

Great War Bulletin

No. 4 ... Newark ... Monday 24 August 1914

Edited by Trevor Frecknall, author of *Newark in The Great War*

First War killing - on Tubular Bridge

INVASION FEARS GROW AS GERMANS



STORM TOWARDS ENGLISH CHANNEL

THE Tubular Bridge, inventive and ancient route over the River Trent for the Great Northern Railway a short distance north of Newark, was the unexpected scene of the first War death to directly affect the town.

The tragedy happened on Saturday. Private Austin Noland, a 20-year-old Territorial with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was knocked down and killed by a light engine on the Tubular Bridge – and his superior, Sergeant Arthur Hodgson

had an amazing escape by hurling himself down in the tracks to avoid contact.

Noland worked in a woollen mill and lived with his widowed mother in Batley, Yorkshire, before the War.

Hodgson survived to explain to the inquest that they had not heard the engine approaching because a goods train was rattling past in the opposite direction.

The Coroner, F B Footitt declined to allow witnesses to detail how

territorials were guarding the bridge. The jurymen returned a verdict of accidental death and donated their expenses to the Mayor's Fund.

The death came only five days after the War Office ordered Newark's Mayor, Councillor John Kew, to scrap a plan to form a Newark Civic Guard.

The War Office said that it feared it might draw young men who ought to volunteer for military service overseas. Officials preferred to send territorial soldiers from Doncaster each day.

See all issues on www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk. Search Newark Great War



This was the scene in the Newark Town Hall ballroom on Thursday afternoon when the Ladies' Working Party convened by the Mayoress, Mrs Annie Kew, got down to work for the first time. Their mission is to provide all kinds of clothing – shirts, socks, underwear – for the men of the town who have marched off to War.

Many of the members of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters have only the summer clothes in which they marched to Regimental HQ at Derby; and they will

shortly be moving on to be prepared to join the increasingly fierce fighting that has swept through Belgium and moved into France.

As can be seen from the photograph, more than 30 ladies responded to the Mayoress's initial call.

They all pledged to strive to persuade friends to join them on a weekly basis (2-4pm) and to spend their spare time to ensure our brave menfolk lack materially for nothing in their service of God, King and Country.

Roadmen to help gather harvest

NOTTS County Council on Thursday gave permission to their roadmen to gather the harvest and help farmers whose labourers have enlisted in the Armed Forces. The men, who work to fill in potholes, keep ditches open and trim grass verges, are going to be busy: "golden fields ripe and heavy with corn" abound in the district.

Iron resolve...

IRONMONGERS John Howitt and Sons announced that they were keeping their workshops in St Mark's Lane open "and hope to work through the War. In this way we shall keep together our men and staff who have not been able to enlist."

Sunny Jack bats on

Opening bat Jack B Sunman, aged 41, a boiler-maker by day and landlord of the Horse and Gears pub in Portland Street by night, scored a century to lead Winthorpe's cricketers to a six-wicket win over Lincoln Albion (176 all out).

Pleas for cash and men

THERE were swift and willing responses this week to the Mayor's Appeal to Newarkers to boost the Prince of Wales's Fund, set up to help families survive financially while the menfolk are at away fighting.

Instant £100 donations flowed in from brewery rivals James Hole & Company and Warwick's and Richardson's, as well as from two branches of the same family of

maltsters, J G Branston of Winthorpe Grange and J W and H Branston of Newark.

Barnbygate Wesleyan Chapel added £16 2s 2d on Sunday while the Parish Church collection contributed £45 8s 10d and the Tolney Lane Mission 5 shillings.

As 12 of its members have been called into the Naval Sick Berth Reserve, Newark St John Ambulance Brigade asked for men holding first aid certificates to join them by visiting their superintendent George Reed in his office in St Mark's Lane.

NOW GET THE FULL STORY OF HOW THE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE TOWN COPED WITH TRAGEDY AND TRAUMA FROM 1914 TO 1918 IN THE DEFINITIVE BOOK ON THE SUBJECT – ON SALE NOW FROM WH SMITH'S BRANCH IN NEWARK MARKET PLACE

