



LORD HORATIO HERBERT

KITCHENER (1850-1916)

The City of Kitchener was originally named Berlin. By 1916 this name had become profoundly inconvenient, and the city was renamed Kitchener after Lord Kitchener, Britain's Minister of War, who had been killed in action that year.

Much later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, evidence came to light suggesting that Lord Kitchener had been an ardent pursuer of men. This spectacularly handsome devil of a man shunned women, surrounded himself with officers nearly as handsome as himself, and shared living quarters with one of them for many years, his constant and inseparable companion, Captain Oswald Fitzgerald – until they died together when their military ship hit a German mine.

Lord Kitchener also had a predilection for collecting delicate china, but his interests extended to sturdier items as well – including garden gnomes and artifacts of a similar character, which were found in profusion on the otherwise tastefully landscaped grounds of his country estate, Broome Park. Known in society as “Lord Kitch” his nick-name was eventually applied to the style he loved so well, and survives in its modern spelling “kitsch.”

Because of his chiselled features, his alluring moustache, and his passion for collecting items of little intrinsic value, Lord Kitchener came very close to achieving cult status in the heady days of Gay Liberation. Lord Kitchener, we salute you, Sir! Your memory lives on!

WAS KITCHENER REALLY AS GAY AS THEY SAY?