

Great War Bulletin

No. 66...Newark...Monday 1 November 1915

'Dead' son writes home!

BLACKSMITH Charles Lawrence and his wife Emma of 25 Jubilee Street, Newark, received a letter from their 19-year-old son Charles Sydney – proof positive that he was not killed, as previously reported, in the 8th Sherwoods' capture of Hohenzollern Redoubt.

The letter, dated last Tuesday, said he suffered a cut face and had his eyes "filled with sand and powder" by a shell burst but he is recovering so well at the 6th Base Hospital in Rouen that he expects to be discharged soon.

There are plenty to share the Lawrences' joy: five of their six children are still living.

AFTER HOLLENZOLLERN HORRORS...

Sympathy for stricken Becher

THERE WAS much subdued emotion at Newark County Magistrates' Court on Wednesday morning when a letter was read from its Clerk, the gallant Major John Pickard Becher.

Despite his onerous duties with the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, he found time to thank them for their congratulations on his being awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

It was, of course, written before he was dangerously wounded in the assault on the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

The Chairman of the Bench, Colonel Nicholson, spoke for the entire court when he stated that heartfelt sympathy went out to Major Becher in the terrible suffering he must have undergone during the 48 hours' exposure before he was found.

It was the first time the public had been informed the stricken officer had lain helpless in front of the enemy trenches for two entire days before assistance arrived.

Sherwoods' spirit is praised by town Vicar

THE VICAR of Newark, Canon Paton Hindley, paid tribute from his pulpit on Sunday morning to the soldiers who suffered on the front line.

He told his congregation: "While we deplore the losses to the 8th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters and the other battalions of this great North Midlands Division, we thank God for the splendid spirit which has been displayed by officers and men worthy of the best traditions of the English Army."

King calls for more fighters

WITH Newark, Southwell and district reeling from the deaths and woundings suffered by their officers and men of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters at the Hohenzollern Redoubt on 13-15 October, the *Newark Advertiser* reproduced on Wednesday 'The King's Message to the Nation – a moving personal appeal' complete with his signature:

"To my people.

At this grave moment in the struggle between my people and a highly organised enemy who has transgressed the Laws of Nations and changed the ordinance that binds civilised Europe together, I appeal to you. I rejoice in my Empire's effort, and I feel pride in the voluntary response from my Subjects all over the world who have sacrificed home, fortune and life itself in order that another may not inherit the free Empire which their ancestors and mine have built. I ask you to make good these sacrifices. The end is not in sight.

More men and yet more are wanted to keep my Armies in the Field, and through them to secure Victory and enduring Peace.

In ancient days the darkest moment has ever produced in men of our race the sternest resolve. I ask you, men of all classes, to come forward voluntarily and take your share in the fight. In freely responding to my appeal, you will be giving your support to our brothers, who for long months have nobly upheld Britain's past traditions and the glory of her Arms. "

George R.

'Give Sherwoods priority'

The Duke of Portland, in his role as President of the Nottinghamshire Territorial Force Association, reinforced the desperation in a letter to Lord Derby, who had been tasked with increasing the volume of recruits:

"The two territorial infantry units in this county whose first lines are in France are very short of recruits to form drafts to fill up deficiencies and they have suffered great losses in the recent engagement. We are extremely desirous to support the voluntary recruiting scheme which is now before the country, but we feel the filling up of county units should be given the first consideration before men are taken from their county for outside units. "

Villages to be trawled for recruits

THE Newark Division Parliamentary Recruiting Committee met in the Town Hall on Thursday afternoon and urged every delegate to carry out a thorough canvass in his village.

The 'Pied Pipers' are: Henry Wyles (Cropwell Butler), John James Hill, Leonard Norman Barrow and Samuel Booth (Southwell), James Haslam (Radcliffe-on-Trent), Everitt Brown (Norwell), James W Spray (Barnby), John Gibson (Spalford), Frederick Henry Boulter and Frederick Taylor (Sutton-on-Trent), Harry Edwin Cooper (South Clifton), William Buck (Farndon), Vincent Randall (Bingham), Frederick George Vessey (Balderton), John Clark and G Hind (Collingham), Samuel Richardson and James Lodder (East Bridgford), Edward John Storm (South Muskham), George Brownlow Naylor (Cromwell), J Hardy (Staunton).

Other officials were Oliver Quibell (chairman, Canvassing Committee), H D Cherry-Downes (chairman, Finance Committee), Major E F Milthorpe (chairman, Attestation Committee), and the secretaries Herbert Simons and Fred T Jones.

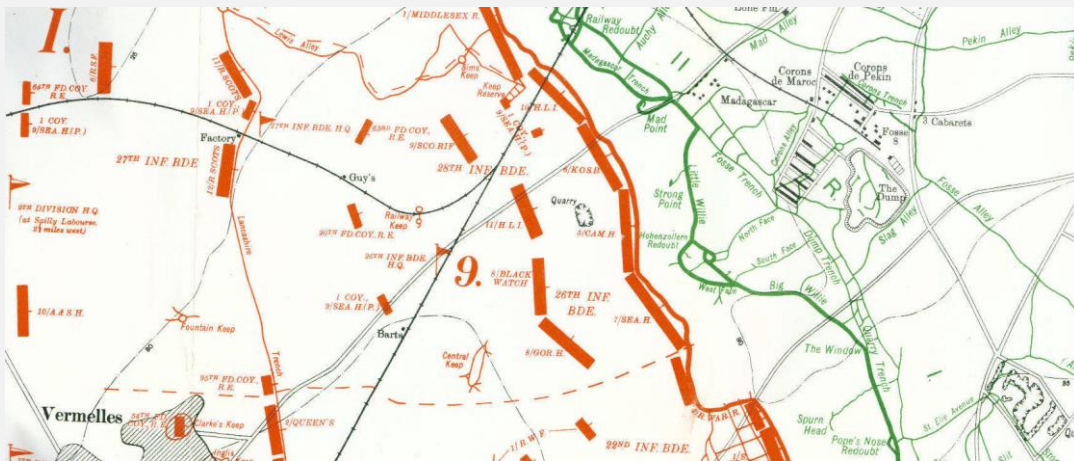
Southwell's 7 serving sons

THE Southwell canvassers had no reason to call at the home of Thomas Stephenson in the Hearty Goodfellow Yard off Church Street.

An old volunteer for the last 19 years, he has seven sons serving – Thomas, 8th Sherwoods; Fred and George, Cameron Highlanders; Leonard, 1st Sherwoods; William, 3rd Sherwoods; Baden and Arthur, Royal Engineers.

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

The Hohenzollern battleground



The modern map shows how the British lined-up for the battle on 13 October 1915.

Twelve days later, a special correspondent of The Morning Post reported:

“Official reports confirm the fact that we have consolidated our grip on the Hohenzollern Redoubt east of Vermelles and south of the famous railway triangle of La Bassee ...

The history of our capture of this formidable position, which incidentally breaks up the enemy's line and opens a way to Haisnes, Douvrin and so round La Bassee to the south and east, is one of pure and simple heroism, unsurpassed in the story of the British Army.

At no period and in no corner of any battle in which our men have ever been engaged has the demand upon individual courage been greater or more nobly responded to.”

...pure and simple heroism

STEEL HELMETS AT LAST FOR 'POOR BLOODY INFANTRY'

STEEL HELMETS were introduced on the British Front yesterday in a development considered by recently-mauled members of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters to be an example of the stable door being slammed long after the horse has bolted.

Britain had sent its Expeditionary Force across the Channel wearing peaked caps last year, while France equipped its men with a traditional wool kepi.

But after horrendous losses sustained by the Allies when they sent infantrymen charging across open countryside into the face of intense enemy fire, both nations opted for more protection.

Engineer John Leopold Brodie designed a simple shallow bowl with a pronounced rim all the way around, similar to the helmet worn primarily by archers in the Middle Ages. Sturdy but heavy, it slipped sideways when soldiers were on the move but provided overhead protection from shrapnel, stones, and dirt raining into the trenches during artillery bombardments.

PARCELS FOR OUR PoWs

COMFORTS parcels were sent last week to Sergeant Warriner (Northumberland Fusiliers), Private Billyard (2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters), Private Tacey (1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment) and Private White (2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment).

SWINDERBY SON IS HELD

PARENTS-OF-NINE John and Charlotte Gilbert of Back Street, Swinderby, discovered yesterday that their son George, 23, a Private in the 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, is a prisoner at Munster but otherwise safe and sound.

NEWARK DOCTOR ENLISTS

DOCTOR PATRICK KINMONT of 39 London Road, Newark, yesterday joined the Royal Army Medical Corps as a Lieutenant “for one year or the duration of the war.”

'Magnificent generosity' of Newark donors

THE audited accounts of the Newark Mayoral Funds established since the outbreak of The Great War reveal £2,182 19s 4d raised for the Prince of Wales's Fund, £926 14s 8½d for the Local Belgian Relief Fund, £288 8s 1d for the Mayoress's Working Party Fund and £52 5s 4d for the relief of Belgians still struggling to live in their occupied homeland.

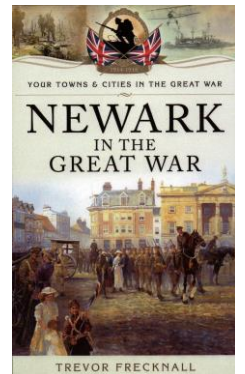
The figures reveal the “magnificent generosity” of the Newark public, says the auditor, Thomas Harrison, who is also the Corporation accountant. They also illustrate the extent to which voluntary donations were vital to the War Effort.

The generous spirit extended to the villages, too. North Muskham's Belgian Fund collectors went door-to-door to raise funds to buy Christmas gifts for the men and boys of their parish and Bathley who are fighting the war. They raised £10 11s 6d which would be turned into presents by Mesdames Frances Olive Lavinia Williams, wife of the parish vicar, and Sarah Gardner, whose husband is a retired farmer.

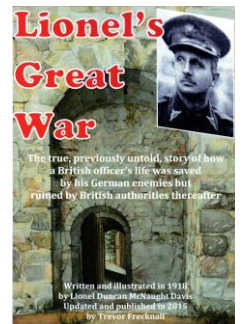
Children to be taught only for half-days

THE Newark Education Committee had a re-think on Friday with the Royal Engineers occupying two schools. Barnby Road scholars will go to school half-time, morning and afternoon in alternate weeks, with the Wesleyan Scholars. Lover's Lane children are in the Old Magnus Buildings. St Leonard's and the infants will attend half-time with the Mount infants.

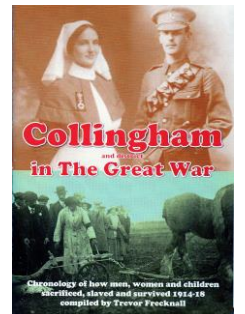
Great War books out now



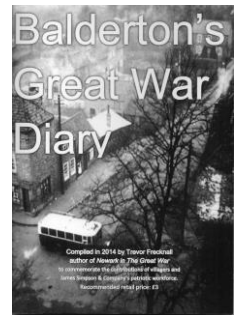
£14.99



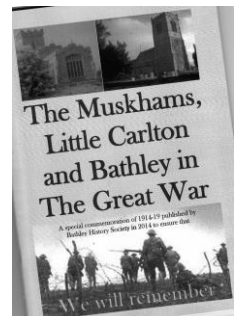
£10.50



£9.99



£3.00



£3.00

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place