

# Great War Bulletin

No. 5 ... Newark ... Monday 31 August 1914

## HOLIDAY HORROR

# FOR YOUNG LADIES

**TWO** Newark ladies arrived back home safely today – after fearing they would be trapped in Europe by the onset of War.

Miss Mary Tidd Pratt of London Road and Miss Catherine Hyacinth Oldrini, of 41 Kirkgate were holidaying near the Italian border in Switzerland when the hostilities began.

Miss Tidd Pratt is the daughter of the gentleman best known as the promoter of schools football in this town while her travelling companion is the 25-year-old daughter of a bank manager.

One might have thought they would be perfectly safe with their Swiss hosts, who had made clear their intention to remain neutral.

But such a diplomatic status had meant nothing in Belgium so far as the ruthless, rampaging Germans were concerned – and there were clearly fears that Switzerland would be over-

## Misses skirt battlezone



The place names in red illustrate how the Misses Tidd Pratt and Oldrini reached safety back home in Newark after The Great War broke out while they were holidaying in the southern Swiss town of Zermatt.

run in a similar manner.

So the Misses Tidd Pratt and Oldrini were advised to leave behind all but hand luggage in Zermatt and hasten for home.

But because of the battles raging on both

sides of the Franco-Belgium border, it was absolutely impossible for the ladies to take a direct route to the English Channel.

It took the apprehensive pair five days

to return to their relieved parents via Geneva, Paris, Dieppe, the Channel, Folkestone and London. A century on, the same journey by train and boat would take less than 20 hours.



## CIVIL WAR MAN ADVISES TERRIERS

A 72-year-old veteran of the American Civil War gave Britain's Great War soldiers the benefit of his vast experience – from the tranquillity of his home in Elston.

Thomas Hagues, who lives on a substantial pension of 22 dollars 50 cents as reward for his service in the 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry in the Federal Army, advised Newark men who are about to face the might of Germany, Austro-Hungary and Turkey:

**DO NOT** run away too soon if you are in cover.

**DO NOT** shoot wildly: take aim at your man and keep on firing all the time he is advancing.

**DO NOT** leave the trench until you are forced to: even if it is only two feet deep, let 'em keep coming.

**DO NOT** run away even if out-numbered 10 to 1:

stay and shoot them down as they come on.

Born in Little Carlton in 1842, Mr Hagues went to America aged 18 and set up home in Wisconsin. In the Civil War, he took part in battles at Stone River, Chickamanga, Chatanooga, Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain as well as the defence of Nashville when it was besieged by the Southerners intent on ending the Union with Britain.

And he warned the soldiers currently in training: "I don't believe in so much minuteness in drill. That won't win battles. I am afraid all armies have something to learn after they get into the field. They can only learn it in actual warfare. They soon learn to take cover after a taste of lead!"

The adventurous and plain-speaking Mr Hagues not only survived The Great War: he was 81 before he passed away in 1924.

## Solicitor put in charge

SOLICITOR Robert Frank Byron Hodgkinson was last week re-appointed to command a company of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

He joined the Regiment nearly 20 years ago, was advanced to the rank of Lieutenant in 1897 and Captain four years later. Upon his retirement from the Regular Army in 1910, he was appointed to the Territorial Force Brigade.

He is now 38, and has been working in the family firm of solicitors and living at 96 Appletongate.

Captain Hodgkinson's appointment was announced as advertisements appeared calling on all former soldiers to rejoin the Colours – and for all fit men aged between 19 and 39 to enlist immediately...

**His Majesty's Army.**

**EX-SOLDIERS**

**URGENTLY REQUIRED**

To serve for ONE Year or duration of War. Age 30 to 42.  
Rapid Promotion almost certain.

**CIVILIANS**

For THREE Years or duration of War. Age 19 to 39.

MEN are urgently required to serve in the SPECIAL RESERVE of their own County Regiment  
Age 17 to 30.

Apply the RECRUITING OFFICER, The Barracks, Hawton Road, Newark, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

The reason for the renewed recruitment drive became apparent with virtually every communique from the battle fronts.

In the Battle of Le Cateau, designed to slow the German pursuit during the retreat from the Belgian town of Mons, the British Expeditionary Force suffered 7,812 casualties before continuing its retreat. Despite the losses, the tactic was generally judged as successful.

The news was equally dire from the Eastern Front. The Russian Army suffered two massive defeats at the hands of the seemingly unstoppable Germans.

## SIMPSON'S PLEDGE

JAMES Simpson & Company, the international pump manufacturers, assured married workers and single men with dependants at their Lowfield plant that they will continue to be paid up to two-thirds of their wages after they enlist.

Elsewhere on the Home Front, the Mayoress's Working Party received thanks from Lady Lawley, Honorary Secretary of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, for its first parcel of clothing sent for troops.

It consisted of 24 night-shirts, 12 flannel day shirts, 6 nightgales, 3 bed jackets and 6 pairs of socks.

Newark's Board of Guardians voted 9 to 4 in favour of advertising for a new Labour Master at the Workhouse on Bowbridge Road that houses men, women and children incapable of caring for themselves.

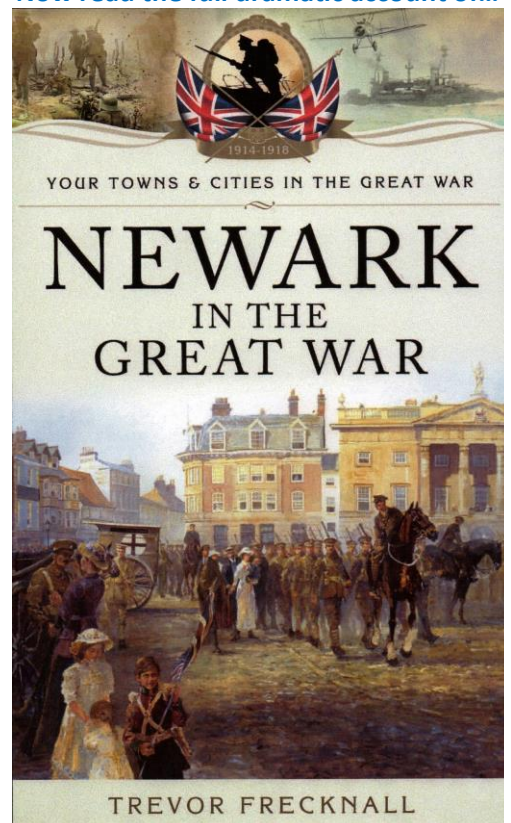
The decision followed the resignations of Mr and Mrs Histed, the previous Master and Matron, despite four critics claiming that the work would amount to only two hours a day.

On the sports front, Newark Cricket Club struggled to find a First XI for the final match of the season on Saturday but included 19-year-old Edward John Dench, a confectioner with the Newark Co-operative Society who had been playing in the reserves; G Ransome of the family developing Stanley Works; and W Wilson who had just returned from Holland.

Young Dench, whose family live at 6 Middlegate, scored 44 in their easy win over Notts YMCA; and would survive the war as a merchant seaman, though he made more headlines after an amazing escape in 1917.

As the cricketers departed the Kelham Road on Saturday evening, none could have imagined that the next match would be in 1919.

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