

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

Edited by Trevor Frecknall, author of *Newark in The Great War*

Great War Bulletin

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Townsmen ignore VC's plea to enlist

A GREAT recruiting rally was held in Newark Market Place on Wednesday – but fell flat.

Victoria Cross hero Corporal James Upton from Lincoln made regal progress through the town in a parade from Sconce Hills – and found time to praise Quartermaster Sergeant Charles Dady of Newark.

Upton, 26 years old and only 5ft 4in tall, was deemed too small to join-up initially. He earned his VC on 9 May near Rougesbanc, displaying the greatest courage in succouring the wounded while exposed to heavy rifle and artillery fire, going close to the enemy's parapet regardless of his own safety.

One wounded man was killed by a shell while Cpl Upton was carrying him. When not actually carrying in the wounded, he was engaged in bandaging and dressing the serious cases in front of the regiment's parapet, exposed to the enemy fire.

Dady was recommended for his Distinguished Conduct Medal for the heroic part he also played in this drama.

Once Corporal Upton and his *entourage* reached the Market Place, it was crammed with crowds. He spoke. So did wounded soldiers. None minced his words.

Corporal Upton said: "I have come here tonight to see how many of the young fellows of Newark are coming back with me to see Sgt-Major Dady ... I don't want



Corporal James Upton VC – as eloquent as he is brave

ONLY TWO MEN STEP FORWARD TO FIGHT

to get back to Dady and a lot more of the boys and say, 'Well, it wasn't much use going to Newark.'

"I can certainly tell you this: if the Germans get to England, there won't be a great deal of Newark left. I have seen nine months of it. Every possible mark they will have down. I have seen little children, 4 and 5 years of age, with one of their hands off. Are we going to see that in Newark? No! Not while we have some of the boys here who are going to enlist and give us a lift."

The result of all his martial bravado and eloquence..?

Only two men were recruited.

TOWN'S FACTORIES MAKING MUNITIONS

TWO of Newark's biggest engineering factories have joined the massive effort to keep our men armed for the great gun battles being waged on the Western Front.

Confirmation came – in defiance of the new censorship rules – from an immaculate source last Wednesday.

Mr Louis Pearson, the chairman of Nottingham Munitions Committee, proudly publicised the names of the companies who have accepted orders to produce more shells for the troops to fire.

Among them are James Simpson and Company at Lowfields Works and W N Nicholson and Sons at the Trent Ironworks.

Simpson's switch from manufacturing pumps that have been distributed around the world will lead to few problems for the environment because the works are surrounded by green fields and far away from the residences in Balderton and Newark.

Nicholson's is another matter, though, situated as it is surrounded by the River Trent, the Cattle Market and the Midland Railway station and shunting yards – plus, of course the Great North Road.

And hundreds of homes would be adversely affected on the event of a serious accident. But no-one has breathed a word of worry. Everyone realises that the priority is to provide ammunition for our troops striving gallantly to prevent the enemy being able to invade from France or Belgium.

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BAPTISM OF FIRE!

THE Newark district's volunteers in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters suffered a baptism of fire – literally – when they joined The Great War last week.

The Newark public would not discover this until they read the *Advertiser* on 8 September 1915, but within hours of going into the trenches on the Western Front, they were attacked at 3.30 on Friday morning with liquid fire [which will become identified as flame-throwers] for the first time.

It was followed by bombing parties, which they beat off, though they lost "a number of good men".

In the evening the 7th Sherwoods were brought up on the left of the 8th and dug themselves in during the night to cover a gap in the trenches. ("To cover a gap in the trenches" is military-speak for "to replace men who have been mortally wounded".) The men of the 7th suffered "considerable loss" from the enemy's shell fire while doing so. News of the casualties would seep out slowly over the next few weeks...

For example, Fred Parker was killed last Friday – but it would be next Thursday before the news was

Flame-throwers attack our Sherwood Foresters

confirmed to his parents Henry, a builder's carter, and mother-of-8 Martha at 194 Barnbygate.

Two comrades in the 8th Sherwoods mentioned his death in letters home. But the Parkers hoped against hope that Leslie Tyers writing to his folks at 36 Harcourt Street and Pte Herbert Quiningborough in his letter to 17-year-old Ethel May Wright, daughter of a tailor's cutter of 33 Whitfield Street, were referring to another Fred Parker...

Aged 32, their Fred had been working for Ransome's before answering the patriotic call.

When the official letter arrived from his officer, his frantic parents discovered he was shot when he poked his head above the parapet and was picked-off by a German sniper.

Private 2448 Parker is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Engineer drowned

A VERDICT of "found drowned" was returned by an inquest jury on Thursday evening on Sapper Dennis Murphy, 36, who had been missing from the 3rd Depot Training Company of RE's since Sunday. His body was recovered from the Trent at Town Wharf. Murphy, whose wife Margaret lived at 76 Wolfe Tone Street, Cork, was buried in Newark Cemetery.

Refugee praised

BELGIAN refugee Francis Tote, of Middlegate, was praised for his quality tenor voice when he sang "Ave Maria" and "The Passing Dream" at the Picturedrome in a variety show to help benefit the growing number of war victims.

School planned

THE Duke of Portland agreed to sell two acres of land on Albert Street, Newark, for a school to be built.

Flintham son is killed

THE former secretary of the Newark Mechanics Institute Henry Lawrence Jackson was killed only a fortnight after reaching the Western Front, it was revealed yesterday.

He had grown-up in Flintham and worked for nine years with grocers Garrett and Heming in Newark Market Place before moving to a Nottingham business as a traveller.

On the outbreak of war, he joined the 9th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers as a Private and was promoted Quartermaster Sergeant before entering the fray.

CQMS 10222 Jackson, son of William and Kate Jackson, of Ivy Cottage, Flintham, is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Now read the full dramatic account of...

