

The Visits of the Kaiser

John Cave was born in 1905 and interviewed in 1996

Lord Lonsdale used to come to Kendal to the Quarter Sessions and he always arrived in one of his big yellow Rolls Royce cars with a footman and a driver. Everybody used to crowd round and give him a cheer as he went in.

He used to come and stand in the Mayor's Parlour and look out of the window while he was waiting either to go into court or go home. One day, greatly daring, I waved to him and he waved back much to my great pleasure.

Lord Lonsdale was a great friend of the Kaiser. He came over the stay quite often at Lowther Castle before the "14-18" War.

He came through Kendal in about 1910. I've never forgotten it. He was a tall man but he had a withered arm and you could see it. He tried to disguise it as far as he could. He got out of the yellow car after it stopped at the bottom of Correction Hill (*Windermere Road*.) I don't know what the idea was but there were quite a few cars and they were all painted in the Lowther colours. He got out and looked around and he saw us kids and of course we shouted "Hurrah" and all the rest of it.

He had a big moustache I remember and he had his pointed helmet on. He was rather an impressive sort of chap. After he waved a bit at us with his good arm, he got back in the car and we never saw him again.

On one visit the Kaiser came by train. It appears that the train which carried him was signalled considerably earlier than expected. The stationmaster was on tenter-hooks, as the carriages from the castle had not reached the station and it was more than probable that when the train entered the station he would be the only person present to receive him.

He quickly sent a telegram to Lord Lonsdale who realised that it would be impossible for him to have his carriages at the station in time, at once messaged back "Shunt Him"

This happy inspiration was, it appears, adopted with the result that the unsuspecting Prince was shunted from one siding to another and only allowed to enter the station when the carriage, with all its imposing array of postillions and outriders to receive him. Lord Lonsdale being on the platform as though he had been there for some time.

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