

Great War Bulletin

No. 94 ... Newark ... Monday 15 May 1916

Brave railman hailed by mates

PRIVATE FREDERICK HOLLAND'S workmates gathered in the Railway Hotel, Lowdham, on Monday evening to present him with a marble timepiece in recognition of the heroics that earned him the French Military Cross last year.

It is inscribed:

*"Presented to Pte F Holland
as a token of appreciation
of his conspicuous bravery
while fighting for his
King and Country,
thereby gaining the
unique distinction of the
French Military Cross.
From his fellow employees
at the Midland Railway,
May 8th 1916."*

Private Holland thanked his mates but added that he merely did his duty as a soldier and a man.

A Midland Railways platelayer in civvie street, Private Holland was on furlough at home in Lowdham, recovering from wounds, when he was presented with his French Military Cross last December.

It was awarded for defying his own injuries to treat other wounded men while under heavy shell fire.

The 26-year-old, who had been in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters for four years, explained:

"I was wounded in the neck by shrapnel at St Eloi on 25 September. Our trenches were being shelled rather heavily at the time and 14 or 15 wounded men lay within a distance of a dozen yards or so. I was bleeding a bit from the neck and was rather bad, but I was able to get out to bandage the others and get them away to a place of safety. Captain Turner saw me at work and wanted me to be attended to myself, but I was not thinking about my own wound and would not let him.

"Major Becher recommended me for recognition and the cross was sent over to France. But meanwhile I had come out of hospital in France and been sent to Belton Park to retrain. The trophy was sent back here and Colonel Gretton MP presented me with it."

Colonel John Gretton, the 1st Baron Gretton, was MP for Rutland from 1907-18 and for Burton from 1918-1943. He was chairman of Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton, brewers from 1908 until 1945.

The remainder of Fred's evening with his workmates was spent convivially, with songs being rendered by Miss Morley, Mr J Shaw and others.

Lighting dangers

WITH Zeppelins raiding middle England ever-more frequently, there are signs of panic among local magistrates and rebellion among a few residents.

Fish fryer John Henry Lamb, 38, who lives at 8 Depot Yard off Kirkgate, described it as "robbery" when he was fined 10 shillings (50p in 1916; £46.38 in 2016) by Newark Borough Magistrates on Thursday for contravening lighting regulations under the Defence of the Realm Act.

The fine was so stiff because Lamb had previously been warned that he must improve the black-out precautions at his shop.

Horse and Jockey licensee Henry Brown was also fined 10 shillings – and ordered to install better blinds on his windows.

Newark County Magistrates had been more lenient with offenders before them 24 hours earlier.

They handed fines of five shillings for lighting offences to three private residents of Langford – Sarah Ann Walker, James F Ward and George Henry Bingham – plus John Troup of Winthorpe.

Shopman says fine is 'robbery'

But Albert Bly of Balderton was fined 10 shillings because this was his second offence.

The Chairman of the bench, Colonel Nicholson – scourge of men appealing to Tribunals against being called-up into the Forces spelt out the dangers:

"If these airships see a light and locate where they are, they can go to Nottingham or anywhere. One single light could give the district away."

Tribute to Dublin hero

A MEMORIAL service was held in the United Methodist Chapel last night for one of the local heroes killed in Dublin, Colour-Sergeant-Major Henry Charles Dixey, whose parents lived in South Parade.

A paragraph in Saturday's *Newark Herald* had reported:

"Among the casualties reported from Ireland were:

Sherwood Foresters – killed: Barks 2793 L/Cpl G W, Newark; Chapman 3493 L/Cpl H S, Southwell; Dixey 2454 Co-Sgt-Maj H C, Newark; Kitchen, 2855 A J, Newark. Wounded: Belton 4726 J P Newark; Bird 3017 E, Newark; Freestone 4793 W, Newark; Graveney 2904 L-Sgt A, Newark; Jackson 2556 Sgt W S, Newark; Lane 2888 J H, Newark; Lawrence 3190 Co-Sgt-Maj H, Newark; Midgley 4698 N Fiskerton; Ridge 4054 H, Southwell; Scrutton 2762 D G, Farndon; Thorpe 4894 C, South Scarle; Wyer 4723 C, Southwell."

Lawrence was "getting on as well as possible" according to his father.

Military still welcome in town schools

AN anonymous letter caused fleeting suspicion between the military and the Newark Education Authority. Colonel Jerome discovered the mischievous missive has been written to his superiors "by a gentleman in the town, behind the backs of the authority" suggesting the Royal Engineers' continued tenancy of schools was unwelcome. Two members of the authority, the Mayor and William Bradley, rushed to assure the Colonel that they very much objected to non-members writing behind their backs. They hoped the practice would discontinue. If these people wished to discuss matters, let them come on the Board; there was plenty of room for more! Col Jerome, relieved, informs last Tuesday's meeting that the RE's would be pleased to continue billeting in two of the schools.

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

AT its first sitting of last week on Thursday, the Newark Borough Tribunal saved the *Herald* newspaper from extinction by granting a conditional exemption from military service to its editor, Fred T Jones, 36, of 'The Haven', Farndon Road.

They heeded the plea by the paper's owner, Mrs Jane Stennett, 57, that her son Jesse had had to join-up and two reporters were about to go.

If Jones was ordered to join them, there would be no one else to bring the weekly paper out.

In other cases...

Having had 16 men enlist already, the Newark Co-operative Society appeal on behalf of several employees. George Barker and William Henry Staveley, 33, managers of grocery departments, were granted exemption on condition that each remained the only man in his shop. Wilfred Cook, 28, of 34 Milner Street, permanent secretary to the Co-op, was given until 30 June to train a woman to do his work. Boot repairer Gonville Marshall, 36, of 20 Wood Street claimed he was medically unfit and was ordered to have a medical. Co-op bakers Henry Stacey, 30, of 98 Northgate and Richard Ernest Daubney, 35, of Farndon Fields were claimed to be in a reserved

Paper is saved by Tribunal

occupation. The Tribunal decided one would have to go and fight while the other could stay and work. It left the Co-op management to decide who should go.

John Esam, 34, of 'Roslyn', Wintorpe was given permission to remain as managing clerk at solicitors Larken and Company, especially since he had taken on extra responsibilities after Major Becher was killed ... Orphan Arthur Fox, 18, was told to enlist even though his employer, grocer Edwin Widdison of 19 King Street, pleaded that he was indispensable at work and at home he looked after his four younger siblings with the help of his sister, 19. The decision was clinched by military representative Cherry-Downes eliciting the fact that Arthur contributed only 14 shillings of the family's weekly income of 49 shillings. No one thought to ask how the family would manage on 14s less a week ...

Ernest W Johnson, 35, of 62 Baldertongate said he was still suffering from the illness that led to him being given until 1 May; he was told to have a medical, sort out his boot repairing business and be prepared to enlist in a month ... The Maypole Dairy Company were also given a month to find a man over military age to manage their Bridge Street grocery shop so that Cecil Hampton Best, 29, could enlist ... Home & Colonial Stores, a grocery chain that had taken on 1,430 women nationwide since the War began, were given the same treatment regarding Wrexham-born George Henry Roberts, 37, their grocery manager ... Military representative Hubert Cherry-Downes then became the appellant on behalf of Gilstrap's, who wanted to keep their chemist Frederick William Holmes, 35, of 17 Newnham Road, the last man of six in their laboratory; barley foreman Albert F Hackney, 33, of Grove Street, New Balderton; sub-manager Frederick William Ward, 33, of Hatton Gardens; and Cherry-Downes himself, aged 39 and the manager. After retiring to consider their decision, Tribunal ordered the company to let either Hackney or Ward go on 30 June; Cherry-Downes and Holmes, a widower with a dependent child, were informed that they could remain at work.

Brewery's 70 serving men

JAMES HOLE and Company were ordered at a Newark Borough Tribunal on Saturday evening to send a 70th employee into the fighting Forces.

The brewers appeared before the Tribunal to seek exemption for under-brewer Thomas Henry Heron, 32, drivers Arthur and Herbert Edwin Thorpe plus electrician Archibald E Knight. Their representative explained that the company managing director Edward Kerchival Marsland, 34, was already serving along with 50 of their men and 18 clerks.

The Tribunal "recognises the way the firm has dealt with military service and does not wish to handicap its trade, which provides a large revenue to the Government" and allows Heron and Knight to stay but says one of the drivers would have to go and fight. In other cases...

Territorial Sergeant William Kemp Clarke, 57, a confectioner and caterer at 43 Castlegate, was granted permission for his son William Gregory, 35, to keep their business going at 37 Stodman Street ... Draper William Edward Doubleday of Winchilsea Avenue reported he had had a medical and was deemed unfit for anything but labour at home. He was allowed to stay in his shop ... Carter and horseman T E Andrews, 21, son of the licensee of the Watermill Inn, was told to join-up ... John William Henry Holland, 27, a slot meter collector for Newark Corporation, was given until 6 July to recover from a bout of pleurisy and enlist ... Grocer Angus Macdonald of 1 Harcourt Street was exempted when he mentioned he was married with six children ... J Howitt & Sons were given until 14 June to replace George Jackson, 40-year-old father of four at 55 Milner Street ... Quibell's earned exemption for foreman James R Wright, 30, of 15 Newenham Road and Samuel Thurman, 31, who had just married and moved from his parents' home off Beacon Hill to North Muskham, and was engaged in manufacturing disinfectants and sheep oils. They explain to the Tribunal that "women have been found to be susceptible to arsenic poisoning when tried on this work" ... When coal wharf clerk Evan Christian Young, 34, of Spring Gardens was told to join-up, his employers Clarke & Son of Lincoln said they would appeal ... Thomas Willcott Garner, 69, a haulage contractor of

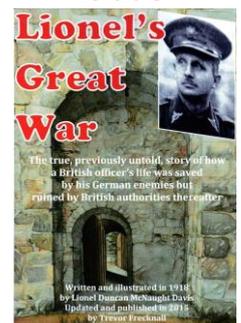
Women in danger of arsenic poisoning at Quibell's glue works

The Old Hall, Millgate, was grudgingly given until 30 June to find a replacement for his motor wagon driver, Robert Henry Branch, 34, of Old Trent Brewery Yard ... Dairyman and farmer Charles Lawrence, 57, of Sleaford Road, who already had three sons serving, was told his fourth, George, 22, his cowman, must join-up on 1 July ... Dickens & Company, who already had 12 men serving, were told that their last warehouseman, William Newbound, 27, would have to enlist on 6 June ... Cafferata's were allowed to keep E White of 36 Millgate, one of their last two fireproof partition slab-makers ... George Stephenson & Sons held on to blacksmith Everett Dolphin, 30; blacksmith's striker J Simpson, wheelwright Audis William Lowe and wheelwright's wheeler Albert East. All were deemed to be in certified occupations ... Thomas Edwin Wilkinson, 39, of 90 Hawton Road was told he could continue to run the family's silversmiths, jewellers and furniture dealership providing his brother Percy, 36, was accepted for military service.

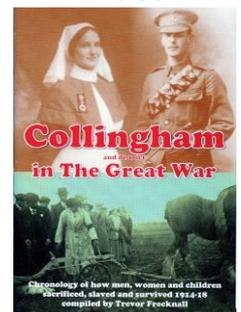


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