

# Coalville Times At War

**Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1239)**

**Page 2**

## **FUNERAL OF LEICESTER TERRITORIAL OFFICER**

The remains of Second-Lieut. Clement Groombridge, of the Leicestershire Regiment, (T.F.) were interred at Southend-on-Sea on Saturday afternoon. The deceased, who was only 20 years of age and was wounded in France, was a popular young officer, and was killed by being thrown from his motorcycle while acknowledging the salute of a sentry outside the headquarters of the 29<sup>th</sup> Provisional Battalion. He is the second officer of the battalion accidentally killed at Southend during the past three months.

The funeral was attended by hundreds of soldiers from the Royal Artillery, Border, (Cumberland and Westmorland), Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, South Staffordshire, Notts and Derby, and Essex regiments.

**Page 3**

## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

From the fact that inquiries are being made for the military authorities (Northern Command) by officers as to accommodation which could be afforded by the town for the billeting of troops, it is expected that twelve hundred soldiers will shortly be quartered at Ashby and much satisfaction has been expressed at the prospect. A special meeting of the Urban Council to consider the matter, including the terms for the letting of the Town Hall etc, was held on Saturday night.

Largely owing to the generosity of subscribers, the Ashby Citizens' Corps have been furnished with uniforms, and the first parade of the members in the outfit was held last night.

The treasurer of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild, Mrs J. W. Farmer, acknowledges with thanks the receipt of 12s 4d, per Mr J. Margetts, being the proceeds of a collection among the Coalville staff of the Refuge Assurance Company.

Writing from the Orderly Room, British Barracks, Khartoum, Mr Charles Bradshaw, late of Coalville, informs us that he has recently been appointed as traffic managers' clerk and assistant at Atbara, on the Sudan Government railways. He succeeded in passing an examination for the post, to which a good salary is attached in addition to his military pay. Atbara, he says, is about 600 miles from Khartoum. It is winter out there now, though it is like July in England, multiplied by 2,000. It is cooler at Atbara than Khartoum. He adds that he will wear white drill clothes (civilian style), white hat, civilian boots, shirt and tie, which will be quite a change. He is quite well and has now completed his first year of soldiering, having enlisted on November 4<sup>th</sup> last year.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

The Pope has expressed a desire again to try and obtain a truce between the belligerents during Christmas in Roman Catholic and Orthodox countries?

The concert organised by Messrs. Stableford and Co's. workmen to provide Christmas gifts for the soldiers who have gone from the works, is to be held in the Coalville Adult School Hall tomorrow night?

**Page 5**

## **SWANNINGTON**

### **SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE**

A social and whist drive were held in the St. George's School on Tuesday night, the proceeds being to purchase gifts for men from Swannington who are serving with the colours.

## **SHAW LANE**

### **DANCE AND SOCIAL**

There was a crowded attendance at the above on Wednesday evening when the proceeds were devoted to a fund for Christmas presents for those at the front from Shaw Lane. An excellent programme of music was given and Mr A. Maunders officiated as the M.C. The arrangement of the singing and competitions at the social was in charge of Mr W. Boswell. The winner of the cake guessing competition was Miss E. Gill and of that of the doll, Mr Walter Chapman. The following contributed songs, Mr Heward, senr; Mr Heward, jun; Mr J. Clark, Miss Thorneycroft, Miss Freeman, Mr Lynch and Mr B. Brown (comic).

## **BARLESTONE**

### **CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR SOLDIERS**

Mr W.C. Kirkman, J.P., presided at a concert in the National Schools on Saturday night in aid of the Local Soldiers' Christmas Parcels Fund. The Coalville Mixed Concert Party assisted with several capital contributions, Mr O. Ratcliffe being the accompanist, whilst Mr F. Clay conducted. The National Anthem was sung at the opening and the close of the concert.

*Page 6*

### **LEICESTER SOLDIER SENT TO PRISON**

On Saturday at the Leicester Borough Police Court, James Walden, 22, soldier, was again brought up on a charge of stealing 4/9 in coppers from a slot meter in Argyle Street, and also of stealing two gold locket and chains, the property of Mrs Emma Needham. Defendant called at the house and made an inquiry, and Mrs Needham, thinking he looked cold, got him some tea. He went away but came back, and in prosecutrix's absence got into the house, breaking open the slot meter and stealing the contents as well as the locket and chains.

As there were two previous convictions against prisoner for house breaking he was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

### **THREE SONS KILLED**

Mrs Hewitt, of 50, Parry Street, Leicester, has lost three sons in the war. She has been officially informed that Private Albert Hewitt, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northants Regiment, was killed in action in France on October 13<sup>th</sup> last. Private George Hewitt, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry, was killed on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1914, and Private Herbert B. Hewitt, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicester Regiment, was killed on December 19<sup>th</sup> last. Albert, who had been wounded on two previous occasions, was called up with his brother George, at the outbreak of war as reservists, while Herbert went to France with the Indian Expeditionary Force.

*Page 8*

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH**

#### **VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST A COMRADE**

An inquest was held at Hull on Monday, concerning the death of Private George Spencer, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment at Patrington. A verdict of manslaughter was returned against Private Bolesworth of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters.

From the evidence it appeared that Privates Spencer, Fitchett, Flamson, and Daniels, of the same regiment, on Saturday night were returning from Patrington. After visiting a public house they met Bolesworth, when Spencer in reply to Bolesworth, said they were a picket which they were not. This seemed to irritate Bolesworth who struck Spencer in the face, knocking him down. He was picked up and taken to camp. Next morning he was found dead in bed.

Private George Spencer was a Coalville man, being the son of the late Mr Nat. Spencer, a railway engine-driver, who lived in Belvoir Road, and died about three years ago. Spencer enlisted about last Whitsuntide and was in military training in Hull. Prior to joining the army he was working at the Whitwick Colliery and lodged with his sister, Mrs Plowman, of Church Lane, Ravenstone, the wife of Driver Plowman of the Royal Artillery. Another sister of the deceased, Mrs Brewin Lakin, also resides at Ravenstone and he had other sisters who reside at Coalville and a brother who is serving in the navy. For a time after his father died, Spencer worked at a colliery in Yorkshire. He was a single man, 24 years of age.

### **GRIFFYDAM SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **A FORMER MINER AT COLEORTON COLLIERY**

Mr and Mrs Thomas Toon, of Griffydam, have received information that their son, Pte. Harry Toon, 14853, 16<sup>th</sup> Platoon, D. Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regiment, has been killed in action at a place not stated. The sad news was first received in a letter from Second-Lieut. V. W. Sheldon, who states that Toon was killed on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Pte. Toon was aged 25, and resided with his parents at Griffydam and worked at Coleorton Colliery. He and his two pals, Ptes. C. Platts and S. Johnson, enlisted at Coleorton Hall, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914, and after training in various camps in England, landed "somewhere in France" on July 29<sup>th</sup> last.

### **COALVILLE SOLDIERS ENTERTAINED AT GRANTHAM**

#### **AN INTERESTING GATHERING**

Mr Ivy White, accountant, of Grantham, 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Mr and Mrs Arthur I. White, of "The Chestnuts" Coalville, sent an invitation to all the Coalville soldiers at present in camp at Belton Park, to a supper held at Cook's Café, Market Place, Grantham, last Tuesday night. Forty-eight accepted the kind invitation and these sat down to supper at 7.30. After an excellent spread a musical programme was enjoyed.

The services of Mr Tom Warner, comedian, were secured with Miss Hatfield as accompanist. Several songs and recitations were given by him including encores. The following Coalville soldiers contributed to a very enjoyable programme:

Private Chapman, song; Private Bailey, piano solo; Corp. Catlow, chorus song, which the soldiers sang heartily (encored); Private Brownlow, song; Private Haggar, song, "He used to court me, little Mary Ann." Mr Newbold, of Loughborough, also gave comic recitations, which were much appreciated.

After the concert Quarter-Master Sergeant Hill spoke a few well-chosen words on behalf of the men and thanked Mr White very much for his kindness and he said they all thought a great deal of this kind invitation, as Mr White was from their own town of Coalville, and he asked them all to sing, "For he's a jolly good fellow." After this had been sung three cheers were given for Mr and Mrs White.

Mr Ivy White thanked the Quartermaster-Sergeant and men for their kind words and said he felt it was not only a pleasure but an honour to see so many Coalville men in khaki there that evening, and he hoped they would all come through the war safely. He said he understood about fifteen men present had been to the front, and some had come home wounded, and he trusted they would soon be fit again. It was 10:30 and as leave had been granted to this time, the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and "God Save the King" brought to a close a very pleasant evening and one which will be long remembered by those present. The men under Quarter-Master Sergeant Hill marched to their quarters at Belton Park.

**COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED AT GALLIPOLI**  
**THRILLING EXPERIENCES**  
**SHOT FIVE TURKS WITH DEAD OFFICER'S REVOLVER**

A thrilling account of his experiences during the famous landing of British troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and in the operations since then, has been given to our reporter by Pte. J. G. Thompson, of the Royal Marines, who before the war was working as a coalminer at Shirebrook, and is now on sick leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs J. S. Thompson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, with whom his wife and child have been staying during his absence.

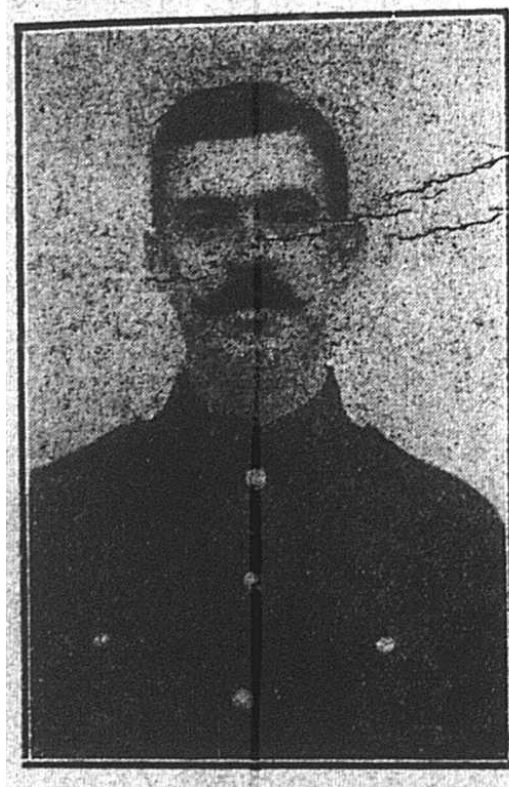
Pte. Thompson volunteered for service on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914, and after a few months in the Notts. and Derbys Regiment, was transferred to the Royal Marines at Portsmouth. They sailed for the Dardanelles on February 28<sup>th</sup> and landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula when the famous landing was taking place on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The first troops were disembarked on April 25<sup>th</sup>, and for three days the Marines acted as a covering army. The heavy losses sustained by our troops during this trying time has now become a matter of history and Thompson says that terrible as our casualties were, they might have been much heavier had the Turks possessed a quarter of the pluck displayed by the British forces.

It was only about a fortnight later that Thompson received his wound which has since incapacitated him, but it was a fortnight crammed with thrilling incidents and in which he had several hairbreadth escapes. He said they had a pretty rough job on hand at Quinn's Post on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Turks were that day trying to bomb the Australians out of their trenches and the Marines went up in support and succeeded in their object, but their ranks were terribly thinned.

*"There was a good deal of hand to hand fighting,"* said Thompson in reply to another question. *"I have been in 3 bayonet charges, and we routed the Turks every time. During one of these charges I was on the point of jumping into an enemy trench on one occasion, when a Turk, in trying to bayonet me, tore the puttee from my leg without injuring me at all. I had 19 bullet holes in my clothes at different times before I was shot."*

Another exciting incident related by the soldier was that during another charge his officer fell mortally wounded, and his last act just before he expired, was to hand Thompson his revolver. *"This came in very handy,"* added the soldier, *"for we were in the thick of it and I shot five Turks with the revolver."* During the first days of the landing they had a very trying time according to Thompson's account. He and two companions only had six biscuits and a small tin of bully beef between them for three days and half a pint of water per man per day. That was owing to the shelling of the transports, but things have improved very much since, he said.

Thompson received his wound, a severe one, on May 13<sup>th</sup>. He was in the act of carrying water to some wounded comrades when he was shot in the back of the neck. The bullet entered just above the spine and came out under the right ear and though the wound has healed well, some ugly marks are still there to show what a marvellous escape the soldier had. He was in hospital in Alexandria till June 23<sup>rd</sup> and was afterwards transferred to Cyprus, landing there on June 27<sup>th</sup> and he remained till August 16<sup>th</sup> when he came to England and has since been in hospital at Portsmouth and in London. While at Cyprus, a distressing effect of the wound was that he lost the use of his right arm, but happily this has now much improved. The gallant soldier is now on sick furlough till December 15<sup>th</sup>, when he has to report himself at Portsmouth. When living in the Coalville district, before going to Shirebrook, Thompson worked at the Whitwick and Ellistown Collieries.



## **TWO ASHBY SOLDIERS KILLED**

Unofficial news has been received at Ashby that Private C. H. Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards, has been killed in France. The news was received on Saturday by his father, Mr T. H. Smith, of Old Park Villas, Nottingham Road, in a letter from a comrade of the dead soldier who was probably the youngest Ashby man serving, being barely 16. He was amongst the first to enlist when the war began. Private A. Litherland, of Chapel Yard, belonging to the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, has also been killed in action.

## **KHAKI ARMLET DAY**

### **LONDON SEES THE NEW BADGE FOR PATRIOTS**

The new khaki armlet is out. Here and there a civilian sleeve adorned with the strip of khaki embroidered with the royal crown in red, was to be seen on Saturday in the streets of London. The armlets are for:

- 1 Men attested under the group system
- 2 Men of good character who have been discharged from the army for medical unfitness

The authorities are considering whether they should issue it also to men who offer themselves for enlistment and are rejected on medical grounds.

## **COALVILLE SOLDIER IN BELGIUM**

### **SIGHTS THE SLACKER OUGHT TO SEE**

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

Writing from Belgium to his Coalville relatives, Mr Arthur Hardy, of the R.A.M.C. states: "*From what I can see in the papers, things are beginning to stir up a bit in England and about time too. I'm speaking of the recruiting. I think it's a shame that so many young men in England should be holding back and if they would join the forces it would make such a difference out here. I said at first that I would not join, but as time went on my mind did not seem settled, for I had had experience in the army and I thought I was one that ought to do my bit. It was a hard pull to leave my wife and children, but here I am and I am not sorry, for I would much rather been in here than at home to have people tell me that I ought to join. It was very hard to leave the wife and children, but still my trouble is nothing to what the poor beggars here had to go through in Belgium. I have seen poor old women and men and little children hurrying out of their homes leaving everything behind them, excepting a small bundle of clothes, and cripples that could not walk, being pushed along in barrows and other conveyances that they could get hold of. It makes one blood's boil when you see such sights. There are towns here that were lovely places before the war; they are now nothing but a heap of ruins, whole towns smashed up with German shells. I often wonder what the slackers would do if they lived over here in Belgium instead of in England along with the old people and children to try and save their skins. I know there are some of them that would like to join, but they are thinking of their parents who are not able to do anything for themselves, but there is a good many that have nothing like that to think of. If I had the power I should claim every single young man fit for service, and unless he could give some reasonable excuse, I should compel him to join.*

*There are men out here that have sacrificed good positions and everything they hold dear to try and do their bit, and it is an insult to the men out here that there are so many able-bodied men hanging back when it would mean so much towards this war if they would join. I saw a few men marched through a town a few days ago just behind the firing line, I will not mention the regiment, but the day before they charged the German trenches and gained three lines of trenches. There were several hundreds of them when they first made the charge, but later on they had to retire from these trenches because they were not strong enough to hold the position against the German forces, and by the time they got back to safety there were only about a hundred left of them. I am telling this to point out what a big difference it would make if only some of those young men that are holding back would only join the lads out here. It would mean the war being finished sooner for their help."*

Arthur Hardy, R.A.M.C.  
Belgium

## LETTER FROM TWO COALVILLE BOYS IN THE TRENCHES

### MEAN TO AVENGE THEIR COMRADES' DEATHS

Pte. William Beasley and Pte. J. Hart, both of the Leicestershire Regiment, writes from the front in France stating that they are in the best of health, and continue: *"We are sorry to see in the "Coalville Times" the lot of Coalville boys that are getting killed, but we are trying our best to avenge their deaths, and we will do so before we finish. We have just come out of the trenches after a very strenuous 14 days. I reckon it is a well-earned rest. What do you say? We have been fighting where the last big attack was at Hooge. We think the Germans know it is quite impossible to advance round this part, but we keep on giving it to them thick and heavy. I should like you to contradict the rumour that people have got in Coalville and Whitwick about me (Beasley) being dead. For as you can see I am well alive and mean to be for I have not done with those devils the other side yet. Me and my friend Joseph Hart, have had more than one narrow escape, but they have not caught us bending yet and I'm sure they are not likely to just yet, not before we give them another good tying up and they won't be long before they get that. It is the second time out for both me and my chum. We have both been to the second battalion and now we are with the first battalion. I am sending this letter with a chum of mine from Coalville, another of the boys is coming on furlough. I don't suppose we shall be long before we come too. I am sorry to tell you that Mick Reed, one of my chums from Coalville, was accidentally shot. I suppose you know him. His brother Joe has been with me, but he is now mining.*

*We hope the remainder of the Coalville boys will answer their country's call and come and help us to avenge the deaths of their friends, for the quicker they come up, the sooner the end will be in sight. I don't think it is in sight yet. We both wish the people of Coalville a merry Christmas – Yours faithfully, Pte. W. Beasley, 16531, B. Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, B.E.F., France, and Pte. J. Hart, 10650, A. Co., same regiment."*

Beasley is a son of Mr and Mrs C. Beasley of the Hermitage Hotel, Whitwick.

### MORE THANKS TO COALVILLE LADIES

#### LETTER FROM TWO LOCAL LADS IN THE TRENCHES

We have received the following letter from France:

*"Sir – Will you please express through your paper thanks for the parcel received from Mrs Baldwin and Women of Coalville, containing sleeping helmet, mits and socks. The residences out here for Tommy are both open and airy. Severe frost by night and seas of mud by day, so they will come in most useful during the coming winter. Thanking you in anticipation. We are, sir, your obedient servants."*

Rowland Smith and Corpl. Wheeler,  
14<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery,  
Expeditionary Force, France.

### A COALVILLE ABSENTEE

#### PROMISED TO GO STRAIGHT BACK TO HIS REGIMENT

Pte. Thomas Warren, of Albert Street, Coalville, was brought before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court on Monday charged with being an absentee from his regiment, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters since November 19<sup>th</sup>. Defendant said his wife had been poorly having had a son killed in the war and she asked him to stop with her a bit. He promised to go straight back to Hull if the magistrate would liberate him.

Inspector Dobney said the military authorities had not notified the soldier's absence but the police brought him in knowing him to be an absentee. On promising to leave for Hull by the next train, the magistrates allowed the defendant to go. Warren was wounded at Neuve Chapelle.

## **Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1240)**

**Page 4**

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

A Red Cross train arrived in Leicester on Sunday evening from the south coast, containing 126 wounded British soldiers, including 30 stretcher cases. This was the third train load of wounded in the last 10 days, the total number of cases being close upon 300.

### **DO YOU KNOW THAT**

The staff at the Coalville Recruiting Office have had a busy time this week?

There is abundant evidence of a great boom in recruiting having set in in Leicester?

Men who have attested are invited to join Coalville Citizen Corps parade at Mantle Lane on Sunday morning?

**Page 5**

### **AN ABSENTEE**

Before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court on Monday, John W. Kinton, a private in the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since November 29<sup>th</sup>. P.C. Jelley deposed to seeing the soldier in Talbot Street, Whitwick, and accused him of being an absentee, which he admitted, and said he was going back to his battalion on the next day – Inspector Dobney said the accused was discharged from hospital on November 29<sup>th</sup> and should have reported himself. – Asked his reason for not re-joining his regiment Kinton said he had been away from home for 16 weeks and wanted to see his wife. He was remanded to await an escort.

### **MESSRS STABLEFORD'S AND CO'S WORKMEN'S CONCERT**

The employees of Messrs. Stableford and Co's works gave an excellent concert in the Adult School Hall on Saturday night when despite the heavy downpour there was a capital attendance, the hall being full. The proceeds were for providing gifts for men from the works serving with the forces and the event was a great success, financially as well as musically, about £45 being realised. Excellent selections were given by a choir and orchestra composed entirely of the workmen, while the individual contributions were also much appreciated, there being several encores. Mr J. W. Burton was the conductor, and Mrs J. W. Burton the pianist. Mr Sidney Allen acted as hon. secretary for the event and carried out the arrangements admirably. Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., presided and the following was the programme: The King; overture, "Tancredi," band; glee, "Comrades," choir; song, "Yeoman of England," Mr W. Reece; quartet, "The Bulldog," Messrs. G. Clay, W. Shaw, F. Clay and H. Finch (encored); glee, "Martyrs," choir; song, "Trooper Johnny Ludlow," Mr W. Shaw; selection, "Rosemary," band; humorous song, "PC 49," Mr C. Massey; glee, "England's King," choir; overture, "Italiana," band; duet, "By jove," (encored), Mr F. Clay and Mr H. Finch; glee, "Liberty," choir; song and chorus, "Two little heads," Mr R. Harris; selection, "Premier Bonhour," band; solo, "There is a land," (encore, "When the ebb tide flows,"); Mr E. Briers; quartet, "Call John," (encore "Beware"), Messrs. G. Clay, W. Shaw, F. Clay and H. Finch; humorous song, "John, James Henry," (encore, "I think we shall have some rain") Mr S. Massey; glee, "Good night," choir.

**Page 6**

### **AN ABSENTEE**

George Henry Bennett, private, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since the 27<sup>th</sup> ult. P.C. Grewcock deposed to apprehending the defendant in Whitwick and Bennett admitted the offence. Defendant said he was sorry, but he left because his boy was ill. He had had nothing else against him since he had been in the army. He was remanded to await an escort.

## MORE WOUNDED ARRIVE AT LEICESTER

### MEN SUFFERING FROM "TRENCH" FEET

100 wounded soldiers, comprising 75 'cot' cases and 85 sitting cases arrived at the Midland Station from Dover on Saturday night, and were taken to the North Evington War Hospital. Several of the men were suffering from "trench" feet caused by the water in the trenches and the cold weather. The soldiers are provided with rubber boots, but the water in the trenches is so deep that they do not suffice to keep out the wet. Mr A. W. Faire, Mr A. Reginald Corah, Colonel Harrison, and Major Henry superintended the arrangements for the removal of the men from the train to the motor cars and ambulances. Motor cars were lent by the following: Mr F. S. S. Brice, Mr T. Cawdell, Mr A. Corah, Mrs J. H. Ellis, Mr W. Evans, Mr J. Frisby, Sir M. Levy, Mr J. Lulham, Mr J. Palfreyman, Mrs Raven, Mr W. H. Turner, Mr A. Tyler, Mr T. S. Thorneloe, and Mr T. Wright.

## THANKS TO COALVILLE LADIES

### INTERESTING LETTERS FROM "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE"

Mrs L. L. Baldwin, secretary of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild, has received the following interesting letter from 'Somewhere in France.'

*"I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken in writing to you, but I feel I must write and express my thanks for the parcel I have just received from you. The articles received are quite a boon to me, the most useful I could have had. The weather conditions out here are very trying, but with plenty of warm clothing, one is able to brave the elements far better, I am in a company of 350 men from all parts of the country, and this is the first parcel of its kind to arrive amongst us, so I am sure you will know how proud I felt when explaining the way the ladies and yourself work to provide comforts for the local lads in the forces. I must congratulate you all on the good work you have done, and are doing, and I should not think there is a place throughout the country doing more for us in one way and another than Coalville and District. I have no complaints of any kind and am happy and contented the whole day long. Again thanking you most heartily with kind regards to all who are helping in the good cause. I will now conclude hoping I have not taken up too much of your valuable time, I remain yours sincerely."*

Edward V. Griffin, 093644

## STANTON-UNDER-BARDON

### WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

Under the auspices of the Patriotic Committee of whom Mr F. Gibson was secretary, a very pleasant time was spent in the Council Schools on Saturday evening of last week, when upwards of 150 were present from Stanton and the surrounding villages. The object of the whist drive and dance was to obtain funds for Christmas presents to those serving at the front from Stanton parish. The inhabitants were most enthusiastic in the matter and an abundant supply of refreshments were gratuitously given for the deserving and worthy object and a sum of £18 6s 6d was realised for the purposes required. Much credit is due to the committee for the energy and trouble displayed whose efforts were crowned with a brilliant success. Mr Gibson, the secretary, was most assiduous in his endeavours for the comfort and convenience of the large company present. The following were the winners of the prizes at the whist drive:

Gents, 1 Mr Percy Pearson; 2 Mr Irons; 3 Mr Warner.

Ladies, 1 Mrs A. Shipley; 2 Mrs A. Farmer; 3 Mrs S. Wardle.

Mr Love officiated as M.C. and at the unanimous request of the committee Mrs Boswell distributed the prizes at the conclusion of which Mr Boswell made a short speech. Mr Herbert Ball was M.C. at the dance and a first class programme of music was kindly provided by Miss Cramp and Mr Neville Dilks. The catering of a willing band of ladies gave every satisfaction, being done in first-class style. A cake guessing competition



caused great amusement, Miss L. Orton being the winner. The affair was an unqualified success in every way. Mr Isaac Brown kindly presented the cake which made 7s 6d.

### ONE OF THE COALVILLE FIFTY

#### LOCAL TERRITORIAL KILLED

Information has reached us from the relatives of Pte. Frederick Bartlam, No. 2561, of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, to the effect that this soldier was killed in action in the great battle on October 13<sup>th</sup>. He was a native of Osbastone, where his widowed mother now resides, his father having died on July 8<sup>th</sup> last. Pte. Bartlam was well-known in Coalville, being one of the first 50 territorials to leave the town and was very popular with all his associates.

#### A HUGGLESCOTE ARTILLERYMAN

##### GUNNER NORTON WILLIAMS



Gunner Norton Williams, 62329, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who enlisted on November 1<sup>st</sup>, was up to that time one of the most popular employees of the Coalville Co-Operative Society, being an assistant in the clothing department. He is a son of Mr and Mrs T. Williams, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, whose other son, Sergt. A. Williams, formerly in the Coventry City Police, is now at the Dardanelles, his regiment being the Royal Warwicks. Gunner Norton Williams is now in training somewhere on the south coast of England and his letters home are very cheerful and show that he is getting on splendidly.



PTE. GEORGE SPENCER.

##### PTE. GEORGE SPENCER

Pte. G. Spencer, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, whose death occurred at Patrington, Hull, under circumstances reported in our last issue. He formerly lived in Belvoir Road, Coalville, with his father the late Mr Nat Spencer, and before the war was lodging with his sister Mrs Plowman, of Church Lane, Ravenstone, and worked at the Whitwick new pit.

#### CADEBY SOLDIER KILLED

Private W. Hadland, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters (T.F.), son of Mr and Mrs Hadland, of Cadeby, Market Bosworth, has died of wounds in hospital at Rouen. He was attached to a grenade party and was badly wounded in the knee, and back on his twentieth birthday, it was necessary to amputate the leg, from which he never rallied. For eight years he was a member of Cadeby Church choir. He was employed on the Cadeby estate of Messrs. Scott and Brown.

### Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1241)

Page 2

#### TERRITORIAL DECORATION

##### HONOUR BESTOWED ON LEIUT. COL. PEAKE

The "London Gazette" on Friday night contained the following:

*"The King has been graciously pleased to confer the territorial decoration upon the under-mentioned officer of the territorial force, who has been duly recommended for the same under the terms of the Royal Warrant, dated August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1908:*

## **AID TO THE WOUNDED**

### **SPLENDID WORK OF THE LEICESTER V.A.D.**

On Saturday evening Mr A. W. Faire, county director of the Leicester Voluntary Aid Detachment, entertained the members of that body and of the transport to tea at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, in recognition of the devoted services they have rendered to the wounded soldiers brought to Leicester. The gathering was an exceedingly interesting one, some 600 ladies of the V.A.D. and members of the Transport Section sitting down to an excellent tea. The Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs North), Lieut-Colonel Harrison (base hospital), Captain Stevenson, Capt. Luxmore and Major Henry were among those present.

The Mayor spoke in the highest terms of the splendid services rendered by the members of the V.A.D. since the outbreak of war, and of the fine lead given them by the county director, Mr A. W. Faire. The town and country would long remember the obligation it owed them. Lieut.-Colonel Harrison also acknowledged in generous terms the invaluable assistance he had received at the hands of the V.A.D. and Transport in connection with the reception of the wounded. Mr Faire mentioned that since the outbreak of war they had had 68 convoys of wounded in Leicester, representing 10,557 wounded men who had been dealt with by the V.A.D. and Transport. In addition to this some 7,000 to 8,000 had passed through their rest rooms at the Midland Station, while some 80,000 men on troop trains had been served with refreshments at the Great Central Station.

Later in the evening an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was gone through and greatly enjoyed.

## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Mr William Haggard, sexton, of London Road, Coalville, enjoys the unique distinction in the colliery district of contributing seven sons to the army. The eldest, Percy, enlisted in the Post Office Rifles (Rifle Brigade), William joined the Canadian Force and is completing his training in England. Walter went into the Second 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, and was injured whilst serving in France when several sandbags fell onto him, in the trenches, necessitating amputation of a toe from each foot, and Ernest, Frank, Fred and Arthur have enlisted under the group system.

Mr T. Kelly, of the Railway Hotel, Whitwick, has received a letter from his brother, Pte. J. Kelly, 16640, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps Headquarters, Bath section, Field Post Office, British Expeditionary Force, in which he says he is going on alright. He has been in France over six months now, he adds, and is getting used to it. Things are quiet where he is now, but it is raining nearly every day and there is plenty of mud. He hopes to be home soon on eight days' leave and wishes to be remembered to all old friends.

At the end of last week about 340 parcels were despatched to soldiers at home and abroad on behalf of the Shepshed, Charley, and Oaks-in-Charnwood Committee, each parcel containing a card with Christmas and New Year's greetings. The Shepshed Co-Operative Society have also despatched especially prepared parcels to Shepshed and Belton men who belong to the colours. An exhibition and sale at the Richmond Arms Inn, Shepshed, for which Mr Albert Newman acted as secretary, realised £3 0s 7d, and other contributions made up a goodly sum which enabled the committee to send 750 packets of cigarettes and 12 ounces of tobacco to the Shepshed soldiers at the front. On Saturday last, exhibitions were held at the Lifeguardsmen Inn and the Railway Inn for a similar object.

As a result of the concert organised by Miss Redfern held at the Ashby Town Hall, on Wednesday in last week, a sum of £25 was cleared. Of this sum, £5 was sent to Lord Roberts' memorial fund and £20 was expended among tradesman of the town on gifts for local soldiers and sailors on active service. The gifts were sent to France in six packing cases, containing 56 lbs in each, including tinned peaches, peppermints, lump sugar, candles, sardines, salmon, cheese, cocoa, box of kippers, chocolates, butter-scotch, oxo,

biscuits, cakes, polonies, fish paste, paper and envelopes, powders, tobacco, pipes, cigarettes, pipe lighters, purses, cards, etc, etc.

Fifteen local policemen, under Inspector Dobney, marched to the Coalville Recruiting Office and were attested on Saturday. They were P.C.'s Holmes (Measham), Higgs (Heather), Dray (Osgathorpe), Smith (Albert Village), Hawkins (Appleby), Cobley and Norton (Ashby), Bowns (Breedon), Jelley (Whitwick), Jones (Thringstone), Sibson (Ravenstone), Percival, Spiby, Bursnall and Mason (Coalville).

### **DO YOU KNOW THAT**

All over the country during the week-end there were remarkable scenes in connection with the great final rush to attest under Lord Derby's recruiting scheme?

Several Coalville men who attested last week have been heard to declare that it not their intention to cash the cheque received for 2/9 but have it framed?

Mrs Stockdale, of Ibstock, has received a letter of thanks from the "Daily Chronicle", London, for having collected £1 10s for the fund for sending Christmas gifts to the troops?

### **IBSTOCK**

The Wesley Guild lady workers have this week completed the despatch of Christmas parcels to the boys who belonged to that place of worship and are now serving with the forces.

### **Page 5**

### **SOLDIER'S THANKS**

*Dear Friends – I beg to acknowledge the receipt of parcel, for which receive my sincere thanks. I should esteem it a great favour if you would kindly insert the same in your valuable paper. – Allow me to remain yours sincerely.*

Pte. I. Chapman, 14169  
Coldstream Guards.

### **Page 6**

### **ARMLETS**

### **LORD DERBY REQUESTS OWNERS TO WEAR THEM**

The following announcement has been received from the War Office for publication:

*"The supply of armllets has not been equal to the demand, but it is hoped that in a very short time there will be plenty available. Lord Derby sincerely hopes that all men who have armllets in their possession will wear them, though no order to this effect is being issued."*

### **LORD DERBY'S SCHEME**

### **MARRIED RECRUITS UNITE TO RESIST EXPLOITATION**

The married men in the large engineering works in Rugby, who have enrolled under Lord Derby's scheme, are forming a society with a view of securing, by weight of numbers, what they regard as equitable treatment under the recruiting scheme, and especially in regard to all single men being called up before the married. Already many hundreds of men have signed the register.

The scheme, it is understood, is intended to be a national one, and steps are being taken to ensure its growth in every corner of the country. It will be centralised, no entrance fee and no subscription is asked. The sole qualification is that a member shall be a married recruit in a Derby group. The scheme is to rely entirely upon its numerical strength to secure its aims. Its great determination is to see that the single men of the country shall be called up before demands are made upon the married groups.

Extensions of the work of the society in many ways have already been suggested. One is that a fund shall be started to provide assistance for the dependants of members called up for service. This will be entirely provided by the members themselves.

### **PATRIOTIC CONCERT**

There was a large company at the Ashby Town Hall on Wednesday evening on the occasion of a very successful patriotic concert, the proceeds of which were to provide extra comforts for local soldiers at Christmas and for Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund for disabled soldiers and sailors. An excellent programme had been arranged, including contributions by the following artistes: Miss Burkitt, soprano, of Whitwick; Miss Lathbury, contralto, of Burton; Mr Thomms, tenor, of Ashby; Mr R. Jacques, base, of Sheffield; Mrs Way, violinist, Burton; and Mr J. Goddard, humourist, of Queen's Hall, London. Miss Holbrooke, L.R.A.M., was the accompanist. The arrangements for the concert were ably carried out by Miss A. W. Redfern.

*Page 7*

### **DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDALS**

#### **PRESENTATION AT LEICESTER**

On Sunday, in the presence of a large gathering of soldiers and civilians, Colonel Thorold, commanding the 6<sup>th</sup> District, presented the Distinguished Conduct medals awarded by the King to Second-Lieutenant Wilson, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, and Lance-Corporal T. Newcombe of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, for gallantry in the field.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mosse (Glen Parva) read the extracts from Army Orders showing that Lieutenant Wilson (then Corporal) went out under a heavy fire from rifles, machine-guns, and trench mortars, and dug out a man who had been buried by a bursting shell. He had also done consistently good work as a platoon commander. Lance-Corporal Newcombe voluntarily went out to the succour of a wounded officer under heavy fire, and finding him too severely wounded to be moved, remained with him till he died, crawling back to his own trench exhausted by the strain and exposure. Corporal Newcombe had also been awarded the Order of St. George by the Czar of Russia.

Sir Samuel Faire, introducing the lieutenant and corporal to the assembly, said they had done deeds of gallantry which had placed the country under a great obligation to them, and the town and county of Leicester were proud of them.

Colonel Thorold, after pinning on the medals, paid a high tribute to the men's gallantry, and said he hoped he would live long enough to see men who had risen from the ranks in the war commanding their regiments. He trusted that the country would never forget the debt of gratitude it owed to these men. The depot band was in attendance, and played a number of national airs.

### **NAVAL RECRUITS LEAVE LEICESTER**

Early on Monday afternoon a considerable batch of naval recruits from Leicester, Nottingham and Derby left Leicester to commence their training at the Crystal Palace. Mr Evan Barlow giving the men a hearty send-off in the name of the town, wished them good luck and good cheer. They had the priceless privilege of youth, and in years to come they would always look back with pride to the fact that they joined the service in the years of the great war – the greatest war for civilisation ever fought in the world's history.

### **Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1242)**

*Page 4*

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The children of the Ellistown Infants Church School, of which Mrs G. B. Lagoe is the headmistress, have sent 31 boxes of chocolates to soldiers from Ellistown serving in France and 27 boxes to those training in England. Several of them have replied expressing their thanks for, and appreciation of, the gifts.

Sapper E. Bettison, of the Royal Engineers in France, son of Mr S. Bettison, North Street, Hugglescote, writes: "Allow me through your paper, to thank the Hugglescote Women's Unionist Association for their gift which I have received. All credit is due both to the secretary and all those who have made this effort a success. I am sure Tommy is pleased with all gifts forwarded from the homeland and they cheer him up, making him feel brighter and cheery. We are right at the front in the Tunnelling Company, having answered the call made outside the Miner's Agent's office. May all your readers have a happy Christmas and the New Year bring peace to all.

#### **DO YOU KNOW THAT**

The Recruiting Office at Coalville will be closed from 5 o'clock tonight (Friday) until 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning?

The Coalville and District Roll of Honour of men who have died for their country, now reaches one hundred names?

Preparations are being made by the German officers imprisoned at Donington Hall for the Christmas festivities, and bags of Christmas presents are arriving almost daily from Germany? Official information was received in Burton-on-Trent on Wednesday morning that Capt. Rupert Gretton had been killed in action?

There was an interesting military parade in Leicester on Wednesday in connection with the public reception of a captured German gun?

**Page 5**

#### **LOCAL NEWS**

##### **ABSENTEE**

Before Mr W. Lindley, at the Coalville Police Court, on Wednesday, Pte. Joseph Read, an absentee from the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, was remanded to await an escort. P.C. Jelley said the defendant told him he had been ill.

##### **TEA TO SOLDIER'S WIVES AND CHILDREN**

Miss Black, mistress at All Saints School, and the teachers, on Saturday, kindly gave a tea in the school to the soldier's wives and children residing in the Coalville west end district. A good number was present and greatly enjoyed the tea and social evening which followed.

##### **BOY SCOUT'S EFFORT**

The Beaumont Troop of Boy Scouts have made a successful effort to provide new year gifts for Swannington men in the forces. A football match with the Coalville Troop in a field kindly lent by Mrs W. Moss, resulted in a win for Swannington by two goals to one and in a prize-drawing for a gold wristlet watch given by Mr J. H. Land, the winner was Mrs F. Goddard, of Coalville. An exhibition of war trophies, consisting of German helmets, bullets, bayonets, clothing and various German utensils, was held in the Scout's room, where a tea was also given by Lady Beaumont. The splendid sum of £6 was realised from the effort.

**Page 6**

#### **MARKFIELD CHRISTMAS EFFORT**

The effort on Saturday to provide comforts for the local troops was a most gratifying success, the total proceeds approximating £35. The collections and sale of tickets exceeded £20, and the money taken at the door with the competitions and sale of refreshments totalled nearly £15. There were 106 present for whist and an additional 106 for dancing. The M.C.'s were Messrs. H. Murby and C. Crooks. Whist prizes were won by Misses. H. Boulds, S. Wardle and E. Whetstone, Messrs. A. Marlow, R. Swain and W. Harper. The competitions were won by Mr A. Whitty (a pig given by Mrs Chambers), Mr H. Murby (a fowl given by Mr Biggs) and Mr A. White (a cake given by Mrs Spence). The donors of the whist prizes were Mr and Mrs

Preston, Mrs Birchnall, The Choir, Mr Bradley and Mr Gibson. Miss Noble played for dancing. At the conclusion hearty thanks were accorded to all who had contributed to the success of the effort.

## **SHAW LANE**

### **RUMMAGE SALE AND SOCIAL**

A very successful rummage sale and social organised by Mrs Elliott, of Hammercliffe, was held in the Church Institute at Shaw Lane, on Wednesday of last week for the purpose of raising funds for providing sandbags for the soldiers at the front. There was a good attendance at the opening, performed by Mr Elliott, who fully explained its objects. Mr W. Boswell read the statement of accounts of the working party which showed a small balance in hand. He also expressed regret at the enforced absence of Mrs Elliott, through indisposition, Mr Maunder officiated as M.C. at the dance, the musicians being Mr and Miss Clarke. Mr Boswell took charge of the social at which Mr and Mrs Page pleased the company by contributing songs. Great credit was due to the ladies who worked hard for the success of the effort for which they were well rewarded, everything being sold, including the refreshments where the catering of those in charge gave every satisfaction. The kind assistance of the gentlemen's committee was also much appreciated. A good round sum was realised. The proceedings closed by the singing of the National Anthem.

## **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S TRAGIC DEATH**

### **COMRADE COMMITTED FOR TRIAL**

At Withernsea Police Court, on Monday afternoon, Sydney Bolesworth, a private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, was charged with the manslaughter of another soldier of the same regiment, named George Spencer.

From the evidence it appeared that prisoner struck Spencer with his fist on Saturday night on their return to camp after exchanging a few words. Spencer, who fell with his head on the road, was assisted to camp, but was found dead next morning. Bolesworth was committed to the next Assizes, reserving his defence.

Spencer was a Coalville man, formerly residing in Belvoir Road. Immediately before enlisting, he lodged with his sister, Mrs Plowman, of Church Lane, Ravenstone, and worked at the Whitwick colliery.

## **THRINGSTONE**

### **WAR LECTURE**

There was a large company at the Village Hall on Monday night to hear a lecture on the European War by the Vicar of Whitwick, the Rev. T. W. Walters, which was illustrated by lantern slides and proved very interesting. The Vicar of Thringstone, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, presided, and there were songs by Messrs. J. Lawrence, A. Waterfield, and Pte. J. W. Brotherhood, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, on leave and who appeared in khaki. Miss Crane was the pianist. The proceeds were for the Thringstone House Club funds.

**Page 7**

## **ASHBY**

### **DEATH OF "JEAN LOUIS"**

A telegram received by Mr Chas. Hussey, from France intimates that Jean Louis Collet, one of the Belgian refugees who came to Ashby a year ago (the brother of Herbert Collet, a scholar at Ashby Grammar School) was numbered amongst the victims of the explosion at a munitions factory at Granville. A further telegram received on Wednesday stated that Jean Louis was dead. He was not yet 20 years of age, and went back to France to enlist in the Belgian Army. His father and mother also left Ashby and went to Granville. The young Belgian was extremely popular in the town.

**Page 8**

## COALVILLE SOLDIER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

### SON OF ALL SAINTS' SCHOOLMASTER

Mr J. J. Brown, of Oxford Street, Coalville, headmaster of All Saints' School, has been notified by the War Office that his son Pte. C. Esmond Brown, has been severely wounded in action. Mr Brown only received the notice a day or so ago, but it states that the wounds were received between November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in the battle of Ctesiphon, Pte. Brown being with the troops which were then marching on Baghdad. On the same day that Mr Brown received the official notice, he also received a letter from his son, dated a fortnight before, saying they need not expect a letter from him for some time, as they were going to move forward and they might not hear from him for a month. No further news has been received from him.

When war broke out, Pte. Brown, who is 24 years of age, was at the Battersea Training College and by this time would have completed his training for the teaching profession. He joined the College Training Corps and was afterwards attached to the 10<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Territorials.

### **Friday December 31<sup>st</sup> 1915 (Issue 1243)**

*Page 3*

#### COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

#### ROLL OF HONOUR

**Local Men who have died for their country.**

#### **One Hundred Names**

"Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Appended is a list of names, as far as we have been able to trace them from the file copies of the "Coalville Times," of the men from this district, who have given their lives for their country:-

#### **William Chambers**

Private, of Royal Marines, on board H.M.S. "Pathfinder," sunk in the North Sea, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914. Mother lives in Margaret Street, Coalville.

#### **L. Henson**

Private, of the Coldstream Guards, formerly police constable stationed at New Swannington, died of wounds, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

#### **William Ogden Hoden**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1914. He formerly resided at Page's Hill, Hugglescote, and left a wife and five children.

#### **George H. Newton**

Went down in H.M.S. "Hawke." Formerly of Bardon Hill

#### **Sydney Herbert Sharpe**

Private, of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action in Belgium, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

#### **J. C. Andrews**

Lance-Corporal, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1914, in France. He was a Ravenstone man.

#### **Thomas Jones**

Private, of the Durham Light Infantry, killed in the bombardment of West Hartlepool. Former Thringstone school-master.

**S. A. Meakin**

Lieutenant, of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Staffs Regiment, killed in action in France in December 1914. Formerly resided at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

**Forester Roberts**

Private, of the Northants Regiment, killed in action in France, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

**Frederick Kirby**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1914. Formerly resided in Crescent Road, Hugglescote, and worked as a collier.

**James Edwin Cox**

Private, of the Coldstream Guards, died while in training at Caterham, Surrey. Formerly resided in North Street, Hugglescote.

**Alfred Wesson**

Sergeant, in the Sherwood Foresters, died of wounds, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

**John Manders**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, died wounds, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1915. His wife and two children reside in Belvoir Road, Coalville. He worked at Whitwick Colliery.

**James Young**

Private, Notts. and Derby Regiment. Died of wounds, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

**Owen Hallam**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, on March 10<sup>th</sup>. A well-known local footballer, formerly residing at Donnington-le-Heath.

**John Williamson**

Private of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, March 10<sup>th</sup>. A Coalville man.

**John D. Sheffield**

Corporal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Son of the late Mr W. Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, Coalville.

**Ernest Moore**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He formerly lived in Ashby Road, Coalville, and was single.

**Ernest Hall**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1914. His wife and three children reside at Whitwick where he worked as a collier.

**James Wardle**

Private, of the Grenadier Guards, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. A former collier, residing at Margaret Street, Coalville.

**Val Hull**

Private, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

**Ernest Samuel Boot**

Private of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on April 15<sup>th</sup>. He was employed at Messrs. Stableford's works and resided in Melbourne Street, Coalville.



**Thomas Dooley D.C.M.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915. A former Coalville collier, of Margaret Street, adopted the army as his profession and rose from the ranks.

**Albert Johnson**

Of the Rifle Brigade, killed in action in April 1915. Formerly resided at Park Road, Coalville.

**J. A. Johnson**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16<sup>th</sup>. A native of Swannington.

**Harry Spence**

Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He resided at Markfield and was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., Coalville.

**Samuel P. D. Thomson**

Lieutenant of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

**George Barker**

Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A young farmer of Onebarrow, Whitwick.

**C. Avins**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in May 1915. He was an Ashby man.

**William Moore**

Private, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915. He belonged to Thringstone.

**A. Heathcote**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915. A Bagworth collier.

**J. G. Poyser**

Private, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He left a widow and three children at Ashby.

**Timothy Betteridge**

Lance-corporal, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters. An Ashby man killed at Neuve Chapelle, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

**John Gadsby**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. A Breedon man.

**George Henry Wesson**

Sergeant, of the Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Formerly of Margaret Street, Coalville.

**Cecil Thomas Beadman**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville, and resided at Forest Road, Coalville.

**Wilfred Pepper**

Of the Royal Navy, went down on the "Goliath," in the Dardanelles, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

**Charles William Jewsbury**

Gunner, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., and resided at Bakewell Street, Coalville.

**Frederick Wilfred Hart**

5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A railwayman, of London Road, Coalville.

**Francis Frederick Martin**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, died in England, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1915, from wounds received in action. Buried with military honours at Coalville.

**Ernest H. Butler**

Of the Australian Contingent, killed in action in the Dardanelles in May, 1915. He lived at Ellistown, being a former colliery clerk.

**H. S. Burton**

Lance-corporal of the 23<sup>rd</sup> London Regiment, killed in action on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A Whitwick man.

**Ernest Tugby**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on June 7<sup>th</sup>. He resided in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

**Harold G. Blackham**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. Formerly clerk in the Coalville Conservative office.

**Fred Whitmore**

Lance-corporal, of the Black Watch, died of wounds on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

**Arthur Brownlow**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1915. A collier, whose wife and child were residing in Margaret Street, Coalville.

**John Ison**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Contingent, killed in action in June, 1915. An old Bosworth schoolboy of Measham, who had not long before gone to Canada.

**William Barney**

Lance-corporal, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

**William Wardle**

Lance-corporal, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He worked at Ellistown Colliery and resided in Main Street, Swannington.

**Harry Walker**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1915. A Ravenstone man employed by the South Leicestershire Colliery Co.

**G. H. Highfield**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A former master at Coalville Grammar School.

**John George Bennett**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action July 15<sup>th</sup>. He resided in Beresford Street, and formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville.

**Walter Gray**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915. He formerly lived in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

**John Clibbery**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A former Ellistown collier, whose father resides in Bakewell Street, Coalville.

**George Andrews**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915. A Ravenstone man who worked at Ibstock colliery.

**Harry Smith**

Petty officer of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in the Dardanelles, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

**William Massey**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A Hugglescote man.

**Harry Badcock**

Private, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915. A former Coalville Grammar School boy who resided at Ibstock.

**Isaac Hall**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915. A Whitwick collier whose home was at Thringstone.

**H. Ing**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Resided at Waterworks Road, Coalville.

**Cyril Ernest Briers**

Of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He lived with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, Ibstock.

**Fred Pringle**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in August, 1915. An Ashby man.

**E. Dowell**

Private, killed in action in France, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1915. His wife and four children reside at Markfield.

**Clifford E. Scott**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915. Son of Mr W. V. Scott, Coalville East station-master, and formerly clerk in the L and N. W. Goods Office, Whitwick,

**Herbert Smith Hurst**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

**Arthur Charles Johnstone**

Private, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915, from wounds received in action the previous day. A collier of Castle Hill, Whitwick.

**Alfred Clifford**

Private, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in September, 1915, in France. He was a Coleorton collier.

**Edward H. H. Rawdon-Hastings**

Lieutenant, of the Black Watch, died of enteric in hospital at Boulogne, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Son of Lady Maude Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby.

**Bernard Hatter**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Only son of Mr T. Hatter, of North Street, Hugglescote.

**Walter Irons**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France, September 28<sup>th</sup>. He formerly worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery and resided at Shaw Lane.

**W. L. Pearson**

Private, K.O.S. Borderers, killed in action at Gallipoli, on June 28<sup>th</sup>. He was a Heather man and formerly worked at the Ibstock Colliery.

**Walter Shaw**

Private in the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action September 9<sup>th</sup>. He was a widower, formerly residing at Swannington and was a labourer.

**J. H. Pepper**

Private of the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France in September. He formerly resided at Newton Burgoland.

**Pte. Dolman**

Of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, killed in action, October 1915. He formerly worked at Nailstone Colliery and left a widow and two children, residing at South Street, Ellistown.

**Joseph Cox**

Private in the Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 1915. He was an Ashby man and formerly captain of the Ashby Hastings F.C.

**B. Turner**

Private of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He formerly lived at Peckleton and worked at the Desford Collieries.

**James Cairns**

Private in the Connaught Rangers, killed in action in the Dardanelles on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1915. Formerly a Whitwick collier, who leaves a widow and three children.

**Frank Underwood**

Private in 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in October, 1915. Son of Mr John Underwood, of Pare's Hill, Whitwick, and a former employee of the Forest Rock Granite Company.

**Paulyn C. J. Reginald Rawdon-Hastings**

Captain, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action, October, 1915. Son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby.

**Bernard Whittaker**

Private of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on September 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He formerly lived in Leicester Road, Whitwick, and worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery.

**George Gadsby**

Private of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action October, 1915. He left a wife and one child living at Mill Row, Hugglescote, and formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

**Percy Lawrence Smith**

Private of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hants Regiment, killed in action. He was a Ravenstone man.

**Walter Woodward**

Trooper in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles, died of wounds received in action on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Son of Mrs Woodward of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

**E. Pringle**

Corporal, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. An Ashby man, brother of Pte. Fred Pringle, also killed in action.

**George Fletcher**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, reported killed in action October, 1915. Son of Mr George Fletcher, of No. 9, Ibstock Road, Ellistown.

**R. C. Lawton**

Lieutenant, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds received in action, October, 1915. Son of Mr Lawton of Boothorpe, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

### **C. Page**

Private in the Worcestershire Regiment, killed in action, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A former Coalville policeman.

### **Samuel Thomas Berkin**

Private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A Swannington man, formerly employed at Messrs. Stableford and Co's Works, Coalville.

### **Frank William Woolhouse**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. A Whitwick collier, who resided at Albert Street, Coalville.

### **Gerald Stewart**

Captain, 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars, and **John Stewart**, Lieutenant, Royal Irish Guards, both killed in action. Only sons of Mr C. H. and Lady Mary Stewart, of Cliftonthorpe, Ashby.

### **Fred Davis**

Private, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. Aged 26, single, formerly worked at South Leicestershire Colliery, and lived with his sister, Mrs Massey, late of 154, Ashby Road, Coalville.

### **Edward Jarvis**

Private of the 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He formerly resided at 88, Hermitage Road, Whitwick, and worked at the Snibston Colliery.

### **Harry Toon**

Private, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was aged 20, formerly worked at Coleorton Colliery and lived at Griffydam.

### **C. H. Smith**

Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action in France, November 1915. His parents reside at Nottingham Road, Ashby.

### **A Litherland**

Private, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France, November 1915. His home was at Chapel Yard, Ashby.

### **Frederick Barttam**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) killed in action in France, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. An Osbastone man.

### **W. Hadland**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) died of wounds received in action in France, November, 1915. He was formerly employed on the Cadeby estate of Messrs. Scott and Brown.

### **Joseph A. Hall**

Lance-Corporal in the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was a Whitwick collier, aged 22 years, and his wife and child reside at the Dumps.

### **Charles W. Cook**

Private, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Aged 22, an Ashby man.

**Page 4**

## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The formation of a second battalion of the Church Lad's Brigade for Leicestershire is now complete. It will have headquarters at Loughborough, and comprises Loughborough St. Peters Emmanuel, and Holy Trinity, Barrow-on-Soar, Quorn, Hugglescote and Donington, Ibstock and Market Bosworth, while others are expected to join. The boys will be cadets under the Territorial Association and uniformed in khaki. Major C. S. Adams will command, with other officers from Loughborough, Quorn, Ibstock and Hugglescote.

## DO YOU KNOW THAT

Men who have been attested under Lord Derby's scheme are invited by the Coalville Citizens' Corps to a parade next Sunday morning?

Mr Aubrey Hewes, son of Mr G. H. Hewes, of Ravenstone, having joined the army as a motor driver, has proceeded to British East Africa with the staff of General Smith-Dorrien?

**Page 6**

## ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs Kilburn, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has been notified that her eldest son, Private Charles W. Cook, was killed at the front on 19<sup>th</sup> December. The deceased enlisted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters soon after war broke out and was sent to France at mid-summer. He was 22 years of age, and very much respected. In her sad loss Mrs Kilburn will have the sympathy of the Ashby people.

## CHRISTMASTIDE IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

The Coalville Recruiting Office was closed from Christmas Eve till Tuesday morning and there is no doubt that Capt. Stevenson and the staff were glad of this rest. They have had an exceedingly busy time of late in connection with Lord Derby's scheme, several thousands of men in this district having been attested and for a few days prior to Christmas they were busily engaged supplying armlets to many who applied. Considering then number of men who have attested the wearing of the armlet in Coalville has not yet become so general as it should be, though a few of the men are complying with Lord Derby's request in this request.

**Page 7**

## ABSENTEES

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court, Pte. G. Boxall, of the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since December 11<sup>th</sup>, and Gunner C. H. Harrison, of 34<sup>th</sup> Res. Battery, Royal Field Artillery, similarly from September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1914, over 15 months. Both were remanded to await an escort.

**Page 8**

## WHITWICK SOLDIER KILLED

### DUE TO A MINE EXPLOSION

News has been received in Whitwick that Lance-Corporal Joseph Amithal Hall, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action in France through the explosion of an enemy mine on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

The deceased soldier was a son of Mr A. Hall, of Silver Street, Whitwick, a miner at the Whitwick pit, where Hall also was employed before enlisting. He was 22 years of age and was married, his wife and only child residing at the Dumps, Whitwick. He enlisted in November last year and went to France in July, having been made a lance-corporal.

A nice letter has been written to the deceased's wife by the chaplain who officiated at Hall's funeral on December 11<sup>th</sup> and another letter written by a comrade runs as follows:

*"December 14<sup>th</sup>. – Dear Mrs Hall, I regret to write these few lines in regard to your husband's death. All his comrades feel his loss very much as he was so popular with all the men of his platoon. The whole of the platoon send their deepest sympathy, as we know what a sad blow*



*it will be to you. I am sending you these photos which were handed to me and I should like to ask if you have a photo of him you could send me, as I should like one in remembrance, as we have been great chums ever since he joined the army. He was buried in a cemetery in a village close behind the firing line, and we, his comrades, will see his grave is kept alright as long as it is in our power. I conclude with the deepest sympathy from all the platoon and myself, yours sincerely."*

12837 Walter Gould  
B. Co. 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 8<sup>th</sup> Platoon, B.E.F.

The photograph enclosed in the letter which was found on deceased were those of his wife and child.