

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

Edited by Trevor Frecknall, author of several books on the World Wars

# Great War Bulletin

No. 87...Newark...Monday 27 March 1916

# Tribunals under fire

IT CAN BE REVEALED that the Mayor of Newark called a secret meeting last Wednesday of the four Tribunals tasked with deciding which men go to fight and which stay and work.

The purpose was to try and make sure that the Newark Borough, Newark Rural, Southwell Rural and Claypole Rural Tribunals are

consistent in their dealings with the cases of married men.

The discussion revealed that the vast majority of Tribunal members do not want to send married men off to fight until they have dealt with all the single men under their discretionary powers.

So they passed a resolution calling on the Government to cancel and postpone the calling-up of all married men until a Military Service Act calling all married men to the Colours is passed, on the

lines of the Act passed in the case of single men.

It would prove ineffective: they were swiftly ordered to work to the rules imposed nationally...

## 'Shirker' sons

The Newark branch of the Farmers' Union, meeting at the Royal Oak at the same time, heard many complaints that Tribunals were treating farmers' sons as shirkers.

Farmer and flour salesman John Charles Fisher of North Road, Sutton-on-Trent, pushed through a motion that the Tribunals be asked to use greater discretionary powers and leave similar-sized farms with the same number of workers.

**More Tribunal decisions: next page**

## SHOPS LOSE STAFF AND CLOSE EARLIER

NEWARK Tradesmen's Association president Ernest Randall presented his annual report at a meeting at the Robin Hood Hotel last Monday evening: the uniform hours for closing shops had resulted in mutual advantage to shopkeepers, assistants and customers; and when more men had to enlist, dinner hour closing would almost certainly be extended to every day except Thursday (which is early closing day). He then proposed the new president – G H Porter, a member of the Association for 21 years who has 2 sons in the Forces. Mr Porter explains Councillor William Selby, the butcher at 108 Barnbygate, was to have been elected but feels unable to take on the role since the recent death of his wife Eva, 44, after a long and painful illness [the dreaded word 'cancer' is never used in this era] a fortnight ago.

## Trent guard fined for stealing chickens

SAPPER WALTER BOTT of the Royal Engineers was fined £1 [£92 in 2016 values] by Newark Borough Magistrates on Tuesday for stealing two chickens while he was on river Trent guard duty between the Spring House and Traveller's Rest on Sunday night.

He tried to sell them without realising he was dealing with retired Police Inspector Lewis Watson, 57, whose inquiries revealed miller John T Parnham's flock of 89 had shrunk to 87 at 20 Crown Street.

## Colonel Fowler's will

THE WILL of the late Officer Commanding the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler, amounted to £30,744 9s 6d gross (£2,823,708 in 2016 values). He left the bulk of his estate to his widow, Margaret Mary Maitland Fowler.

## Royal Engineers silence an MP!

THE Royal Engineers based in Newark turned out in force yesterday afternoon to sabotage a married men's protest meeting at which the star speaker was to be Sir Arthur Markham, Liberal MP for Mansfield.

Every time he attempted to speak against married men being sent into the Armed Forces, the REs broke into song ... "We don't want to lose you, but we think you ought to go" ... "It's a long way to Tipperary" ... "Keep the home fires burning".

The Kinema was packed but the meeting was eventually abandoned when it became clear that the REs were not going to back down.

## NEWS OF MORE LOCALS MEN TAKEN PRISONER

MORE prisoners of war were added on Saturday to the list of those receiving parcels from well-wishers in Newark: Lance Corporal J H Beckett and Private Wiffin, 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, were both captured "somewhere in France" on 10 February.

## Southwell loses another hero

THE DEATH of another Southwell hero was announced by the Bishop at the close of last evening's service in the Minster.

Private Edwin Gilbert – "Tich" to family and friends – left the local lace factory to join the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, fought through Hohenzollern and other tough battles, but was shot in the face last week.

His sister Nora, 28, housekeeper to their widower father William, 69, rushed out to France to see him in hospital but he passed away on Friday, aged 30.

He is remembered at the Military Cemetery in Le Report, a French coastal town which had military hospitals with nearly 10,000 beds.

## Light costs licensee

JAMES BEAUMONT, licensee of the Duke of Cumberland public house, was fined 5s at Newark Borough Police Court on Thursday for having a light showing through his back kitchen window. He blamed a maid.

## Refugee fund closed

VILLAGERS in North Muskham and Bathley wound-up their Belgian Relief Fund, handing the balance of £2 2s 6½d to Madame Camille Guerns, one of the Belgian refugees who has settled in Newark.

## New Major is aged 41

COUNTY public health officer Thomas Edward Holmes, 41, of Old Mill House, Bleasby, employed, was commissioned a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was posted to Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham.

## Floods 0 Football 1

DESPITE part of the old Town Ground off Muskham Road being flooded to a depth of a couple of inches, a football match took place on Saturday: the Royal Engineers lost 4-2 to a team of Newark civilians.

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

# Conchie, 18!

NEWARK Rural District Tribunal refused to exempt from military service Bertie Parker Walton, 18, of Woodhill Road, North Collingham, who informed them that he has been a Christadelphian for four years and is a conscientious objector.

He argued that he was doing War work as a clerk at Wakes and Lamb in Newark. Military authorities insisted that he was not indispensable to his employers and should therefore enlist.

Bertie announced that he would launch an appeal.

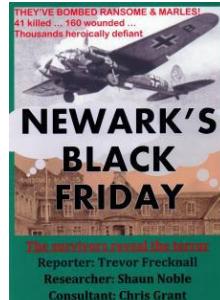
*This was one of many indications that civilians were ready to, in effect, rebel against the ever-increasing demand for more fighting men.*

Langford farmer Harry Broadberry was warned he could face six months' prison for making a false statement when, during questioning, "misunderstandings" arose over how many acres he had; he was given until 1 June to decide whether to appeal against serving ... Coddington farmer Fountain Picksley was ordered to report on 6 April despite being secretary of the Notts Farmers' Union's Newark branch of the Farmers' Union and War Agricultural Committee. He launched an appeal ... Joseph Gibson, 31, of Collingham was told to go and fight despite five of his brothers already serving, one having been killed> Tribunal said other brothers could look after their mother ... Collingham grocer William Mitchelson was told to go and fight after Tribunal heard that he worked at other shops on Saturdays and Wednesdays ... Tailor William Pacey, 33, whose mother was dependent on him, was told to enlist on 1 May ... Cotham farmer George Waddington was allowed to keep George Roe, 30, as his son has gone to fight ... North Clifton farmer Charles Francis Watson lost a plea that his milkman, shepherd and garthman Walter Hanson, 32, was indispensable; he must enlist now ... Collingham baker Edward D Priestley, 33, was told to enlist on 1 May ... William Toulson at Sand Farm, Hawton, was allowed to keep his only man, J H Smith, 38 ... William Johnson, 32, who had worked for his father James of Pinfold Lane, Balderton, since he was 10. was ordered to enlist on 1 June ... Master butcher Arthur Swain, 38, of Pinfold Lane was also told to report on 1 June ... Ernest Noble, 36, was allowed to remain running the family farm at Girton because his brother Abner, 33, was joining-up ... William Lee, 19, was told to enlist on 1 April, leaving his father Edward Lee alone to run their farm and mill at Coddington ... Frank Weaver, 40, was allowed to carry on as South Clifton's wheelwright, joiner and undertaker after farmers submitted a petition on his behalf ... South Clifton market gardener George Cooper, 36, was told to enlist on 1 April after military representative Col E H Nicholson said such an occupation was a luxury these days ... John H Hilton, 34, was ordered to join-up, leaving his partner H Hurt to run their Balderton butcher's shop ... Alverton farmer William Burton was allowed to keep his son Cyril, 21, on their 378-acre farm; four of his eight men had already enlisted ... A claim that George Henry Taylor of Collingham has defective eyesight was referred to the military authorities ... Collingham farmer Henry Clayton, who had one son serving, was told to send the other, Frank, 26, on 1 April – leaving him with no help ... John Evelyn Cheetham, 24, was allowed to stay as his father's horseman and cowman at Staunton after pointing out he was "lame" ... William Taylor of South Collingham was ordered to send his son Leonard, 28, to fight; he had another son to work for him ... Another Collingham farmer, Ben Broadberry, who had two sons serving,

## Young Bertie determined not to join the fighting

was told to send worker Alwyn Baumber, 23, on 14 May though the young man is married with three brothers serving ... Herbert Hopkinson at South Scarle was allowed to keep his only farm labourer, Frank Sims, 27 ... Herbert Goddard at Farndon protested it was impossible to find labourers above military age but was told his man, William Pilsworth, 20, must enlist by 14 May ... Sydney Blay Clements, 19, the only man capable of working horses on his family's 70-acre farm, was told to enlist ... William Horton, 22, was also told to go and fight, leaving his father alone on their arable smallholding at Brough ... David Goddard, 23, was told to enlist on 14 May though his father Leonard said he would have to sell their Farndon farm ... James Duff, 32, was allowed to remain working for Alverton farmer William Edwin Mellors ... Cotham farmer W A Neve was told his man, Joseph Edward Cragg, 23 and married, must enlist now ... William Johnson of Manor Farm, Balderton, said he only found a new engine driver, Albert Brookes, 23, five weeks ago after a long search; Albert was told to enlist on 14 May ... Broadholme farmer George Patchett, unable to do the hard work since he had a fall, was told his sole labourer, George A Spurr, 21, must enlist on 14 May ... Market gardener W S Baines, 22, was told to enlist instantly after he conceded four men over 50 could continue his work in South Clifton ... George Bee, 22, must enlist on 1 June, leaving his father and 83-year-old grandfather to run the 80-acre South Scarle farm ... Percy Rawson, 23, was allowed to stay with his dad, Joseph, on their South Scarle farm ... In a case that was heard in private, land agents Smith Woolley and Wigram of Collingham were allowed to keep clerk George Sowards, 19, until 1 July ... Brothers George Robert and Francis Joseph Taylor asked for their case to be heard in private and won their claim to continue running their Brough farm ... Another pair of Taylor brothers asked to stay at their father's South Clifton farm: horseman David, 38, was allowed to remain; beast-man, shepherd and labourer John Thomas, 30, had to go ... Harby farmer Herbert H Brown earned the right to stay home but his labourer, William Littleover, 23, was told to enlist ... Farmer and threshing machine owner George Brown asked to keep his three sons to run his three Girton farms: he was allowed to keep horseman Fred, 27, and cowman John William, 40; but told machine driver Joseph, 37, must fight ... Tribunal was suspicious when Tom Kirkham, 24, horseman on Walter Baston's Brough farm, submitted a doctor's certificate stating he is prone to sudden illness. He was referred to an Army medical examination and rejected as unfit for service ... The "strangest plea" was made by John Hunt, farmer at Wood Hill, Collingham, to have his son John, 30, as his horseman. Young John was already in the Yeomanry. Tribunal had no power over the Army. Mr Hunt must apply to the War Office.

OUT NOW:

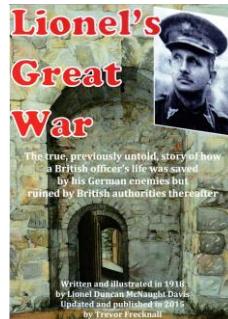


The survivors reveal the terror  
Reporter: Trevor Frecknall  
Researcher: Shaun Noble  
Consultant: Chris Grant

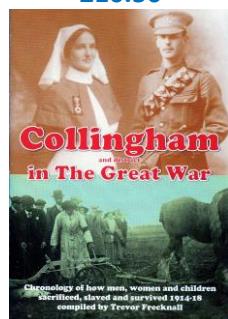
Survivors tell the dramatic story of Ransome and Marles' bombing in World War II.

£9.99 from WHSmith, Market Place, and Osborne Stationers, Kirkgate, Newark.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Great War books still available include...



£10.50



£9.99

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place