

# Great War Bulletin

No. 54...Newark...Monday 9 August 1915

## 6 months' hard labour for German 'alien enemy'

ELLEN MARTHA HENSE, the 50-year-old wife of a German-born musician, was sentenced to six months' prison with hard labour by Newark Borough Magistrates, who find her guilty of being "an alien enemy".

The court was told last Tuesday that she was a native of Newcastle-on-Tyne but Chief Constable Wright described her scathingly as a woman of "questionable moral character, travelling from camp to camp" after refusing to obtain a travel permit to leave Biggleswade, where she lived.

### *Gifts flow in to aid struggle*

THERE are reminders almost daily that this Great War is being fought largely thanks to the voluntary efforts of the general public.

Mother-of-five Mrs Harriett Mumby – who is the wife of William, forward-thinking owner of Newark's largest clothing manufacturer's – has sent six pairs of motor goggles for Lieutenant Davenport's motor cycling messengers in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters. The theory is that it will help the riders through the enemy's poison gas attacks.

Farmer Thomas Ransley of Bowbridge Road has contributed 13s 11½d for "smokes for the fighting lads and wounded."

The Mayoress's Working Party – a group of ladies who knit, sew and crochet every Thursday afternoon in the Town Hall – has sent its latest batch of comforts: 92 many-tailed bandages. But, of course, nobody mentions that the shift in requests from warm clothing to bandages suggests that not all is going well on the battlefields of Europe.

The YMCA tent requested by the trainee Royal Engineers was officially opened on Sconce Hills. The princely sum of £195 5s had been subscribed in a fortnight after an appeal was launched to provide comforts on what had become a heavily-populated tented village.

The RE's staged an athletics sports day on the town cricket ground on Thursday. In addition to the usual events, there was mop fighting, tilting the bucket, an obstacle race for Boy Scouts and a tug o' war competition.

# Horrors on the



Bundesarchiv, Bild 183-R22888  
Foto: o. Ang. | 1917

*German troops  
operating the  
latest weapon in  
trench warfare*

# Western Front

**GRAPHIC details of the flame-thrower horror that engulfed the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters arrived on Wednesday in a letter to grocer and baker James Henry Kirkby of Limehurst, Southwell, from one of his employees.**

Knowing that censorship was becoming increasingly strict, Mr Kirkby declined to identify the writer, but it was most likely 20-year-old Private Harold Tyne of Kirklington Road, Southwell.

The letter revealed: "On 29 July we were in the trenches and about 3 o' clock in the morning the enemy began to spray our trench with a flaming liquid, which began to flare from one end to the other.

"Of course, we had to get out of it for a time and as soon as the flame had died out the Germans charged and took the trench. But we got into them and it was a regular set-to. We were on our mettle, and so were they. We

**DEADLY NEWS  
DEVASTATES  
LOCALITIES**

were rapid firing and went into them for all we were worth. After 2 hours hard fighting we cleared the trench and recaptured it.

"But we had several casualties...

"Poor old Sam Oliver was shot through the head and died instantly ... He was next to me and we were fighting shoulder to shoulder when it happened." Privatete 2750 Oliver, who lived in Southwell and also worked for Mr Kirkby, is remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial.

## Distinguished Conduct Medal for Staunton's Squire/Rector

THE *London Gazette* announced on Thursday the award of a Distinguished Conduct Medal to 43-year-old Serjeant George William Staunton, of Staunton, of the Mechanical Transport Section of the Army Service Corps for his heroics around Ypres on 24 April to 4 May.

His citation reads:

***"Sgt Staunton showed great coolness and courage in bringing his car backwards and forwards through Ypres under heavy shell fire.***

***"He was always ready to undertake any dangerous work or go anywhere with his car, and showed conspicuous example of devotion and duty."***

The father-of-three will return home, take holy orders, become Rector of Staunton in 1926, and uphold the family values as Squire of the village for a quarter of a century.



## Food prices and hunger rising

THERE was stark evidence at Newark Cattle Market on Monday of the worrying extent to which desperation for food is increasing along with inflation.

Edward Bailey & Sons, the auctioneers, sold a total of 1,600 lambs at the town's annual Lamb Fair despite the handicap of there being no public transport on Bank Holiday Monday.

The average price was 38 shillings (£1.90) apiece compared with only 25 shillings as recently as 1913. It goes without saying that wages are not keeping pace.

## Coddington hero of Gallipoli landings

CAPTAIN Godfrey Edward Tallents, son of Mr and Mrs Godfrey Tallents of Coddington, was among 333 officers mentioned on Thursday in a despatch by General Ian Hamilton, Commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, as being deserving of special mention following the action in the Dardanelles.

Captain Tallents, who was serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, is still recuperating at home from a severe head wound which he suffered in May during the landings at Gallipoli.

He will recover to succeed his father as Town Clerk of Newark Borough Council.

# SHERWOODS DEATH TOLL

**THE postmen of the Southwell district appear to have the sad duty of delivering deathly news daily since the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters were attacked by Germany flame-throwers within hours of taking their place in the trenches 12 nights ago.**

Farnsfield heard of its first fatality at the front on Friday. Private Charles Thorpe, aged 26, perished when the Germans rushed the 8<sup>th</sup> Sherwoods' trenches after the flame-thrower attack in the dead of night a fortnight ago.

His wife discovered the dreaded news in a letter that arrived from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant A L Hindley, commanding No.8 Platoon B Company, who had many such sad tasks.

It also became evident on Friday that another territorial to die was Private John Watson, aged 22, who was the popular goalkeeper for Southwell Thursday in the Notts Mid-week Football League while he worked for the Co-op.

His comrades believed that he had been only shot in the knee; but it transpired that he passed away after they got him to hospital on 25 July. He is remembered at the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium.

A few days after Corporal Sam Humberstone, 25, a lace curtain maker pre-war, wrote that he hoped to be home in Westgate, Southwell, on furlough for his wife Lilla's birthday in 11 days' time, she heard on Saturday that he had been killed. Lilla had the tasks of passing the news to her two little boys, Albert, not yet 3, and John, 20 months; and to Sam's aged mother Annie Selina in Burgage Lane. He was a key footballer with Southwell City and a valued employee at Carey & Sons' lace factory. Cpl 1424 Humberstone is remembered at the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial.

And Henry and Alice Hopewell of 8 Chatham Street, Southwell, who have had 13 children during their 32-year marriage, suffered their second bereavement of the war. They heard yesterday that their third son, Private John Henry Hopewell, was shot on his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday, 30 July – four months after they lost their second boy, Albert.

A memorial service was held at Lowdham yesterday for railwayman Thomas William Jubb, aged 23, the only son of Charles and Eliza Ann Jubb, who was killed in the trenches on 30 July.

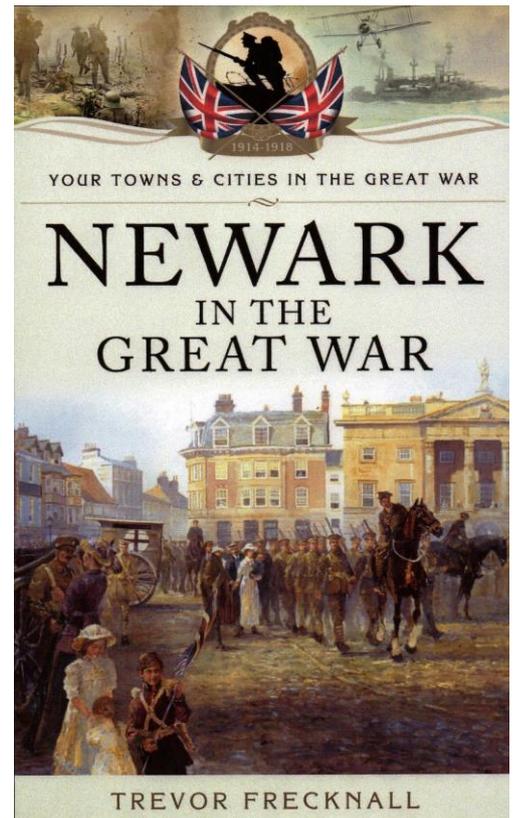
News of his death was transmitted in another letter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt A L Hindley, a son of the Vicar of Newark. Poor Eliza Jubb is accustomed to tragedy: both of their daughters died young.

## Explosion in Newark

QUITE a sensation was caused in Newark on Saturday morning by an explosion of gas among crowds of shoppers in Cartergate.

It shattered the ceiling of a shop occupied by hairdresser Mr Harold Southern. The family had only just moved in, and asked a plumber to locate a whiff of gas. A few minutes after turning on the gas, the plumber lit a match ... Amazingly no one was injured and the flames were subdued by PC Brown, who happened to be passing as the windows blew out.

Now read the full dramatic account of...



£14.99 from WH Smith