

Great War Bulletin

No. 59...Newark...Monday 13 September 1915

'UNFIT' CORPORAL'S SUICIDE IN STABLES

A GHASTLY discovery was made in the stables at Newark Barracks on Tuesday morning. Corporal 46985 Alexander Smith of the 157th Field Company RE's was found with his throat cut. An inquest learnt he committed suicide, depressed that he had been rejected as unfit for front-line service.

A few hours after his body was discovered, a funeral at Newark Cemetery with full military honours was given to Sapper William Comyn, 45, of No.5 Depot Company of the RE's, who had died of double pneumonia.

GIRL, 8, KILLED IN NEWARK EXPRESS HORROR

AN eight-year-old girl was killed and seven more passengers injured in Newark last Monday night when an express train was derailed between the Lincoln Road level crossing and the Midland Railway cross-over just after 8pm.

The cause of the accident was a goods truck which slowly slipped down a packed siding and partially blocked the main line as the London to Bradford express raced through at almost 60mph.

The impact derailed the third carriage as the little lass, who was on her way home to Halifax, played in the gangway. She was thrown from the wreckage and suffered multiple injuries.

Her father, who was in the toilet at the time, escaped unhurt.

The subsequent inquest was held in Newark Town Hall, an indication of how seriously the accident was viewed by the authorities.

It revealed that that horse shunter James Whittington, 23, living with his widowed mum at 47 Whitfield Street, should have made sure no trucks had slipped from a siding onto the main line in the minutes before the express train arrived.

Coroner Frederick B Footitt said Whittington would have it on his conscience for the remainder of his days that the child died because he took it for granted instead of going to check that the trucks did not overhang the main line.

The *Advertiser* headline above the report summed it up: 'Shunter reprimanded but not severely.'

Magnusian is a Naval hero!

NEWS has reached Newark that Old Magnusian Arthur Edward Dunn, 38, has been decorated for his bravery while commanding HMS *Gazelle* in the Dardanelles.

First he received congratulations from Vice-Admiral John M de Robeck, Commanding the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron, for successful mine laying operations in the Gulf. Now he has the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Decoration conferred by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Commander Dunn was an intrepid son of the late Mr Robert Lowthorpe Dunn and of Mrs Jane Dunn, formerly of Thorpe Lodge Farm.

A century later, the worldwide web enables us to explain why he was so deserving of respect. An article found at <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast?a=d&d=EP19170303.2.91&l=mi&e=---10-1---0-> says that when war broke out he was Marine Superintendent in London for the New Zealand Shipping Company. He



immediately applied to the RN for a ship but was offered only secretarial posts until October 1914, when he was invited to command a 500-ton Channel steamer destined to sweep for mines as *The Gazelle*.

After a cold and dangerous winter in the North Sea, he was directed to the Mediterranean and takes up the story: "*The Gazelle* was fitted up for mine-laying and associated with the French mine-layer, *Casa Blanca*. The work had to be done on very dark nights and no lights were allowed.

The first expedition passed off all right, but on the second one we were alone and had to lay eight mines across the entrance to the Gulf of Smyrna. We had just begun our work when a searchlight from one of the forts picked us up, and the guns opened fire. In addition, they kept revolving the searchlights on us so that we were almost blinded, and should have been done for if *the Doris* had not come along and blazed away with her big guns while we dropped the rest of our mines and sneaked away.

"On the next trip the *Casa Blanca* laid several and then one exploded but, luckily, clear of the ship. Of ours, the first three lots floated away all right, but the next lot exploded as soon as they touched the water and blew up several of the others as well. The noise was awful and bits were flying about in all directions. Several of the men were hit by pieces.

"We were recalled to Mudros for a doctor, and gave the reminder of our mines to the *Casa Blanca*. A few hours later we heard that she had struck one of her own mines and had gone down with a loss of eight officers and 89 men.

"We were now the only mine-layer attached to the Allied Fleet and they kept us busy. We used to lay over 50 mines every night that we could go out, and we took quite a lot of talent with us on those trips – the Commanding Officer of our senior ship, two doctors and one English and one French torpedo officer besides our own crowd. The job ended with a message of thanks from Admiral de Robeck.

"Then there was much patrol work..."

SHERWOODS GLORY

THE *Newark Advertiser* reported on Wednesday that the local men in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters "are covering themselves in glory in the fighting in France".

Sir John French, Commander-in-Chief, British Expeditionary Force, has picked out them and their Nottingham City counterparts the Robin Hoods for special praise for the way they have handled themselves in the trenches around Ypres since the end of July.

But humble Lance Corporal Harold Tyne of the 8th Sherwoods came up with the real news 'scoop'.

In a letter home to Southwell, he revealed solicitor Major John Pickard Becher had been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for the manner in which he led the 8th while their C-in-C, Col Fowler, was home on a short leave. It will be a week before officialdom catches up with Harold!

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

WORKHOUSE COSTS RISE

NEWARK Board of Guardians of the Poor last Thursday accepted the following tenders for the Workhouse on Bowbridge Road and discovered how prices have risen in the past year...

Article	Price	Supplier
Bread	5½d per 4lb loaf	Tom Burbidge
Beef, rounds	13s 11d per stone	George Butt
Beef, flanks	10s 3d per stone	George Butt
Beef, shoulder pieces	11s. per stone	George Butt
Beef, sticking pieces	10s 5d per stone	George Butt
Beef, brisket	8s per stone	George Butt
Mutton	10s 5d per stone	George Butt
Beef suet	4s 6d per stone	George Butt
Flour	2s 0½d per stone	John Knott
Barley meal	1s 3d per stone	Horace J Stray
Oatmeal	2s 11d per stone	George H Porter
Soda	2s 9d per cwt	George H Porter
Rice	14s 3d per cwt	George H Porter
Salt	1s 4d per cwt	George H Porter
Tea	1s 10d per lb	George H Porter
Coffee	1s 1d per lb	George H Porter
Cocoa	1s 2d per lb	George H Porter
Sugar, granular	3½d per lb	George H Porter
Sugar, lump	3½d per lb	George H Porter
Cheese	8¼d per lb	George H Porter
Treacle	3d per lb	George H Porter
Jam	4d per lb	George H Porter
Tapioca	2½d per lb	George H Porter
Mustard	8½p per lb	George H Porter
Pepper	10d per lb	George H Porter
Currants	4d per lb	George H Porter
Raisins	5½d per lb	George H Porter
Biscuits	5d per lb	George H Porter
Black lead	1s 6d per dozen	George H Porter
Soft soap	2½d per lb	George H Porter
Starch	2½d per lb	George H Porter
Brass polish	1s 5d per dozen tins	George H Porter
Vinegar	2½d per quart	George H Porter
Butter	1s 5d per lb	George H Porter
Oxo	48s 6d per dozen	George H Porter
Eggs	3s 4d per score	Samuel Foster
Milk	1s 2d per gallon	John B Robinson
Tobacco	3s 11½d per lb	Francis Lacey
Cod	4½d per lb	Harry Martin
Haddock	5d per lb	Harry Martin
Plaice	6½d per lb	Harry Martin
Grey cloth suit	25s 11d each	George W Edwards
Men's cord trousers	6s 11d per pair	George W Edwards
Boys' cloth suits	6s 6d, 7s 6d each	George W Edwards
Youths' cloth suits	8s 6d, 10s 6d, 12s 6d each	George W Edwards
Boys' tweed suits	6s 6d, 7s 6d each	George W Edwards
Youths' tweed suits	8s 6d, 10s 6d, 12s 6d each	George W Edwards
Men's caps	4s 6d, 10s 6d per dozen	George W Edwards
Boys' caps	4s 6d per dozen	George W Edwards
Men's stockings	12s, 15s per dozen	George W Edwards
Grey calico shirting	4½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
White calico	4d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
White flannel	1s 3d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Scarlet flannel	1s 3d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Sheeting linen	2s 2d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Twilled calico	1s 4½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Worsted	4s per lb	Bainbridge & Co
Scouring flannel	8½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Navy cloth (Melton)	1s 2½d, 1s 6d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Linen check	6½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Oxford shirting	6½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Bed ticking	1s 6½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Women's striped skirting	8½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Hessian for aprons	6½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Hessian for tramp shirts	9½d per yard	Bainbridge & Co
Women's stockings	1s 3d per pair	Bainbridge & Co
Children's stockings	1s 0½d per pair	Bainbridge & Co
House coal	19s 6d per ton	William Jeffrey
Engine coal	22s 6d per ton	J Halstead Ltd
Men's boots, split Derbys	6s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Men's boots, B & B	8s 11d	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Men's leather slippers	2s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Men's carpet slippers	2s 6d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Youths' boots, split Derbys	6s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Youths' boots, B & B	7s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Boys' boots, nailed	4s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Boys' boots, light	4s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Women's boots	6s 11d and 8s 6d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Women's leather slippers	1s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Women's carpet slippers	1s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Girls' boots, light nailed	4s 11d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Girls' boots G.H. (11-1)	4s 6d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Girls' boots G.H. (5-10)	3s 6d per pair	J Mills & Sons Ltd
Quibell's disinfectant	3s 6d per gallon	John H Smith

The fact that the Guardians were urged by the Board of Trade to accumulate stocks of coal, as the supply for home consumption in the winter would be less than usual, was censored out of the papers.

Death, stupidity and compassion on the Western Front...

WAGGONER Charles Cartwright and his wife Agnes received a sharp, shocking letter at their cottage home adjacent to Hawton Grange on Thursday.

It informed them that their 21-year-old son, Private George William Cartwright of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, had been killed.

The letter dated 30 August from their neighbour, Ernest Chilvers, 18, who had been serving alongside George, said:

"Dear Mrs Cartwright

Just a few lines to say I am very sorry to tell you the sad news that your son George has got shot this dinner time ... I was just coming off guard to have dinner with him, but when I got there he was dead."

Private 2999 Cartwright is buried at Woods Cemetery, 4km south-east of Ypres.

The Cartwrights will lose two more sons, Charles and Arthur in 1918.

John Henry Britten, 19, was wounded in his arm, chest and head while one of his mates was fooling around with a hand grenade.

His Farndon parents, foundryman Charles Matthew Britten and Amelia first heard about it from a nurse at a hospital in Boulogne, who said he was "progressing as well as can be expected".

A War Office letter on Saturday revealed the prank killed one Sherwood Forester and wounded Johnny, who worked at Simpson's Lowfield Works. The good news is that Johnny *will* come marching home at the end of hostilities in 1918.

Private George William Jex, 32, was given compassionate leave – so that he could console his three children at the funeral of their mother.

Mrs Nellie Jex, 33, had died after a short illness at home at 3 Duke's Row, Parliament Street, Newark.

As luck would have it in the era before Social Services offered assistance, Nellie had several sisters who offered to help look after the children, Annie, George and Nellie who were aged 9, 8 and 3 and would be, in effect, orphans until Dad was able to come marching home with the Sherwoods – and with Johnny Britten – at the end of the War.

RE gaoled over con

ROYAL Engineer Neal McCallum was sentenced to six weeks' gaol with hard labour after pleading guilty at Newark Borough Police Court on Friday to endeavouring to obtain money by false pretences.

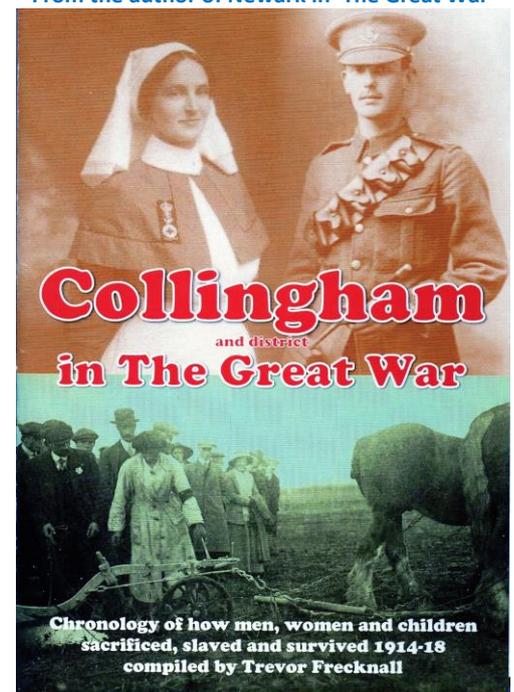
The case was closed only two days after the *Newark Advertiser* warned that a con-man was at work.

The police had received complaints of a man dressed in khaki, claiming to be Sapper Wilkinson RE, going to different houses in Newark and neighbourhood, collecting for a supposed Soldiers' Cigarette Fund.

"This is a bogus fund and no soldier is permitted to so collect," the police warned, anxious that the illegal activity would not have an adverse effect on legitimate voluntary collections.

Within hours, McCallum was shipped.

From the author of Newark in 'The Great War'



Launched 15 September 2005 (7pm) in All Saints Church, Collingham, with talk, signing and refreshments.

Tickets £3 from Collingham Post Office; profits to good causes in the village