

Great War Bulletin

No. 97 ... Newark ... Monday 5 June 1916

King's Honours

NURSE,
SOLDIER
AND VET

for town's trio

THE KING'S Birthday Honours List on Saturday included Military Crosses for Newark's Captain Frank Baker Gresham, 42, of the Army Veterinary Corps, and Lieutenant Thomas Francis Tallents, only 20 – plus wonderful recognition for nursing Sister Ethel Cubley.

Gresham, 42, a Boer War veteran, has been on active service since the beginning of the War and is in charge of a base camp for Army horses in France.

He received the award for "exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy" – though, as was frustratingly normal when awards were announced as part of the Monarch's Birthday Honours, no more details were given.

Nevertheless, his proud wife Agnes Maud Gresham and their five children, all under 10, received a shower of congratulations at home at 9 King's Road.

Tallents is a grandson of the late lawyer Godfrey Tallents of Newark and son of Newark-born solicitor George William Tallents and his wife Mildred Sophie. He had only just left Harrow School when War broke out, joined the Irish Guards and was severely wounded in the face and leg in France.

We were left to wonder, of course, exactly how he demonstrated "exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy" to earn his MC.

Post-War, Volume 2 of Rudyard Kipling's *Irish Guards in the Great War* will reveal that at Hohenzollern in 1915: "The attack was confided to No. 4 Company (Captain Hubbard), who chose 2nd Lieutenants T F Tallents and Hamilton for the left and right attacks respectively. They led out at 1 in the morning, very carefully, for the men were cautioned to stalk the enemy as much as possible, but the moment they were discovered, to rush him back up the trench. So he had to be listened for in the dark, with a sky full of noises overhead. As soon as "contact had been obtained"—that is to say, as soon as the first crack of a bomb and the yell that accompanies it were heard down the cutting—the Very lights were sent up for a signal for our guns and the troops on either side to annoy and divert.

"Bombing affairs of the year '15 were on the most simple lines and unaccompanied by barrage. The left attack, when it had toiled some 60 yards from its starting-point, met a party of German bombers. What followed was inevitable. Our bombers, who had never had an opportunity of throwing more than one live bomb each at training, were easily out-

classed by the German bombers, and they were all either killed, wounded, or driven back immediately on to 2nd Lieutenant Tallents.

"He was coming up 20 or 30 yards behind them, and had just reached some old smashed girders that had been part of a bridge or a dug-out, and back to this tangle the attack was driven. There a stand was made for a while by Tallents and two Privates, Higgins and Brophy, till Brophy was killed and the officer and other Private wounded.

"The Germans bombed their way on down to the barricades whence the attack had been launched, and for 20 minutes it was touch and go whether the Irish could hold it even there. All this while Tallents, though wounded, headed the resistance, urged the men to strengthen the barrier, and then got atop of it, so as to make a longer or more accurate shot with a bomb.

"Bombs ran short, as they usually do on such occasions; the bombers were down and between men's feet among the wreckage. 2nd Lieutenant Coxon, who was sending up fresh men and bombs as best he might over broken ground in darkness down blind trappy trenches, indented on Battalion Headquarters for more, and the 1st Coldstream whirled their bombers in till, by means that no one can quite recall, the German rush was stayed long

enough for a steady supply of munitions to arrive. This was about 4 in the morning, after a couple of hours of mixed rough-and-tumble that had died out for the moment to snaps of rifle-fire round corners, and the occasional glare of a bomb lobbed over some cover in the obstructed trench.

"Tallents had kept his place at the barrier all the time, and, at what turned out to be the psychological moment, launched a fresh attack down the trench, headed by Lance-Corporals J Brennan and C Anstey and backed by Lance-Corporal Cahill. It gave time for the men behind to further strengthen the defence, while more bombs were coming up.

"Then Tallents collapsed and was removed to the dressing station, and 2nd Lieutenant F Syngé was sent up to relieve him. He was hit in the head almost at once, but remained at his post, and never relaxed his efforts to get the position consolidated and tenable, until he too was withdrawn to the dressing-station after dawn.

"By this time the barricade was completed, and the communication-trench back to the main body was sufficiently cleared to enable work to be continued in daylight...

"The total loss in the night's fray was Hamilton killed, Tallents and Syngé wounded, and about 60

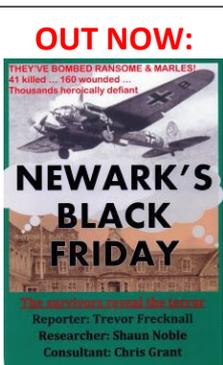
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Funeral of Balderton's heroes



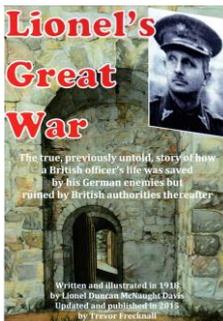
Balderton's first-ever triple military funeral took place on Saturday afternoon. Dublin victims George William Barks, Albert James Kitchen and Albert Edward Wood were laid to rest side by side in the St Giles Churchyard, which was full of family, friends, workmates, armed comrades and well-wishers.

A century later, memorials to the three young men stand side by side (above).



OUT NOW:
NEWARK'S BLACK FRIDAY
 This anniversary of the bombing
 Reporter: Trevor Frecknall
 Researcher: Shaun Noble
 Consultant: Chris Grant

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.



Lionel's Great War
 The true, previously untold, story of how a British officer's life was saved by his German enemies but ruined by British authorities thereafter
 Written and illustrated in 1916 by Lionel Pearson (1884-1916)
 Updated and published in 2016 by Trevor Frecknall
£10.50

Collingham in The Great War
 Chronology of how men, women and children suffered, starved and survived 1914-18 compiled by Trevor Frecknall
£9.99
 from WH Smith, Newark Market Place

TRIBUNAL DISPLEASED WITH CHAIN STORES

Newark Borough Tribunal members on Thursday expressed their displeasure at large multiple shops taking their appeals to the place in which their head office is based.

They insisted their local knowledge is indispensable.

They allowed Warwicks and Richardsons to keep their indispensable at the Northgate brewery: cooper's sawyer Joseph Henry Nicholson, 38, of 3 Meyrick Road, without whom they could not repair casks; William Wright, 40, of 12 Bargate, manager of the property department who had failed a medical; brewhouse foreman Tom Skipworth, 39; Matthew Swinn, 40, manager of the chilling carbonating and filtration department since it opened in 1905; George R Heading, 39, managing clerk of the bottling department; and Edgar Rendle Webber, 36, of 88 Hatton Gardens, supervisor of the accounts and debts department. But A G West, 35, railway accounts clerk, must go on 31 July and be replaced by a retired person ... Cafferata's kept confidential clerk George Barker, 37; Thomas W Carrington, 37, fitter and wire tie machine operator doing unique work that "takes years to learn"; and W Barratt, 36, managing and export clerk ... When the military representative asked for bargees Albert Cree, 19, and T Scoby, 23, to be called-up, their employers were given two months to find replacements ... Ernest Randall, 38, was allowed to stay at his tailor's and outfitter's which had 30 men "in normal times" but now had 16 females ... Of Newark butchers, Walter Cupit, 37, was allowed to remain in The Arcade; Herbert T Brown, 36, could stay in Frederick Dixon's Middlegate shop providing two other employees enlisted; Charles Clutterbuck, 37, could keep supplying his 250 customers in Kirkgate; father-of-four William Lawton Stephenson, 37, could stay as sole proprietor, bookkeeper and slaughterman of his shop at 5 Church Street; J S Hunt, 36, could run his own shop and work as slaughterman for other butchers from Barnbygate; Councillor William Selby was given until 1 August to replace his Albert Street branch manager George Townrow, 36; Thomas Williamson, 40, was allowed to stay with his shop in Cartergate; Percy John Charles Staniland, 36, was given until 31 August though his father and brother were also working in their Bridge Street shop; William Charles Gill, 66, of 25 Castlegate, with two sons in the forces, was told to send his third, William Charles junior, 39 and married with a young family at 15 William Street, though he pleads he cannot spare him ... J Mills & Son, footwear dealers and repairers, kept Alfred Eggleston Mills,

Mr Arthur Stretton of Sibthorpe Manor announced at Wednesday's meeting of the Farmers' Union Newark Branch that he had resigned as agricultural representative on the County Appeals Tribunal because he was not allowed to speak about the number of men to be left on a farm.

37, manager of sales, warehouse and workshop since three employees had been called-up ... John Dare Chambers, 36, of Ye Old Governor's House, proprietor of an electric power plant supplying 14 premises, claimed he was indispensable but was told to go on 31 August ... Derry's applied to keep the last of their 10 plumbers, Francis Miles, 36, of Spring Terrace, Southwell; hot water fitter William Francis Johnson, 39, of 24 Eldon Street, Newark; and plumber John Linnell Gumsley, 37, of 21 Bowbridge Road; while builder William Smith in Millgate appealed for his last workman, plumber Edgar Woolwright, 28, engaged on railway work. Tribunal decided that as Derry's and Smith were pooling their resources, Woolwright, the single man, must go; if he failed his medical, Johnson must be taken for military service. (Woolwright joined the RE's and appeared in the 1918 list of absent voters) ... Father-of-five Robert Morley, 31, said he would have to close his greengrocer's on Albert Street and his carter's business when he was told to enlist on 31 August ... Edwin Stephenson, 38, a linotype operator who has invested all his savings in the late Miss Perfect's printing equipment, was told to go on 31 July, as was Dr Appleby's chauffeur, H Phillips.

Death in Newark of a wounded Sapper

SAPPER JOHN HART of No.2 Field Company Royal Engineers died in Newark General Hospital on Monday, aged 35. He was wounded on active service but made such excellent progress at the 1st General Hospital, Stourbridge, that he was moved to convalesce at Lombard Street. There, he suffered a relapse, accentuated by pleurisy and pneumonia. he is remembered in the Liverpool (Kirkdale) Cemetery.

Newark teachers want to join the fight

NEWARK EDUCATION AUTHORITY met last week to consider the ramifications of the latest Military Service Act – and learned that all three teachers involved had written saying they wished to go and fight. They were Mr Henton of Mount School, Mr Waller at Lover's Lane and Essex-born Harry James Stibbard, 36, who lived on Farndon Road with his wife Lucy Kate and three young children (and will have a fourth baby next year). All three men were assured their families would be paid the difference between their salaries and their service pay.

Pauper children won't be 'branded'

NEWARK Board of Guardians obtain agreement from Notts and Kesteven County Councils to stop children from the Cottage Home, as paupers, having to present a card at their schools as proof of attendance. The Guardians are delighted to remove this taint so that the little innocents are not branded as being from the Workhouse.

King's heroes

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other ranks killed, wounded, and missing. The net gain was a few score yards of trench, of which the enemy held both ends, with a 'No Man's Land' on either flank of about as far as one could throw a bomb over a barricade.

"In front, not a hundred yards off, a most efficient German trench with lavish machine-guns sniped them continuously between the breathing-spaces of our shell-fire. Our own big stuff, bursting on and near that trench, shook and loosened the sides of our own.

"The entire area had been fought over for months, and was hampered with an incredible profusion, or so it struck the new hands at the time, of arms, clothing, and equipment – from shreds, wisps, and clods of sodden uniforms that twist and catch round the legs, to loaded rifles that go off when they are trodden on in the mud or prised up by the entrenching tools.

"The bottom and sides of the cuts were studded with corpses whose limbs and, what was worse, faces stuck out of the mixed offal, and were hideously brought to light in cleaning up. However, as one youngster wrote home triumphantly, 'I was never actually sick.'

The affair could hardly be called a success, and the Battalion did not pretend that it was more than a first attempt in which no one knew what was expected of them, and the men were not familiar with their weapons."

Sister Cubley, who was working at the Bagthorpe Military Hospital between Nottingham and Mansfield, is the daughter of Councillor Cubley, and has been awarded the Royal Red Cross Medal of the 2nd Class.

A century later, the Royal Red Cross Register, to be found on the Genes Reunited website, reports that Sister Cubley of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve was decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday 28 October 1916.