robert Barbour was a gunner in the Demonstration Battery, and his daughters Monica and Lynn have kindly allowed us to reproduce his photograph and privilege pass (right and below) in this newsletter. You might also be able to spot him in the far right of the photograph taken on *Ile de France* when the battery landed (see page 13, *Invading America, 1943*).

Having served in the army during WW2, and presumably having been demobbed, Mr Barbour re-enlisted in the Royal Engineers at Glasgow on 30 November 1948.



You saw it here first!

For those readers who don't know, the Manx flag is often referred to as the Three Legs of Man. Its story is fascinating, and the subject of our next publication. *Three Legs Good* will be published in March. And the motto? 'Whichever way you throw it, it will stand.'

Fired with enthusiasm

The Viking fire festival of Up Helly Aa is celebrated in Shetland every January. A Viking boat is built during the year and then, at Up Helly Aa – the phrase probably means 'all festivals end' – it is ritually sacrificed to the flames.

Our *Things to do with Vikings* pictures the burning longboat on its cover, as well as a couple of Shetland Vikings on page 21. The Isle of Man is one of the very few places in the British Isles where a Viking ship burial has been found. As it says on page 27 of *Things*: 'The man buried in the ship at Balladoole, Arbory, Isle of Man had with him a circular shield, several knives, fire-making equipment, an iron cauldron, stirrups and a horse's bridle and bit, among other things. At his feet lay a female slave.'



Brrr! Happy New Year, Sara

Quote of the day

A grizzled kind-faced major with a wooden leg has arrived as Finance Officer. He has a childlike and naïf manner and seems disposed to be friendly, but also seems not very bright. Imagine my surprise when I was told he was Bruce Marshall, a brilliant and successful author.

Page 14, *A Cog in the Wheel*