

Great War Bulletin

No. 32...Newark...Monday 8 March 1915

SURVEYOR SENT TO PRISON

DRESSED in the uniform of the South Notts Hussars, George Simons, formerly Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector with Southwell District Council, appeared at the Southwell Petty Sessions to answer a charge of stealing £65 from his employers. He was found guilty, sent to prison for three months with hard labour and told by the chairman of the court Dr James Frederick Digby Willoughby: "You are a man of education and ability, and had been placed in a position of trust, which you have abused. Therefore you have brought disgrace on yourself and disgrace on your family."

This is a Holy War says Vicar

THE annual Hercules Clay Sermon was preached in Newark Parish Church on Sunday by the Vicar, Canon Paton Hindley.

He likened the current situation to Newark's important strategic position in the Civil War, when it was at the crossing point from the north to the south of England.

Newark declared for the King then. It has declared for the King now.

We are looking upon this contest as a holy war. God needs our co-operation for the fulfilment of His purposes.

It may mean tremendous sacrifices. It was so to our forefathers.

Thousands are making it and surely every young man and his parents, whom the country has called out, is bound to satisfy his conscience in the sight of God ... To respond in this hour is surely to lay-up a good foundation against time to come.

Eakring meet their refugees

MORE THAN 20 Eakring folk accepted an invitation from their Parish Council Chairman George Pye to a "sumptuous tea, entertainment and supper" with the village's Belgian refugees at his home, Eakring Fields Farm.

George had plenty of fellow hosts: his wife Bertha, sons George junior and Alfred, daughters Winifred and Gertrude, and live-in servant Elsie Fletcher.

WANTED: 300 more volunteers



AN URGENT plea for hundreds more men from the Newark district to volunteer for the armed forces was made last week by the officer commanding the Newark depot of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

Censorship forbade mention of casualties on the Western Front being greater than anticipated.

But Lieutenant-Colonel George Savile Foljambe pulled no punches in his appeal for more men.

Without the aid of radio, television or internet, he wrote to the local newspapers:

"The first Battalion of this regiment has gone abroad ... the first Territorial division to be selected as such for service at the front – an honour that the county should be proud of.

"It is necessary now that the Reserve Units of the Regiment should be maintained at a strength sufficient to supply the drafts that may, and will, be required by the 1st 8th Battalion without unduly diminishing the numbers available for Home Defence...

"Another Battalion is required of whom 300 men are wanted at once. These 300 men must be medically fit for, and prepared to undertake, Imperial Service obligations. After these first 300 recruits have been obtained, there is no doubt that a fair proportion of men will be required to enlist for Home Service...

"Though many have gone, I am sure there are still some young men left, who have attained the age of 19 years, to fill the ranks of our old Regiment."

A LEAKY SOLUTION TO FLOOD PROBLEM

A SOLUTION to Newark's flood problems is suggested by the aptly-named Reverend A Leaky of Basingham. Now another rainy season has exposed the lack of land drainage, he

wonders if all the Belgian engineers and labourers currently around Newark can be put to work "to deal with a difficulty which Belgium has overcome so perfectly."

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

Jelly nerves

Letter from former Newarker in
frightening East European war zone

EX-MOUNT Schoolboy Harold Wright wrote to tell his brother Arthur how their family is coping with the horrors of the war in Eastern Europe.

After leaving school, Harold worked for solicitors Hodgkinson and Beevor and served with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry until he obtained a position with one of the largest oil companies in Galicia.

He was far from the only adventurer in the family: his mother and four sisters went with him.

Once The Great War flared, Russian troops entered Austrian Galicia in September 1914 and immediately started to subdue all Ukrainian life. They arrested and exiled to Siberia many leading personalities mainly politicians, lawyers, writers, teachers and civic activists.

Harold wrote to take up the story – and give it a uniquely personal angle – on 21 October. His letter has only just arrived. His dateline: 'Wabrowa, Russia':

"We have been duly conquered and have good cause for remembering it with, perhaps, possible probabilities of transforming this place into Austrian Poland and Russia.

"The most pleasant thing I can tell you is that WE ARE ALL QUITE WELL."

Of his sisters, he wrote: "Hilda, as far as we know, is yet in Cracow [Poland] and Violet in Starawies [an oil property in the Carpathian Mountains being managed by her husband, Joseph]. But Dora and Archie, we have heard, have quitted their mountain hut but (as the fighting is taking place in the mountains) have gone into Hungary.

"For the past three weeks we have heard nothing but the booming of cannons until our nerves shake like a jelly.

"The [censored] have ransacked the whole of Boryslaw [the famous Galician oilfield] and practically turned us out of our house, after which they kindly pillage it with the result that I am today stranded with one suit and no money.

"It was the 21st of this rotten month that we took to lives in the cellars, and on the following morning the whizzing of shells aroused us from our slumbers, and soon the pitter-patter of the rifles sang out in unison.

"MY GOD! I HOPE I SHALL NEVER SEE THE LIKE OF SUCH ANOTHER DAY AND EXPERIENCE SUCH A TWO-HOUR HORROR AS WHEN THE RIFLES SANG OUT THEIR DEATH CALLS.

"Fighting actually took place in the garden and all along the edge of the railings and

only yesterday, when I went over, I found hundreds of spent bullets and cases.

"When the firing ceased and the rearguard of the Austrians were beaten, at last we got out of the cellars and breathed some fresh air.

"We saw along the mountain sides the red-breeched Hungarian Hussars lying dead and wounded, and as our house was used for Red Cross purposes I and Len went out, with the Russian officer's permission, to see what we could do.

"I really went for the sake of curiosity, which was, needless to say, speedily gratified.

"The Russians, by the way, as soon as the firing finished, moved all their dead and wounded immediately away. So we only had to tend the Hungarians – by force our enemy, though perhaps reluctantly as they are awfully decent chaps and such gentle-men; and they treated us 100% better than any Russians.

"Well, the sight of the dead and dying (about 100) was awful; terrible bullet holes right through the stomach, with heads nearly blown away, and the moaning and the sights not wished to be repeated.

"After about two hours the Russian Army started forward and then our troubles began.

"RUSSIANS DON'T LIKE JEWS AND WE COULD NOT CONVINCE ANY OF THEM THAT WE ARE NOT JEWS.

"So we – In spite of our passports – thought it more advisable to get onto the oil wells and live there rather than stop in Mraznica [where Harold and his family had built a house].

"I have had enough of war. It's the same tale for every meal. And I have seen enough soldiers to last me a lifetime.

"Talk about war prices! Sugar is 3s 4d a pound. Tobacco is 3s 6d for two ounces. [In Newark, sugar is 4d per pound but tobacco is 3s 11½d an ounce.]

"We have heard from Mr Boxall [the chairman of the Premier Oil and Pipeline Company] that England is keeping up its reputation as of old.

"Glad to hear it! Wish I was in England. Should go to a theatre tomorrow night – if I have another suit.

"The Cossacks have not interfered with us yet ... Keep well and good – and do not worry."

OLLERTON WELCOMES HUSSARS and WORRIES ABOUT ITS WOUNDED

THE South Notts Hussars, who have been in camp in Colwick Park for several months, arrived in Ollerton to be billeted with families prior to more training in one of the local parks.

By coincidence, news arrived that two Ollerton men – Fred Randall of the Royal Engineers (a joiner by trade) and Tom Turner of the Royal Marines – have been wounded at the battlefronts.

Tom is being treated for injuries to the neck and back, having been among the Naval contingent that assisted in the defence of Antwerp through the earlier part of the winter. Indeed, a picture appeared in some of the illustrated papers of him helping an injured Scottish comrade.

Fred has a broken leg but has written cheerfully to his wife describing the nursing sisters as "perfect ladies".

Grocers close early – 9pm

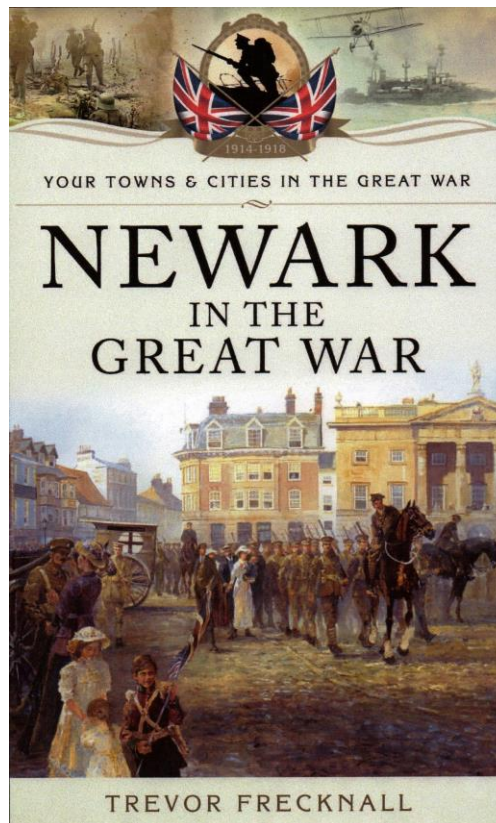
NEWARK and District Grocers' Association, who have seen 17 members join the armed forces so far, elected Charles Robinson of Kirkgate as their new president. Aged 45, he is too old to enlist ... at least for the time being.

Members agree that, now the shops are so desperately short of staff that they are having to employ women who have families to look after, shops will have to close on Saturdays at 9pm.

Newark music man dies

ANOTHER deeply respected member of old Newark has passed away ... The funeral took place at Christ Church last Tuesday of Francis Richard Dobney, aged 72, head of the well-known pianoforte and music warehouse business which occupied 20 Market Place for many years.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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