

Great War Bulletin

No. 30...Newark...Monday 22 February 1915

RE's out in the cold

AN INDICATION that red tape rules even in Wartime arose at the monthly meeting of Newark Town Council on Monday evening.

The Royal Engineers asked for permission to erect more huts on Sconce Hills because too many hundreds of trainees were cold and wet under canvas.

But the Council decided that they had no power to give permission for even temporary erections on the site with Civil War connections. So the War Office would be contacted.

Food for thought...

Field Kitchen
to fire-up our
men in the
Sherwoods...

IF Napoleon was right to assert that an army marches on its stomach, then there will be no holding the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters when they get a sight of the enemy!

For the officers and men currently training in Essex have just taken delivery of their very own Field Kitchen.

It is the latest example of how voluntary contributions are keeping this Great War machine of Britain's on the move, having been financed by Nottinghamshire friends of the county regiment.

When the photograph was taken, the kitchen was setting off to the trenches near Braintree with hot soup on a cold and wet winter's day.

It has not yet been revealed when these Sherwoods will be moving into action – but with the ever-increasing need for more men, the day cannot be far away.

At least they can be certain now that wherever fate takes them, their Kitchen and cooks will not be far behind.



Full steam – and full stomachs – ahead!

*The Field Kitchen, full of soup, off to the training trenches in Essex.
And it will soon be off to the Western Front with the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.*

CAN 10-YEAR-OLDS GROW OUR FOOD?

THE STARK prospect of boys as young as 10 being forced into farm labour was raised at the annual general meeting of the Nottinghamshire Farmers' Union on Tuesday.

Joseph Newman, who farms at Staythorpe, raised the likelihood – only days after a leader of the National Union of Teachers called on his members to resist all attempts to drag children out of the classrooms and into the fields.

Mr Newman ignored teachers' con-

Inflation soars

INFLATION is a worry to everyone. The latest statistics reveal that in the last 12 months, wheat has gone up 72%, flour 75%, sugar 72%, British meat 8%, foreign meat 12% and coal 15%.

With wages pretty well frozen, everybody will soon be begging...

cerns when he made a key contribution to the key debate by the economically powerful and politically influential organisation, which has 565 paid-up members, an increase of 67 in the past year.

On the question of schoolchildren being employed on farms, the meeting was informed there were only about 1,250 boys over the age of 13 in rural areas of the county.

This would not be enough to help the farmers out of their wartime labour shortage even if all of those boys were physically able.

Mr Newman suggested that they should not place a lower age limit on their request, arguing: "Some 10-year-olds are more capable than some of 13."

Members agreed to canvass opinion from their national headquarters – but all agreed that urgent solutions were required.

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

GERMAN CHEATS

FLINTHAM'S wounded hero Sergeant Albert William Grant, 26, returned home on Friday – and talked of his experiences at the start of the War with the Sherwood Foresters, when rampaging German soldiers pretended to be wounded trying to surrender – and then opened fire on unsuspecting British troops who went to help them:

"I went out as a Private and was made Lance-Corporal in the Battle of the Aisne.

"We were resting in the dug-outs on Sunday afternoon, 20 September, when we were called to reinforce the East Yorkshires.

"As soon as we advanced, the Germans, who were coming in massed formation, opened out and commenced rapid firing.

"We could see a huge mass of them advancing with the white flag. But as the Yorkshires went out to bring them in as prisoners

They wave white flag – and then open fire!

of war, the Germans commenced to fire upon them.

"Their machine guns were brought up on stretchers to make our fellows think they were Red Cross people bringing in the wounded.

"When they opened fire, however, we soon found it out, and the order came for us to charge and we did, not only gaining ground but putting all the machine guns out of action with the exception of one which we could not find.

"Later on we did find it. It was concealed in a stack and we fired volley after volley into it, but it was the artillery that eventually demolished it...

"On 20 October the enemy swept the place [a village near Lille] with shrapnel and Jack Johnsons until every house was knocked down and the church razed to the ground.

"Some of the Sherwoods were in a big factory at the top

of the village, and this building was also reduced to ruins."

Only 245 men and three officers of his 650-strong Battalion remained. And Albert had a chilling escape from being killed or taken prisoner:

"I was lying on the ground among the dead and wounded with a rifle by my side, watching my comrades being formed-up and taken away, when suddenly one of the enemy approached and struck me with the butt of his rifle.

"I fell back dazed and lay there like one dead. Then I waited and when all was quiet I got up and made for the sandpits. It was dark by then.

"On the way down I saw some of the Sherwood ammunition men and told them the enemy had entered the village and

captured our men out of the firing line.

"On reaching the sandpits, the commanding officer and adjutant were there and we mustered about 100 men and took up a position against a windmill.

"We could hear the Germans talking. The order came, 'Rapid fire!' The result was that we repulsed the Germans."

The cost to Flintham's finest: a bullet penetrated his water bottle but stopped short of his body; while he helped a wounded comrade to cover, his rifle butt was smashed by shrapnel as it lay on the ground virtually beside them; another bullet drilled a hole in his greatcoat; a small piece of shrapnel penetrated his cheek; and he was also hit in the leg.

He was sent home to his dad Albert, a farm labourer, and mum Laura – not with the wounds but because he was waiting for an operation on a hernia suffered when he fell into a crater...

Major broken by War

AMONG the British prisoners exchanged on Wednesday for German PoWs on the grounds of unfitness for further service was Major William Harold Collier Davy, aged only 37, of the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, a brother of Mr Walter Shirley Davy, head of the Devon Brewery, whose "noted ales and stouts" were brewed in Barnbygate, Newark.

Major Davy was reported killed last year but was then discovered to be wounded and a prisoner in Germany.

A century later, the National Army Museum will continue to have among its many artefacts Major Davy's medals from the 1899-1902 Boer War in South Africa as well as the Great War.

'Hot stuff' in soaking trenches

COLDSTREAM GUARD Charles William Thurman has written some home truths from the trenches to his family on Beacon Hill.

"It has been hot stuff out here," he told his father, Thomas, a corn factory labourer living at 6 Stanley Terrace. "We have lost a lot of men just lately, but we saved the position.

"We need to be lucky out here. We live well, but it is rotten in the trenches...

"We have been in nearly a week this time and it has rained more or less two days and

two nights. So you can perhaps guess something of what it is like. But we keep digging it out and making the best of it...

"Just where we are now, there are the ruins of a church, the highest point of which is not more than 12 feet, and nearby is a barn in which eight beasts were roasted alive..."

Charles, one of twins born in 1890, was one of a family of five children. The fact that he "lived well" in the Army spoke volumes for the quality of housing in which he had been reared – first in Collingham Row, then Parliament Street and then Stanley Terrace – before he enlisted in the Regular Army.

Church games plea Glory Boys beaten

NEWARK Parish Church worshippers on Sunday launched an appeal to furnish a games room for the soldiers billeted in the town with linoleum floor cover, six card tables, six easy chairs, green baize for covering six wooden tables, curtaining (red or green) for eight windows measuring 4ft by 2ft 8in.

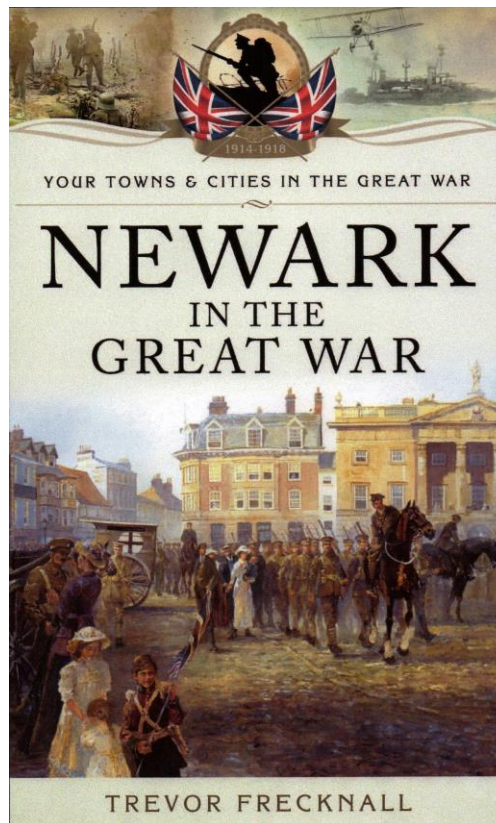
Randall tragedy

Ernest Randall, owner of a giant fashion store at the junctions of Barnbygate, Baldertongate and Appletongate, and his wife Elizabeth had the heart-breaking task on Thursday of burying little daughter Mildred, who had died at the age of three years and three months.

Football ... Newark Boys' finest run in the English Schools' Shield came to an end. They were defeated 5-2 by Derby in the Divisional Final, played on William Becher Tidd Pratt's fine Newark ground because no venue could be found in Derby.

The Newark team of 12- and 13-year-olds: Frank Catley (Christ Church); Frederick Ogden (Christ Church), Donald Mort (Mount); George Lambley (Barnby Road), Stanley Edward Ernest Streets (captain, Barnby Road), Tom Welch (Christ Church); Frederick Birtles (Mount), Mark K Booth (Mount), Walter Charles Guy (Christ Church), Edward Cottam (Wesleyan), George Cumberland (Christ Church).

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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