

Great War Bulletin

No. 82...Newark...Monday 21 February 1916

Zeppelin danger is brought home

AN INQUEST in Lincolnshire today helped to explain why Newark is suddenly worried about air raids.

The report of the inquest is heavily censored, of course: no places are mentioned and no individuals are identified.

But the fact is that a young farmer was killed on Friday by a Zeppelin bomb fuse that exploded after it had been taken into his house by his sister.

She had found it embedded in a grass verge the previous Sunday and they had 'played with it' every night until it exploded, the inquest was told to the incredulity of no-one. For the simple fact was that innocent villagers had no concept of the dangers.

The Coroner (who also remained anonymous in the reports) condemned the cowardice of the Germans, advised the jury to return a verdict of accidental death – and asked the police and military authorities to conduct a search for the bomb, which might still be in the vicinity...

And now it has become apparent that the dreaded airships almost certainly flew over Newark.

For news came through last night that the Mayoress of "a Staffordshire town" had died from injuries received in a bombing raid on 31 January.

Newspapers were allowed to say that she was the 63rd victim of the attack.

A century later, it is possible to say that the Germans thought they had caused great damage in Liverpool, Birkenhead, Bootle and Garton and considerable damage to factories in Manchester, Sheffield and Nottingham; whilst they had also bombed to "good effect" Humberside and Great Yarmouth. But it was an exceptionally foggy night: they had dropped their bombs on Burton-on-Trent and neighbourhood. The final toll was 67 dead.

Testing time: Tribunals get to work

THE NEWARK Borough Tribunal met for the first time on Saturday night with the power to decide whether workmen considered invaluable by their employers should really be fighting in the Armed Forces.

But to all intents and purposes the process had begun on Wednesday when Newark County Magistrates heard the first case of a local tradesman who had failed to register under regulations drawn-up last August to identify all men capable of being conscripted.

Butcher James Staples Tustin, who lives in Winthorpe and has a shop in Stodman Street, was fined £1 and ordered to register immediately.

And he was among the first appellants to appear before the Tribunal, which consisted of Mayor Knight (presiding), Alderman Atter, Councillors Lacy, Kew and Patrick; Mr Cherry-Downes, the Borough military representative; and Colonel E H Nicholson, the area military representative; while Mr H Simons took a watching brief in the interests of the War Office.

Tustin, 27, pleaded for exemption from military service because he is the sole manager of his business. His appeal was granted.

Mrs Jane Stennett, 56, proprietress of the *Newark Herald* newspaper and printer, had the distinction of introducing the first case on behalf of her son, Jesse Norman Stennett, 22, who had previously been put back to Group 10 (and therefore unlikely to be called-up). She explained that has three businesses at 16 Market Place – stationery, general printing and newspaper production – and Jesse manages the general printing department and its seven employees. He also prints

'Please Mr Mayor ... I
can't go and fight'
Oh, yes you can ... go
home and pack your
bags tonight!

seven parish magazines. The Advisory Committee report states the employees are excellent and can carry on the work without him. His appeal was dismissed. (Jesse survived until 1960, when his death in a road accident will lead to the closure of the *Herald*.)

William Walker, hairdresser, Beaumont Cross, pleaded that his business will be ruined if his son and business partner, William Percy, 28, is called-up. Young William was ordered to enlist.

Dentist Charles Nelson Park, 39, of 16 Castlegate appealed on behalf of his technician, Edgar Baines, 18. He argued that they are doing so much work for the Royal Engineers based in and around Newark that they are clocking-up 15 to 20 hours overtime each week. The Tribunal refused to exempt Baines, leaving the War Office to decide whether it is necessary for him to remain in civilian employment.

George Brunt, 23, who works for corn merchant Samuel Ellis, pleaded that he has two brothers serving, his father is an invalid so he is the only man left to look after his mother at home, 44

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

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Tribunal decides who will work, who will fight...

Barnbygate. He was granted a temporary exemption to 3 April but warned that he would have to find alternative arrangements for the care of his parents.

Harvey Brothers of Cartergate applied to keep plumber William Headland of 60 Milner Street because he supported his widowed mother Fanny, 60.

In addition, they pointed out that three of their staff of seven had already joined-up voluntarily. The appeal was dismissed ... Headland had to head off to War.

Saddler Walter Edlin of 17 Middlegate, doubtless learning from listening to preceding cases, agreed to a temporary exemption to 3 April so that he could hand over the management of his business to his father.

Wholesale clothiers W Mumby and Son pleaded that Frank Gilbert Niblett, their stock room and despatch department manager, Albert Javens, measure order department manager, and clerk J Taylor Hardy were all indispensable.

After the Tribunal weighed the evidence, Javens was granted a temporary exemption to 1 June; but the Niblett and Hardy appeals were dismissed.

Thus meant that Mumby's, renowned as one of the most forward-thinking employers in the country never mind the town, had to urgently devise a way of maintaining high production of uniforms without some of their most experienced managers.

It was a task that would face many more employers before The Great War ended as the need for soldiers, in particular, became ever greater.

Farmer's son killed at Ypres

FARMER George and Longmate and his wife Jane at Hill View, Sutton-on-Trent, learned yesterday that their elder son, Private Arthur Gerald Longmate, 30, of the 5th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry, was killed in action on 10 February at Ypres.

The weekly papers reported that "much sympathy is felt for the parents, brother, sisters and fiancée" – but did not name the grieving young lady.

Private 18314 Longmate is remembered at the Menin Gate Memorial – one of 54,393 identified casualties in this single battlefield.

ALBERT MEDAL HERO BECAME R&M LEADER

LIEUTENANT HENRY HIGGS of the Royal Engineers' Training Centre at Newark, was on Thursday awarded the Albert Medal 1st Class following "a grenade incident".

Censorship forbade the public learning more, but this decoration, made of gold and bronze, was established by Royal Warrant in 1866 to reward "daring and heroic actions performed by mariners and others in danger of perishing, by reason of wrecks and other perils of the sea."

A century later, it is possible to reveal that heroic Henry went on to play a pivotal role in Newark becoming a major centre of the engineering industry.

For when he died on 23 February 1936, his obituary in Grace's Guide to British Industrial History paid fulsome tribute to his many achievements in peacetime as well as War...

Lt.-Colonel HENRY JOSEPH HIGGS, O.B.E., A.M., R.E. (S.R.), was vice-chairman and managing director of the Ransome and Marles Bearing Company Ltd., of Newark on Trent, and a director of the Projectile and Engineering Company Ltd., London. He was born in London in 1886 and was educated at St. Paul's School and Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he graduated with honours in the mechanical sciences tripos in 1909. He received his practical training at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham, and in 1911 was made a second lieutenant in the special reserve of officers of the Royal Engineers. In 1912 he went to Egypt as a member of the Egyptian Government Irrigation Service and carried out much of the work in connexion with the Esna Barrage, where he was in charge of the workshops and pumping plant. He was recalled to the Army in 1914 and served in France with the Royal Engineers; later he was wounded at Neuve Chapelle. From 1916 to 1919 he was attached to G.H.Q. staff in Palestine. He was thrice mentioned in dispatches and was awarded the Albert Medal (military) in gold for bravery, and later received the O.B.E. In 1920 he was transferred to the special reserve of retired officers of the Royal Engineers.

Colonel Higgs was elected an Associate Member of the Institution in 1914 and was transferred to Membership in 1917.

First ladies

THE previously all-male Newark Education Committee accepted Miss Albina Tidd Pratt and Miss Ethel Cubley as members!

The annual Newark Hospital Concert, for so long associated with Miss Cubley, was as successful as ever last Thursday night. Artistes included Miss Carrie Tubb, the leading English soprano; Maurice d'Oisly, tenor with the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden; Robert Radford, England's greatest bass; Miss Dorothy Varick, songs and stories at the piano.

Farndon lady's light offence

MISS DOROTHY BROCKTON, 25, of Farndon Hall was fined £1 by Newark Magistrates last Monday for having two "naked electric side lamps" on her motor car. The magistrates told her that she could and should have dimmed them with her handkerchiefs.

Farm leader

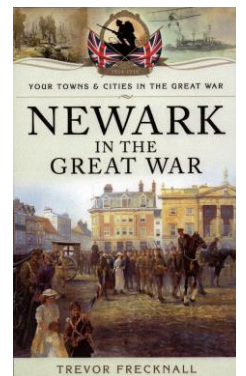
NOTTS Farmers' Union elected Arthur Stretton of Sibthorpe Manor as their new chairman.

AUCTIONEERS Edward Bailey and Son conducted a well-attended sale at the County Horse Repository, Tolney Lane, on Thursday with buyers from as far afield as London,

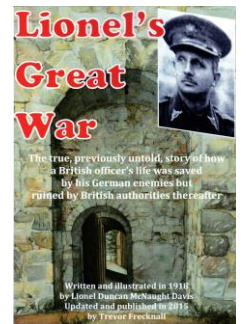
Nottingham, Lincoln and Lancashire. Cart horses sold for 116 guineas to 41gns, van horses from 71gns to 31gns and harness horses make up to 23gns.

Tolney Lane horse sales

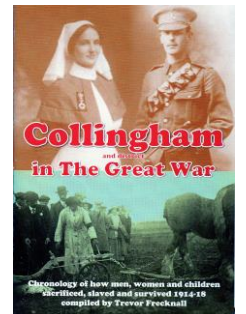
Great War books out now



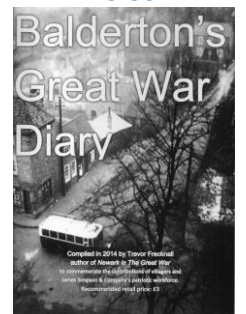
£14.99



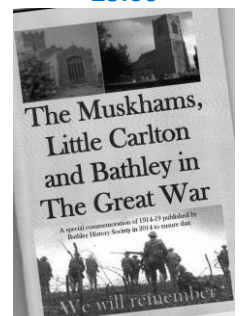
£10.50



£9.99



£3.00



£3.00

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place