

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

Edited by Trevor Frecknall, author of several books on the World Wars

Great War Bulletin

No. 89...Newark...Monday 10 April 1916

PoW thanks 'noble' ladies

CORPORAL J N Hollingsworth of the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment has written to the Newark ladies who are sending parcels to Prisoners of War on a regular basis that he received on 17 March a gift sent on 28 February and added:

"I wish you and all every success in the good and noble work that you are doing for so many of us. Be sure the men out here in exile will never forget the good work done by our brave and noble women at home. We are all proud of you, just as much as you are of us. We did our best for you all; but it was soon over, and we hope that what we did not finish, that the boys who have come after us to the call will speed by bringing it to a finish ... I can never thank you and all in good old Newark in your great work and such kindness to us all."

Egg-streemely interesting!

THOUSANDS of children nationwide are sending eggs to wounded soldiers – all part of the voluntary effort to keep spirits up – and are receiving amazingly revealing information in replies!

For example, Captain J C Armstrong wrote from Osborne on the Isle of Wight to blacksmith's son Alfred Jarman, aged six, at 15 King Street, and gave an insight into how the need for more hospitals is affecting even royalty.

He explained: "I had been out in France ever since the War began but at last I went into hospital a month ago, quite ill. They sent me back to England last week in a big hospital ship.

"I am glad that no horrid German submarined us on the way because I don't think that I would like to swim ashore in this cold weather.

"This is a great big house that once belonged to Queen Victoria. If you do not know who she was, ask Teacher. Her son was a very kind man. He was called King Edward and he made half his house a hospital for his officers; some of us here are soldiers, like me

Boys get revealing letters

in khaki; and some are sailors in blue. I am not allowed out of bed, and I am very tired of bed, but they put me by the window each day and I can see the great big ships passing on the sea, many going out to France, taking food for your Daddy and the other soldiers or taking soldiers out to beat the wicked naughty Kaiser.

"You must be very proud to have your Daddy in the Army helping to keep the Germans away." Ominously, Alfred's dad Walter, 30, will not appear in the 1918 list of Newark's absent voters...

Schoolboy Joe Francis, 10, one of 7 children of a plumber at 53 William Street, received a 'thanks for an egg' letter that shows soldiers evacuated from the Dardanelles are now on the Western Front.

Corporal H Mitchell of the 7th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, wrote from Ward 7 of the 20th General Hospital somewhere in France: "We are all very thankful to you at home for what you are doing for us when in hospital..."

"I am getting on very fair but expect to be here for another month when I trust the weather will be a bit more settled than it has been lately.

"There is a big different in this country in regard to water. In the Dardanelles we were very short at times. I was out there with our 6th Battalion five months, coming home wounded, being home 11 weeks after coming out of hospital at Warrington..."

"It is none too grand out here, but I prefer here to being our east."

RE's stay in two schools

NEWARK Education Authority agreed at its monthly meeting on Tuesday that the Royal Engineers can continue to billet in two schools through the summer.

Members have now launched a search for alternative properties in which the children could be given full-time education. For most of this academic year, they have had to make do with studying for half-days.

SECOND SON IS KILLED

SUNDAY'S spring morning brought spine chilling news to the Footitts of 2 Slaughterhouse Lane, Newark. They have lost their second son in not much more than a week! A message from the Records Office told them 19-year-old Harry had been killed while they are still coming to terms with the loss of 21-year-old Fred. The grief of the stricken parents was exceedingly great; it was a credit to those living in the vicinity that they do their utmost to bring comfort and consolation to the bereaved. Harry went to Christ Church School, worked at Quibell's and then Farrar's, joined the Territorials and enjoyed it so much that he enlisted with the Northumberland Fusiliers 3 months before War broke out.

He spent six weeks in hospital with wounds and frost-bitten feet at the start of last winter but had been at the Front since a six-day furlough at home last December.

Private 3883 Footitt is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

Keep those lights shaded!

SEVERAL householders were fined by Newark Magistrates on Thursday for having lights showing from their properties on the night of the major Zeppelin warning, 31 March.

Most were ordered to pay 2s 6d, the more serious cases 5 shillings. Mayor Knight said they had been dealt with leniently but it was a serious matter; future punishments would be much more stringent.

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Escapism by orchestra

A LARGE AUDIENCE took an evening away from the rigours of War to savour the annual concert of the Newark Subscription Orchestral Society in Newark Town Hall on Thursday.

Conductor Carle was assisted by W T Wright. The orchestra comprised Mrs Carle, Miss Ursula Holt Martin, Mrs Florence Mary Lawson, Miss V Robinson, Miss F Robinson, Mr W Ashton, Mr Butterworth, Mr Barker, Sapper Green RE, Mr W James, Sapper Keatley RE, Sapper Johnstone RE, Mr Mills, Mr P Staveley and Mr Staveley on violins; Mr L d'Ascanio and Mr

Stuart MacRea on violas; Madame d'Ascanio and Lt Y Lamontagne on violin-cellos; F Foster and Mr Vickers, contra basses; Sapper E Coxon RE flute; J S Carle oboe; J S Carle and A Masding, clarinets; G W Edwards and G Hodgson, horns; J W Stephenson and J Turgoose, trumpets; G Turgoose, W Johnston and Mr Low, trombones; F S Carle, harp; Francois Tote, bells and effects; and Mr E Kemp, bassoon.

The escapism came a day after Mayoress Knight and her ladies braved bitterly cold weather from 8am to 4pm and raised a magnificent £60 10s for comforts for the troops.

Where we used to hang our villains

FOR CENTURIES, the foreboding Shire Hall in Nottingham was the scene of the hangings of the county's worst outlaws.

Last Monday, it was the venue of appeals by highly respected residents of the Newark Rural District against orders to go and fight in the War.

The Notts Appeal Tribunal under the presidency of Lord Galway took the following potential life and death decisions...

Fountain Picksley, who is giving up his farm this month, was told it was more important that he joined-up than continue as secretary of the county Farmers' Union and look after his infirm widowed mother...

...good men plead to stay home

Horace Mills of the Farndon wicker works lost his plea that George William Foster, 43; William H Measham, 44 and a father-of-six; Charles Hall, 24, and Cecil J Cliffe, also 24, were on war work making baskets.

Langford farm foreman and general manager Harry Broadberry also lost, as did William Mitchelson, the managing partner in Collingham grocery and provisions stores.

Farmers' sons given until 1 June to get their corn sown were Leonard Taylor, 29, of Collingham and Sydney Clements, 20, of South Scarle.

John Thomas Taylor, 30, of South Clifton was given until 5 June and Joseph R Cragg to 1 July.

Conscientious objector Bertie Walton from Collingham was told he must do non-combatant service; he insisted he would not.

The only total exemption was given to Besthorpe farm foreman Tom Hopkinson, 22, who was working for his widowed mum Annie, 66, while her other sons Frank, 35, and David, 20, served King and country. Lord Galway said the Tribunal wished to place on record its high appreciation of the way the Hopkinson family was doing its duty.

Townsmen lose pleas, too

MEN who disagreed with decisions of the Newark Borough Tribunal fared no better at the Notts Appeal Tribunal.

Harry Cook, 25, who worked in his father's watch and clock business in Chain Lane, lost a plea that he would be of more use at James Simpson's Lowfields factory on "Admiralty work" than in the trenches.

Bridge Street grocer Thomas Seymour, father of eight children, was told his son Thomas Lane Seymour, 23, would have to join-up. His shop work could be done by women.

Newark Rural Council surveyor G C Woolridge, a conscientious objector, had his appeal dismissed despite being represented by solicitor Charles L Rothera.

Hairdresser William Walker of Beaumont Cross was told that having one son already on the Western Front was no reason to keep another, Francis Victor, 18, at home.

Albert Arthur Hales, 30, a groom living at Winthorpe, lost his appeal to stay home and care for his widowed mum, aged 72. She could survive on her pension.

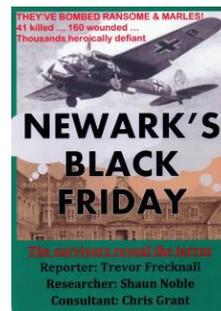
Samuel Foster of 26 Cherry Holt Lane lost his plea to keep his son Richard Ernest, 28, to help with his business; the Tribunal disagreed with his assertion that "women can't lift sacks of sugar". The Tribunal was not told that Sam and his wife Mary had already lost (to natural causes) their other four children.

Ram Hotel assistant Alfred Brown also lost his appeal despite being supported by his manager, Mr Freestone. C H Smith, manager and warehouseman in his father's grocery business, was also deemed dispensable as was W Hartley, a miller at Parnham's Mill.

Auctioneer's clerk Charles R Scarborough, 33, is allowed to stay working for George Pink after military representative Cherry-Downes reported he had been rejected for foreign service.

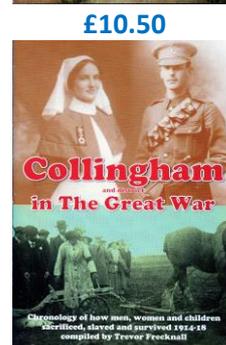
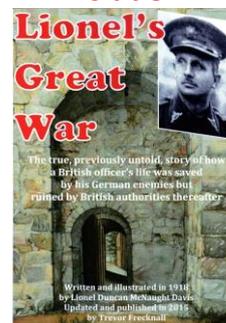
Thomas A Ford was allowed to continue working until 1 June for the family firm, G W Ford & Son. The Tribunal heard so many other family members and workers had joined up, the business would be "ruined" if Tommy went.

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