

Great War Bulletin

No. 25...Newark...Monday 18 January 1915

Troops take over schools

NEWARK children have been given two days' extra holiday from today because their schools are commandeered by 1,000 troops from Lincolnshire on manoeuvres in and around the town ... Folk worry and wonder whether this is part of the preparation to meet an invasion, given Newark's strategic position at the crossroads of the country.

Are YOUR menfolk taken prisoner?

The Newark Advertiser last Wednesday published a list of 118 soldiers of all ranks of A Company 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters languishing as prisoners of war in a camp near Hanover.

It had been painstakingly compiled in pencil by Sergeant H T Cragg and sent to his brother in Chesterfield. Some of the details were illegible and there was no hint of where or how they were captured.

But a century later it is possible to report that the 2nd Battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force which landed in France in September 1914 and went straight into the bitter fighting on the Aisne.

On 20 September (the anniversary of the Battle of the Alma – a previous battle honour) the Battalion carried out a counter-attack to plug a gap in the British Lines. The casualties were almost identical with those at the Alma: 17 of 22 officers and 214 of 930 other ranks.

Reinforced, the Battalion fought another major battle in October at Ennetiere, on the way to Ypres, holding a vastly superior German force for 48 hours but losing 16 officers and 710 men in the process.

The enormity of these losses puts into stark perspective a request awaiting the Mayoress's Working Party when they met last Thursday – for the first time since Christmas. A begging letter from the Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts Militia) based at Newark Barracks, said his men were in urgent need of mittens and flannel shirts. The required quantities were enormous,

118 FORESTERS ARE CAPTURED

These are the Sherwood Foresters listed as prisoners of war in Germany...

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Sgt 5621 H T Cragg | Pte 12161 H Bond | Pte 10304 P Wood | Pte 9418 F Whitehead |
| Sgt 8834 P Phillips | Pte 12685 H Knowles | Pte 16090 B Lewis | Pte 10015 T Hemsley |
| Sgt 11562 S Thompson | Pte 12458 G Wilson | Pte 11899 C Burton | Pte 10089 J Ley |
| Sgt 10874 C Astill | Pte 9501 A Peyton | Pte 8528 J Bailey | Pte 9374 L Marsh |
| Sgt 9921 A Walden | Pte 8918 W Pint | Pte 8877 R Barnett | Pte 9840 A Miller |
| Cpl 1148 G Parrish | Pte 9061 B Perry | Pte 8568 C Bowley | Pte 12168 T Mullins |
| Cpl 6280 T Bradshaw | Pte 10638 A Pacey | Pte 9780 A Burman | Pte 11149 T Mee |
| Cpl 11765 W Pykett | Pte 9322 W Parry | Pte 10000 W Barber | Pte 8730 J May |
| L-Cpl 9852 G Keeley | Pte 4210 R Pear | Pte 5317 G Blakeway | Pte 99999 H Newborn |
| L-Cpl 8871 W Langham | Pte 8428 T Pearson | Pte 8884 A Brentnall | Pte 2111 W Newton |
| L-Cpl 9819 W Merry | Pte 8462 E Smith | Pte 9185 H Bland | Pte T Newbold |
| L-Cpl 9211 H Shillock | Pte 14162 B Smith | Pte 12126 F Coleman | Pte 9711 F Roberts |
| L-Cpl 9142 W Kelly | Pte 1267 W Smith | Pte 12115 A Coles | Pte 12054 A Reaney |
| L-Cpl 11628 W Wilkes | Pte 86 1 W Smith | Pte 9494 W Cutts | Pte 10775 J Richardson |
| L-Cpl 12 58 D Bray | Pte ?798 J South | Pte 9330 T Colson | Pte 9496 L Rippon |
| L-Cpl 9912 J Williamson | Pte ?931 E Sibert | Pte 10076 G Clarke | Pte 9620 B Redgate |
| L-Cpl 8514 W Burburry | Pte 9628 E Stevenson | Pte 8625 T Cunningham | Pte 10128 T Rollett |
| L-Cpl 11855 F Marshall | Pte 9835 C Singleton | Pte 9547 W Drury | Pte 9137 G Reid |
| L-Cpl 12046 H Clay | Pte 9635 H Smeeton | Pte 9383 C Dickenson | Pte 9650 C Rockley |
| L-Cpl 11774 B Dickson | Pte 9180 G Stedman | Pte 9792 B Davenport | Pte 12296 C Rick |
| Dr 11320 W Collins | Pte 9283 W Sheppard | Pte 8797 C Davis | Pte 8785 Redford |
| Dr 10798 W Brittle | Pte ?961 W Spencer | Pte 9638 A Dove | Pte 9249 J Rowbottom |
| Dr 11682 F Else | Pte 10693 H Wilson | Pte 9880 A Fisher | Pte 12353 W Tulley |
| Pte 8685 J Attenborough | Pte 12524 O Kee | Pte 12122 W Grigg | Pte 9997 F Tombs |
| Pte 9168 Altoft | Pte 10278 C Lyons | Pte 7194 J Grimwood | Pte 10963 J Taylor |
| Pte 9822 C Allen | Pte 9319 S Leigh | Pte 8668 A Giddings | Pte 8934 G Toole |
| Pte 8622 Gill | Pte ?290 W Lester | Pte 9771 W Glasson | Pte 9415 E Theobald |
| Pte 12156 A Burrows | Pte 9319 S Leigh | Pte 8709 Hackett | Pte 9684 J Topham |
| Pte 12258 W Brett | Pte 9290 W Lester | Pte 9803 H Heard | Pte 9408 E Welsh |
| | | Pte 8844 J Harding | Pte 95 8 C Woodhouse |

for the letter went on: "We have sent about 400 men already to the front and we shall be 2,000 strong again, I daresay, before very long."

Major employers happily helped the military to fill the gaps created by the dead, wounded and captured.

Edward Nicholson, 68-year-old managing director of W N Nicholson & Sons' engineering works between the Trent and the Midland Station, proudly reported that 43 of his employees had joined the Colours and others would have done so had

they not been on urgent work for the Government that necessitated them being given exemption certificates.

His boast generated much competition as to which of the town's workforces was the most patriotic.

Town's Reserve write begging for waterproofs

George Drinkwater, a 46-year-old hosiery worker before he answered the call to arms, wrote a begging letter to the *Advertiser* last week on behalf of the 60 Newark men of the National Reserve who are guarding an eight-mile stretch of railway in Hampshire:

"We have to patrol the lines in all kinds of weather and have only our military overcoats to keep out the cold, rain, etc. If the Newark people would like to do something for the men doing this arduous duty, an oilskin cape and leggings for each man would be very acceptable."

It was yet another reminder of how the men of War are relying on voluntary effort.

COUNTY v COUNTRY SURVEYOR BATTLE

AFTER 25 years as surveyor to Nottinghamshire County Council, Mr E P Hooley resigned last week in order to accept a commission with the 8th Reserve Battalion Sherwood Foresters based at Newark.

Over the years he has accomplished splendid work in the reconstruction of the main roads and was architect of the asylum at Radcliffe-on-Trent.

He is so respected that several County Councillors argued that he should not be allowed to leave; that the county's needs for his expertise are greater than those of his country – especially if an invasion calls for a swift re-appraisal of transport routes.

Morton mariner dies in fall

CHIEF STOKER Charles Jarvis, brother of Midland Railway platelayer Robert Amos Jarvis of Fiskerton, died in hospital in Great Yarmouth after an accident while disembarking from his submarine, *HMS Electric*.

It appeared that after the *Electric* docked in darkness, Stoker Jarvis slipped between two ships and banged his head badly.

Born in Morton in 1878, he had served in the Navy for 19 years, having enlisted when he was only 17 years and five months old.

His father William (born 1845, Bedfordshire) was a railway gate-keeper while his mother Priscilla (born 1847, also in Bedfordshire) was kept busy bringing-up their other five children in their small railway cottage.

Guardians won't let Colonel resign as chairman

THE Newark Board of Guardians of the Poor declined on Tuesday to accept the resignation of their chairman, who has taken command of the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

The Guardians – who are responsible for the health and welfare of all people who are incapable of looking after themselves – received a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W V R Fane stating that as the War is likely to last a long time, and consequently he will be absent for an indefinite period, he thinks it only wise for the Board to consider the question of his resigning the chairmanship.

The members resolved that the clerk should inform him that special provision has been made by Parliament to enable members of local authorities to retain their seats while serving their country and that the Board cannot hear of him resigning the chairmanship.

Colonel Fane was destined to remain at Grimsby until November 1917, "training and despatching drafts to the battalions serving overseas, to replace the wastage of war" as the regiment's history stated.

Collingham now learns about the Christmas Truce

IT WAS COLLINGHAM'S turn this week to read all about the famous Christmas Truce, when German and Allied soldiers stepped out of their trenches, shook hands and agreed not to shoot each other while they buried their dead who were scattered over No Man's Land.

The soldiers also chatted with one another and, some claim, played football. Unofficial truces between opposing forces occurred at other times but never on the scale of this one.

The Reverend Charles Richmond Poole received a letter from Albert Powell, a postman around Collingham before he became a Corporal. He wrote:

"We had a very quiet Christmas, at work all the time in the trenches, and I can confirm the report in the papers with reference to the arrangements made between the two sets of trenches not to fire on Christmas and Boxing Days.

"In this vicinity, north of B----- [censored] in Belgium, the trenches are so close that you can shout from one to the other and the result was to see many heads above the parapet.

"Before long there were groups of men on both sides walking about, and the climax came when between 200 and 300 men, English and German, were seen between the trenches shaking hands and exchanging souvenirs.

"Leave has been granted to all [British] NCO's above the rank of sergeant, and I do not see why it should not be further extended to us. We are not in South Africa now, but only 12 hours' ride from London."

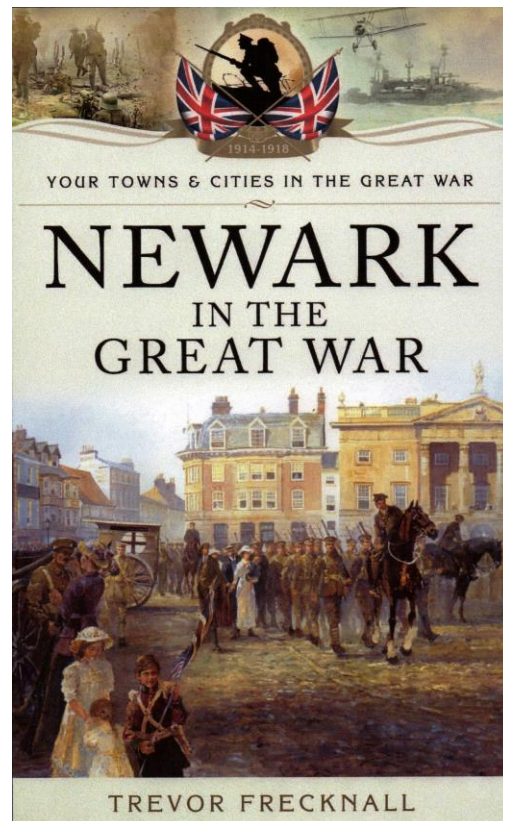
Letters such as Albert's led to much more stringent censorship of letters home thereafter.

Speedy promotion for Flying Corps electrician

WILLIAM SERGEANT GOY (Sergeant is his second given name, not his rank) a 22-year-old electrician with the General Post Office, has gained promotion to First-Class Airman Mechanic only two months after he joined the Royal Flying Corps.

William, who is the son of widow Jane Goy, proprietress of a grocery shop at 41 Whitfield Street, Newark, is currently based at Farnborough.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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