

Biog 8 Lt Julius Diamond, MC and L/Cpl Joseph Diamond

Morag Cross 14 December 2013

Glasgow's Jewish residents forged their own unique identity from numerous different elements, incorporating Scottish, English, Russian, German, religious, political and commercial contributions. This can be seen in the story of Julius Diamond (1896-1917) and his elder brother Joseph (1893-1915), both born in Leeds, to Myer Wolfe Diamond, a 'market cobbler', turned 'operative tailor', and his wife Annie (née Hannah Fiddler). The Diamonds had come to England from Russia around 1891, part of a large-scale migration of Jews from Eastern Europe, 'fleeing a new wave of Russian anti-semitic activity in the early 1890s', or 'evicted from their homes under racial residential laws'. [Source: David Daiches, quoted in Kenneth E Collins (ed), 2008, *Scotland's Jews: A Guide to the History ...*, Glasgow; Kenneth E Collins, 1990, *Second City Jewry*, Glasgow, p8; English Census 1901, 1911, at www.ancestry.co.uk].

*****8.1**

'Families often moved around the country before settling down' in Glasgow, and the Diamonds and their nine children first lived in Leeds, which had the third largest Jewish community in the UK by 1901. Joseph was working as a tailoring 'vest machiner' and Julius was a 'law student' (although aged only 14), in 1911. The family had moved to Glasgow by 1913, which itself had over 6,000 of their co-religionists in the early 20th century (and 10,000 by 1915), although some of them were merely transients, *en route* to Canada and America, via the numerous Clyde shipping lines. [Source: Harvey L Kaplan 2006, *The Gorbals Jewish Community in 1901*, pp1-4, 12, 22; Kenneth E Collins, 1990, *Second City Jewry*, Glasgow, p190; English Census 1901, 1911, at www.ancestry.co.uk].

Many of the community at this time were involved in the clothing, drapery and allied trades, and a Jewish Tailors' Union had been formed in Glasgow in 1890. Abraham Diamond, their eldest son, another tailor, was living at 116 South Portland St in 1913, and the rest of the family probably came to Glasgow to join him. This went against the contemporary trend of 'the relocation of [Glasgow] tailoring warehouses to Leeds ... to be nearer the sources of cloth manufacture'. [Source: Kenneth E Collins, 1990, *Second City Jewry*, Glasgow, pp59-60; *Valuation Roll Glasgow 1913-14*, Ward 19, p181, at <http://www.theglasgowstory.com/valindex.php>].

*****8.2**

Julius attended Hutcheson's Grammar School, leaving in 1914 to study Mathematics and French at Glasgow University, where he became a member of the Officers' Training Corps. Perhaps in the same spirit, his brother Joseph, formerly an apprentice tailor, signed on at Glasgow with The Royal Scots 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, in March 1914. However, either through having been 'irregularly enlisted' (sometimes connected with apprenticeship terms), or finding the army not to his liking, he bought himself out after only 53 days of service. [Source: 'Julius Diamond: First World War Roll of Honour', *University of Glasgow Story*, at www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk/ww1-biography/?id=553; Joseph Diamond, *British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920*, at www.ancestry.co.uk].

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Undeterred by his previous experience of military life, Joseph re-enlisted (ex-reservists were also liable to early call-up), this time for The West Yorkshire Regiment in Leeds, on 10 August 1914, less than a week after war had been declared. Deciding that he had 'enlisted under a misapprehension' that he would be able to follow his own trade by tailoring uniforms in the army, Joseph was granted a second discharge, in October 1914. He was eventually transferred to The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), joining them in Gallipoli on 16 June 1915. Just twelve days later, on 28 June, L/Cpl Joseph David Diamond was killed in action, leaving no known grave. [Source: Joseph Diamond, *British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920*, and *UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919* at www.ancestry.co.uk; *City of Glasgow Roll of Honour 1914-1918*, p36, at www.lulu.com/spotlight/scottishmilitary ; 'The Royal Fusiliers', *The Long, Long Trail, The British Army ... 1914-1918*, at www.1914-1918.net/royalfus.htm; Casualty Details, Joseph Diamond, *Commonwealth War Graves Commission*, at www.cwgc.org].

***8.4a and b [both]

Meanwhile in Glasgow, Julius Diamond had thrown himself energetically into community activism and politics, and was '*Secretary of the Jewish Representative Council, Vice President of the Junior Zionist Society and [committee] member of the Grand Order of Israel*'. However, when war broke out, and despite both his parents, somewhat ironically, having been German citizens as late as 1911, his loyalties now lay with Britain. He joined the 3rd Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers as an officer, served in France, and transferred to The Royal Flying Corps [RFC] in 1916. Due to the basic nature of their aircraft, the initial role of the RFC was photographic reconnaissance, and identifying targets for long-range guns on the ground. Diamond's log-book was 'a continuous and wonderful record of flights over the German lines ... making observations of [their] positions and harassing them with bombs'. [Sources: *The Hutchesonian*, Vol II, No 1, June 1919, p30; 'The War: Missing', *Jewish Chronicle*, 26 October 1917, p19; 1911 Census, at www.ancestry.co.uk].

***8.5

After several mentions in dispatches, on 26 September 1917, he received the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry, as an observer directing artillery-fire from the air: '*On two occasions he ranged our siege batteries on hostile battery positions causing numerous fires and explosions*'. Lt Julius Diamond, 7th Squadron, The Royal Flying Corps, and his 'skilful, cool-headed pilot', failed to return from a flight on 8 October 1917. 'It was probably engine trouble and a strong wind blowing towards the German lines that prevented the two airmen from getting back'. His Military Cross was announced posthumously, on 18 October, 1917. [Sources: *The Hutchesonian*, Vol II, No 1, June 1919, p30; *Supplement to London Gazette*, 18 Oct 1917, p10708; *Supplement to London Gazette*, 7 March 1918, p2912].

***8.6

Diamond would probably have taken part in an important patriotic photo-call had he been in Glasgow at the time. His family had moved from South Portland Street to 43 Abbotsford Place by 1915, (when his mother had died), but they may have attended South Portland St Synagogue, built in 1901. 'Every Jewish soldier and sailor' was invited to a 'parade for [our] photograph outside South Portland St Synagogue 2.45 pm' on 24 September 1917. The picture had a deliberate aim: 'While illustrating to the non-Jewish world the number of Jews serving in the forces ... They must show their

loyalty and patriotism in the most unmistakeable manner', amid wartime suspicion of 'foreigners' and 'enemy aliens'. The resulting group portrait of 119 uniformed servicemen, and nine civilians, in glengarries, kilts, tam o'shanter and other khaki garb, is surely one of the most striking, and poignant, images from the home front in Glasgow. [Sources: *Statutory Register of Deaths*, at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk; Harvey L Kaplan 2006, *The Gorbals Jewish Community in 1901*, p18; Kenneth E Collins, 1990, *Second City Jewry*, Glasgow, p191; Photograph Collection, Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Glasgow, at www.sjac.org.uk].

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In 1918, while the war was ongoing, Julius and Joseph's sister, Tillie, married another Glaswegian soldier, Marks Solomon, of the 13th Battalion, The Royal Scots, the regiment of which Joseph had briefly been a member in 1914. [Source: *Statutory Register of Marriages*, at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk].

***8.8

As neither Joseph nor Julius Diamond's bodies were ever found, they have no known graves, and are commemorated on the City of Glasgow Roll of Honour 1914-1918, Hutcheson's Grammar School War Memorial, the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey, and on the Arras Flying Services Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France. Joseph is also named on a family gravestone at Sandymount Cemetery, Glasgow. [Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Online Resource, at www.cwgc.org; 'Hutcheson's Grammar School', *Scottish War Memorials Project*, at <http://warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com/warmemscot.html>; *Sandymount Cemetery Monumental Inscription Index*, p11, at www.memento-mori.co.uk].