

Great War Bulletin

No. 67...Newark...Monday 8 November 1915

DEADLY BIRTHDAY NEWS AS THE TOLL RISES

IT WAS Ernest Chilvers' 18th birthday last Monday – and his parents in Hawton Grange Cottages received a card they did neither expect nor wanted ... confirmation from the War Office that he had been killed in action.

He had worked for 18 months as a farm servant to John Robb at Norwell before enlisting last November, successfully convincing the authorities that he was either old enough or strong enough to serve.

It turns out he had been shot in the abdomen and succumbed to his wounds on 27 October.

Private 3286 Chilvers, the son of Philip and Sarah Jane, is remembered in Abbeville Communal Cemetery, some 80km south of Boulogne.

CHARLOTTE LOWE, struggling to rear children aged eight and two at 8 Egglestone's Yard, was told on Saturday that her husband, Lance Corporal Frederick James Lowe, 29, had succumbed to wounds received when the 8th Sherwoods stormed the Hollenzollern Redoubt.

First she was told Fred had been wounded but it was hoped he would recover. Then she heard that he had lost his left arm in a shell blast.

Finally she was informed that he passed away four days after being hit. Born and bred in Newark, Fred was a moulder at Ransome's until he enlisted on 8 September 1914.

Private 2376 Lowe is remembered in the Military Cemetery at Chocques near Bethune.

Charlotte will give birth to a third child in April 1916 and will suffer a triple tragedy in 1926: her second husband, George Brown will die; her eldest child (8) will be killed in a railway accident on the Northgate sidings; and a new-born baby will pass away 24 hours later.

HOURS before Newark's memorial service, widower George Hazzard of Kneesall was notified that his 20-year-old son Albert was shot and killed as he stood with mates from the 8th Sherwoods in a German trench they had just captured.

He had been a labourer at Caunton Lodge Farm pre-War.

Now he will join thousands of Allies in the Loos Memorial.

SOUTHWELL learned on Thursday of another 8th Sherwoods hero who died on the Hohenzollern Redoubt: 20-year-old Corporal John Sharman, who had earlier earned the Medal of St George, a Russian decoration.

Now his father, traction engine driver Thomas of Westhorpe has received a letter from an officer saying fearless John was an excellent fellow who would have been a sergeant in no time.

In memory of the gallant 8th

A SERVICE was held in Newark Parish Church on Tuesday afternoon in memory of the fallen officers and men of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Forester – and was all the more impressive for the message delivered by the Chaplain of the Battalion, the Reverend John Percy Hales, from the chancel steps.

Having returned from the blood-soaked battlefield around the Hohenzollern Redoubt only a short time ago, he told the packed congregation:

"We have known that you were praying for us. And we have been strengthened again and again and again and again – sometimes on the parade ground, sometimes with half-a-dozen men around the camp fire, sometimes in the hospital as we did the other night after the attack with 40 or 50 men in the ward with perhaps two candles burning – we have known that you are supporting us by your prayers.

"It may seem that this is a sad service but the message I have for you is just this ... It is all light and not dark. It is all life and not death. I have just come back and it is my privilege to speak these few words to you.

"It is a message of comfort that I have got to give you that when the Dayspring from on high hath visited us He giveth light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He guides our feet, even in sorrow, in the way of peace. If I had never believed in the Resurrection before I went out, what I have since seen and learnt would have convinced me of it.

"It is all life and as we lay them together, one by one – and sometimes many at a time – it always seemed to me that it is life; just life.

"Sometimes I have hardly heard my own voice for the noise of the guns and yet nothing has ever put out that light, even in the dark. Nothing has yet silenced the wonderful message of hope and life which is given us in the last service which we say for our loved ones, who love God as our refuge and strength. We know that He has supported us in strength, and now that in His keeping they are alive. They have just got promoted to a higher job.

SO FEW OF THE MEN WHO MARCHED OUT SURVIVE NOW

SAYS CHAPLAIN

"When I have seen the great sacrifices our men make, I can only thank God that the sacrifice is accepted by the God of Love. Their sacrifices – with all their imperfections – I do not say they are perfect – are received into His keeping and perfected until at last 'They serve Him as they ought'.

"I wonder how many of you who saw us go out from Newark on that morning (10 August 1914) have any idea how few there are, comparatively speaking, of the officers and men who still remain. Two officers are at present here on leave and there is one still out there. The proportion of men who remain is about the same...

"I will not individualise – my greatest friends are not merely officers but some of my best friends are among the non-commissioned officers and men of other ranks – and I know they have all done their best.

"But there is one I must speak of. Only one. You who have got loved ones out there – or have had – have much to thank God for that the men have been under the influence of Herbert Fowler, and have been helped and strengthened by his example. He is trusting me to do exactly what he would wish, being the humblest man I ever met, and in praising him I would only say as I said to the Battalion, and was echoed in the heart of every man on parade, I thank God for his friendship.

"There is one who wrote to me and said, 'I don't think there is one of us who would not gladly have died if he could have been spared.' Loved as few men could be loved, a

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

REMEMBERING 8TH

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wonderful soldier and a gallant gentleman, but above all a servant of God, he has led the men since we started. He has said, 'I led you out. I hope I shall lead you back.' I say he is living in the nearer presence of the God he serves. Every man who had the privilege of serving under him is a better man and thanks God for such a leadership.

"For those who are to carry on the work I know you will especially pray that they may have the courage to endure, and for the mourners I would especially say ... I believe in the resurrection of the body, and I also believe in the Communion of Saints. What a wonderful message this is to us today: we on this side; they who have served and honoured the King of Kings have gone on to see his face. We can only try to seek for it, learn to serve and find the strength to endure...

"Go back to your homes – it may be to great suffering – but go back knowing that God is giving you light and giving you strength and keeping them safe."



Mayoress serves tea to wounded

MRS ANNIE KEW (*above*) ended her tireless spell as Mayoress by joining her Ladies Committee as a waitress on Thursday when more than 70 wounded Tommies sat down in the Town Hall to a substantial meat tea laid on for them by Messrs Clarke & Son of Stodman Street.

Among the diners were an ex-choirboy who has overcome 12 wounds, a pork pie-lover who has lost 21 teeth – and a chap who celebrated news that he is to receive the Distinguished Conduct Medal by downing seven cups of tea.

Mrs Kew also penned a letter to the local papers on behalf of the beleaguered 8th Sherwoods: "Captain Davenport has asked me if I can procure him 25 woollen sweaters of any colour for the use of his men who have to drive the transport to the firing line these winter nights in all sorts of weather..."

"It occurs to me that there are tennis, cricket and golf players, rowing men and others who will be glad to spare their sweaters for this object..."

Sutton gifts

SUTTON-on-Trent has already raised £18 7s 9d to buy Christmas presents for its soldiers.

And it's still hell

ALFRED DONCASTER, 'somewhere in Belgium' with a Canadian contingent, has written home to mum Annie at 21 Appletongate, Newark, from a trench within 300 yards of the Germans:

"They are using explosive bullets and they give you a shock if one goes off close to you. We also got a shock coming out of the trenches. There were 20 bandsmen who had been to take rations to men, and we were waiting for a guide to take us out of the trenches. We were talking amid shot and shell when six or seven bullets struck the parapet close to us and then a big bomb or something burst and made a very loud report. It blinded us for a moment. We all felt the heat from it..."

"The Germans are shelling a village quite close to us ... It is quite heart-rending to see some of the scenes ... girls of 12 or 13 years of age, with their parents killed, and the place they called home shelled day after day. Yet the poor beggars won't move. It's only hearth and home on fire that fetches them out. We are kept busy and I think 6 of our boys have got wounded up to now."

Greedy property owners slammed

NEWARK TRADES COUNCIL is campaigning against "rapacious property owners" who are increasing rents that families cannot afford.

President Samuel Grocock, vice-presidents J Hind and E Patrick plus secretary G Smith threatened last week to form a Tenants' League unless the practice is voluntarily ended. They cited three examples:

1. a widow with three sons in the Army facing a 3d per week increase;
2. wife with two children, husband in France, 8d increase;
3. wife with 9 children (all under 14), husband wounded in France, 6d increase.

They added: "These men are not only fighting for themselves, but for landlords and others."

TOP SECRET:

RE's move into Workhouse

THE CENSORS did not allow this story to be published in 1915 but it can now be revealed that the Local Government Board has approved of the military occupying the west wing of Newark Workhouse.

The development was recorded as a *fait accompli* in the minute book of the Newark Board of Guardians, who only a fortnight earlier had agreed to find room for Lincolnshire poor folk made homeless by the military taking over the Gainsborough Workhouse.

Now the Newark Guardians begin to bargain with Derby over how many poor souls can be moved there – and at what cost.

Coddington Major is promoted

MAJOR THORPE of Coddington Hall has been promoted Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel and appointed commanding officer of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, in place of the legendary Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Milbanke VC, who died leading "the final cavalry charge" in the Dardanelles.

It does not affect his wife: she continues to harness the efforts of ladies in the district to ensure comforts are sent to the men in the firing lines.

Factory owner's daughter married

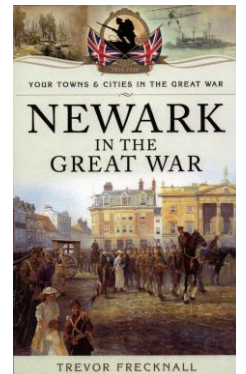
THE MUMBY family who make clothes from the huge Osmondthorpe Works in Appletongate, Newark, manufactured a happy occasion. Gladys Mary d'Arcy, 23, second daughter of William Mummy, the governing director of the family firm, was married at Newark Parish Church to Royal Field Artillery Lieutenant Arthur Geoffrey Howitt of a family firm of printers in Nottingham.

The service was arranged so hurriedly while Howitt was on a brief leave that there was no time for Gladys to arrange to be attended by bridesmaids.

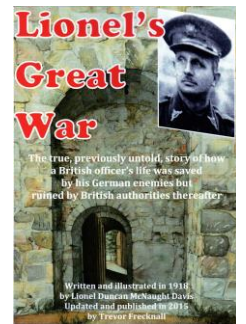
Shops close for lunch for first time

BECAUSE depleted staffs are becoming exhausted, shops affiliated to the Newark Tradesmen's Association begin to close for a dinner hour, 1-2pm, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. As Thursday is half-day closing, Market Days are the only days when they remain open.

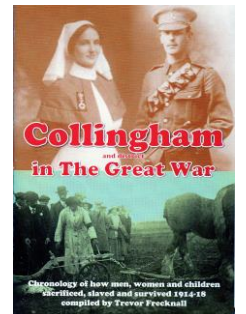
Great War books out now



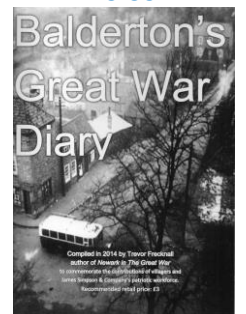
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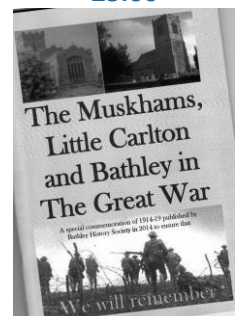
£10.50



£9.99



£3.00



£3.00

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place