

LILIAN SALKELD AND G.O. EDWARDS – FORGOTTEN WALKERS



There are two potentially forgotten long distance walking performances that deserve our attention. Both date from the early 1920's and both are by youngsters. Luckily for us, they have been captured for posterity in the British Pathe newsreel archives. There are 3 videos to review so let's take them in order.

The first is a prelude, dated 06/06/1921, which shows *15 year old Lilian Salkeld winning a 15 Miles Championship Walk for Girls in Manchester*. See <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/girls-walking-race>. In fairness, the newsreel only shows the girls for the first 20 seconds (Lilian is wearing number 5). After that, it swaps to a display of Master G.O. Edwards walking in the Manchester to Blackpool race. It seems a case of improper editing when the newsreel was created or recreated.

The second newsreel is dated 01/10/1921 and is titled: *Wonder Boy Walker. Master G.O. Edwards aged 10, establishes World's record in walking 52 miles in 11 hours 43 minutes Manchester to Blackpool. Lancashire*. It shows the same boy who features in the second half of the first newsreel walking from Manchester to Blackpool, a distance of 52 miles.. The second half of this newsreel is titled *Lillian Salkeld, aged 16, gave up after going 38 miles* and shows Lillian as she walks towards the camera and takes a drink from a bottle. Check it out at <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/boy-walker-1>.

The third newsreel, dated 04/05/1922 is titled *Wonderful Girl Walker - 16 year old Miss Lilian Salkeld accomplishes London to Brighton walk in 12 hours 20 minutes*. That is a 53 mile walk, done in a little over 12 hours, not a bad effort in anyone's measure. See <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/lilian-salkeld-aka-wonderful-girl-walker>.

I have never found their names in any further results or newsreels so these two long distance performances seem to have been once off efforts. Two great performances indeed.

Tim Erickson
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