

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. 95 ... Newark ... Monday 22 May 1916

Sherwoods 'admired by nation'

THE Notts Territorial Association president, the Duke of Portland, and chairman, Henry Mellish, penned a letter to the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters "on behalf of the members of the Territorial Association to convey to you an expression of our great appreciation of the manner in which the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of your Battalion carried out the very difficult duties assigned to them in connection with the recent disturbances in Dublin, thereby winning for themselves the admiration, not only of this County, but the whole of England. Their conduct shows that they well deserve to share the high reputation which has already been gained by the County units in France. The Association deeply regrets that these duties have involved the loss of so many brave lives."

DUBLIN 'HELL ON EARTH'

A DRAMATIC letter arrived in Balderton on Wednesday from a soldier who was with the military police on the streets of Dublin when the first shots were fired in the Easter Uprising.

Corporal Thomas A Pykett, 27, was only serving in Ireland because he had been wounded in the Dardanelles – before the withdrawal from the Turkish stronghold – and adjudged unfit for active service for six months.

He wrote home to Staple Farm, Balderton, and told his parents George and Ann:

"It has been hell on earth and I have had some narrow escapes as I was on duty in the street when it started.

"They had two shots at me but they were rotten bad shots, they could not hit me. These were the first shots that started the affair.

"Of course I had to run to get out of the road of them, as I had not got my revolver, but when I got back to the Castle I jolly soon got it and plenty of ammunition, and took up position at the Castle gates, where we held them at bay until the troops arrived.

"I had a good many shots at them, killing two Sinn Feiners and capturing three rifles...

"Things are quiet again but the city is in awful ruins, 150 places having been wiped out by fire. I can tell you it's been an awful week for us."

And it was still getting worse...

Balderton Corporal's report of Rising



ANOTHER DEATH Florry mourning

WILLIAM and Emma Wood and their other three children in Woodbine Terrace, New Balderton, were officially informed on Wednesday that their son Albert Edward, 18, had died of wounds suffered in Dublin – only 24 hours after they had received a letter from him saying he was progressing "nicely".

Albert, who worked at S Ellis's shop in Middlegate, Newark, before becoming a Private in the Second Line of the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, was shot in a leg and taken to King George V Hospital, Dublin, where he died unexpectedly.

To add to the family's worries, his brother William was on active service with the 15th Hussars.

A FLORAL TRIBUTE from "your broken-hearted sweet-heart Florry" was prominent at the military funeral at Newark Cemetery of Company Sergeant Major Henry Dixey, who was killed in Dublin. No.5 Co of the Royal Engineers under Second Lieutenant A D Waugh provided the firing party, carriers and followers while the regimental drum and fife band of the RE's was also present as well as 58 NCO's and men of the Third Line 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

The service was conducted by the Reverend W H S Snow, United Methodist minister.

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Soldier's son dies

GEORGE HENRY FORD, the bright 15-year-old son of Lieutenant and Quartermaster Sergeant James Henry William Ford, 43, an antique dealer pre-War who is serving with the Yeomanry in Greece, died on Thursday after a fortnight's illness. It was devastating for his mother Sarah, at home at 1 South Parade Villas off London Road: she and James had now lost four of their eight children. George was the cox in a victorious Newark Rowing Club crew that at last year's Nottingham Regatta and had just passed the Cambridge junior examination. If only we could stop common diseases killing children as easily as we can fight wars!

Plea for wound-aid

THE MAYORESS has received an urgent request from the War Office for a number of bed tables for the use of wounded soldiers. She seeks any charitably disposed persons who may be willing to provide one or more of these very necessary articles.

Bulls pull the crowd

EDWARD BAILEY and Son's annual sale of shorthorn bulls on the Fairground last Monday attracted buyers from all parts of the country: 80 were sold @ £27 each. (That's £2,504.65 at 2016 values.)

Maid weds her hero

ONLY 48 hours arriving home in Millgate from the Western Front, J Sydney Mills, 32, of the Mechanical Transport Department, ASC, was married on Monday at Swinderby to Miss Rose Talbot, 27, housemaid to the matriarch of the Quibell family, Eleanor Boyd Quibell of Highfield, London Road.

Duchess sells flags

HER GRACE the Duchess of Newcastle was one of the flag sellers in Newark on Wednesday raising funds for the War Horticultural Relief Society.

Politicians argue

THERE was forthright disagreement at the Newark Division Conservative Association AGM on Thursday between the MP, Captain Starkey and the prospective Unionist candidate Henry Arthur Colefax, a London-based barrister. The Captain defended the coalition Government. There had been a shortage of munitions; but an immense industry had been activated in the last two years. On recruiting, he was satisfied with the voluntary system pre-War; but now circumstances showed compulsion to be necessary. History always showed that when a country was at war and did not win great victories, the Government was not popular; but preparations were being made to win the greatest victory.

Mr Colefax was disappointed. He expected the War to be fought with more vigour and greater strength and wisdom. He did not accept that it was unpatriotic to criticise the Government; the country and Empire had behaved splendidly and deserved a responsible and reasonable Opposition.

Mayor in appeal to Tribunal

IN A rare case of role-reversal, Mayor William Edward Knight vacated the chair for the first case at Tuesday evening's Newark Borough Tribunal session.

He asked if his firm, W E Knight Limited, could keep sheep dipper and shearer Albert Shrive, 26, until 31 August. He explained that three of their six experts in this sphere had already joined-up.

But he scored only a partial victory. The firm were allowed to keep Albert only until 1 August.

Once the Mayor resumed as Chairman, there were heated exchanges when the Home and Colonial Stores were told their relief manager, Stanley H Sharman of 3 Trent Villas, must enlist; they could replace him with a woman. The firm's representative was applauded by various claimants when he retorted that it was as important that a man should stay in charge of their shop as of "the Co-operative stores or beer".

He went on: "Newark has gained notoriety..."

But he was silenced in mid-sentence by the Mayor, who snapped: "We don't want any remarks. The case has been decided."

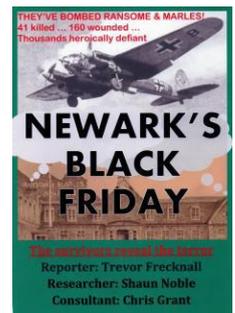
In other cases...

Butcher W G Webb of 30 Middlegate was allowed to stay but others in the same trade ordered to enlist were: Frederick Arthur Dixon, 30; George Butt, 36, of Stodman Street; assistant slaughterman Joseph P Statham, 29, of Wright Street; Alfred Dowse, 30, ham and bacon curer and slaughterman of 6 Meyrick Road; and Henry King Stray, 33, of Newton Street ... Britannia Assurance of Charles Street were given until 1 July to replace their district superintendent, F W Watson ... Grocer John J Keetley, 20, Sydney Street, was denied exemption despite claiming no one else could look after his widowed mother Mary, 75 ... E W Jackson, 31, of the White Swan, Northgate, was given until 1 July to find a youth to help his wife run the pub ... F G Starr said the Angel Inn, Middlegate, would close if he went; he was given until 11 July to sign-up ... Ossington estate bailiff Timmy Morris lost an appeal to keep painter and part-time farm worker W Hill, 28, of 9 Lindum Street though they had only five men to tend a 550-acre farm ... Plumber Arthur Snaith of Kirkgate was told to carry on working while he was doing War work ... Ernest Randall, having replaced three shop workers with women, said he would appeal against shop assistant Herbert Street, 30, of 42 Milner Street,

...but his 'notorious' Board is slammed

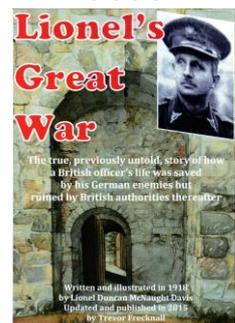
being ordered to sign-up on 16 June though he was fit for only home service ... Cafferata's were allowed to keep gypsum miller Ernest Robinson, 25; it was a certified occupation; but Tribunal adjourned a case regarding Ernest A Crampton of Wellington Place to check if it was acceptable that 90% of the bricks he made were for Government purposes ... Shoemaker Alfred Setchfield of 28 Northgate, whose brother William had been fighting since 1914, was told to go on 1 July after conceding his father might do the work ... Timber merchant manager Edward Key, 31, of 154 Northgate was exempted as being in a certified occupation ... Father of three William Toule, 31, of 42 Sleaford Road was given until 1 August to find someone to keep his grocer's afloat ... Wood turner Edgar Marshall, 21, of 15 Queen's Road, was told to enlist as was tin-plate maker George H Cooper, 30, of 12 Charles Street ... J H Wilkes, who had been rejected as unfit three times by Naval and Army authorities, was formally given permission to remain as engineer and manager at Newark Corporation waterworks ... William Newbold, 30, who ran a hairdresser's at 12 Kirkgate and tobacconist's at 14 Northgate, was given to 30 June to train his wife Florence, 29, to sell the smokes; Tribunal said the hairdresser's could close.

OUT NOW:

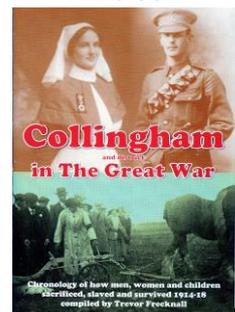


New book to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Ransome and Marles' bombing in World War II. £9.99 from WHSmith, Market Place, and Osborne Stationers, Kirkgate, Newark.

Great War books still available include...



£10.50



£9.99

from WH Smith, Newark Market Place

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