

Follow Newark's trauma in The Great War as it happened—100 years ago this week

Great War Bulletin

No. 1 ... Newark ... Monday 3 August 1914

SJAB sends Newark's First XI into the Firing Line

THE honour of being the first men from Newark and district in the fighting line belonged to 11 members of the St John Ambulance Brigade (SJAB). Six of them, F Gabbitts of 116 Barnbygate, W H Green of 5 St Leonard's Court, F Barks of 11 Private Street, G Atkinson of 2 Private Street, H Eddowes of West Villas in New Balderton and Corporal F Taylor of Hatton Gardens joined the pre-Dreadnought class *Lord Nelson*, which would serve in the Mediterranean, particularly after the Allies' withdrawal from the dreadful Dardanelles battlefield.

The other five – picture frame gilder Henry Reed (23-year-old son of George Reed, the SJAB Superintendent) who lived at 16 Winchelsea Avenue, millwright Herbert Trollope (aged 29) of 26 Sydney Terrace off Bowbridge Road, 47-year-old boot repairer William Brown of 34 King Street, confectionary sugar boiler Frank Mottram (42) of Hatton Gardens and grocery shop assistant George Cottam (24) of Millgate – prepared for duty in the sick bay of a battleship.

NEWARK IS AT WAR!

THE appearance of Mobilisation posters created quite a stir in Newark this evening.

Crowds assembled to read the official Royal Proclamations posted at the Police Office beside the Town Hall, at Beaumont Cross where the Great North Road meets the Fosse Way and in all the Churches.

At seven o'clock, when the evening papers arrived, the sellers were quite besieged because rumours had already spread like wildfire about "fantastic Naval engagements in the Atlantic and the boom of guns being heard on the East Coast." All were fiction.

All Reservists: report now

The facts were that all Regular Reservists had to report at once to their headquarters; and all Special Reservists, better known as the 4th Battalion Notts Militia, were required to report to join the Army.

The Militiamen were billeted in Christ Church Schools on Portland Street, Albert Street and Victoria Street; the Mount Schools; the Wesleyan Schools; and, when they were full, the Town Hall.

Chatting with some of the 100 or so Reservists, a *Newark Advertiser* reporter was "struck by the philosophic calm of the great majority ... The general idea is that they are only too pleased to do their little bit for the Old Country."

"Some of them have been mobilised in recent years for strikes and other things but others have not been with the Colours for eight years ... More than one expressed pleasure that the enemy were Germans, and they willingly rejoined their regiment so long as they had not to go to Ireland."

Hairdresser Ernest Lee, aged 32, of 141 Barnbygate shut up shop to join the Forces along with four members of Newark Council: ex-Mayor Dr Harry Stallard, 47, of 60 London Road; Councillor Lewis Charles Bishop Appleby, 35, a partner in Bishop and Sons' maltsters, in his capacity as Captain of the Newark Company of the 8th Sherwood Foresters; Councillor Robert Hodgkinson, 38, a solicitor of 96 Appletongate; Councillor William Kemp Clarke, confectioner and caterer of 43 Castlegate.

The Town Council held an emergency meeting to consider the effect of the war on the stock of foodstuffs and the protection of the poor. It set up a Committee of nine to discuss the issues with grocers and bakers.

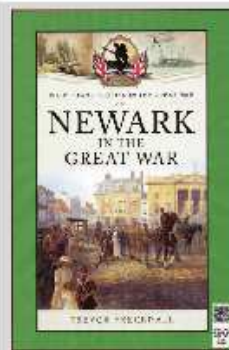
Townpeople were urged "not to make larger purchases than their needs justify, but to husband their resources and be very careful of their cash". The price of bread went up a ha'penny by nightfall.

Sherwoods hasten back from camp

THE 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters Territorial Infantry was last night ordered to depart its annual camp in North Yorkshire and return to Newark.

The Mayor, Councillor John Charles Kew (pictured right), was given a few hours to find billets for 850 men and 30 officers. He chose Lover's Lane, Barnby Road and the Magnus Schools. But before the men arrived at 9.15pm, orders were changed. Only the Newark Company disembarked at Northgate Railway Station. They marched to the new Drill Hall "built in the nick of time" and officially opened by the Duke of Portland on Saturday 20 June. Our Sherwoods had been under canvas at Hunmanby near Filey since Sunday 26 July. Colonel C J Huskinson of Farnon was in charge of the Regiment with Captain Lewis Appleby leading the Newark Company.

Everything was excellent about the "canvas city" except that it rained incessantly, so a planned



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Newark in The Great War

The first full account of how the town coped with the tragedies, triumphs and trials that faced our men, women and children from 1914-18.

Get your copy signed by the author at WH Smith in the Market Place, Newark, on Saturday from 11am



two-mile march to the North Sea at 6.30am for "bathing parade" was cancelled one day. Instead the men had a good grounding in drill and exercise work in the fields beside the camp.

All the Foresters were engaged in the early stages of field work. "It obviously needs time for the rough edges to be polished off, and there can be no question of hurrying citizen soldiers into arduous military work straight away," said the official communiqué on 28 July.

Countdown to the conflict beginning

TIMELINE of how the Great War began...

28 June: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia.

29 June: Austro-Hungarians blame Serbia.

3 July: All territorial soldiers in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (except signallers) ordered to go to the Drill Hall in Cherry Holt Lane after they finished work (at 7pm).

4 July: Extra shooting contest at the Beacon Hill range for the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.

20 July: Austro-Hungarian troops sent to Serbian frontier.

25 July: Serbian troops mobilised; Russian troops moved to its border with Austria ... 16-year-old Private John Harston of 23 Lombard Street, Newark, was runner-up in Sherwood Rangers' annual prize shoot. Young John survived the War as Trooper H/275005 Harston.

28 July: Austria-Hungary declared war.

29 July: Germans crossed into France.

1 Aug: Germany declared war on Russia.

3 Aug: Germany invaded neutral Belgium.

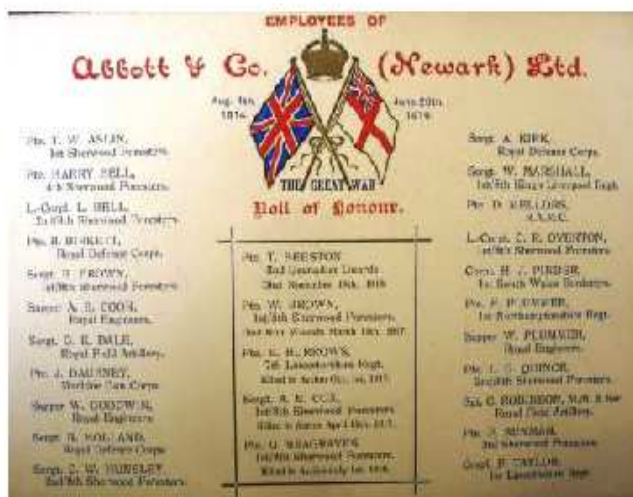
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Workers tune-up for the brutal fight

CONTRIBUTING to the escapism from war worries, Abbott and Company's prize band attracted a large crowd to a concert beside the Trent at Farndon on Sunday 5 July.

Founded by Thomas Abbott of Lowdham in 1870, as the Newark Boiler Works, it was the first business to take on the manufacture of steam boilers in the town.

By the end of The Great War 27 of the Abbott workforce would have joined the Forces – of whom five would make the ultimate sacrifice – as can be seen from the memorial reproduced on the right.



Swift Stoakes sprints in

THE sixth annual sports organised by the Athletics Club attached to James Simpson's Lowfield Works took place in delightful weather on Saturday 11 July.

James Henry Stoakes, an 18-year-old clerk at an ironworks residing with his parents at 48 Beacon Hill Road, won the 120 yards handicap flat race from scratch, repeating his success of a few weeks earlier at the Grantham Football Club sports. He would finish the war as Private 203301 in the North Staffordshire Regiment.

Mumby's big share-out



WILLIAM MUMBY (above) proved on Monday 13 July that he was far ahead of his time. He gave shares to all 400 employees of Mumby & Sons, the wholesale clothing manufacturers set up in 1880 by his father Robert to produce wares for his Nottingham shop.

After William became chairman of the company, he expanded into new premises on Appletongate in 1903.

His "new and interesting scheme" was far from his last innovation for the benefit of his workforce in particular and the town in general before he died in 1918.

Guardians at war with Government

NEWARK Board of Guardians – tasked with running social services before the creation of the National Health Service in the 1940s – spent July 1914 accusing Government inspectors of "coming down from London to try and stir up sedition among our contented officers." The outburst on 14 July followed a Government report that claimed the Guardians should employ two more nurses to deal with demand at the infirmary, which was built on Bowbridge Road in 1878 and considerably enlarged in 1908 to coincide with the closure of the Claypole Workhouse that had cared for 250 able-bodied inmates while the aged and infirm had lived in the Hawton Road Workhouse.

A fortnight later the new Medical Officer, Dr Hugh N B Neville Hine apparently agreed more staff were needed. But when asked to give his views in private, he conceded that he feared he would be suspended by the Local Government Board Medical Inspector Dr Fuller if he did not press for the number of nurses to be increased from four to six. The Superintendent Nurse also said she was being pressed by Dr Fuller to "get the place up to date and properly staffed".

The Guardians accepted Dr Hine's private view that only a holiday relief nurse was required to help look after the men, women and children who were unable to look after themselves.

It was merely the first of many traumas at the Workhouse before Peace arrived.

Hospital's £41 boost

NEWARK General Hospital on London Road, which is funded by private subscriptions, benefitted from a house-to-house collection round the town on Saturday 18 July. The fact that the takings were counted in the Town Hall by Council officials indicated how important it was. The total, £41 15s 1½d, was £1 14s 6d more than in 1913.

Long wait for porter

SOUTHWELL Board of Guardians agonised over the appointment of a new Workhouse porter on 17 July.

When George Ernest Murden, 23, a threader in a lace factory, of Victoria Terrace, Southwell, was given the job, he forgot to mention during his interview that he was a Territorial and would be away for the next fortnight on camp.

The Guardians agreed to make do without a porter for two weeks, never dreaming it would be years before he was able to return...

Red Cross prepares to care for the wounded

MORE than 800 members of the Notts branch of the British Red Cross Society were put through their paces at Welbeck on Friday 31 July.

It was the greatest indication yet that huge numbers of wounded soldiers could be expected from the forthcoming conflict.

The ladies were tested in bandaging and bed-making while the men's work consisted of stretcher-bearing under "stringent conditions" and triangular bandaging.

Birthday boy misses out

The village of Cauntun was *en fete* on Saturday 1 August to celebrate the coming of age of Mr Samuel John Markham Hole, only son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Hole of Cauntun Manor.

One party-pooper for the 400 guests: the 21-year-old was absent because he was unable to leave his Regiment, the 3rd King's Own Hussars, in training.

New Drill Hall is too posh to be on a Lane, say Officers

Newark Town Council agreed on Monday 27 July to change the names of Cherry Holt Lane, Lodge Lane and Hospital Lane to Sherwood Avenue – because officers of the Sherwood Rangers and Sherwood Foresters felt it would be "derogatory" for the address of their new Drill Hall to be a lane. But 'Sherwood Avenue' would not be officially adopted until after the War.

Star students in Science and Art

LEADING students in the examinations at Newark School of Science and Art were G Hopkinson with 92% in elementary machine construction; T A Mansell, 96% in practical physics and mechanics; John Brown, 75% in building construction; E Brown, 100% in practical mathematics; W Hutchinson and L Hopesmith, 89% in applied mechanics and heat engines; F Coe, 93% in advanced machine construction; F Fitchett 100% in higher machine design; M H Colton 89% in book-keeping; M Jessop 99% in shorthand; C Woodhouse 100% in French.

Soldier's duck and century

NEWARK Cricket Club's star batsman, E C Thrale was out for a duck at Averham in a Thursday afternoon match – when businesses enjoyed a half-day's closing – but gained revenge on Saturday by scoring 106 for the Stanley Works in another match against Averham.

Edward Charles Thrale of 63 Victoria Street would go on to spend his Great War as Private 268090 in the 1/6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment.

Cup triumph for oarsmen

NEWARK Rowing Club's Harold Parnham, Hugh Parnham, L Durham and L Longdon coxed by G Ford won the Berrey Cup at Nottingham Regatta on Saturday 25 July.

Herbert Leslie Durham, Lancashire Fusiliers, will be killed on 6 September 1915 an awful long way from the Trent on the hot and arid Suvla Plain, Gallipoli. He is remembered in the Azmak Cemetery.

The Parnham brothers worked in their father's flour mill, which lost so many workmen to the Forces as the War went on that Newark faced a bread shortage.

Children's swim passes

NEWARK'S proximity to the Rivers Devon and Trent meant children had to be taught how to swim before they were tempted into the cooling waters in the decades before a swimming pool was provided.

And more than 30 children from the town's schools completed swimming tests on Wednesday 8 July in "the bathing place" between the Trent and Tolney Lane.

Cheer up! Cut-price beer here

James Hole's Castle Brewery on Albert Street advertises its milk stout @ 3s 6d for a dozen pints and 2s for a dozen half-pints.