

# Great War Bulletin

No.58...Newark...Monday 6 September 1915

## WINTHORPE BRIDE-TO-BE HAS SUNDAY HEART-BREAKER

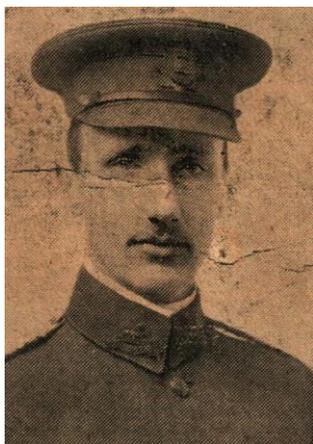
THE COOK at Winthorpe Grange suffered a dreadful shock yesterday as she prepared Sunday dinner for the Branston family, owners of one of Newark's most productive malting businesses.

Miss Edith Alice Elvidge received a telegram informing her that her husband-to-be has been killed in action on the Western Front.

Miss Elvidge had been busy planning for her wedding because her fiancé had been expected home on leave any day now.

But the dreaded missive informed her that Private Thomas Tournay, 34, had been killed by a sniper in France on 25 August while on fatigue duty.

The youngest son of Mrs Elizabeth Tournay of 45 Barnbygate, Tommy was educated at Newark Catholic School before he became a soldier first in the Lincoln Militia and then the Sherwoods, serving in India, Singapore, Hong Kong and Peking (sic) among other exotic situations. After leaving the Army he was a postman at Worksop, but was recalled on the outbreak of War. He has been in France since 12 November and his letters home were always cheerful. In his latest, he marvelled that he had emerged through so much brutality without a scratch and said he looked forward to getting home on leave soon to marry his sweetheart. Instead this brave Tommy is buried in the village cemetery at Potijze near Ypres.



### Collingham remembers a fallen hero

A MEMORIAL service was held at South Collingham Church last Tuesday for Captain Percy Leathley Browne, aged 32, younger son of Mrs Mary Browne of South Collingham Hall and the late Reverend S B Browne.

Percy was killed in the Dardanelles between 7 and 11 August while serving with the Lincolnshire Regiment, which he had joined in 1902 from the Militia. He is remembered in the Green Hill Cemetery on the Anzac-Suvla Road in Gallipoli.

And Percy's older brother, Montague, will perish in the Irish Rebellion next Easter...

### Now read the book

A century later, more details of the brothers and their family are reported in *Collingham and District in The Great War* written by retired journalist Trevor Frecknall and edited by Collingham History Society archivist Helena Pielichaty.

The 160-page book is being launched on 15 September 2015 (7pm) at All Hallows Church, Collingham. Tickets (£3 from Collingham Post Office) entitle the bearer to a talk, refreshments and £1 off a signed copy of the book which will retail at £9.99.

### 'HEAVY CASUALTIES' IN TURKEY

THE *Newark Advertiser* repeated last Wednesday "alarming rumours" that are circulating about high numbers of casualties among the Royal Engineers and Newark Squadron of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry in the fighting in the Dardanelles region of Turkey.

The 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Companies of RE's were quartered in Newark through the winter while they trained up to combat standard; and they now seem to have suffered. It is officially announced that Major Francis Wilfred Brunner, 44, is "missing" but unofficial reports say he has been killed.

Also reported missing are Lieutenants Edward Pearce Elworthy and Louis L Rees-Mogg.

Such are the worries, their many friends in Newark take consolation from the news that Lieutenants Feranti, Crawhall and B T James are merely wounded.

### Southwell finally hails its heroic pilot

NEWS finally reached Southwell last Thursday that one of its brave sons has been hailed for his aerial heroism.

Flight Sergeant Edwin Cecil Rumford, 24, is the son of grocer and confectioner William Rumford and his wife Frances in King Street, Southwell, and is serving in No.2 Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> Wing of the Royal Flying Corps.

It transpires that he has been mentioned in despatches and awarded the St George's Medal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, by the Tzar of Russia.

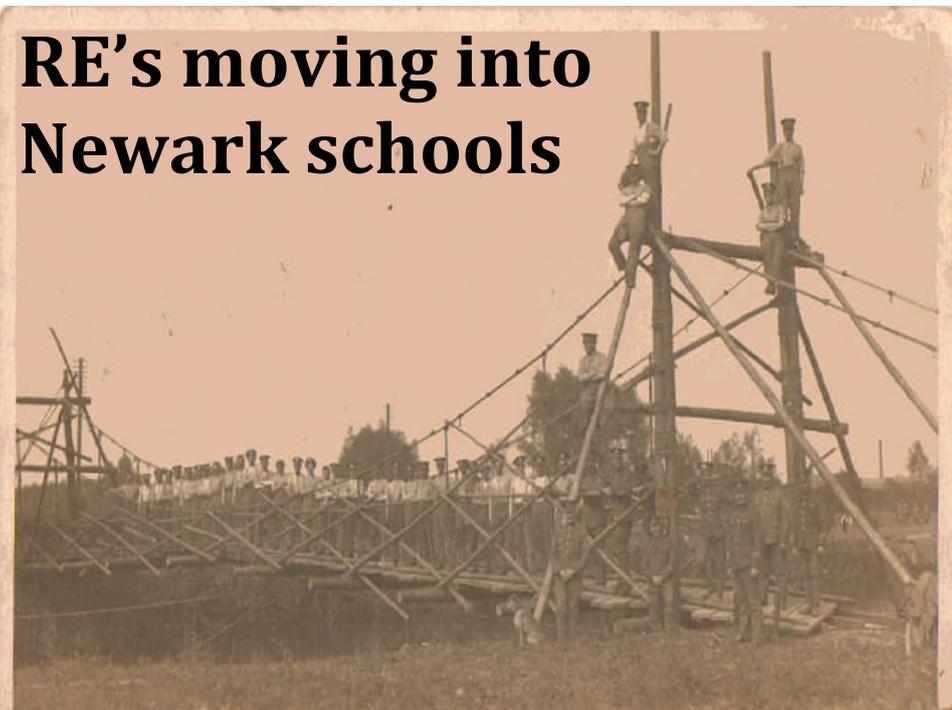
The mention was way back on 22 June in the *London Gazette*. Nobody around Southwell seemed to be aware until the medal award was published in the *Gazette* on 25 August – and even now there is no explanation of precisely what Edwin had been up to.

The *Nottingham Evening Post* will finally report on 21 July 1916 that Edwin was serving as a wireless operator and had been shot in the neck while flying over German lines.

All the report added was that he survived. To this day, it is not known whether the full story was not told because of pressure of space, the sheer number of stories of heroism, or the orders of the censor.

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

## RE's moving into Newark schools



Newark Education Committee held a special meeting on Friday in the Tudor Hall to discuss a request by the Royal Engineers for the use of Barnby Road and Lover's Lane Council Schools as winter quarters for the soldiers training in town.

The RE Commandant Col Jerome told members there were 1,000 troops based in the town now and the hutting accommodation on The Sconce was "very inadequate".

The Committee agreed to hand over the schools and to meet again on Tuesday next to decide where to educate the displaced children.

The photograph shows Royal Engineers training to build temporary bridges over the River Trent between Newark and Farndon. It is from an archive compiled by researcher Adrian Carter.

## Author raises eyebrows and fills theatres

NEWARK playwright Walter Saltoun was packing 'em in last week at the Elephant and Castle Theatre in London with his first hit play in this country, 'The Abode of Love'.

It was said by the *Daily Mirror* reviewer to revive recollections of a scandal involving a religious hypocrite. Born in Lasswade, Scotland, in 1887, had enjoyed success in Australia with 'What Women Will Do for Love' at the Adelphi Theatre, Sydney, New South Wales, in November 1912.

And back in Britain, he built a reputation as something of a gritty pricker of consciences. His 1916 production, 'The Girl Who Wouldn't Marry' was staged at the Elephant and Castle, leaving one critic to sniff: "Were it in more pretentious surroundings, it might easily be classed as a play with a purpose."

He was one of many critics, accustomed to being amused by frivolity rather than aroused by reality at the theatre, who were invited to "listen to four acts on main drainage and the housing question or the relationship of sweated industries to prostitution."

Undeterred, Saltoun would continue to come up with a new play each year ... 'Her Forbidden Sacrifice' (1917), 'The Man She Bought' and 'A Serpent in the Garden' (1918), 'Married Sinners' (1919), 'Too Many Bits of Fluff' (1920) and 'A Fight for a Wife' (1921).

## Belgian refugees' thanks to Eakring

EAKRING received a letter of thanks on Saturday from its Belgian family, now living and working in Warrington:

*"Ladies and Gentlemen from the Committee – We cannot say you how sorry we were when we left you, where we for a time can forget the war. We always have been very happy in our dear little Eakring, which we never can or shall forget. It was first when we were in the train that we feel all alone, and we lose our dear fathers, mothers, sisters and all brothers, but we think to see you again. You all have done real too much for us. I hope that God shall send you many happy years, and we hope that you sometimes shall think of us. We never shall forget the people from Eakring. – The Belgian family, Mr and Mrs Verbeeck Peeters and children."*

A century later, Genes Reunited will reveal that 12-year-old Helena M Veerbeek died in Warrington in the late summer of 1918. Victor Verbeeck lived to the age of 81, passing away in Manchester in 1961.

## Family told 'Your boy died six months ago'

MONTHS of waiting and agonising ended on Saturday for Arthur Raynor, who works at Carey's lace factory in Southwell, and his wife Sarah.

A letter arrived at their home in King Street, Southwell, from the Records Office in Lichfield to inform them that their second son, Frank, 22 – officially listed as missing as long ago as 12 March – was in fact killed on that date.

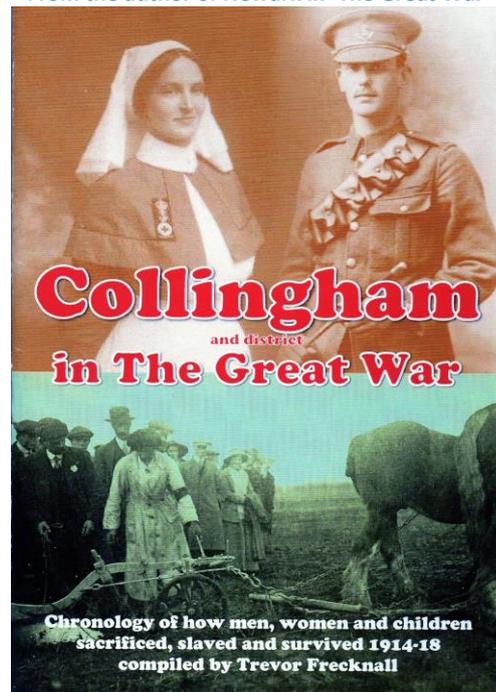
They have had seven children in their 25-year marriage; only three now survive.

Frank had followed his father into Carey's, working in the lace curtains department before he marched off with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters last August as Private 11852.

Frank is remembered on Le Touret Memorial among over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed from of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915 and have no known grave.

His parents eventually moved to Beeston in an attempt to make a fresh start.

From the author of Newark in 'The Great War'



**Launched 15 September 2005 (7pm) in All Hallows' Church, Collingham, with talk, signing and refreshments.**  
Tickets £3 from Collingham Post Office; profits to good causes in the village

Go to [www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk](http://www.ournottinghamshire.org.uk) for all issues of Newark's Great War Bulletin