

# Great War Bulletin

No. 35...Newark...Monday 29 March 1915

## COUNTING COST OF

# OUR EARLY BATTLES

## We must be mad!

### 900 charged... 87 survived

**SERGEANT HERBERT SQUIRES, aged 28, one of the 16 children of groom George and Mary, is invalided home to 111 Balderton-gate from duty with the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and talks reluctantly about his exploits:**

"I shall always remember how the poor Belgians welcomed the British troops. They thought they were saved..."

Of the terrible Battle of Mons: "It was my first experience of shell fire ... The Germans had concentrated nearly 300 guns and shells were flying about like hailstones. But luckily I came through without a scratch."

He took part in a famous charge of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Brigade near Mons:

**"We seemed to be all stark staring mad. All I can remember after the crash is catching hold of a horse galloping by me – my own had been shot under me.**

"When I looked round I saw my squadron officer

## 'Twin brother killed, husband wounded'

MRS MARY MARSH, aged 31, of Shamrock Cottage, 36a Beacon Hill Road, was told today that her twin brother had been killed and her husband wounded in "the great British victory" at Neuve Chapelle.

Her husband, 42-year-old Private Arthur Marsh of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment – an employee of Cafferata and Company for 11 years prior to the War – is in hospital in the South of England being treated for shrapnel wounds in his legs.

In the bed beside him is Sergeant W Chart of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sherwoods. As they talked about life in peacetime, Marsh showed Chart a picture of himself and his wife.

Chart recognised the resemblance of Mrs Marsh to his pal, Private Jack Fincham.

Once Marsh confirmed they are/were twins, Chart settled to the sad task of writing:

**"Madam – I had your brother in my Company of 'Bombers' and regret to state that he was killed in the charge of our Regiment when we retook our trenches. He suffered no pain, being shot through the heart."**

Jack was 31, an old boy of Christ Church School and had worked in the cutting department at Quibell's Osmandthorpe Works before enlisting.

As Mary set off to pass on the sad news to her elderly parents, she could never imagine what future shocks awaited the Fincham family, who would have six sons fighting before this War is over...

with a few men rallying round him and I joined them.

"Then we had to cut our way through the enemy to join the remainder of our regiment.

"We went into the action 900 strong but when the roll was called at night we only mustered 87, though a few stragglers came in afterwards." Not surprisingly, there will be few similar charges in the battles to come.

## Motor driver's dusty view of the War

MOTOR driver C E Hudson of Newark wrote to the *Newark Advertiser* last week about his experiences in France:

"The roads are full of a never-ending stream of cars, lorries and cycles of all descriptions. You may well imagine the dust that is raised because the speed is good, especially of the cars and cycles. A restriction has recently been placed on lorries unless occasion demands, which is pretty often!

"I am on a breakdown lorry which is fitted up to deal with any lorry which is giving trouble or gets into a hole. We always bring up the rear of the convoy, so get a good share of the dust.

"The people round here seem evidently satisfied with the progress made by the Allies and look forward to a favourable finish in the near future. Hardly any men are left to do the heavy manual labour and women have very heavy and strange work to do. It is no uncommon sight to see a woman working a pair of oxen yoked to a heavy wagon-load of sugar beet or go into a barber's shop and be shaved by a dainty madamoiselle."

## CORPORAL SUCCUMBS TO WOUNDS

THE *Newark Advertiser* on Wednesday reported the death of Corporal Harry Leach, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who had lived with his parents at 27 King Street, Newark, for the first 19 years of his life and had been apprenticed to W N Nicholson and Son's engineering works adjacent to Trent Bridge.

He had enlisted in the Royal Warwickshires in 1906 and served for a long time in India.

But it transpires he perished within days of joining this War. He landed in France last 22 August, was wounded at Ligny four days later and died of his wounds on 8 September. He was 28. As his father Henry is dead, his mother Ellen has to bear the grief.

Harry's final resting place is the Memorial at La Ferte Sous Jouarre, a small town on the N3 66km east of Paris.





The Band of the Royal Engineers raised spirits in Newark Market Place on Sunday by giving a concert immediately after the morning service in the Parish Church

## Family reunion after US ship is 'arrested'

THE 'ARREST' of a large prize American steamship thought to be carrying foodstuffs for Germany gave its radio operator, Rex Merry of New York, a chance to visit his auntie in Newark.

While the ship was anchored at Hull, Merry hopped on a train to visit Miss Nora Merry of the Arcade.

He professed himself rather surprised to find that the war has made so little difference to the Mother Country. There was a great dislocation of trade in the States.

He had to return to Hull last Tuesday, though the authorities were still wondering whether to allow his ship to sail on.

Nora is, in fact, 31-year-old milliner Leonora Evelyn Merry, who at the time of the 1911 census was residing at 4 Princess Street, Newark.

## Ciggies for War cyclists

FLORENCE LILLIAN HOLLAND of Beaumont Hall tobacco stores has sent another consignment of cigarettes donated by her customers to the cycle section operating with the Sherwood Foresters in France, of which her husband is a member.

She received a letter of thanks from Sergeant A Marriott: "Your cigarettes were safely received and all the men join in thanking your customers and yourself for remembering the boys 'somewhere in France'."

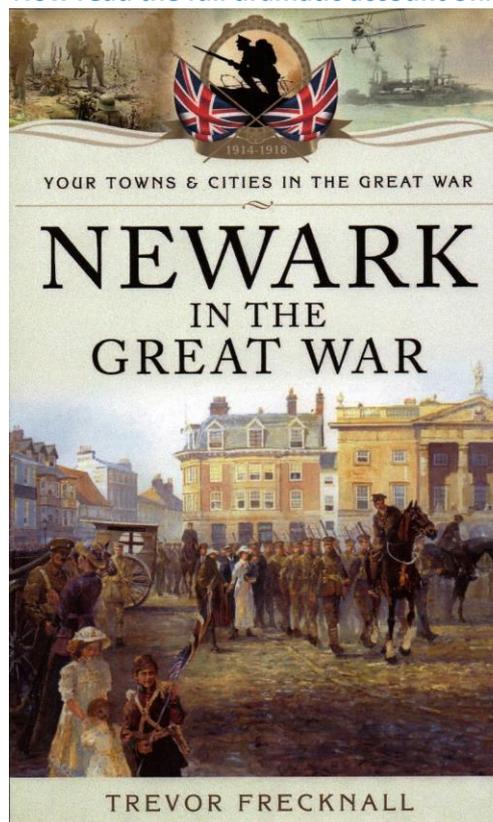
## Clerk now a Sergeant

ONLY three months after leaving his clerk's desk in the offices of Cooper and Company's clothing manufacturers on Victoria Street, Private Robert F Mayfield, aged 24, has been promoted to the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (Kitchener's Army).

## Ladies helping wounded

NEWARK Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment express their warmest thanks to Mrs Lily Tallents, Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Gordon Place, Mrs W E Knight, Mrs Bullen, Mrs J Quibell, Mrs Pearson, Mr W E Tallents, Mr H Reynard and Miss Reynard for their help at the town's Rest Station for wounded soldiers.

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