

Great War Bulletin

No. 38 ... Newark ... Monday 19 April 1915

Motor drivers sign-up to fight!

LIEUTENANT OLIVER T LEIGHTON – a Nottingham-born builder and territorial soldier prior to The Great War – visited Newark today and recruited 12 motor drivers to the Mechanical Transport Section of the Army Service Corps.

He explained that modern warfare was demanding quicker transit than could be provided by the horse-drawn vehicles that had provided the transport thus far.

And he chose the right day to make his patriotic call, with Newark thronged by people flocking to Market Day from a wide area of Lincolnshire as well as Nottinghamshire.

WANTED!

600 more volunteers

THE MAYOR of Newark today received an urgent letter calling for 600 more volunteers to enlist in the Army. It was written by the Town Clerk of Nottingham on behalf of the **34th Divisional Ammunition Column, Royal Field Artillery.**

It amounts to an illuminating example of how communications worked: train trips between Nottingham and London for face-to-face meetings; hand-written letters to Civic leaders; posters to inform the public...

Dear Mr. Mayor,

Owing to the support you were good enough to give to the raising of the Royal Field Artillery and the Sherwood Foresters Bantam Battalion, which are now quite complete, the Army Council, under Lord Kitchener's instructions, have specially asked Nottingham to raise immediately a Divisional Ammunition Column of about 600 men on the same terms as before, that is to say, to be recruited in No.6 District, which comprises the Counties of Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, Stafford and Nottingham, and as it is hoped to raise this new unit in two to three weeks' time, a Deputation was received at the War Office on Thursday last, when all arrangements were immediately made so that recruiting might start today.

The Mayor's Recruiting Committee therefore ventures once again to ask for your assistance, which they feel sure you will give, in helping to carry out the wishes of the Army Council, who have expressed their high appreciation for what has already been done.

To avoid delay we have made arrangements for the bill-posting to be done immediately, but we are sending you tomorrow 250 small posters which we shall be glad if you could arrange to have posted on your local police stations, trams, carriers' carts, etc. We are also sending addressed to yourself a few cinema slides, which we think you would have no difficulty in getting the proprietors of Cinema Theatres to show on their screens.

Enclosed with the slides is a copy of the letter we have sent to our local Cinema Theatres, and in most cases they have readily acceded to our request.

My Committee desire me to thank you in anticipation for your cordial co-operation, and feel sure that you will use your best endeavours to assist in trying to make a record in raising this new unit.

W. J. Board, Town Clerk



Sherwoods in front line—by Newark doctor

SURGEON CAPTAIN Harry Stallard (pictured) has dramatically lifted the lid on his dangerous life in the front line with the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters who marched out of Newark so optimistically last August.

His letter reached his GP partner Dr Frederick Henry Appleby at Barnbygate House from 'somewhere in Belgium' yesterday:

"We are at last up against the real thing and our men have had one period in the trenches. They are absolutely top-hole and are behaving splendidly. I am really proud to belong to such a body of men.

"We go in again tonight for another spell. I have been up to the trenches once to see A-----, who was sick, but it is no treat as the bullets were flying about pretty freely and in order to get to the trench in question, one had to pass through a cross-fire.

"They are rather particular about medical officers going into trenches and prohibit it unless by a direct order of the

CO, as we appear to be scarce and there is some difficulty as to replacements.

"I have a very good dressing station and am able to do fairly good work there. My routine is thus...

"I see the sick of the reserves (2½ platoons) at 6.30pm then the sick from the trenches come in to see me as soon as may be after dusk. I thus clear the way for any wounded who may be brought in.

"They cannot be moved during the day so when dusk, if necessary, the stretcher parties are detailed from the dressing station to fetch them in but, of course, not the 'walking' cases.

"I don't go to bed before dawn so as to be ready to deal with any emergency which might arise during the night. As to bed, I go about 5 and stay until 11, then breakfast at my quarters. My other meals I have at the Battalion headquarters about 80 yards away. I am afraid you will think this all about ego, but I thought it might interest you to know how we carry on."

TRENCH HORROR SIGHTS

GEORGE BURGESS, aged 30, a horseman at Sutton-on-Trent Common Farm before he became a Private in the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, told of his gruesome discoveries in the German trenches in a letter that arrived home on Saturday.

Going for water early one morning through trenches recently captured by the Allies, he came across the bodies of four men belonging to a British regiment who had been tied together before they had been shot.

He also passed about 300 dead Germans in the same network of trenches who had not been granted burial.

Meanwhile, a fellow Private rushed back to the Sherwood Foresters' lines in shock and horror at having found the bodies of three young women among the dead soldiers in the German trenches.

Farmer's son escapes from exploding fire

WALTER HOLLINGWORTH, a farmer on North Road, Sutton-on-Trent, received a letter on Thursday from his 21-year-old son, Reuben, a foundry labourer in Civvie Street but now a Private fighting 'somewhere in France', to assure him he is still in the land of the living despite two narrow escapes:

"The building we were using as a guard room caught fire. There were about 20 bombs in it, half of which we got out.

"It was fairly exciting, dashing into the burning building rescuing machine guns when we knew there were a lot of bombs in the midst of it all. I jumped aside just in time to miss a load of burning straw that came tumbling down as I was dragging a machine gun out...

"During the battle that occurred the Sunday before last, there was the greatest cannonade that I have ever heard and I would not be surprised if it ranks among the greatest cannonades the world has ever seen or heard. It was one incessant roar without a break of big guns alone. It must have been hell in the German trenches...

"I am sorry to say that all leave here has been stopped so that I am afraid there is no chance of me coming over for a few days."

It's official: baby's father was killed

MARY ALISSIMON BERRY, at home in North Collingham with her two-year-old son, finally received on Friday the news she had been fearing for more than a month.

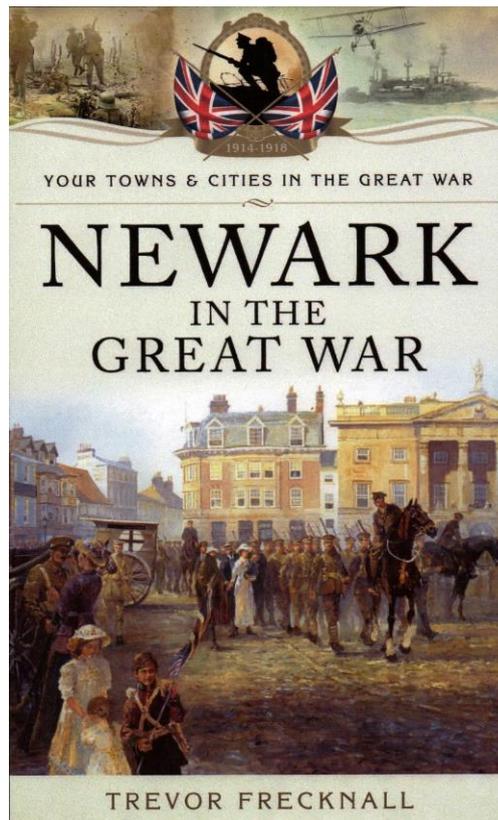
Her dearly loved husband Thomas Letts Berry was killed at Neuve Chapelle. The longer the ominous silence had lasted, the more concerned she had become; and confirmation of the worst news was contained in a telegram from the War Office.

Thomas, aged 34, the sixth son of the Lord of the Manor of Ashley in Northamptonshire, was a highly respected corn merchant, lent the grounds adjoining his residence for the annual Collingham Horticultural Society Show, was an active supporter of the Conservative and Unionist Association and a prominent member of the Collingham Habitation of the Primrose League.

Devoted though he was to his young family, he had no second thought about forsaking his comfortable life. But he had been in France with the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters for only five days before he was severely wounded. He died the following day.

Corporal 17480 Berry is remembered in the Estaires Communal Cemetery and Extension, 10km west of Armentieres.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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