

# Coalville Times At War

**Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914 (Issue 1178)**

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## **IBSTOCK**

### **DEBATING SOCIETY**

The Ibstock Debating Society discussed the effect of the war upon Christianity at their meeting in the Town Hall on Monday last. Mr George Sparrow presided and all the members present took part in an animated discussion. Next week the subject for discussion is "Universal Military Training."

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

We learn that 14 men employed by the Cliff Hill Granite Company, Ltd., at their quarries have gone to serve their King and country. Two army reserve men and one naval reserve and eleven others have volunteered for Kitchener's Army (including Mr P. L. Preston, the son of the manager of the quarry.) The company are paying 10s a week to the wives at present.

It is understood that the offer by the Rev. Canon Martens of the White House, Shepshed, as a home for Belgian refugees has been accepted by a community of nuns numbering about 40. The accommodation is ample for that number. Originally these nuns left Portuguese territory for Belgium, which owing to the war they have been forced to leave though it is hoped only temporarily.

We understand that nearly 950 members of staff of Lloyds Bank Ltd., more than 21 percent of the whole, have, with the approval of the Directors, undertaken to serve with His Majesty's forces, and that these positions are being kept open for them until the end of the war without loss of seniority. Some temporary help has been secured by the Bank, but notwithstanding this, the remainder of the staff have of necessity been caused a considerable amount of extra work, which is being willingly rendered.

An excellent result has to be recorded of the flower show held on September 12<sup>th</sup> for the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund at the Hawley Conservative Institute, Hugglescote, a statement of accounts for which has just been completed by the treasurer, Mr W. Wood, the manager of the Institute. From the sale of flowers, fruits and vegetables, all of which were given by supporters the sum of £12/10/7 was realised, the sale of admission tickets brought in £7 10s, a skittle competition organised by Mr and Mrs Wood yielded £3, various supporters gave £2/2/6 and the sale of button holes by Mr Holt made £1, bringing the total receipts to £26/3/1. The expenses, including prize money, printing, etc., amounted to £3/19/6 leaving a balance for the relief fund of £22 3s 7d. The committee and organisers of the show are naturally gratified with the result and desire to thank the contributors to the show, Mr Edward Moore, for his services in selling the goods and all who in any way assisted towards the success of the effort.

A home defence corps was formed at Hinckley on Monday, the functions of which will be to assist the police, and guard railway lines, factories, public buildings and houses. About 120 men were enrolled.

The members of the Coalville Women Unionists Association have formed themselves into a working party and are busy making garments for sufferers in connection with the war.

Lieut. E. L. Musson, Manchester Regiment, reported wounded, is the son of Mr and Mrs W. A. Musson, of Ashby. Lieut. Musson was engaged in the operations in East Africa.

No fewer than 200 old boys of Desford Industrial School have gone to the war. One of the boys who has no friends, has made his will and sent it to the head teacher at the school. A large number of the boys trained at the school are also in the Navy.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That a Ravenstone soldier named Handford, is reported as having been wounded?

That a letter has been received from P.C. Durrands, late of Coalville, who is in the fighting in France, reporting well?

That the Coalville district subscriptions to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund now exceed one thousand pounds?

That Shepshed has so far contributed a total of 130 to the army in connection with the European crisis?

That a meeting of the Coalville collectors for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund is to be held next Monday night?

That P.C. Butler, of Ibstock, with the forces in France, who was believed to be missing – a similar name having appeared in the casualty list – has written to his wife stating that he is now attached to the 15<sup>th</sup> Hussars and is quite well?

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## **BRISK RECRUITING IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT**

### **A BUSY WEEK**

The Recruiting Officer for the Coalville district, Capt. W. E. Stevenson, with Capt. Pritchard and other helpers has had a very busy week in obtaining men for the various branches of the services.

Another meeting was held at Ibstock on Monday morning in the Picture Palace kindly lent by Messrs. Wain. Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., of Coalville, presided and Capt. Pritchard and Capt. Stevenson gave stirring patriotic addresses to a good audience. Four more men were obtained for Kitchener's army and Capt. Stevenson congratulated Ibstock on having sent 52 from a recent meeting.

On Monday evening, a meeting was held in the Council Schools at Moira, Mr John Turner, J.P., presiding, addresses being given by the same speakers and there were six recruits enrolled.

The officers then went onto Measham where Mr J. Rice presided at a meeting in the schools, here 19 recruits were obtained.

### **GOOD MEETING AT SWANNINGTON**

There was a capital attendance at a meeting held in the Swannington Church School on Wednesday evening. Captain Deverell presided and the chief speakers were Captain Pritchard and Captain Stevenson. Among those present were, Lady Beaumont, the vicar (the Rev. G. Robinson), Mrs W. Moss, Miss Johnson, Mr Levi Lovett, Mr J. W. Baldwin, and other well-known residents. A letter was read from the Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P. regretting that he was unable to attend the meeting owing to a previous engagement in the North of England, and Mr A. E. Hawley wrote that his son having enlisted had thrown a lot of work on him and he found it impossible to get away.

The chairman said he regarded his position as chairman of that meeting as a great honour because he was a true patriot. The greatest honour was for one to serve, and, if necessary, die for his country. He did not speak as a novice, but as one who had served in the navy for half a century (cheers). He could not understand any young man failing to respond to the call at the present time. But they were not failing. They were proud of the young men and it made them glad they were Britons. They had a splendid meeting in Coalville recently when they got 72 recruits notwithstanding that many had gone before. There were many older men, himself among them, who only wished they could go. On the following day, however, he was going to Scotland to again take command of the ship which he left in order to that a man 15 years younger than himself might go to the front (cheers).

Captain Pritchard said they were in a grave crisis but they meant to win. They were fighting for the freedom of Europe. He alluded to the splendid defence of the plucky little Belgians (cheers), and went on to refer to

the German atrocities. He had been sixteen years in India and could say that none of the lowest of tribes in India would stoop to things the Germans had done. Because Germany had been pushed back a bit they must not suppose the war was nearly over. It had hardly begun. The fiercest of the battle would be when they invaded Germany. Because they must get to Berlin and peace would be signed there (cheers). But to accomplish that they must have plenty of men. Assuming we were beaten, which God forbid, the atrocities perpetrated on the Belgians would be repeated with even greater ferocity, because the English were the people whom the German's hated most because it was England which had upset Germany's plans. The Kaiser spoke of our soldiers as "French's contemptible little army" and that they were to be wiped out, but they all knew the gallantry of our soldiers and the splendid manner in which they were waging this battle. Lord Kitchener had got the first 500,000 men, but had appealed for another half a million and he (the speaker) was sure he would get them, and another million if necessary. There were close of 5 million young men between the ages of 18 and 35 in this country and so Kitchener was asking now for only one in ten. He pointed to the splendid response of the Colonies and said he was sure the young men of England would not allow their kinsmen from over the seas to do their share. If they were true Englishmen they would say it was their duty to come forward to help the country to which they were proud to belong (cheers). They were in a similar position now to what they were a hundred years ago, when Napoleon was threatening the peace of Europe. It was England which saved the situation then, and, with God's help, England would do so again. (Cheers).

Captain Stevenson said he would gladly serve in the army himself but for his feeble eyesight on account of which no doctor would pass him but he was anxious to do what he could, and so on August 7<sup>th</sup> he was appointed recruiting officer for the Coalville district. Since then, over 1,100 names had been enrolled (cheers) He proceeded to speak of the terrible actions of the Germans, which he said were absolutely authenticated and unworthy of a civilised nation. They were recruiting this night for Kitchener's army and the Territorials. In Coalville alone they had enrolled 380 for Kitchener's army and over 700 in the whole district, (cheers). Kitchener's army came first, and he urged them to enlist for this branch of the service. It did not mean going straight to the front, like Germany was sending raw recruits into the firing line, but they would be trained for about five months and made fit for the work. He would like to contradict a rumour going about the district that the food was bad. He had ample evidence that the food was good and plenty of it. There was no reason for any young man holding back. He had the word of all large employers in that district that the places of young men would be kept open for them on their return and from one large works not many miles from there he had taken over a hundred recruits on that understanding. Some mothers had talked to him about the boys going but he told them that if they had been living in Belgium and seen how the women and children were treated by the German soldiers, they would not hesitate a minute about parting with the lads. He then asked who was going to be the first to come forward.

One young fellow came to the front amidst applause and the Captain said he had no doubt others would follow in due course.

The Vicar, in the course of an able address, said students of German history of the last 40 years, had been forced to the conclusion that Germany's only idea was supremacy in Europe. England he went on, was fighting for her honour. They were pledged to uphold the neutrality of Belgium and to do what Gladstone, a man of peace, was prepared to go to war years ago. The German Chancellor said England would not go to war for a mere scrap of paper, but in that scrap of paper rested the honour of England. They were also fighting to show that might was not right and he believed that England was to be the chosen instrument for spreading Christianity among the nations. It was for that reason he appealed to the young men of England to go and uphold the honour of their country. (Cheers).

Mr H. Butler-Johnson, proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, said England had far more to lose in this war than Germany. Once we lost supremacy of the sea, ours would be a stricken country, and life would not be worth living. Mr J. Brewin seconded and the vote was heartily accepted.

The chairman reminded them that that day was the anniversary of the birthday of one of their greatest soldiers, Lord Roberts, (cheers) and he hoped that would be an inducement to more young men to enlist.

Capt. Pritchard moved, and Capt. Stevenson seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman which was also carried with acclamation.

The meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem and other recruits were afterwards enrolled.

**DIED FROM WOUNDS**

**MILITARY FUNERAL AT LEICESTER**

The remains of Private W. Hodges, 4<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment, who died at the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital, Leicester, were interred on Tuesday at the Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester. A large crowd assembled to watch the funeral, which was of a military character. The service was read by the chaplain, the Rev. W. C. Luxmore.

The coffin was covered with a Union Jack upon which was placed a wreath of lilies. Col. Harrison and a firing party from the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters followed the mourners, while in rear the band of the Leicester Gas Department played the Dead March in "Saul." At the conclusion of the service three volleys were fired over the grave, and the bugles sounded the "Last Post."

**ADVERTISEMENT**

**NEW BOOKS**

A War Cookery Book for the sick and wounded, price 6d. Just issued. Published by Messrs. Werner Laurie, and Co., may be had at the "Times" Office, Coalville.

"A.B.C." Guide to the Great War compiled by Edmund B. D. Auvergne, South African Light Horse, 1s. May be had at the "Times" Office, Coalville.

"German Atrocities" by William LeQueux, 2d. Just published, may be had at the "Times" Office.

**ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS**

**THE RELIEF OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS DEPENDANTS**

Mr Varnham raised a question in regard to persons receiving relief who were having grants from the National Relief or Patriotic funds. He mentioned one case of a woman whose grandson had gone to the war. She was receiving 3/6 a week in relief and 7/6 from the patriotic fund, and he wondered whether they could not deal with these as special cases and give them a little more than the ordinary relief. The Clerk said that was clearly a case for the patriotic fund.

Mrs Pratt: *Hear, hear.*

The Clerk said the relief of 3/6 per week by the Guardians must be continued as before, but the loss sustained through her grandson going to the war should be made up from the Patriotic Fund. Mr Varnham asked whether it was laid down that relief should not be given to those who were receiving help from the fund. The Clerk said that any poor law relief given before should be continued. In other cases where they had not been receiving relief, they would be maintained from the funds.

Mr Varnham said that if it was necessary to give this woman who was receiving 3/6 per week from them, 7/6 per week from the Patriotic Fund, making 11s per week, how did their paupers live who only received 3s per week, which the relieving officer said was the average.

The Clerk said each case was treated on its merits whether they had sons who had gone to the front or not.

Mr Varnham: *Have we not information that we should deal generously with these dependants?*

The Clerk: *No. We give relief as before and any loss the family has sustained is provided for by the patriotic fund.*

Mr Varnham: *Not the Prince of Wales' Fund.*

The Clerk: *There is nothing to prevent them getting help from the Prince of Wales' Fund.*

Mr Parker said that unless these funds were carefully administered they would have people tying up their purse strings. If this woman was having 11s a week, how were the poor people going on with 3s per week? There would be severe criticisms in their villages if these people were to be better off than those who had not sent anybody to the war. Local committees should have before them a list of persons receiving relief from the Guardians and not give them the same amount from the funds as those who were receiving nothing at all. Some of them would be considerably better off than they ever had been. He knew a case of a married man who had gone to the front and his wife was receiving considerably more money than she did when her husband was at home. People round about could not understand why all this money from the different funds was going to the woman in addition to the man's pay and workmen were asking why they should give so much each week from their wages for people to receive more than they were receiving before the war. These funds wanted very careful handling, concluded Mr Parker, or they would see a reaction. Mr Riley said he thought the case in question was one for the Patriotic or Prince of Wales' Fund.

Mr Andrews: *But if she is receiving 3/6, that is not to be relaxed at all.*

The Clerk: *No; only any other loss is to be made up. The poor law relief is not to benefit by anything given by these funds.*

### **COALVILLE MEN IN THE FIRING LINE**

#### **INTERESTING LETTERS FROM THE FRONT**

#### **WHITWICK MAN EAGER TO CUT THE KAISER'S MOUSTACHE**

##### **FORMER WHITWICK SCOUT-MASTER WRITES**

##### **CONTRADICTING A RUMOUR**

Private S. E. Perry, of the G Company of the Leicester Regiment, S.R. Purbrook, Fort Camp, near Portsmouth writing to his father, Councillor S. Perry, of Silver Street, Whitwick, says:

*"I was surprised to learn that bad reports respecting the food, etc., at this camp had been going about in Whitwick. Let me say at once that there is absolutely no truth in the statements. There is plenty of good food issued out here every day and the officers look to it that every man gets his fair share. We are not by any means over worked and are practically free every night at five o'clock. We get bacon for breakfast every other morning (bread and butter and cheese other days), meat and potatoes every day for dinner, bread and butter and jam every day for tea and we always have plenty left for supper. Considering that we came up here prepared to suffer any hardships, or even death, for the sake of our King and country it is really surprising that we are treated so well. We each have two blankets, and despite the bitterly cold nights, manage to keep warm and to sleep well. The only grumbling which I hear in this camp is because we are not rushed off to Berlin to "cut the Kaiser's moustache." Hope you will contradict the untruthful reports if you hear anyone talking of them."*

### **COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT**

#### **THINKS OF HIS POTATO CROP**

A Coalville man who is a gunner in the Royal artillery in France, writing to his wife, counsels her to store up the allotment crop of potatoes, as he thought bread would be mighty dear as the result of the war. He had seen tons of corn spoiled and wasted. He was eager for home news, not knowing how things were going on in England, and he would enjoy a newspaper. Whilst keeping well (for which he thanked God), he did not know how long it would last, for they were having very wet weather, and got wet through every night. It was cold, too, and water ran underneath them when they tried to get any sleep. The weather conditions were bound to affect the troops.

He had met a chap he knew who worked at the South Leicester Colliery and who was serving in the Coldstream Guards. They were previously together on the Coalville Railway Station platform when leaving to join their regiments on being called to the colours. He wished he could have his Sunday meals at Coalville as in the past. He felt that he would be able to "*shift something.*" Bread could not be purchased where he was,

and the biscuits served out did not fill up very much. For two days they had had a lot of rain, and he had been wet to the skin. It was a bit rough when one had to sleep in wet clothes, but he hoped he would not feel the worse. *"Let us hope, please God, the war won't last long!"*

### **WITNESSED A BATTLE IN THE AIR**

#### **A NAILSTONE MAN AT THE FRONT**

Herbert Bailiss (a reservist), son of Mr T. Bailiss of Nailstone, writing from France to his parents says:

*"We are winning all along the line. If things go on like this, I think the war won't last long, as we seem to have bottled them up. I have just witnessed a war in the air. It was a sight never to be forgotten. We are smoking tea leaves and brown paper, as the Germans have looted all the villages round here, and "pinched" all the tobacco and eatables. We are having it stiff, but I don't mind as I think the end will be quicker, as we have got them on the move a treat. I cannot tell you where I am, although I should like to. We have some fine music here. I am on out-post duty, and the guns are banging away a treat."*

### **ALWAYS ON THE MOVE**

#### **COALVILLE AMBULANCE MAN ON BOARD**

The following is an interesting letter written by Mr J. Mulrooney, one of the Coalville Ambulance Men with the navy, to Father Degen.

*Rev. Sir, - I have landed once more on the shores of England and I can tell you we all appreciate the pleasure, even if we only get a few hours' leave of absence. We take it in turns to go ashore and as there are about 800 of us on the ship, we are kept pretty busy all the time in catering for one another, because when one man gets off he must find somebody to fill his post during the time of absence. We have had beautiful weather ever since I came on this ship. I am sorry not to be able to send you any news, but we are not allowed to communicate even the names of places where we have been. You may take it from me that we are not idle; we are all the time on the move at sea looking out day and night for hostile craft. I do not think this war can last much longer. Our troops in France seem to be bringing matters to a head. England ought to be very thankful that this war has not reached her, like it has in Belgium, and for this we have to thank our navy which by its activity has prevented the enemy from attempting to make raids on the coasts of Britain.*

*With kindest regards to the Young Men's Class.*

Yours sincerely  
John Mulrooney

"Amphitrite" Devonport  
September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

### **SHORT OF CIGARETTES**

Private Ben Clibbery, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, son of Mr John Clibbery, Midland Railway engine-driver, of Coalville, writing under date September 18<sup>th</sup>, says he is all right and getting plenty of food, but *"there is not a fellow in the battalion who has got a whole cigarette."* They were hanging on for the "tobacco ration."

### **SHELLS FLYING ABOUT WHOLESALE**

#### **COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S EXPERIENCES**

An interesting letter has been received by Mr A. E. Johnson, of Ashby Road, Coalville, Chairman of the Committee of the Coalville Town Football Club, from W. Scoon, who for the last two or three seasons has played for the Town. Scoon is in the 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Brigade and in the thick of the fighting.

He says they are not allowed to give names of places nor say much about what they were doing. They had been about five days at the place from which he wrote the letter and he adds:

*"We started fighting straight away. At the present moment the shells are flying about wholesale. I think if we can shift them out of this it will mean a lot towards the finishing of the war and I shall not be sorry. I have seen enough war to last my life out and I would rather be playing football for the Town. By-the-way, how are they getting on this season? Shall I get a medal if I get back before the season is over? Please remember me to all the boys. Goodbye and good luck."*

In a postscript, Scoon adds: *"Do you ever hear anything of "Smosh"? I don't think they would kill him if they hit him."*

## WHITWICK MAN IN HONG KONG

### GERMAN SHIPS SUNK AND CAPTURED

A letter indicating how the German warships fared at Hong Kong has been received by Mr A. Hutchby, gardener to Mr J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, from his son, Gunner G. L. Hutchby of the 88<sup>th</sup> Company R.G.A. stationed at Hong Kong.



He says he is in the best of health and expects they are having a lively time in England through the war with Germany. The letter proceeds: *"We are also having a lively time out here in China. We did not hear anything about the war until August 4<sup>th</sup>, and then could hardly believe it, thinking it was only intended to see how long it would take us to get ready if war did break out. But on August 5<sup>th</sup>, the German fleet invaded Hong Kong about four o'clock in the morning. We sunk one battleship and captured two more. That was not so bad for a start, was it? And it was before the British fleet arrived here. But our battleships came into the harbour yesterday morning, so we are all right. I am on guard at the present moment on one of the German battleships that we captured, to see that none of them escape or try to kill themselves, as some of them have tried to jump overboard. I have just come off guard to have four hours' sleep and thought I would write a letter home as perhaps I shall not have the chance again for a few weeks, as I am expecting to be sent on to a British man-of-war to go to sea. Our regiment is trained to fight on battleships as well as on land and there is a rumour that the Germans are going to make another attack on Hong Kong. Of course, we shall be ready*

*for them, and will make them sorry when they do come. There will be no German fleet when we have finished with them, at least round China way. I can not explain to you how we all felt in the battle when we captured the German ships. We were all very excited and eager to get at them. We have not heard much yet about the war, but are expecting news from England every day. Fred Swift is on one of the scout ships here. His ship is on guard about 20 miles outside the harbour, watching for more German ships."*

He concludes by saying that he had not had any sleep for three days and three nights and he was glad now of the chance. He was anxious for papers to be sent out, which would be forwarded to his ship.

## MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

### THE BENEFIT OF BEING A SOLDIER

George Underwood, collier, Ibstock, was summoned by James Thorpe, game keeper, Nailstone, on September 12<sup>th</sup>. He pleaded guilty. The gamekeeper said the defendant was blackberrying and broke the fence in going through doing damage to the amount of 1s. Defendant intimated that he had joined the army.

The Chairman: *Have you been passed and accepted?*

Defendant: Yes.

The Chairman: *Then I think we must let you go and wish you luck and a safe return. It is a paltry offence.*

Prosecutor in reply to the Bench, said he did not wish to go on with the case. The costs were remitted.

## COALVILLE TERRITORIALS AND THEIR INSTRUCTOR

## **PRESENTATION TO SERGT. STONE**

An interesting little function took place at the Whitwick gymnasium on Monday night when Sergt-Instructor Stone, who has been instructing the Coalville Territorials, over a hundred strong, was presented with a handsome dressing case.

Pte. Bernard Hatter made the presentation on behalf of the company, and said how sorry they were to know, that Sergt-Instructor Stone was to leave them shortly. The recruits highly appreciated his services and extended their best wishes to him as to his future career.

Sergt-Instructor Stone, who was quite taken by surprise, expressed his thanks and congratulated the men on the splendid progress they had made in such a short time. He had heard many people remark how smart they looked and he agreed and assured them that any regiment would be proud of them.

The Sergeant is returning to his regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders, on orders from the War Office and expected to leave Whitwick to-day (Friday). As is well known, Sergeant-Instructor Stone has for the last few years been in charge at the Whitwick and District Gymnasium and School of Arms, founded by the Right Hon. Charles Booth.

## **NO GERMAN PRISONERS IN LEICESTER**

The rumour having arisen that a batch of German prisoners was expected shortly in Leicester, and that arrangements were being made for their accommodation on the Oadby Racecourse, inquiries were made on Monday night when it was ascertained that no intimation of any such arrangements has been received by the police, nor have they heard of any likelihood of prisoners arriving at Leicester in the near future.

## **LEICESTER WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE**

### **ALLOWANCES TO DEPENDANTS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS DISCONTINUED**

A contemporary is informed by Councillor W. E. Hincks, chairman of the above-named committee that no further pay will be made to dependants of soldiers and sailors from the Prince of Wales's Fund. The committee has decided to stop the payments because of the increased Government allowances which commenced yesterday to the wives and families of soldiers and sailors. Special cases only will in future be dealt with by the committee.

## **ONE STRIPE FOR BOSWORTH WORKHOUSE PORTER**

The porter of the Market Bosworth Workhouse, who recently joined Kitchener's Army, has been made a Lance-Corporal, and Mr A. W. Palmer, clerk to the Mr F. Bouskell, of Market Bosworth, who joined Kitchener's only three weeks ago is now a Corporal.

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## **RECRUITING MEETING AT ELLISTOWN**

### **SPEECHES BY MR W. HURST, MR B. G. HALE, AND CAPT. STEVENSON**

#### **AN APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN**

Under the auspices of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee a meeting was held in the Public Hall, Ellistown, on Thursday evening. Mr William Hurst presided, and he was supported by Mr B. Hale, J.P., and Capt. Stevenson.

While the company assembled, those already present heartily sang, "It's a long way to Tipperary" and "God Save the King."



The chairman said they were there to encourage recruiting. Lord Kitchener had asked for an additional 500,000 men and he understood that he had already got 300,000 towards that number. He appealed to others to come forward in this time of need. He said he was not asking more than his own family were doing. He had a son in the Engineers who expected to go any moment to France, who fought in the Boer War. Proceeding he said they were faced with such a crisis as they had not experienced since they toppled over that European humbug Napoleon. They were now fighting to uphold truth and honour, to uphold treaties which must not be regarded as mere scraps of paper. They were fighting to vindicate gallant little Belgium whose cities had been ruthlessly destroyed and its population treated with brutality and slain, they were fighting to defend their ally, France, or more important still, to safeguard their own empire against the German menace. Germany fought by sowing mines in the sea, and by dressing their soldiers in the uniforms of dead British soldiers. The British were Christian, and they would fight as such. They would strike hard and often but after that would treat the unfortunate and defenceless with humanity. They had a glorious cause, their King and country called them. (Cheers)

Mr B. G. Hale said that if they did not fight in France for freedom and honour there was the danger that they moved here to fight in this country against the barbarous troops of the Kaiser. They were proud that it was known the whole world over that they (the British) fought as gentlemen. This had been proved by the response they had had from South Africa and India. The German Emperor had been deluded, but it was now undeceived. The people of the provinces of India were not only offering their services, but their wealth and resources. Canada and the other Dominions were also rallying round the old flag, and it was incumbent that the young men of this country should do the same. When they had a task to perform it was always wise to provide for every eventuality, and they should offer themselves in order to step into the breach if required. He would to God that he could go, but he was too old. Every man, whatever his age should, however, be prepared to make sacrifices. It would probably be a long affair. If they could tell the men fighting in the trenches that 600,000 more men were going out, did not his hearers think it would have an excellent moral effect, and had they not done splendidly? Were they not proud of their race? Let them all have the old spirit, *"God helping us, we will get through."* He was prepared to do all in his power, to the point of sacrifice. He said this not boastfully, but to make them realise the gravity of the cause. Would they not go and fight for the great cause – for right, justice and truth? Would they have a better cause? Ever since the world began had there been no better cause to fight for? When the war was over and the pages of history came to be written, this country, the greatest empire the world had ever seen would be looked up to as she had never been before. Those who read history would be proud that they bore the name of Britons. Gallant little Belgium need not have sacrificed herself as she had done, she was determined to uphold her neutrality which had been guaranteed by the other powers. That guarantee had been torn up by Germany. What would their wives think if they could tear up their marriage lines? If private undertakings were sacred how much more sacred were undertakings between nations. But for Belgium's gallant stand, Germany to-day would be in Paris, and this country would be in danger of invasion. In Westminster Cathedral and St. Paul's Cathedral they saw the memorials of their national heroes – men who had done their duty. Better to die fighting for a just cause on the battlefield, than to die miserable cowards at home. (Applause)

Captain Stevenson said he only wished as an old volunteer of 10 years' service that he could go, but owing to his eyesight, no doctor would pass him. But he was doing what he could by acting as a recruiting officer. Collier's were the lads for him. When 700 colliers from Glamorganshire joined Kitchener's army he said they were the finest men he had ever seen. Germany's aim was beyond Belgium and France, they aimed at this country and the colonies. The Kaiser was a blood-besotted Potsdam butcher. Many stories of the atrocities were true and he had proof of them. In Leicestershire there is a poor Belgian woman who had had both her arms cut off. She was standing near the ruins of her home when a priest came up and pleaded with her to fly from the Germans. She would not leave her children – a baby, and others aged 8 and 6. The German troops came up and bayoneted the priest and children aged 8 and 6. An officer cut off the woman's hands with his sword and threw the infant into the road. The officer and his men then galloped over the child. Did it not make their blood boil? They were going to put a stop to that. Kitchener was asking for a million men, and he had it on good authority that when he had got them he would ask for another million. Proceeding he said that Ellistown had sent many of its lads, but they wanted still more. If they had taken Lord Roberts' advice years ago and trained their young men this war would never have taken place. Proceeding, he said he wished to contradict the statement that Kitchener's Army were having poor food. He had many letters praising both the quality and quantity of the food. He had the authority of most of the employers of labour in the district to say that the places of the men enlisting would be kept open for them. From one place in the locality he had taken 118 men.

Names of recruits were taken at the close.

**CRICKETERS IN THE ARMY**  
**PLAYING THE OTHER GREAT GAME**  
**LOCAL NOTABILITIES**

A correspondent of the "Standard" has compiled a list of all cricketers now serving in the army and one of the most interesting things about it is that a dozen or so cricket captains out of the twenty figure in the list.

Essex is represented by 17, including J. W. H. T. Douglas, Rev. F. G. Gillingham, G. B. Davies, and C. D. McIver: Gloucester by among others C. O. H. Sewell, D. C. Robinson, M. A. Green, Grange and Dipper: Hampshire by 23, Kent 10, Lancashire 4, Middlesex 11, Somerset 7, Surrey 8, probably 11, Sussex 7, Warwick 14, Worcester 7 and Yorkshire 3.

Those who are serving from the Midland counties are:

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

Major Challenor, commanding 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire (Kitchener's Army).  
A. T. Sharp, lieutenant, Leicestershire Territorials (Ashby Division).  
H. Wright, first lieutenant, Loyal Lancashires  
W. N. Riley, O.T.C.  
G. H. Salmon, O.T.C.  
W. W. Odell, City of Birmingham Battalion  
G. B. F. Rudd, University and Public Schools Battalion  
Astill, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Battalion Territorials  
Shingler, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Battalion Territorials  
Emmerson, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Battalion Territorials

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

P. Pearson-Gregory, lieutenant in the Guards  
A. W. Carr, 5<sup>th</sup> Lancers  
Gunn (W), jun. (John Gunn's son) King's Royal Rifles  
Smith (J) (ground staff), King's Royal Rifles  
Collins and Bowers (last year on the ground staff) have also joined

**DERBYSHIRE**

Captain Baggallay, 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars (already at front)  
J. Chapman, Army Remount Department  
N. M. Hughes-Hallett, in an infantry line regiment  
W. T. Taylor (secretary), 1<sup>st</sup> City of Birmingham Battalion of Territorials  
G. Curgenvin (secretary), cavalry regiment  
G. L. Jackson  
Root, Bracey, and Reader have sent in their names

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

T. E. Manning, captain Northants Yeomanry  
N. J. Beers, Lovat's Scouts  
B. White, Lord Kitchener's Army  
R. C. Fowler (rejoined), commission in National Reserves  
Wheeler, Lord Kitchener's Army

The Minor counties are also well to the fore with Devonshire 10, Herts. 4, Norfolk 12, Northumberland 7, and Suffolk 6.

## **TAKEN FOR SPIES**

### **LEICESTERSHIRE MAN AND WIFE SHOT IN FRANCE**

It is reported that Mr and Mrs D'Esterre, who for several years resided at Elmhurst, Melton Mowbray, and hunted with the local packs, have been shot whilst motoring in France. Mr D'Esterre was killed outright and his wife received four balls through her body, one through the arm, and one on the side of the knee. Although seriously wounded she is making favourable progress.

The report indicates that they were taken for spies, and, as has happened in England, anyone motoring on after challenged by sentries is liable to be shot at.

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES AT HATHERN**

Mainly through the efforts of Ald. S. Wells and Dr. Bedford, a house has been found at Kegworth for a family of Belgian refugees. Several attended Mass at the Roman Catholic Mission Church, Hathern on Sunday.

## **COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

The Highways Committee recommended that in the case of Council men going on active service the difference between the amount they receive from the War Office and their usual wages be paid by the Council to their dependants.

## **LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY**

A reserve regiment of the Leicester Yeomanry is being raised for Imperial and Home Defence. Reservists are eligible to join and all old Yeoman (under 45) and men who can ride are cordially invited to join.

Apply: Commanding Officer R. B. Muir, Major, N. M. Mounted Brigade Depot, Blue Boar Yard, Leicester.

Colonel E. M. P. de Lisle, Garendon Park, Loughborough.

Sergt-Major Harris, 96 Derby Road, Loughborough.

## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Arrangements have been completed in Ashby for the accommodation next week of twenty Belgian children (refugees), thirty townspeople having kindly undertaken to bear the cost of their maintenance. A large house has been placed by the Trustees of the Grammar School at the disposal of the local committee, and it is understood that the rental will be merely nominal.

Everyone was pleased to hear that the Prince of Wales, keenly anxious to prove his patriotism by serving his King and country in the present crisis, has been given a commission in the Grenadier Guards. The Prince of Wales was chatting the other day with one of his brother officers on the subject of the war, and quietly remarked: "*Well, there's one really good thing that will come from this war.*" "*Whatever's that?*" asked a rather astonished officer. "*Well*" replied the Prince with rather a pathetic little smile, "*I suppose I shan't have to marry one of those German princesses now!*"

Pte. J. G. Ward, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Ward, of High Street, Coalville, paid a visit to his parents last week end. He holds an appointment as assistant surveyor at Southend, but like all other loyal young men, responded to his country's call and joined the City of London Royal Fusiliers (Territorial Regiment) the whole of which has volunteered and been accepted for foreign service. The regiment is at present in London.

The Coalville Territorial recruits, now about 130 strong, marched to Hugglescote Parish Church on Sunday headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band. After service they marched back to Marlborough Square where they disbanded. Next Sunday morning they are to attend the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church and the Rev. T. Martin will be the preacher.

All who take any interest in Leicestershire football will be pleased to learn that Lieut. W. C. Clover, of Glen Parva, has been promoted captain. Capt. Clover has served for many years at Glen Parva on the staff of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, on the outbreak of war being transferred to Portsmouth. Capt. Clover took a real interest in football matters in the county, placing his services freely at the disposal of the local associations. As a referee he enjoyed a great reputation all over the country.

### **VISITS TO WOUNDED**

#### **RAILWAY PERMITS FOR FRIENDS IN DANGEROUS CASES**

Speaking at the Fifth Northern Hospital, Leicester, in connection with the presentation by the Mayor and Mayoress of Leicester of large portraits of the King and Queen for the convalescent soldiers' mess room, Mr W. G. Gibbs, hon. secretary of the local committee which has provided literature and games for the wounded, made an interesting statement as to the issue of free railway tickets for the relatives of men dangerously wounded.

He said he thought it should be generally known that it was due to the Queen that this concession had been granted. As secretary to the Games' Committee having access to the wards, he had ventured to address her Majesty on the subject of railway facilities for relatives of the wounded, and he had just received permission to make public the substance of her Majesty's reply. Writing under date September 17<sup>th</sup>. Her Majesty intimated that it had been decided that journey money should be granted to the relatives of soldiers "*when the doctor certifies the wound or sickness is of a dangerous character.*" It was impossible at present to give more facilities for relatives to visit patients in the hospital, not only because of the pecuniary difficulties which presented themselves but also such visits in many instances proved detrimental to the recovery of the patient.

Mr Gibbs added that there had been a great deal of misapprehension with regard to the War Office notification since issued. There granted solely at the discretion of the officers was no general grant of journey money; it was commanding the various hospitals in respect of patients who were dangerously ill. He was sure the convalescents there, fortunately not needing the concessions for themselves, would nevertheless appreciate the boon it would be to relatives of stricken comrades. (Cheers)

### **MATCHES FOR THE TROOPS**

#### **INTERESTING GIFT BY KING AND QUEEN**

The Press Bureau on Sunday night issued the following:

As a mark of their keen interest in the welfare and comfort of our troops, the King and Queen have been graciously pleased to present a large supply of matches for the use of the troops now serving at the front.

The Bureau announces that it is has now been decided to allow gifts of matches to be sent to the Expeditionary Force. Safety matches only should be sent, and they should be packed in sealed tin boxes, and forwarded, carriage paid, to the military forwarding officer, Southampton Docks, for transmission.

Their Majesty's gift will undoubtedly be keenly appreciated. In letters home many men at the front have referred to the scarcity of matches, and asked their friends to supply their need in this respect.

### **IBSTOCK COUNTY AREA**

#### **EXECUTIVE RELIEF COMMITTEE**

The monthly meeting of the above committee was held at the Church of England Schools, Barlestone, on Thursday evening, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Rev. S. Flood, M.A. presided. The Secretary announced that £10 has been placed to credit of Committee's account (No. 2) to meet urgent cases of civil distress, should any arise.

The hearty thanks of the Committee were extended to all who were so kindly assisting in the work and acknowledgement was gratefully accorded to the Colliery Owners who were making such generous grants weekly to the wives and children of soldiers and sailors at the front, and also to the official staffs of the collieries for their kindness in undertaking the clerical work of connected with the collection of the weekly contribution from employees. The question of refugees was discussed. Mr Pegg (Barlestone) announced the holding of a patriotic concert at Barlestone on October 31. It was decided that the organisation expenses (£4/2/3) up to September 10<sup>th</sup> be met by a levy on the executive members so that none of such expenses fall on the actual amount contributed by the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That a drill hall is to be built shortly on the Ashby Road, Coalville?

That all the Leicestershire policemen are contributing weekly to the Relief Fund and the first instalment amounts to £50?

That up to date 2,379 applications for assistance and advice have been dealt with by the Leicester War Relief Committee?

That Mr G. H. Highfield, a former master at the Coalville Grammar School has joined the army?

That five members of the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church Choir and several scholars of the Sunday School have joined the army?

That P.C. Heggs, of Ashby, has been wounded while engaged with the Coldstream Guards in the fighting in France and is now in hospital in Lincoln?

That local members of the Territorial force have been made honorary members of the institute during their stay in Ashby-de-la-Zouch?

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### **ELLISTOWN**

#### **PARISH CHURCH**

The harvest festival was commenced at the St. Christopher's Church last night, when the Rev. E. Leech, of Birmingham, was the preacher. The collection was for the Belgian Relief Fund.

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#### **FORMER OSGATHORPE RECTOR IN BERLIN**

An Englishman in Berlin who is holding his ground and doing his duty under difficult conditions is the Rev. H. Williams, chaplain of St. George's Church, the headquarters of the Anglican community. By special dispensation due to the fact that St. George's was founded by the late Empress Frederick and stands on royal property near the Kaiser's castle, no helmeted policeman attends Divine service there to see that the usual prayer for England is omitted. The prayer is omitted but in other English Churches in Germany a "Schutzmann" is stationed.

The Rev. H. Williams was formerly rector of Osgathorpe.

### **WAR ITEMS**

Samuel Caldwell and Joseph Caldwell, nephews of Mr J. A. Swift, hosiery manufacturer, of Hathern, are both sergeants in the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers, now at the front. They have written to Hathern stating that they are enjoying themselves but that they now know what war is. Their father, who is alive, served in the Zulu war with the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers.

### **KIRBY MUXLOE MAN HAS SIX SONS IN THE ARMY**

Corporal William Bury, now a boot and shoe maker, of Desford Lane, Kirby Muxloe, who served fourteen years in the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucester Volunteer Regiment at Bristol, has six sons serving in the army, viz., Fred Bury, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who received two medals with five clasps for service in the Boer War; Alfred Bury, Northamptonshire Regiment, one medal and five clasps, Boer War; Herbert Bury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment; L Bury, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment; W. T. Bury, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Notts and Derbyshire Regiment; and C. Bury, Leicesters. All are privates.

### **LOUGHBOROUGH MAN KILLED**

#### **ONE OF A WIDOW'S SEVEN SONS IN THE ARMY**

Mrs Ainsworth, a widow of 25 Freehold Street, Loughborough, who had all her seven sons serving with the colours – two of them fighting at the front in the Coldstream Guards – has received news that one, William, was killed in action on September 16<sup>th</sup>. He was married with two children.

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES NEAR LOUGHBOROUGH**

Thirteen Belgian refugees, one elderly man and twelve women and children have arrived at Stanford-on-Soar, near Loughborough, where they have been housed by Mrs Peacock in the empty vicarage.

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### **WOUNDED IN LEICESTER HOSPITAL**

#### **EXTRAORDINARY CHEERFULNESS**

Enquiries at the Leicester Base Hospital on Friday elicited the fact that the batch of wounded who arrived the previous day were fairly comfortable. Most of them passed a good night. There are, of course, a number of seriously wounded among them, there being 30 stretcher cases. The total number of wounded in the hospital is now 300.

Most of the wounds in the last batch were caused by shells, but there were a few bad gunshot wounds, and one man still had bullets in his leg. Only two or three sick cases, as distinguished from wounds were in the party.

The prominent feature about the men was their extraordinary cheerfulness. While they were being transferred from train to motor cars, they had quite a little informal tea party on the platform, a lot of the wounded sitting in chairs, drinking tea and smoking cigarettes, and they seemed to do this with as much enjoyment as if they had been at a Mayor's reception.

Those in charge made an apology for the smell of petrol from the waiting motor-cars, and one man laughed and said, "*That's not in it with the stink of 'Jack Johnson's.*" Another particular jolly chap, one of the stretcher cases, who was badly wounded in the leg, said nothing about his wound, but laughed heartily at anything that particularly caught his fancy and among other things strenuously objected to going inside a closed van. He recognised that he could not go in an ordinary motor car as that would not accommodate the stretcher, but he wanted to see the town and people on his way to the hospital, and suggested that they should place the stretcher on the roof of the car.

Among other matters thought of for the temporary relief of the wounded, it may be mentioned that the soldiers thoroughly appreciated the rugs and pillows provided for their comfort from train to hospital. These proved most valuable. Another little item was the walking sticks provided by the French for those who could limp about. These are of a standard pattern and very strong.

### **FRENCH SOLDIERS TRIBUTE TO A COALVILLE POLICEMAN**

#### **BURIED WITH MILITARY HONOURS**

## **COALVILLE FOOTBALLERS COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY**

### **MORE LOCAL MEN FOR THE FRONT**

### **INTERESTING INTERVIEWS AND LETTERS**

The splendid part which men from Coalville and district are taking in the great war becomes more and more apparent as the weeks roll by. In this issue we regret to have to record the death of another local soldier, Police-constable Henson, stationed at New-Swannington, who has died from wounds and been buried with military honours in France.

Letters received this week show how prominently Coalville footballers are figuring in the fray, and two of them have been commended for bravery. The report that "Smosh" Smith had been killed, is now, happily, proved beyond a doubt, to be untrue.

Four local soldiers from India who are bound for the front, left Coalville yesterday. An interesting interview with one of them appears below. It is rather remarkable how the men at the front are missing their "fags" and several make reference to this in the letters we publish this week.

### **CHRISTMAS DINNER IN BERLIN**

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S OPTIMISM**

### **LOCAL MEN FROM INDIA FOR THE FRONT**

Four soldiers who have just arrived from India reached Coalville on Monday morning on four days' leave of absence, prior to rejoining their regiment which has orders for the front. They were Lance-Corpl. A. Wesson and Lance-Corpl. C. H. Wesson, brothers, sons of Mr Wesson, a Midland Railway fitter, residing in Margaret Street, Coalville. Pte. A. Concannon of Church Lane, Whitwick, and Pte. Hartshorne of Swannington. All are in the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), who since arriving in this country have been encamped at Hursley Park, on Sir J. Cooper's estate near Winchester. The four named have all been in the army for some years.

In an interview with Lance-Corpl. A. Wesson, a representative of this paper learned that the whole regiment are in high spirits at the prospect of going to the front and are eager for the fray.

They left Bombay on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and landed at Plymouth on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the whole regiment comprising about 1100. these were all brought over in one transport, and came part of the way with Indian troops which were landed at Marseilles. In all, there were 26 troopships, and, escorted by the battleships, Wesson said it was a fine sight. The Indian troops are splendid, he said, and would strike terror into the hearts of the Germans. The Gourkhas, in particular, he considered a fine body of men and splendid fighters.

Wesson, who looked bronzed, said he had been two years at Bombay where it was very hot. He would have finished his time in the army next June, but was now continuing in the service. "*You are fond of army life?*" queried our reporter, "*Oh, yes,*" was the response, "*and we are all looking forward to getting to the front.*"

Questioned as to whether there had been any exciting incidents in Bombay, Wesson replied that the enemy had not made his appearance there but English vessels had brought in numerous German ships which had been captured and the British Tommies had been guarding them. His regiment, he went on to say, had been abroad for 16 years and went through the South African war. As far as they knew they were to leave England for the front sometime this month, and he believed that about 70,000 troops were leaving for the war.

"*Kitchener means business,*" he added enthusiastically, "*and we have all been saying in our regiment that we shall have our Christmas dinner in Berlin. I'll send you a bit of pudding.*"

Referring again to the journey from India, Wesson said ten of the transports sailed from Bombay and the others joined them at Port Said. They sighted no hostile craft on the way but had the unique experience of witnessing a wreck. They saw a vessel disappear beneath the waves, but, happily, all the crew were saved. Apart from this, it was an uneventful journey. The dusky soldiers who had gone to the front were, he said, the flower of the Indian Army and would give a good account of themselves. It was pleasing to hear Wesson say

how well the white soldiers got on with the dark men in the service of India. The Indian soldiers, he affirmed, would readily lay down their lives for the English soldiers.

Wesson is an old Coalville Athletic footballer, and has gained a good reputation at the game while in Bombay, having won several medals. Had things gone on in a normal way he would have completed his seven years in the army next June and intended playing for Coalville Town next season. He finds the English climate very chilly after Bombay, but said the army provided them with good warm clothing.

Before leaving Wesson, I assured him that readers of the "Coalville Times" wished him and his pals the best of luck, and that I should look out for that bit of pudding.

The four men left Coalville yesterday to rejoin their regiment at Winchester.

### COALVILLE LAD'S ONLY COMPLAINT

#### CAN'T GET A WOODBINE

Mrs Davis, besides having a letter from "Smosh," has also received one this week from her only boy, Pte. William Henry Davis, No. 9088, of the Leicestershire Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Reinforcement Base.



He says:- "Dear Mother, I write a line to you hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. I have seen Mr Chippendale and Reed and they are getting on all right. I have not had a Woodbine and we can't get any here, but we will make it all right when this is over. Could you try and send me a box of "fags." Get Lizzie and Jack to help you. I have heard that George had listed; have not seen "Smosh" yet. I can't put as much in this letter as I should like, because if I did the officer would rip it up. We dare not put our proper address, because of giving things away. I think this is all this time. Write back and send some "fags" with the letter. With best love and wishes from your loving son."

*William*

*P.S. I have seen P.C. Page up here. Goodbye to all.*

Pte. Davis is the only son of Mrs Davis, who is a widow, her husband, Mr Isaac Davis having been dead for about ten years. A pathetic circumstance is that Mrs Davis has been bedridden for 18 years, her hands and arms having almost withered away, but when our reporter called she seemed wonderfully cheerful and was very pleased to have received the two letters here reproduced.

### SWANNINGTON POLICEMAN'S DEATH AT THE FRONT

#### FRENCH SOLDIER'S SPLENDID TRIBUTE

#### NURSE'S TOUCHING LETTER

The saddest war news of the week, so far as this district is concerned, is that announcing the death of P.C. Henson, of the Coldstream Guards who was stationed at New Swannington. It was conveyed in a touching letter written by one of the hospital nurses to his brother, Mr John Henson, of 49, Woodgate, Loughborough, and was as follows:

*"September 27<sup>th</sup>, - Dear Sir, I write to tell you the sad news of the death of your brother, Pte. L. Henson, of the Coldstream Guards, who was brought to this hospital on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at night, with a shell wound. The piece of shell had passed through the lower part of his body and out through the lower part of his back. We did all we could for him, but there was little we could do, except keep him comfortable. He was very brave and patient, and passed away quietly at half past four on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. He was conscious part of the time and told me you were the only near relation he had, and he was very pleased*



when we said we would let you know how he got on. He was buried this morning. The first part of the service was in our mortuary chapel. An English clergyman took the service and a company of French soldiers came and several of the members of staff of this hospital went to the service. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and on it was placed a laurel wreath and there was another wreath with the words, "Les souvenir Francais," given by some French soldiers. A company of French soldiers followed him to the grave and fired the last shots. It was a beautiful and impressive military funeral. If there is anything further that you wish to know or anything I can do for you, please write and ask me and I will do what I can."

Yours truly,

Grace Judge

P.C. Henson, who was a first-class army reservist, joined the Leicestershire Constabulary about nine months ago and he was the first policeman to be stationed at New Swannington, where he came in May last. By the painstaking and courteous and efficient manner in which he discharged his duties he had won the highest respect of the inhabitants in that short period and there is genuine and wide-spread regret that the war should have claimed him as one of its victims. He was a fine specimen of manhood, a total abstainer and of splendid physique, his military bearing being very apparent, and he bore an excellent character. He was a native of Loughborough. The deceased soldier was engaged to Miss Ida Stacey, whose mother is the wife of Mr Waterfield of the Duke of Newcastle Inn, Whitwick, and much sympathy is felt for the young lady in this sad occurrence.

(A photograph of P.C. Henson accompanied the article)

### **JIM SMITH SAFE**

#### **WISHES TO BE REMEMBERED TO ALL OLD FRIENDS**

In view of the reports that Jim Smith, the Coalville Town footballer, popularly known as "Smosh," had been killed, a letter received from him this week by Mrs Davis, of 157, Ashburton Road, Coalville has an especial interest.

Smith is a private, No. 3833, of the R.A.M.C. Fourth Cavalry, Field Ambulance, British Expeditionary Force, and he says, "I write these few lines hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me at present. I am going on all right. I have not seen Harry (Mrs Davis's son) yet. Is he out here? Will you tell me if my sister has left and if so send me her address. I hope you are going on all right. Remember me to Straw and Squires and tell them I should like one of Raffer's (pint of ale) now. Remember me to all old friends.

P.S. Tell Bradder (the little boy) that this letter is from "Smosh." Good night all."

### **HAVING A BUSY TIME**

#### **ELLISTOWN MAN WITH THE RIFLE BRIGADE**

Rifleman H. Lagoe, of Ellistown, with the fourth section, G Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade, stationed at Queenborough, Kent, writing to a friend, Mr A. Richardson, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, says they are very busy drilling night and day. They now have a captain attached to the company who is all right, but keeps them on the go.

Having expressed thanks for some cakes sent to him, which he enjoyed immensely, he says they are now having a lot better food, a change every day of some sort, and he was feeling pretty well. The letter continues: "I do not sleep on the floor now, but on rocks. They are no more comfortable but I do not get the draught so much. We have all got heavy army boots and they feel like a ton weight at night when we have finished a day's drilling. We go on a ploughed field at night, skirmishing, and it is a bit rough, crawling on your stomach or hands and knees. I shall be glad when we have got uniforms. My clothes are beginning to look a bit on the shabby side, but I am not the only one. You ought to see some of the fellows; they have hardly got any trousers left. If we do not shave every day there is an extra drill to do. We are having short route marches now and they are all right; better than drilling." He concludes by expressing thanks for a "Coalville Times" received this morning.

## **GOOD FOOD AT ALDERSHOT**

### **ELLISTOWN SOLDIER'S TESTIMONY**

In a letter to a Hugglescote friend, Mr A. Richardson, Pte. G. H. Wilcox, late of Ellistown, No. 13254 of the B Company 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, stationed at Bourley Camp, Aldershot, says *"We are getting on all right. We are having good food – ham and pudding for dinner, and butter and jam for tea, but we do nine hours drill a day and we have to be in by 8 o'clock, so we don't get much time to write. I am writing this in bed and the lights are out at nine o'clock. The nights are not like being at Ellistown. It is four miles to the nearest place and we can get nothing here but only letters. There are aeroplanes and airships flying about all day. I had never seen one until I came here. We all sleep in one camp. The boys ask me to remember them to you and wish you and Mrs Richardson the best of luck. It's a lot better here than at Wigston."*

### **COALVILLE NAVAL STOKER'S LETTER**

Stoker T. W. Robinson, whose foster parents reside in Berrisford Street, Coalville, who was serving on the destroyer Cadmus at Shanghai, writes that he had no knowledge of the outbreak of war until the 6<sup>th</sup> August. The destroyer was ordered "straight away." Some German and Austrian ships were at once held up, and his vessel was commanded to hold itself in readiness to join the Japanese Fleet.

### **"NEARLY ALWAYS RAINING"**

Pte. Jack Clibbery of the Leicesters, now in France, writing to his father Mr J. Clibbery, Midland Railway engine driver, of Coalville, says the weather is very bad, and it is nearly always raining. His brother, Ben, is serving in the same battalion, but in a different company. The postcard is dated September 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **COALVILLE SOLDIERS WOUNDED**

#### **FOUGHT AND FELL SIDE BY SIDE**

Lying side by side in the hospital at Leicester are Pte. F. Wilson and Pte. Hancock, both of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards, who were fighting together in France when they were wounded and were brought to the hospital together last week. Pte. Wilson's home is in Hotel Street, Coalville, and Pte. Hancock resides at Ravenstone. Both are married men.

Wilson received a bullet wound in the foot and Hancock was struck on the shoulder with a piece of shell. We were pleased to learn on enquiry yesterday that both men were doing well.

### **COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S BRAVERY**

#### **RESCUED WOUNDED FRENCH SOLDIER**

Private W. Commons, familiarly known in Coalville and district as "Merry Commons," and who is serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Expeditionary Force, writing to Mr John Sykes, of Hotel Street, said he was pleased to hear that Mr Sykes had a good time at Thringstone Wake. He (Commons) was at a different wake, where the shells were flying night and day. He continues: *"Well, I have had my name sent for bravery. There was a Frenchman hit by a shell, so me and "Smosh" got a stretcher and ran out, and fetched him to safety, and the shells were bursting all around us. But we have been lucky enough to miss them up to now. It isn't war out here; its murder."*

Commons adds: *"It's like asking for gold out here to ask for a piece of writing-paper. You can get 5d a packet for Woodbines here. There's one thing, they are sending plenty of tobacco out for the troops. But I say 'Roll on England'."*

Commons, who lived at Club Row, Coalville, has figured in different football clubs, amongst them Whitwick Imperial and Coalville Swifts.

### **COALVILLE AMBULANCE MAN HOME AGAIN**

#### **EXPERIENCES ON A WARSHIP**

One of the members of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, Pte. Mulrooney, of St. Saviour's Road, Coalville, who was called up for service in the Sick Berth Naval Reserve on the outbreak of war, returned home yesterday having been invalided home on account of ill health.

Seen by a representative of the paper yesterday, Pte. Mulrooney stated that he and Pte. Curtis, another Coalville man, had been stationed on board H.M.S. Cruiser Amphitrite, which is not in the war zone but is guarding trade routes off the Portuguese and Spanish coasts. There were three doctors, three St. John's Ambulance men and two sick berth attendants on board, Mulrooney being one of the latter. He has seen no actual hostilities but his ship has had one or two exciting chases of supposed hostile craft, showing how keenly our warships are guarding the seas. Several prizes in the shape of foreign ships were captured, 5 of these being laden with grain. One they took into Gibraltar and the others were sent to Devonport.

Mulrooney stated that Pte. F. Moreton, also of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade was on board H.M.S. Ceasar.

## **Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1180)**

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#### **ASHBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

##### **SURVEYOR JOINS THE FORCES**

The Surveyor, Mr F. Horbury, intimated his desire to join the forces and asked the Council to allow him leave of absence.

The Chairman said he was sorry, but he knew that some of their best young men were joining the forces and it was their duty to do all they could do to help them. He felt that the Council would be losing a very valuable servant but they hoped it would not be for long. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that the duties surveyor had been carried on better and more to the satisfaction of the ratepayers since Mr Horbury came than it had ever been before. (Hear, hear.) The roads continued to improve and they hoped he would come back as soon as the King had done with him and that it would not be long. (Cheers.)

Major Hatchett moved and the Rev. C. T. Moore seconded that permission be given and this was carried.

The Chairman said they must decide the question of remuneration. They could not expect the surveyor to fight their battles on a shilling a day.

Major Hatchett moved that they pay Mr Horbury half his salary while he was away. Mr Pargetter said he seconded that with very great pleasure. Dr. Atkinson supporting it said it was the first time in his life that he felt that he was getting an old man. Really he did not feel any older than he did 20 years ago, but he was too old to be of service and he admired the young men who were going. (Cheers.) The resolution was carried.

Mr Horbury thanked the Council and said he hoped to come back all right. He had always met with the greatest kindness from the members and his association with the Council had been a happy time. He hoped to be able to come back and resume his duties in due course.

The Clerk was instructed to take steps to temporarily fill the post.

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#### **LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS FOR THE FRONT**

##### **STATEMENT BY THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE**

An important statement, received with interest and satisfaction in Leicester and the county, was made by the Duke of Devonshire at a recruiting meeting at Ilkeston on Monday night.

His Grace said he could state with authority that the North Midland Brigade of Territorials had had the honour of being selected to be the first Territorial Division to go to the front. It was necessary that the Territorial Force's strength should be maintained at home, for so long as the German fleet and the Zeppelins were in being we had realise that this country was not immune from invasion.

The phrase used by the Duke was that the North Midland Brigade would be "the first Territorial Division for the front as a Territorial Division." There are of course a number of Territorials already at the front in various capacities. It had been rumoured for some little time that the desire of the Leicestershire Territorials to proceed to the front was likely to be gratified at an early date, and the authoritative announcement of the Duke that the North Midland Brigade to which they are attached is honoured by the "first call" will be received with great enthusiasm.

Details are not at present available, and even if we had them it would be inadvisable in view of the policy of the War Office to state the strength of the forces, but it may be noted that attached to the North Midland Division are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment, as well as battalions of the Lincoln, Staffordshire, Notts. and Derby Brigades, the North Midland Brigades of Royal Field Artillery, and Royal Engineers, Army Service Corps, R.A.M.C. and Clearing Hospital.

It is presumed that both sectors are referred to. Orders have been received to mobilise the North Midland Division of the Clearing Hospital, which has its headquarters at Leicester, and an appeal is being made for experienced cooks for this unit.

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### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Notices have been posted in Coalville and district that every person who keeps homer pigeons must have a permit from the police, failing which they are liable to a heavy penalty. This regulation has been issued in consequence of aliens in this country using pigeons to carry messages to the enemy. There are many fanciers in this district who should, therefore, take note of what is required of them.

The number of Territorial recruits at Coalville continues to grow, and the company is now about 150 strong. They attended service at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church on Sunday, the procession being headed by the Coalville Coronation Band. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. T. J. Martin. The men have not yet received the kharki uniform but they looked exceedingly smart and the good effects of the short training they have had are already apparent. Since Sergt. Instructor Stone left, the duties of instructor have been taken over by Sergt. Wain, one of the local recruiting officers. Next Sunday morning the recruits will attend service at the Ravenstone Parish Church.

At the moment 110 officers and 4,000 members and ex-members of the Church Lad's Brigade are serving in one branch or another of His Majesty's forces. Other are acting as orderlies and messengers, guarding waterworks, powder magazines, railway bridges, caring for refugees, providing ambulances, and stimulating recruiting. The brigade now has 7,000 members.

A resident of Ellistown, Mr Harper, who was reported missing from his home for some weeks, has, we are informed, now been traced. It is stated that he has enlisted in Kitchener's army at Birmingham.

One of the local school attendance officers, Mr J. Hugill, of Snibston, who was formerly a soldier, has proceeded to Aldershot to act as an instructor of recruits and his district has been divided among the other officers for the time being.

A large crowd at Shepshed on Tuesday night greeted 16 Belgian refugees, who have been placed in the White House, provided by the Rev. Canon Martens, who met them at Loughborough, and was accompanied by the Rev. Father Cams. A ladies committee prepared the rooms loans and gifts of furniture. A hot meal was ready for the guests on arrival.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That 110 men from the Whitwick Colliery have joined the forces?

That Pte. F. Moreton, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, on duty with the naval forces, has been promoted to the rank of corporal?

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## **FAREWELL TO COALVILLE RECRUITS**

### **INTERESTING PRESENTATION**

An interesting event took place in the Coalville Primitive Methodist School on Wednesday night in the form of a café social to bid farewell to some young men connected with the church who have joined the army. The programme included piano solos by Mrs J. R. Bennett, Miss Stillwell, and Miss Kirk, solos by Mrs Fisher, Miss S. Hayes and Mr Williamson. Mandolin solos by Miss D. Kendrick and recitations by Miss Shepherd and Miss A. Kendrick.

During the evening, Billies were presented to Messrs. G. Bennett, V. Kelham, G. Taylor, and S. Holmes, who have joined the army or territorials. Other recruits, J. W. Harper and S. Dodds, were presented with a Primitive Methodist hymnal. An enjoyable evening was spent.

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## **PATRIOTIC LEICESTER CITIZENS**

### **TRAINING LEAGUE MEMBERS AT DRILL**

More than 120 men put in an appearance at the initial drill of the Leicester Citizen's Training League, on the Leicestershire County Cricket Club ground on Monday. This may be regarded as an encouraging start. The commandant, Capt. R. M. Pritchard, addressed the men, congratulating them upon their appearance and bearing in Saturday's great procession. The League is for men over 35 years of age, and route marches and parades will be arranged, and badges provided shortly to every member. Enrolment is proceeding very briskly, over 200 additional names having been received since Saturday, and it is anticipated the present week will see the membership one thousand strong.

## **LEICESTER CORPORAL'S FEAT**

### **TIMELY AID FOR A FRENCH LIEUTENANT**

Lieut. Leon E. Pau, of the French Army, formerly employed in London, writing to his sister in England says:

*"I am greatly indebted to the Coldstreams, and whenever you meet one in Purley, their depot is at Caterham, don't forget it is due to one of these brave men I owe my life. Speak to him and give him a cigarette and tell him a corporal and five of his men saved your brother's life.*

*I was alone on the outskirts of a forest making observations and watching one of our aeroplanes flying over a body of Germans when suddenly seven of the enemy jumped out of a well-concealed trench. I made an attempt to get away, when they fired at me. I fell and pretended I was wounded, when shots flew over my head from another direction. I saw the Germans run away, and the next minute the corporal, who told his name was William Taylor, and that he was a native of Leicester came running to me, followed by five men. He thought I was wounded.*

*He, it seems, was hiding, and was on the lookout for Germans, who he had seen lurking about on the summit of the hill. The incident certainly was the means of revealing the near presence of a considerable force of the enemy, who were shelled out of their position."*

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## **COALVILLE AND THE RELIEF FUND**

### **RESULT OF SECOND COLLECTION**

A meeting of the Coalville collectors for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund was held in the Bridge Road Council School on Monday evening last week. Mr J. W. West presided and those present beside the collectors included Capt. McKernan, Messrs. L. L. Baldwin, W. Eames and A. Lockwood (of the Central Committee) and F. S. Weaver, hon. secretary.

The collectors paid in amounts received on the second house to house collection which totalled £37/5/8, including £10/5/0 already paid into the bank. The secretary said that made the total of the two collections £91/19/5. The chairman thought that was very good and said it justified the continued collecting.

Two resignations of collectors, Messrs. W. Clarke and A. Beasley for Albert and Victoria Street, were reported and three from the Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church were appointed in their place, viz., Mrs Hardy, Miss F. Price and Mr E. Bettison.

The pastor of the Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Rev. W. H. Wills, wrote that the reason representatives from his church were not appointed in time for the first meeting of the committee was due to a church meeting being held later and was not due to any lack of sympathy with the excellent object which the committee hand in hand.

It was decided to continue the collecting and the next meeting of the committee was fixed for the first Monday in November.

It may be explained that practically all the working people in Coalville and district are contributing to the fund at the various works, and the treasurer, Mr J. Husband, of Lloyd's Bank, Coalville, has already sent a cheque for £1,000 to the fund from the Coalville area.

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#### **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER REPORTED MISSING**



Information was received on Wednesday by Mr W. Bonser, of 166, Thorpe Cottages, Crescent Road, Hugglescote, that his son, Pte. E. W. Bonser, No. 10318, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards, was listed as missing after an engagement on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

The letter, which is from the Colonel of the regiment states that "missing" does not necessarily mean that the soldier is killed or wounded. He may be an unwounded prisoner or temporarily separated from his regiment. Any further information will be sent as soon as it is received.

#### **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S BIRTHDAY**

Private G. Hirons, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, writes from France stating that he is in good health. It would be his birthday on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, and he hoped his friends would have a celebration. The sun was very hot where

the writer was, and fruit was very plentiful, especially grapes, which grew in fields. It was very cold at nights, but they did not grumble.

### **BOSWORTH MAN'S FOUR SONS SERVING THE KING**

Mr T. C. Quincey, clerk to the Market Bosworth County Court, has three sons in Kitchener's Force and a fourth youth awaits orders. Mr Quincey has been 33 years in the county court office, and congratulations have been extended to him on the "patriotism of the Quinceys of historic Bosworth."

### **COALVILLE OFFICER FOR THE FRONT**

Mr R. C. S. Jamie, of Coalville, as an ex-cadet of the Officer's Training Corps, on the outbreak of war applied for a commission in the regular forces, and has received a commission as second lieutenant in the Army Service Corps. He has been five weeks at Aldershot and Grove Park Depot and received orders for the front on October 10<sup>th</sup>, being the first officer from the Coalville district to have this distinction. Mr Jamie is the elder son of Dr. R. W. Jamie, the Coalville Medical Officer of Health.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE POLICEMAN IN THE FIGHTING**

#### **COALVILLE CONSTABLE A PRISONER IN GERMANY**

Sixteen members of the Leicestershire Constabulary have joined the forces, including four from Ashby-de-la-Zouch Petty Sessional Division. Of these four, one has been killed, and two wounded, these all being in the Coldstream Guards and the other P.C. Granger, is with the Leicesters in the fighting. The one killed is P.C. Henson and wounded P.C.'s Heggs, and Durrands. The latter, who was stationed at Coalville, has for some weeks been reported missing, but a letter has now been received from Durrands stating that he was wounded and taken prisoner by the Germans on September 17<sup>th</sup>. He was shot through the arm which was badly broken. He has been taken to Lefaugeren-lager, Doeberity, Germany, and he says he is allowed to receive and send letters but they must not contain any account or information respecting the war.

### **THRINGSTONE SOLDIER WELL**

The Chairman of the House Committee of the Thringstone Club, Mr Stinson, has received a letter from one of the members, Mr Joseph West, who is with the forces in France stating that he is in good health and wishes to be remembered to all friends.

### **NEW CAPTAIN FOR COALVILLE TERRITORIALS**

As Captain T. E. Jesson is expecting to go to the front with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicester Territorials, Captain Vere Smith, has been appointed by the command of the Coalville Company. The new captain has been in the Indian Army and served through the South African War.

### **RECRUITING MEETING AT GRIFFYDAM**

#### **MR. J. SHIELD'S APPEAL TO SPORTING COLLIERS**

#### **SPEECH BY MR. T. Y. HAY**

A meeting for recruiting purposes was held in the clubroom of the Wagon and Horses Inn, Griffydam, on Wednesday night. Mr J. Shields J.P. presided, and was supported by Mr T. Y. Hay (Coalville), Capt. Stevenson (Ashby), Mr W. Baldwin (Swannington) and Mr John Hay.

The chairman said there was no doubt that they were faced by the greatest crisis that this country had ever seen. They had not brought the war about, but having given their word to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium they were determined to keep their word. In spite of pessimism in some quarters, he felt that they were going on all right and they could place their entire confidence in Lord Kitchener and General French. He went on to refer to the German atrocities and said shooting was too good for such men. England had a big job and was fighting for their very existence. The call to arms had been nobly responded to and he was sure that the men

of Griffydam and Thringstone would not fail. (Cheers) They had the poaching blood in them and the cock-fighting blood in them (laughter) and as sportsmen they would respond to Lord Kitchener's appeal. (Cheers)

Mr T. Y. Hay (manager of Whitwick Colliery) said that had he been told six months ago that he would be at Griffydam that night speaking at a recruiting meeting he would have laughed at it. People had believed that a European war was impossible. He went on to outline the causes of the war and said that throughout the Germans had not played the game. They had broken treaties and their word of honour. Germany asked if they were going to war over a scrap of paper, England's reply was that their word was their bond. The conduct of the Germans had been a disgrace to civilisation and they would have to give an account for it and would have to pay. Since the English troops landed on the Continent they had had to fight, and fight, and fight, and had excited the wonder of the world. But if they could have sent a few more hundred thousand men, they would not have had to retreat from Mons. The Germans had a reputation for cruelty. The Duke of Wellington in his day said they were "cruel devils." Considering the population of Great Britain he went on, they ought to have a larger army. He thanked God that they had an excellent navy. But for that they would have stood in danger of a German invasion and then their women and children would receive the same treatment as had been meted out to the people of Belgium. Britain had taken her coat off and when she did that, she always won. They were determined to put a complete stop to the German menace. One hundred and ten employees of the Whitwick Colliery had responded to the call and the firm were giving the wives of the married men 10s a week and 2s for each child. (Hear, hear) He appealed to all to respond and they would never regret it.

The Chairman said the Territorials were delighted at the prospect of getting to work to tackle the Germans. Capt. Stevenson said that for two years he had commanded the National Reserves in that district and on August 6<sup>th</sup> the Reserve officers were called together and ordered to place the National Reserve in various divisions. He was appointed recruiting officer for that district and a large number of recruits had passed through his hands. Having referred to the Germans as savages, he said Great Britain was Germany's aim and if ever they got here the atrocities perpetrated in Belgium would be nothing to what would happen here. He had had word that Lord Kitchener would ask for another million men after he had got the first million, and if they did not respond they might be fetched. It was much better they should volunteer. He was recruiting for Kitchener's army and the Territorials. The Reserve 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was about 700 strong, but they would have to reach 1000 strong and the other battalions too, before the service battalion could go abroad. So if they held back they were keeping the 5<sup>th</sup> from going on active service.

Several old soldiers came forward and volunteered for Kitchener's army and were sworn in.

Mr John Hay moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and appealed to the lads to distinguish themselves rather than be extinguished. Mr Shields responded and moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was heartily accorded.

Last night a similar meeting was held in the Whitwick Church Schools, Mr S. Perry presiding and the speakers were Mr T. Y. Hay and Capt. Stevenson.

## **LEICESTER RECRUITING**

### **VISIT OF THE HIGHLAND PIPERS**

Under the auspices of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee, there was a very successful demonstration on behalf of recruiting in Leicester on Saturday afternoon. The principal attraction was provided by the pipes and drums of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, whose band was brought down from London on the initiative of Mr Theodore Walker. A procession was formed in Granville Road and Regent Road, comprising the Highlanders' Band, 600 recruits of the new army, and the local territorial reserve, Leicester Imperial Band, Church Lad's Brigade, with band, 300 Boy Scouts, with bugle band, R.A.M.C. and transport, and the local citizens' corps.

Altogether, the procession made a brave array, and was heartily cheered by thousands of people as it passed through the main streets to the Leicester Football Ground, where a tremendous crowd, numbering nearly 20,000 people had assembled to witness the football match between the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Battalion (territorial) team from Luton and Mr T. Crumby's fifteen. Before play commenced, the massed bands played "God save the King" amid a scene of unbounded enthusiasm. The gate proceeds were in aid of the local patriotic fund.



The game was spiritedly contested, and ended in a win for Mr Crumbie's team by 1 goal, 2 tries to 1 goal 1 try. In the evening there was another march through the streets with a torchlight tattoo on the Welford Road Ground.

## **Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1914 (Issue 1181)**

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### **FIFTH NORTHERN HOSPITAL**

#### **THE PROVISION OF LITERATURE AND GAMES**

A meeting of the Literature and Games Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital was held at the Central Library on Monday evening, when the Chairman, Councillor C. Squire, presented an interesting report, showing how the public had responded to the appeal. There had been sent to the Hospital, through the Committee, 1,416 magazines, 572 volumes of fiction, 136 miscellaneous games (besides the billiard-tables and bagatelle-boards already reported), 52 packs of cards, boxes of cigarettes, tobacco, and cigars, two gramophones with 53 records, several thousand postcards, four bookcases, and about 70 pictures, besides numerous gifts sent direct to the hospital. At the Central Library, as a reserve against future requirements, 1,500 magazines, 400 illustrated weeklies, etc, 516 bound volumes of fiction, 350 paper-covered novels, 240 games, and a small stock of playing cards, games etc.

Mr W. G. Gibbs, hon. secretary, reported that the literature, etc, was much appreciated by the wounded, and that the Mayor and Mayoress had given large steel-engraved portraits of the King and Queen for the soldiers' mess-room. There was now sufficient literature of all kinds except current magazines and illustrated weeklies.

Messrs. Mason and Sidwell (for the newsagents) stated that the supply of daily papers were kept up, and Mr Moody (tobacco trade) reported that up to date the following had been contributed by the trade in Leicester; 3800 cigarettes and 2 lbs weight of same, 9 lbs of tobacco, 250 cigars, besides pipes and playing cards.

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### **ALIENS' NAMES**

#### **NOT TO BE CHANGED**

An addition to the Aliens Restriction Order has been issued which provides:

*"An alien enemy shall not, after the twelfth day of October, nineteen hundred and fourteen, for any purpose assume or use, or purport to assume or use, or continue the assumption or use of any name other than that by which he was ordinarily known at the date of the commencement of the war.*

*Where an alien enemy carries on or purports or continues to carry on, or is a member or a partnership or firm which carries on or purports or continues to carry on any trade or business under any name other than that under which the trade or business was carried on at the date of the commencement of the war, he shall, for the purposes of this Order, be deemed to be using or purporting or continuing to use a name other than that by which he was ordinarily known at the date of the commencement of the war".*

Nothing in this Article shall affect the right of a woman who after the commencement of the war marries an alien enemy to use the name which she acquires on her marriage.

### **PRAISE FOR LEICESTER BASE HOSPITAL**

Amongst the wounded at the Leicester Base Hospital is Private M. Spillane, of the Irish Guards, and who is a Lincolnshire policeman. He is apparently very grateful for the treatment he is receiving. In a letter to the Chief Constable of the Lincoln Force he suggests that soldiers and officers, when leaving hospital, cured of their wounds, might dwell on the treatment they have received, and give the people looking after them a little bit of

praise for the good work they are doing for the wounded. Night and day, he adds, those people were bringing men from the very brink of the grave.

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### **RECRUITING MEETING AT MARKFIELD**

#### **STRONG APPEALS AND A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE**

The schoolroom was crowded at a meeting held on Thursday evening to stimulate recruiting in the district. Mr T. W. Everard, who presided, and was supported by Mr A. Pickard, C.C., Captain Pritchard, Colonel Piercy, Mr Preston, and Dr. Fletcher.

The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Haynes, who is with the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, appealing for immediate substantial help. Mr Everard said Markfield had done fairly well, but more men were wanted. Captain Pritchard made an earnest appeal, emphasising the fact that we were fighting for honour, freedom, humanity, our homes, hearths and our food supply. He eulogised the bravery of the Expeditionary Force, and insisted that we must not leave them – our own flesh and blood – outnumbered as they were. They must fill the reserve battalions to allow the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions to go forward.

Mr A. Pickard said the gravity of the crisis was emphasised by the complexion of the platform. He had a right to appeal to them as he had two sons and five nephews who had responded to the call of their country. They were not fighting for gain, but he would prefer political death to dishonour. If we win, as please God we should, freedom and democracy would live and military autocracy would die; if we lost – which God forbid – the voluntary service which they were asked to render would be replaced by conscription. We wanted recruits to augment the Expeditionary Forces, to reward Belgium, and to make victory inevitable. What would their feelings be when the finger of scorn was pointed at them because they hung back in England's hour of trial?

Colonel Piercy said prevention was better than cure, and he appealed for men to come forward now. Mr Preston appealed as one whose only son had answered the call. Dr. Fletcher who went through the Boer War said there were few greater joys than the realisation of doing one's duty.

After the singing of the National Anthem a number of recruits were enrolled.

### **COALVILLE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY**

#### **£50 VOTED TO THE BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The 129<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting of the Coalville Working Men's Co-Operative Society was held in the Adult School Hall on Saturday night, Mr John Bradley presiding over a moderate attendance.

The secretary read the committee's report as follows: the Society's sales for the quarter ended September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1914, amount to £41,681/4/10, as compared with £38,346/15/0 1/2 in the corresponding quarter of last year, showing an increase of £3,334/9/9 1/2. The average trade per member amounts to £8/3/0. The net profit, after providing for all expenses of production and distribution, etc., amounts to £6,259/11/8, which we propose to distribute as follows: To dividend on £41,500 and 2/6 in the £, 5187/10/0; reserve fund, £200; children's gala fund, £30; depreciation Thringstone premises, £50; depreciation Whitwick cottages, £100; painting fund, £192; dividend equalisation fund, £500.

128 new members have been enrolled and 29 have withdrawn, leaving the present membership 5,113. The penny bank depositors number 4,390, and the amount to their credit is £9,885 2s 7d. The output of the Bakery is as follows; 290,526 4lb white loaves, 29,034 2lb Hovis and Confectionary value £1,848 (retail). The Butchery department have slaughtered cattle as follows: 107 beasts, 9 calves, 259 sheep, 43 lambs, 144 pigs. The percentage of purchases from the C.W.S. Ltd., and from other co-operative sources, as follows: Grocery 84.6; bakery 47.8; drapery 69.7; boots 78.3; tailoring 86.

We beg to inform our members that we are subscribers to the Midland Co-Operative Convalescent Fund and those of our members who may be recovering from sickness and who may wish to avail themselves the

benefits of this fund are requested to fill up a form which may be obtained from the secretary. We have purchased a plot of land at Desford with the view of erecting a branch premises thereon and we hope by extending our operations in this quarter it will be to the benefit of the Society and the people of Desford generally. We ask you to sanction the sum of £10 being devoted for Christmas gifts for the troops (Leicesters) serving at the front. The report and balance sheet were adopted. The auditors, Messrs. Appleby and Wood, reported that the Society's progress as evidenced by the report and balance sheet was very remarkable. The continued growth indicated the appreciation of the members of the benefits that the Society was able to extend to them. The sales during the last quarter showed an increase on the corresponding quarter of last year of £3,343/9/9 1/2 and comparing the twelve months' sales with the previous year there was an increase of £16,000. the Society was in a sound financial condition and well worthy of the confidence of the members. They expressed satisfaction with the way the books were kept and appreciation of the manner in which their requirements in connection with the audit were met. (Cheers)

The following donations were agreed to: £50 to the Belgian Relief Fund, £2 2s each to the N.S.P.C.C. and the Derby Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, and £1 1s to the Derby and District Blind Society.

An appeal was received from the International Co-Operative Alliance for a contribution towards a fund which was being raised to assist innocent aliens of German, Austrian and Hungarian nationality in this country, but the same was not entertained, a motion to give, being defeated by a majority of two votes.

The ballot for six members on the committee resulted as follows: Messrs S. Armson 103, C. E. Marston 99, George Swain 99, M. Armson 94, J. R. Bennett 90, and J. Lester 87, these being elected. A. Hook 62 and J. Newbury 58. All those elected were old members.

Mr J. Cato resigned the office of scrutineer and was succeeded by Mr O. Haywood. Mr T. Beadman gave notice to move at the quarterly meeting that all employees of the Society be members of a trade union.

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## **A SOLDIER'S ROMANCE**

### **AN AMAZING MEETING IN LEICESTERSHIRE**

A wounded soldier whom I met in the train (writes a correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian") told me of an extraordinary coincidence, which should be particularly interesting to those who are entertaining refugee Belgians. He was wounded in the early days of the war, and sent to one of the London hospitals for an operation, and having recovered was off to rejoin his regimental depot, hoping, he said, soon to go to the front again. He was Leicestershire born, but belonged to a Scottish regiment, like his father before him. His only living relative was a sister, whom he had not informed of his mishap, but who, seeing his name in the papers, came to London and got him to promise to visit her.

The lad had been greatly touched by the kindness of the Belgian women, and one incident in particular had made a great impression on him. "Our army was then on the run." He and some comrades had strayed from the main body, and for 48 hours had had nothing to eat except a turnip or two. They sat down on the roadside for a while, "far starved and done for." Their plight was discovered by a Belgian woman, who brought them bread, fruit and milk – all she had, in fact – and they went on their way like new men.

After leaving the hospital the lad went to his sisters remote village in Leicestershire. Here the strangest thing befell, for there standing at a cottage door, the very woman who when he was hungry and thirsty had given him food and drink. She did not recognise him, but when with difficulty he explained matters she recollected perfectly the incident, which dwelt in his memory, though she did not seem to think she had done anything out of the ordinary.

It appeared that soon after the encounter in Belgium the woman, on the approach of the Germans had collected a few things, locked her cottage door, and like so many of her country folk, had fled to England, ultimately finding herself through some agency or other – she did not quite know how – in the Leicestershire cottage. What are the chances of so strange a meeting ever repeating itself?

## LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Two daughters of the Burgomaster of Ghent, with their children – Madame Feyrick and two daughters and Madame Drory, and her two sons – are staying with Sir Maurice and Lady Levy at Humberstone Hall

It was stated at Luton on Sunday with some definiteness that the Leicester Territorials are to proceed to the Continent on or about October 30<sup>th</sup>. The men are considerably excited and pleased at the prospect. The official orders to move are expected in a few days.

Pte. B. Devney, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Yorkshires, has been visiting his home in Hermitage Road, Coalville, for a day or so after having been discharged from hospital. He took part in the battle of Mons and was shot through the arm. He returned to his regimental depot at Pontefract on Tuesday.

Nineteen Belgians, mostly children, arrived at Ashby on Friday, and are being accommodated at St. Helens (the old school) in Market Street. They will be maintained by a number of the local townspeople and the Urban Council have decided to levy no rates on the house while it is thus occupied. The Belgian flag was flying at the building on Saturday.

The Coalville Territorial recruits, now about 150 strong, marched to Ravenstone Church on Sunday morning, led by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rector, the Rev. S. Dowling. The marching of the company and their smart appearance caused much favourable comment among the crowd who witnessed the parade.

## DO YOU KNOW

That Ashby Citizens' Corps had their first parade under Capt. Jesson on Wednesday?

That the Coalville Territorials have received ten days' notice to be prepared to leave the town for an unknown destination?

That fifty of the Coalville Territorial recruits have been selected to make up the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire about to go abroad?

That £3 5s was realised from a whist drive for the Belgian Relief Fund at Bardon Hill last week?

That Mr F. Joyce, the Leicestershire amateur cricketer, has joined the colours as a dispatch rider?

That two whist drives for the Belgian Relief Fund at Coalville and Hugglescote unfortunately clash next Wednesday night?

That Mr Townson, who has been engaged in military work at Antwerp has just returned to Ashby-de-la-Zouch?

That Coalville P.S.A. and Ravenstone United are to play a match on the Central Ground tomorrow in aid of the war relief fund?

That a meeting of the Coalville ward collectors for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund is to be held at the Adult School Hall next Monday night?

That Capt. Hassall, of the Ashby Territorials, who underwent a serious operation after being invalided home from Luton, is making excellent progress?

That Hathern decided on Thursday night to provide a home and support a family of Belgian refugees, Mr H. Simpkin being appointed hon. secretary?

That Miss Walmsley, head mistress of Loughborough High School, has given her bungalow at Nanpantan for the use of some Belgians?

That the members of the Coalville Citizens' Corps will meet at nine o'clock on Sunday morning at the Midland Brick Works, Mantle Lane?

That inquiries are being made with a view to finding accommodation for about 50 Belgian refugees in a vacant building at Ibstock?

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### **RECRUITING AT BELTON**

A recruiting meeting arranged by Mr A. E. Seymour and Mr G. W. Lloyd James, the local party agents, in connection with the Leicestershire Recruiting Committee, was held in the schools at Belton on Saturday evening. There was a good attendance of inhabitants, but unfortunately the men of eligible age were conspicuous by their absence.

Mr C. B. Shakespear presided in the unavoidable absence of the Right Hon. Charles Booth. Patriotic speeches were delivered by Mr Ernest E. Wells, C.C., the Hon. Malcolm MacNaughten, Colonel Piercy, of Loughborough, and Captain Porter, who is the County Councillor for the division.

Only one man presented himself for enlistment to the recruiting sergeants at the close of the meeting, but the general feeling was that others had the intention of coming forward to show what Belton could do, in this crisis, and it is thus believed the meeting will not be barren of results.

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### **ONE HUNDRED BELGIAN REFUGEES FOR COALVILLE**

#### **BROOM LEYS THEIR HOME**

#### **SPLENDID OFFER BY THE WHITWICK COLLIERY CO.**

Arrangements are being made to accommodate 100 Belgian refugees at Coalville. The Whitwick Colliery Company have generously offered the free use of Broom Leys on the Forest Road, near Coalville, the residence formerly occupied by Mr H. R. Mansfield, who for some years represented the Spalding Division of Lincolnshire in Parliament. The Colliery Company, who purchased the building from Mr Mansfield, a few years ago, in addition to offering it for use free, have also decided to give coals free and retain the caretaker and his wife to maintain the beautiful grounds in order.

A committee has been formed representative of the whole district to deal with the matter and they are of the opinion that the building will provide comfortably for a party of one hundred distressed Belgians. It was estimated that to commence with, a sum of £250 would be required for the furnishing of the house and the secretary to the company, Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., together with Mr William Hurst, secretary to the South Leicestershire Colliery Company, have sent appeals to all the Colliery owners in the county with the result that promises of £25 each have already been received from the Ibstock, South Leicester and Ellistown Collieries, and similar replies are expected from others. The additional requirements for the furnishing fund it is hoped will be met in the district, the residents of which will also be asked to subscribe for the maintenance of one hundred refugees, which, it is estimated, will amount to about £30 a week.

It is a large and important scheme, but the committee are most enthusiastic and believe that Coalville and District will not be behind in extending hospitality to the unfortunate people of a country which is taking such a heroic part in the war.

(This article was accompanied by a hand-drawn picture of Broom Leys)

### **HINCKLEY OFFER TO THE GOVERNMENT**

The Hinckley Hospital Committee on Monday considered a communication from the War Office asking for information as to the number of hospital beds the committee could (if necessary) place at their disposal for cases of enteric fever, including medical and nursing services, and the charge per day per bed when in use.

The committee offered the Government the new scarlet fever and the typhoid and diphtheria blocks, giving accommodation for 26 beds. It was decided to charge the Government what it would cost the committee.

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## **MR MACDONALD'S RECEPTION IN LEICESTER**

### **A LIVELY MEETING**

The meeting at the Leicester Corn Exchange on Sunday evening, when Mr Ramsey Macdonald, M.P., addressed his constituents, was of a very lively character. The hall was very quickly filled when the gates were opened at six o'clock, and hundreds were unable to gain admission. The senior member had to deal with many clamorous interruptions at the commencement of his speech, and at times his words must have been quite inaudible to the majority of the audience owing to the singing of "Rule Britannia" and other songs, but as he proceeded the volume of the active opposition diminished, and the removal of two of the ringleaders in the disturbance by the police had some effect, so that the member finished his address in comparative peace. He underwent considerable heckling at the close, but his answers were listened to fairly patiently.

Councillor J. W. Murby was in the chair, and was supported on the platform by Ald. Banton, Ald. Chaplin, Councillor Perkins, Councillor Reynolds, Councillor Adnitt, Councillor Sheriff, Councillor Salt, and Councillor Kenney.

In reply to one question, Mr Macdonald said this country could not have remained neutral with its present foreign policy; if there had been a democratic foreign policy the conditions which led the war would not have arisen.

Asked with regard to his assertion that after a certain stage Sir Edward Grey "deliberately worked to involve us in war", Mr Macdonald said further discussion of this question was only likely to be further garbled. He withdrew nothing. He referred his questioner to the White Paper, and when the time came for re-opening the whole matter and criticising the policy followed, it would be done. With reference to the use that was being made of it, he had felt "between the devil and the deep sea." He had either got to hold his tongue and allow all sorts of ideas, utterly erroneous, to go abroad, or he had got to speak and try to get the truth into the minds of the people. He had made the statement, and he left it there for Englishmen to work it out with the available documents in front of them.

In answer to a further question Mr Macdonald said he never said that Germany had done right in invading Belgium. He said on August 3<sup>rd</sup> that the Invasion of Belgium might be a cause of war. One of the difficulties was that that was not made sufficiently clear when the war-like negotiations started.

### **Scenes in the Market Place**

A large crowd of men, women and children, assembled in the Market Place before and during the meeting, apparently attracted for the most part through curiosity. A few sections sang snatches of patriotic songs and "God save the King." Excellent order, was however, maintained. At the end of the meeting the crowd converged on the front and back entrance to the Exchange, but a strong body of police, under Supt. Carson, might it quite clear no horseplay would be allowed. Nearly one hundred constables were there on duty in and around the building, and Mr Macdonald left in a motor-car immediately after the meeting had ended by the back way, amid the jeers of those who were in the vicinity. His departure was only noticed by those in the immediate neighbourhood of the doorway and the close presence of a number of stalwart detectives and constables saved him from any attempt at violence, suggestions of which had from time to time been made by the rougher element in the crowd.

It is estimated that at one time the crowd numbered from ten to fifteen thousand people, the Market Place being practically filled. During the proceedings inside the Corn Exchange, a meeting was held in front of the archway, patriotic addresses being delivered by Mr Charles Pearce, Mr Percy Hagon, Mr J. Farnsworth, and others. During interludes the crowd sang the National Anthem and "Rule Britannia" by turns.

For a long time after the close of the meeting inside the building many thousands of people remained watching the exits, refusing to believe that Mr Macdonald had left. One or two rather ugly rushes were made in the direction of the side door, but thanks to the excellent dispositions of the police, any tendency to rowdyism was well kept in check. Despite the fact that the lights were put out, and the gates and doors locked a large number of people remained incredulous, and hung about the exits until nine o'clock, when they were cleared away by an inspector and two or three constables.

## **COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **PATRIOTISM OF TEACHERS, STAFF AND OFFICIALS**

#### **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

A meeting of the Leicestershire Education Committee was held on Friday under the presidency of Alderman T. Cope, and during the transaction of business it was decided to place on record the names of those teachers, members of the office staff, and other officials, who had joined the colours, and an expression from the Committee, extolling this patriotism.

The Accounts and General Purposes Committee reported that they had authorised the Director of Education to make necessary and anticipatory arrangements in regard to school buildings, staffing etc., during the war. One of these is to place the services of school attendance officers, nurses and clerical staff, so far as required, at the disposal of the County Relief Committee, and to supply temporary vacancies in school attendance staff if necessary; and another was to pay full salary until August 31<sup>st</sup>; and afterwards, full salary with deduction of service pay, to all teachers and officials who are accepted for military service.

Alderman Cope proposed the adoption of the report, Alderman B. Hurst seconded, and it was agreed to. Afterwards Alderman Cope read out a list of the employees who had gone on military service. He said they were all men of experience and their services were urgently needed by the army. Thirty-six employees had gone to the front, including seven headmasters, 14 certified masters and four uncertified.

Mr C. Goodacre moved the acceptance of the Staffing Committee's report, which contained a reference to the Earl Shilton Roman Catholic School. "The question," the report said, "as to whether the committee can insist on the appointment of lay teachers does not arise as Nuns are lay teachers in the eyes of the law, and no objection could be lodged against their service in public elementary schools."

Mr C. Goodacre stated that 25 school teachers, including head teachers, certificated teachers and uncertificated teachers had joined the colours, which was of such historic interest that future generations, if confronted with similar trouble to that through which we are all now passing, might be fired with the same enthusiasm which has inspired the teachers today to do their duty. To mark their sense of their public spirit and patriotism he moved that a record of appreciation be embodied in the report, together with an acknowledgement of the loyal way teachers remaining are doing their work, so that the children shall not suffer.

Mr West paid a tribute to the splendid manner in which the office staff are working and, on his suggestion, it was agreed to include this in his resolution. Mr L. T. Topham suggested that an expression of appreciation should be recorded on behalf of the school attendance officers who have responded to the call of duty.

#### **SEPARATION ALLOWANCES**

#### **WAR OFFICE EXPLANATION**

The Press Bureau circulated on Saturday the following communiqué regarding separation allowances and allotments to soldiers' wives:

*"The War Office wishes it to be generally understood that the order making an allotment by the soldier for the support of family compulsory is not withdrawn, but is temporarily suspended. In certain cases, when the soldier has objected to continue the full allotment, the wife has been invited to say whether she is content to accept what her husband is willing to give, and, if not, to state her means. If she is not content, inquiry will be made as to whether her income, without the full allotment, is up to the standard scale. Meanwhile the*

*Paymaster has orders to pay the full allotment as soon as he hears to that effect, including anything that may have already been abated."*

All persons to whom women may apply are requested to explain this to them, and to secure the immediate return to the Paymaster of the form that was sent to the woman to fill up, so that there may be no delay in payment.

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## **COALVILLE'S PATRIOTISM**

### **STIRRING APPEAL BY MR B. G. HALE AND CAPT. STEVENSON**

#### **CITIZENS' CORPS FORMED**

#### **ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC MEETING**

A remarkably enthusiastic meeting was held at the Coalville Adult School Hall on Tuesday night, convened for the purpose of forming a Citizens' Corps for Coalville. The hall was packed and a high patriotic tone pervaded the meeting. There were stirring speeches by Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., who presided, and Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, and the response to the call exceeded all expectations.

The Chairman said they had met on a memorable occasion. They were engaged in one of the greatest wars the world had ever seen and he hoped it would be the worst the world would ever see (Hear, hear). There was a great probability that when this war came to an end, it would lead to greater faith in arbitration than had hitherto been felt. They were not there to discuss the causes of the war, with which they were all familiar. They all felt the gravity of the position and that it was the duty of every man to come forward now and say that he was willing to do all he could for the great cause for which they were fighting. They would agree with him when he said they were fighting for freedom, honour, for God, and civilisation. (Cheers) The words of the Prime Minister would appeal to them all. Mr Asquith said, *"Sooner than be a silent witness, which means in effect, a willing accomplice to the tragic triumph of force over law, and brutality over freedom, I would see this country of ours blotted out of the page of history."* (Applause) He was sure the cause they had was one of the most just causes that ever provoked a war. He had in his hand copies of the dispatches which had passed between all the ambassadors on the great question, and if they read these, they would see that Sir Edward Grey (cheers) did all he could. When his persuasive powers failed they thanked God that he had the courage the supreme step to place them with their allies to uphold the cause of Belgium. They were all proud of Belgium. (Cheers) Had Germany had her way France also would now have been on her knees. Germany had been preparing for years to seize France and they thought this a good opportunity. Russia was not so well prepared as she might have been and England was engaged in a political struggle which Germany thought gave her a good chance. What a delusion! When they looked round and saw what Canada was doing (cheers); what New Zealand and Australia were doing (cheers); then our great empire of India (cheers). It made them blush almost to think that these countries so far away were doing so much – all that was in their power. The Princes of India had told the Government that their men and wealth could be drawn upon, and pleaded themselves to serve as privates, if necessary, in this great struggle. It was only a few years since they were fighting in South Africa almost to the death, but what were they doing now? It was true there had been a little trouble through German influence, but when they saw the thousands South Africa was sending they realised the great loyalty of that colony. And if all our colonies were doing all they could, were the men of this country doing all they could? They were there that night to appeal to the sympathy of the men of Coalville, to aid in recruiting, and if the dire necessity arose – he did not think it would – to defend their country themselves. It was essential that they should be on safe ground. They had better have a million too many men than a thousand too few. It was hardly necessary to ask them to review what had taken place in Belgium. Germany was one of the countries which attached its signature to the so-called scrap of paper guaranteeing Belgium's neutrality. Only a few days before the war, Germany gave an assurance to Belgium to uphold her neutrality and at the same time she was mobilising her army. Germany had not only violated Belgium but when they thought of the women and children murdered, the beautiful buildings – the silent witness of centuries – wantonly blown down, they could not realise the object of the Germans except that it was to strike terror into the hearts of the people as the Huns of Attila did years ago. While they had done all this to Belgium they had no grievance with her. They had no great grievance against France or Russia, but against the Anglo-Saxon race they were intensely enraged. They had been jealous of our position for years



and their aim was to depose us. If ever they set foot in this country the horrors of Belgium would be greatly magnified. He need not labour the question more, except to call attention to the heroism at the front shown by our men (Applause). When they read the papers and the soldiers' and sailors' letters and realised the heroic deeds done, it made them proud they were Englishmen. (Cheers) This country had been honoured the world over for centuries, but when the history of this war came to be written they would be thought of a great deal more – as the nation who in its greatness stood by the weak, and hesitated at no sacrifice to see that righteousness and justice prevailed. (Cheers) He hoped they would respond to the call that night. Were not this great country, their wives and daughters, and hearths and homes not worth fighting for? *"We must win this war,"* he declared emphatically, *"and we shall win."* (Applause) They must put that German despot, the Kaiser in his place (Cheers). They still had the old grit and courage. They could still put their backs to the wall and fight to the death in a cause they knew to be right. (Cheers) Things were looking brighter. They were gaining men every day and Germany must of necessity be getting weaker. Moreover the methods she had adopted had alienated all sympathy for her. It aroused the spirit of their men and made them fight like lions and it must make the "cultured" men of Germany hang their heads in shame. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson said that when he and the Chairman were comrades in the old volunteer company they little thought that they would ever be standing on a public platform appealing for recruits. But "the day" had come. If they had taken the advice of that fine old soldier Lord Roberts (cheers) six years ago, the position would have been very different. The young men would have been organised, they would have had millions ready, and this war would not have taken place. The object of the blood-besotted Kaiser and his hordes of savages was not Belgium or France. England was their aim, but they had been brought to a standstill. (cheers) They thought they were going to walk all over plucky little Belgium. The Belgians said today that they had lost everything but their courage and that they would never lose. (Cheers) He agreed that the atrocities of the Germans would be in England double what they had been in Belgium if once the British fleet was beaten. He did not think it would be, be they had to realise the position, though some young men thought more of a football match than they did of their country. But if they did not come the time would not be long before they would be fetched. One volunteer was worth a dozen pressed men. If they had to be fetched they would be labelled cowards for life. Leicestershire had not done its duty. Up to five o'clock last Wednesday week, Leicestershire had contributed 4,441 against Staffordshire 18,000 odd and Derbyshire 16,000. The Coalville area had sent 680 for Kitchener's army and Loughborough 702, so the rest of the county had not done well in proportion. He was there that night to recruit for the regular army or the Territorials, and he was also prepared to take the older men. At Hinckley they had 188 in the citizen's corps and at Ashby on Saturday night 57 names for the first batch. He was prepared to take the names, ages and addresses of men that night. Then the men would select a committee to arrange for the drills, where to drill and when. There were some old volunteers in Coalville ready to give their services as instructors. There were some young Territorials in Coalville – and he congratulated Coalville on their local company – who were willing to assist. They would be interested to know that 50 of the Coalville company of Territorials had been selected to make up the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion for foreign service. (Applause) It was a great honour to the town of Coalville to supply that number. (Cheers) He asked for men for the citizens corps over 35 years of age, though it was not restricted to that age if there were some younger who could not join the forces. There were not many who could not give two nights a week for drill. Let them remember the words of Nelson, "England expects every man to do his duty." There were plenty of them over 40 who would do that and shame some of the younger fellows who were not responding as they should. He referred to the great interest Coalville took in the Boy Scouts and he would like publicly to thank the Coalville troop for the splendid service rendered in assisting the recruiting. (Cheers) If on the half-holiday the Citizen Corps had a march out headed by the Scouts Band it would be a great aid to recruiting. He asked them all not only to enrol themselves, but try to induce others to join. If any were not present that night who would like to join the corps, he would like it to be known that a scout will be daily at the recruiting office to take names. He said there was a great need for non-commissioned officers and he would like old soldiers in the district to have a few words with him. They might be of great service. (Cheers)

The Chairman then asked for volunteers. He said they would select their own committee. The times for drilling would be arranged as far as possible to be suitable to their convenience. Some would drill on Saturdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, but they wanted them all to do something. If anyone was in doubt on any point, they would be pleased to answer questions. The words of Harold Begbie were very appropriate here, he said:

*"Why do they call, sonny, why do they call  
For men who are brave and strong?  
Is it nought to you if your country fall,*

*And Right is smashed by Wrong?  
Is it footballs still, and the picture show  
The pub and the betting odds  
When your brothers stand to the tyrant's blow  
And England's cause is God's."*

The Chairman added that he hoped there would be a large response.

An extraordinary scene followed, scores of men making their way to the ante room at the back where a number of boy scouts were kept busy for some time taking the names. Capt. Stevenson ultimately announced that the number enrolled for the Citizens' Corps so far was 121 (loud applause). They had also three for Kitchener's Army and one for the Territorials. (Cheers)

The Chairman said he had an apology from the Rev. A. Davis (Hugglescote) who stated that he was prepared to join the corps and do what he could to make it a success. (cheers) That made 122. (Cheers) He added that he would just like to say how proud he was that they enlisted 122 names. This should go forth in some way or other to the other centres and see if they can beat it. He continued, "I am proud of you. I think you have done honour to Coalville and your country, I thank you and anything I can do for this cause I will do it. I have placed myself in Capt. Stevenson's hands and have been to one or two meetings, but this surpasses everything. It has been a great surprise to me and I am delighted. (Cheers) He then suggested the formation of a small committee and said he hoped they would select men who would do their utmost to make the corps a model to the county. (Cheers)

The following were selected: Dr. Vaughan, Messrs. B. G. Hale, C. W. H. Gutteridge, T. Lashmore, Jepson Turner, W. Hoult, and H. Swanwick.

Capt. Stevenson said the committee would meet and make arrangements for the drills, notice of which would be displayed outside the Labour Exchange. The Capt. proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman which was heartily accorded. Mr Hale having responded a memorable and most successful meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Last night, a recruiting meeting was held in the hall of the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, Mr Hale and Capt. Stevenson again being the speakers. Mr R. Blower, J.P., C.C., presided.

### **SIR MAURICE LEVY'S APPEAL FOR RECRUITS**

Speaking at a recruiting meeting at Kegworth on Wednesday night, Sir Maurice Levy said there were men who the country ought not to have been dragged into the war, but he had not yet found a single person who could show good cause for us not standing by France and Belgium. They must not let the war finish until the menace of militarism which had grown up in the German Empire was crushed for ever. They would have to make sacrifices, and the reward would be reaped by the future generations of the world. Year by year for the last half century Germany had cultivated the idea that she was destined to rule the world. They in England did not believe that, and he thought every man who read of the brutality and atrocities of the German Army would say that so long as they had one man alive they would resist the Germans ruling England. The brutality of the German had been so completely exposed that they now knew his character and they were determined not to stop until the house of Hohenzolleren and Hapsburg were wiped off the face of the map. (Applause) That could not be done until the young men of the country responded to the call, and came forward to carry the war into the enemy's country. The Germans were surprised at the resistance of the gallant Belgian army and at the quality of the French soldiers, but their greatest surprise was the extraordinary bravery of the British army, which had shown such valour that even the Germans would loath to call it "contemptible" again. The youth of the country had responded splendidly so far, but recruiting must be kept up. Canada, and other possessions had shown that they realised the seriousness of the situation, and had come to the aid of the mother country. They had a big task before them, but the task was one they must accomplish, and the war must be carried on until Germany and Austria ceased to be military powers. (Applause)

### **ALD. T. COPE ON THE WAR**

### **CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY AT LEICESTER**

In the course of his charge to the Grand Jury, at the Leicestershire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday, Mr Cope said they were meeting that day in very anxious and troubled times. They were engaged in possibly the greatest war that had ever been recorded in history, and they must expect, when engaged in a conflict of that nature, serious distress in the land both from the high prices which generally occurred in provisions of all kinds, and also from want of employment – and as a consequence a grave increase in crime. Thanks to their great navy and the noble hearts that were conducting it, they found that the prices of the necessaries of life were really not materially increased. The seas were still open to English ships, and the great work of transporting food, and of transporting those gallant troops who were coming to their aid, had gone on successfully and without interference from the enemy. Then, again, with regard to the unemployment in this country, at least he was able, as chairman of the National Relief Committee for this county, to say that speaking generally, it was by no means rife, for while in some industries there were cases of distress on the other hand there were trades which were really working more than full time. He believed they would be able to cope with all cases of distress, owing to the splendid manner in which the county had subscribed to the Prince of Wales's Fund. Another matter they had to dread was generally a large increase of serious crime. Although, in truth, the number of cases that day was rather more than they had recently been – he could not say their number was unprecedented – it would be his duty to tell them that the cases were really not of a serious character. He was thankful to say that the news from the seat of war continued hopeful, but they could not expect the war to be closed very soon; as they said: *"It's a long way to Berlin."* Such a war as this must make heavy calls upon their patriotism, their fortitude, and their powers of endurance. He was convinced that these calls would be fully and cheerfully met by all in this country, and he believed that with God's blessing, victory in the end would attend the Allies' cause. Then a fresh day would dawn, with peace, when the civilisations of the world would be able to continue the great march of social progress, free from the menace of an aggressive and tyrannous Germany.

## **INTERESTING LETTERS FROM COALVILLE AMBULANCE MEN**

### **CRUISING IN THE ATLANTIC**

Pte. E. Curtis of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade who is serving on a warship in the Sick Naval Berth Reserve, writes that this ship has been cruising in the South Atlantic and he is in the best of health. He asks to be remembered to all Brigade chums.

### **TWO CORPORALS "IN THE PINK"**

#### **DO THEIR OWN WASHING AND COOKING**

Two more of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, Corpals. A. C. Chandler and F. Moreton, have written letters to friends in Coalville.

Chandler says that he and Moreton are serving on the same ship and they have not seen any of the others since reaching Devonport. He could not say where they were or what they were doing as they had to post their letters unsealed and were not allowed to give that information. He hopes all are well at Coalville, as it leaves him and Frank "in the pink." They were treated in the best possible way and had plenty of good food. They had no complaint. They were learning a great deal and hoped to be able to give a good report to the Brigade when they came back. When he returns he says he hopes they will all be able to work together in the old Brigade for many years to come. He goes on to say that he would much rather be on board a warship than in a hospital, though they were not able to receive and send letters as they would like. Since leaving Devonport, they had not set foot on land. He sends kind regards to Sergts. Green and Allen and says he wishes Green was with them. They wash their own clothes and Frank does the cooking.

### **"KEEP SMILING"**

Corpl. W. Slatter, also of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, who was called up for naval duty on the outbreak of the war, has written to friends in Coalville in a very cheery strain. He says that when you are on board you never know when you are going to strike a mine and go to the bottom, but they were all prepared to take their luck and the password with them was *"Keep smiling."* He says he is well and enjoys the work. He wishes to be remembered to all old friends at the Fox – Joe Burton, W. Harris and others.

## **COALVILLE MAN'S HURRIED VISIT HOME**

Mr J. Bland, of Margaret Street, Coalville, an employee of the Urban District Council, and a member of the Coalville St. John's Ambulance section, who in August joined as a Royal Naval Auxiliary sick berth reservist, arrived home on Monday night on 48 hours' leave. He made a trip to Canada on H.M.S. -----, escorting the Canadian troops to England. Bland's experiences have been varied and interesting. He was looking well and informed his friends that he was quite fit and enjoying the work.

## **A SPLENDID EXPERIENCE**

### **CERTIFICATES FOR PROFICIENCY IN NURSING**

Since being called up for service in the Naval Sick Berth Reserve on the outbreak of war, Pte. Frank Moreton, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, has been promoted to the rank of Corporal and in a letter he has just written to his friend he says he has heard of this and asks for confirmation. He is serving on the same ship as Corporal Chandler and says they are in the best of health. In fact, they have never felt better. They have ravenous appetites which are well appeased with everything of the best. They also are adding to their ambulance knowledge by this experience. Before leaving Coalville, they said they would be a credit to the Corps and he states that Jack and himself had been before the Fleet Surgeon that morning and had come out A1 for proficiency in sick berth routine and nursing, a certificate for which they will receive in due course. They were being instructed in a course of dispensing and the use of surgical instruments. Those who had not already joined the corps ought to do so, as it was one of the finest chances anyone could have of learning the business. "My word!" he says, "it has been an eye-opener for all ambulance men, whether naval or military, but I prefer the navy." He sends kind regards to all old friends.

Moreton is an employee of the Coalville Urban Council in the waterworks department.

## **COALVILLE MAN THINKS OF HOME**

### **WHILE IN THE TRENCHES WAITING FOR GERMANS**

The Coalville Co-Operative Society's head baker, Mr T. Grosort, has received a postcard (passed by the censor) from Mr H. Kilworth, who is with the first Leicesters at the front. Kilworth was the foreman confectioner at the stores before leaving for France. The card is dated October 12<sup>th</sup> and bears no address.

Mr Kilworth says he writes to let them know he is still in the land of the living. The reason he has not written sooner was that they had been on the move for about a month. They were alright, only could not get enough water and he had only a wash in the last three weeks, adding "So you will see we do not believe in wasting soap." He goes on to enquire how things are in the bakehouse and says he often thinks about them all there as he lies in the trenches waiting for the Germans, and wonders what they are doing. He sends greetings to all his friends in the bakehouse. They have 24 hours in the trenches and 24 hours out.

Kilworth, who also formerly worked for Mr F. H. Deacon, has a wife and two children who reside in Albert Road.

## **COALVILLE FOOTBALLERS MEET AT THE FRONT**

Gunner Sidney Hayward, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who left Coalville early in August to go to the war, says in a letter to his wife at Margaret Street, Coalville, that a few days before he wrote he had seen Commons and "Smosh" Smith who played football for the Town Football Club. They were ambulance men at the front. He travelled with them to London, on leaving Coalville to join the colours. Hayward adds that the nights are getting very cold and so were the days sometimes. They had not shifted from their position for a month, except when it "*got a bit too warm.*" He was wanting shirts and socks, being anxious to change, because when they found time to wash their garments they had nothing to wear whilst they washed them. He had read in the paper that people in England were sending shirts for soldiers, so "*try and get someone to give you a shirt for me.*" Hayward concludes his letter by saying, "*I am still well, thank God for it! and hope this war will have a speedy end, and that I shall live to see the end of it.*" Hayward's wife has seven children, one having been born since the father left to go to the war.

## **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S WIFE IN INDIA**

### **PROUD OF HER HUSBAND**

Mr and Mrs T. Dooley, of 122, Margaret Street, Coalville, have this week received letters from their son, Tom, who is a sergeant in the Leicestershire Regiment, and also from his wife. The latter is in India where the regiment was stationed before having orders to proceed to France.

Mrs Dooley writes that Tom has gone off to the war, the regiment having left India about a month ago, and she hopes it will not be long before they are back again. She proceeds: "I really thought my heart would break when I parted from him, but, of course, mother, as a soldier's wife, I must pray and hope for the best. You would be proud of him, mother, if you saw him. He does work so hard and the men under him simply worship him."

The writer adds that she hears they are all to be sent to England, but she would prefer to wait for Tom so that they might come over together. She is staying at the Major's house for a time and will send further news as she hears from her husband.

### **SERGT. DOOLEY'S OPTIMISM**

In the letter written by Sergt. Dooley, he states that they have been a long time getting there, but they hoped to be "*in at the kill*." He supposed they would have to make haste as he heard that Germany had been asking the United States of America to try and secure peace proposals from the Allies. He imagined, however, that they would not be of such a nature that the Kaiser could accept. The sergeant goes on: "No doubt the Germans will want some driving back to their capital from this side, but wait until we get there with these black faces – both cavalry and infantry. They are coming along, 8 boat loads in all, so you can imagine we shall increase the numbers by a few." He finishes up by advising his mother and father to be of good cheer.

On a hurriedly written postcard received later, Sergt. Dooley says he is well, but is feeling the cold a bit. However, it was putting new life into one. He asks his friends to write regularly to his wife in India, as being left there practically alone, she will feel a little lonely.

### **LEICESTER MEN MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES**

The names of two Leicester men are among those mentioned in despatches by Field Marshal Sir John French, Lieut. A. G. Corah, Cyclist Company, Bedford Regiment, and Sergt. J. Squires, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers.

Lieut. Corah is the third son of Mr Alfred Corah, of Scraptoft Hall, Leicestershire, the well-known Leicester hosiery manufacturer. Sergt. Squires, who is wounded and in hospital in France, was a motor man in the employ of the Leicester Corporation.

### **EXPERIENCES OF A LEICESTER NURSE IN BELGIUM**

#### **TAKEN PRISONER BY THE GERMANS**

#### **RETURN TO THE ROYAL INFIRMARY**

Sister Trotter, who went out to Belgium as a nurse soon after hostilities broke out, and was taken prisoner by the Germans on their occupation of Brussels, returned to the Leicester Royal Infirmary on Tuesday night after a most trying journey.

Mr C. J. Bond in a statement at a meeting of the Infirmary Board of Governors on Wednesday morning, said Sister Trotter was in good health and was now anxious to go to the front in France. The story she had to tell was most interesting. She was one of a party of St. John nurses who arrived in Brussels by the last train a few minutes before the occupation of the city by the Germans. She was taken prisoner by the Germans, and was called upon in that trying time to nurse both German and Belgian wounded. After considerable anxiety and hardship, through the kindly instrumentality of the American Consul, she was sent home with a small party of nurses. She was conducted by Germans by a most devious route through a portion of Germany and

Belgium to Denmark, and shipped to England across the North Sea. He was sure they would congratulate Nurse Trotter on having come through such a long and anxious time.

## **ASHBY**

### **THE TERRITORIAL RESERVE**

The Territorials of the Reserve Battalion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters marched to Packington Church for service on Sunday. The Rev. A. Wood preached and the little church was crowded. The Scouts joined the company, whose smart step to the strains of "Tipperary," played by the Ashby Band, was commented upon. Before dismissal, Captain Stevenson addressed the company, and urged every man to do his best for recruiting.

## **LORD KITCHENER**

### **INSPECTION OF NEW ARMY AT BELTON PARK**

Lord Kitchener visited Grantham on Monday for an inspection of the camp of the 11<sup>th</sup> (Northern) Division of the new army at Belton Park. He travelled from London by special train, arriving at Grantham at 11:26 a.m.

Upon emerging from the station, Lord Kitchener was received with hearty cheers from a crowd numbering some 2,000 people. He entered a closed motor car with Lord Brownlow, and, followed by an open motor car, in which were staff officers, they motored to Belton Park. The route was thickly lined with spectators, who gave the field marshal a warm welcome.

Arriving at the entrance to the field at the top of Wheatman's Hill, in which are the tents of the Royal Army Medical Corps, the ordnance stores, and those of the Northumberland Fusiliers and the Lancashire Fusiliers, he mounted a horse reserved for him, and was again greeted by soldiers and civilians with great heartiness.

The Secretary for War had expressed the desire to see the various brigades in their own particular drill areas and at their ordinary day's duties. Accompanied by General Hammersley, Brigadier-General Lambton, Brigadier-General Gubbins, Major Duncan, the chief staff officer, and Captain Aiken (aide-de-camp to General Hammersley), Lord Kitchener rode down the line of the Northumberland Fusiliers, and inspected the miniature rifle ranges at the foot of Alma Wood and over the hill at Londonthorpe. He then passed through the camps of the Staffordshire Regiment, the Sherwood Foresters, and the Dorset Regiment. He examined the covered miniature range at the end of the latter's lines, and entering the park at the south-east end he saw the hundreds of huts erected and in course of erection which are to be used in the immediate future as quarters for the troops. Having seen the other huts in the neighbourhood of Bellemount, the field marshal proceeded to the various brigades areas. He watched the troops at drill, and was no doubt impressed with the appearance of the men and their smart drilling.

Lord Kitchener and the divisional staff had luncheon with Earl and Countess Brownlow at Belton House. Later in the afternoon the Secretary returned to London.

## **THE SPY DANGER**

### **MANY WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE ARRESTED**

Over 20 Germans and Austrians including three hotel waiters, were arrested at Coventry on Wednesday evening. In accordance with instructions from the Government, the Manchester police on Wednesday afternoon arrested in the city several hundred of German, Austrian and Hungarian aliens. Among them are many well-known men.

Reading detectives on Wednesday visited residences in the town believed or known to be wholly or in part occupied by Germans, and a number of arrests were made. Several of those taken into custody were well-known business people.

The Llangollen police on Wednesday afternoon arrested Germans who have for some time been on a visit to the Vale of Llangollen. One was arrested at the foot of Modgamelin, Owen Glendower's Central Hill Camp and another was discovered at Brynmaewr. At Merthyr on Wednesday police officers took in charge one Austrian and two German residents.

## ARRESTS IN LEICESTER

On Wednesday acting upon instructions received from the Home Office, the Leicester police arrested 12 more Germans and Austrians residing in the town. They were taken to the Police Station for the night, and their friends were allowed to provide them with food. It is not yet known what is to be done with them, but in all probability they will be sent to one of their concentration camps. Those arrested form only a selection of the "alien enemies" registered in the town. They are all of them young men, who would be liable for military service if in their own country.

### **Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1182)**

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#### LORD KITCHENER

#### ASKS FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF MEN

Lord Kitchener, in a letter read at a recruiting meeting at West Hartlepool on Friday night, expressed gratification at the splendid response of the Hartlepool's and surrounding villages to the appeal to their patriotism, and added:-

*"Now we have had time to make proper arrangements at the depots and training centres for the reception of recruits, we can take considerably more than are coming forward at present.*

*We want many thousands of men both to complete the new battalions which are being formed, and also to provide reserves which will enable us to keep at full strength the armies we intend to put in the field. The number of men who have joined the army since the outbreak of war, is, in round figures, 620,000. This means that 380,000 are still required to meet the needs of the War Office. Of the 620,000, London has supplied 95,000."*

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#### WOMEN CO-OPERATORS

#### RESOLUTION ON WAR ALLOWANCES

The Leicester District of the Women's Co-Operative Guild held their autumn conference at Melton Mowbray on Wednesday. Delegates from Leicester, Loughborough, Earl Shilton, Coalville, Barwell, Aylestone, and Melton branches attended.

An excellent address on the "Care of Maternity in time of War" was given by Mrs Coulson of Loughborough. Mrs Stein, of Birmingham, national secretary, gave a succinct review of what was being done in Birmingham. She urged that delegates should try to get at least an extra 3s grant now given by some citizen committees.

Comment upon the war allowances to wives and their children was very severe, and a resolution was passed unanimously urging that the Government should adequately provide for wives and dependants of soldiers and sailors and for men disabled in the war, and recommending a minimum of £1 a week for the widow of every soldier or sailor killed, for the mother entirely dependant upon soldier or sailor killed and for the wife of every soldier or sailor permanently disabled by fighting.

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#### ALIEN SENTENCED IN LEICESTER

On Saturday, at the Leicester County Police Court, Albert Johannes Smith, otherwise Schmidt, labourer, was charged with being an alien enemy and failing to furnish the registration officer of the district with the prescribed particulars set out in the 'Alien's Restriction Order, 1914.' When a constable questioned defendant, he produced some ship's papers in which he was described as Schmidt, and other papers in the German language were found at his lodgings. Mrs Nichols, of Oadby, where defendant lodged, said that when he arrived there two years ago he said he was a German. Schmidt, who said he was born in Australia, was sentenced to four month's imprisonment.

### **DON'T TREAT SOLDIERS**

#### **LORD KITCHENER'S APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC**

The Press Bureau issues the following: "The men who have recently joined the colours are doing their utmost to prepare themselves for active service with the least possible delay. This result can only be achieved if by hard work and strict sobriety they keep themselves thoroughly fit and healthy.

Lord Kitchener appeals to the public, both men and women, to help soldiers in their task. He begs everyone to avoid treating the men to drink, and to give them every assistance in resisting the temptations which are often placed before them.

Lord Kitchener suggests that in the neighbourhoods where soldiers are stationed, committees should be formed to educate public opinion on this subject, and bring home its importance to those who prevent our soldiers from being able to do their duty to their country in a thoroughly efficient manner."

### **NOVEL RECRUITING AT BURTON**

Recruiting for the Staffordshire Territorials at Burton-on-Trent, having recently fallen away, Capt. A. J. Clay, as director of Messrs. Bass and Co., on Saturday made a tour of the firm's departments, delivering stirring speeches to the men. As a result, 37 names were handed in, the greater number being at once sworn in and passed by the doctors. Capt. Clay is seeking the permission of other large employers in the town to address their men.

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### **CHIT CHAT**

In aid of the Belgian Relief Fund Messrs. Harry Chenrey and Charles Hensley collected the sum of £5 from the Desford Colliery employees on Friday afternoon. It had been decided by the Village Committee to have a voluntary collection, pending a decision being arrived at by the Miner's Association on what steps shall be taken towards rendering assistance to the Belgian refugees.

The Ashby Territorial Reserve Company, about 120 strong, attended service at the Baptist Church on Sunday morning. They were under the command of Captain Jesson, and were headed by the band. The boy scouts also attended. The Rev. J. Ellis preached an appropriate sermon, and the church was full.

The Coalville Territorial Reserve Company now about 170 strong, marched to Ibstock Parish Church on Sunday morning headed by the Coalville Coronation Band and their return to Coalville was witnessed by a large crowd of admirers. Before dismissing the men in Marlborough Square, Capt. Stevenson complimented them on their marching and said there were many young men in the crowd who should be in the ranks. If they did not join they might be fetched.

A Belgian man and wife and two children are being accommodated in Ravenstone in a home kindly offered by Miss Cresswell. The man has started work on the Snibston Farm. On Sunday all four attended service at the Ravenstone Parish Church. Another Belgian family are expected in Ravenstone.

A party of six Belgian refugees are staying in a house on Forest Side, Whitwick, kindly offered by Mr G. F. Burton. They are from Alost and all speak the Flemish language only.

A distinguished refugee from Belgium who was a judge in his own country, but is now a penniless recipient of charity in this country, says that many people in Belgium fear that the war will not end in a decisive victory,



one way or the other, but that when the settlement comes, Belgium will be sacrificed and become a German province. When we look at devastated Belgium and watch parties of dazed and destitute refugees landing in this country, we can easily forgive the Belgians for taking a despondent view. But of one thing they may be assured, there will never be a settlement until the last German is driven out of Belgium, and that unhappy country is restored to her position of independence. Britain owes a great debt to Belgium. She is the richest and most happily placed of the allies, and she will never sheathe the sword until, as Mr T. P. O'Connor has said, "*Belgium is free, and reparation has been made to her, and until a treaty is made which is not a scrap of paper but a steel-clad fortress, behind which stand millions of British arms to defend it unto death.*"

Many soldiers after continuous fighting at the front have been driven mad by the awful din and carnage of modern artillery fire, and it is not surprising that when men take to warfare with monster guns, wild animals take to flight. From German and Austrian forests wild bears, deer, goats and wildfowl, are retiring into Switzerland, but the wolf will probably not allow any of the disturbing factors of war to deter it from having the time of its life. The wolf is very far from being exterminated in Central Europe. It is even seen in some parts of France regularly every winter, and there are already reports from Russian Poland of large droves of wolves following the armies, and devouring the dead horses. In Belgium, and in Germany, the killed horses are turned to account as food for man, and horseflesh in some form or other figures in many of the prepared foods of the Fatherland. Germany in fact is celebrated for its sausages, as well as soldiers, and at a recent sausage exhibition in that country, 400 varieties were shown as coming from Westphalia alone.

Mr Neville Smith-Carrington has made a present of tobacco to every man in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regt. at Luton including ambulance and machine gun sections and the signallers. The presentation consists of a neat box of tobacco and pasted inside the lid is a label. "Good Luck!" from Neville Smith-Carrington, Ashby Folville, Melton Mowbray. The tobacco was supplied by the tobacconists from Loughborough, Barrow, Castle Donington, Mountsorrel, Shepshed, and Whitwick. Mr Smith-Carrington has been unable to leave London for a month, his firm being so busily engaged in making munitions for war that seven days a week and three shifts of eight hours each are worked continuously.

In asking for collectors for the Belgian Relief Fund in London Road at the public meeting on Wednesday night, Mr Walter Lindley said the area was from the Fox and Goose to the Baptist Chapel – a good place to start from and a good place in which to finish.

The following is an exact copy of a composition on the war written by Geoffrey Fletcher, aged seven years of the Ellistown Infants School:

*"The Kaiser began the war because he was so selfish. He wanted Belgium, France and England. He got in Belgium and set it on fire. The Belgians set fire to a lot of oil tanks and the Germans thought they had left it, then marched into it, when all at once the Belgians sprang out of their hiding places and killed a lot of Germans. There is a great fight on the Belgium coast. The Germans have sunk three British Cruisers. We have some of our battleships against the coast and there are great big guns on them. The British keep firing with the guns into the German trenches. The British Navy has captured a lot of German ships. The Kaiser was nearly captured. India are sending soldiers to help us."*

The writing in large letters between lines is very good and it will be noted that there are only three mistakes in spelling.

Fifty of the Coalville Territorial recruits who have been selected to make up the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion for France received their clothes yesterday preparatory to leaving for Luton to-day (Friday).

The Coalville Citizen Corps is now 135 strong, and the attendances at the drills in the Midland Brickyard, Mantle Lane, during the week have been excellent. The company is divided into squads with Sergeants Williams, Gutteridge and Spedding as instructors. Capt. Stevenson has been appointed captain of the corps.

## **IBSTOCK**

### **DARK STREET**

All the Ibstock street lamps were unlighted on Thursday night, due, not to fear of Zeppelins, but to the breaking of gas mains on the Hinckley and Melbourne roads, owing to which there was considerable

leakage. The damage is supposed to have been caused by heavy traffic on the road. Several fractures of main pipes were discovered and repaired during the day.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That the Hugglescote Church Lads' Brigade attended service at St. Faith's Church last Sunday morning?

That wounded soldiers to the number of 150 arrived in Leicester on Monday evening, and were cheered through the streets?

That eight Belgians have been hospitably received this week at the Desford Industrial School?

That a son of Capt. Heygate – Lieut. C. R. Heygate, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry has been wounded?

That Gunner G. Spacey, writing to his wife of Margaret Street, Coalville, says he is going on all right and is still "on the track"?

That the Rector of Ravenstone (the Rev. S. Dowling) has two nephews in the Belgian army who were both in the siege of Antwerp?

That the monthly meeting of the Coalville Collectors for the Prince of Wales's Fund will be held at the Adult School on Monday night?

That Messrs. Stableford and Co., wagon builders, Coalville, have contributed one thousand pounds to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That Capt. McKernan, of the Salvation Army (Coalville) will speak in the Adult School next Sunday night on "Volunteers Wanted"?

That Mr T. Jones, headmaster of the Thringstone Church School is one of the seven headmasters under the Leicestershire Education Committee, who have responded to their country's call?

That the motor delivery van of Mr J. Windebank, of Hugglescote, carrier between Coalville and Leicester, has been "commandeered" by the war office for transport work in France?

That Dr. Storr-Best, headmaster of the Coalville Grammar School, who speaks French fluently, has been rendering good service in Leicester and London as interpreter in connection with the arrival of Belgian refugees and has heard from them many harrowing stories?

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### **LOCAL NEWS**

Reports of meeting of the Ibstock Patriotic Committee on Wednesday night, and the Coalville Belgian Refugees' Committee at Hugglescote last night, are unavoidably held over until next week.

The Coalville Boy Scouts were entertained at the Fox and Goose Hotel on Saturday night by a few friends who, like the rest of the public, greatly appreciate the efforts they have made in aiding recruiting.

The secretary of the Coalville Philharmonic Society, (Mr W. Hatchett) informs us that it has been decided to give a concert in aid of the Belgian Refugees' fund, and choristers in the district are being invited to assist.

A number of ladies will meet at the Coalville Christ Church School to-morrow (Saturday) night at six o'clock to arrange for making body belts and other comforts for the Coalville Territorials. The effort is not confined to Coalville, but covers the whole of the urban area, and any ladies interested are invited to attend.

### **COLLECTORS' MEETING**

A meeting of the collectors for the Prince of Wales's fund was held at the Adult School on Monday evening. Mr W. Hurst presiding. The chief business was to consider the matter of collecting for the Belgian Relief

Fund and twenty of the collectors decided to take on this extra work, it being left to the secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver) to get 14 more collectors for the vacant districts at the public meeting on Wednesday night.

### **WHIST DRIVE**

About 200 people were present at a whist drive in the Christ Church School, on Wednesday evening organised by the Coalville Branch of the C.E.M.S. in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. Messrs. J. W. Farmer, F. Goddard and S. W. Brown acted as M.C.'s and the following were the prize winners:-

Ladies, 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs L. L. Baldwin 181; 2<sup>nd</sup> Miss G. Wilson 176; mystery, Mrs Thompson 129:  
Gents, 1<sup>st</sup> Mr A. Starkey 180; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr G. Clarke 176; mystery, Mr E. Catlow 179:

Mrs Baldwin returned her prize for the benefit of the fund and it was sold, realising 3s. Mrs Thompson adopted a similar course and her prize was sold for 4/6. After a few remarks by the Vicar, a collection was made and realised 30s to purchase tobacco and chocolates for the 50 local Territorial recruits who leave for Luton today (Friday).

### **COALVILLE TERRITORIALS LEAVE THIS MORNING**

#### **ENTHUSIASTIC SEND-OFF**

Fifty of the Territorial Reserves selected to make up the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Luton left Coalville for that place by the 9 o'clock train this morning (Friday) amid scenes of great enthusiasm. The railway station, bridge, and approaches thereto, were crowded with hundreds of people, and the Coalville lads had a much hearty send-off. The crowd included the Vicar, curate and many of the leading residents of the town and district. The Territorials looked very smart in their new uniforms and before they left they found in their pockets packets of cigarettes and chocolates, a pleasant surprise which a number of Coalville ladies and gentlemen had thoughtfully prepared for them.

While waiting for the train they and the crowd sang "It's a long way to Tipperary" and other popular martial airs, and the train left amid ringing cheers.

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### **COALVILLE'S EFFORT FOR DISTRESSED BELGIANS**

#### **URGENT APPEAL FOR FUNDS**

#### **SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE DISTRICT**

Considerable progress has been made during the week in connection with the scheme to provide for 100 Belgian Refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville. The committee have got to work and have received many excellent promises of support. The greatest task they have to face is the raising of the money, estimated at £30 to £35 per week, to maintain their guests after the house had been furnished, and a comfortable home provided for them, but judging by the enthusiasm displayed at several meetings held in the district during the past few days, it looks as though the money will be readily forthcoming. Appended are particulars of the meetings held.

#### **GOOD RESPONSE AT RAVENSTONE**

There was a good attendance at a meeting in the Ravenstone School on Monday night at which Major Hatchett, J.P., presided and Miss Hawthorn attended from the Central Committee. The Major and Mr J. W. West, J.P., spoke of the great sacrifices made by the Belgian people and the claims they had on the people of this country. Promises were made in the meeting amounting to £2 per week.

It was explained that a Belgian and his wife and two children were already living in Ravenstone at a house kindly offered by Miss Cresswell.

## MEETING AT SWANNINGTON

A meeting was held at Swannington on Saturday night and was fairly well attended. Mr T. Atkins presided and was supported by Mr B. G. Hale and Mr Edgar Hawthorn, hon. sec to the Central Committee. The Chairman and Mr Hale gave addresses to what was evidently a sympathetic audience and it was intimated that collectors would come round.

## STIRRING ADDRESSES AT WHITWICK

On Monday evening a well-attended meeting was held in the Church Schools, Whitwick. The Rev. T. W. Walters, M.A. Vicar, presided and he was supported by the Right Hon. Charles Booth, Mr W. Lindley, J.P., and Mr M. McCarthy, Mr T. W. Bourne, Mr J. Eagles, Mr M. Downes, Mr F. Burton, Mr J. S. West etc.

The Chairman said that a few months ago the little country of Belgium was one of the most prosperous on the Continent and had flourishing populous towns and cities. Suddenly war broke out and the Germans demanded a passage through the country. Belgium knew if they said "yes" it would probably mean an end to their independence, and so they said "no." The result of that was the Germans set their war machine in action, and to-day old world towns that had been a joy to travellers were blackened ruins; ancient monuments and architecture were in ruins, and the people had been crushed as well. The people in thousands had fled to France, to Holland and to this country. To-day the Belgians looked upon the people of this country as their best friends and the people of this country looked upon the Belgians as a grand and noble people. But for the stand they made at Liege, France would have been devastated, and the resistance they offered enabled France and England to prepare to meet Germany. At the same time Belgium was a desert. Some of their friends here had already done something to provide hospitality for some of these heroic people, but a committee representing the district was organising means for accommodating more of the unfortunate people. Considering what the Belgian resistance had meant for this country, they ought to do all they could in return.

Mr McCarthy said they knew pretty well what had happened, and the cruelties that had been enacted. He had received a letter from Father Parmenier, of Newhall, a Belgian, whose two brothers were in a large way of business and had lost everything. Before the war, Belgium had 7 1/2 million of prosperous people. He did not know how many would be left when the war was over. The Germans had been preparing for years. The war came to them in England like a thunderclap and they ought to thank God that they had gone on thus far so well. He felt that God was working for them in this fight for freedom and Christianity.

Mr Walter Lindley said that was one of the saddest occasions which he had had to come before a Whitwick audience. Belgian refugees, rich and poor alike were needing succour. There were 200,000 Belgian refugees in Holland who would be only too glad to come over to England if they could be accommodated. The most awful atrocities which the Germans had perpetrated were a scandal to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Even barbarians had never perpetrated such atrocities. A gentleman had told him that he had seen two women without hands, and another gentleman had told him that a nurse he had known for 15 years had come back with both her hands cut off. The one nation the German Emperor wanted to crush was England. Proceeding, Mr Lindley said he believed that the German Emperor had climbed and climbed to the top of the ladder, and fallen over the other side. They must not minimise the task before them. It would probably take them till this time next year to overcome Germany. They must wait until they had driven the Germans off French and Belgian territory, and razed Krupps works at Essen to the ground. Then they could begin to talk about some reduction of armaments. The Coalville District Committee were hoping to get sufficient support to enable them to place one hundred refugees at Broom Leys. It was their duty and privilege and he believed it would be their pleasure to help them. They appealed for gifts or loans of furniture and household requisites, in addition to vegetables etc., and weekly contributions towards the maintenance of these people. The collieries had already contributed £124, and unless they received gifts of furniture, etc., it would take at least £230 more to furnish the place. On the top of this there was the cost of maintenance, and in his opinion these refugees would require help for at least twelve months.

The Hon. Charles Booth said he had in the past been regarded as an alarmist, but he was happy to have on his side Lord Roberts. He heard from time to time of the careful and thorough preparation made by the Germans for the invasion of England, and many people believed that these preparations were simply academic, but he for one did not take that view, but that they looked to "the day," as their favourite toast implied, when they would invade this country. Although the war had not gone so favourably for the Germans as the Germans had hoped, they still believed they would be able to invade England. The present fighting

was said to be the greatest fight of the war, and the Germans were making strenuous efforts to get to Calais. They believed that by an invasion of this country by Zeppelins it would make them shake in their shoes, that they would be frightened and give in. Of course the Germans did not know us as a people. The Belgians had done much more than he had ever hoped they could have done, and they should do all they could to help these people who had lost their all. He was trying a little experiment, and was expecting 6 Belgians at his place.

The Chairman said that Pte. Samuel Perry had written home that he had seen a Belgian Refugee landed at Portsmouth minus both arms, legs and one ear.

Mr T. W. Bourne moved a vote of thanks to the speakers and the Chairman and Mr Eagles seconded. Both made an eloquent appeal for support in the effort to support the Belgian Refugees. The vote was heartily accorded and the chairman and Mr Booth responded.

The chairman said that 23 volunteers were required to collect in that part of the district. Mr Lindley said it was important that the offers of furniture etc., should be to hand by the Central Committee at Coalville by Saturday as the Central Committee were meeting next week to decide what furniture it was necessary to purchase.

The singing of the National Anthem closed the proceedings.

### **GOOD MEETING AT HUGGLESCOTE**

The Hugglescote meeting was held in the Church School on Monday night, when there was a capital attendance. Canon Broughton presided and was supported by Mr R. Blower, J.P. C.C., and Mr J. Husband (treasurer to the fund).

The Chairman said the whole thing of the war was a terrible tragedy. They pitied the men who were spending nights in the trenches. He heard from a relative of his on Saturday, and he said he had not had his clothes off for a month and his boots only twice, and that was not a nice thing for an English gentleman. But the greatest tragedy of the war was the plight of the unfortunate Belgians. He outlined the causes of the war – Germany's violation of a treaty – and what Belgium had suffered in consequence. They had been turned out of their homes and country. But for the plucky stand of the Belgians, the Germans would have reached Paris and the German Emperor possibly would now have been preparing for his Christmas dinner at Buckingham Palace. If ever they got to England he did not know what would happen. Possibly they would soon all have been made into German sausages. (Laughter) But, happily, they had been spared that. The unfortunate Belgians had now reached our hospitable shores and it was for the people of this country to succour them. There were many claims on them in connection with the war, but they could not ignore this. Coalville had embarked on a large scheme. He knew Broom Leys and agreed that one hundred might be accommodated there. It had been started on the suggestion of Mr Lindley and they knew that anything to which Mr Lindley put his hand he generally carried through. He (the Canon) thought they would want a £1000 and it was for all to do their little bit. They owed the Belgians a great debt and must do their best. (Cheers)

Mr R. Blower said no one could tell them half the sacrifice the Belgians had made. Who had those sacrifices been made for? Belgium had no quarrel with Germany and they might have allowed the Germans to go through and keep their country in peace as Holland was. But Belgium considered she had a duty to perform and they all knew the result. There were 150,000 refugees, in this country already. And if ever they went back, what would they go back to? Not to their homes because their homes had been burnt down and in many cases their friends had gone. They remembered Nelson's words and he was sure they were all prepared to do their duty. The Canon had hinted that they were already doing much. He (the speaker) meant to be candid. He did not think they were doing much. Those who were contributing to the Prince of Wales's fund were not giving anything to benefit anyone but themselves. If work fell off and the need arose, they were giving to this fund so that they should not have to seek relief from the Guardians. He knew that some of the money was going to dependants of soldiers and sailors, but the fund was really to meet civil distress which might arise from the war. If the collieries of the district had to shut down owing to the war there would soon be a great deal of want and distress and in that case they would be entitled to relief from the Prince of Wales's Fund. So that by contributing to this fund they were really making provisions for themselves the same as they would in a sick club. He hoped none of them would have need in this district to draw on the fund, but he thought the facts he had stated should be made known and it should be pressed home that they

were not helping the Belgians or contributing to the cost of the war. It would have been cheap to the Belgians if they could have given a few pence a week to get out of this business. Their sufferings were undescrivable. Besides the 150,000 already in this country there were another 150,000 waiting to come. And they had done all this for us. What were they prepared to do for the Belgians? If everybody in the district gave a half-penny per week it would meet the cost of maintaining two hundred. They should easily support one hundred. The Whitwick Colliery Company had acted handsomely towards the dependants of their employees who had gone to the war, and they had now gone further in offering Broom Leys for this object. Other colliery companies had been appealed to and the response was good. But the furnishing of the house was not such a great item as the maintenance of the refugees and the estimate was that it would take £30 a week. They expected the appeal to cover the urban area, with the parishes of Ibstock, Bagworth, Barlestone, Desford, Thornton, Swannington and Ravenstone, and he thought that £30 a week should be easily raised. The authorities had had plenty of applications to take ones and twos but there was a difficulty in breaking up a family and particularly as regards the language. It was much better for them to be placed in families or groups. The committee appealed for gifts of clothing, furniture, food and any articles that would help, as well as money. In addition to the Broom Leys scheme, Miss Cresswell had offered a house at Ravenstone where a family was already being cared for, and if they saw these people they would realise their need. He hoped the collectors would not meet with the statement that they (the people) were already contributing, but that all would do their best even to the point of sacrifice. This country was not out of the wood yet, though they hoped for the best. The Belgians had laid down their lives for their friends and no man had greater love than that. (Cheers)

The Chairman said the collectors would wait on them at their houses, but if any were prepared to say that night what they would do, it would be passed on to the committee. There was nothing else for them to do that night unless anyone would like to ask Mr Blower any questions.

None were asked and the meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

A report of the meeting held at Coalville will be found on page 8.

#### **THE COUNTY'S GUESTS**

It is requested by the War Refugees Committee in London that all offers of hospitality for War Refugees in the county should be made through the County Committee for National Relief.

Persons who have offered accommodation not yet occupied, should communicate either with the Secretary of their District Committee or with Mr W. A. Brockington, 33 Bowling Green Street, Leicester, Hon. Secretary to the County Committee for National Relief, by whom all particulars will be supplied immediately.

By the close of the present week, at least 250 War Refugees will have been accommodated through the County Committee, but more hospitality is urgently required.

A fund has been established to assist in the maintenance of the Refugees, and contributions should be sent direct to Mr Thomas Cope, Osbaston Hall, Market Bosworth.

#### **BELGIAN REFUGEES AT SWADLINCOTE**

##### **BURGOMASTER'S STORY**

Amongst the Belgian refugees at Swadlincote, Burton-on-Trent, is Mr. de Wolf, Burgomaster of Wespelaer, Louvain, who states that when the Germans entered that place they shot 16 persons, although none of the civilians had fired a shot. M. Vandeverne, and his two daughters, on opening their door, were fired upon, the older daughter, a school mistress and the father being killed. The younger daughter stayed in the cellar till the house had been gutted and an old couple, named Andries were burned to death. Their son and daughter-in-law, on trying to leave the house, were shot at and terribly injured. Five wounded soldiers were placed in a municipal councillor's house during the battle of August 25<sup>th</sup>, and tended by his wife and himself. Next morning the Germans set fire to the house, without giving notice, and the charred bodies of the five wounded still lie in the ruins.

## BELGIAN BABY BORN IN LEICESTER

### SON FOR A LIEGE REFUGEE

The first child of a Belgian refugee to be born in Leicester or Leicestershire, saw the light of day on Tuesday last at the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital, Causeway Lane, Leicester. The proud mother is Madame Earmaine Delrot, a young woman, who is a refugee from Liege.

The infant is described as a "beautiful boy."

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## RAVENSTONE SOLDIER IN FOUR BATTLES

### HOW 500 GERMANS PAID FOR THEIR TREACHERY

#### THRILLING EXPERIENCES

How 500 German soldiers paid dearly for an act of treachery was one of the incidents in a thrilling story told to our reporter by Pte. John Hancock, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Coldstream Guards, who went unscathed through three battles in France and fell in the fourth wounded in the shoulder from a piece of shell, in consequence of which he was removed to hospital and has since been invalided home.



Pte. Hancock is a son of Joseph Hancock, a fitter employed at Messers. Stableford and Co's wagon works at Coalville, himself an old soldier, and residing at Swannington Road, Ravenstone.

Young Hancock was three years in the Guards, leaving the regiment of July 2<sup>nd</sup> last and he had joined the Derby Borough Police Force, having only had a month's experience as a constable when he was recalled to the colours.

Recounting his experiences, he said he went to France with the first British Expeditionary Force, travelling from Aldershot to Havre, and then up country by train. The first battle in which he was engaged was at Mons, the actual fighting in which lasted 36 hours, though four days were occupied in the retreat. Mons was a coal-mining district and it was in the neighbourhood of collieries that the battle commenced on a Sunday. The British were entrenched and during the 36 hours that they held the Germans at bay, he said that the losses of the enemy were tremendous. They could see them dropping all over the place as they made their charges. The Germans got to within 200 yards and brilliant charges were made by the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers and the Scots Greys. The Germans made their charges in solid formation, T shape, but their rifle fire was very inaccurate. They

carried their rifles level with their hips and fired as they ran. The British losses were heaviest during the retreat. On September 6<sup>th</sup> in five or six hours, the Coldstreams had fifty men killed.

Hancock paid a high tribute to the valour of the British officers who, he said, were always prominent in the fray and many fell. He went on to describe how the Germans were driven over the Marne and the subsequent fighting on the Aisne. A thrilling experience was when Hancock with 50 of his regiment under Lieut-Col. Ponsonby got cut off and had to creep back along a ditch nearly full of water, all the time under a heavy fire from the enemy. *"The shells were dropping all round,"* said the soldier, *"and splashing us with the mud."* It was during this incident that the officer just named was wounded.

For periods as long as five successive days and nights, Hancock and his comrades were in the trenches and during the nine weeks he was at the front he never had his clothes off. He was wounded in the right shoulder by a piece of shell on September 19<sup>th</sup> and for eight hours lay unconscious in the trench. He was picked up

and bandaged by another of the guards named Broadhurst, who by a peculiar coincidence comes from the same village, and these two, with Pte. Wilson of Coalville, were fighting side by side. Although it was unknown to each other, Hancock and Wilson were both wounded about the same time and were brought to England on the same ship, meeting at Southampton and the two warriors who had fought side by side in the trenches in France subsequently occupied beds side by side in the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital at Leicester. Broadhurst is still at the front.

Further questioned as to his experiences during the fighting Hancock had some exciting incidents to relate.



On one occasion, he said, the Northamptons were sent out to bring in about 500 German soldiers who had lain down their arms and intimated that they desired to surrender. When the Germans saw the party coming to take them prisoners numbered only some 200, they quickly took up their guns again and started firing. The Northamptons charged and the retreat of the Germans was cut off by the British machine-guns by which practically the whole of the five hundred were wiped out. The groaning of the wounded, said Hancock, was pitiable. One man of the Black Watch had both his legs shot off during the battle of the Aisne and implored his comrades to shoot him out of his misery. The poor fellow died shortly afterwards. When a number of soldiers were taking cover in a factory a German shell demolished a tall chimney which fell across the building killing five or six men. Hancock was one of those who escaped. He saw P.C. Henson (a Coalville policeman) several times in the fighting before he was killed and he also saw P.C. Durrands (another Coalville policeman) lying wounded between two trenches. Durrands is now a prisoner in Germany. Wilson received his wounds while crawling to a place, under a heavy fire to fill some water bottles for his comrades and himself. Hancock says he was in the trenches for five days at a stretch and it was raining nearly the whole time. Shells that dropped around cut

the ground up throwing the dirt over them and in many places lay heaps of bodies of Germans. To anyone who had not seen it, he said, war was indescribable.

Hancock's statement that a good number of the Germans had a smattering of English and that he got into conversation with prisoners several times, led the writer to ask whether the Germans still thought that ours was "a contemptible little army."

His reply was that they have evidently altered their opinion now. But the Germans still retained the idea that they must win. They were frequently reiterating this and the British Tommies only laughed at them. But many of the Germans after being taken prisoner said they did not want to fight and remarked, "*The British shoot goot.*" The Germans, continued Hancock, could not stand the British charges, but generally fled.

But for the big guns they could not have held out as they did on the Aisne. A pitiable sight was to see the rows of English soldiers' graves, on which lay little crosses, made by their comrades out of the ammunition cases. But if the Germans were confident of winning, so were the English, he said. Every man was doing his bit and a splendid spirit prevailed among the troops.

Hancock's father, who was present at the interview, then related some of his experiences. He is a typical old soldier, who had fourteen years with the colours, eleven of which were spent in India. He went through the Afghan War under Lord Roberts and he went on to recall some of the thrilling incidents of that memorable campaign.

Hancock, junior, by-the-way, has been discharged from the hospital and is now at home regaining strength. He expects to return to the front, though this may be some weeks yet as at present he has lost the use of his shoulder, from which, while in the hospital, a piece of shell was extracted with the aid of X-rays.

## RECRUITING IN CANADA

### INTERESTING LETTER TO COALVILLE MAN



Mr Percy Stabler, the manager of Messrs. Worthington's Coalville branch shop, has just received an interesting letter from his brother Ernest in Canada showing how enthusiastic are the loyal Canadians in their desire to help the Mother country during this trying time.

Mr Stabler writes that by this time the Canadian volunteers will be in training over here and they are getting another 25,000 ready. The men belonging to Ontario who have joined (150) are all insured by the City, single men for 500 dollars, and married men up to 1,500, that is £100 to £300. Their pay is 5s per day, and the Government allow the reservists' and volunteers' wives £5 per month, according to the number of the family. The war fund is well patronised. In one town near here with 5,000 population, they raised 50,000 dollars, an average of nearly £2 per person and they are nearly all German-Canadians. All the railway employees here were asked if they would give one day's pay and only one I have heard of said he was hard up. The Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway hope to raise 200,000 dollars (£50,000).

## **HOME DEFENCE MEETING AT WHITWICK**

### **CITIZEN CORPS FORMED**

With a view to forming a Citizen Corps for home defence in Whitwick and Thringstone, a meeting was held at the Three Crowns Hotel, Whitwick, on Tuesday evening. Mr B. Berry presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Lieut. Jamie, Mr S. Perry etc.

Mr Berry said they were all sorry to hear of the death of the landlord of that establishment (Mr Musson), and he asked the company to stand as a mark of sympathy.

This having been done, the Chairman said these were very serious days, more serious than some of them realised. They had to face a madman and his huge army. This madman had intended to capture Brussels, Calais and Paris. They had taken Brussels but had got little further. The Germans wanted to capture Calais and invade this country, so that they could serve us as they had done the people of Belgium.

Capt. Stevenson having explained why he was prevented from taking active service, stated that before the war he formed the Ashby and Coalville Corps of the National Reserve. He congratulated Whitwick district on the many lads sent to fight for their country. The Chairman had referred to the German madman; he called him the German Assassin – (A voice: *The Belgian Butcher*) – hear, hear. They had read of the horrors which the Belgian people had had to suffer. The people of this country would have to suffer more if ever the Germans got into this country. We thought that our fine navy was invincible and could not be defeated, Germany thought the same of their navy. They had been building it up against "The Day" which they had toasted and looked and prepared for in years gone by and it was wise that they should be prepared for all contingencies. He referred to the heroic behaviour of British troops in the war, and to the pluck and courage of men who kept the Union Jack flying. If they had followed the advice of Lord Roberts six years ago this war would never have taken place, because they would have had four million trained men. It rested with the men of Whitwick to help to protect this country. They wanted to form a Citizen's Corps for home defence, and they wanted the young men to join Kitchener's army. If the men did not come forward readily, then there would be conscription. When Lord Kitchener got his million men, he would ask for another million. This war would not be over this Christmas or the Christmas after. It would be a long affair. They had got to drive Germany out of France, out of Belgium, and right to Berlin. They had got to make it that the Germans would not be able to molest them again. They not only wanted men for Kitchener's army, but also for the Territorial Reserve. It was a great honour to the Coalville Company and they had been called on to supply a draft of 60 to strengthen the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Luton. They had with them that night, Mr Jamie, an officer of the Coalville Company, and it was many years since Coalville had supplied an officer for the Territorials. When the National Reserve was first formed it was not recognised by the War Office, but in the hour of England's need, many of its members had gone again to serve their country. The same applied to the home defence corps. They wanted to be prepared for emergencies. At Coalville on Sunday 109 paraded for drill, and on Monday evening 88 presented themselves. There was a large employer of labour standing shoulder to shoulder with men in his employ. He regretted that there were men with strong sons who had not sent any to join the forces, although they could easily spare at least two. He explained in passing that the Citizen's Corps was not a back door for those who had not the grit to join Kitchener's army or the Territorials. Proceeding, he said that some women had trouble over their separation allowances. If any who had difficulty came to see him any morning between 9 and 12 at the Labour Exchange he should be only too pleased to do all he could to put the matter right.

Mr H. G. W. Howe said that England expects every man to do his duty and that motto should be engrafted in the minds of everyone young and old, and in spite of his advancing years he was prepared to do all he could. The war was not yet before them, and peace would not be declared until they reach Berlin.

It was decided those who had given in their names should meet on Thursday evening to form a committee.

Lieut. Jamie proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was accorded and Mr Berry replied.

## **COALVILLE AND THE BELGIANS**

### **AN EARNEST APPEAL**

#### **PUBLIC MEETING IN THE ADULT SCHOOL HALL**

In support of the scheme for accommodating one hundred Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, a public meeting was held in the Coalville Adult School Hall on Wednesday night, when there was a fair attendance, the majority being ladies.

Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., presided, and was supported by Messrs. B. G. Hale, J.P., Mr B. B. Drewett, Mr Edgar Hawthorn, (hon. secretary to the Committee), and Mr F. S. Weaver, (hon. secretary of the Collecting Committee).

The Chairman said he was sorry that it was necessary to have to call a meeting of that sort. They were all aware of the object for which they had met. It was to see what Coalville was prepared to do for the unfortunate people of Belgium, who had been driven from the homes and country.

Mr B. G. Hale said it was common knowledge that the war was one of the most terrible in history and was being waged by Germany with a barbarism also unprecedented in history. He went on to allude to the causes of the war and said that England promised to stand by Belgium if she resisted the German invasion. They all knew what a gallant stand Belgium made. Nothing more heroic was recorded in the annals of civilisation (Cheers). They had learned with horror and disgust the devastation which followed in Belgium and from that they could picture what would happen if the enemy came to this country. There were thousands of Belgian people who lost their friends, their homes, their all. Thousands were seeking refuge on our shores and it was our duty to see that they were treated handsomely. That meeting was to appeal for funds to aid in this work. He hoped that every man and woman in this district would rise to the occasion. They knew that one hundred of the refugees were shortly coming to Broom Leys, which the Whitwick Colliery Company, in their generosity, had offered. (Cheers). These people could bring nothing with them, and they had no money. Their savings in the bank had been confiscated as well as money owing to them. He met a businessman the other day who had £10,000 owing him, but the Germans had sent him a bit of paper saying it had been invested in the war loan and he would probably receive interest on it. If Germany lost, as he prayed God she would, (applause) that man would lose that money. No sacrifice the English people could make would be too great to repay the debt of gratitude they owed to Belgium. (Cheers). It was estimated that £30 a week was required by the Coalville Committee and in a prosperous district like this he thought there should be no difficulty in getting the money and a bit over. This war had to be fought to a finish. If Germany won, England would become a third rate country at once and would lose all her colonies. He did not want to sound a pessimistic note. If it meant the last man we would win this war (cheers) and if they could not win it with the men they would call on the women, who he was sure would do their part also. (Cheers). There was never a more just war and this mission of mercy was one which should appeal to them all. (Cheers)

Mr B. B. Drewett said they had met for a specific purpose and he would like them to keep in mind the object they had in view. He questioned whether they fully realised yet the terrible sufferings which the Belgians had passed through, because they had not actually been brought face to face with it. For some reasons he was glad they had been spared seeing the terrible agonies which these people have passed through, but some of them were coming into our midst and it was being brought nearer home to them. He had been pleased with the meetings held at Hugglescote, Ellistown and other parts of the district, because he believed the hearts of the people had been touched, and that there would be a splendid response to the appeal which was being made. There were thousands of refugees now in London, in the hotels, at the White City and other places, and the National Belgian Relief Committee had appealed to those in the country to help them. That was how the call came to Coalville. England had always been a haven of refuge for the oppressed. (Cheers) They had

had refugees in the past but never on such a scale nor under such circumstances as on this occasion. The Belgians came to us realising that we owed them a debt of gratitude. But for the stand Belgium made in the early part of the war, the position now might have been very different. France was not ready; Russia was not ready; and England had to get her troops onto the Continent. Belgium gallantly held the invaders in check while these difficulties were overcome. Had his hearers ever thought of what might have happened had Germany seized Calais or Boulogne? It would not be long, he thought, before they got within striking distance of this country. He knew they had confidence in their navy, but they could not tell what might have happened. (Hear, hear.) England was worth defending. Despite all the grumbling, political squabbles and what not, there was no country which enjoyed more freedom, better laws and greater advantages. (Cheers) He went on to draw a picture of Belgium during the last few months, as city after city had been razed to the ground, the horrible carnage, women and girls outraged, and people half naked driven from their homes, whose only aim was England as they made for the coast with their little bundles containing all they had in the world. Thousands of them were now here and we had a duty to perform. He was sure all would do their part. Their young men had gone forth to uphold their country's honour and even in Coalville a local corps had been formed, so that there was no fear of invasion here now (laughter and cheers), but there was much to be done by those left at home. Had they yet made any sacrifice? Some of them were having a little money stopped from their weekly wages for the National Fund, but that was to meet any civil distress that arose and none of it went to the relief of the poor people they were considering that night. They had done nothing for these people yet and they now had a splendid opportunity. They were under a debt of obligation to the Whitwick Colliery Company and the Committee for doing what they had done. It was hoped to accommodate 100 at Broom Leys, and there were a number of refugees already at Ravenstone in a house offered by Miss Cresswell and at Whitwick in a house which Mr G. F. Burton had lent. He hoped they would have about 150 in the neighbourhood altogether. It was certain that the feat of Belgium would go down to history as one of the finest feats of arms ever performed, and if the people of Coalville and this country neglected their duty towards them, it would be to their eternal shame. (Applause).

The Chairman read an article in the "Times" dealing with the conditions under which thousands of refugees were living in this Holland. They were lodged in barges on the river, in carriages on railway sidings and in barns and sheds. There were 250,000 of them in Holland with their eyes turned to England waiting for ships to come and fetch them. Holland was doing splendidly, but the burden was too great for her to bear. Owing to the sneaking German spies, no refugees could be placed on the east or south coasts and so appeals were being made to the rest of the country. It was a unique opportunity in Coalville that they had a house which would comfortably accommodate one hundred people. They should be there within fourteen days, so the committee had a task in getting the house ready. They should have no difficulty in getting the necessary £30 a week. Two pence per week from each house in the area would do it. One glass of beer less for each house was what was required. He pointed out that the Prince of Wales's Fund was really a sick club in which they made provision for themselves. No appeal had previously been made for the Belgian refugees. He found it difficult at first to believe some of the stories of the German atrocities in Belgium but he had had the privilege of talking with 18 ladies at the Coalville Convent, next door to him. These ladies escaped from Belgium only bringing what they stood up in, and he asked them whether what they read in the papers was true. Their reply was that it was only too true. In fact, not half of what happened in Belgium had been recorded in the English papers. Two nurses had arrived in London with both their hands cut off. Huns had been seen marching through the streets in Belgian towns with babies stuck on their bayonets. ("Shame"). Let them imagine these things happening in England. Proceeding he said the committee wanted a continual £30 to £35 each week and they did not know how long it would last. Possibly for a year. They also wanted offers of furniture. They were not asking for clothing at present, they would want plenty of under clothing for women and children. He said there was some silly talk going about the district as to the religion of the Belgians. He did not care a snap of the finger for religious beliefs in this matter. The religion of Belgium was chiefly Roman Catholic but they had nothing to do with that. It was childish for anyone to say he would not help because the Belgians were Roman Catholics. They had a right to their own opinion and he hoped they would go back to their own country sometime. Concluding the chairman referred to an appeal he had received for a French relief fund and advised any others who received this appeal to leave it alone. He had his doubts about it and had sent it to Scotland Yard. If it was all right, all well and good, if not, it would be enquired into. He then asked for collectors for certain districts in which there were vacancies, some of the collectors for the Prince of Wales's fund having also agreed to collect for this object.

The collectors appointed were: London Road, Mrs Price and Miss Lindley; Park Road, Mrs Page and Mrs Savage; Hermitage Road, Mammoth Street, etc., Mrs Rimes and Mrs Culliff; Margaret Street and Jackson Street, Mrs and Miss Hale; Gutteridge Street, James Street and Vaughan Street, Mrs Reesby and Mrs Carr; Highfields Street and St. Saviour's Road, Mrs Allen and Mrs Wildgoose.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the chairman and speakers and the singing of the National Anthem. A similar meeting was held in the Ellistown School on Tuesday night and was well attended. The vicar, the Rev. F. Boothby presided and the speakers were Messrs. W. Hurst and Mr B. B. Drewett.

Reports of other meetings will be found on page 7.

## **ASHBY**

### **SMOKING CONCERT**

Mr H. W. Joyce, C.C., presided at a well-attended smoking concert, held at the Queen's Head Hotel, on Monday, with the object of promoting recruiting for the Territorial Company. Most of the members were present including Capt. Jesson, the officer commanding, who enlisted several recruits. Sergeant Crossley mentioned that the company numbered 121, and his reference to Driver Osborne (a Leicestershire man), having won the V.C., was received with cheers.