

Great War Bulletin

No. 63...Newark...Monday 11 October 1915

BIRTH OF A REFUGEE BABY

A SECOND Belgian baby was born in Newark on Saturday to a family of refugees who fled from their helpless, neutral country last year as the Germans rampaged through into France.

It is a boy, a son and heir to Monsieur and Madame Martin Francis Tote, who reside at the Middlegate home where on 11 June the first Belgian baby, Albert George Tote, was born, a cousin of the new arrival.

The entire Tote family descended on Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church on Sunday for the christening of one-day-old Adrian Albert Martin Tote.

Our generous MP!

THE Member of Parliament for the Newark Division, Captain John Ralph Starkey of Norwood Park, Southwell, has returned the £400 salary he has received since the outbreak of The Great War.

He explained to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he feels uncomfortable in accepting remuneration under present conditions asked for the money to go to the War effort.

Captain Starkey's unselfish decision found great favour with his constituents, who were conscious of how greatly inflation was affecting the common man; but did not lead to many of his Parliamentary colleagues following his patriotic example.

Within two days, he received a letter of praise from the chairman of his Division's Conservative and Unionist Association, Harold Browne: "The members of the Executive Council ... wish to express to you their appreciation of your act of self-denial in returning to the Chancellor of the Exchequer your salary..."

"They realise with what unflinching regularity you have always discharged your duties in the House of Commons and consider that no Member has better earned his salary than you have done by your quiet, unobtrusive work. They believe your action to be dictated solely by a desire to forward the best interests of the State during a most critical time – a time when national economy is, in theory, so strongly urged but so seldom put into practice by those who guide the nation's destinies.

OUR CAPTAIN STARKEY HANDS SALARY TO WAR EFFORT

"They cannot allow your practical example to pass unnoticed, and take this opportunity of expressing to you their continued confidence and esteem."

Captain Starkey replied: "I am convinced that in this supreme crisis some real sacrifice in the interest of thrift and economy is demanded from every member of the community, and Parliament should at once give a lead in this direction."

Parliament did not give a lead in the way that Captain Starkey suggested. On the contrary, there were repeated calls as the War dragged on for men, women and even children to make more and more financial donations to the War effort.

But Captain Starkey (born 1859) remained a favourite of his constituents. Having earned his rank by serving as a Captain in the South Nottinghamshire Yeomanry, he was Newark's Conservative MP from 1906 until he chose to retire in 1922; found time to nurture renowned apple orchards at the family home; and was created Baronet in 1935.

STRIPPED SOLDIER PLAYS DEAD TO SURVIVE TURKS!

PIONEER R HEATH, who trained with the 68th Field Company of the Royal Engineers in Newark before being sent to the Dardanelles, wrote to his parents with a spine-chilling story of how he played dead while being stripped naked by the Turkish enemy.

He revealed: "One of our officers, two infantry fellows and myself volunteered to go out to see if we could shoot a sniper..."

"I was the only one to come back alive.

"We were surprised by five Turks who opened fire on us. All the rest were shot down.

"I feigned death and dropped too. The Turks took my rifle, boots, puttees, braces, watch and all my private belongings.

"They dragged me about 200 yards and I lay there for about two-and-a-half hours, afraid to move because I did not know where the blinking Turks were.

"Eventually the Chester Regiment came up and I got safely back."

It is an incredible story from a battlefield that has proven immensely costly to the Allied cause.

Inspiration to local football is killed

THE Newark football community was shocked on Saturday to discover that its popular league secretary, Charles Harrison, has been killed in action.

The news came in a letter to his wife Eleanor Ann (nee Mayfield of Southwell), 34, from Signalling Sergeant W Burton of Winthorpe: "It is with heartfelt sorrow that I write on behalf of the Signalling Section to express our deepest sympathy with you and yours in the great loss you have sustained by the death in action of your husband on the 5th instant. I regret to say that while he and another member of the Section (Lance Corporal E Hale) were together they were both killed instantaneously by one of the enemy's shells, which exploded in the trench."

None could have shown greater patriotism than Charles. Notwithstanding family ties, and having voluntarily served in South Africa during the Boer War, he was one of the first to respond to the call, gave up his cosy job as a brewery clerk and has now made the supreme sacrifice.

The Boer War made such an impact on him that he named his house in Farndon Road 'Bethulie' after the place in which he was based for some time. Now Eleanor has to bring up their three-year-old son John.

Lance Corporal 2064 Harrison is among 684 casualties in the Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos-en-Gohelle. He will be remembered in Newark for the infectious enthusiasm that built the Newark and District Football League from 4 teams to nearly 20 during his decade as secretary.

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

SOLDIER GAOLED FOR ATTACK ON GIRL AGED 8

PIONEER J STOCKER was sentenced to a month's hard labour by Newark Magistrates on Tuesday for assaulting an eight-year-old girl.

Chief Constable Albert Wright told the court he was walking along Hawton Lane on Sunday afternoon when he heard a child screaming.

Looking over the hedge, he saw a little girl running away from a soldier.

He lifted her, sobbing, over a gate and arrested the soldier.

Stocker's explanation to the court was that he had been drinking.

The child's mother said some of her clothing had been torn.

Nobody mentioned how lucky she was the Chief Constable was having his constitutional at that moment...

DCM for a Bottesford hero of Ypres

BOTTESFORD rejoiced in the news that Driver Ernest H Jallands of the 5th Reserve Battery, Royal Field Artillery, had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Russian Medal of St George, 3rd Class, "for conspicuous gallantry on 30 April 1915 near Ypres, when he left the shelter of his dug-out, stopped a team of run-away horses of another battery under heavy fire; on 2 May 1915 when taking up ammunition, his waggon and team were hit by a shell but, though wounded in both legs, he succeeded in unhitching the surviving horses and taking them to safety."

Builder's waggoner Joseph Jallands, 54, and his 56-year-old wife Emma, who have had 12 children, have four sons serving the King. It is hoped Driver Jallands, whose injured leg is still a source of much pain and trouble, will soon be well enough to come home to recuperate.

Flag Day for sick, wounded horses

THE Misses Marjory and Sybil Barrow of Normanton Hall, Southwell, with Miss Broadhurst of Upton raised £14 on Saturday with a flag day for the RSPCA's fund for sick and wounded horses in the British Army.

Newark ladies aid two of our prisoners of war

THANKS are given to Mrs Lily Tallents, Miss Oates and three ladies who wish to remain anonymous who have sent boxes of comforts to two of Newark's prisoners of war, Private G H Beckett, 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters, of 1 Stanley Terrace, Beacon Hill, and Private J Kay, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, of 3 Hardy's Yard, Eldon Street.

Now Private John Doncaster, a veteran of service in India with the 1st Sherwoods, has written from Hanover saying he is in desperate need of a pair of boots (size 9s) and trousers.

Mrs Pink has obtained the trousers; could anyone please supply the boots?



WIDOW'S SON BACK FROM THE DEAD!

WIDOW Elizabeth Killingley at 25 Bowbridge Road, Newark, received a massive shock in the post on Sunday morning: a postcard from the son she thought was dead.

And it was quickly followed by a letter from him.

Even better, both were dated well after she was assured Private Harry Killingley of the 9th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment had been killed in action.

His letter explained he had been one of the bearers at the funeral of Alfred Savage of 6 Newnham Road, a fellow pupil at the Mount School.

Someone must have mixed up the two mates. Mrs Killingley rushed to spread the word to his brother and sister – plus his workmates at Simpson's where he is a pattern-maker.

Grief visits two more families

THE POSTMAN delivered grief to two more local families last week – in Newark and North Collingham.

On Wednesday morning, landscape gardener Joseph Robert Dench and his wife Katherine at 6 Middlegate, Newark, received the dreaded news of one of their soldier sons, Alfred Charles (pictured above left).

Two days later, it was the turn of maltster's labourer John Starr and his wife Mary in Low Street, North Collingham, to receive two letters about their third son, Arthur.

The letter to Mr and Mrs Dench was written by Sergeant Major H Young, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, after 23-year-old Alf had 'gone over the top' successfully, negotiated No Man's Land, and entered an enemy trench.

He said: "I regret to have to inform you of the death of your son, No.13714 Sgt A C Dench, which took place about 6pm on the evening of 27 September.

"He had just got into a German trench with his Platoon and was telling his men to pass along when he fell forward and died in less than two minutes."

Alf had always wanted to be a soldier. After leaving Mount School, he worked for the Post Office but at the age of only 14, managed to join the King's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and was proud to earn two promotions.

Now he is remembered on the Loos Memorial.

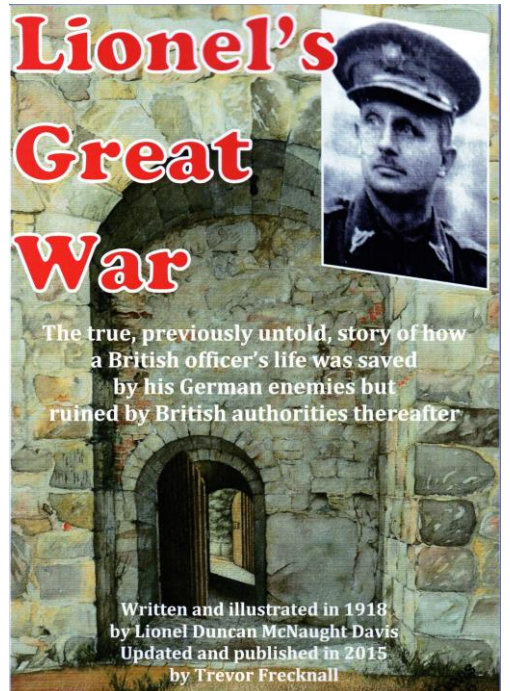
More than Mr and Mrs Starr mourn Arthur. He was married only last year to Mary Askew, and worked in Nottingham before answering the call.

Aged 27, he became a Rifleman in the 7th King's Royal Rifle Corps. It appears he was hit by a shell on 27 September.

He is remembered in the Bedford House Cemetery, Ypres.

Arthur's story is one of many in *Collingham and District in The Great War*, a 160-page chronology compiled by Trevor Frecknall and on sale now in Collingham Post Office and WH Smith, Newark Market Place, price £9.99.

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