

# Great War Bulletin

No. 90...Newark...Monday 17 April 1916

## Farndon hero's memorial

A SMALL but beautiful memorial window was dedicated on Friday in the Lady Chapel of St Peter's Church, Farndon, "to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles Edgar Harrison, Lance-Sergeant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters, who was killed in action near Vermeilles, France, 5 October 1915, aged 36 years."

In addition to being highly respected in the village, Charles was the secretary and inspiration of the Newark and District Football League as it grew from four teams to almost 20. And on his last leave home, he brought a German gun and bayonet as souvenirs for the family.

## Canada or trenches conundrum

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Appeals Tribunal on Wednesday gave John Messon Summer two weeks to check if the Government will allow him to sail back to Canada to settle his home and business in Calgary or force him to enlist in the Army.

He explained that he has lived in Canada for seven years and only returned to this country to settle the affairs of a brother who died.

Now he is enmeshed in emigration restrictions and working on a fruit farm in Upton while looking after his aged mother.

In other appeals...

Bespoke tailor Samuel Paling of Southwell was ordered to enlist though he said it was impossible to find a woman to take on his business.

Westhorpe farmer Mrs Emma Twidale, 60, failed to keep her son Matthew Herrod, though she argued that his veterinary skills were vital to her cattle now that the local vet has enlisted.

*More Tribunal news on the next page...*

## East Stoke says 'Hello, sailors!'

THROUGH the kind thought of Captain Arthur Bromley of East Stoke Hall, six finely built sailors from HMS *Columbella* have spent a well-earned rest at his home.

They all hail from Newfoundland and have made themselves very popular in their 'holiday village'. It is almost a year since the youngest Bromley boy, 'Jett', was killed in action while serving with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadians; so this maintains the link between the family and the country that adopted him.

Captain Arthur, born 1876 the son of Sir Henry Bromley, 5<sup>th</sup> Bart, and Adela Augusta (nee Richards) went on to serve as Flag Captain of the HMS *Courageous* from 1916 to 1919, when he was invested as a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG).

He rose to the rank of Rear-Admiral, retired from the military in 1926, and lived to the age of 84.

# Soldier nobody wanted is dead

**THE LOYAL soldier nobody wanted after he was discharged from the Army with a tumour, Private William Smith of Kelham was buried at Doncaster Cemetery on Thursday.**

He'd served his country since 30 November 1880 and had spent the last 7 months in increasing agony and helpless despair.

His parents in Kelham were not even told that he had been discharged as "no longer fit for War service" on 13 January.

By the time they discovered he was ill, when the Guardians of different towns began to argue over who should finance his bed, he was too poorly to be moved from Pontefract Work-house.

He died there on 9 April, aged 54. A century later, Private 3/3008 Smith is remembered at Doncaster's Hyde Park Cemetery.

**In contrast, a military funeral for 55-year-old Canadian Sapper Francis Butler Parr at Newark Cemetery on the same Thursday afternoon attracted 200 of his comrades, a firing party of 12 men and a sergeant**

**plus a bugle party of six men and a sergeant. Parr arrived in this country many years ago, became a stone mason at Isleworth and joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Volunteers, with whom he earned a long service award.**

When this War broke out, he enlisted with the RE's and, despite his age, spent some six months at the Front before being invalided to the Red Cross Hospital, Lombard Street, Newark, which – we now learn for the first time – has become the National Depot for RE invalids. He succumbed to broncho-pneumonia on Saturday.

His widow Rose was ill and unable to attend the funeral; but a sister-in-law and son-in-law represented the family at the funeral.

## Brave Percy earns a Military Medal

**CORPORAL PERCY WELLS, 27, third son of a respected Swinderby couple, Elizabeth and farm labourer Thomas, earned the Military Medal on Friday for conspicuous gallantry.**

**He was in France, near Souchez, helping to clear away the debris after an explosion to open up the way to a wrecked listening post. A man was buried under the sandbags. Percy, with others, clawed him free only to find he was already dead.**

**All this took place in full view of the enemy trenches only 30 yards away. Aged 27, Percy enlisted in the Lincolnshire Territorials last May and has had a torrid time in the trenches. On one occasion he was gassed so badly that he was unconscious for ten days.**

**To make matters much more worrying for his parents, Percy is one of six brothers serving.**

## Shush – but a Councillor goes spying

BURIED in column 4 of page 5 of Saturday's *Herald* was the news that started Newark's best spy story of the War:

*"Councillor R B Cafferata, we understand, has left Newark to take up an appointment under the War Office. As an active member of the Newark Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, and chairman of the Local and Divisional Advisory Committee, he has put in a great amount of good and useful work. His own workmen were very vigorously recruited as a result of his personal canvass, and several hundreds of them joined His Majesty's Army. Mr Cafferata, as a member of the Town Council for the North Ward, is chairman of the Newark Corporation Waterworks Committee, where his exceptional engineering skill has been of great value.*

*"His business and commercial interests are very considerable. He is chairman of directors of Messrs Cafferata & Co, chairman of the Cafferata Partitions Co, and the Pure Bone Phosphate Co, with interests in other concerns."*

Years after the Great War ended, it was revealed that Redmond Barton Cafferata based himself in Switzerland, close to its border with France and Germany.

Posing as a businessman canvassing for export business, he built a network of informers who ensured that the Allied generals received early warnings of all massive concentrations of enemy forces before they became too lethal.

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

## Farmer falls foul of 'inconsistent' Tribunals

FARMER and flour-maker John Charles Fisher, 54, of Sutton-on-Trent, stirred up a hornets' nest when he complained at a Farmers' Union meeting that Tribunals were performing inconsistently in their treatment of farmers. The complaints were made only three days after the Southwell Tribunal declined to allow his son Charles, 26, to stay on his 200-acre farm.

Newark Borough Tribunal's military representative Nicholson launches a vitriolic attack on Fisher last Monday, insisting all the Tribunals were working to the same guidelines.

Coincidentally, on Monday evening a well-attended meeting in Sutton-on-Trent Council School brought forth several women volunteers prepared to replace men on farms.

But the macho males of the Farmers' Union were scathing about the idea at their meeting on Wednesday ... "How many of the women can lift bales?" was just one of the questions they asked.

Southwell Rural Tribunal began its weekly hearings on Wednesday by reviewing Fisher's criticism.

Military representative William Norton Hicking had written to Fisher asking if he included Southwell in his criticisms.

Fisher backed down in his reply: "This was not a personal matter ... I have no personal grievance whatever ... The members of your Tribunal know me well enough to understand I should be the last man to hamper or make more arduous your at times painful task ... My remarks have been general on all occasions with absolutely no reference, either implied or otherwise, to any remarks made by another member of the Farmers' Union."

But he invited members of the Tribunal to visit his son's farm, to "demonstrate to you as a typical case the difference that there is in the working of farms." Hicking said he was too busy to avail himself of the offer.

The subject was then dropped

## Claypole Tribunal makes hard choices

CLAYPOLE Rural District Tribunal decided on Wednesday Ernest Alfred Hopkinson, 25, farming 21 acres alone and selling milk in Beckingham, was excused from service until 1 October ... Edward Kirton, 22, was allowed to remain working his sick father's Long Bennington 110 acres with the help of one man until 1 October ... William Edward Brocklebank, farmer of 310 acres at Carlton-le-Moorland, was allowed to keep his horseman Edward Grundy, 34, married with a sick wife ... Stephen Wells of North Scarle was told his son and horseman Wilfred Stephen, 20, must enlist on 1 October ... Robert Arnold, 28, was allowed to stay and farm his 94 Westborough acres for as long as he has only a boy to help him ... Charles Heywood, who farms 240 acres at Thorney and Norton Disney, was told

horseman William Drabble, 23, would have to go on 15 May ... Walter Hunt, farming 201 acres at Stapleford, was told his labourer Edwin Hough, 24, must go; women could plant and gather his crops ... Widowed Jane Newstead, 72, is told her son Arthur, 28, must leave their Bassingham farm on 15 May ... Stapleford carrier and farm manager John Samuel Ellis, 21, was told to enlist now ... Fred Andrews, 35, was allowed to stay at Bassingham as engine driver and corn carrier to his father ... Bassingham baker and grocer John Moorshead had let eight men go to War. He was allowed to keep his last baker, George Weightman, 38, and grocery assistant Alfred Edward Danby, 31 and married; but was told groom and porter George Whatham, 31 and single, must enlist on 1 May.

## 'Choose which son to sacrifice'

**SOUTHWELL Rural Tribunal on Wednesday invited a farmer to decide for himself which son should next leave the land to join the Army.**

It happened when Arthur William Dobbs asked to keep his son, Arthur William junior, 27, on Black Horse Farm, Norwell.

He said he has four men and three sons working; one son was in the Grenadier Guards already. Tribunal invited him to choose which other son should go on 1 August.

He said neither, adding: "There are plenty of families that have not sent any sons to the war." He declined however to name names – and went home to ponder which son to send to fight.

When three of four brothers – Matthew, Thomas and Philip Henry Massey – applied to stay on Bank Wood Farm, Southwell, with their widowed mother Charlotte, 71, Tribunal chairman John William Bonner JP asked: "Who is going to fight if the single men stop at home?"

Matthew, 35, retorted: "What are we to do with a farm of 468 acres?" He was told to join-up; Thomas, 32, was allowed to stay as he is infirm; Philip, 41, was also allowed to stay as over-age.

The Reverend F Brodison of Bilsthorpe was given until 1 May to keep William Tether, 22, to get the stooks in, but added: "It is hard lines that a married man with two children has to go with so many single men left at home."

Henry Hall, 73, was refused permission to keep his son Henry, 27, on their Kneesall farm because "plenty of other men are available."

J Abraham of Hawton was told Arthur Frederick Raven, 21, his wagoner at Syerston, must enlist on 1 May but he would keep labourer J Marston, the sole support of a widowed mother, until 1 October.

William Gretton of Little Carlton, rejected by the Army five times, was told to report again on 1 June and cowman John South, 26, had to enlist now.

Arthur Edward Curtis, 34, was allowed to stay on his 50 acres at Elston but his married labourer, George M Kirkland, 20, was ordered to enlist.

Lord Savile's agent Francis Askew Bell was told his Kneesall horseman John Moody, 30, must enlist immediately but George Bartle, 23, could stay as his shepherd at Rufford until 1 June. Bartle said two of his brothers had been wounded, one is a prisoner in Germany and he had been rejected twice for bad eyesight. Tribunal refused to change its decision.

L Arnold of Staythorpe was also told to enlist on 1 June.

Farmer James Widnall, 33, on Brickyard Hill, Upton, was given until 1 August to find someone to look after his business and two dependent sisters Sarah, 36, and Eliza, 35.

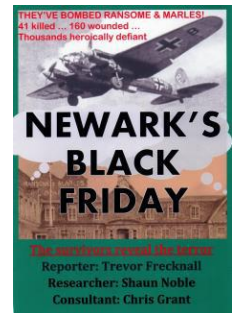
## SHELL-MAKER TOLD TO FIGHT

**NEWARK Rural District Tribunal on Wednesday refused a claim for exemption by Turnbull Brothwell, 39, who had closed his gents' hairdressers in Balderton and was stamping shells at James Simpson's and argues it is war work.**

**Exemption to 14 May was given to farm worker William Chamberlain, 26, at Hawton Grange – though his boss Ben Farrow said: "I have no wish to hinder the man from serving and he has no wish to get-off. I simply need him to get certain work done. He is a strong young man and I pity the German who gets in front of him when he does go."**

**Richard Brown, 30, Balderton cowkeeper and milk-seller, married with three children, pleaded his business would be ruined; his case was adjourned.**

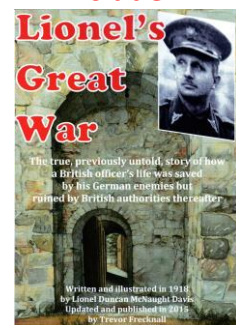
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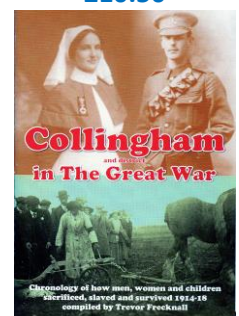
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