

Great War Bulletin

No. 45...Newark...Monday 7 June 1915

FATHER-OF-5 DIES ON COMPASSIONATE LEAVE

A NEWARK FAMILY of five children was shattered on Thursday.

The funeral took place at Newark Cemetery, with full military honours, of Private John William Shaw of the 3rd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

He had been allowed home from the Western Front to Lindum Street on compassionate leave when his 42-year-old wife Louise fell seriously ill. While he nursed her and looked after their youngsters, he caught double pneumonia – and died.

Louise was well enough to lead the mourners at her husband's funeral.



At last! How Dady won his DCM

THE *London Gazette* on Thursday finally published the eagerly-awaited citation for Sergeant Charles Henry Dady's Distinguished Conduct Medal.

It was all too brief for the many admirers of Charles, one of a family of 14 living in Baldertongate:

"For gallant conduct at Neuve Chapelle from 10 to 14 March 1915. When his platoon was surrounded by the enemy, he showed a fine example to his men, whom he handled with much ability."

We are left to imagine how Charles and his brave boys of the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters fought their way to safety.

At least it appears that he has recovered from the serious wounds that landed him in hospital last month.

Villages in mourning

FLINTHAM

Blacksmith, 22, dies in Africa

FLINTHAM villagers were stunned on Wednesday to hear that one of their warriors had died – in West Africa.

While the War rages in Europe and simmers in the Middle East, 22-year-old Ralph Palmer was with the 16th Royal Engineers in Sierra Leone.

And it was not an enemy bullet that killed him but malaria: he was one of 100 victims of an epidemic.

Before enlisting, Ralph was apprentice blacksmith to Joseph Ward. The son of shepherd Frederick and Lucy Marion Palmer, he had married Isobel Leonora Rollo, while on Military training in Tynemouth in the spring of 1914.

He never had an opportunity to see his son, christened Frederick, who arrived as something of a 1914 Christmas present.

Ralph is remembered in the King Tom Cemetery, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

SUTTON

18-year-old killed at Ypres

WIDOW Mrs J W Riley of Crow Park, Sutton-on-Trent, discovered on Friday that her 18-year-old son Frank of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry had been killed in action on 8 May.

He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

By coincidence, Private Charles Herrod of the same regiment wrote to his sister Ethel at Bathley about the KOYLI's experiences: "We have been in the trenches for 10 days ... We are getting a bit stiff and no mistake. I have come through so far but have had a narrow escape or two. We are always in danger. I have wondered how I have got through but I am very thankful I have, up to now.

"Three of the Welsh Fusiliers spotted a German in the glass, and they made it up to capture him, and so after dark they got round him. They told me they nearly kicked him into their trench as he had sniped one or two of their men off during the day. I would have shot him..."

KELHAM

Gassed a second time

EDWARD MARSHALL, who turned to farm labouring after a stint as caretaker at Kelham Hall, and his wife Jane, whose 42-year marriage has been blessed by 11 children, discovered yesterday that one of their sons, Private Fred Marshall with the Lincolnshire Territorials, was in hospital suffering from gas poisoning for the second time. A former gamekeeper at Spilsby, he wrote in his latest letter home that the most amazing sight at the battlefield, so far as he was concerned, was the determination of a hen and cock pheasant not to leave their nest even though the noise from the fighting around their wood was incessant.

Tea party at the battle front!

RIFLEMAN Harry Francis, whose parents live at 111 Barnbygate, has written home with amazing news of a tea party at the battle front with fellow Newarkeers of the Sherwood Foresters.

He revealed: "We had a three days march coming here and who do you think I saw? Well, Dr Stallard. [His local GP and a Newark Councillor] You will know that he is a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the 8th Sherwoods. He said he was indeed very pleased to see me and, when we parted after a very nice conversation, he said: 'Well, goodbye my boy, and let's hope next time we meet it will be in good old Newark!' Dr Stallard enlisted me into the Army eight years ago and he told me he remembered it quite well.

"I also saw a great many Newark men; some knew me and some did not, but I had a very good time talking to them about the old town. They invited me to tea, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

"We had cake, biscuits, jam, butter and bread, eggs and some lovely tea, which I enjoyed immensely.

"Fancy being invited out to tea in the war area – it hardly sounds true, does it?

"I saw two brothers of a man who used to be in my Battalion, called Lane, and they both knew me.

"I had a lovely parcel from home this week which came in just fine."

Strange but true – and immensely enjoyable

Then he got down to the business of explaining the dangers facing him and his comrades on a daily basis: "As we marched into the place, which is only a few miles from the firing line and a very large place, it seemed very strange to me that, being so near, it had not been shelled, or at least nothing to speak of.

"I am very pleased to say we have left -----." [The place name was erased by the vigilant

sensor.] My word, we had an awfully rough time of it while we were there.

"I was on brigade guide and had to carry messages through all the awful shelling, but I got through without a scratch!"

"I'm sorry to say that the men who were along with me were not so fortunate, some of them being killed by shells, and others badly wounded.

"If I do manage to get through this awful war, I will try and tell you some of my experiences..."

"The gasses used by the Germans are indeed awful.

"I have been through it once, when my eyes ran so much that I could not see out of them, and the smell was awful.

"But our respirators are not so bad as they do save some from penetrating into one's lungs."

HOSPITAL FURY

MAGISTRATE Frederick George Vessey JP, a retired builder (aged 55) living at The Maples, New Balderton, offered his resignation as chairman of Newark Rural District Council on Friday in frustration that no progress was being made towards the provision of an isolation hospital. He pointed out there would be a great need for one when the War ended.

Decades elapsed before the Barnby Road TB Hospital opened.

Public baths are open

PUBLIC BATHS – known as slipper baths – are being used for the first time. Provided by the Borough Council in a former warehouse with an entrance off Chain Lane, they are long overdue! Personal hygiene has been a problem for some years.

They have been constructed between the Town Hall and the rear of the old Teapot which at one time was the stage of the Newark Theatre.

Underlining how many years elapsed before baths became commonplace, the slipper baths remained in operation until 1 April 1969.

Social club for soldiers

ABOUT 200 soldiers billeted in and around Newark have signed-up to a club at Southwell's Trebeck Hall run by a committee of ladies, who provided them with writing paper, pens and ink to write home as well as opportunities to play billiards, bagatelle and a variety of other games. There was also a piano for the musically inclined. It denoted the start of the Royal Engineers' Training Centre, based at Coddington Hall, which went on to cater for 3,000 men when it was in full swing.

Oldest recruit

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S 60-year-old Medical Officer of Health Henry Handford, of Glenfield, Southwell, was mobilised as a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps Sanitary Service – probably the oldest recruit in the county. He was attached to Northern Command until he was demobbed on 13 May 1916.

More police join-up

Six officers of the Notts Constabulary joined-up today – meaning that one-third of their force is now in the Armed Forces.

'Cheeky' football boys fined

THREE boys aged 12 and 13 were ordered to pay £2 each – a fortune – at Newark Borough Police Court on Thursday after admitting playing football in the street.

Police Constable Parsons told the magistrates he was proceeding along Lover's Lane at 8pm on 25 May when he observed the illicit game taking place.

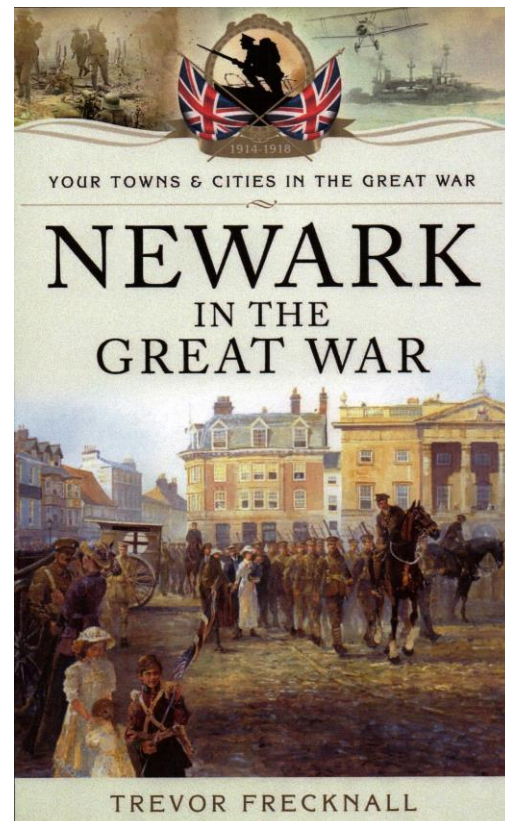
And the worst aspect was that the boys were cheeky.

The culprits were Cyril Smith of Nursery Place, Robert Herbert Sheppard of 4 Alliance Street and Albert Reader of 4 Lilley's Row, Northgate.

None of the boys' fathers were earning much more than £2 a week to keep families of five and more.

Cyril's dad is a house painter, Herbert's is a labourer in an engineering works and Albert's is also a labourer, but in a brewery.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



TREVOR FRECKNALL

£14.99 from WH Smith