

Great War Bulletin

No. 69...Newark...Monday 22 November 1915

Bid to form a *third* line of Sherwoods

CAPTAIN and Adjutant R Whitton sent a letter to Mayor Knight on Thursday to launch a forthright appeal for more recruits for the third line of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

He wrote: "The Regiment has by its deeds and by its losses earned the support of the County and, up to the present time I cannot say that this support has been given to the extent that I should think the Regiment has a right to expect.

"Situating as we are, and recruiting all over the county, we are under a disadvantage in the way of recruiting in comparison with those units which are concentrated in a smaller area...

"It is necessary that local authorities should, when on recruiting duty, recommend the County Battalion to the notice of intending recruits...

"*This Battalion is now badly in need of them.*" And his words were supported almost daily by news of more local men being lost...

Son, 19, was

expected home

THE DEATH of 19-year-old Cecil Pepper came as a dreadful surprise to his parents, who were expecting him home on leave from service with the 9th Battalion Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment.

He had written to dad John Thomas and mum Annie Lydia, saying he was looking forward to seeing them again. They had excitedly told their other six children to stand-by for a reunion party.

But they received a letter on Monday at their home on Kelham Hill telling them he succumbed on 3 November to wounds suffered in Belgium. Private 14729 Pepper is remembered in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery 12km from Ypres.

Signalman loses son

COTHAM signalman George Henry Cope and his wife Ann discovered at last why they haven't heard from their son Henry for months.

The 24-year-old Private with the 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment was killed in action on 25 September. He is in the Vermelles British Cemetery 10km north-west of Lens.

Now the parents, who have had ten children but lost four at young ages, will move to 10 New Road, Balderton, and pray that Henry's twin Thomas and younger brother James will both return from the war unscathed. Agonisingly, they will not.

POSTMAN IN PERIL

OXTON village postman George Ernest Twells, 34, a Private in the 9th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, is recuperating in Bagthorpe Hospital, Nottingham, and tells the *Advertiser* correspondent a stirring tale of the hard fighting on the Gallipoli Peninsular.

He had no sooner got on land than his helmet was riddled with shrapnel, set on fire and burnt to cinders. But there was no time to wait for another.

They went up the virtually perpendicular sides of the cliff until they got to the top.

On the fifth day of continuous fighting, he volunteered to go out – saw in one hand, rifle in the other – to cut down two trees near the enemy trenches.

Although under heavy fire for more than an hour, he demolished the trees and returned safely to the Sherwoods' lines only to learn that they were untenable and the troops had to return to the boats.

On 6 August the Battalion landed again on the Peninsular.

Continuous fighting went on day and night until 21 August, when Hill 70 was attacked.

The Sherwoods dashed across the bare ground, making straight for the Turkish trenches.

Colonel Lionel Arthur Bosanquet was in the front, leading his men. Suddenly the Turks began their cry. "Allah! ... Allah!" sounded from one part of the ground to another until the air was thick with the cry.

The Colonel cried out: "Look out! The devils are going to charge." About a dozen big fellows rushed at the Colonel, but he shot three or four with his revolver.

But he was being over-powered when Private Twells ran to his assistance. He bowled five or six over with his bayonet. Then in the melee, men of both sides rushed up. Twells received a bullet through his groin and fell to the ground. Immediately a shell burst in the

Buried alive under bodies in Dead Man's Gully

midst of the struggling mass of men, killing or wounding all of them.

Twells remembers Colonel Bosanquet patting him on the shoulder and saying, "Thank you, my man. You will be rewarded for this." Then he swooned away.

Coming to some time later, Twells found dead and dying men, some on top of him, others around; friends and foes mixed together.

In a few minutes he liberated himself from the heap of misshapen humanity and crept as best he could to his own lines. In addition to the bullet wound, he eventually realised a piece of shrapnel had shattered his ankle.

While crawling along, he passed Lord Henry Bentinck, who was lying

on the ground severely wounded and ordered Twells to make his way to the lines.

What Twells did not know was that this particular battleground would go down in Great War legend as 'Dead Man's Gully'.

Records that survive a century later will reveal that Colonel Bosanquet was killed by machine gun fire.

The General who discovered his body noted: "He must have done well, for he was close up to the enemy, ahead of most of his men who were stretched out behind him, never a one with his back turned and all in perfect alignment."

Records available on the Genes Reunited website suggest that George Twells recovered from his wounds and survived into his 60s.

Newark's first refugee moves on – with thanks

JOSEF TAILIEZ, the first Belgian refugee to be housed in Crown Street (and taught English in Newark), wrote last week to ex-Mayoress Annie Kew from his new abode in Hampstead now that he has taken a job in London:

"Dear Mistress Mayoress

"I cannot find words enough to thank you and the ladies of the committee, and also Mister Mayor for all that you have done for us whilst we were living at Newark.

"When I remember me the first day we came to Newark, I have a sort of contentment because I could remark that every person there present did all that was possible to make us happy.

"Never we saw such a kindness, such a sacrifice to help the fugitives, who would not live under German rules.

"Not only that day, but all the time we were at Newark we saw the same kindness and sacrifice, and that was the reason why we forgot that we were refugees.

"We regretted that we must leave that nice little Newark and the English friends we made there.

"Never we shall forget the so praised English hospitality. We hope to come back for holidays as soon as possible."

'Surprise' writes Sam – 'I'm wounded'

SAMUEL WHITTEN, 25, a talented engineer in Civvie Street who helped Bradley's football team win the Hospital Cup a couple of winters ago, wrote home to mum Emily Louisa and dad Samuel, a maltster's labourer, at 40 Cross Street, Newark:

"I expect you will be surprised to hear I am wounded. I've got shrapnel in the leg. A bullet went clean through the calf. But it's not serious. It has not touched the bone."

Sam, a Sapper in the Royal Engineers, had worked as a whitesmith and later as a fitter at James Simpson's Lowfield Works before enlisting in September 1914.

He will be awarded the Military Medal for repairing lines under fire but discharged as unfit for further service in May 1918.

Records available in 2015 suggest that the only Samuel Whitten born in England in 1890 passed away in Coventry aged 51 in 1941.

VILLAGE SONS TORPEDOED IN MEDITERRANEAN

IT WAS REPORTED last week that two young men from local villages were among the 23 Lincolnshire Yeomen killed when the *Mercian* was attacked by a submarine in the Mediterranean.

They were named as Trooper Joseph Hugh Turner Brocklebank, only son of farmer Joseph Brocklebank of Carlton-le-Moorland Grange, and Trooper Thomas Lound, 22, second son of the nine children of Tom and Fanny Lound, of Caythorpe.

A vote of condolence to the Brocklebank family was passed at a meeting of the Lincolnshire Farmers' Union.

And on Sunday a muffled peal was rung at Caythorpe Church in honour of young Tommy.

Both are remembered on the Helles Memorial.

In addition, Rifleman A Smith of Winchilsea Avenue, Newark, is among the wounded.

History records that the *Mercian*, a 6,305-ton cargo ship, was attacked by U38 shortly after leaving Gibraltar en route for Malta (and ultimately the Turkish battlefields) from Southampton. Aboard were 17 officers and 300 other ranks of the Lincolnshire Yeomanry.

The Royal Navy's official history reveals casualty were greater than were revealed at the time. This is the official account:

"Regiment's machine guns brought up and returned fire, ship damaged in the action and a number of boats launched without orders from the captain, two of which capsized, *Mercian* put into Oran; 38 lives lost – 1 military officer, 37 other ranks, no crew (H – no crew lost; RN – 78 casualties, including 23 men killed – 55 wounded? plus one officer, 22 men and 8 crew missing from boats – officer, 13 men, and five crew later picked up, to total 35 lives lost; Mn – 23 troops killed and 55 wounded by gunfire; ge – 23 killed by gunfire, 31 lost in capsized boats totalling 54)."

ON THE HOME FRONT

HELEN MARY, 25, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Redmond Cafferata of Harrowby House, Grantham, was married to Captain Edward Johns Grindling, 1/4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

It was a sombre occasion with no reception. The Cafferatas, who headed the family firm that was manufacturing plaster of Paris and associated materials around Newark, had a total of 13 children.

£72 for Russian allies

RUSSIAN Flag Day was scheduled for last Thursday all over the country. But Newark brought it forward to Market Day – and raised £72 12s 9d, which was sent to help the Anglo-Russian Hospital at Petrograd, Russian prisoners of war in Germany and provide motor ambulances for our noble Ally's wounded.

£260 for Newark Church

MORE THAN £260 was raised by the annual three-day sale of work in Newark Town Hall on behalf of various parochial funds connected with the Parish Church.

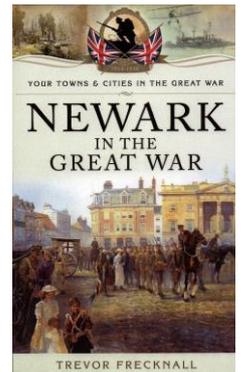
RE's on charm offensive

MORE THAN 150 townspeople enjoyed a dance organised by the Royal Engineers in Newark Town Hall last Thursday night, taking advantage of half-day closing. They will follow it up with a whist drive in the same venue next Thursday.

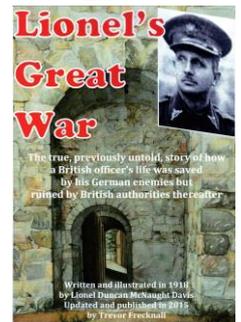
Flag Day for Russian allies

THE 6th annual show of the Newark and District Cage Birds Society went ahead in the Friendly Societies' Rooms, Saracen's Head Yard, Newark. The silver challenge cup for the best bird in show was won by South Scarle gamekeeper William Lidgett with an Australian cockatoo.

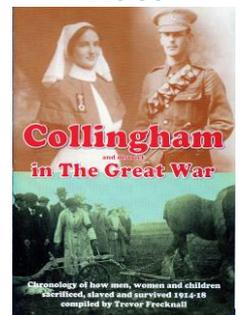
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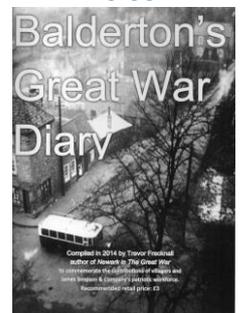
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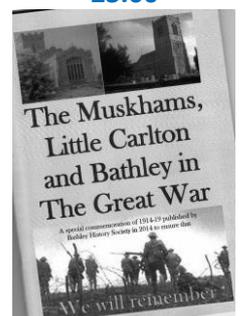
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