

Great War Bulletin

No. 36...Newark...Monday 5 April 1915

INSPIRATION OF INFANTRYMAN

LANCE-CORPORAL William Nix, aged 29, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry whose parents live at 6 Century Street, Newark, is recovering from a serious arm injury in the Red Cross Hospital, Trent College, Long Eaton – and tells a story that will surely fire the enthusiasm of the stay-at-homes at a time when the country urgently needs lots of new recruits:

"On the night before I was hit, a party of four went out to capture a German listening party, and took a covering party of 10 with us.

"The Germans must have heard something for they sent up a rocket. I suppose one of the supporting party behind us did not drop down quickly enough for the enemy opened a tremendous Maxim gun fire on us, wounding the officer in charge. He had to take his covering party back, of course, the men having to assist in getting him along.

"Nearly half the Company were out of the trenches coming to look for us by the time we got back, and I can tell you the Company officer was very pleased when we all returned.

"On 7 March, the date I was wounded, three of us left the trenches on a very black, dirty night about midnight, each with a couple of heavy hand bombs.

"It took us a couple of hours to crawl on our stomachs up to the German trenches which were only 200 yards away."

"We threw the bombs along the German trenches and caused a lot of damage and plenty of howling and groaning.

"After I had thrown my first bomb I was hit, probably by the look-out in the trench who would be quite close to us, but having thrown the bombs we emptied our magazines into them, and the officer his revolver, and then we got back the best way we could.

"In fact, our own patrol almost walked on us on the other side of a hedge. We heard them going by, and let them go.

"Each of us was able to scramble back unaided, which was as well as it was every man for himself.

"Two days before this happened the Germans shelled the Field Ambulance Hospital. I went to a temporary hospital on the 8th but we had to clear out pretty sharp because they started to shell that district.

"The way the officers set an example is magnificent. They won't ask you to do what they don't do. My opinion is that they're often too brave and reckless, and that accounts for the heavy casualties amongst them."

MOTHER-OF-2 IS WIDOWED

MRS FANNY INWARDS, at home in 130 Beacon Hill, Newark, with her six-week-old baby and a slightly older child, discovered in trembling detail on Friday how her husband Ralph was killed in action a couple of Saturdays ago.

He had moved from his native London to work for Ransome's for the last 7 years; had married 32-year-old Miss Fanny Matilda Turner in the spring of 1911; celebrated the birth of Kathleen Nora on 17 April 1912; and readily enlisted when War was declared, even though second daughter Joan was on her way (and born on 16 February 1915).

He was given the rank of Sergeant because of his previous Army service in India and South Africa and never got to see his second child.

Serving with the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment in the tren-

Twin's death is confirmed

THE WAR OFFICE finally got an official telegram to Mrs Mary Marsh today telling her of the death of her twin brother, John Fincham. It was reported in last week's Bulletin.

ches for the past four months, he had enjoyed only brief two-day respites.

He wrote home last December, saying he thought his time had come when his pack was shot through four times and he lost all his possessions including some China he had been saving for Fanny.

A short while afterwards he was struck on the shoulder by a piece of shrapnel but continued fighting for some time with the metal embedded.

Yet, ever the cocky Cockney, he never complained; his letters home were always

cheerful and bright.

Now, though, 34-year-old Fanny receives another letter ... from the Reverend E F Campbell, Chaplain to the Forces, 84th Field Ambulance, 28th Division, British Expeditionary Force:

28 March 1915

Dear Mrs Inwards,
IT IS MY SAD DUTY to write and tell you about your husband.

He was very badly wounded in the stomach, in the trenches last night, and was brought into this Field Ambulance this morning.

Poor fellow, he was very far gone when I saw him. He asked me had he any chance and I told him.

Then he said, 'Ah, then it can make no matter. Let me have a drink of water.'

We gave him some. He then gave me your address, asked me to write, and said three times over, 'I love them.'

He never spoke after that but I held

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Interned in Holland

LEADING STOKER Walter Stanger, aged 42, of 7 Sydney Street, Newark, was finally identified as being among British Naval personnel languishing in the great internment camp at Kroningen in Holland.

His father, also Walter – aged 74 who worked as a carpenter at one of the malting companies – is a widower but has eight other children.

Young Walter took part in the gallant defence of Antwerp at the start of the War and survived being shot in the head and neck. When the British were forced to give up their positions, he and others walked across the border into Holland and were promptly imprisoned.

'NOCKER' MOURNED

BALBERTON Working Men's Club members are mourning the loss of one of their most popular members, "Nocker" Sanders.

His dad, Everitt Sanders of 11 Ward's Row, Newark, has just heard that Private Robert Sanders, as "Nocker" was known in the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, was killed on 11 March.

He had been drafted to the battlefield on his 33rd birthday, 5 November. For nine years before that, he had worked happily as a quarryman at Cafferata's plaster works.

Private 8450 Sanders is remembered on Le Touret Memorial.

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

Newark Yeoman shot in a Retford street...

TROOPER Frederick Cox, oldest of seven children in an Alliance Street family of cattle dealers headed by his dad William, is recovering in hospital in Sheffield – after being shot by a civilian in Retford.

It transpires that Fred, who is in training with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry Reserve Regiment, was strolling with a colleague along the canal towpath after dinner towards their billet at 3 Cobwell Road when they heard a shot. The bullet almost went right through Fred's thigh.

Police inquiries revealed that at about the same time, Henry Roberts Dodman, manager of the Corporation Baths in Albert Road, shot at a bird in a garden on the opposite side of the canal, in the direction where the two yeomen were walking.

He did not see anyone and was not aware anyone was injured until the police called. To make matters more embarrassing, 45-year-old Dodman is instructor to the Civilian Force on Retford's Miniature Rifle Range.

...by rifle range manager aiming to cull birds!

Father-of-2 is killed

Continued from previous page his hand and he went off at just a quarter past 12. I think he was quite happy and comfortable after he had spoken to me, and he just gradually sank and died without a murmur of pain.

Oh, Mrs Inwards, I cannot tell you how sorry I feel for you, and how much I sympathise with you in your great trouble.

He died a hero's death; but I know that thought won't comfort you at first.

And the only comfort I can give you is the thought that always comes to me when my friends and dear ones are called home. And that is the thought of the Resurrection morning when we all shall meet again.

All his little personal belongings will be sent home to you, and you will get them in the ordinary way.

He is to be buried tomorrow, and the cemetery where I shall bury him is on the ramparts, just inside the Lille gate of the town of Ypres.

It is a little piece of ground we have taken, and where many of our soldiers are buried. And I hope, eventually, to have it consecrated.

It looks right on the trenches he gave his life in defending, and is under the trees.

Everything was done for him that could be done. I shall have a little wooden cross put over his grave to mark it.

A century on, Serjeant 8424 Ralph Inwards is remembered among 198 Commonwealth soldiers in the Ramparts Cemetery at Lille Gate.

Fanny Inwards will live to the age of 73, until 1954. Kathleen will die a spinster in Newark in 2000. Joan will marry William Clarke in Newark in 1948 and live until 1996.

WESLEYAN SCHOOL HEAD RETIRES

MR SAMUEL WALKER, of 5 Victoria Street, the esteemed headmaster of Newark's Wesleyan School, retired last week aged 60 after 40 years of painstaking work on behalf of the multitude of scholars. He was presented with an upholstered easy chair.

VOLUNTEERS PREPARE TO DEFEND NEWARK

The Newark Legion of Volunteers went on manoeuvres this afternoon in an exercise that was plainly designed to prepare them for an invasion by the German Army.

One section under Commander Shea defended the town while the other section under Drill Instructor Smith attacked from Barnby Crossroads by way of Barnby Road and Clay Lane.

The attackers would have succeeded but for the signallers of the defence who were stationed on each of the railway bridges and summoned up reinforcements from Beacon Hill and the Cemetery.

The umpires, Commandants Ringrose and Wright declared a draw. Later on, with the kind permission of Major Brunner, the Volunteers were allowed to inspect the wire entanglements and trenches built by the RE's near the Barracks.

Quarter Master Sergean Norris gave a most interesting and instructive account of the principles underlying the construction of entanglements, and explained how the trenches were built to meet the varying requirements of defence and attack.

Despite the wretched weather, the Legion "had a most enjoyable time," their officers reported – without commenting on whether they were yet ready for the expected invasion.

RE's on 4-day march

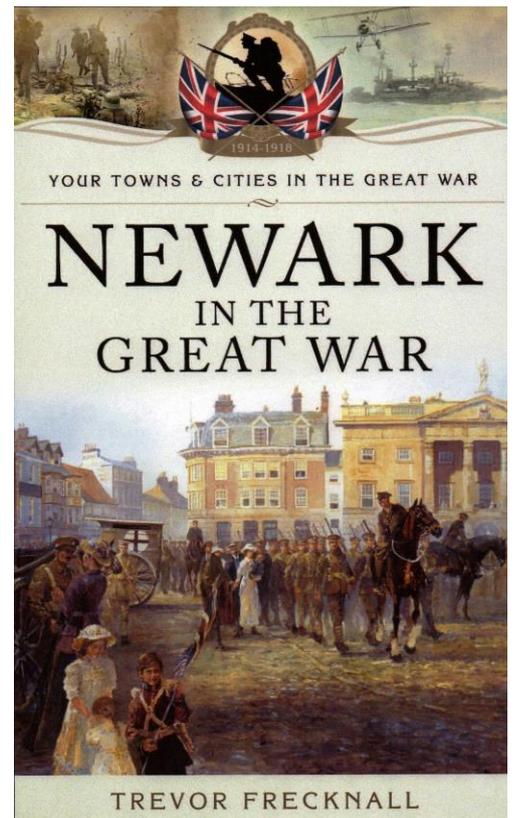
HUGE CROWDS thronged Newark streets yesterday to bid God-speed to the 67th, 68th and 86th Companies of the Royal Engineers who departed after completing their training here.

The Borough Band played them from their camp via Boundary Road to the Fosse Way. Crowds lined the Farndon Road as they began a four-day march to Rugby, whence they will catch trains to their final destination in the south of England to link-up with artillery units.

A boxing contest held at the RE's Camp last Tuesday evening between the 68th and 67th Companies attracted an enthusiastic crowd; further evidence of how well they integrated into Newark life.

Invasion rehearsal by Legion

Now read the full dramatic account of...



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