

**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

No. 73...Newark...Monday 20 December 1915

## Milkman's dark night

DESPITE the ever-present fear of naked lights attracting Zeppelin air raiders, Newark Borough Magistrates showed no Christmas charity on Thursday to a deliveryman who had left his horse and cart unattended and unlit in Lincoln Street at 8.50 one dark night recently.

Milk seller William Henry Barker, 23, of 56 Northgate was fined 15 shillings (75p), which would amount to pretty much his week's wages.

William, one of the eight children of a maltster, was scalded that it was a "particularly dangerous" practice during the present subdued street lighting.

# Our blackest Christmas

## Airman killed in crash fireball

A NEWARK airman was burned to death on Wednesday – while training at Farnborough.

Captain Henry Dalby Dryden Smith, 23, who worked in the drawing office at James Simpson's Lowfield Works where his father Henry is a director, was trying to land his aeroplane but it crashed to earth and burned so furiously that no assistance could be rendered.

Born at Streatham Hill in London, Captain Smith resided in Wellington Road, Newark, before he joined the 17th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He was attached to the Royal Flying Corps, earned his pilot's certificate (1428) on 13 July 1915 and swiftly achieved the rank of Captain. He was buried with full military honours on Friday at Aldershot Military Cemetery.



ANOTHER heated meeting of the Newark Board of Guardians took place last Tuesday over the vexed question of how to prevent overcrowding in the Workhouse on Bowbridge Road.

The Reverend Albert James Maxwell, Brixton-born vicar of South Collingham, had the difficult task of presiding over the unusually rancorous discussion by men representing every parish in the district.

The Chairman proposed that parts of the Infirmary should be given over to the requirements of inmates of the Workhouse.

In particular, he suggested that the operating theatre should become the dining room and be used for divine service; and the corridors be fitted out with beds, with a partition separating the sexes.

The Reverend Clement W H Griffith, Rector of Winthorpe, described the suggestions as "grotesque" and was supported by four other horrified members.

## EATING REPLACES OPERATIONS!

After an extensive debate, in which tempers were hardly maintained, the Chairman's proposals were carried by 13 votes to eight.

The public at the time were left to wonder why the Workhouse was suddenly so full ... Censors still would not let them be told that the military authorities had taken over the West Wing. But a century on this can be discovered from the minutes of the Guardians' meetings available in the Nottinghamshire Archives.

## *Bad news for Turkey...*

*A CYNIC would have reported that this Christmas going to be especially disappointing for Turkey's war-mongers.*

*For the Allies – primarily Australia, Britain and New Zealand – today set about evacuating 83,000 troops from Suvla Bay and ANZAC Cove in Gallipoli.*

*Not one soldier or sailor was killed at the end of a disastrous campaign that had totally failed in its objective to open a 'back door' into Germany and thus divert enemy soldiers from the Western Front.*

*The Turkish Army remained totally unaware that the*

*evacuation was taking place although their positions overlooked the beaches from which the 83,000 were spirited.*

*This will be tremendously up-lifting news next year when it reaches families of the members of the Yeomanry who were trapped there.*

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# Santa's female this year..!

WHILE the women of Newark increasingly take the places of their menfolk in the factory workshops, the ladies of the town are busy taking the role of Mother Christmas.

The Mayoress's Working Party continues to meet every Thursday afternoon to knit and sew goods needed by men of the town who are serving in the military forces.

And the Newark Habitation of the Primrose League has been working overtime to produce comforts for Christmas.

This off-shoot of the Conservative Party has sent 60 pairs of socks, nine scarves, nine pairs of pyjamas and 50 bandages for British wounded; 15 pairs of socks for French wounded; 15

**Becher latest:  
he is eating  
and improving**



THE LATEST bulletin on the condition of the clerk to Newark Borough Magistrates who was seriously wounded in the attack by the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters on the Hohenzollern Redoubt states that Major John Pickard Becher DSO (above) has taken some nourishment and continues to improve.

But the gallant Major's doctors emphasise that he is by no means out of danger.

pairs of mittens to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters; and 20 pairs of socks, 10 scarves, 28 pairs of mittens and 11 body belts to Colonel Henry Branston Warwick, 39, Commanding Officer of the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, who has recovered from wounds received in the battle for Hill 70 at Loos in September to the relief of all his relations in the Newark brewery business.

The Habitation president, Mrs Mary Gertrude Branston, whose husband Henry Eyton Branston is head of the family maltsters' firm, asks her members to concentrate on producing scarves and mittens over Christmas – suggesting that a long, cold New Year is ahead for our fighting men.

And she is not the only member of the family striving to ensure the fighting men do not freeze in the trenches.

Mrs Clara Gwendoline Branston of 44 Lombard Street – whose husband is a clerk in the family firm – publicly thanks the ladies who have knitted, within a week, 40 pairs of mittens for the members of the Brass and Bugle Bands of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters, who are now in training at Watford.

What nobody can imagine as they prepare for a Christmas that will not be joyfully celebrated, is that this new local Battalion will endure its baptism of fire not on a foreign battle field but on the streets of Dublin next Easter.

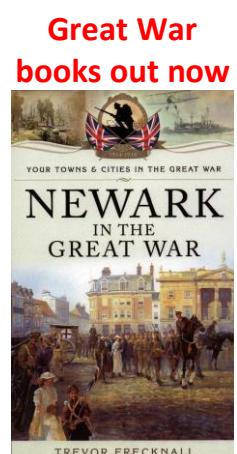
## Wedding of wounded hero of Dardanelles

TWICE WOUNDED during the campaign in the Dardanelles, Captain George F Hutton, who grew up at Thorney Hall, was married in London on Saturday to a lady he met while working in New Zealand.

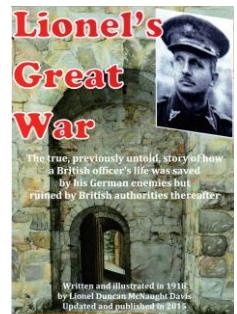
The bride is Rose Mairehu, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur E G Rhodes of Te Koraha, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Captain Hutton (born 1884), son of the late Colonel George H Hutton and Mrs Hutton, who now lives in Ollerton, has been serving with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles in Turkey.

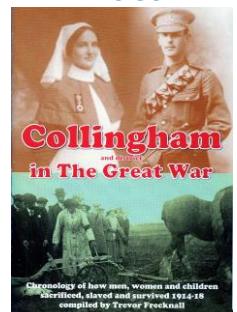
He will continue to serve and be awarded the Distinguished Service Order next year.



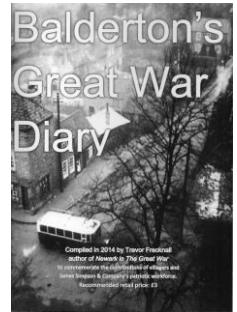
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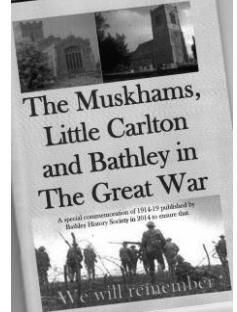
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