

Great War Bulletin

No. 10 ... Newark ... Monday 5 October 1914

Loyal lecturer is generous

THE annual circuit gathering of local Methodists in Barnbygate Chapel heard on Thursday that Newark-born Robert Robison, a 30-year-old chemistry lecturer at University College, Nottingham, had joined the armed forces – and left £5 to help reduce the circuit debt.

Robert, the son of a grocer who lived in Wellington Road, Newark, also left a wife, Ethel, at home in Woodborough Road, Nottingham.

Militia man is wounded

A FORMER Newark Militia officer, Captain J H Mathias of the 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters, was listed last Tuesday among men wounded in action. It is yet another indication that men well-known in this town are playing parts in stemming the German advance.

Mathias has been a Forester since 1899, when he went to the Boer War at the age of 17, and has since served in Malta and Ireland.

Research a century on identifies him as James Herbert Mathias, born into a prosperous family in 1882 in the Notting Hill suburb of London. His mother Alyner Mathias (born 1845, Preston) was living on her own means at the time of the 1891 national census in Landsdowne Road, Kensington, rearing James and his siblings – Maria (born 1880) and Dorothy (born 1884) – with the considerable help of no fewer than seven servants: a governess, cook, lady's maid, children's maid, parlour maid, housemaid and an under-housemaid.

Despite being so surrounded by females during his formative years, James reached the rank of Second Lieutenant during the Anglo-South African War.

And he will survive his Great War wounds so successfully that he will live to the age of 85 before passing away in Somerset – shortly after England's footballers defeated West Germany to win the World Cup in 1966.

LUCKY JIM!

Newark soldier's tale of terror as he escapes Germans on a bicycle

PRIVATE James Davis, 30, of the Scotch Fusiliers was invalided home to Beacon Hill after suffering shrapnel wounds in a thigh during the Battle of the Aisne.

He revealed he had to lie in agony on a hillside, with shells falling around him from both British and German positions.

At one point another soldier sympathetically threw him a packet of cigarettes.

A doctor eventually crawled up to him and suggested he try and persuade someone to carry him down the hill.

He managed to hitch a lift on the back of a fellow soldier before they bizarrely came across a pedal cyclist!

Davis was hastily strapped to the cycle and needed no bidding to pedal, albeit one-legged, for his life. Along the way, he recognised another Newarker – Harry Holberry from Sleaford Road – carrying an empty ammunition box. "Stick at it," yelled Holberry. "That took some doing on the bike," reflected Davis three weeks later in the safety of his home.

He explained that he eventually reached a house being used as a makeshift hospital, only to swiftly learn it was in the German firing line. Patched up, he was put on a train that took three hours to get casualties away from the enemy guns.

"One chap with a bullet in his head seemed all right when they put us on the train. What with all the jolting and shaking, he had only just been taken out at Rouen when he died. We were taken on to Le Havre, to a boat home."

Harry Holberry will not make it home, as will be explained in December.



The gravestone in Newark Cemetery for Drummer Rowland Baker, the first member of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters to die since they marched out of Newark Market Place last month to train to play their part in The Great War. As reported in last week's Bulletin, he was buried with full military honours in Newark Cemetery last Saturday.

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

Thanks, folks, for Sherwoods' kitchen

COLONEL Huskinson has written thanking everyone who has contributed more than £350 so swiftly that the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters will have field kitchens when they enter battle.

It is but the latest example of how voluntary efforts are so vital to the successful prosecution of this Great War.

The "Travelling Field Cooker" is a limbered vehicle and, until mechanisation, will accompany most troops on the line of march or in camp, belonging to the regimental transport unit. Hot meals can be prepared on each vehicle while in transit.

The fore part of the limber carries rations, fuel and assorted equipment, with pole bar and swingle trees for draught gear. It is drawn by two horses with a mounted driver.



A field kitchen similar to the one bought for the 8th Sherwoods

The body section or rear limber has a stove and four boiler compartments, each lined with asbestos fibre. The tall stove chimney can be lowered to the horizontal when not in use or when

passing under low bridges. Food can be kept hot in the cooker for an almost indefinite period, served whenever a halt is made or camp pitched.

Home, sweet home for Engineers

CO-ORDINATED plans aimed at making the Royal Engineers feel more at home in Newark are coming into force almost daily...

A weekly concert is being arranged at the Ossington Coffee Palace.

The Wesleyan Hall on Barnbygate has been thrown open as a writing and reading room.

And Mumby's, the clothing manufacturers on Appletongate, are encouraging the soldiers to use the wash-baths at their Osmondthorpe Works as well as setting up a smoking room and card room.

Such efforts are considered the least the town can do for the volunteers while they learn to build emergency bridges and dig mines under trenches – especially as they are bringing so much money into our economy.

WHAT THE ARMIES EAT

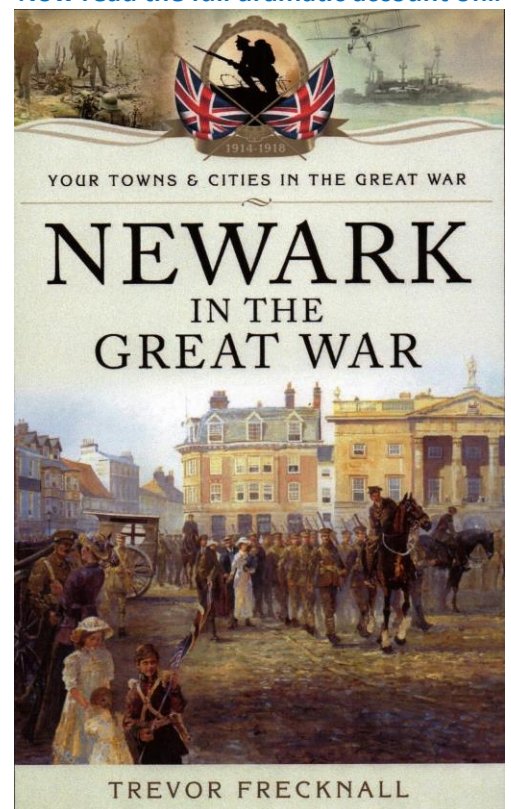
BOTH the Allied armies and their enemies are marching on their stomachs – and here are lists of their daily rations...

British rations	German rations
1¼lb fresh or frozen meat or 1lb preserved or salt meat	13 ounces fresh or frozen meat, or 7 ounces preserved meat
1¼lb bread, or 1lb biscuit or flour	26½ ounces bread or 17½ ounces field biscuit or 14 ounces egg biscuit
4 ounces bacon	
3 ounces cheese	
Five-eighths of an ounce tea	Nine-tenths ounce of coffee or one-tenth ounce of tea
4 ounces jam	
3 ounces sugar	Seven-tenths ounce of sugar
½ ounce salt	Nine-tenths ounce of salt
One-36 th ounce pepper	
One-20 th ounce mustard	
8 ounces fresh or 2 ounces dried vegetables or one-10 th gill lime juice	53 ounces potatoes or 4½ to 9 ounces vegetables or 2 ounces dried vegetables or 21 ounces mixed potatoes and dried vegetables
½ gill rum at discretion of commanding general	0.17 pint spirits, 0.44 pint wine, 0.88 pint beer at discretion of commanding general
Up to 2 ounces tobacco per week (at discretion of commanding general)	2 cigars and 2 cigarettes or 1 ounce pipe tobacco or nine-tenths ounce plug tobacco or one-fifth ounce snuff

Collingham show is off

THIS year's Collingham Agricultural Show, which would have been held on 29 October, has been cancelled. Having decided ploughmen who would normally compete should continue working the fields, the organising committee also resolved to donate 20 guineas 'for the relief of local distress caused by the War'.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



£14.99 from WH Smith

Go to www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk for all issues of Newark's Great War Bulletin