

# Great War Bulletin

No. 37...Newark...Monday 12 April 1915

## Newark's stronger air raid defences

More precautions were introduced in Newark last week against Zeppelin raids.

Major-General F Hammersley, Officer Commanding the 11<sup>th</sup> Division, ordered that all street and bridge lights be either switched off or shaded so that they cannot be detected from above.

All interior lights (except in factories) must be shaded or obscured by blinds half pulled down.

In factories in which night shifts are working, all sky lights must be covered.



Lighting of railway stations, sidings and goods yards must be reduced to the minimum required for safety.

Lights along the river front must not be allowed to reflect in the water.

The interior lights of tramcars, omnibuses and other vehicles must be obscured by curtains.

All public lights must be extinguished from 10pm until sunrise.

The extra precautions follow deadly attacks on several parts of England during this winter.

A teacher in King's Lynn and a schoolgirl in Scarborough have already reported to their relatives in Newark and Collingham the terror wrought by air raids.

Small story,  
big news...

# Last officer standing

A SINGLE PARAGRAPH in the *Newark Advertiser* last Wednesday – headed "*Lucky Newark Officer*" – dramatically spelled-out the awful loss of life being suffered by the British Expeditionary Force in France.

The story deserved to be bigger but merely stated:

*"Lieutenant Scales, son of Mr and Mrs Scales, London Road, is home for a few weeks' well-earned rest. He is the only officer in the Brigade who has survived six months' service in the war."*

The 1911 census reveals that a corset manufacturer named Richard Scales from Hornsey in Middlesex, lived at 62 London Road with his wife of 22 years and mother of their five children, Susannah.

Four of the children were still at home: Edith (19) was studying art; Edward Lionel (20) was assisting his father; Edwin (15) and Cynthia (10) were studying.

As the family enjoyed their reunion in the spring of 1915, they could never imagine that Edward Lionel would reach the rank of Captain with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment – and pass away on 11 November 1918, the very day on which the Armistice will be signed to end this awful war.

He is remembered in Kersal Churchyard, Manchester, where his wife lived.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER'S GREAT ESCAPE

SUNDAY SCHOOL teacher Alfred Willoughley Iliffe, wrote home from a London hospital last Tuesday about his miraculous brush with death at Neuve Chapelle:

"We received the order to advance and I scrambled over the parapet of my trench (which I had dug under fire the previous night) to meet a perfect hail of lead from the Germans.

"I had only doubled [run] a few yards when a piece of shrapnel struck my left arm and did considerable damage to the muscle.

"It had previously passed through my Prayer Book and Testament and had been turned aside by my watch, all of which I keep in my breast pocket."

Alfred, born in Leicestershire 21 years ago, was a clerk at the Great Northern Railway's Northgate Station before becoming a Corporal.

He will survive The Great War – and World War II, for that matter – before passing away in Suffolk at the age of 77.

## Mayhem reaches the Far East, Newarker writes

OLD MAGNUSIAN Cyril Foster revealed in a letter home to Newark on Friday how The Great War has led to unrest as far away as the Far East.

The 23-year-old Cyril is the son of grocer George and Kate Foster of 18 Winchilsea Avenue, and is in business at Kuala Lumpur in the Malay Straits.

He reported in his letter that he had completed a month's musketry training at Singapore.

Rather fortunately, he left the day before the riot broke out in which several of his companions and an officer of his corps were shot.

It transpired later that 35 Britons had been killed in what started out as a fight between rival factions of Indian nationals in the 5<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Regiment in Singapore.]

Cyril is in the Singapore Rifles Volunteers and proceeds to work each day in khaki and armed.

He has to be on parade at 5.30 in the mornings and after business in the evenings and so is having a strenuous life.

It is a far cry from his early working life as his Dad's delivery lad but his parents are relieved to hear he is well. His twin sister Ethel is a milliner's assistant in Newark.

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

**Come on in, chaps – the grub's just grand..!**

**JOLLY BOYS** of the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters show how well fed they are now that they are training with Lord Kitchener's Second Army. The Newarkers are (from left) back row: H Groves and J Asman; front row: H S Moran, S Scott, C Layhe and J T Bellamy. They were pictured at their Luton training camp exhibiting 'a typical day's rations' comprising a leg of mutton,



bread, bag of peas, jam and cheese. And the photographer snapped the picture before the bacon arrived!

A piece of propaganda for the Army desperate to recruit more volunteers who are starving for a square meal? Perish the thought!

**Beers for soldiers – landlord is fined £2**

LICENSEE William Ward Gardener, of the Wheatsheaf Inn, Slaughterhouse Lane, was fined £2 at Newark Borough Police Court on Thursday for supplying two soldiers with four penny-worth of intoxicating liquor – two tankards of beer – during hours prohibited by the Military Closing Order (at 10.15am last Saturday).

The defendant had pleaded not guilty on the grounds that his 18-year-old son had served beer to the men, who were trainees with the 86<sup>th</sup> Company Royal Engineers.

The Chief Constable, who prosecuted the case, pointed out that the landlord was responsible for everything that happened in his hostelry. And he well knew it was illegal to serve alcohol to serving men except between the hours of noon to 1pm and 6pm to 9pm.

Gardener, who worked in a foundry for 21 years before taking over the Wheatsheaf last September, insisted he had no idea the soldiers were in the pub until the police pointed them out. Magistrates said that was no excuse.

**Rapid rise for soldier – 1**

SOUTHWELL Minster Grammar School old boy Leonard Gilbert of Farnfield – a 25-year-old graduate of University College Nottingham – was today gazetted Captain in the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwoods, who are training at Lostwithiel, Cornwall.

**Rapid rise for soldier – 2**

NURSERYMAN George William Kirk, who had done good work in Southwell as quartermaster of the local branch of the Red Cross Society and secretary of the Rifle Club before enlisting in Lord Kitchener's Second Army, was promoted from Private to Sergeant within 24 hours of enlisting in the Second line of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters, it was announced on Saturday.

**BISHOP'S MESSAGE OF HOPE**

THE BISHOP of Southwell wrote in his Lent letter: "This morning I have been reading a letter from the front giving an account of a parade service just behind the firing line. "No chaplain was available so the Colonel took the service. The writer describes his most excellent address upon the Communion of Saints, and goes on to tell of the rapt interest of the 2,000 men. "Yes, it is the glory of the Resurrection which gives strength and hope to our soldiers, and banishes the sorrow of the bereaved."

**Bleasby comforts**

A CONCERT in aid of the Soldiers' Comforts Fund, arranged by H B Truman, was held in the Waggon and Horses Pavilion at Bleasby on Thursday night.

**Volunteers pictured**

THE NEWARK Volunteer Reserve was last week invited to elect a representative to the Executive Committee of the Nottingham and Notts Citizen Army. Pictured below are Captain Ringrose and Non-Commissioned Officers of the Volunteers. A century on, the image can be found in the Newark and Sherwood Museum Archives.



Now read the full dramatic account of...