

# Coalville Times at War

**Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1217)**

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## **MESSRS. STABLEFORD'S WORKMEN AND THE WAR**

The following are interesting items from No. 3 of Messrs. Stableford and Co's "News Van."

In our last issue we recorded the promotion of Sergt. Roland Hill to quartermaster-sergeant. Roland has since been further promoted to sergeant-major, and as we go to press we hear of his appointment to warrant officer. Good luck to him, may he soon receive a commission. Men of his stamp are wanted.

Congratulations to W. S. Baker on his promotion to the rank of sergeant. Sergeant Baker is serving with the Mediterranean Fleet, and has witnessed some exciting scenes during the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts. We hope soon to be able to record some of his experiences.

All good luck to Privates George Dexter, William Hoult, Jeffreys Williams, Herbert Collier, Thomas Cockeram, Sidney Palmer and Bernard Nixon, who have enlisted since our last issue was published.

Sincere sympathy will be felt by all our readers with Mr G. F. Sheffield and family in their sad loss they have sustained by the death of Corpl. Jack Sheffield, who was killed at Neuve Chapelle.

Corporal Sheffield's reputation as soldier and sportsman is too well known to need any praise from us. No one of our local losses will be more widely or sincerely deplored.

The sympathy of all our readers will be with Mr W. Forrester in the tragic bereavement he has sustained in the loss of his son Charlie on the ill-fated "Princess Irene."

Mr Forrester has for a good many years been resident inspector here for the firm of Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster and Partners, and has been associated in particular with Bengal Nagpur Railway contracts. His son, through his visits to Coalville were of necessity rare, was extremely popular in Coalville and was well known as a vocalist and pianist of merit.

We congratulate Charles Brown, jun., on his recent distinction in the election. It is too old a joke to suggest that Councillor Brown, as a smith, will be able to bring "striking" arguments to bear on local affairs. He may, however, be depended on to "forge" ahead with anything he undertakes, and will no doubt have a "fuller" understanding of some of the questions which agitate our Council. Nor will he be daunted by lack of support – he is quite capable of working "single-handed."

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## **MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WHITWICK CHURCH**

### **FOR TWO LOCAL MEN KILLED IN ACTION**

#### **AN IMPRESSIVE SERMON**

A memorial service was held at the Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday morning for Lance-Corpl. H. S. Burton and Pte. E. Tugby, two Whitwick soldiers who have been killed in action. The Citizen Corps of Coalville, Whitwick and Thringstone, with the Whitwick Holy Cross Band and boy scouts also attended, and there was a large congregation, the church being packed. The flag was flying over the church at half-mast. At the foot of the altar were placed two wreaths, composed of evergreens, tied with ribbons of the national colours. The hymns sung included, "Jesu, lover of my soul," "On the resurrection morning," and "For ever with the Lord." At the close of the service, the organist, (Mr R. West) effectively played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, and after this, two of the Whitwick boy scouts, Buglers James Richards and Albert Williamson from the altar steps sounded "The Last Post," which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. T. W. Walters, M.A.), who preached an impressive sermon, from the text St. John 11c. 32v. "Lord, if Thou hadst been here my brother had not died." He said they had come together that morning, not for the first time, to keep in remembrance some of the men who had fallen in the war now raging on the Continent. Since they met together there before two things had happened. First of all they had witnessed the huge casualty lists published daily. At first they were small and came only rarely, but when the lists came as they had been doing during the past four or five weeks, they began to realise the greatness of the fight in which they were engaged. And part as a result of the publication of those casualty lists and as a result of the cry of the men who are fighting for us in France and in Flanders, the nation, the empire was awakening. During the past few days they had witnessed, as it were, the stirring of a mighty giant and knew that they would soon see it fully awake and using its great power to the fullest extent. Alongside this mighty empire of ours during the last 44 years, ever since the close of the last Continental war in 1871, they had witnessed growth and development in men and in power of another great empire which had become so powerful in the centre of Europe that it had persuaded itself that it could easily master the other mighty empire that existed alongside it – the British empire. And it was more easily for it to persuade itself of that because it thought that the British Empire had fallen asleep. We never suspected that the German empire was making such preparations and were preparing such instruments of war to be levelled against us and at last the day came. The day that had been toasted and which the enemy had been praying for arrived, and war was declared. Yet we went for about for weeks and months in a false sense of security. Now the nation was realising that unless something wonderful could be done in the way of supplying our men with the munitions they require, something awful would happen to this island home of ours. We were living today in the most critical days since the year 1066, the time of the Norman Conquest, when a hostile force landed near Hastings and took this island from the English. In less than ten years the Normans spread over the land and got a bull from the Pope declaring that it was illegal to place in high positions in the church of this land any man who could be proved to be an Englishman. He must be a foreigner, a man who had come with conquering armies from Normandy, and if the Germans came to England in these days – if it would be very much the same. We should lose everything and the vast majority would lose their lives also. Foreigners would fill all the leading professions, take all positions of trust, and we should be trodden underfoot and become the serfs of the land as our forefathers were the serfs of the Normans for a few centuries after the last invasion and conquest of this island. The people were beginning to realise that and so this great giant, the mighty British Empire was moving itself. Every man who was worth calling a man was saying that there was not going to be another invasion of this island, and if they could not go out to fight on the battlefield they were fighting in the great industrial army at home. When they looked at the vastness of the war they could not realise it. During the whole of the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was estimated that the wars in Europe cost four thousand million pounds, but this amount would soon be put in the shade by cost of the present war. If they went on at the present rate, in 12 months from now, this war would have cost the British people no less than one thousand, one hundred million pounds. All the wars of the 19<sup>th</sup> century only cost a little over three times that amount. This war was also taking men at a terrific rate. Already Great Britain had lost five times as many officers and seven times as many men as were lost during the whole of the Boer war, and, apparently, they were only at the beginning. They could not say how long it was going to last. They asked themselves what was the cause of it? The answer was not Christianity: not anything that is good, but the ambition – that was the sole word that could describe it – the ambition of a man, or a small class of men in Central Europe. It seemed a shame and the blackest crime in history that one man, or one man with a few supporters, should have such immense and awful power that they could plunge not only their own country but the whole world in such an awful state as this.

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So he was pleased that a large number had gone from Whitwick and more would go he felt sure. But two who were from Whitwick had gone to their long lost home. Both were well known in Whitwick. They were both scholars in the church school, and one was apprenticed to the teaching profession in their school. He was working in London when the war broke out and being touched as hundreds of thousands had been touched, he offered his services for his country, was sent out to France, and there in that glorious company of thousands who had fallen, he fell, and now lay buried in a foreign land. The other was much younger, just over 21 years of age. He landed in France on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Little did I think, continued the preacher, when I spoke to him in April last in Leicester Road, as I wished him goodbye that that would be the last time that I should speak to him. He was a member of our men's service here and on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month, he wrote me a very beautiful letter. I thought I would just read you a line or two from the letter I received. He said, 'I am sorry if I am wasting your time but I must say a word about the Sunday services. As there are five Sundays in this month I expect you will have a mixed one – he referred to the combined service on every

fifth Sunday – When I was in civil life I used to think they were grand, but now that I am in the army and away from home I think of these services Sunday after Sunday with loving memories, and as circumstances will not permit me to be with you in person on these afternoons, I am with you in mind.’ And then he goes on to ask me if I will send him a prayer book and report of the men’s service. These things were being parcelled up to send to him when the news came that he had been killed.

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### **ASHBY MAN KILLED**

News has been received from the War Office that Gunner F. Jones, R.F.A., was killed in action on May 27<sup>th</sup>. When the war broke out Jones was in India. He was a native of Ashby and was 28 years of age.

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

It was announced on Saturday that the 3 weeks recruiting campaign in Leicester which closed on Friday night, had resulted in 1,200 men being accepted for service. In addition to these, between 300 and 400 men who also offered themselves were rejected for various reasons. About half the number enrolled joined the new Howitzer Brigade.

From the date of mobilisation, August 4<sup>th</sup> of last year, to the present time, Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland have supplied 6,853 Territorial recruits, and 774 National Reservists. It must be emphasised that these figures refer to Territorial forces only, and that none of the recruits for the regular forces are included. The total number of men from the district who have enlisted is, of course, much greater, but official figures for these are at present, not available.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports this week having received 46 packets of cigarettes, 29 loose ones and 1s 3d from the box at the Coalville Liberal Club, 10s in envelope on which was written ‘Good luck to them, S.E.A.’ from the box at the Coalville Conservative Club, and 24 packets from Mr W. Higgins’ box. The money will be expended in cigarettes and the whole sent to Major Toller for distribution among the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the front.

Lieut. H. Pickbourne, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, recently reported wounded, is a son of the Rev. F. Pickborne, pastor of the Coalville London Road Baptist Church. We understand his wounds were slight and that he has sufficiently recovered to be able to return to duty.

Lieut. A. T. Sharp, of the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion Leicestershire Territorials, returned to France on Wednesday morning after having three days’ leave. Lieut. R. Farmer, son of Mr George Farmer, clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians, has also returned after a week-end visit home. Both officers have been taking duty in the trenches for some months.

A roll of honour for Coalville and District was posted up at the Recruiting Office yesterday, containing the names of no less than 1,636 men from this district who are serving with the colours, and this is not a complete list. The records have only been kept since Sergeant Dye came to the office on October 1<sup>st</sup> and before then some hundreds of men had gone from the district, either as recruits or reservists. It is safe to say that Coalville and district has over two thousand men in the forces – a splendid record. Capt. Stevenson is anxious to get the list completed and if relatives of soldiers whose names are not down will let him know, they will be immediately added.

The names of skilled workmen volunteering for work on the manufacture of war munitions are being registered at the Coalville Labour Exchange, and the manager informed us yesterday that there had been a steady flow and that a good number of names had been received, though hardly as many as he would have liked. Still, it had to be borne in mind that many men in this district were engaged, if not actually on war work, in industries such as the mines which it is essential should be carried on.

Two former Ellistown church choir boys – Henry Gadsby and George Gadsby – who are now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, have proceeded to France this week.

Mr and Mrs Butler, of 72, Midland Road, Ellistown, have this week received an official letter stating that her son, Pte. E. Butler, of the Australian contingent, recently reported killed in the operations in the Dardanelles, has been wounded. It is to be hoped the latter report, rather than the first, may be true. Further enquiries are being made.

On Wednesday, Mr and Mrs T. Hemsley, of the Ellistown Post Office, received a postcard from Mr Jabez Emmerson, at the front, saying that he was quite well. He is a son of Mr A. B. Emmerson, manager of the Ellistown Colliery.

We regret to state that a brother of Mr T. Lashmore, of High Street, Coalville, has been killed in action. Readers will also be interested to know that Engineer-Commander Harry Lashmore, C.B., R.N., whose name appeared in the King's birthday honours list as a new Companion of the Bath, is a cousin of Mr Lashmore, of Coalville. Further details in regard to both of these events will appear in our next issue.

### **COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES**

The members of the Corps much appreciated the encouraging remarks Lieut. Sharp addressed to them after Church parade at Whitwick on Sunday last. He pointed out that it put heart into the men at the front to know that at any rate, some of the men who must stay at home are making themselves fit for service if the need should arise.

The Corps is willing to assist farmers in harvesting if they are short-handed, owing to their men serving in the army. Application should be made to Commandant, 5, Hotel Street.

The drill on Wednesday night on the Fox and Goose ground was good. Had the weather been more favourable there would no doubt have been a larger attendance. Thanks are due to the Coronation Band for their gratuitous services. It is hoped that there will be weekly parades of this character.

We hear that a company of Nottingham Citizens will be camping on the Forest during August holidays.

### **MEASHAM SOLDIER GASSED**

Private J. Atkins, of Measham, attached to the Royal Engineers, has returned home from France after being gassed by the Germans when carrying out sapping operations on Hill 60. Atkins, who served through the whole of the Boer War, was until recently, employed by the Measham Main Colliery Company, and was a prominent member of the Rescue Brigade attached to the colliery.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That we shall be pleased to hear of local cases where there are three or more members from one family serving in the forces?

That a women's patriotic meeting to organise women's help during the period of the war is to be held at the Coalville Church School next Wednesday evening, to which all women and girls over 18 are invited?

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### **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 33<sup>rd</sup> collection from 7 districts realised £3 13s 4d.

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## COALVILLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

### MANY MEMBERS PLAYING THE GREATER GAME

A meeting of the management committee of this league was held at the Red House Hotel on Monday night, Mr J. Kirby presiding, there also being present, Messrs. J. Lowe, G. Swain, D. Marston, R. T. Bradshaw, and C. E. Marston, hon. sec.

The chief business was to consider the claims of clubs who had withdrawn through players having joined the forces, for the return of their deposits. The clubs had been asked to send in lists of the players who had enlisted.

Measham United submitted a list of 17 as follows: J. W. Tyler, W. Shuttleworth, A. Bradford, D. Hart, W. Shuttleworth, A. Ensor, J. Thomas, H. Gibbons, T. Kinson, F. Wileman, T. Wood, S. Davies, F. Jones, J. Whetton, H. Underwood, and J. Buck. It was decided to return the club 10s after paying Ellistown 11s towards a claim of 15s for brake fare.

Coalville P.S.A. sent a list of 11 players, viz., J. Moore, T. Davis, F. S. Brown, B. Hickinbottom, J. Satchwell, G. Fenwick, E. Batho, J. Lively, A. Swain, J. Brotherhood and L. Squires. The secretary stated that only seven of these players were registered. The committee thought this did not justify the return of the deposit and decided that it be forfeited, after paying a referee's claim of 2s 9d.

Moirs United's list was W. Adams, H. Askew, A. Bates, C. Dumelow, R. Finch, J. Grice, G. Marlow, E. Woodall, J. Sharp, C. Summers and G. Chambers. (Total 11). It was decided to return the Moira club 12s 6d after paying 8s 6d due.

Whitwick Imperial sent six names: E. Tugby (killed in action), W. Bird, R. Needham, J. Makin, W. Findall, and C. R. Ball. It was decided that Ellistown be paid 12s and Moira 8s for brake fares and the remaining shilling be forfeited.

Stanton-under-Bardon list was: G. Hill, B. Darker, S. Manning (wounded in action), W. Mason, B. Brown, J. Adcock, and J. Lloyd (7 in all). After allowing the claim of 5s to Bardon, 3s 3d referee, and 12s Ravenstone, this left 7d to be forfeited.

Whitwick Amateurs five players names sent were: J. Hall, T. Bailey, W. Cross, W. Lycett and J. Horobin. It was decided that the deposit be forfeited and 9s 5d owing be paid from it.

Coalville Swifts: 16 players – W. Commons, O. Hallam (killed in action), W. Williamson, F. Middleton, F. Woodhouse, L. Gough, G. W. Black, W. Swift, W. Priestland, A. Dale, W. T. Durrands, D. Egan, J. Tugby, H. Tivey and W. Platts. It was decided to return the deposit.

The chairman, (who is connected with the Swifts club) did not adjudicate in this case.

Pegg's Green and Swannington Robin Hood having withdrawn before the season commenced, it was agreed to return their deposits. The circumstances in regard to Hugglescote Wesleyans were stated to be somewhat peculiar, the secretary having received no names owing to secretaries joining the colours. The late secretary, F. Whitmore, has been killed in action. The question was deferred to give another opportunity for names to be submitted.

Thornborough United were ordered to forfeit their deposit and a fine of 2s and 4s 6d to Ravenstone to be deducted from it.

Coleorton United were reported to have sent no names and it was decided that the deposit be forfeited, 7s to be paid to Ashby Amateurs. The latter club were reported to owe 1s fine, 3s referee's fee and 4s to Ravenstone and it was decided to pay this from their deposit.

It was left to the secretary to call the annual meeting when something more definite as to next season was known.

## BIT OF STRAIGHT TALK

### FROM A SNIBSTONE MAN IN THE TRENCHES

Mr Snell, of Lilac Cottage, Snibstone, has received a letter from his son, Stanley, at the front, in which he says:

*"Just a line to say that I am going on alright and that I received your parcel. We are now out of the trenches, but I don't know how long for. I hope mother is better again by now, give her my love and tell her that with a bit of luck I hope to be home to see her before very long. We have quite a lot of Coalville lads out here now, but there is room for plenty more. We cannot win unless they enlist. I know plenty at Coalville who could do their bit if they would, but they have not got the heart. They do not think of us who have been in the thick of it for eight months and came from India at that. You can put this letter in the 'Coalville Times' if you like and tell them it is a bit of straight talk from one who has done a bit for his country."*

### STANTON SOLDIER WOUNDED

Mrs Manning, of Stanton-under-Bardon, has received a letter from S. Oakley, at the front, stating that her son, Sidney, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, has been wounded.

Oakley writes: *"I am writing these few lines to acquaint you of Sid's accident, which we all regret, more especially as he was a good chum and the best of companions. He was hit in the right forearm this morning, by a bullet which entered just above wrist. Fortunately, the doctor was soon at hand and the wound was dressed with all possible speed and care. I was talking with him while it was being dressed and he walked out of the trench soon after, so that without making light of the wound, you see it was not so serious as to cause you over anxiety."*

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*He was wounded while doing the work allotted to him like a hero. I am sorry indeed to lose him and I hope the wound will soon heal up satisfactorily. You have my sincere sympathy and I wish him the best of luck. He is in good hands."*

### ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED

Reports of Pte. Frederick Adams

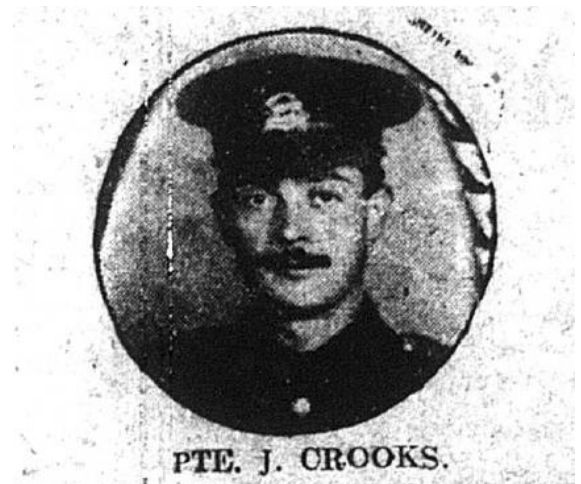
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### THREE COALVILLE BROTHERS IN THE FORCES

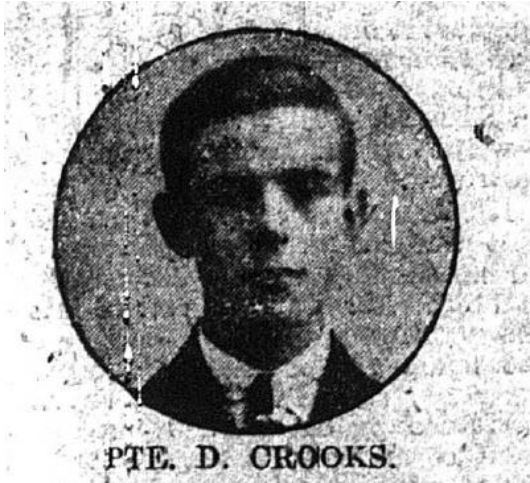
#### BLIND FATHER PROUD OF HIS SONS

There are several instances in Coalville and District of two, three and even four members from one family serving in His Majesty's forces. A notable case is that of the three sons of Mr John Crooks, of Vaughan Street, Coalville. Mr Crooks was for over 20 years, foreman bricklayer for Messrs. Walter Moss and Son, builders, Coalville, but, unfortunately, about five years ago, his eyesight became affected and he is now totally blind. Despite his infirmity, Mr Crooks is wonderfully cheerful and is very proud of the fact that his three sons have responded to the call to stand in defence of their country. All are serving in Kitchener's Army.

Pte. Jack Crooks, who is 24 years of age, joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, on August 15<sup>th</sup> last. Up to that period he was following in his



father's footsteps, being a bricklayer in the employ of Messrs. W. Moss and Son, with whom he served his apprenticeship.



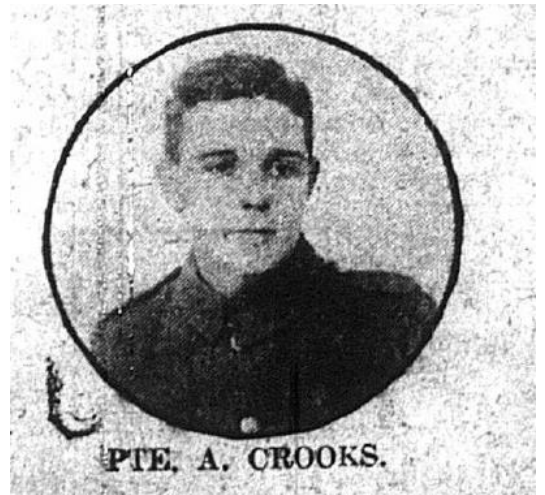
PTE. D. CROOKS.

enrolled in the 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters about a month ago. He was apprenticed to the building trade with Mr P. G. McCarthy, of Whitwick.

Good luck to all of them.

Not long after his elder brother – early in September – Pte. Arthur Crooks also donned the khaki, joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters. He is 21 years of age and before the war was employed in the warehouse at Messrs. Burgess and Son's factory, Belvoir Road, Coalville.

The third and youngest son, Pte. Douglas Crooks who is 19 years of age,



PTE. A. CROOKS.

### COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

#### ONE OF YOUR BROTHERS IN THE ARMY

The name of another Coalville soldier to be added to the roll of honour is that of Pte. Arthur Brownlow, of Margaret Street, who was killed in action on June 21<sup>st</sup>. He leaves a wife and one child, aged 3 years.

Mrs Brownlow, who resides at 79, Margaret Street, Coalville, received the sad news in a letter which reached her on Sunday morning from Pte. William Jackman (a comrade of the deceased) whose parents reside in Hermitage Road, Coalville.

The letter stated that Brownlow was struck by a bursting shell, and he did not live many seconds afterwards. He was hit in the head and neck. Jackman says he did all he could for him, and that he was buried the same night. Lance-Corporal Boleworth and Jackman carrying him to the grave, and Major Dunlop read the burial service. Jackman continues, *"I have his pocket knife and belt, his photo, a few cards, cap badge, two razors, a franc and half a franc and a French half-penny, which I will send to you as soon as we come out of the trenches. He was a very big chum of mine, and was in the cookhouse with me. I knew him before he was called up. I came from Coalville myself, and live at 21, Hermitage Road, so if you have time just let my mother and father know I am quite well. Lance-Corp. Boleworth wrote to Brownlow's brother, who is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Leicesters), and told him all about it. Don't let this upset you Mrs Brownlow, as he died for his country, which you know is a very great honour. As long as we are in this position I will look after his grave. The officer will have a cross put on, next time we come in the trenches."*

Before the war the deceased soldier worked as a collier at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He was formerly in the army, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, and was called up as a reservist, being then drafted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion. He was 38 years of age.

Brownlow's last letter home was only days before he was killed, and in it said he was "in the pink." He served in the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion in the South African War, where he wounded in the elbow, and gained Queen Victoria's medal and bars.

Three of his brothers are serving in the forces. One (Harry) is in France, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, another in Kitchener's Army, now stationed on Salisbury Plain, and the third enlisted recently in the Leicestershire Territorials, now at Loughborough.

Brownlow was a man of fine physique, a good soldier, and popular amongst a large circle of mates. The utmost sympathy is expressed towards the young widow. Mr George Taylor, Margaret Street, father of Mrs Brownlow, and himself an old soldier of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cheshires, has two sons, two sons-in-law, a brother, and seven nephews now serving in the forces.

(A photograph of Pte. Arthur Brownlow accompanied the article)

### DAILY FACING DEATH

#### THRINGSTONE SOLDIER'S IMPRESSIVE LETTER

The Robinson family of Thringstone now has three representatives (brothers) serving in the forces and one of them, Pte. J. Robinson has this week sent an interesting letter to a friend at Whitwick in which he says he is at present doing his bit in the trenches and is in the best of health. He continues, *"The trenches are nice and dry now except when we get a good thunderstorm which makes things unpleasant for about 24 hours, but on the whole the weather is very nice. My name is Joseph Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, Indian contingent, British Expeditionary Force, France. I don't know whether you would like any keepsakes from the German trenches, but if you would please let me know and I will do my best for you, as there are generally plenty of them knocking about. Although I have only been here about two months I shall indeed be very glad to come home just to join in with all the chaps who go to chapel and sing praises to our dear Master. Since I have been out here I have taken life very seriously, and I can assure you it makes one do so when day by day you are facing death in so many shapes and forms. I have at last found the only peace one gets is from the One above, and if ever I come safely through this awful war I shall certainly, God helping me, serve Him more fully in the future than what I have done in the past. On the whole we get on pretty well out here and the only thing we are short of is cigarettes. The majority of our time in the day is spent in reading and smoking. As you know, I come from Thringstone. My brother John wrote to me and told me of Pte. Barker's death and I was indeed very sorry to hear of it. Please let my brother know when you see him that I have written to you."*



#### SCHOOLGIRL'S MESSAGE

##### PICKED UP BY THRINGSTONE SOLDIER ON THE BATTLEFIELD

In a letter sent to a Whitwick friend, Pte. Robin Robinson, one of three Thringstone brothers serving in the forces, has enclosed a small piece of paper which he picked up on the battlefield and on which is written in a child's handwriting, the following:

Church Gate School, Loughborough, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1914.  
Honoured soldier, I am only a little girl nine years old, but I





have had the pleasure of make a pair of cuffs to ceep the frost off. I hope you will come home safely and will win the victory. I remain your little friend. G. Throne."

### **WHITWICK SOLDIER WOUNDED**

#### **FOUGHT AT NEUVE CHAPELLE**

A rumour was current in Whitwick last week that Pte. Ernest Albert Sparks, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, had been killed in action, but his father, Mr Albert Sparks, who resides in Leicester Road, Whitwick, has now received an intimation from the War Office, that his son is wounded and lying at the base hospital in Boulogne. Another son of Mr Sparks, Pte. John F. Sparks, of the Warwicks, is sick in hospital in the Isle of Wight.



### **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS**

#### **FORMER SECRETARY OF THE WESLEYAN FOOTBALL CLUB**

In our last issue we published a portrait of Lance-Corporal Fred Whitmore, of the Black Watch, whose home is at Hugglescote, with the intimation that he had been wounded in action and taken a prisoner. We regret to state, however, that on Friday night, his mother received further information that her son had died while undergoing an operation, consequent on his injuries.

The deceased was a son of the late Mr Wm. Whitmore, and much sympathy is felt for his mother, who resides in Main Street. He was a much respected young man and before the war held a clerk's position at the Desford Collieries. He also acted as secretary of the Hugglescote Wesleyan Football Club, the club being disbanded soon after he gave up this position to join the Black Watch. He was an old scholar of Mr W. Fellows, head master of the Hugglescote Baptist School.

His companion, Mr E. Hunt, who was his fellow clerk at the same colliery, and enlisted in the same regiment, was also wounded, and is now at one of the English hospitals.

### **BAGWORTH SOLDIERS' LETTERS**

Copy of a letter sent by Pte. Twigg to his mother at Bagworth.



*"Dear Mother, Just a line in answer to your letter, which I was pleased to receive and to say I am alright, but for a bad cold, but you need not wonder at it for it has been awful in the trenches this time, it was wet for three days. We had some very heavy shell fire and I had some narrow escapes, the shells were dropping all around us, they were very big shells and they about shook us off our feet, my word we did have a hot time, I cannot tell you all what we went through, we were up to our knees in mud. I received the parcel safely. I shall be pleased when the war is over. You could not believe what it is like to hear the noise, but it would not do for me to tell you too much. I received a parcel from Mrs Emmerson, George Barker is alright, I saw him in the trench the other day. We are still keeping our spirits up. The old Germans are Wasters, we do not get much chance to see them for they never put their heads above the trench, they do plenty of shouting when they are shelling, but we give them some with interest after. But their time has got to come yet. They are using that gas, it is about time we used some. Remember me to all friends at home, and Mr Hubbard and the boys down the pit. This is murder and not war. Shall be glad when it is all over. Your loving son, William Twigger."*

Copy of a letter from Trooper J. W. Dawson to a friend at Bagworth.

*"Dear Mr J. \_\_\_\_\_, I was pleased to get your letter. I am pleased to say I am mending a little, I am up a little now after about a month in bed. This is a fine place and we are nursed well. There are hundreds of wounded soldiers here, but I do not know any of them so it is rather lonely, but I have had several visitors from home to see me, I expect you read of the Leicestershire Yeomanry getting cut up. We had a terrible time on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Germans shelled our trenches for over two hours, it was an awful roar and then they charged us coming in droves. We held them back for some time, but we had to retire as our trenches had been blown in and I was hit by a piece of shell. I crawled into a trench which saved my life, after lying for nearly 24 hours on a drink of water, I was then taken to a hospital in France and operated upon twice to get the shell out of my back. I have been here two weeks. I am thankful to be alive, but where we were for weeks was a living hell. I shall be glad when it is all over. Kindest regards to you all. Yours sincerely, Trooper J. W. Dawson."*

## **Friday July 9<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1218)**

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#### **LOCAL NEWS**

Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick has sent 1035 eggs collected for wounded soldiers and is despatching another 130 this week.

Mrs J. J. Sharp has this week received 56 packets of cigarettes, 10 loose and 7 1/2d in money from the box at the Coalville Liberal Club and 24 packets from Mr Higgins' box, which are being sent to the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the front.

We regret to hear that Mr Highfield, a former assistant master at the Coalville Grammar School, who was very popular with his colleagues and the scholars, has been killed in action. He was a Lieut. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> York and Lancaster Regiment and had been at the front eight weeks. His parents reside at Oakham and received the official news yesterday.

#### **DO YOU KNOW**

That there is to be a monster garden party at Gracedieu next Wednesday to provide comforts for the local soldiers and sailors?

That Markfield school children by singing patriotic songs in the street on Saturday realised nearly £3 to provide comforts for the soldiers and sailors from that district?

That there is no truth in the rumour extensively circulated in the district that the escaped German prisoner from Donington Hall has been recaptured on the Forest, near Coalville?

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## **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 34<sup>th</sup> collection from 8 districts realised £3 17s 6d.

## **COPT OAK ROLL OF HONOUR**

Thirty-seven names appear on the roll of honour for Copt Oak (including Shaw Lane). The population is approximately 700.

Lt. L. H. Cripps, 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars (wounded)  
Lt. W. D. Nicholson, Cameron Highlanders (killed)  
Lt. C. Martin, R.F.A.  
Lt. J. Turner, Army Remount  
Rev. H. K. Bros, Chaplain, North Midland Mounted Brigade  
H. A. V. Hull, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bedfords, (killed)  
G. Wood, Coldstream Guards (wounded)  
Sergt. B. H. Gibbons, J. Prime, F. S. Nix and J. H. Gibbons, all of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters  
E. Lewin, E. Holman, A. J. Windram, J. Wells, E. Bott, H. Bott and R. Irons, all of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters  
B. Hull, R.F.A.  
H. Kelham, R.H.A.  
E. Bowley, Derbyshire Yeomanry  
F. Wilson, Coldstream Guards  
A. H. Mason, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters  
W. Shelton, Army Service Corps  
H. Heggs, Royal Navy  
E. Williamson, Hussars  
S. Butler and J. Wood, Leicestershire Yeomanry  
P. Tyers, recruiting sergeant  
G. W. Staples, J. Brooks, J. Walton, F. G. Pearson, K. Kirk, E. Wyldes and H. Arnold, all of Kitchener's Army.

## **COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES**

The Commandant thanks those who turned out last Sunday morning. Owing to the torrential downpour drill was out of the question – but to be there showed the right spirit.

Member of Volunteer Training Corps (reading National Registration Form): "What can I do? Ah, I'm glad they've asked me that one at last. I shall tell them I'm one of half a million volunteer soldiers who've been waiting for a job for the last six months." – From 'Punch'.

It is hoped that the drill after Church Parade on Sunday, the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., will take place in Coleorton Park. It will be a good day. Turn out strong. We shall welcome members of other local corps who may care to join us. The Garden Party at Gracedieu next Wednesday is for a good cause. Citizens who really want to do something will have an opportunity on that day. All men who can turn out are wanted for gate duty, guards, and picket duty.

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## **MOTOR AMBULANCES FOR THE FRONT**

### **NOTTS AND DERBYSHIRE MINERS' HANDSOME GIFT**

Through the efforts of Mr A. Dennis Bayley, of the Digby Colliery Co., Ltd, Nottingham, the owners of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire collieries are presenting to the joint committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society, two fully equipped field convoys of motor ambulances for work in France. The cost of the gift is nearly £70,000.

### THREE IN KHAKI

(The initial section of this article is torn and missing in parts and mentions W. V. Scott and his three sons in the army. It notes that Mr W. V. Scott is the Superintendent of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade.)

Pte. Leonard Geo. Scott is 26 years of age and is Mr Scott's second son. When war broke out he was in America and he arrived in England just before Christmas, subsequently joining the 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, after he had undergone an operation to qualify for enlistment.

When war broke out, Mr Scott's third son, Fred, was in training for the scholastic profession at Cambridge University, and for 18 months had been in the University Officer's Training Corps. He was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in December last, having enlisted in Kitchener's Army, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters. When at home last week on a visit he was expecting to go abroad shortly. Lieutenant Scott is 22 years of age and was a former student at Ashby Grammar School, after which he was for a time pupil teacher in the Bridge Road Council School.

The fourth son of Mr Scott, Pte. Clifford Ernest Scott, is only 20 years of age, and has been at the front since last February. He was one of the first fifty Leicestershire

Territorials to leave Coalville, and has been in several engagements. During

one of these a few months ago, he was struck by a piece of shell and received a flesh wound in the thigh, and after being a few days at the dressing station he was able to take his place in the front line again. Before joining the army he was engaged as a clerk in the L. W. R. Railway goods shed at Whitwick.

(There is a final section which is too badly damaged and torn)



### COALVILLE ARTILLERYMAN'S EXPERIENCES

Writing to friends at Coalville, driver Harry Challoner, 3842 42<sup>nd</sup> Battery, R.F.A., says he is in the best of health and continues: *"You have asked me about my experiences at the front, and I will tell you as far as I am allowed. I was called up on the reserve on August 4<sup>th</sup> and embarked at Southampton for France on September 9<sup>th</sup>. During our voyage we passed a French battleship. We made for the Belgian frontier, billeting at a place called Borne. We went into action on October 14<sup>th</sup> at Orstrum and left there on the 18<sup>th</sup>. After marching for about two miles we halted and during a short stay we saw a fine duel in the air between a British and German airman. The German was brought down about three miles from where we stood. We moved on again and passed through a place where we saw the remains of a church which had been fired by the Germans. We were at Armentieres on October 20<sup>th</sup> when the Germans began to shell the town very hard. They were dropping all around us. Cannonading by both sides continued and at ten p.m. a fierce attack was made by the enemy who were in overwhelming numbers, but our reinforcements came up and after about four hours' hard fighting, it seemed to slacken a bit."* He goes on to describe other movements



of the troops and says that they experienced some severe weather and saw many buildings which had been destroyed by the enemy. They were in action on the Aisne and he relates how the infantry were driven out of their trenches by the Germans, the trenches, however being retaken. At one town they saw 500 German prisoners pass through and were informed that in a recent engagement the enemy losses were 7,000. On another occasion, the Germans got the range of their trenches, doing some damage and it was found that the positions had been indicated by a spy who was caught and dealt with.

## GIFTS TO STANTON SOLDIERS

### LETTERS OF THANKS

The following letter has been sent to a Stanton-under-Bardon gentleman addressed to the parishioners of that place:

*Many thanks for your parcel, which I received quite safely, and I think it is very kind and generous of all Stanton people to think about their soldiers who are away from home. I assure all of you, I enjoyed it very much, and shall treasure your book of prayer. I thank you all again. I am yours.*

Pte. J. H. Smith 1670,  
8<sup>th</sup> Northern Battalion, Leicestershire Company

The following letter from a Stanton soldier has also been sent to Mr. F. Gibson:

*Dear Sir, I hope you will excuse me writing to you in this manner. The reason I am addressing my letter to you is that I believe you are at the head of a committee who have taken it upon themselves to send parcels of comforts to the lads who have gone from Stanton-under-Bardon to serve their country. I wish to express my deepest gratitude in this manner for the parcel of cake, etc., which I received this morning. You will be doing me a great favour if you will thank all the kind friends, on my behalf, who have helped in any way in this matter. You cannot realise what it means to us who are in camp, and other training centres (I cannot speak for the boys in the trenches) to receive these tokens of affection and to know that you are thinking of us and praying for us. I will not weary you by writing a long letter, but again I would thank you all from the depths of my heart and may we all meet again in the near future in happier circumstances. I remain yours sincerely.*

W. H. Cave (Private)  
35<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.  
Farnham

### HOW LANCE-CORP. F. WHITMORE DIED

Mrs Whitmore, of Main Street, Hugglescote, has received the following letter from a friend of her late son, Lance-Corpl. F. Whitmore, of the Black Watch, whose death from wounds received in action was reported last week:

*Dear Madam, You will be surprised to receive this letter from me as I am unknown to you. I am writing to let you know that your son Fred arrived here on Sunday fortnight with four other men of the Black Watch. He was wounded in the right leg by shrapnel, which entered the thigh and broke the bone. An English comrade was in the same ward with him, whose name is H. Pardoe – Rifleman in the K.R.F.'s. I went to see and speak to him each morning and afternoon, and Rifleman Pardoe. He was always happy and well, except of course for his leg, which was painful. On Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the doctor told him it was absolutely necessary to amputate his leg, and he consented to have it off. So on Friday, at 12 o'clock, he was taken to the operating room, and the operation was quite successful, that is as far as amputating his leg was concerned, but, I am exceedingly sorry to say he died about a quarter of an hour afterwards, that would be about half-past one. Rifleman Pardoe was speaking with him after the operation, and poor Fred said to him, 'It's off all right, Harry,' meaning his leg. Pardoe then told him to have some sleep, which he did, but the poor chap never woke. He will be buried either today or tomorrow, and Pardoe and I will be allowed to go to the funeral. I am sincerely sorry for you and your family in this your time of trouble. He will be always remembered in our prayers. May he rest in peace. I trust you will receive this letter safe. I am, dear madam, a comrade of Fred's.*

Lance-Corpl. J. Sharp  
Royal Munster Fusiliers

Lance-Corpl. J. Sharp, 8488, is a British prisoner of war at Festungslazett, I Barracks, Wesil, Germany, and the above letter was written from there under date May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1915.

## **COALVILLE WOMEN AND THE WAR**

### **BRANCH OF THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORMED**

A patriotic meeting was held in the Christ Church School, Coalville, on Wednesday night with the object of starting a branch of the Women's Volunteer Reserve. The speaker was Mr Michel, of Leicester, and the Vicar (the Rev. S. Hosking), presided over a capital attendance.

Introducing the speaker, the vicar said all of them had to do something for their country in this crisis and Mr Michel was there that night to tell them what they could do. Mr Michel said one result of the enquiries which had been made as to what women could do had been the revelation that to a great extent, especially in the large towns, women were isolated, and there was a need for organisation to promote comradeship. In the first place women were invited to drills and it was marvellous how they had taken to it and the benefits they had derived from it. There were many things that a well-drilled body of women could do and so release men for the more strenuous work. They could act as signallers, drive motors, act as telegraphists, etc. He went on to explain how the movement was progressing in Leicester, remarking that they were fortunate in Leicester in having the support of the Mayor and Mayoress who were very enthusiastic in connection with the matter. The town had been divided into districts and the drills in the various schools had been very successful. The girls were very quick in learning the drills and were most energetic. After about a couple of months a company of them went to Wigston and had a march past, which they accomplished as smartly as any regiment in the line. It had done them a great deal of good. They had quite 300 active members in Leicester at the present time. A few fell out for various reasons, some leaving the town, while others found the uniform an objection. It was said to be too costly, but they found a draper in Leicester who supplied an excellent coat and skirt for £1 3s 6d and with 3s for a hat they had a complete uniform for £1 6s 6d. They had a march out last Saturday when over 200 were present in uniform and several without. They did not insist on uniform, though they all liked to wear the hats. He urged the ladies of Coalville to join the movement and said he was sure they would never regret it. If they could get a good instructor, he was sure they would enjoy it and that it would do them good. A feature of the work was the training in ambulance and home nursing, which was most useful, because a good many more women would doubtless be required to attend the wounded. At Leicester, 120 recently submitted themselves for the ambulance examination. He said there were also 50 ladies who wanted to learn riding. They only had ten horses, but arranged by taking the learners in sections. They had a capable instructor in the riding school and the ladies were getting on well. He also spoke of the progress made in signalling which was a splendid exercise. The usefulness of the movement had manifested itself already in varying ways. He had several times been rung up by the manager of the Leicester Labour Exchange, asking whether he could get a few women quickly to do clerical work and he (Mr Michel) had never failed him yet. Other instances were given of the services of the women being utilised, one being that of two girls now working on a farm to liberate men who had gone to the front, while in others, women were doing clerical work whereby men had been liberated to join the army. That was the real object of the movement. One woman was driving a bread van. It was surprising how in their drills and gatherings class distinction was being lost sight of and they were all regarded as comrades. Some of the members who had taken situations had not been used to anything like such work, but were doing well. He explained that situations were only filled through the Labour Exchanges, because that was a Government department and would see that the women were well treated. Alluding to farm work, in which women were largely assisting, he pointed out that in Scotland and Ireland the milking of cows was done by women. If a branch was formed locally, he suggested that Coalville be the centre, with various districts. Those wishing to join at Coalville should apply to Miss Wynne, at Whitwick to Mrs J. J. Sharp, at Hugglescote to Mrs Meredith, at Ibstock to the Flood, and at Ravenstone to Miss Cresswell. They should drill in their own districts and it was only a question of finding instructors. The age suggested was 18 to 50 and as far as possible they should arrange the elder and younger women in sections.

Mrs J. J. Sharp said that by their presence they showed that they realised the gravity of the situation and were anxious to do all they could. The knowledge of that put heart into the men at the front. Many of them, she knew, were doing much individually, but they could do much more when well organised. The more determined they were to give their help the sooner would the war be ended. She hoped many would enrol that night and she said they could each choose the subject in which they wished to specialise – nursing, cooking or ambulance. It had been arranged so far that Miss Cresswell would meet her girls in the rector's room at Ravenstone on Monday evenings at 6 o'clock, Mrs Meredith would meet them at her home at 6.30 on Tuesday and at Whitwick, she (Mrs Sharp) would meet them in the Church School on Monday at 6.30. The other places had yet to be arranged.

Questions were invited and one was whether the uniform was optional to which Mr Michel replied in the affirmative. Everything was free and optional, but it was important that they should attend drills. Mrs Sharp said Coalville was included an ammunitions area and they might help in that connection.

Mr Michel said the entrance fee was 1s and they paid 1/2d or 1d per drill according to the number. They had to pay instructors. One lady asked whether they would be obliged to do any work they were called upon to do. Mr Michel said they would not.

The Questioner said that, for instance, they could not all leave their homes to do farm work. Mrs Sharp said that was only one branch.

The Vicar: We are not going to ask you to be farm labourers. (Laughter)

Mrs Sharp said there were plenty of ways they could help. Some might be motor drivers or cyclists and they might be asked to assist in tracking German prisoners. As they knew, two escaped from Donington Hall the other night. The question to be decided, she said, was whether they should form a branch. This was carried unanimously and many names were enrolled.

### **MEETING AT THE PROGRESSIVE HALLS**

Miss Shaw, of London, representing the Women's National Liberal Association, addressed a meeting of the members of the Coalville branch in the Progressive Hall on Wednesday afternoon, when Mrs Holyoak presided over a fairly good attendance.

Miss Shaw said she was sorry that her first visit to the Coalville branch should be at such a serious time, but in connection with the war, women could do much to help their country and she pointed out that for the time being politics were dropped and the whole efforts of their organisation were being directed on lines thought to be most beneficial to the country in this great crisis. They were doing all they could to impress on the women of the land the need for thrift and that they must all do their best to help with the war loan, which she explained at some length. She also urged that women must take up munition work where it was possible so as to release the men for the more serious business which the war demanded of them. They should economise in the use of food and it was important that they should use as few foreign things as possible, because they all had to be paid for, and they wanted to keep as much money in the country as they could. By acting on those lines the women of the land would be carrying out the best form of patriotism.

Mrs Bonser moved a vote of thanks to Miss Shaw for her interesting and instructive address. Mrs C. W. Brown, seconding, said the meeting would have been in the evening, but for the women's patriotic meeting being held that night at the Church School and of which they were not aware when arranging that meeting. She hoped as many as possible would attend the evening meeting. The vote of thanks was heartily accorded and Miss Shaw briefly replied. Miss Bott nicely sang a couple of solos, Miss Materson accompanying, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

### **Friday July 16<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1219)**

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### **LEICESTERSHIRE SOLDIER'S WEDDING**

#### **FROM THE TRENCHES TO THE ALTAR AND BACK IN A WEEK**

An interesting wedding took place at the Parish Church, Oadby, on Saturday, when Corporal G. Grainger, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, son of Mr Tom Grainger, Oadby, was married to Miss Edith E. Worley. The bridegroom was in the trenches with the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters less than a week ago and returned to Belgium on Sunday. Corporal Grainger has been in the thick of the fighting since September last, and has more than earned his few days rest. Being a reservist he was called up on the outbreak of hostilities, and shortly afterwards was promoted corporal.



## **MR WINSTON CHURCHILL**

The meeting which Mr Winston Churchill was to have addressed in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Saturday, and which was postponed from the previous Saturday, was abandoned – for the present at any rate.

The reason for this step was that the right hon. gentleman had to attend another Cabinet meeting on Saturday afternoon.

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## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

It is understood that the appeal issued in Leicester, in common with other districts, for skilled workmen to enrol as war munition workers has met with very considerable success, over 1,800 workers having given in their names since the opening of the Munitions Works Bureau at the Municipal Buildings.

Mr C. E. S. Hussey, of Market Street, Ashby, has been appointed recruiting officer for the parishes of Ashby and Packington. Mr Hussey was for ten years in the old 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Volunteers, and attained the rank of Corporal. He was one of the best shots in the regiment and carried off many prizes. At present, Mr Hussey is also platoon sergeant in the Ashby Citizen Corps.

Mr J. J. Sharp reports having received this week 46 packets of cigarettes, 3 loose and 4d from the Coalville Liberal Club box and one box of 5d, and 23 packets, also 11 loose from Mr W. Higgins' box, to be sent to the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the front.

A public meeting at the Park Street Schools, Market Bosworth on Monday night decided to form a Citizen Corps for the district. The Rector (the Rev. P. H. Bowers) presided and an address was given on the aims and objects of the movement by the Rev. Dr. Fisher, of Norton. Thirty members were enrolled at the meeting and others have since joined.

As the result of an appeal to Mr H. Toon, of Vaughan Street, Coalville, chairman of the Ellistown Colliery Workmen's Accident Club, Mr John Taylor (secretary) has handed over to the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild the splendid sum of £10, voted by the workmen, for which the guild are very grateful.

Writing to a friend, from the Warrington hospital, Trooper J. W. Dawson, an Ibstock man in the Leicestershire Yeomanry who has been wounded at the front, says he is improving nicely and hopes to be discharged in about a fortnight or three weeks' time. It has been a rather long time with him, he adds, as his wounds were severe, and he has been at the hospital six weeks. It is a very nice place and he is able to get out now in the extensive grounds.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

That nearly 150 wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester on Sunday night?

That an officer from the Garendon Park Camp wearing his khaki, occupied the pulpit at the Shepshed Baptist Chapel on Sunday night?

That a draft of 200 men and 5 officers of the 3/1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Yeomanry left Leicester on Wednesday morning?

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## HUGE GARDEN PARTY AT GRACEDIEU

Splendid success attended a huge garden party held in the grounds at Gracedieu Manor on Wednesday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Coalville and District Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild. Such an animated scene in the vicinity of Gracedieu has probably not been witnessed since the Coronation festivities. It was calculated that there would be quite three thousand people present and they had an enjoyable time, the weather, with the exception of one brief shower, being beautifully fine. Though not in residence at the Manor the Right Hon. and Mrs Chas. Booth had kindly placed the picturesque grounds at the disposal of the promoters of the event, with instructions to the household staff to render all the help they could, and this, of course, contributed very largely to the success of the gathering.

On such a huge scale, a function of this sort took a good deal of organising, but the arrangements were admirably carried out by a large committee of which Mr B. B. Drewett, of Hugglescote, was chairman. The committee was divided into two sections forming a sports committee and an entertainments committee. Of the former, Mr L. J. Burge, of Ravenstone, was chairman and Mr Dixon, of Bardon Hill, secretary, assisted by Mr M. Downes, of Whitwick. Mr T. L. McCarthy, of Coalville, presided over the entertainments committee with Mr George Hay as secretary. There was a fine band of volunteer helpers, and prominent among these were the Coalville Citizens, under Commander C. W. H. Gutteridge, and the Whitwick Corps under Commander G. F. Burton. They all presented a very soldierly appearance and in gate keeping and patrol duty rendered valuable assistance, all their activities being carried out on military lines, which created a good deal of interest among many of the visitors. The Boy Scouts too, under Mr F. Goddard, of Coalville, made themselves very useful, and likewise much appreciated was the help given by a number of local recruits and by the members of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, under Supt. W. V. Scott. Mention should also be made of the assistance freely given by the Whitwick Holy Cross Band, who played during the afternoon, and by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band who relieved them in the evening, playing sections and for dancing.

Quite a leading feature of the programme was the dancing by the children from the Coalville Bridge Road Council School, under Mr J. H. Massey (headmaster) and the teachers. Four Morris dances were given, three round dances and a balloon dance. The latter by Misses. Hilda Vendy, Lily Bond, Florence Stevenson and Doris Bird, charmingly attired in white, and with pretty coloured balloons, on the fresh greensward, presenting a very pleasing picture.

There were half-hour concerts in which Mr F. T. Bellward, of Bardon Hill, took a prominent part, and much interest was shown in the exhibitions of palmistry by Mrs Snape and her son, Mr H. G. Evans, B.A., one of the assistant masters at the Coalville grammar school.

Remarkable success was achieved by Miss Drewett at her sweet stall, assisted by Mrs Husband, and others, over £20 being realised from this source alone and, perhaps, quite as noteworthy was the success of the bran tub at which £8 6s was taken, all in pennies, a result upon which the four young ladies responsible for it are to be heartily complimented. They were Misses Gough, E. Gray, Thirby and Newman, assistants in the employ of Messrs. Drewett and Son, they supplied the tub entirely, having got together the money to furnish the hundreds of necessary articles. Boxes of chocolates were won by Mrs B. G. Hale and Miss Connie Scott.

A roaring trade was also done by Miss Hawthorn, assisted by Mrs Hale and others at the ice cream stall, while other things, all of which helped to bring "grist to the mill" were a captive football, electric battery, skittles, clock golf, weighing machine and bowls.

Messrs. J. Husband and J. Storr-Best acted as judges for the sports, with Mr A. L. Bertenshaw as starter, assisted by several stewards and the following were the prize winners:

Slow bicycle race – A. Geary, Coalville  
Potato race – Gardner and Andrews, equal  
Sack race – E. Mugglestone, Donnington  
Obstacle race – Gardner  
Egg and Spoon race – E. Mugglestone

Blindfold tandem cycle race – Geary and Williamson

The prizes were distributed by Mrs L. L. Baldwin. A good deal of work fell to the joint secretaries, but it was ably and cheerfully carried out by Mrs S. W. Briers, Mrs H. R. Brown, Mrs L. L. Baldwin, Miss Jamie and Mr F. J. Wainwright.

A large number of brakes and motors were engaged in conveying the people to and from Gracedieu and unfortunately, there was an accident in the evening, a horse attached to a Whitwick brake taking fright and bolting. Two women were thrown out, but not hurt, and a man had his shoulder dislocated in trying to stop the horse. Assistance was rendered by the police, in regulating the traffic.

We were pleased to hear on Thursday morning and excellent report from the gardeners at Gracedieu Manor. It was to the effect that practically no damage had been done to the shrubs, etc., and that never in their experience had they known such an orderly crowd. Doubtless this was due to patrol duty of the citizens, since in such a large body of people there are usually to be found a few mischievous persons, and the fact that everything went off so well in this respect is highly creditable to the members of the local corps.

### **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 35<sup>th</sup> collection from 7 districts realised £3 12s 11d.

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### **LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS**

#### **SATISFACTORY RECRUITING IN THE COUNTY**

#### **THE LOSSES AT THE FRONT**

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester. His Grace the Duke of Rutland presided. Captain Serjeantson (secretary) read the report of the Emergency Committee which was as follows:

Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee, the Emergency Committee has met when required at the Magazine. It is with the greatest sorrow your Committee has to record a long list of casualties amongst the Territorial units of Leicestershire and Rutland now serving at the front. Particularly on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Leicestershire Yeomanry, which had been hurriedly rushed up to the front line was subjected to a very severe artillery fire as well as bayonet attacks and suffered very heavily. Out of the 12 officers who went up with the regiment, 7 were killed and 4 wounded, included amongst those killed being the Commanding Officer Colonel Freke.

The following officers are those who your committee has to record with deepest regret as having lost their lives in France during the last 2 months.

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY**

Lieut. Col. The Hon P. C. Evans-Freke, Major W. F. Martin, Major B. B. Liebert, Lieut. C. Peake, Lieut. S. D. Thomson, Lieut. A. F. Turner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. T. E. Brooks.

#### **1/4<sup>th</sup> LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT**

Capt. A. C. Cooper, Capt. H. Haylock, Lieut. H. C. Brice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. A. C. Clarke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. F. M. Waite.

#### **1/5<sup>th</sup> LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT**

Capt. J. Chapman, Lieut. C. Aked, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. C. W. Selwyn.

Amongst the rank and file your committee regret to report that official intimation has been received that the following N.C.O.'s and men have lost their lives.

Leicestershire Yeomanry	47
1/4 Leicestershire Regiment	42
1/5 Leicestershire Regiment	8
2/2/ North Midland Field Ambulance	1

In addition to the above, your Committee regret to report that a considerable number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men have been wounded – in some cases dangerously. It is a matter of great difficulty to set forth at the present time any accurate or complete record of all the various units have done since they left this country, but it must be a matter of great pride to Associations to hear from all sides how splendidly the Territorial Forces have upheld the name of their regiments and their country.

In a supplement to the "London Gazette" dated 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, Sir John French commends for gallant and distinguished service in the field the following:

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY**

Lieut. Col. The Hon. P. C. Evans-Freke, Acting Regt. Sergt.-Major G. C. Parker, Squadron-Sergt. Major J. H. Green, Sergt. J. H. S. Christian and Sergt. G. W. Cox. Lieut. Colonel W. A. Harrison having been invalided home, Major R. E. Martin, a member of this association has been appointed to the command of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment.

During the past quarter all the 3<sup>rd</sup> line units have reached their establishments as laid down at about 60 per cent of a full unit. Unfortunately, just when the reduced establishment had been reached permission was given for a further 50 per cent to be raised by those units whose first line regiments were with the Expeditionary Force, and the recruiting machinery which had been allowed to slacken had to be set in motion again.

The number of recruits for the 16 weeks ending 16<sup>th</sup> June, 1915, is 2,208, giving an average of 138 per week. Since war broke out the associations have had the administration of about 10,100 men as the men already belonging to the various units at the beginning of August had practically to be refitted. The numbers work out as follows:

Strength of Territorial Units at the beginning of August 1914, about	2,600
Recruits to June 16 <sup>th</sup> , 1915	6,731
National Reserve Recruits	<u>769</u>
	10,106

The applications for commissions have also been very numerous and for the 8 vacancies for the junior officers for the 3/4 Leicestershire Regiment there have been well over 100 candidates, 9 personal applications being made in one day for this unit alone.

Since the last meeting of the association it has been decided that the 9<sup>th</sup> Line Units are to be under the officer commanding the grouped regimental district at Lichfield for discipline and training, who delegates his authority to the officer commanding the regimental district. In the case of Leicestershire and Rutland to Colonel Mosse at Glen Parva Barracks.

The following letter has been received by the President from the General Officer Commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, with reference to the 2/4<sup>th</sup> and 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment.

Easton Lodge, Dunmow, Essex.  
21<sup>st</sup> April, 1915

*My Lord Duke, During the past week I have concluded my inspection of the 2/4<sup>th</sup> and 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, and I write to inform your Lordship how greatly impressed I have been by the magnificent material which I have seen in the ranks. For one who did not know the true facts, it would seem inconceivable that the regiments I have seen on parade have only been in existence a few months. The greatest credit is due to all concerned that such a state of efficiency has been attained in such a short period. The clothing and*

*equipment issued in both cases has been very good, and I wish, through you, to thank the secretary and members of your Territorial Force Association for having equipped and turned out the men so well, and express to them the gratitude of those who are responsible for the training of the troops. I am, your obedient servant.*

(Signed) A. E. Codrington  
Lieut. General, Comdg. 3<sup>rd</sup> Army  
Central Force

As regards the clothing and equipping of the different units, the Association have been instructed not to purchase any more clothing or equipment, but to indent on the Ordnance Department for all supplies when the contracts already made have been completed. This is now being done and the deliveries from the department come in practically by return. The Association have very little to come in from their own contractors now, a certain amount of clothing and some equipment is being all that is outstanding. There are one or two points in connection with the supply of clothing and equipment which may be placed on record. After the first rush consequent of the extra strain entailed by mobilisation, practically all articles required were purchased locally, and the Association policy, which unhappily had hardly developed, of doing everything possible to encourage a local source of supply for clothing has been abundantly justified.

The mobilisation contract for boots which the Associations held with Adams Bros. for 4 or 5 years worked out very satisfactorily and in one case the boots of which the size roll was given from here on the telephone in the morning were delivered the same evening. There have been very few complaints as to the quality of the goods supplied, but as was unavoidable at times the demands outran the supply.

The North Evington Infirmary with a capacity of 600 beds, has been taken over as an adjunct to the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital and is now in full working order. This, of course, has necessitated a large increase in the staff of the Base Hospital. This increase of accommodation has necessarily also increased the work of the County Director and his request that the Committee would sanction his appointing Mr Reginald Corah to act as his assistant was approved. Mr Faize has now opened refreshment rooms at each of the big Leicester stations for the benefit of soldiers passing through. These are staffed by members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Your Committee has under consideration the building of accommodation for the orderlies at North Evington in place of the tents at present occupied. The extension at the Base Hospital was most excellently and speedily carried out, the accommodation for 500 beds, being finished in about eight weeks. These wards are constructed on the open air principle, one side of the hut being completely open except for the wood and canvas shutters.

The work of the Separation Allowance Pay Office continues to increase, about 6,500 cases now being dealt with. The Associations have raised up to the present, five companies of the National Reserve of a total strength 769 rank and file and it is probable that one more company can be raised if required. Four of the five companies have been allotted to duties.

An urgent appeal having been received from the General Officer commanding the North Midland Division for rifles with telescopic sights, your Committee approached the Mayor of Leicester, who most kindly consented to collect £80 to provide four rifles per battalion for the troops with the Expeditionary Force, thus enabling our men to compete on terms of equality with the enemy's snipers. The thanks of the Associations are due to the Mayoress of Leicester, who, with her working party, has provided quantities of equipment for the hospitals, and comforts for the troops, and has now undertaken all the mending required for the hospital.

To the Mayor of Leicester for collecting £80 to provide four rifles with telescopic sights for each of the battalions at the front. Also to the Y.M.C.A. for having provided recreation and rest accommodation for the troops in Leicester and also for soldiers passing through.

In commenting on the report, the Duke of Rutland said:

*"Gentlemen, There are several things I should like to say with respect to this report because it is a very important one, and I think we ought to consider it fully. I need hardly say that we all must feel the deepest sorrow at the terrible losses sustained by the various Territorial units, especially the Yeomanry, during the last few weeks. I do not think I need say more. I am confident that the most entire sympathy of this*

Association is felt with everybody whose relations have been killed. The only consolation is that I hear from those men that have come back from the front and who were engaged in this action that both officers and men showed the greatest gallantry. This applied to every Leicestershire unit now out at the front. With respect to the 3<sup>rd</sup> line units reaching their establishment as laid down by 60 per cent of the full unit, I should like to be allowed to say a word. With regard to numbers I do not think Leicester need be ashamed of the number of recruits that are coming forward, and have come forward for the various units. The paragraph with respect to the number of applications for commissions in the third fourth is extremely satisfactory. The letter of General Codrington is an equally gratifying testimony to the conduct, and the smart appearance of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, and we ought to be proud of such a recommendation from such an officer of the rank and experience of General Codrington. I am gratified to find that the various equipments and clothing which we now have to get through the Ordinance Department are being supplied on requisition so quickly. That is satisfactory, and shows that things in that department are going on smoothly and well. With regard to the North Evington Infirmary, I think I said before that I never saw a building better fitted to take the place of a hospital at a moment's notice. Although I was unable to get up there on Tuesday and see what progress has been made, I am sure it is the best possibly equipped, and the best class of building of its kind I have come across. I was at the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital on Tuesday for a short time, and went round the new outdoor beds and hospital buildings, and there is no doubt that the open air system as carried out there, is a most effective and satisfactory one."

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## **FELL INTO HIS COMRADE'S ARMS**

### **SWANNINGTON SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION**

News has been received by Mr John Wardle, collier at the Ellistown pit, who resides at Balmont Terrace, Main Street, Swannington, that his son, L-Corpl. William Wardle, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters (Territorials) was killed in action on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. He was 21 years of age and before the war was a collier employed at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He was a former scholar in the Wesleyan Sunday School at Swannington, teachers from which have called and expressed sympathy with the deceased's father. His mother died some years ago.

The last letter written home by Wardle was dated June 19<sup>th</sup>, in which he said he was going on all right. They were having some grand weather out there. Billy Jones and Jim Blyth were also quite well. He added:

*"I have not much news to tell you, except that the Germans want to know how we like the Lusitania and when we are going back to London."*



The sad news of Wardle's death was conveyed in a letter from Pte. Wm. Jones, son of Mr Charles Jones, of Primrose Hill, Swannington. Writing to his mother on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, he says:

*"I want you to take what I have to tell you as calmly as you can, for I am in great trouble. Poor old William Wardle got killed this morning (Sunday) at 12.45. He was killed by a bullet which went straight through his hand and heart and the chap who was with him caught him in his arms as he fell dead. Keep it quiet till dad gets home and then tell him to go down to Jink's and break the news to the best of his ability. His death was instantaneous and his face looked quite comfortable as the stretcher bearers carried him down the trench in a water-proof sheet. He now lies on the stretcher, covered over with a blanket, about 20 yards from my post. A letter came for him from his girl at*

*Sawbridgeworth soon after he was killed. J. Blyth and myself are burying him tonight just behind the firing line and we are burying the letter with him. The Sergt-Major has promised me that his belongings will be sent home. I can hardly realise yet that the poor chap has gone. When we get out of the trenches I shall miss his company and then I shall begin to realise it. I am sorry it will be a poor funeral for we shall have to bury him under rifle fire. The grave will be within (censored) yards of the Germans and they shell round about there every day. We shall have to bury him in the middle of the night, so we can't be seen.*

*PS. Trench life is just about the same as when we started it, only William has this time proved to be an unlucky one. If any of his relatives wish to know anything more of how my old pal met his death I can tell them if they tell you to write and ask me."*

When at Swannington, the deceased soldier lived with his sister, Mrs Henry Jinks, in the Main Street.

### **TERRITORIAL BUGLE BAND**

The band of bugles and drums of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, under Sergt.-Drummer Crossley (who has trained the men), attended the Moira, Donisthorpe and District Hospital parade on Saturday. Their smart appearance and effective playing attracted considerable attention at Moira, and afterwards at Ashby, where they sounded the Retreat in the market-place.

### **CITIZEN'S CORPS**

The members of this corps marched to Coleorton on Sunday, under the command of Mr G. F. German, were joined there by the Coalville Corps, under Commander C. W. H. Gutteridge, and attended service at the church. Afterwards there was a combined drill in the park, by permission of Mrs F. Abel-Smith. Both companies then marched home to Ashby and Coalville respectively, arriving at their destinations at about four o'clock after a pleasant outing.

### **A DESERTER**

Lewis Tivey, a private of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, was at the Police Court on Tuesday before Mr G. Brown charged with being a deserter since 30<sup>th</sup> June, which he admitted. Prisoner was arrested by Police-Sergt. Woods at his home in Donisthorpe, and was remanded to await an escort.

### **MILITARY WEDDING AT COALVILLE**

#### **PTE. GEORGE SITDOWN AND MISS G. M. GREEN**

Great interest was taken in a military wedding solemnised at the Coalville Parish Church on Thursday of last week. The contracting parties were Pte. George Sitdown, youngest son of Mr D. Sitdown, of Coalville, and Miss Gladys May Green, eldest daughter of Mr F. Green, watchmaker, of Jackson Street, Coalville. The Vicar, the Rev. S. Hosking, performed the ceremony in the presence of a good congregation. The bridegroom is engaged in the mechanical transport of the Army Service Corps and came over from Belgium for the ceremony. He appeared in his khaki uniform and a local company of Territorials in khaki formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church. The bride, who was given away by her father, was becomingly attired in cream satin with an overdress of nilon, with wreath of orange blossom



The Bride and Bridegroom leaving the Parish Church.

and veil, and she carried a handsome shower bouquets of white lilies and carnations. The bridesmaids were Misses Kathleen Green (sister of the bride) and Ruby Deacon who were attired in dresses of shantung silk and blue hats trimmed with pink roses and carnations, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr Frank Beadsmore, cousin of the bride, of Ashby, acted as best man. Mr A. Clarke officiated at the organ and played suitable wedding music.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at the Coalville Assembly Rooms, kindly lent by Mr and Mrs E. Tyler of the Engineer's Arms. The uncle of the bride, Mr F. Starkey, of Birmingham, supplied the bride cake. The happy couple were the recipients of many useful and valuable presents. The bridegroom has returned to the front.

## EXPERIENCES IN THE DARDANELLES

### RAVENSTONE SOLDIER'S INTERESTING LETTER

Writing to his aunt, Mrs A. Perkins, of Main Street, Ravenstone, on June 10<sup>th</sup> (the last letter received from him), Sergt. Dan Johnson, formerly employed as a lad at Ravenstone Post Office, and subsequently as chauffeur to Colonel Johnson, of Farnah Hall, near Duffield, and who is now with the Army Service Corps in the Dardanelles, expresses thanks for cake, etc., and says the lemonade was grand. He got the cook to make it and after they had been in the boiling sun all day was very acceptable. The socks would also come in very useful. He continues:



*"Everybody is in the best of health. Of course, being camped on the seashore makes a lot of difference. Our first draft went across to the Dardanelles yesterday and I'd have given anything to have been in it, but I've got to wait a bit longer. We could not go across with the infantry, because it was a forced landing and they are making some new roads. We lost heavily at the landing and all things went rough for a few days. The Turks are well armed, having guns mounted on the hills and are up to all little tricks of war. Then to make matters worse, a couple of German submarines got down there, and sent the 'Goliath' and 'Triumph' to the bottom. The other warships were withdrawn, leaving nothing but destroyers and they soon found the submarines and sent them to a watery grave. So now we are sending troops across hard and fast again and it all depends on how things go on before the motor transport goes over. I am very anxiously waiting to get over. I think the English people ought to rise up about the extortionate prices the Post Office charge to send small parcels out to soldiers. I shall send the girls some postcards the next time I go to Alexandria."*

Writing on June 11<sup>th</sup> he says: *"Another day's work done, but not a very pleasant one. I have been out to put eleven of the boys in a soldier's grave. Poor fellows! We generally get about 50 in one trench. We have a chaplain out here. We put a Union Jack over them for a few minutes and the bugler sounds the 'Last Post.' It is a solemn picture, no names nor*

*dates; no mourners, just one solitary parson, who says a few words and away we go. We had a sort of field day last week. The Divisional Inspector complimented us upon our high state of efficiency. He stopped and had quite a little chat with me when he came to my lines. I am still riding the old motorbike, but it is very much battered now. Since I left England, I have been doing a bit of sight-seeing and I only want to finish up in France now to complete the tour."*



Johnson joined the Army Service Corps at Christmas and was rapidly promoted to the rank of sergeant.

## ONE OF THE COALVILLE FIRST FIFTY

### ANOTHER TERRITORIAL KILLED

Another of the first fifty Territorials, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, to leave Coalville some months ago, has, unfortunately been killed in action. This is Pte. Harry Walker, of Ravenstone, who would have been 29 years of age in August. He is a son of Mr George Walker, who works for the Coalville Urban District Council on the Kelham Bridge sewage farm and resided in Main Street, Ravenstone, and before the war the deceased soldier was working for the South Leicestershire Colliery Co., with one of their carts. He was a former Sunday school scholar and chorister at Ravenstone Parish Church.

Pte. Walker was in Sergt.-Major Roland Hill's (Coalville) company, and the sad news that he was killed in action on July 2<sup>nd</sup> was conveyed in a letter from one of his comrades, Pte. Arthur Congrave, son of Thomas Congrave, also of Ravenstone. Writing to his parents on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Congrave states:

*"I am quite well and am writing today as I may not have a chance tomorrow, as we expect a big do on. We had a very heavy shelling last night and I am pleased to say that very little damage was done to our trenches, but I am sorry to say that one of the lads from Ravenstone, Harry Walker, got killed. He was shot at six o'clock this morning and died almost straightaway, thus suffering no pain. I expect it will put his mother about a lot, but it can't be helped. He died for his country. I am going to write to Mr Dowling today and let him know. I expect you have heard of the honour that our regiment has won out here. The Royal Leicesters now, Good old Tigers! The Germans don't like the Leicesters at all. One shouted over to us the other day that they were going to pull the Tiger's tail. But it was the other way about. They made a mistake that day. They have not pulled the Tiger's tail yet and don't look like doing so."*

In the letter which Congrave wrote to the Rev. S. Dowling (rector of Ravenstone) he says they buried Walker in the battalion graveyard on the evening of July 2<sup>nd</sup> and he asked the rector to convey to Mrs Walker the sincere sympathy of himself and Pte. William Kendrick, another Ravenstone soldier. The homes of the two latter are both in Wash Lane.

Pte. Walker's last letter was written the day before he was killed, to his cousin at Ravenstone. He said, *"I received your welcome letter. We have not done anything the last fortnight. I expect they have something in store for us. This is our second day in the trenches. We are getting on fine, but we get shelled very heavily. Two of us went out on our hands and knees to see what we could find, when we ran into a German trench. We did scuttle. One chap let his horse run away the day we came here, so he had to come with us. He got killed the next day. We have a fresh lot to reinforce us. Girls who write letters out here have caused many a chap to get killed. They write asking for this and that and chaps go out to get them and many a one never comes back. We are about a thousand yards from the Germans now. We took this trench off them, so that they had to fall back into a wood."*



## ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED

### TOUCHING LETTERS FROM COMRADES

As briefly reported in our last issue, Corpl. William Barney, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, was killed in action on the night of Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. He would have been 21 years of age last Saturday. His father, Mr Arthur Barney, a South Leicestershire collier, resides in Cumberland Road, Ellistown. The parents received the sad news in letters written by comrades of the deceased at the front.



Lance-Corpl. W. E. Cave, in the same regiment, and also a former resident of Cumberland Road, Ellistown, only two doors from the home of the deceased wrote:

*"I am writing to tell you the sad news that William was killed while on sentry at a quarter past nine on Wednesday night, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Alf Burton saw him, as he was in the same group and just before it happened he had been asking him how you were all getting on at home. He did not suffer much pain, as he died half an hour afterwards. His last words were, 'Thank you,' after they had bandaged him up. The night after, they asked me to bury him, as he was my mate, and I said I would. We made a grave, me and another chap, and lowered him into it. He was buried in his full equipment, nothing was pulled off. He was in a blanket, so that no dirt could touch his face. Capt. Hastings, of the same company, prayed over him, and I said a prayer too. Forty of us stood over his grave at the burial service. I filled the grave in and put a*

*cross over it. I am quite sure he was buried respectfully and as long as I am in this quarter, I will see to his grave. I am sure we shall all miss him, as he was liked by all in the company, and you can say that he died for his King and Country."*

Another letter was Corpl. J. Hall, who wrote: *"I am sorry to tell you that your son William has been killed in action. He was with me at the time, just saying what we should do if we got leave, when he was shot through the head. We miss him and shall always miss him. He was a good soldier, willing to do anything that he was asked. I don't think there was a more popular N.C.O. in the company than Tim – we always called him by that name. We, therefore, deeply regret his loss in our platoon. I am*



*writing to you on behalf of the rest of the boys. I know he was buried decently. W. E. Cave saw him buried. We are nearly all Coalville and District lads in this part of the trench. A. Burton was with me at the time. Again offering you our deepest sympathy."*

In a few lines written by A. Burton, he says: *"I have been along with him ever since I came here and not long before he had been asking me how you were getting on at home."*

A line is added by L.-Corpl. F. Smith, of Nailstone Wood, who says that he was with the deceased and deeply regrets his death. The late Corpl. Barney had been in the Territorials some months before the war broke out, having in fact nearly finished his term of service. He was a collier in the Ibstock pit.

## **FORMER COALVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL MASTER**

### **KILLED IN ACTION**

The news of the death of 2<sup>nd</sup>. Lieut. G. H. Highfield, killed in action on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, has occasioned much regret in Hugglescote, Coalville and district. The deceased officer was formerly an assistant master at the Coalville Grammar School and by his genial manner and painstaking efforts in his profession, he had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.

Lieut. Highfield left Coalville just before the outbreak of war to take an appointment as assistant master at Whitley Bay, but he never entered upon his duties there, as when hostilities commenced in August, he immediately offered his services to his country, sacrificing his profession for the time being as thousands more gallant fellows have done. At first he failed to pass the army doctor on account of defective teeth, but he was determined and when he tried again a few weeks later he was accepted.

He was awarded a commission in the 3<sup>rd</sup> York and Lancaster Regiment, and it is of local interest to note that he was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant by the late Col. Broughton (brother of the Hugglescote Vicar) just before he met with his unfortunate accident. The deceased had only been at the front eight weeks. Lieut. Highfield was about 25 years of age. He came to Coalville from West



Bridgford, and at both places he acted as master of a troop of boy scouts raised at the school. He also threw himself heartily into the games of the school and was a great favourite with the boys. His sterling work also won for him the cordial approval of his superiors and no one regretted his removal from Coalville more than the head master, Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best. He was the youngest of three brothers, another of whom is with the forces in Egypt, while the eldest, who is married, is engaged in Government work in London. Much sympathy is felt for the widowed mother who resides at Oakham.

A memorial service for the deceased officer was held at Coalville Grammar School on Tuesday morning, Canon Broughton conducting.

It will be remembered that at the last prize day at the school, it was announced that Lieut. Highfield had been given a commission and it was decided to send a telegram of congratulations from that gathering.

## **ELLISTOWN SOLDIER WOUNDED**

The friends of Pte. Walter Pettitt, of the Leicesters, whose home is at Ellistown, on Tuesday, had intimation that he had been wounded and was in hospital. His relatives have also received a small tin box which he had in his pocket at the time he received his wound. The box has a bullet hole through it and undoubtedly saved the soldier's life. Pettitt, in fact, seemed to have enjoyed a charmed life. A short time ago, we published an account of how his buckle was shot off his belt, leaving him uninjured. On another occasion he was near a bursting shell which caused him to fall into a hole, by which he escaped, and now at last when a bullet did find him, the tin box somewhat counteracted the effect.

We understand that Pettitt is going on well and trust that he will soon be taking his place again at the front, also that the luck which he has experienced up to now, will remain with him to the end.

### **Friday July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1220)**

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### **GIFT TO LEICESTER'S V.C.**

#### **PRESENTATION OF £100 WAR LOAN STOCK**

On Thursday at the annual entertainment given at the Countesthorpe Cottage Homes, near Leicester, Private Buckingham, V.C. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment was presented with the script representing £100 of War Loan stock, the outcome of a subscription initiated by the Leicester Board of Guardians. The total amount of the subscription was £111 3s 9d, the balance being handed to Buckingham in gold.

The presentation was made by the Mayor of Leicester (Alderman J. North) who spoke eulogistically of Buckingham's heroic conduct in the field and of the manner in which he had upheld the glorious traditions of the Leicestershire Regiment. During convalescence from his wounds Private Buckingham had placed this country under further obligations by the splendid work he had done in Leicester and county in the furtherance of recruiting.

There were other speeches to which Buckingham made a modest reply.

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### **WEDDING**

The marriage of Miss Evelyn Illsley, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Illsley, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, with Second-Lieut. Howard Brooker (Santos, Brazil), 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, took place on Friday of last week at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby. The Rev. H. B. Mack, of Beeston, officiated at the ceremony, and Miss A. Pratt very kindly acted as organist, playing suitable music before and the Wedding March after the service. Owing to the severe illness of the bridegroom's mother, the wedding was a very quiet one, only the immediate relatives being invited. Many useful presents were received by the happy pair.

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

If there are any local men and women who desire to help in any way the cause of our country, and her Allies, they will have the opportunity of doing their little bit in completing the National Register, which is to be taken on August 15<sup>th</sup>. The duty of obtaining the information required has been imposed upon the local authorities – municipal, urban and rural district councils – who are inviting volunteers for the work of distributing, collecting and filling up the registration forms wherever they may be, and forward them to the local authorities where they reside. Every person between the ages of 15 and 65 is compelled under a penalty to answer the questions. The majority are simple and straightforward. They deal mainly with name, age, occupation, dependants, and nationality. But the test is the question asking whether if skilled, one is able and willing to perform any war work, and if so to speak its nature. Many people have not the remotest idea what they can do beyond their present occupation. Still the National Register will enable each person to make his or her position clear, and form a reserve of volunteers who may be drawn upon for military or other service, as occasion demands.

Mr and Mrs Bennett have received an intimation, dated July 16<sup>th</sup>, that their son, Private William George Bennett, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, has been severely wounded in the head. This information reached them on Saturday morning last, and no further information has yet been received. Private Bennett was one of the Coalville Fifty and left for Luton in October last, and for France in February.

Five sheep were driven along Hotel Street on Wednesday afternoon took it into their heads to go into the recruiting office and were with difficulty persuaded to go out again.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That 35 Naval Brigade reserves left Leicester on Monday afternoon for the Crystal Palace, London?

That the Coalville Urban District Council are inviting applications for voluntary enumerators for the various districts in their area in connection with the National Registration Act?

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### **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 36<sup>th</sup> collection from 6 districts realised £3 15s.

### **DEATH OF MR W TABERNER**

We regret to announce that Mr W. Taberner, of Jackson Street, Coalville, died on Wednesday of last week and was buried in the Coalville Cemetery on Sunday last. Deceased was 50 years of age and had been ill a considerable time. He was a member of the Citizen Corps and scarcely missed attendance at drill. The funeral was attended by about 30 members of the Citizen Corps.

### **SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' COMFORTS GUILD**

A meeting of the committee for the Gracedieu garden fete last week was held on Monday evening in the Council chamber. The chair was taken by Mr B. B. Drewett. Mr R. J. Brown, the treasurer, read out a rough statement of the accounts showed that there would probably be a balance of about £130 to hand over. This was considered most satisfactory. Votes of thanks were heartily accorded to the Right Hon. Charles Booth and Mrs Booth, and to others who had given help, the bands, Citizen Corps, Boy Scouts etc.

### **BLACKFORDBY**

### **THE DEATH OF LIEUT. H. C. PICKERING**

The Vicar, the Rev. B. Kenyon, made a special reference at Sunday morning's service to the great loss sustained by the death of Lieut. H. C. Pickering. Special hymns were sung and Mr Willshee played the Dead March. At the evening service Mrs Jenkins also played the Dead March.

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### **OPENING OF A NEW RIFLE RANGE**

The members of the Volunteer Training Corps assembled at the Drill Hall, Kings Road, Shepshed, in good numbers on Thursday evening for the opening of new miniature shooting range by Mr Harriman. Commandant T. Bell welcomed Mr Harriman on behalf of the Corps, and said he thought accepting to fire the first shot, Mr Harriman had shown that he took an interest in the Corps. He regretted the absence of Mr H. H. Griggs, who had been most enthusiastic in working for the success of the Corps. Mr C. Mee welcomed Mr Harriman, and remarked that it might appear to some that in the past they had only been playing at soldiers, but the fact that they were learning to shoot gave it a proper serious aspect. Mr Harriman, who met with a cordial reception, said he considered it a great honour to be asked to open that range, and assured them that he would do everything in his power to help along the growing organisation, and was pleased to

offer them five guineas towards the outlay. Mr Harriman was heartily thanked for his presence and handsome gift towards the cost of the range. The remainder of the evening was given to shooting practice by the members.

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## COALVILLE POLICE COURT

### ABSENTEE

Benjamin Morley, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicester Regiment, a Whitwick man, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since the 6<sup>th</sup> inst.

Defendant said he had 4 days leave and admitted extending it without permission. P.C. Jelley said the defendant told him it was on account of a bad arm. Defendant said he had been vaccinated. He was remanded to await an escort.

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## COALVILLE MAN BURIED BY A SHELL

### EXCITING EXPERIENCE



Pte. C. Reed, of the C. Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, writing on July 15<sup>th</sup> to Mr Potter of Mammoth Street, Coalville, says he hopes that all are well. On June 19<sup>th</sup> he and Joe and a Pal were buried through a shell. *"We thought we were done, but we stuck to it. Well Dick, I can tell you we are in the place called the City of Hell and it is bombarded day and night. The towns all about here are smashed down to the ground. What with dead men and horses lying about etc., it is enough to kill anybody. This is murder, but I am going to do my best to kill some of the devils. I have killed a few already and hope to account for a few more."* He concludes by saying he would like to see his photo in the "Coalville Times."

### APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN

We have received the following letter:

*"Dear Sir, I now take the pleasure to write you a few lines, as it is the first time I have had the chance to write to you since we landed back in France, and we have this day sent some men up to dig some trenches. We are still at the back of the fighting line, training the men that came to fill the old places up. Well sir, to tell the truth I think it is a disgrace to see the young men walking about and us out here fighting for*

*them. They ought to be fetched, it would do them good. The good old woolly backs (Leicestershire Yeomanry) have got a good name for themselves. Sir John French gives us a good word and said that it showed them that the cavalry could do the work in the trenches as well as on horseback. So the cavalry is some use after all. He said we held our position well after being shelled for so long, but it is harder to fight in the trenches than it is to make a charge. We have got some good horses out here with us. I think we ought to be thankful for the way the people thought of us last winter. The money they sent to us was spent in milk*

and potatoes. We are fed very well considering the difficulties of transit. We had a day trying how to cross the canal when the bridge is blown up. We make a boat of the timbers to take the saddles across and the men, and we send the horses across on an endless rope worked by four men. Some swam across naked on the horses' backs and we drag the guns across. It is fine sport for us. We all hope that the war will soon be over. At the place we are at there is an old moat and some tunnels, all under the place. We have made a boat and have some fun with it till it is dark. Well sir, I think I have told you all this time. I remain, yours sincerely."

1753 L. Rowlinson  
C. Squad.

### **FIGHTING FOR OUR EXISTENCE**

Corporal E. Corah, aged 24, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry (well-known in Whitwick and district as a traveller), who was killed in action on May 13<sup>th</sup>, in one of his last letters to his parents at Swing Bridge House, Loughborough, said:

*"Remember me to all the friends, but I should rather have thought the young fellows would join some regiment before now. I'm sure I couldn't stay at home at a time like this because we are certainly fighting for our existence as a nation and that means our friends and homes as well. If the people of England could see the ruined homes and even whole villages laid bare to the ground as I have seen them, they would realise that this is no play but a terrible calamity, and should be the best of its kind while the world is in existence. We have even passed churchyards which have been shelled, with the tombstones all broken and the bodies torn from their resting place. Anyhow, after a storm comes a calm, so we must all hope for peace before long. I am in the best of health and hope you are the same."*

### **IBSTOCK MINER IN THE TRENCHES**

#### **SETS THE TIMBER IN THE DUG-OUTS**

Mrs Robertson, of Peat's Farm, Ibstock, has received an interesting letter dated June 29<sup>th</sup> from her son Joe at the front. He writes:

*"I got the parcel alright and thank you very much. I have written thanking the ladies of Ibstock. I cannot tell you where I am but it is a place bigger than Leicester. There was a big cathedral and I have been close to it, but it is now levelled to the ground. Even the cemetery is ploughed up and not a building is whole, yet they are shelling it. Nobody would believe the amount of shot and shell which is exchanged in a day, but they send the most. I have seen their shells dropping and there are clouds of dirt and bricks flying everywhere. A sniper is banging away at the sandbags over my head. . . . Did you read in the 'Coalville Times' of the death of Frank Martin? He came out with me, and we made arrangements that if anything happened to me or him we were to let each others wife know. One of our men picked up a German shell that had not gone off, but it then exploded and, my God, I cannot tell you how it served him. I was not many yards away. I thought of you till last Sunday. It was the wake, but not a very good wake for me. I had to bury a chap just about the time they were all down at our house. If you wake up the night any time you will know that your son is also awake and on the alert. I am pleased to know you talk so nice of my little children and I shall be proud of them if I return. We are fighting day and night and there are only twelve left that came out with me, so am I not going well? I think I have earned rest. We go out of the trenches on Saturday night and that will make us 18 days in. It is too long as this is the most terrible part of the British line. Did you read in the papers of the British advance the other day? I was not in it, but was close. I watched the bombardment and it was a grand sight. I am doing some good work here; it is pick and shovel all night long. The pit work has been very useful to me. The chaps ask me to set the timber in their dug-outs and I am pleased to do it for them."* He concludes by asking to be remembered to all his friends.

## **PATRIOTIC COALVILLE FAMILY**

### **FOUR SONS SERVING IN THE ARMY**

Mr and Mrs W. F. Bradshaw, of No. 5, Gutteridge Street, Coalville, have four sons serving in the army, a fact upon which they are to be heartily congratulated. The father, whose photograph we are pleased to publish with those of the boys, is employed at Messrs. Stableford's works, Coalville, where three of his soldier sons were formerly engaged, and all were popular with their workmates. They all have the best wishes of many friends for a safe return.

The eldest of the four is Sapper W. H. Bradshaw, who joined the Royal Engineers at Chatham, last March. He is 31 years of age, married, and formerly worked as a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford and Co.'s works and also at the Ellistown colliery.

A month ago, Driver C. E. Bradshaw joined the Royal Artillery, at Leicester, in which town he was up to then working as a baker. He is also married and is 27 years of age.

Corpl. G. F. Bradshaw was called up on August 4<sup>th</sup> with the Mounted Transport Brigade, but four months ago was transferred to the Ammunition Column of the Army Service Corps. He is a single man, 25 years of age, and before leaving Coalville to take up his military duties was a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford's works.

The youngest of the four brothers, Pte. A. C. Bradshaw, has seen some months' service at the front. He is 20 years of age and joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Territorials in Coalville, soon after the war broke out being one of the first fifty to leave the town. For over four months now he has been taking his turn with his comrades in the trenches. He also was a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford and Co.'s works before enlisting.

(Photographs of all four brothers and their father accompanied the article)

### **"COALVILLE TIMES" AT THE FRONT**

#### **THE MEANS OF A HAPPY MEETING OF COALVILLE LADS**

An interesting piece of news is contained in a recent letter home by Pte. P. Usherwood, of Coalville, one of the Leicestershire Territorials, now at the front. He writes:

*"I was surprised the other day when Edgar Goulson came to our hut enquiring after me. He is in a Scotch regiment and is going on quite well. We spent a jolly evening together. He had seen our names and photos in the "Coalville Times" so he set out to find us. He said we were the first Coalville boys he had seen since he returned to the front after being wounded. Of course, we soon got him amongst the Coalville boys. Also some of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters found us out. There are lots of Coalville boys among them and we saw Billy Eames out of James Street. I can tell you it was a meeting in a certain village in Belgium. There was not half some hand-shaking and smiles at meeting the old boys from our old town. What a meeting it will be if we all get back safe."*

#### **ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED**

*"Sir, I write to ask if you will please publish in your paper that my son, Private E. H. Butler, is officially reported killed. Unfortunately the news I received that he was wounded was not true and as I meet so many friends who ask me how he is, it is painful to have to tell them he has passed away. Yours truly."*

M. A. Butler  
72, Midland Road, Ellistown.  
July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

**Friday July 30<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1221)**



## **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 37<sup>th</sup> collection from 8 districts realised £4 8s 5d.

## **WEDDING AT COALVILLE**

The marriage took place yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at Christ Church, Coalville, of Miss Beatrice Marie Cockerill, youngest daughter of Mr J. Cockerill, of the Halfway House, Coalville, and Mr J. W. T. Robertson, now a gunner in the Howitzer Brigade, and formerly a police constable at Coalville. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. S. Hoskins (vicar). Local recruits in khaki formed a guard of honour at the church entrance.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a covert costume with a leghorn hat trimmed with a pink feather, and carried a pretty bouquet. The two chief bridesmaids were Misses Fanny and Margaret Robertson (sisters of the bridegroom) who were dressed in brown silk and hats to match and carried bouquets. There were also four little bridesmaids – Misses Elsie Robertson (sister of the bridegroom) Patty Green, Ethel Cockerill and Lottie Goacher (niece of the bride) who were all dressed in cream. Mr C. Robertson, also a gunner in the same regiment, acted as best man. The happy couple had a splendid lot of presents. After the ceremony a number of friends were entertained by the bride's parents at the Halfway House.

## **ABSENTEE**

Before Mr George Brown at the Ashby Police Court on Wednesday, Alfred Homer, a private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Dorset Battalion, stationed in Dorsetshire, was charged with being a deserter since July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sergt. Fox deposed to finding the accused at his father's house in Ashby and when asked what he had done with his uniform, he said he had returned it. Witness also said that Homer told him he wished to be transferred to the Notts and Derby Regiment. He was remanded to await an escort.

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## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Lance-Corpl. Harmer, a bandsman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, met with an accident at the Midland Railway Station on Saturday night, sustaining slight injuries to his head and bruised thigh. Harmer was returning from Bagworth, where he had attended a recruiting meeting, and was crossing the railway when the shunting engine knocked him down. He was subsequently removed to the Base Hospital, where he is making excellent progress. He has been residing with his sister at 29, Derwent Street, Leicester.

The membership returns of the Midland District Miners' Fatal Accident Relief Society for the March quarter show decreases of 11 at Coleorton Colliery, 94 at Donisthorpe Colliery, 410 at Moira Collieries, 14 at South Leicestershire Colliery. There was an increase of one from the Snibston Colliery. The decreases were attributed largely to many of the members having enlisted.

The following is a further list of eggs collected by Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick for wounded soldiers: Mr W. Farmer 20, Mr R. Besson 16, Mr R. Sharp 12, Mr G. Sheffield 12, Mr E. Wallam 8, Mr T. Ottey 8, Mr Palmer 8, Mr O. Burton 8, Mr G. Boam 8, Mr H. Underwood 10, Mrs Newbury 8, Mr H. Allgood 8, Mr Manstop 4, Mr J. W. Eagles 4, Mr H. Bastard 8, Mr T. Wyatt 8 and Mrs T. Hull 10. Previously acknowledged 1179.

Mrs Freer (widow), Charnwood Road, Shepshed, has four sons serving with the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester (Territorials) viz., Privates Arthur, George, Ernest and Leonard Freer. The first named three are at the front, and Leonard has also been and returned to England wounded, but is now out of hospital.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports having received during the last two weeks for the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the front, 37 packets of cigarettes, 4 loose and one cigar from Mr Higgins' box, 52 packets, 9 loose and 4 1/2d from the Coalville Liberal Club box, and two packets, 11 loose and 1s from the Coalville Conservative Club box.

Mrs J. J. Sharp, of Whitwick, has received letters of thanks for cigarettes sent, from J. Hancock (1<sup>st</sup> Coldstream Guards) and J. M. Eaton and L. Hutchby (5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters), local men at the front. They say that they were getting short when the cigarettes arrived and they were very much appreciated by the men.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That next Wednesday is the first anniversary of the war?

That Lieut. A. T. Sharp, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, has been gazetted captain?

That a memorial service for two old scholars – Ptes. J. G. Bennett and J. Clibbery – who have been killed in action, is to be held next Sunday evening at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church?

That the Postmaster General, Mr Herbert Samuel, speaking at Rochdale on Monday night, stated that the number of subscribers to the War Loan, through the Post Office, now exceeded one million?

### **ABSENTEES**

At the Coalville Police Court before Mr J. W. West, within the last few days, a number of soldiers have been charged with being absentees. They were Pte. Levi Robinson, of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters; Pte. Isaac Wright Bancroft, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters; Michael Roach, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves; Pte. J. A. Moul, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters. All were remanded to await an escort.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Mr and Mrs J. R. Bennett tend their sincere thanks to the many friends who have expressed sympathy with them in their sad bereavement by the loss of their elder son recently in the war.

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

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### **OAKS IN CHARNWOOD**

#### **CHURCH PARADE**

On Sunday morning the members of the Shepshed Volunteer Corps assembled in the Bull Ring, Shepshed, and under Commandant Thos. Bell paraded to the Oaks Church, where service was conducted by the Vicar, and in the course of the sermon, made reference to the European crisis and to the world-wide patriotism of the British. He gave the Shepshed V.T.C. a cordial welcome. The choir sang the anthem "O King of Kings" the solos being taken by Miss Holt (the Vicarage) and Mr Jonathan Parker (Shepshed).

### **MILITARY WEDDING AT HUGGLESCOTE**

#### **MISS LINDLEY AND PTE. ERIC YOUNG**

At the Hugglescote Parish Church yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, the marriage was solemnised of Miss Ida Lindley, eldest daughter of Mr Walter Lindley J.P., and Mrs Lindley, of Hollydene, Coalville, and Private Eric Young, of the University and Public Schools Brigade Royal Fusiliers, son of the Rev. John and Mrs Young, of Blore Rectory, near Ashbourne. In view of the local popularity of the parties and of the prominent position held by the bride's father in the public and commercial life of the district, the event occasioned a good deal of interest, and there was a large and fashionable congregation to witness the ceremony.

The bridegroom was formerly in Lloyds Bank at Coalville, whence he was removed to Burton and then to the Tamworth branch of the bank, a position which he has relinquished for the time being in order to serve his King and country. When at Coalville he took a great interest in the Boy Scout movement, being master of the local troop, the members of which yesterday, together with a number of local recruits in khaki, formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was becomingly attired in an ivory satin gown draped with lace and trimmed with seed pearls and she wore a Limerick lace veil and wreath of orange blossom and also carried a handsome shower bouquet. The two bridesmaids, Miss Doris Lindley (sister of the bride) and Miss Dolly Young (sister of the bridegroom), wore blue silk crepe dresses, trimmed with lace and ninon, their hats of white tulle being trimmed with feather daisies, and they carried bouquets of pink sweet peas.

The bride's mother was attired in a dress of elephant grey satin, trimmed with Duchesse lace and ninon, with a grey hat to match, and carried a bouquet of red roses. Mrs Young (mother of the bridegroom) wore a dress of black and silver grey satin brocade.

The Rev. John Young of Poulton (brother of the bridegroom) performed the ceremony; assisted by Canon Broughton, the Vicar of the parish. Pte. Cooper, of the same regiment as the bridegroom and who appeared in khaki, acted as best man.

Miss A. Howell, of Birmingham, aunt and grandmother of the bridegroom, officiated at the organ, and played suitable wedding music, including Mendelssohn's Wedding March at the close. During the service, the hymn, "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us," was sung.

The boy scouts gave the happy couple a hearty reception as they returned to Hollydene after the ceremony. There, in a large marquee, erected on the lawn, the bride's parents entertained to luncheon a good number of friends. The following were among the guests:

Dr. and Mrs Meredith, Mr and Mrs T. I. McCarthy, Mrs Eames, Mr and Mrs Cave (Leicester), Mr and Mrs A. I. White, Mr and Mrs R. J. Brown, Mrs W. Hurst, Mr and Mrs J. J. Sharp, Surgeon-Major and Mrs Burkitt, Canon Broughton, Mr and Mrs J. Husband, Mrs and Miss Drewett, the Misses. Powell, Mr and Mrs W. T. Williams, Mr and Mrs Collings, Mr E. and Miss Hawthorn, Mr and Mrs Liddle (London), Miss Jamie, Mr and Mrs W. N. Jones, Mr and Mrs M. McCarthy, Mr and Mrs F. T. Bellward, Mrs Bastard, Miss Lander, Dr. and Mrs Wykes, Miss Hall, Mr and Mrs H. Lager, Mr and Mrs Whitehouse (Mansfield), Mrs Young, Rev. J. Young (Poulton), Rev. M. Young, Miss Young, Mrs Barnon, the Misses. Howell, Mrs Howell (Ashbourne), Mr Brierley, Dr. and Mrs Blakesley (Leicester), Dr. and Mrs Sinclair (Ellistown), Dr. J. Archibald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. G. A. Davies, Miss Lindley, Mr W. Brown, and Mr and Mrs F. A. Price.

Having submitted the toast of the King, Mr Lindley proposed "The forces of the British Empire," in doing which he said they were all proud to be members of that Empire. (Cheers). The war had brought out the manhood and the womanhood of the nation. A few years ago people were talking about national decadence, but they had been deceived. What the British were doing would be a credit to any nation and compared favourably with what had been done by any nation in the past. So they should not despair, but take courage, have confidence in their army and navy, and looked forward to the future with faith in their revered ally, God, for assistance. The name of Surgeon-Major Burkitt, who has for several months been on active service in France, was coupled with the toast, which was well received.

Surgeon-Major Burkitt, in reply, said they had a right to be proud of their navy. It might appear to the casual observer that the navy had not been doing much, but it was due to the efforts of the navy that the company that afternoon were able to sit down and enjoy such a sumptuous repast as had been provided for them. (Cheers) But for the navy, the people in England today would have been starving. When the German navy showed itself in the open sea, he was quite sure that the British would give a good account of themselves. (Cheers) He could not say that they were top dog on the land the same as they were on the sea. He had seen the Germans, Belgians and English people fight and could unhesitatingly say that there was no soldier in the world equal to our Tommies. (Applause) But the Germans were an organised force and we were up against something the like of which was never known before, so it was up to every person in this country to do his bit. He considered it a disgrace that 75 per cent of our soldiers, who were now risking their lives on the battlefield were married men, when there were plenty of single men yet available. He did not think that the English people fully realised yet the titanic struggle we were engaged in. He had seen it and he knew that the Germans were trying their hardest to conquer, not France, but England. And if they saw the devastation where the Germans had conquered they would pray that the enemy might never reach this country. If the Germans conquered France, England would follow, and it was up to the manhood of the nation to prevent it. (Cheers) He was pleased to be there that day to witness the marriage of Pte. Young. It was a credit to him, (the bridegroom) to come forward as he had, prepared to risk his life for the sake of his country. (Cheers) It was all very well to sit at home in their easy chairs and say that all was well. All was not well. Everyone must

do his best. It was only by doing so that they would ultimately win, as he believed they would. He hoped the day was not far distant when we should be able to acclaim ourselves victors in this great struggle. (Cheers)

Canon Broughton submitted "The Health of the bride and bridegroom," congratulating them both heartily, and he said he hoped that Pte. Young would eventually return to a happy home and that he and his bride would long live happily together. (Applause).

Private Cooper jocularly responded to the toast of "The bridesmaids" proposed by Mr E. Hawthorn, and Mr J. M. Whitehouse submitted. "The host and hostess" to which Mr Lindley replied. The company were afterwards photographed on the lawn by Mr F. Ellis Mays, and after many congratulations, the happy couple left Coalville Station by the 6.35 pm train for Birmingham, en route for Llandudno, where the honeymoon is being spent. They were the recipients of a splendid lot of presents.

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### CADETS MARCH TO COLEORTON

The local company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, under the command of Lieut. C. Elliott, marched to Coleorton on Saturday. After drill in the Park the cadets were provided with tea at Coleorton Hall by Mrs F. Abel Smith.

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### M. P. STRUCK

### AT A LEICESTER "PEACE" MEETING

Mr Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., speaking at a meeting of the Union of Democratic Control (with which Mr J. R. Macdonald, M.P., is associated) at Leicester on Thursday night, was met with continuous interruptions, being called "Traitor" and "German" and told that he ought to be in the Tower.

Towards the end of his speech, a soldier went up to the platform, and asking, "Do you call yourself a man?", struck at Mr Ponsonby. The speaker and others put the man off the platform.

### ASHBY

### AN ABSENTEE

Alfred Bailey, a private of 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment was charged before Mr George Brown, on Monday with being an absentee from his regiment at Perham Down Camp since July 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was arrested by P.C. Holmes at his own house and remanded to await an escort.

### FROM THE RANKS

### FORMER SHEPSHED MEN GAZETTED

Wednesday's "London Gazette" was of special interest to Shepshed people from the fact that 3 local promotions were announced, namely:

Private Alexander Stanley Heffill, 23<sup>rd</sup> Service Battalion Royal Fusiliers, (First Sportsman's), brother of Mrs Bell, Brooklyn House, to be second-lieutenant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.

Sergt.-Major E. C. Rossell, 22<sup>nd</sup> Royal Fusiliers, Kensington, son of the late Sergt. Joseph Rossell, of Nottingham, and whose mother resides at Bridge Street, Shepshed, to be second-lieutenant in the Cheshire Regiment.

## ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION OF WAR.

## A GREAT Recruiting Rally

WILL BE HELD THROUGH THE DISTRICT  
From Saturday, July 31st, to  
Friday, August 6th.

When the following places will be visited by

## BAND, TROOPS AND SPEAKERS.

SATURDAY, JULY 31st.  
Coalville Picture Palaces (Olympia and Electric Theatres.)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st.  
Coalville, Newbold Verdon, Kirkby Mallory, Earl Shilton, Barwell, Hinckley,  
Burbage, Wolvey, Sharnford, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd.  
Coalville, Ravenstone, Ashby, Blackfordby, Woodhill, Moira, Orson, Nether-  
seal, Donasthorpe, Mountfann, Pocklington.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3rd.  
Nailstone, Carlton, Market Bosworth, Stanton, Hygham, Stoke Golding, Dad-  
lington, Sutton Cheney, Cadeby, Okeaston.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th.  
Hugglescote, Ellistown, Rustock, Heather, Swasey, Newton, Burgoon,  
Shackerstone, Congerstone, Barton, Okeston.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th.  
Whitwick, Thringstone, Pegg's Green, Worthington, Lount, Coleorton, Swan-  
nington, Coalville.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6th.  
Picture Palaces, Hinckley, Earl Shilton, Barwell.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7th.  
Picture Palace, Ashby.

Second-Lieut. J. H. H. Goodall, 5<sup>th</sup> Yorks and Lancaster Regiment, second son of the Rev. Canon Goodall, vicar of Rotherham, (former curate of Shepshed), and nephew of the Misses Goodall, of the Old Vicarage, Shepshed, to be lieutenant.

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## **SEPARATE ALLOWANCE FRAUD**

### **SOLDIER AND AGED MARKFIELD WIDOW CHARGED**

At Leicester, on Wednesday, before J. B. Everard, Esq., (in the chair), and A. Corah, Esq., a soldier named William Shelton (32), attached to the Army Service Corps, Whelbeck Camp, Worksop, and Elizabeth Morrison, (77), widow, Markfield, were jointly charged with obtaining £10 19s 11d, the monies of the Postmaster General under false pretences at Markfield, between 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1914, and January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr W. F. Wallace (Freer and Co) prosecuted on behalf of the Leicestershire Territorial Association, for the War Office, and mentioned that there had been a good many similar cases.

Captain O. W. H. Briggs identified the prisoner as the man who signed the separation allowance form. Canon Broughton, Vicar of Hugglescote, said he searched the registers of the parish of Hugglescote, but was not able to find any trace of the marriage of the prisoner Shelton.

Florence Mary West, wife of a Markfield farmer, stated that she was doing the work at Markfield Post Office between August, 1914, and March this year. She remembered the prisoner Morrison coming to the Post Office and signing forms and drawing certain moneys as separation allowance. She described herself as Ruth Shelton, wife of William Shelton. At the same time she received the moneys she signed a receipt. Later on, another woman came and claimed the allowance and signed a form.

The Rev. H. K. Bros, Vicar of Copt Oak, and Chaplain to the Leicestershire Yeomanry, stated that prisoner Morrison signed a "claim by defendant" form in his presence. P.S. Sanders said he visited prisoner Morrison, and she told him that the prisoner Shelton, lodged with her for 12 months previous to last August. She had known him from a boy. She admitted having received 12s or 12s 6d weekly from the War Office since August, including an allowance from Shelton, receiving the monies in the name of Shelton sometime about Christmas they had a bother and Shelton said he would not come again. He asked for his papers, and declared he would not let her have any more money. She signed the papers when she received the allowance at the Markfield Post Office. While she was ill another woman fetched the money for her. She was not the wife of Shelton.

Both prisoners pleaded guilty, Shelton said he had a bill sent in for the amount mentioned in the charge, and had paid off about £2. He was willing to pay back the whole of the money, and did not wish Morrison to get into trouble.

The Rev. H. K. Bros informed the Bench that he had known Morrison for about four years, and had found her honest and straightforward. Mr Wallace stated that the War Office intimated that they would not like the case pressed against the woman on account of her age.

The chairman said the Bench took a serious view in the case against Shelton, and but for the fact that he had been paying off some of the money fraudulently received from the War Office, he would have been more severely punished. He would have to go to prison for a month, with hard labour. As to Morrison, the offence she had committed was as bad as that of Shelton, and but for her age, she would have been sent to prison. She would be bound over in £5 to come up for judgement if called upon in twelve months.

## COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

### ANOTHER OF THE FIRST FIFTY

It is with much regret that we record the death of Private George Bennett, of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, who was killed in action on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. He was the eldest son of Mr Joseph R. Bennett, of Berrisford Street, Coalville, cashier at the Whitwick Colliery, one of the Coalville overseers and a former member of the Urban Council.

The sad news was conveyed in a letter dated July 23<sup>rd</sup> from the Territorial Forces Record Office, Lichfield, in which it was stated; *"It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of No. 2558, Pte. J. G. Bennett, of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, which occurred in the field on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council on your loss. The cause of death was wounds."*

Another letter received by Mr and Mrs Bennett is as follows:

*"The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."*

#### KITCHENER

Writing to his parents, Mr and Mrs Bradshaw, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, Pte. Cecil Bradshaw, a friend of the deceased in the same regiment says: *"I was pleased to hear of my pal, George Bennett. We heard here he was dead. I had been out with him sometime and we always shared together with our food and things. We were separated when we got to the trenches, but he asked the corporal to put him in the same place as me, which he did. Just as it was breaking day he got up to fire at a loop-hole (he was one of our best shots) and was taking aim for another shot when he was hit. I picked him up and did my best for him until they carried him away. The last I heard of him was that he was in hospital. Tell Mr and Mrs Bennett that all in the platoon miss George very much. He was a good chap and not a bit nervy."*

Apparently when writing this letter, Bradshaw was under the impression that the report that Bennett had died from his wounds was untrue.

Before joining the Territorials in August, Pte. Bennett was employed as a fitter at Messrs. Wootton Bros. Works and a nice letter has been written to his parents by Mr John Wootton, who says:

*"Dear Mr Bennett, - I am very sorry to learn of the sad loss you have sustained in the death of your son and I deeply sympathise with you all. While the lad was with us in our shops we found him a good boy and always attentive to his duties and hoped in the near future to see him return. You have the satisfaction of knowing that he did his duty here, and as a man and a soldier, and I trust you will be able to let this console you. Kindest regards to all, yours sincerely."*

John Wootton.

The deceased soldier spent his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday in trenches, being 20 years of



age on April 3<sup>rd</sup> last. He had been at the front for about 4 1/2 months, having left England for France at the end of February. He was one of the first fifty to leave Coalville for Luton at the end of October.

In his last letter home, dated July 11<sup>th</sup> – four days before he was killed – Pte Bennett said he hoped they were all well and continued, *"I am writing to say that we are off to the trenches in all probability tonight. I don't feel very well, but if I land up there all right I think I shall be better. Thanks very much for the parcel, but I don't feel like eating much at present. In fact, I have not eaten much for three days, but am beginning to feel much better. The reason I don't eat is not because I feel very bad, but I can't keep anything down. Anyhow, one can't always feel up to the mark, but it makes it rather bad as you have to get along just the same unless you are absolutely done. The weather is dull here, and generally fair. We are not far from the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters and I have seen several Coalville chaps – William Eames, Sam Allen, Tom Palmer, etc. I can't tell you more as it is post time. So remember me to all neighbours, give my love to the kiddies, and wish me best of luck."*

Pte. Bennett was an old scholar at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church and a member of the choir there.

## **SERVING KING AND COUNTRY**

### **THREE BARDON BROTHERS IN FORCES**

Mr George H. Grant, of No. 1, The Crescent, Bardon Hill, is the proud father of three sons serving their King and country.

One of the three, Driver H. Y. Grant, No. 1721, is at the front, being engaged with the transport there. He joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914.



Lance-Corpl. J. T. Grant, No. 12149, joined the new army on September 1<sup>st</sup> last and has since been in training, being still in England.

Also still in this country is Pte. R. W. Grant of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, which he joined on September 24<sup>th</sup>. All the men are well-known in the Bardon district and they have the best wishes of many friends in the patriotic work they have undertaken.

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

#### **WRITES CHEERFUL LETTERS HOME**

One of the first fifty Territorials, (5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters) to leave Coalville was Gunner John William Lowe, son of Mr Edward Lowe, of 35, Oxford Street, engine driver at the Whitwick Colliery. Lowe joined the



Territorials soon after the commencement of the war and in a short time was made a gunner. He was a pal of Ptes. Hart and Jewsbury, who have, unfortunately, been killed. Before joining the army he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery and was formerly in the Coalville Troop of Boy Scouts. He is 22 years of age. He has written several cheerful letters home, the last one being received on Thursday in last week, when he stated that he was 'in the pink'.

### **ANOTHER COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED**

The friends of Pte. Walter Gray, a Coalville man in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, have received news that he was killed in action at 9.15 last Friday night. Pte. Victor Woolley writes that Gray was blown up by a mine and at the time of writing his body had not been found.

Pte. Gray is a son of Mr Samuel Gray, of Margaret Street, Coalville, but before the war had been living for some time with his aunt, Mrs Gray, 183, Belvoir Road.

The death was officially confirmed in a letter received by Mrs Gray yesterday, dated July 27<sup>th</sup>, from Capt. J. G. Griffiths, who wrote: *"It is with much regret that I have to write to tell you of the loss of your son, Pte. W. Gray, on Friday last, when the enemy exploded a mine under our trench immediately where your son was. Every search has been made for him, but, unfortunately, we have been unable to find him and I am afraid he will not be found. We shall erect a cross to his memory at the spot where the explosion occurred. Your son was much liked by his officers and comrades and he was always a good and cheerful worker and he will be much missed by his company. Kindly accept my sympathy and also that of my whole company in your sad bereavement."*



### **KILLED IN ACTION**

#### **CORPL. W. E. CORAH, OF LOUGHBOROUGH**

Corpl. W. E. Corah, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action on May 13<sup>th</sup>. He went from Loughborough.

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **BY A BURSTING SHELL**

Mr John Clibbery, Midland Railway engine-driver, of Park Road, Coalville, has received the following letter from Capt. Mosse, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, dated 21<sup>st</sup> July:

*"I regret to have to tell you that last night the enemy burst a shell over our transport while taking rations to the trenches. Your son was amongst those hit. He was so severely wounded that he died as he was taken out of the ambulance into the hospital. It will, I hope, be some consolation to you to know that he suffered very little pain, as he was unconscious most of the time. He is buried in a military cemetery not far from here. He was always one of the most cheerful and hard working men, and exceedingly fond of his horses, both of which were killed with him. I understand that your son was married. Unfortunately I am unable to find Mrs Clibbery's address, so am unable to write to her. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your loss."*

The deceased, John Clibbery, who was called up as a reservist, was the elder of two sons serving at the front, and before the war worked at Ellistown Collieries. He was 27 years of age and married, with no family. His wife is living in Dover. Clibbery was well known at Wigston Barracks, where he was officers' mess servant before going out.



Mr Clibbery has had a letter from his other son, Ben (who has been erroneously reported killed) saying he was alright. Mr Ben Clibbery, writing from 'The Trenches,' under date July 21<sup>st</sup> to his father, asks him to bear up at the sad news, and says that Jack was hit in the neck and stomach, and lived only a few minutes, suffering no pain. *"The Germans were shelling some of our guns, and some of their shots going wide struck our transport, one or two men being killed outright, and Jack and some others wounded, as well as some horses killed. Jack was unconscious all the time. I have written to his wife to let her know the sad news. When we go out of the trenches I will find out where he is buried, and will let you know as soon as I can."*

#### **WHITWICK TROOPER IN HOSPITAL**

Trooper W. Adams, a Whitwick member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, who has been at the front, is now in Lord Derby's Hospital at Warrington, having been invalided home through sickness.

Trooper Adams, who is the only son of Mr W. Adams, saddler, Pares' Hill, was called up on August 4<sup>th</sup> and went to France in November, acting in the capacity of saddler to the C. Squadron. From hospital at Rouen he was sent to Warrington and was visited there a few days ago by his mother and father. Both were much impressed by the kindness and attention given to the sufferers in Lord Derby's Hospital. Everything possible is done and Mr and Mrs Adams think that the institution is deserving of great credit.