

Great War Bulletin

No. 91...Newark...Monday 24 April 1916

FATHER-OF-SIX FINED FOR ATTACK ON BAILIFF

HARRY CROSS, who has to feed a wife and six children under the age of 14 on a wage of 23 shillings a week, was fined 15 shillings by Newark Magistrates last Monday for assaulting county court bailiff George Clarke, 47, who had approached him to pay an outstanding debt. The court hears Cross, of Scales' Row, attacked Clarke three times, first with a cycle wheel, then a fist and finally a stool. He is given a month to pay the fine.
(£1 in 1916 equals £91.85 in 2016.)

A Newarker's war in Africa

Son's death confirmed

PARENTS-of-ten Henry and Mary Ann Hill of 9 Lindum Street received official confirmation of the terrible rumour they heard last week. The fifth of their sons, Ernest Alfred, 21, has been killed in action. He went to Lover's Lane School and the Mount Sunday School; and worked for C E Ford & Sons, Appletongate, until he joined the Foresters last November. He has spent much time in the trenches, attached to the grenade section.

Private 2978 Hill is remembered in the Ecoivres Military Cemetery.

Fire brigade for Balderton

BALDETON Parish Council held a special meeting last Tuesday evening in the wake of the biggest Zeppelin scare so far – and agreed to set up its own fire brigade.

Four men are to be recruited to man the appliances. Two 400ft lengths of hose and one 50ft length are being bought, with accessories. Total cost: £35, £10 inside the village's hastily-arranged budget.

PRIVATE George Hopkinson of the 2nd Light Battery Armoured Cars in Egypt has written the most detailed account yet of a local lad's experiences "among the Senussi" (a Muslim political-religious Sufi order and tribe in Libya and the Sudan region) for his dad, whitesmith James Hopkinson at 17 Lombard Street, Newark:

"I nearly forget the date of our first scrap but I think it was 27 February. Well, the infantry and cavalry had set out from (place censored) about five days before us. They marched about 70 miles out, and we set off the day before the fight. We camped about 20 miles from the enemy that night and then set off the next morning about 7.

"Going up the road, we came in touch with the infantry about half past 8 and found the enemy were on the left of the road. So we went after them with the cars but could not go fast because of our infantry and cavalry having to keep up with us. We found the enemy entrenched in some soft sands and were only able to make the advance party retreat to their main body.

The main body of our troops came up about an hour afterwards, and they got well into it. The cavalry had quite a few casualties. We were not able to do much, really, for the sands. four of the cars out of the six got stuck. But still we were a great help and helped put a few out of the way. My car was told off for the right flank and I got within three-quarters of a mile from the enemy before I got stuck. We were the best part of an hour there before the infantry came up to us and, my word, the bullets weren't half wizzing (sic) about!

Anyway, the enemy got a good position and to stop them retreating, we had to go right through them. We had orders to kill all on horseback, for those were sure to be officers of some sort.

Brits in tanks fight Turks on camels

It was 11am when we first started to fight. Our car spent the best part of an hour chasing these sort, and then came back to where the other cars were having their sport. Then we got into it.

The Turkish leaders stuck it well. One party killed the crew of a machine gun, opened fire on us from our rear, and the bullets were spluttering up against the sides of our turret, making an awful rattle. We turned round and finished them off, but they stuck to their guns to the last. The whole lot were wiped off the map.

One of the cars fired at some of their camels early on in the fight, the load on one of which burst into flames and, as the gun traversed, the whole caravan of them were not killed instantly but ran about actually on fire, for they

were carrying ammunition and patrol. But we soon put a few merciful shots into them. We were at it until 1pm and I should think had killed about 60 or 70 and wounded lots more. But they always have their women with them when they are fighting; and they carry the dead of wounded away.

After the fight we found we had captured about 300,000 rounds of rifle ammunition and lots of boxes of shell besides nine machine guns and three 10-pounders. One 10-pounder opened fire on us at about 400 yards range, but they all went over us, for a good job, and we were on them before they could do us any damage.

We all had to go before the General. He said a lot of things; you know the style.

He made quite a fuss of us.

Women carry away the Turkish casualties

No work for 'conchies' at Southwell

SOUTHWELL Rural District Councillors did not react favourably at their monthly meeting on Thursday to a request to give work to conscientious objectors.

Councillor C G Caudwell, of the immensely influential family of flour millers, said he would put the letter on the fire.

The Reverend Samuel Brodison, an Irishman ministering from the Manse at Ollerton, somewhat surprisingly agreed – a stark indication of the antipathy towards those claiming their beliefs prevented them fighting for their country.

Chairman John William Bonner, an Edwinstowe farmer, said that the District had only had to deal with two conscientious objectors at their Tribunals.

He added: "There is a large number in some places, but people seem to be made of better stuff in this district."

To cries of "Hear, hear!" from all of his colleagues, the subject was dropped.

St George's Day charity boosts

AS St George's Day fell on the Sabbath yesterday, patriotic celebrations were deferred until next Wednesday.

The Mayor, Alderman William Knight, made special arrangements with the town's schools to hold a flag day for the benefit of the Red Cross Military Hospital in Lombard Street, St John Ambulance and local prisoners of war.

It will raise £22 11s – the equivalent of some £2,025 in 2016.

Good Friday fight ends in court

GOOD FRIDAY goodwill was in short supply at Sutton-on-Trent last week.

A dispute between neighbours ended with Ann Hayes claiming that Edith Robson had given her a black eye.

The dispute was settled at Newark County Court: Robson was found guilty but fined only one shilling (5p in today's money) because the magistrates decide she had been severely provoked.

TRIBUNAL ROW: MILL MAY SHUT

THE FLOUR MILL that produces the flour for most of Newark's bread could close following a particularly bitter argument at the Borough Tribunal hearing last Thursday evening.

Miller John T Parnham pleaded that the Mill could not go on without his sons Hugh, 22, and Harold, 25.

His stance was condemned as "a public scandal" by military representative Hubert Cherry-Downes.

Parnham insisted that his alternative was to shut his mill; he could not turn out 1,600 bags of flour per week without them; it would take 12 months to train men over the age for military call-up to do the arduous work.

The Tribunal retired to consider its verdict, then announced Hugh would have to serve his country.

His father erupted: "You might as well take the lot, because I shall shut down."

On behalf of the Tribunal, Councillor G A Lacy retorted: "If one of your sons had died, the business would still go on."

Parnham stormed out of the Town Hall. In other cases...

Military representative Cherry-Downes hauled farmer and milk seller Horace Bird, 38, back before the Tribunal having heard he boasted after being exempted that he had "done the Tribunal down". Bird claimed he would never say such a thing but he had plenty of enemies who would pass on such a claim. He was told to enlist on 1 June ... Saddler and harness-maker Walter Edlin, 30, had a plea for total exemption turned down; he said he would appeal because he was working basically for the soldiers based in town ... Monument mason Jesse Shellbourn, 27, of 91a Baldertongate, who had two brothers already serving, was told he must also go ... Gardener William Norton, 30, of Wood Street was also told to go although he pleaded that his 75-year-old father was ill and there was no one else to tend for his mother ... Confectioner Coombs was told his only remaining baker G V Grimes, 22 and married, must enlist on 15 May.

Butchers are also under pressure

THE Newark Butchers' Association wrote to the Tribunal claiming there were no men of military age working in their shops now.

The Tribunal insisted there were 18, of whom three were single and one married without children.

A G Smith was first of the quartet to appear and explain why he should not enlist for the Forces. He asked if the Tribunal would guarantee that his shop would still be there at the end of the War. The Mayor says that it was impossible to make such a promise, but there ought to be enough honour among butchers for his trade not to be taken. He was given until 1 June to sort out his affairs ... James Staples Tustin of Stodman Street was also given until 1 June ... T C Illesley, manager for the London Central Meat Company, and C E Hill, aged 24, married but without a family, were given only until 1 May.

Ominously, the Tribunal also warn that four married men should go when their names are called. They asked the Butchers' Association to choose which ones should go.

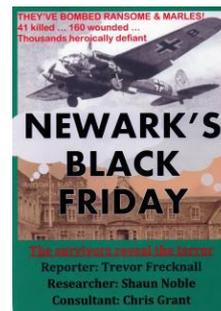
In addition, the Tribunal and Butchers' Association agreed to continue to work together to economise on the number of slaughtermen required but accepted that, with warm weather approaching, it may be difficult...

Foresters rushed to IRELAND

DON'T tell this to anyone else, or the censor will be furious – but there is a strong rumour in Newark today that the Second Line of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, comprising many men from this district, have not been sent to the Western Front after all. Many families of 'our boys' will be relieved if the rumour is true because IRELAND is said to be the destination of their first posting.

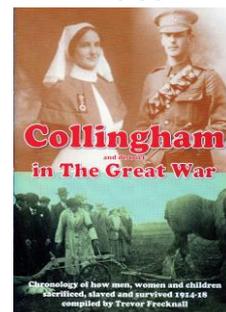
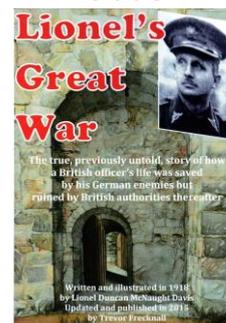
Hopefully more information will be available next week. But for the time being, all who care for the welfare of our Territorials will be pleased that they are remaining in the comparative peace of Britain...

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...



from WH Smith, Newark Market Place