

# THE WEST KIRBY TANK

Tanks first appeared on the battlefields of Flanders in 1916. During the later stages of World War One, the Government sought to raise funds for the war effort. A means to do this was to send tanks to visit towns and cities and sell war bonds to residents.

When the war was over the Government decided to thank the places that contributed by giving old tanks for public display. In January 1920, a tank arrived at West Kirby station yard and the next day was driven round to the Upper Park.

The tank, a Mark IV Female, was introduced in 1916, was equipped with 5 machine guns and weighed 26 tons. It was crewed by 8 men.

The tank was positioned on the bank behind the Upper Park terracing above the steps on the pathway. It was planned that it would be mounted on a concrete platform, railed in and have an information notice in front. There is no record of these being provided and the tank was starved of maintenance by the Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council.



*An identical preserved tank is still on display at Ashford, Kent*

In 1928 a member of the King's Liverpool Regiment wrote:-

"I have much admired the beautiful and varied (rose) blooms which have been so prolific this year. But the pleasure of this charming part of the park gives me is marred by the sight of that ugly monstrosity. It is indeed difficult to understand for what reason this symbol of human folly and beastliness is retained. Surely the residents of West Kirby can appreciate the fact that those who suffered the hell of modern warfare ten years ago do not want this continual reminder of their glorious experience'.

In 1929 the Council sold the tank for scrap and donated the money to the British Legion. On 27th September 1929, the local newspaper described the cutting up of the tank 'The Passing of a Giant'.

*West Kirby Remembers World War One*

