

Great War Bulletin

No. 88...Newark...Monday 3 April 1916

Feeding the war horses

THE Newark branch of the Nottinghamshire Farmers' Union received a stark reminder on Wednesday of the importance of horses to the nation's Great War effort.

Captain Foster of the War Office appeared at their meeting in the Royal Oak public house to ask for a survey to be carried out to determine how much hay, straw and corn will be available on each farm this year.

He explained that the War Office required to determine that sufficient quantities could be bought for HM Forces to ship to horses currently serving in all parts of the world.

Council's bill is £69,986

(at 2016 values)

NEWARK Borough Council announced last Monday that it estimated its services over the new financial year would cost the public £762 (the equivalent of £69,986.50 in 2016).

The Borough Police Force, based in a corner of the Town Hall, would need £83.

Weights and Measures, keeping a check on shopkeepers, were allocated £15.

Education would cost £261.

More than half of the total – £430 – was allocated to “miscellaneous”. This was mainly to implement the Registration Act introduced to ensure that every eligible man was either available for service in the Armed Forces or placed in a job of importance to the national effort.

Request for gun as souvenir

NEWARK Borough Council agreed at its monthly meeting to ask the War Office for “the gift of one or more of German guns taken from the Hohenzollern Redoubt as a memento of the courageous and dashing attack on that formidable position by the 8th Battalion, Notts and Derby Regiment, Sherwood Foresters, whose headquarters are at Newark.”

The 8th – comprising men from Newark, Southwell and district – suffered greatly but covered themselves in glory during the bayonet charge that led to the Germans being driven from fortified positions they had believed to be impregnable.

MAN LEFT WIFE AND 4 CHILDREN DESTITUTE FOR FOUR YEARS... AND IS FINED £1

Herbert Dyson was fined a sovereign by Newark Magistrates on Monday for neglecting his wife and four children for four years.

Although a sovereign in 1916 would equate to £91.85 in 2016, it was viewed as an extremely generous decision by the bench at the end of a case that had begun rather sensationally four days earlier.

For on the previous Friday, a special court was convened to hear the opening of the case.

The hastily-summoned magistrates were informed that Dyson had returned from Australia after an absence of four years last Monday.

He had been arrested as soon as the authorities realised he was back, and charged with neglecting to maintain his wife Susannah and four children under the age of 14 so that they became chargeable to the common fund of the Newark Union.

Dyson did not explain at either hearing why he deserted his family – a rarity in the era – but said he had been left £177 on the death of his father.

The lenient fine was imposed after he promised to give the £177 to Susannah to enable her to make a new home for the family, and to get a job.

The fact that the £177 – the equivalent of £16,256.71 in 2016 – was “to make a new home” indicates that poor Susannah and the children had been forced into the Newark Workhouse when Dyson deserted her, leaving her destitute.

Did he lie to court?

But immigration records available in 2016 suggest that Dyson lied to the court. In fact, he sailed from Liverpool to Chile in South America in 1912.

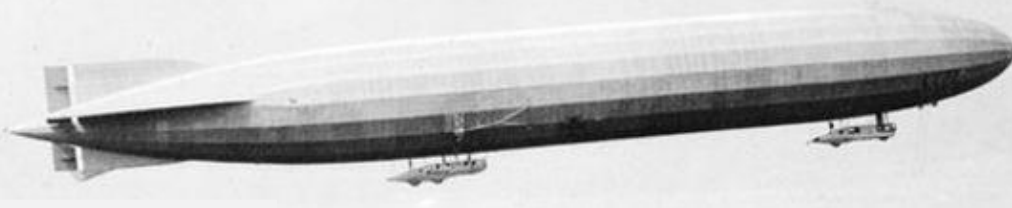
The 1911 national census reveals that the family were living in Sleaford Road, Beckingham, though they had no real connections with the Newark area.

Herbert Archibald Dyson (born 1873 near Huddersfield) described himself as a “Stilton cheese-maker”. Susannah Kitley (born 1877 Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire) had married him in 1901.

They had William Alexander in 1904, Geoffrey Oswald in 1905 and Dorothy in 1906 all in Hollingworth near Manchester, and James in 1908 after moving to Glazebury, also near Manchester.

Church clocks and bells are now silenced until the end of hostilities, under the Defence of the Realm Act

Zepp alert – hospital plea



WHISPER IT, because censors would not want this getting out, but Newark endured its biggest air raid fright on Friday night.

The klaxons warned that there was a Zeppelin about.

The special constables were rushing everywhere, making sure no lights were showing – and booking those who hadn't closed their curtains properly.

But the important fact is that there were no explosions – which was just as well, given the fact that Newark Hospital is full.

This became apparent yesterday, when an appeal was made following a meeting between the Newark Watch and War Emergency Committee, the governors of Newark hospital and the medical men of the town regarding air raids.

Because the hospital is full, supplementary provisions and equipment were necessary. The expense could not be met by the institution. It had been decided to appeal to the generous public for the articles which, earmarked for air raid purposes, could in peacetime revert to the Hospital as a free gift.

The necessary extra bandages had partly been promised. Dressings needed to be purchased. Extra mattresses had been hired from Wilkinson's in Church Street.

But 90 sheets, 60 pillow cases, 60 pillows, 12 blankets and the loan of 30 waterproof sheets were now wanted.

Gifts should be sent to the Town Hall, addressed to J C Kew, c/o Mrs Peet, Hall keeper, or to the Hospital, addressed to The Matron.

As it is an emergency, the Mayor asks for a swift and liberal response. Money to help buy necessities could also be sent to Mr Kew, Magnus Street.

It all amounted to the most desperate reminder yet that this Great War was being fought largely on voluntary effort.

For example, it was unheard of for such an important meeting to be held on the Sabbath.

Spent 21st birthday in trenches – and now loyal Fred's been killed

FRED and Fanny Footitt of 2 Slaughterhouse Lane, Newark, learnt on Saturday that their elder son Fred had been killed in action. Educated at Christ Church School, Fred laboured for Quibell's and then the Newark Gas Company before joining the Territorials when War was declared.

The last they heard from him, he had spent his 21st birthday in the trenches on 10 December. Private 3004 Footitt is remembered at the communal cemetery extension in Aubigny-en-Artois, a village about 15km north-west of Arras.

Another son, Harry, is a private in the Northumberland Fusiliers; he was all right the last time they heard from him – but now, it's only natural for them to worry...

Tribunals send more to fight

THERE WERE few appeals at this evening's Borough Tribunal, surprisingly since married men are now being called.

Ransome's failed to prove that 22-year-old packer and weigher Joseph H Warner was indispensable; his wage was only 27 shillings a week plus 2 bob [10p] production bonus ... G H Clayton, 25, manager of Coombe's boot repairer's on Cartergate, was given a deferral until 1 June to dispose of his home at 31 William Street and get his wife, who had only one leg, to her mother's home in Harrogate ... T A Arnold of 16 Victoria Street, a partner in a firm of artificial teeth makers who had 3 brothers serving, was also granted exemption to 1 June ... The clerk to Newark Guardians, Arthur James Franks, asked to keep both his assistants; his younger brother William Henry Franks was given exemption; John Booth, 26, was told to go in a month ... The military representative agreed miller Harry Henderson was in a certified occupation and could stay with the Associated Cement Company ... Grocer and baker John William White, a father-of-7, of 183 Barnbygate said he would have to close his bake-house if his son, Albert Harold, 19 and unmarried, was called-up. Told he had until 1 May to make other arrangements, he retorted: "Give me until 1 June and I'll sell up and clear out altogether" ... Newark Gas Company were allowed to keep their accountant J W Mills until 1 June to train a female replacement ... Plumber Robert Ironmonger Derry was given to 1 June to train his wife Edith Emma, 28, to replace his cashier and confidential clerk, Ivor Will Allen, 26 ... Cafferata's won exemptions for three staff because they were on war work ... Sidney Pacey, 23, was given to 1 June to train his wife to run his grocer's, draper's and beer off-licence at 60 Northgate ... When Charles Clutterbuck of 46 Kirkgate asked to keep his butcher and slaughterman, Charles Ernest Hill, 24, the Tribunal adjourned the case so that they could ask the Butchers' Association if different shops can use the same slaughterman.

Newark Rural Tribunal was told on Thursday that the County War Committee had been asked if it could help farmers who were complaining that they had been left too short of workers by the drive to enlist more single men to the Forces. In addition, military representatives Nicholson and Curtis had informed the War Office of the distress of farmers and called for them to receive help from outside sources where they had spared their leading men. The Government had authorised an influx of Danes aged 20 to 25 who were willing to work on farms for realistic wages. And, of course, women were being trained to do agricultural work.

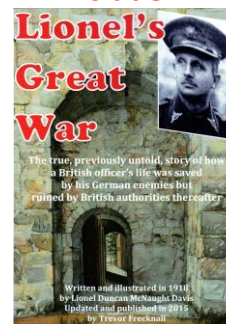
Then the Tribunal got down to business ... Joseph Bembridge, who had already lost four men to the Army from his Hawton farms, was allowed to keep head horsemen William Baxter, 32, and James Costall, 34, plus cowman and garthman Joseph Williamson, 39, until 1 June ... Butcher George Thompson at North Collingham is given until 1 May to find someone – the Tribunal suggests his daughter – to replace his son Albert, 21, as slaughterman and delivery man round the surrounding villages.

OUT NOW:

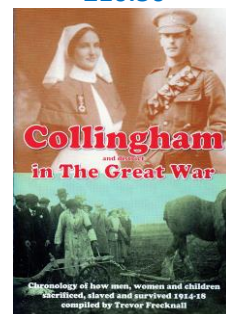


New book to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Ransome and Marles' bombing in World War II. £9.99 from WHSmith, Market Place, and Osborne Stationers, Kirkgate, Newark. *****

Great War books still available include...



£10.50



£9.99

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place