

Great War Bulletin

No. 71...Newark...Monday 6 December 1915

SIMPSON'S MOURN A BATTLER

WORKERS in the blacksmiths' shop at James Simpson's Lowfields Works started a new week today to the news that one of their mates, Harold Turner, 21, has succumbed to head wounds suffered on the Gallipoli Peninsular.

Harold, who lived at 14 Milton Street, New Balderton, before becoming a Sapper in the Royal Engineers, had battled his wounds for two months, undergoing two operations at the Alexandria General Hospital in Egypt.

He is remembered in the Chatby Cemetery.

Bravery of veteran's son to be rewarded

A SON of a Newark Army pensioner has been recommended for a bravery award.

Walter Gilbert Moore, 22, a Lance Corporal in the 8th Battalion Sher-wood Foresters, whose parents live at the Hollies in Farndon Road, has received a letter from Major-General E Stuart Wortley, Officer Commanding 46th North Midland Brigade:

"Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field.

"I have read their report with much pleasure, and am bringing your conduct to the notice of superior authority."

Young Walter is so modest that he won't even tell his parents, Walter and Emily what he's done.

He comes from a family steeped in military history. He was born in 1893 in Burma, as were his siblings Winifred Emily in 1897, Ina Gertrude in 1899, Agnes Mildred in 1903 and Evelyn Hilda in 1905.

After Walter senior (born 1869 while his father was serving in the Army in Madras, India) was demobilised, the family relocated first to Balderton – at a house that they humorously named 'That-one' – and then Farndon Road.

Young Walter initially showed no inclination to follow the family's fighting tradition, and took an apprenticeship in one of the town's many iron foundries upon leaving school.

What nobody can imagine, amid the excitement and pride surrounding this week's news, is that brave Walter will perish next June.

PROBLEMS OVER POOR

THE NEWARK Board of Guardians of the Poor disagreed at their fortnightly meeting last week over how to cope with the military occupation of the West Wing of the Workhouse on Bowbridge Road.

The Guardians, representing every parish in the district, are responsible for ensuring there is shelter and basic care for all men, women and children incapable of looking after themselves.

But now they have been ordered by the Government to allow the Royal Engineers to use the West Wing now that there has been a general acceptance that recruits cannot be expected to live in tents on Devon Park while undergoing intensive training for tasks ahead on the battlefields of the Western Front, Turkey and central Europe, plus Africa.

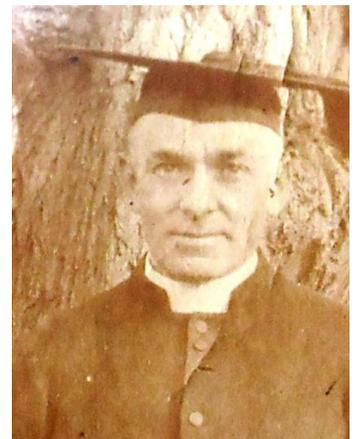
The committee appointed to carry out "a re-arrangement of inmates" recommended to last week's full meeting of Guardians that 12 men and 12 women should be boarded out.

They explained that this would leave a margin of spare accommodation of 16 beds for people suddenly in need – an increasingly frequent occurrence with so many men being killed, leaving their wives and children with no income and at the mercy of landlords who are not always sympathetic when faced with the prospect of receiving no rent in the foreseeable future.

OLD SOLDIER AND VICAR IN WORKHOUSE 'WIN'



Former Colour Sergeant
George Hind of
North Collingham



The Reverend A J Maxwell,
Rector of
South Collingham

Although families are doing their best to care for the bereaved, few old folk live in large enough houses to take in a widowed daughter and their young grandchildren.

But the Rector of South Collingham, the Reverend Albert James Maxwell and old soldier George Hind, who is North Collingham's representative on the Board, led an argument that it

would be unnecessarily disruptive to send the 24 helpless souls to another workhouse in another town; it would be much more practical and economical to accommodate them in the Infirmary.

After much discussion, their view prevailed by 18 votes to 9 ... though nobody raised the likelihood of the REs wanting more room in the near future.

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

HOHENZOLLERN: MORE VICTIMS

Lowdham's wounded MC hero

WOUNDED hero Private Frederick Holland – a Midland Railways platelayer in Civvie Street – is on furlough at home in Lowdham with a French Military Cross!

It was awarded for defying his own injuries to treat other wounded men while under heavy shell fire.

The 26-year-old, who has been in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters for four years, explained:

"I was wounded in the neck by shrapnel at St Eloi on 25 September.

"Our trenches were being shelled rather heavily at the time and 14 or 15 wounded men lay within a distance of a dozen yards or so.

"I was bleeding a bit from the neck and was rather bad, but I was able to get out to bandage the others and get them away to a place of safety.

"Captain Turner saw me at work and wanted me to be attended to myself, but I was not thinking about my own wound and would not let him.

"Major Becher recommended me for recognition and the cross was sent over to France.

"But meanwhile I had come out of hospital in France and been sent to Belton Park to retrain. The trophy was sent back here and Colonel Gretton MP presented me with it last week."

John Gretton, 1st Baron Gretton, was MP for Rutland from 1907-18 and for Burton from 1918-1943. He was chairman of Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton, brewers between 1908 and 1945.

Refugees verry pleased

BELGIAN refugees Gerard and Marie Nyssen plus their daughter Mathilde moved at the weekend to a house in Newark, leaving a letter to the North Muskham Committee that had given them a safe haven in a pleasant little cottage since they arrived in the village penniless on 29 October last year:

"Dear Ladys and Gentlemens – Whilst thanking you verry much, I beg you to excuse, I am not verry good writing English ... for giving food, furnishing of all kinds, I thank you verry, verry much, ladys and gentlemens ... It is 13 months that I stop in this country, you are all nice and friendly between us ... I thank you verry much for the work that I have received." Gerard William Nyssen, born on 5 May 1891, will survive until the spring of 1970, when he will die in Hammersmith.

NEWARK and district continues to learn of more men who were killed in the glorious charge by the local Territorial soldiers on the Hohenzollern Redoubt during the Battle of Loos in September.

Newark Fire Brigade Captain Thomas Harrison and his wife Emma received the news they had been dreading on Thursday.

They were officially informed that their youngest son, Private Cyril Sydney Harrison, 19, was killed when the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters went 'over the top', charged across the open ground into the teeth of intense enemy fire and took the German stronghold.

Educated at the Mount School, he had interrupted his apprenticeship with Ransome's to join-up last November.

There was similar bad news of Horace Steemson Wilkinson, 21, for his mother Mrs Hambrook and stepfather Fred Hambrook at 52 Milner Street on Friday.

Horace, another Ransome's worker who was educated at the Wesleyan School and was an active member of the Church Lads' Brigade, had been determined to "do my bit" despite suffering acute rheumatism in the knees and had to make several attempts to pass the medical that got him into the 8th Sherwoods last September.

Private 2956 Cyril and Private 2365 Horace are among 20,603 remembered on the Loos Memorial.

Castle Rovers football team's goalkeeper Harold Taylor, 22, is in hospital in France with "a rather bad wound" in his side. But his parents, Samuel and Flora Taylor of 39a Whitfield Street, are assured by the 8th Sherwoods chaplain that "he ought to get on all right".

He'll be right enough to appear in the 1918 list of absent voters.

Tribunal backs worker

FRESH OUT of his apprenticeship as an engineering pattern maker, 22-year-old John Thomas Pearsall of 5 Stanley Terrace off Beacon Hill, Newark, bravely went to a Munitions Tribunal in Nottingham last week to complain that his employers in town will not allow him to move to a better-paid job.

To emphasise his claim of being ill-treated, he added that they are paying him only 30 shillings (£1.50) a week while his mates are receiving 42s.

The employers, who are allowed to remain anonymous, offer him a rise of 2s immediately with a promise of another 10s in a year's time.

But the Tribunal decides John can take the better-paid job straight away.

Off to Marines

LIEUTENANT George Campbell, 21, a mechanical engineer who is the second son of farmer and grazier Colin Campbell of Stapleford Hall, left England to join the armoured motor car section of the Royal Marine Artillery, which is in charge of the quick-firing guns.

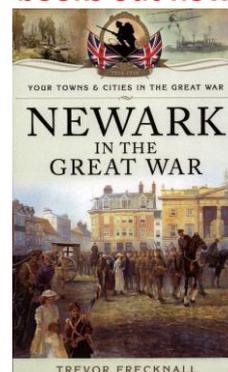
Flintham's £8 Xmas

FLINTHAM, which has raised £8 for Christmas presents for its troops, held a special public meeting last Thursday and decided to send socks to the men at the Front, plus pork pies, chocolates, cakes and tobacco.

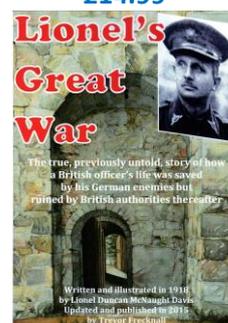
Comforts from traders

NEWARK Tradesmen's Association held a most successful whist drive in the Town Hall on Thursday night in aid of the Comforts Funds of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters and the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. The MC's are president Ernest Randall; vice-presidents Councillor William Selby, a butcher in Barnbygate, and Market Place grocer George Howard Porter; plus treasurer John Thomas Mills, boot and shoe dealer in Albert Street. Winners are Mrs J R Newton and Mr B Newbound.

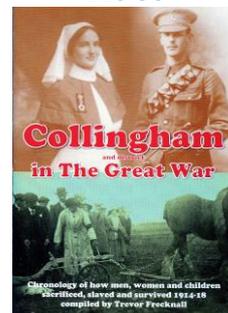
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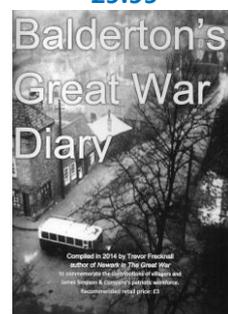
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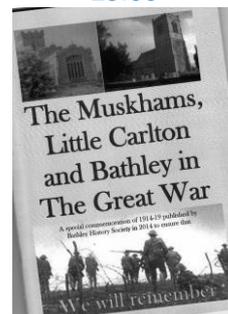
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