

Great War Bulletin

No. 48...Newark...Monday 28 June 1915

MARRIED POLICEMEN BARRED FROM ARMY

NEWARK Town Council on Monday turned down requests by four married police constables – Hemstock, Whitehead, Armstrong and Brown – to be allowed to join the Army.

Councillors insisted that single men should go first and allowed requests by Police Constables Pulling and Wing. The decision is in line with official Government policy thus far, though there are rumours that married men will eventually be welcomed in khaki.

Sarah's plea

East Stoke's hero of Ypres

EAST STOKE residents were informed last week that Major John H Bailey, 44-year-old son of the late Reverend Anthony Winter Bailey, their rector from 1874-1908, has been mentioned in despatches for his heroics with the 2nd Battalion Shropshire Light Infantry.

He is among 18 officers of the regiment praised.

Throughout this spring, they endured some of the hardest fighting at St Eloi, St Julien and on Frezenburg Ridge in the Second Battle of Ypres.

Now they are to be rewarded with a move to what the military authorities described as a quieter area: the Somme.

A century later, the "fine note of appreciation" of Major Bailey's heroics, written by Field Marshall Sir John French and signed by the then Secretary of State for War Mr Winston Churchill, would be on sale on the internet phenomenon known as ebay.

It has been sold by the time this Bulletin was compiled

WITH PRESSURE increasing on all fit males to enlist, Mrs Sarah Bowers – rearing children Rose, 6, and George, 4, at 13 Victoria Gardens, Newark – last Wednesday persuaded the *Advertiser* to print the latest letter from her husband, Samuel, who has left his job as a Corporation lamplighter to fight 'somewhere in France'.

He writes from the heart, explaining why no man should ignore the requirements of the Army for more – and yet more – volunteers:

"I hear of different people enlisting but, speaking from the bottom of my heart, I say, whether rich or poor, no man ought to want enticing to enlist because an Englishman should say,

'My place is at the front, along with my comrades' instead of loitering about with a halfpenny cane and about two keys and a penny in his pocket.

"I think every single and able-bodied man should be here to help in this awful struggle.

"Some say, 'Oh, I will 'list tomorrow.' But I say today!

Your place is at the front, not loitering with a halfpenny cane and a penny in your pocket.

"Tomorrow may be too late. Remind the young men loafers that the good old country still needs men."

It is a doubly-brave move by Sarah to urge more of the town's menfolk to enlist.

She lost her young brother, Levi Sibcy on 15 January 1915. He was only 16 years old and yet had managed to join the Second 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

He is remembered in Newark Cemetery.

Narrow escapes of a Bathley soldier

And his chat
with enemy

ANOTHER LETTER arrived in Bathley from Private Charles Herrod on Thursday: "I have had some very narrow escapes. I got a bullet through my cap, and two of my pals shot by shrapnel. It was a dark night and I was between them.

"One poor chap went, and then the other one, but I was missed.

"I had to stick to my post as there was no one else there, but later I was able to pass word down for the stretcher bearers.

"My pals were wounded in several

places but I think they are getting on all right.

"Just to our right they are shelling a village...

"We have lost 12 men through snipers, and all of them were shot through the

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Son killed in the hell of Turkey

MR and MRS HARRY REVELL of 4 Priest's Yard, Chatham Street, Newark, are mourning the death in action of their eldest son, Robert.

He was with the 1st Battalion Border Regiment – and now they have learnt that he was killed in the Dardanelles on 7 May; and is remembered on the Helles Memorial.

Aged 28, he had been a maltster at Gilstrap's before enlisting in the Borderers nine years ago.

He had served in South Africa and India.

Robert has spent only four days at home with his parents during the whole of his service.

His 51-year-old father works as a boot repairer. His mother has had a total of seven children, two of whom passed away at young ages.

Of their other sons, Harold, will also be 28 years old – by an awful coincidence – when he is killed in action with the Northumberland Fusiliers on 9 April 1917.

He will be remembered in the Roelincourt Valley Cemetery near Arras.

Edgar, who celebrated his 17th birthday late last year, will eventually volunteer to do his bit and survive service with the local volunteers of the Second 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

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

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Bathley soldier's trenches chat with a German

head.

"One of our chaps was looking through a loophole, and had only got it halfway open when – ping! – a bullet struck the very edge and nearly blinded him.

"I was on sentry last Saturday when our listening patrol went out. They had not been out long when the Germans opened fire on them, killing two and wounding others.

"One of the wounded came over the parapet just where I stood. Poor fellow, he had been hit in the thigh by an explosive bullet, which makes only a small hole on penetration but a wound about four inches long where it comes out...

"I had a bit of a conversation with a German the other night.

"We are only 80 yards from their trenches, so I shouted across and asked if they had all gone to bed.

"A voice came back to me, 'Me no go to bed. Me on sentry.'

"I told him to go home and he shouted, 'They won't let us. Why don't you go? We are tired of this life. Tell those big guns to keep quiet!'

"I daren't say any more to him as there might be a sniper crawling through the grass...

"Only the other night my pal and I spotted a group in the grass behind some trees, so we opened rapid fire on them. The first shot 'got home' and there was an awful scream.

"It is just like a game of hide and seek, waiting for each other bobbing their heads up, but it is much different when the bombardment is on.

"We have lost heavily in our Brigade with wounded. Only 24 out of 60 remain out of a platoon.

"It makes you feel thankful to be spared."

TOWN FACTORIES' MUNITIONS BOOST

AN IMPORTANT MEETING of senior representatives of Newark's engineering firms, chaired by Mayor John Charles Kew, ended on Friday with unanimous agreement that they will form a committee to co-operate with the National Munitions Factory at Nottingham to help as far as possible in the quick production of more munitions.

All of the local engineering firms were represented: George Elias Asbury of Abbott and Company, County Councillor William Bradley of T and W Bradley, Colonel Edward Henry Nicholson JP of W N Nicholson & Sons, Frederick R Jack of James Simpson and Company, Mr Smith of Farrar Boilers, Edward Josselyn of A Ransome and Company, William Stephenson of George Stephenson and Sons, William A Ferrier of Midland Ironworks Company, William Wakes Lamb of Wakes and Lamb, John Mather of J Mather and Company, William Webber Ford of C E Ford and Son, Walter Elliott and Oliver Quibell.

It was one occasion when even the superstitious could not contemplate 13 being an unlucky number. This was 'the first team' of Newark's manufacturing power-house – even though every factory's workforce had been severely weakened by the numbers of men who had volunteered for Armed Service.

OLDEST OFFICER HEADS OUR RE'S

HAILED AS the oldest officer on the front line, 59-year-old Colonel Henry Joseph Jerome CB is now serving at the Royal Engineers' Training Centre, Newark – and is awarded the Order of CMG, it was announced in Friday's issue of the *London Gazette*.

A veteran of the wars in Afghanistan (1879-80) and South Africa (1899-1901), Colonel Jerome emerged from retirement in Bilton Hall, York, to command a division of Royal Engineers in Flanders last January and was the officer responsible for the mining operations that led to the capture of the famous Hill 60.

Nursing shortage in isolation hospital

NEWARK TOWN COUNCIL on Monday heard a complaint by Ernest Randall that a young relative has been refused a place at the Isolation Hospital although she was suffering from scarlatina.

Alderman Appleby explained that there were 17 diphtheria cases, making the isolation hospital "more than full", and the staff was insufficient to utilise the smallpox hospital.

Wool prices good for shepherds

EDWARD BAILEY and SON'S sixth annual wool sale achieved good prices. The best, 1s 9d per 1lb, paid to Herbert Nurcombe of Cromwell, was 7d up on last year.

Sunday Schools' quiet festival

THE ANNUAL festival of the Newark and District Sunday School Union was much modified because of the war on Thursday. There was no parade. And there was no public admittance to The Sconce so a field in Sparrow Lane near the Cemetery was used for the activities.

Fete to spread the Gospel

Newark Vicarage lawn staged the annual garden fete organised by Mrs Hindley and helpers on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Sherwoods asking for winter warmers

COLONEL HERBERT FOWLER of the 1st 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, has asked the Mayoress's Ladies' Group to begin preparing warm clothing for winter for the troops.

When they marched out of Newark Market Place last August to prepare for battle, many optimists believed they would be home by Christmas.

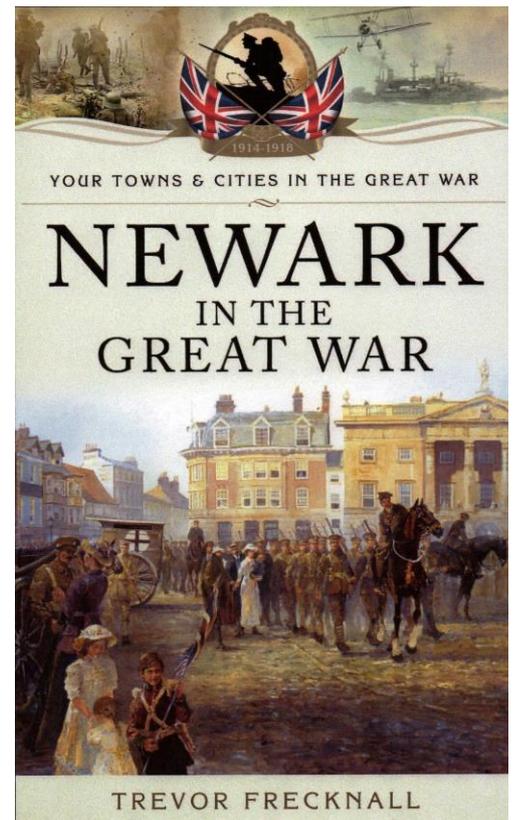
But Colonel Fowler's latest request is a sure sign that the hostilities are not about to end.

Hospital aid

HOSPITAL SUNDAY yesterday resulted in the Parish Church contributing £32 0s 10d, Christ Church £3 1s 10d and St Leonard's £4 to the funds of Newark General.

The extra funds will be of immense assistance now that an increasing number of military personnel are joining locals in need of treatment.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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