

Great War Bulletin

No. 3 ... Newark ... Monday 17 August 1914

Terriers sent on forced marches!

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS' EXHAUSTING BAPTISM

SHOCKED and dismayed, the Newark area's Territorial soldiers of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters were last week sent on long route marches – having been adjudged “unfit for service” by officers who examined them upon their arrival at Regimental headquarters in Derby.

The “punishment” was inflicted after the 650 men had spent the previous two days marching out from Newark Market Place to Derby, with only a night's rest in a Radcliffe-on-Trent field along the way.

Officers who judged them in need of a greater degree of physical fitness might well have been unaware the men:

- Spent most time at work standing at benches in the town's engineering factories;
- Had been tired by the daily exercises at the annual camp in Yorkshire shortly before the outbreak of War.

But, to a man, they proved to be so eager to fulfil the honour of serving God, King and Country on whatever battlefields await them that not one murmur of dissent was heard as they helped each other to complete marches of over 20 miles in the rugged Peak District.

Indeed, as our exclusive picture (above right) reveals, the inspirational buglers showed nothing but enthusiasm on a brief break.

Officers are convinced that the men are indisputably fitter now for the ruthless rigours to come.



...Next: the real training begins!

ONCE the officers in Derby are certain that the 8th Battalion Sherwoods are ready to embark upon training for “the real job ahead”, they will be despatched by train to a massive training centre in Hertfordshire.

There, in the peaceful rolling park-land of civilised Southern England, our volunteers will join with like-minded patriots from all over the United Kingdom.

They will be forged into a fighting force capable of holding their own alongside the Regular Soldiers of the British Expeditionary

Force who are already standing between the German Army and their apparent aim of reaching the French ports that would offer them the opportunity to invade England via the Channel.

Ignoring Belgium's stated intention to remain neutral, Germany has ruthlessly demonstrated why its barbaric ambition has to be halted. Horror stories are emerging by the minute of defenceless civilian women and children being brutalised and butchered by the invading Hun.

Continuing the story of Newark's Great War—100 years ago this week

Townsmen flock to Kitchener's rallying cry

Newark Town Hall was packed on the evening of Thursday 13 August by men responding to Lord Kitchener's call for volunteers to fill a Second Army.

A few hours after the first squadrons of the Royal Flying Corps arrived in France, hundreds professed themselves ready to serve in the Sherwood Foresters' new Battalion.

Normally on such a Thursday, shop and office workers would be enjoying half-day closing by partaking in games of bowls, cricket or tennis or other recreational activity while factory workers would be seeking overtime work, with most being swiftly deployed as part of the nation's network of munitions manufacturers.

A Recruiting Committee was formed of men with immense organisational skills in commercial and military aspects: Major E F Milthorp of Balderton Old Hall; W A Warwick of Upton, managing director of the family brewing company on Northgate; John McNaught Davis of Farndon, a venerable territorial campaigner and former manager of the Ram Hotel whose sons would be among the many soldiers to suffer; and Frederick George Vessey, chairman of Newark Rural District Council.



Boy, six, drowns

SIX-year-old Henry Gainsley drowned in the Town Wharf on Tuesday night while playing hide and seek with his brother and friends.

He was the third to die of the six children of ironworker Ben Gainsley and his wife of 15 years Lucy, of 9 Lincoln Row, off Slaughterhouse Lane.

An inquest jury heard the evidence on Wednesday, returned a verdict of "accidental death" – and then gave their fees to the Prince of Wales's Fund set up to help the families of men who had gone to War.

Churches help families

COLLECTIONS on Sunday in Newark Churches for the Prince of Wales's Fund raised £4 9s 7d at St Leonard's and £7 10s 6d at Christ Church.

Newark in The Great War on sale at WH Smith