

Great War Bulletin

No. 12...Newark...Monday 19 October 1914

Terriers get War date

NEWARK and district's men in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters will go to France on 30 October. The top-secret news was revealed by their Commanding Officer's wife, Mrs Annie Huskinson, in a begging letter to the local newspapers on behalf of the men: "They have the winter to face. It is most important that they should be supplied with warm clothing. They need mufflers, mittens, sleep-in caps and belts. A good number of these are now in hand but in order that every man may be supplied, more money is most urgently needed. £10 is also wanted to buy mackintosh capes for sentries. May I ask all kind friends in Nottinghamshire for their help."

Town welcomes refugees from battered Belgium

FIFTEEN traumatised Belgian refugees from in and around Antwerp – of whom only two possess a smattering of English – arrived in Newark to be housed at 33 Crown Street and a property in Victoria Street.

They are among thousands who have been violently displaced from their homeland by the German invasion – even though their Government consistently declared their intention to remain neutral, as the Netherlands through the War.

The frightened 15 were welcomed at Northgate Station by the Mayor, Councillor John Charles Kew; the Vicar of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, the Reverend Father Hadican; Councillor Redmond Barton Caf-ferata, whose business interests frequently take him to mainland Europe (and who will slip away from town eventually to spy on the German Army); and Miss Brooke (sister of Miss Brooke, the St Leonard's nurse) who will act as the Belgians' interpreter because she has spent a number of years in Belgium and therefore speaks Flemish fluently.

Instantly, considerable annoyance has been occasioned by the gathering together in the evening of a large number of children, who play about the places. This must be distracting to the refugees who most require quietness and rest after their dreadful ordeals.

HORRORS THEY ENDURED

ONE of the Belgian refugees, Mademoiselle Marthe Rumes, only 21, was eventually appointed teacher at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic School – one of the few educational establishments in Newark that was able to continue lessons full-time throughout The Great War.

It is little wonder she speaks near-perfect English: she studied to be a teacher in Sussex only a few years ago.

Now she tells of the brutalities visited upon innocent civilians on the continent by the invading German Army – and reveals why and how she had to lie to escape from Belgium.

While she was living in Ghent, a male acquaintance was taken by the Germans and ordered to bury their dead.

"This drove him mad because he was told to bury them alive if he thought they had no chance of getting better.

"Another man had to drive two Germans to Dixmude [a town also known as Diksmude] and for three hours was riding in between dead bodies and over them when he could not drive between them."

As she had been born in Holland, she holds a Dutch passport – and, desperate to escape the atrocities, she assured the Germans that she wished to visit relatives in Holland, although all her known relations live in Belgium.

They eventually believed her and allowed her to cross the border, whence she caught a boat to Folkestone and then swiftly sought a job.

Dixmude will eventually ensure nobody will ever forget its experiences of 1914-18 by creating 'The Trench of Death' as part of the region's memorials to the thousands of men who were never able to go home.

Every lady is an angel

WITH virtually every day bringing news of death and woundings on the battlefields of the Western Front, Newark ladies stepped forward as never before to come to the aid of the brave menfolk.

They volunteered so readily for a series of instruction in first aid that no fewer than 55 ladies passed an examination in the Town Hall.

The project was organised by the British Red Cross Society and the successful candidates are:

Miss Beatrice Baker, Miss Evadne Branston, Miss Neata Branston, Miss Winifred Clarke, Miss Hilda Drabble, Mrs Jessie Harker, Miss Flora Hutchinson, Miss Edith Knight, Miss Edith Mills, Miss Gladys Mumby, Miss Jessie Quibell, Mrs Maud Seymour, Mrs Lilian M

Tomlinson, Mrs Frances A Sorrell, Miss Florence Sorrell, Miss Amy Washington, Miss Margaret Washington, Miss Amy F Wood, Miss Annie W Place, Mrs Betsy Gratton, Miss Dorothy Lockwood, Miss Muriel Mumby, Miss Alice Rouston, Miss Rose Harridence, Mrs Bertha Miller, Miss Louisa Oldham, Miss Louisa Lacy, Mrs Maria Baker, Miss Emma Dawson, Miss Mabel Deall, Miss Mary Fish, Miss May Foster, Miss Florence Free, Miss Alisamon Gadsby, Mrs Lizzie

Garner, Miss Katherine Garner, Miss Ruth M Hallowes, Miss Lilian Hawking, Miss Florence Hayes, Mrs Annie Bildage, Miss Maud Hind, Miss Beryl Hunter, Mrs Ada Jones, Miss Ada Lovell, Miss Bertha Martin, Miss May Milner, Miss Florence Moss, Miss Annie Robinson, Miss Josephine Robinson, Miss Elsie Seely, Miss Mary E Swann, Miss Jessie Taylor, Miss Edith Towell, Miss Dorothy Brown, Miss May Sheppard.

The ladies will now be asked to work voluntarily as nurses in a raft of Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Hospitals being set up in Lombard Street in Newark, on The Burgage at Southwell and many grand houses occupied by the gentry in villages and hamlets.

VEGETABLE LESSONS ARE NEXT

THE NURSING courses were but the start of new ventures for volunteers to boost the War effort in and around Newark.

Even while the ladies were receiving their Red Cross certificates, the menfolk were being urged to pick up their spades and forks after a hard day's work – and dig for victory.

Edgar E Stokes, the County Education Committee's Agricultural Organiser, began a ten-week course at the Magnus Grammar School, on two nights a week, teaching anybody who was interested how to grow vegetables.

War widow thanks 'practical' officer

NEWARK'S first Great War widow, Mrs Elizabeth Bowers of 4 Eldon Place off Eldon Street, wrote a letter in the *Newark Herald* on Saturday 17 October 1914, thanking Captain Oakden of the 14th Hussars for "all his kindness and practical sympathy to me in the great bereavement I have suffered."

As reported in last week's Bulletin, Trooper William McLeod died of wounds received in the Battle of the Aisne while fighting in the 14th Hussars, part of the British Expeditionary Force attempting to stem the German advance through Belgium and France towards the Channel.

Dean rushes to son

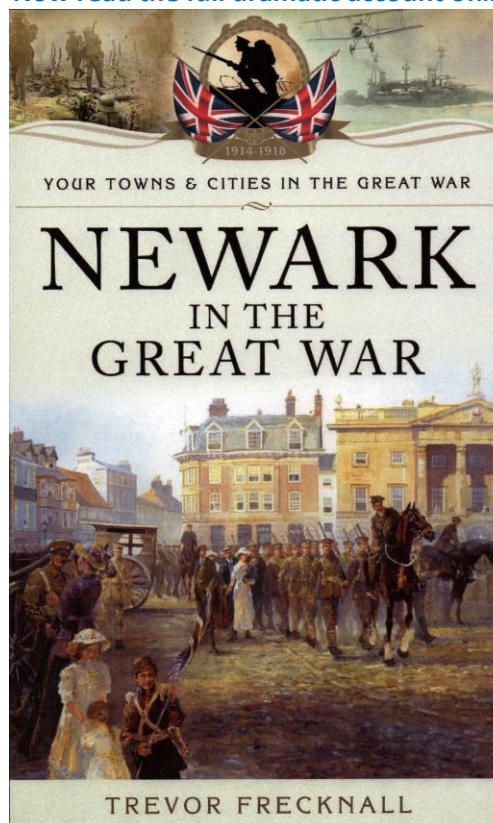
THE Newark Ruri-decanal Conference ended prematurely on Saturday when the Rural Dean, the Reverend Canon Paton Hindley sought permission to vacate the chair early so that he could travel to Harpenden to say goodbye to his own boy and many other Sherwood Foresters preparing to serve the country.

Dr Triles of the Society of the Sacred Mission at Kelham, asked delegates to work out how to set-up returning soldiers in smallholdings as "many men, after the freedom of campaigning, will feel unable to settle down to the factory."

Ploughmen's War aid

FLINTHAM Ploughing Association went ahead with its annual ploughing match and donated all the gate money to the War Relief Fund. The ploughing was on Glebe Farm occupied by Elston Revill, William Huskinson Ogden hosted the hedge plashing and the root and foal shows were in blacksmith Joseph Waite's paddock.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



£14.99 from WH Smith