

Great War Bulletin

No. 31...Newark...Monday 1 March 1915

PRAISE FOR ARMY SURGEON, CAPTAIN

AS IF TO spur on the local Territorial soldiers sailing towards the battlefields of the Western Front, two distinguished local officers were mentioned in despatches on Friday.

This quality of official praise is one small grade below the grant of medals for bravery.

The brave men in question are Major Arthur Rowland Greenwood MB (born 19 January 1874 in Newark) and Captain Gervase Thorpe of Coddington Hall.

Major Greenwood, an Old Magnesian, is the third son of the late Thomas Frederick Greenwood, medical practitioner in Middlegate from 1858 to 1890 and surgeon (retiring with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel) of the 4th Battalion Sherwoods Militia.

Arthur had become a specialist in operative surgery with the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1903, and served in India and Somaliland before attaining the rank of Major in 1912.

Now he is working all hours with the British Expeditionary Force, frequently having to move his makeshift operating theatres as the battlefield ebbs and flows.

This recognition is far from the end of his Great War. He will be transferred to Malta on 25 July and will be invalided back to England on 13 August 1916.

But will return to earn promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel on Boxing Day 1917, serve in Salonika until the end of hostilities and finally retire on 21 June 1924.

Captain Thorpe, fourth son of the late Colonel James Thorpe and Mrs Anne Thorpe of Coddington Hall, was severely wounded in the Boer War (1899-1902) but returned to the front again on recovery.

A century later Coddington's historian Fred Reed would write:

"Gervase joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1897 and served in the Boer War.

"He took a distinguished part in the crossing of the Modder River (28 November 1899, as described in Louis Creaswick's *History of the Transvaal War*) and was in the Battle of Magersfontein (11 October 1899).

"He was shot in the chest at Paardeberg a few days before General Piet Cronje surrendered on 27 February 1900. Gervase remained with the Regiment, becoming a Captain in 1904."

The mention in despatches turned out to be just the start of his heroics in The Great War... He will figure in several Bulletins over the years!

Revealed: town nearly ran out of gas

THE Newark Gas Company revealed for the first time at its AGM on Thursday how close Newark came to being left powerless in the early weeks of the War.

Sixteen of the company's men responded to the patriotic call and joined the forces. Some were stokers, others in skilled jobs who could not be replaced instantly.

New men had to be found and trained which caused "great dislocation" at the works.

Chairman Thomas Bradley added: "Instead of complaining that the quality of gas was not up to standard, our customers ought to be very well satisfied that the Company was able to keep the supply going."

Prisoner's brother home for breather

SERGEANT John Tacey of the Inniskilling Dragoon Guards gave his parents Sarah and James a boost by turning up at home, 102 Northgate, on leave – while they are worrying about the health of another son, Fred, a prisoner of the Germans.

A new order has been issued to troops specifically prohibiting them from giving any information as to how the war is proceeding.

Under these circumstances John is content to tell the Press that the men at the front are well cared for and are receiving plenty of good food and clothing. He has every appearance of being in the best of health.

There will be more updates on the Fighting Family Tacey ... until prisoner Fred returns home on 2 January 1919.

Prayers as Terriers sail to War

A FEW HOURS before His Majesty the King secretly passed through Newark on his way to visit a part of the Grand Fleet, the entire Notts and Derbys Territorial Brigade of more than 5,000 men left England on foreign service for the first time in history.

There is no suggestion that His Majesty was skulking around. Usual precautions included platelayers at every signal, ready to fire detonator warnings in the event of problems. But he arrived at Northgate Station – and departed – at midnight. So only a few station staff was aware of his visit.

By comparison, despite strict censorship being introduced on the conditions in which troops are fighting, there was no secrecy about our Territorial soldiers being shipped across the Channel.

So in many a home today there will be a mixed feeling of pride and anxiety. The Bishop of Southwell ventured therefore to put forth a special prayer which may be used in private on behalf of the officers and men of the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions of the Sherwoods:

O merciful Father we commend to Thy care all those who have now gone forth to serve their country. Thou knowest the places where they are, and the dangers which beset them. Be thou to each one a shield and defence. Give unto them courage and patience, and at all times a knowledge of Thy presence.

If it be Thy will give success to our arms and, when our brothers have faithfully served their country, bring them back to their homes in peace, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Thou, oh Lord, art just and powerful

O defend our cause against the face of the enemy.

O God thou art a strong Tower of defence to all that flee onto thee.

O save us from the violence of the enemy.

O Lord of Hosts, fight for us

That we may glorify Thee.

O suffer us not to sink under the weight of our sins

Or the violence of the enemy.

O Lord, arise, help us

And deliver us for Thy Name's sake.

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

ARMY CAMP ON SCONCE HILLS

MORE DETAILS emerged today of the Army camp being developed on Newark's historic Sconce Hills.

With its Civil War embattlements, the site is of such importance that Newark Borough Council was not able to even consider the request for soldiers to live on it.

But it emerged today that the military authorities at York have requisitioned the top plateau at the entrance to the ground for the provision of huts and quarters for troops in training, and in conjunction with and as an extension of the Hawton Road camp.

It is not expected that the general public will be excluded from the hills, conditions having been provisionally agreed so that at least the valley part of the

grounds will be kept open as a park for those in the habit of taking a relaxing stroll.

The troops may parade there but horses, etc, will be exercised in the ménage adjacent to Mr Bailey's farm, where practice trenches have also been dug.

No trenching will take place on the Sconce Hills.

The War Department has agreed to pay "a moderate rent" and promises to leave the ground and fences in the same condition at the finish of the training as when they enter it.

MEANWHILE, Newarkeers responded so generously and swiftly to the appeal made in the Parish Church eight days ago that the Royal Engineers' recreation room is already fully furnished. And it is so well lit that users are able to play draughts and dominoes as well as cards in the evenings after their training sessions.

Inflation hits the Workhouse

THE RELENTLESS inflation of the cost of living has forced a change in the traditional method of ensuring the residents of the Workhouse on Bowbridge Road are fed and clothed.

Because prices are rising so quickly, the Newark Board of Guardians of the Poor decided at its fortnightly meeting last Tuesday to tender for goods at three-monthly intervals, rather than six-monthly, from now on.

It stemmed from Samuel Ellis informing them he is supplying steam coal, flour, barley meal and fourths at a loss.

Last September, when he was last invited to submit a quote, flour was 1s 11½d a stone, barley meal 1s 1½d and fourths 11½d.

Now flour is 2s 0½d, barley meal 1s 3d and fourths 1s 2d – and it must be remembered that these are rock-bottom prices. Ordinary shoppers are paying even more for the goods.

Green light for boys – and girls – on farms!

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Education Committee lit the blue touch paper for a blazing row with its teachers over the use of child labour to maintain the country's food production.

At their monthly meeting on Saturday, members formally approved the farmers' request for 13-year-old boys to be given time off school to help farmers struggling to find replacements for the hundreds of labourers who have joined the Armed Forces.

They also agreed to urge school managers to consult with farmers as to the most suitable times to call school holidays. Thus they further antagonised teachers by going over their heads to their managers with a fundamental challenge to the educational format.

And even more provocatively, they passed by 11 votes to four an additional suggestion that girls be allowed to work on farms.

They argued the decisions showed how desperate farmers were for more labour to maintain the food supply.

OLD SOLDIER GEORGE IS AN OFFICER NOW

GEORGE H WALL, a Mount School old boy whose parents John and Amelia live at 86 Beacon Hill, was on Wednesday gazetted Honorary Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards.

He has been in the regiment since 1890 and has a memorable career.

He served through the Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902).

He was decorated as one of the bearer party at the late King Edward VII's funeral in 1910.

And he was further decorated for special duty at the Coronation of King George V on 24 June 1911.

Volunteer's Cairo work

MECHANICAL ENGINEER Benjamin John Lymer of 33 Castlegate, Newark, regretfully resigned temporarily from the Newark Volunteer Reserve last week as he has to sail to the Egyptian capital of Cairo on business.

He will be replaced as a Platoon Commander by master maltster William Gilstrap Branston (42), who caused amusement when he first came to work in the family brewing business by lodging in the Temperance Hotel on Castlegate.

RE's dance the night away

MORE THAN 200 attended an enjoyable ball under the auspices of the 68th Field Company of the Royal Engineers in Newark Town Hall on Thursday night. Dancing began shortly after 8 o' clock and went on with zest until 2am.

Town's £1,900 to help troops

A THIRD contribution, of £400, has been forwarded by the Mayor of Newark to the Prince of Wales's Fund for troop comforts. It takes the town's gifts to £1,900.

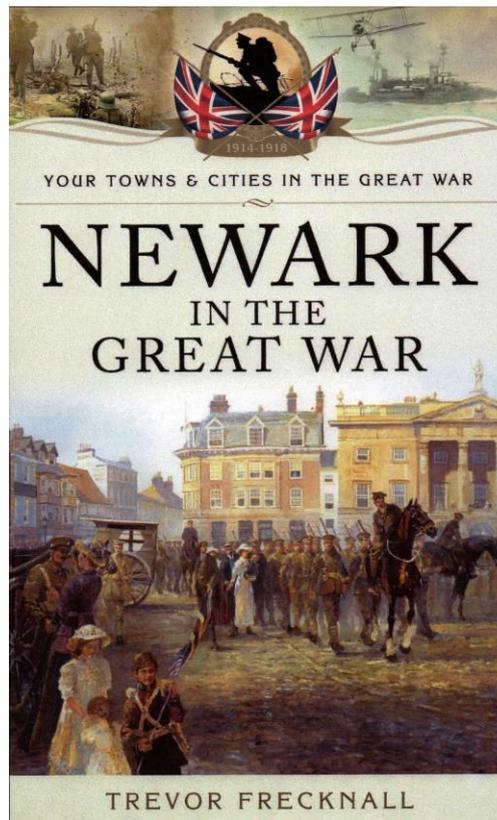
Simpson's soccer boost

SIMPSON'S FC, who were so severely hit by the loss of players that they tendered their resignation from the Newark and District Football League, have responded gallantly to the appeal of the Executive Committee to endeavour to complete their engagements.

And on Saturday afternoon they fielded a team that proved itself capable of drawing with Stanley Works (which will become Ransome and Marles FC of the Midland League in a couple of decades' time).

This is a notable achievement, due in no small measure to the astute team-rebuilding of the secretary, Walter Wright, who is a storekeeper at the Lowfield Works.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



£14.99 from WH Smith

Go to www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk for all issues of Newark's Great War Bulletin