

Great War Bulletin

No. 49...Newark...Monday 5 July 1915

POLICEMAN PROMOTED

NOT ALL married members of the Newark Borough Police Force are still at home – despite the rule laid down by the Borough Council and reported in the Bulletin last week.

Within days, to the doubtless embarrassment of Councillors, it was reported that John Lacey, 45, a well-known member of the Newark Police Force, has been promoted from Colour Sergeant Instructor to Sergeant Major in the 2nd 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters currently training at Dunstable. He leaves at home in 45 Jubilee Street his wife Emily Harriett and their three children.

DEATH and GLORY

A FULL official list of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters' casualties thus far appeared in the *Advertiser* on Wednesday – on the very day the German Army added another layer of terror to The Great War by using flame throwers for the first time against the British soldiers in their trenches at Hooge in the Ypres sector of the Western Front.

It is the first time such information has been collated since the War began last August – and it reveals that the Newark Company has suffered most: 18 killed, 59 wounded. While the demise of many of the men has already been reported, some are names who have not been publicised so far.

This is the full list of the Newark Company's dead...

Killed

1892 Sergeant G Wilmore
707 Corporal F H Wilcox
1380 Lance Corporal A Priestley
706 Lance Corporal W H Ridgard died on 8 May and is remembered in Loker Churchyard ... Far from the only man to die without even his given names being noted.
1387 Lance Corporal E Markwell
2383 Private W R Copley
2059 Private Albert E Hopewell, second son of the thirteen children of lace pattern corrector Henry and his wife Alice, who live at 8 Chatham Street, Southwell, died on 15 April and is remembered at the Kemmel Chateau Memorial. [Commonwealth War Graves Commission / 1901 census / 1911 census]
2791 Private J Berresford: Joseph died on 21 April and is remembered at the Kemmel Chateau Memorial. [CWGC]
1396 Private W Hunt
864 Private C Redmile
879 Private W Godfrey
2200 Private C Hibbert: Charles Henry, aged 22, died on 24 April and is remembered at the Kemmel Chateau Memorial. His parents, Joseph and Mary Ann, live in Mansfield. [CWGC]
2133 Private R East
1093 Private J Bonner: James, aged 28, died on 24 April. He was one of seven children of builder's labourer John and Elizabeth Bonner, of Brant Broughton. He is remembered at the Kemmel Chateau Memorial. [CWGC / Genes Reunited]
1374 Private A V Soar: Albert Victor, only 18 and a cigarette machine operator before he enlisted, died on 7 May. He was the son of Marcus T Soar, secretary of a building company, and his wife Charlotte, of Lowdham. He is remembered at the Kemmel Chateau Memorial. [CWGC / GR]
1058 Private E Eaton
1859 Private H Sketchley
2334 Private F Paling

Local heroes earn medals

A SUPPLEMENT of the *London Gazette* last Thursday explained why the King has been pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to several local men for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty...

Corporal 7055 F Bowler, 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters, has shown "conspicuous ability and zeal during the whole period his Battalion has been on active service".

Private 8452 C Briggs, 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, "single-handed continued to work his station for many hours after the rest of the men at the station had either been killed or wounded" during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on 8-9 March.

Acting Lance Corporal 13904 A Brownley, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, went out of his trench to bring in a badly wounded man at St Eloi on 11 April. "When unable alone to affect this, he came back for assistance, returned and brought the man in although under fire and within 100 yards of the German trenches".

Sergeant 6070 W Chart, 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, laid a breastwork across a road under heavy rifle fire at Neuve Chapelle on 19-20 February. "On more than one occasion Sergeant Chart has voluntarily carried out dangerous work under fire. He has set a fine example and proved himself a good leader".

Acting Lance Sergeant 9183 W Coulson, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, under heavy fire as commanding officer's observer on 21 October 1914 "twice volunteered to take a message from the CO to the firing trench and fulfilled his task each time successfully".

Sergeant 11441 C T Howarth, 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, has shown "conspicuous ability and zeal during the period his Battalion has been on active service ... also distinguished himself while employed with the stretcher bearers".

Company Sergeant Major 6460 J H Johnson, 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, reorganised the men under his command in the face of heavy fire at Neuve Chapelle on 10 March.

Sergeant 7690 W Kirk, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, has shown "devotion to duty since the beginning of the war. Although three times wounded, he has remained on duty continuously".

Private 8308 N Mumby and Private 7858 C F Smith, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, "for conspicuous gallantry at Zillebeke on 14 March ... after a trench had been completely destroyed by the explosion of a German mine, they went down into the crater three times during the

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SURVIVING THE MINES

Winthorpe's heroine of Sherwoods

MISS JOSEPHINE GILSTRAP, a member of one of Newark's maltster families, living on private means with seven servants in a 24-room residence in Winthorpe, became a heroine of the Sherwoods who had taken over the trenches in a part of the British battlefield in Belgium.

She sent three galvanised iron baths, complete with boiler, so that the men could bathe at their own billets in Locre village rather than scramble four miles to the next-nearest baths at Bailleul. It was gratefully accepted as "a great boon," the official record of the episode confirmed.

Alas another similar consignment from Mrs John Becher was "lost in the post", but has maybe benefited some other unit.

The soldier at Locre have enough worries without seeking mislaid baths, as the official history will state: "As few, if any of us, had ever studied Flemish, the language question in some of the villages of Flanders presented a little difficulty, but with his guiding principle of 'tout-de-suite, and the touter the sweeter,' the British Tommy never seemed to have any trouble in getting what he wanted."

LETTERS ARE beginning to reach Newark from members of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters who survived the Germans blowing up mines under their trenches [see Bulletin, 21 June].

It was "our hottest time so far," wrote Sergeant C W Chappell. "Every man and officer kept their heads and held them back like rats," wrote Private John Robert ('Jack') Roe, 27, an iron driller at Simpson's whose parents Christopher, a labourer, and Elizabeth have had 12 children and live at 27 Smith Street, New Balderton.

Sergeant Chappell described the episode as "our hottest time so far."

We fought like rats

The mine explosions were followed by "a perfect rain of shells, trench mortars and bullets including machine gun, which went on for about an hour. The Battalion, you will be pleased to hear, acted splendidly and effectually stopped the attack which was made on several of our trenches.

"Of course we lost a good few men including several more from Newark, but I am very pleased to say I came out of it all quite all right, and have a lot to be thankful for in doing so."

"The General commanding the Brigade personally came and congratulated the Battalion on the work it did that night, which is the second time he has acted in a similar manner, so you will see we are still keeping our good name up."

Jack Roe shrugged it all off: "It was quite exciting for a bit and we all enjoyed it, so you can guess how the men out here take things.

"You never hear them grumble. They've always have got a smile on their faces as if there was nothing happening."

"So I think the men in England working for the Government need not grumble because they don't get more money.

"Send us some big shells - and keep smiling!"

Jack will be killed at Loos in October 1915. Of his three battling brothers...

- Amos will be awarded the DCM in 1918;
- Alfred will be taken prisoner of war;
- Horace will be seriously wounded in May 1918.

Vicar's son - father-of-2 - is killed

NEWS came through yesterday of the death at the battlefield of the Reverend John Garrett Bussell, 33-year-old son of the Reverend J G Bussell, former Vicar of Balderton, and grandson of a former Vicar of Newark.

He had been one of the candidates who lost out to the Reverend Gorse when the headmastership of the Magnus Grammar School became vacant.

After being over-looked, he accepted a post as assistant master at Marlborough College.

He was serving with the 7th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment and leaves a widow, Dorothea, 30, and two children, John Garrett, 4, and Kathleen, 2.

The Reverend Bussell is remembered in Tancrez Farm Cemetery, Hainault, Belgium.

LOCAL HEROES

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night, voluntarily, close up to the enemy's trenches, to see if they had occupied it. On one occasion they were heavily fired at by a German patrol."

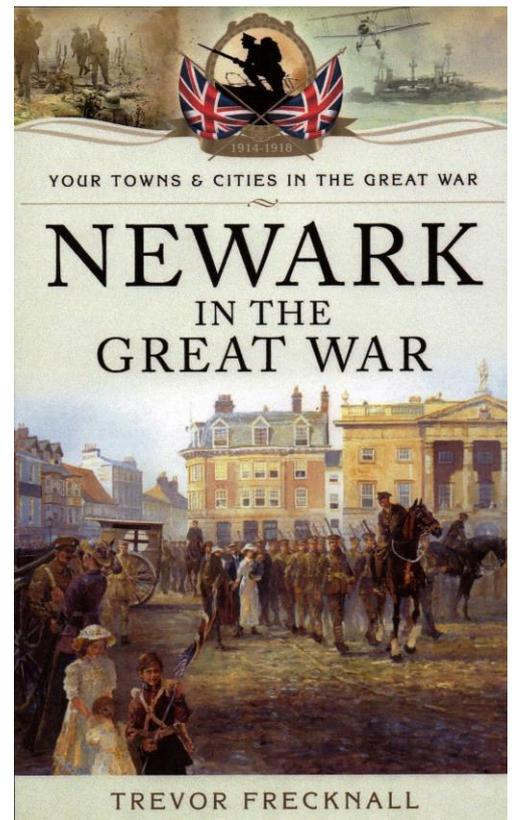
Corporal 10639 E Paul, 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters, "for conspicuous gallantry in carrying out all kinds of dangerous work, for which he has shown himself always ready to volunteer".

Lance Corporal 10831 C Warner, 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, for conspicuous gallantry as stretcher bearer, showing great devotion to duty at Neuve Chapelle in searching for and bringing in wounded, even close to the enemy's lines. Also during 10-14 March, this non-commissioned officer was commended for tending the wounded while exposed to the fire of snipers: "He was severely wounded but, volunteering again, rejoined the unit after seven weeks".

Company Quartermaster Sergeant 10646 F Widdowson, 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters, for gallant conduct at Neuve Chapelle on 11 April in going out on his own accord and binding up a wounded man who had been left: "This non-commissioned officer has previously distinguished himself by his readiness in volunteering for dangerous services, reconnoitring enemy trenches, erecting barbed wire, etc".

Acting Lance Corporal 4950 G Williams, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, for devotion to duty and ability on the night of 21 February at Ypres. "When a German patrol of about 20 men approached his trench from the rear and opened fire, he collected a few

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