

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. 92...Newark...Monday 1 May 1916

NEWARK
WORRIED BY
REPORTS OF
AMBUSH

WORRYING rumours are reaching Newark that our men of the Second Line of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters were involved in the Easter Rising by Irish Nationalists in Dublin.

It will be recalled that the Battalion was raised under the leadership of Colonel William Coape Oates of Besthorpe within a few days of the First Line marching out of Newark in September 1914.

Although censorship during The Great War prevented the new Battalion's movements being publicised, it can be revealed a century on that the Territorial unit spent the early part of the Great War on garrison duty in Newark before moving to Hertfordshire for training and being based in Luton, Dunstable and Watford.

With things going badly on the Western Front, it was assumed that the officers and men would be drafted to 'somewhere on the Western Front' to confront the Spring Offensive which most observers expected the German Army to carry out.

But the War Office's hurried change of plan has been revealed in a letter written by Company Sergeant Major Henry Charles Dixey, 22, a schoolteacher.

He has made it perfectly clear to his parents that he has been posted to Ireland, not the Western Front.

"So you are not to worry," he added, obviously expecting that he and his comrades would be perfectly safe in another part of Great Britain – albeit one that has rumbled with discontent at rule from Westminster for centuries.



British soldiers pinned-down on a Dublin street.
Are they Sherwood Foresters from our 2nd/8th Battalion?

But young Henry's optimism was ill-placed according to reports emanating from Dublin over the last few days.

The trouble appears to have flared last Wednesday with what the Nationalists are calling 'The Battle of Mount Street Bridge'. Moreover, the Nationalists are claiming that it was, militarily, the most successful rebel engagement in Dublin.

Although they were eventually defeated, the rebels are claiming that they held-up two nearly full-strength British battalions (some 1,750 soldiers) for several hours.

Even more worryingly for families fearing that the Second

DUBLIN'S UPRISING

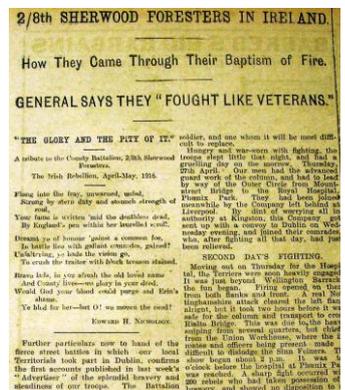
8th were in the thick of the action, the Nationalists state that "significant British casualties" were inflicted by a small band of Volunteers.

They are, of course, using this as a powerful piece of propaganda, emphasising the bravery and sacrifice of the rebellion.

And the longer their claims go unchallenged by the British Army and/or Government, the more likely it seems that there has been an untoward event.

Hundreds of local families need answers – urgently ... Have their boys been in action? And, if so, what on earth has happened to them?

Have our
Terriers
been in
action
against
Irish
rebels?



All will be revealed
in next week's
Great War Bulletin

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Talk about a lucky groom...!

Pride of mother: medal for son

ONE Easter wedding stood out from the crowd in Newark last weekend.

Miss Grace Lillian Stafford, 20, youngest daughter of the nine children of George and Grace Stafford of 70 Cross Street, walked down the aisle of Newark Parish Church to marry Machine Gunner Jim Henderson, 23.

Lucky Jim has been wounded on no fewer than three occasions while serving on the Western Front with the First Line 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

The best man was the bride's brother, Machine Gunner Harold Stafford, 23, of the Second Line 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, who will be awarded the Military Medal in March 1918 for bringing in wounded comrades under heavy shell fire during the most ferocious German attack of the entire War.

Records a century on reveal that Jim lived until 1972 and Grace until 1975.

Vicar is Special – that's official!

THE REVEREND Alfred John Judson, 49, of Balderton was among the latest special constables sworn-in at Newark County Police Court on Wednesday.

He was joined in taking the oath by agricultural merchants William Boyd Berris Quibell, 48, The Croft, New Balderton and Ernest Knight, 40, New Balderton; Robert Hunt Bradley, 35, iron founder, Winthorpe; Joseph Knott, 36, baker and grocer, Balderton; and John T Hyde, farm foreman, Flawborough.

When the court's traditional business began, Henry Haywood, 48, of Halam was fined 1 shilling (5p) for being asleep in charge of two cart horses and a wagon on the highway at Kelham on the afternoon of 6 April.

Police Constable Adams said the horses were trundling down the centre of the road. He cycled beside them for 100 yards before bringing them to a halt, and the jolt awoke Haywood, who had been delivering flour to Balderton.

The lenient punishment could well have been a result of the magistrates' understanding that men like Henry were working themselves to a standstill to ensure shops were as well stocked as possible.

RAISING MONEY AND SPIRITS

AFTER a long pause since football crowds assembled at the Muskham Road ground to watch Newark Town play Midland League matches, supporters flocked to Mr Tidd Pratt's Stadium off London Road for an Easter Monday treat – the Royal Engineers against an Old Town XI. The 'old men' won 2-1, the winner coming when the trainee soldiers engineer an own goal. A little over £10 was raised for RE's and Newarkeers who are prisoners of war.

A PROUD and patriotic Newark mother discovered on Friday that one of her NINE children has been recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Mrs Emily Moore of the Hollies, Farndon Road, is the Mum in question. The gallant son is 23-year-old William Gilbert Moore, a Corporal in the First Line 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

Major-General E Stuart-Wortley, Officer Commanding 45th Division, of which our local Terriers were a vital part, wrote to her to explain where William had caught the eye...

"At Hohenzollern Redoubt on 13 October 1915, for conspicuous gallantry, when one of a small party in West Face, after a retirement had begun, he remained on the German side of the barricades alone for three-quarters of an hour holding the trench before getting help, after which he continued to bomb the enemy for eight hours."

Died in camp

A FUNERAL service was held at Sutton-on-Trent on Monday for Albert Edwards Woods, who joined the Colours only a month earlier and succumbed to pneumonia at the East Camp Hospital, Whitechurch, last Thursday. He was 37, the fourth son of basket-maker William and Mary Ann Woods; and had made a successful commercial career for himself on Merseyside over the last 20 years. Pte 27403 Woods will be brought home to his village for burial.

Much sadness on home front

THERE has been an unusual number of reasons for sadness in Newark and district over the past week.

Sergeant-Major John Lacey, a constable in the Borough Force pre-War now serving with the Sherwood Foresters, and his wife Emily Harriett suffered domestic grief. Their 18-year-old son Matthew Joseph, died at the family home at 45 Jubilee Street, Newark.

On the same day, there was a mystery fatality at Quibell's glue factory off Northgate.

Labourer Thomas William Turner, 32, of 19 Stanley Street, Newark, was scalded to death after falling, jumping or sliding into a vat of boiling bones. Even the inquest failed to discover how it happened because Tom was working alone with so many of his mates in the services. He left a wife wondering how she would make ends meet.

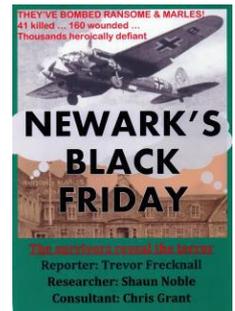
South Collingham bade farewell to one of its most determined old soldiers. Colour Sgt Instructor George Hopkinson, 73, passed away last Tuesday. Despite his advancing years and illness, he offered only recently to return to the Sherwoods as an instructor. They declined with thanks.

Lord help us – says Mayor

NEWARK'S St George's Day Parade, deferred from Easter Sunday, took the Civic party from the Town Hall to the Barnbygate Wesleyan Church.

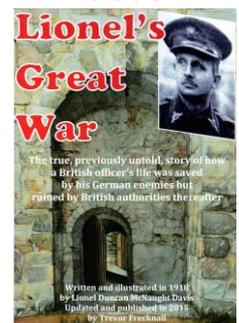
In his address, Mayor William Knight commented that our country never needed Divine help more than at the present time.

OUT NOW:

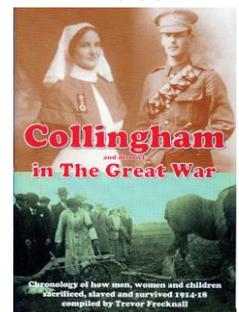


New book to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Ransome and Marles' bombing in World War II. £9.99 from WHSmith, Market Place, and Osborne Stationers, Kirkgate, Newark.

Great War books still available include...



£10.50



£9.99

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place

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