



ERIC LIDDELL FACTSHEET



Eric Liddell was an Olympic gold medallist, born in China to Scottish parents. His inspiring story is depicted in the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Eric Henry Liddell

Chinese Name: 李爱锐, Lǐ àirui

Birthdate: 16 January 1902

Birthplace: Tianjin, China

Occupation: Athlete & missionary

Medals: 400m gold, 200m bronze

Nickname: The Flying Scotsman

IMPORTANT FACTS

Eric Liddell studied in China until the age of 5, when he moved to the UK with his family. He studied Pure Science at Edinburgh University.

At the 1924 Paris Olympics, Liddell, a devout Christian, dropped out of his strongest event, the 100 metres, because the qualifying heats were scheduled for a Sunday. Instead, he trained for the 200 metre and 400 metre sprints. Eric ran the 400m in 47.6 seconds, setting an Olympic and World Record.

He returned to China in 1925 to serve as a missionary teacher. In 1943, during World War II, he was imprisoned in Weih sien Internment Camp, where he organised games and taught the children, who called him 'Uncle Eric'. Eric sadly died of a brain tumour just months before the war ended.

A LEGEND. A LEGACY. A LIFETIME OF INSPIRATION.

2024 marks 100 years since Eric's legendary win at the Paris Olympics. The Eric Liddell Community in Edinburgh is celebrating with a programme of events, The Eric Liddell 100. In China, many celebrate Eric as China's first-ever Olympic gold medallist. This short educational film tells Eric's inspirational story.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Mandarin, the Olympics are called àoyùnhuì (奥运会).
- Eric's birthplace, Tianjin (天津) means 'heavenly ford'