

# Great War Bulletin

No. 27...Newark ... Monday 1 February 1915

## INVASION FEARS

### Committees set-up to reinforce defences

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S response to the deadly Zeppelin attacks on Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn was announced

on Wednesday.

The Duke of Portland, as Lord Lieutenant of the county, announced that Local Emergency Committees have been set up mainly comprising leading businessmen in the town and land-owners and churchmen in the rural area to deal with any invasion.

Newark Borough members are Mayor John Kew, engineer Edward Nicholson, gypsum miner Redmond Barton Cafferata, maltster's manager and barley buyer Herbert Downes Cherry-Downes, maltster Edward F Milthorpe, farmer George A Lacy and foundry owner William Bradley.

Newark Petty Sessional Division: Walter John Need of Winthorpe, farmer Thomas Ellerby, William F E Denison of Ossington, Reverend William Walker of Shelton, Reverend Andrew Ping of Thorpe, Henry Beevor from Carlton-on-Trent and Henry Wigram of Collingham.

Southwell Petty Sessional Division: baker Robert H Martin of Oxtan, Reverend Henry K Warrant of Southwell, lace factory owner William Norton Hicking of Brackenhurst Hall, Dr James Frederick Digby Willoughby of Southwell, Leonard Norman Barrow of Normanton Hall, H Brown, surgeon Robert Nairn of Farnsfield and W Wright.

Any civilian wishing to know anything of the plans should contact a member of his local committee, said the Duke re-assuringly ... though doubtless the new and stricter censors would sharply disagree.

In theory, the Committees' main task was to liaise with other areas to ensure maximum use could be made of new-fangled telephones to minimise the threat of air raids by Zeppelins.

In practice, most of the preventative system fell to the military and police forces, leaving the likes of Mayor Kew to ring the Town Hall alarm bell if necessary.

# BURIED ALIVE!

FATHER OF FOUR Private Richard Gill today got dramatic word to his wife that his life was **SAVED** by him becoming buried alive in his battlefield trench.

Richard, aged 27, of Blyton's Yard, off Millgate, was a maltster with Gilstrap Earp before he became a reservist with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

Now he has written to his 26-year-old wife Mary Ellen of his brush with death in the trenches.

And he epitomises the truculent spirit of our Tommies:

"I had some sport before I got wounded but they made sure of me when they did hit me.

"The man who hit me would not be above 30 yards from me and he made sure of me for he got me in the body.

"The enemy got close up to our trenches and made

## SPINE-TINGLING LETTER TELLS THE TALE

a charge, so we had the order to charge. When I got on top of the trench, the enemy knocked me back in the trench.

**Then a shell came and buried me for about 11 hours with only just my head and one shoulder above ground.**

But it was a good job for me that I did get buried for it saved my life.

"I should have bled to death if it had not been for the earth pressing against

Dramatic escape in the trenches of father-of-four from Millgate

my body. The Germans took the trenches of our regiment and I was there all the time, from about 3 in the afternoon until about 1 next morning when our regiment took them back again.

"When I regained consciousness I found that the Germans were in our trenches, so I never spoke and kept still.

"But I was pleased when our chaps drove them out, and then they dug me out

and took me on a stretcher to the hospital.

"I was 29 days before I could walk.

**"I got on the boat for coming home but they took me off again because I was too serious to move.**

"But I am pleased to say I took them in, for I have got better again – and I thank God for it."

Incredibly Richard was able to fight again but his luck ran out on 9 August 1915 at Ypres.

# RETURNED PARCEL'S MESSAGE OF DEATH

MRS ELLEN SMITH of Victoria Street discovered in a stark manner on Thursday that her brother, Private Tom Hall, was dead.

A clothes parcel that she sent to him on 11 January was returned, simply marked: "**Killed in action.**" Their parents, boot repairer Thomas and Sarah of 5 Wilson Street, had heard nothing.

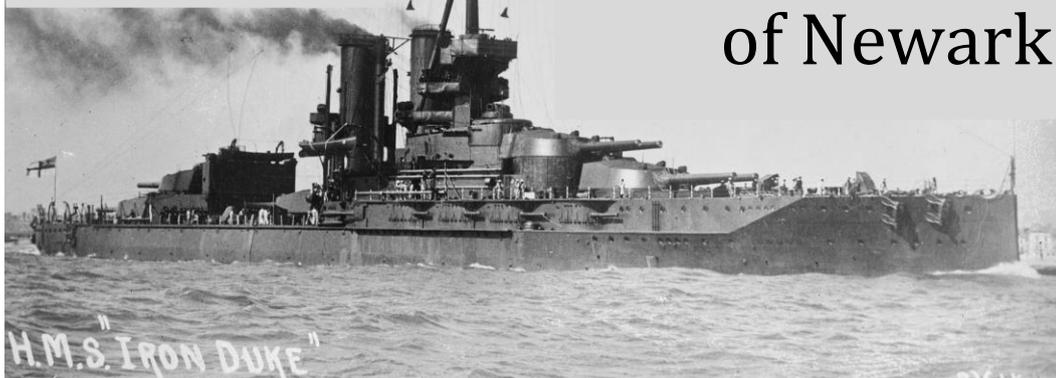
A pupil at Christ Church School, Tom joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters in 1907 and was three years in Ireland before being drafted to India.

He went to France last October, in a machine gun section. In his last letter to his sister, he wrote:

"I keep losing my chums one by one but I keep dodging the pieces of lead. Every time we feel a bit cold, we start off with that old song *We'll be happy once again...*"

Exactly how Tom died would be explained in a letter that arrived at his father's shop a few days after Ellen's parcel was returned to her so clinically: "A bullet shattered his shoulder and he died of shock a few hours afterwards."

## Lord Jellicoe's flagship...



## ...and the ultra-patriotic Banks family of Newark

## Call for boys to work on farms

THE Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society, at its annual general meeting last week, called on the county Education Committee to sanction the use of boy labour on farms.

Members agreed that farm labour was in an acute condition owing to the many hands who had loyally joined the Colours.

The Government wanted agriculturists to cultivate more land.

Education authorities had the legal powers to allow boys as young as 11 to work "in this exceptional circumstance".

Food must come before education!

Lord Manvers pushed the resolution, which was passed unanimously.

THE much-travelled Banks family had an unexpected guest at home at 48 Appletongate, Newark, over the weekend ... their 20-year-old son Robert.

He is a stoker on *HMS Iron Duke*, the £1,945,824 Flagship of the Grand Fleet under the First Sea Lord, Admiral John Jellicoe, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Jellicoe.

Robert's family is almost large enough to crew the massive ship named after the Duke of Wellington.

His parents Joseph and Mary have two other serving sons, George in the 5<sup>th</sup> Lancers though he was only 17 and Harry in the 85<sup>th</sup> Company of the Royal Engineers.

In addition they have a son-in-law and nine nephews in the forces, too ... plus another six offspring who are busy working for the War effort on Civvie Street.

They are a dramatic example of how patriotic families have responded to the call to arms.

Joseph (born 1859, Rugeley, Staffs) is an iron moulder. When he and his wife Mary (born 1865, Selly Oak) arrived in Newark, they lived in Meyrick Road, off Northgate, rearing nine of their children: Joseph (born 1885, Rugeley) who became a cabinet-maker, Ethel (born 1888), a corset hand by the time she was 13; Robert (born 1893), Maud (born 1895,

Staffs) who joined Ethel making corsets, George (born 1896, Newark) a farm labourer until he was old enough to enlist, John (born 1900), Arthur (born 1901), Ernest (born 1906) and Annie (born 1907).

Robert would have an adventurous War on the *Iron Duke*, which has been built in Portsmouth Dockyard, from January 1912 to March 1914.

On 12 January 1916 *Iron Duke* collided with an oil tanker *Prudentia* which sank.

Later in the same year, at the pivotal Battle of Jutland *Iron Duke* fired 90 13.5in rounds and received no damage – proving herself to be as indestructible as the legendary soldier she had been named after.

But she was sold for scrap in 1946.

As for Stoker Robert, he came marching home having 'done his bit', was married in 1925 to Dorothy Ellwood (born 1904), daughter of a clerk, and reared in Farndon Road, Newark – and lived to the age of 80, passing away in 1973.

## ONLY 14 INDICTABLE CRIMES IN A YEAR!

NEWARK'S civilians behaved amazingly lawfully last year in the face of the pressures generated by the onset of The Great War.

This became vividly apparent when the town's Chief Constable, Albert Wright, presented his annual report for 1914 to the Town Council on Monday.

He revealed that the total number of people proceeded against was 164, 46 fewer than in 1913.

Fourteen of them committed indictable offences, 11 fewer than in 1913.

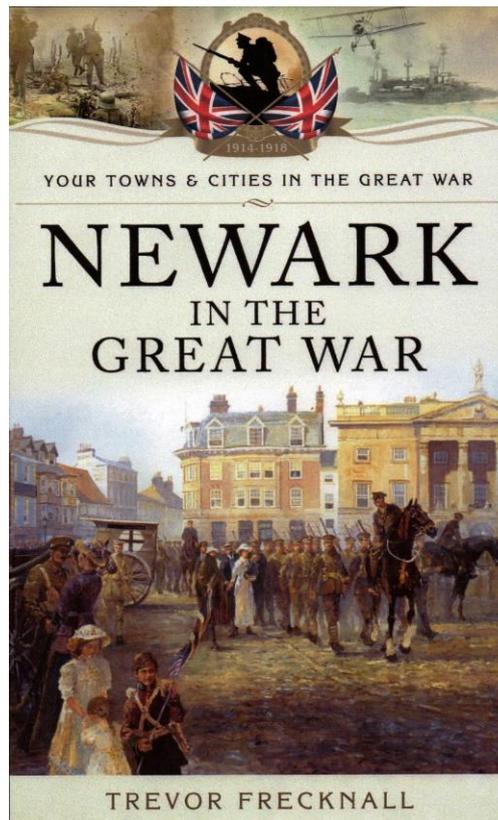
The value of property stolen was £7 2s, of which the police recovered £7 1s 3½d.

## Children at Balderton aid refugees' fund

THE growing number of Belgian refugees being granted havens in and around Newark received a little more help on Friday evening.

Guided by their head teacher, Miss Baxter, Balderton Council School infants put on a "capital show" for the entertainment of their parents and families. Proceeds go to the Refugees' Fund.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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