

# ERIC HENRY LIDDELL

## FROM AN OLYMPIAN TO A MISSIONARY (1902 – 1945) - PART II

(Retold from “Living 4 God” by Kath Dredge, published by Day One Publications;  
“For the Glory: Eric Liddell’s Journey from Olympic Champion to Modern Martyr”  
by Duncan Hamilton, published by Penguin Press)

*Retold by Jenny Lok      Illustrated by Andronicus Koshy*

In July 1925, a tearful crowd at Edinburgh bade a fond farewell to Eric Liddell who was leaving Scotland for China. After a fortnight’s travelling, he was reunited with his family in the French part of the city of Tientsin. By then, there was great political instability in the land; much of China was taken over by Japanese and European people. As a result, the Chinese hated the foreigners.

Undeterred, Eric set about the task of teaching science and training the students in sports. Some of these college students went on to break records at athletic meets. Occasionally, Eric would participate in some athletic events because he still loved to run. On one occasion, he took part in an athletic race in the port city of Darien, where he was to run in the 400-metre race at 2.40pm and then had to catch a boat back to Manchuria at 3.10pm. Immediately after the race, a taxi would be waiting to take him to the port in about 20 minutes. However, due to some delay, when he arrived at the wharf, the boat was leaving. How disappointed he was! Just at that moment, the wind pushed the boat slightly towards him. Without hesitation, Eric threw his bag onto the wooden deck before taking an “enormous leap” into the boat. For this feat, he was nicknamed: “The Flying Scotsman”.



In his work among the Chinese people, Eric did not forget that it was important to speak their language well so that he could minister to them more