

Great War Bulletin

No. 14...Newark...Monday 2 November 1914

Officer's eye wound

ONE of Newark's most prominent couples, Stuart and Ethel MacRae were informed on Tuesday that their son, Lieutenant Kenneth S MacRae, of the famous Black Watch Regiment, has been wounded in action. He was shipped from France to a London Hospital and underwent an operation on his left eye on Friday. The family will suffer much more pain before this War is over.

GERMANS ARE DIRTY FIGHTERS

PRIVATE W Maltby of the 2nd Sherwood Foresters – wounded and in a Leeds hospital –revealed a German trick that cost hundreds of British lives at the Battle of the Aisne in September.

He wrote home to his parents at 8 Cawkwell's Yard off Stodman Street, Newark: "Our regiment has suffered a lot but did some good work, especially after the Germans coming the white flag trick on the West Yorkshire Regiment.

"Two companies went to fetch the Germans in as prisoners but instead the German surrounded them and took them prisoners. Then they came up in thousands only to be driven back with the point of the bayonet.

"They got through our trenches; and our battalion, being in reserve, was ordered to go and take the trenches back, which we did – and the Germans knew about it.

"The next morning we could see the enemy's dead all over the field; we lost a few but nothing to what they lost.

"I got my little wounds in the battle on the coast not far from Armentieres. In this battle I don't think we lost many. The German rifle fire is no good but their guns are very good.

"People in England don't know what the horrors of war are. Take for instance one house we went in. We found 10 of the family dead. What touched me was a little child with both its legs blown off but still alive, and it never cried when picked up."

Private Maltby was even more graphic in a letter to a friend: "On 20 August the Germans got through our lines; they came up in thousands and our Battalion had to take the position back again.

"So off we went, cutting and slashing our way through them, and if it had not been for their maxim guns there could not have been one of them left. We lost 300 men but there were thousands of Germans dead, lying as thick as grass. Never did I see such a sight.

"We then went up to Lille where the big battle is raging now. The Germans want to get to Calais but they will never get there. It is a battle for life up there: 20,000 Germans fell in one day. On our way up I went to a house where I heard some talking and I found they were Uhlans. I fetched three pals and in we went. They had two nice young girls and threatened them shamefully. Well, six Germans and one officer lay dead when we left that house, and the girls started kissing us, they were so pleased at their escape."

Forester's shock revelations

VICTORIA CROSS HERO TO LEAD OUR YEOMEN

THE Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry were told last week that their Commanding Officer, Colonel Albert E Whittaker, was "not strong enough" to lead them into battle.

He was succeeded by Sir John Peniston Milbanke VC, one of the British Army's most swashbuckling horsemen.

Born 9 October 1872, he earned his Victoria Cross – the highest honour a British fighting man can achieve – in the Boer War. His citation in the London Gazette of 6 July, 1900 read: "Sir John Peniston Milbanke Baronet, 10th Hussars. Date of Act of Bravery: 5 January 1900. On the 5th January 1900, during a reconnaissance near Colesburg, Sir John Milbanke when retiring under fire with a small patrol of the 10th Hussars, notwithstanding the fact that he had been severely wounded in the thigh, rode back to the assistance of one of the men whose pony was exhausted, and who was under fire from some Boers who had dismounted. Sir John Milbanke took the man up on his own horse under a most galling fire and brought him safely back to camp."

Sir John will be killed within 10 months, along with many of his Rangers, in an action that will go down in history as "the final charge of England's Yeomen".



Early toll

GREAT BRITAIN has suffered 57,000 casualties on the Western Front in the first three months of the War, the Prime Minister, Mr Herbert Asquith (pictured above), announced on Saturday.

Volunteer to defend Newark!

AT the first committee meeting of the Newark Volunteer Reserve this evening, Dr Ernest Ringrose undertook to act as secretary from his GP's surgery at Lombard House.

The following former soldiers were selected as squad instructors: Albert Wright (Chief Constable of Newark Police), Ernest Page (political advocate), John Robinson (dairyman), L Southwell, John T Gill (iron worker), Frederick J Short (brewer's cooper), Michael John Shea (engineer's clerk), Ernest Isaac Edis (engineer's clerk), Alfred Barnes (engineer's storekeeper), Arthur Cooper (also an engineer's storekeeper) and James Hoyles (out-fitter).

Their task will be to prepare a group of men aged over 41 – and therefore too old to be called-up for military service – capable of defending the town in the event of invasion.

AID GROWING FOR BELGIAN REFUGEES

MORE and more people are helping the traumatised refugees from Belgium to settle in Newark.

On Wednesday the first 'Belgium Day' raised £15 by selling flags.

Organised by Mrs Maud George, a relative of Captain Gresham of German cap fame, it received great support: Bainbridge's gave 1,000 yards of ribbon in Belgium's colours, F Robinson donated 50 postcards of our Belgian friends, tobacconists gave cigar boxes that were rapidly converted into collecting tins.

On Friday a grand concert organised by Miss Cubley at the Kinema featured Miss Evelyn Althouse, harpist Mademoiselle Jean Chevreau, Mrs Kenelm Preedy (formerly Miss Queenie Vincent Robinson), Mr Robert Radford, Mr Webster Millar, Mr J Q Killey, the Orpheus Quartette, pianist Miss Emily Roseblade and the Newark Borough Band conducted by Mr Carle. Tickets cost 2s 6d. 'Miss Cubley' is Ethel Cubley, described in the 1911 census as "a sick nurse", aged 24, who lives in Millgate with her father, Henry Harold, a retired commercial traveller who is a Borough Councillor. She will become quite a heroine and receive an award from the King in a year or two's time while her

brother Basil will distinguish himself in the Merchant Navy and their sister Janet will be teaching in St Petersburg at the start of the Russian Revolution.

Meanwhile, the Mayor's appeal for money and gifts for the Belgians living at 32 Crown Street is meeting with a first class response: around £25 has come in this week; Mr Tidd Pratt has pledged £10 a week, and several other citizens has promised smaller regular amounts.

Indeed, the response is so generous that the Corporation is already fitting out another house in Middlegate for more refugees.

On Thursday a much-travelled Irish widow of independent means, Mrs Violet Cogan, welcomed 29 sick and wounded Belgian soldiers to Muskham Grange.

The authorities particularly requested that no one in the village, which boasts no fewer than seven public houses, shall give the men drink "as they are not accustomed to it".

Imagine how sober the traumatised Belgians felt when they first set eyes on Mrs Cogan's favourite pet: a hyena which she had managed to ship home with her from Africa.

Interned

STOKERS W Stanger, of the Royal Naval Reserve, who was called-up from Newark on the outbreak of war, is reported to be interned in Holland after taking part in the defence of Antwerp. There are no more details but 1911 census records suggest this is likely to be 26-year-old Percy William Stanger, a brewer's clerk, whose parents William and Sarah work as porters at the Workhouse on Bowbridge Road.

Promoted

RSM J H W Ford, whose family runs the largest Newark antique furniture business in Appletongate, was promoted Lieutenant and Quartermaster in the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. He thoroughly deserved the distinction, having served the Regiment for some 20 years.

He will be wounded, honourably discharged and awarded the Silver War Badge in 1916.

Sherwoods' smokes

CROMWELL villagers today rallied round a scheme devised by Mrs Ann Hockey, 64-year-old widow of a railway platelayer, with help from 19-year-old neighbour Annie Naomi Nettleship – and provided enough money from a door-to-door collection to purchase 6,800 cigarettes which they sent to the officers and men of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, who are now "settling" in France. It was a much-appreciated gesture.

County Surveyor set for role in War

COUNTY Surveyor Ernest Hooley has been "engaged for some time on military work at Newark and is likely to obtain a commission," the Nottinghamshire Highways, Bridges and Buildings Committee was informed.

Members agree to make arrangements "for carrying on the work of his department should his military work prevent him from attending to his duties."

27 Notts educators volunteer to fight

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Education Committee learned last week that one head teacher, 14 assistant teachers, eight school cleaners or caretakers, two school attendance officers and two clerks had voluntarily joined the Armed Forces since War was declared three months ago.

All were informed that "their places will be kept open for them at the conclusion of the War", irrespective of when that is.

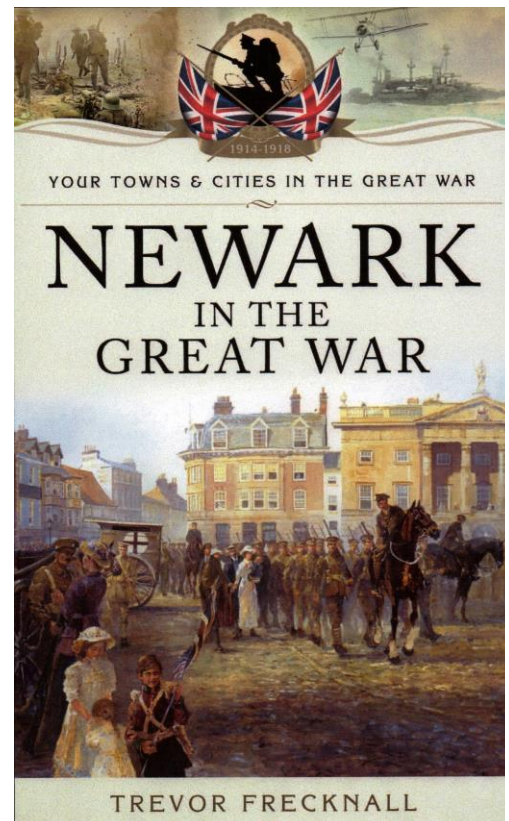
Temporary arrangements have been made for their work to be continued.

Court Recorder dies after operation

THE legal profession in Newark suffered a mortal shock yesterday. The Recorder of the town, Mr W J Noble KC, passed away aged 59 in hospital in London following an appendicitis operation – a victim of the dangers of internal surgery.

The son of the manager of the Midland Railway, he had turned to law in 1882 and took his appointment as 'judge' at Newark Quarter Sessions in 1899.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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