

Coalville Times At War

Friday June 4th 1915 (Issue 1213)

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COALVILLE SOLDIERS' COMFORTS GUILD

NEARLY 3,000 ARTICLES SENT OUT

We are informed by Mrs L. L. Baldwin, hon. secretary of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild, that up to May 20th, the Guild had sent gifts to no fewer than 814 men, all of whom had gone from the Coalville recruiting district, and of these, 72 have received a second supply of socks.

The total number of articles sent out, irrespective of supplies of tins of Vaseline, boracic powder, and insect pomade, is 2,915, made up of 559 mufflers, 604 pairs of mittens, 1,138 pairs of socks, 480 body belts, 133 sleeping helmets and 21 miscellaneous articles.

As may easily be imagined this has made inroads into the funds of the Guild, and with the advent of the hot weather, the requests for socks and shirts from our gallant lads at the Front are coming in every day. That the gifts are appreciated is shown by two letters recently received.

Writing on May 17th from France, J. Kinson says: "*The socks are just the things that are needed by me and my comrades during this hot weather and the powder is very handy and will be used very quickly by us all. Thanking you again for your kindness.*"

The other letter was from Pte. S. Moore, who says: "*Thanks for parcel which I received safely on Sunday morning after coming from the church service. The ointment and powder, and especially the socks, were just the things we wanted. Thank the Coalville ladies very much for being so kind to us.*"

These letters are only typical of over 300 others received from the Front and from camps and barracks all over the British Isles by the Guild.

The object of the Guild is to supply necessary comforts to the men who go from the Coalville recruiting district, wherever they may be, in order to show that those at home in comfort appreciate the self sacrifice of the brave boys who have answered their country's call. To enable the work to be continued more money is urgently needed.

The hon. treasurer is Mrs J. W. Farmer, Vaughan Street, Coalville.

COALVILLE RAILWAYMAN'S TWO SONS KILLED

LORD ABERCONWAY'S SYMPATHY

Mr Wm. Wesson, 108 Margaret Street, Coalville, employed as engine fitter at the Midland Railway locomotive sheds, Coalville, who has lost two sons, (Alfred and Harry, both sergeants in the Sherwood Foresters) in the war within two months – one in March and the other in May, has received the following letter from Lord Aberconway, the former member for the Bosworth Parliamentary Division, 49, Belgrave Square, London, 29th May, 1915.

Dear Mr Wesson,

I was very sorry to read in the papers the news that your son, Sergeant Geo. H. Wesson, has been killed in action. This following on the loss of his brother must be a great blow to you, but you ought to be proud that you had so many sons serving the country.

Like all your friends I sincerely trust that good fortune will follow your two other sons. Please convey to every member of your family, and to the young lady that he was to be married, my most sincere sympathy.

*Believe me,
Yours truly,
ABERCONWAY*

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MUST HAVE PLENTY OF WATER FOR BATHS

OUR GUESTS AT DONINGTON HALL

At a special meeting of the Castle Donington Council on Thursday, the chairman, (Mr J. G. Shields) said that the water supply at Donington Hall had been engaging the attention of the War Office authorities.

Inclusive of the British guard and the interned aliens who were acting as servants to the German officers, there were about 300 at the Park, and it was the intention of the War Office to bring a further contingent of German officers. There was ample accommodation for a further 300.

The daily consumption of water was from 6,000 to 7,000 gallons, but the War Office required a supply of 12,000 gallons per day. This would necessitate an additional demand upon the reservoir at Castle Donington. He thought the question as to whether the water should be supplied by Castle Donington or the Long Eaton water authorities was quite capable of a satisfactory settlement. The War Office did not mind at all which but the matter could not be delayed. The German officers used a great deal of water for bathing purposes.

The Clerk (Mr F. E. Burton) said that he had been negotiating with Long Eaton with a view to a settlement. The Council resolved to leave the matter with the chairman and clerk to arrange.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Pte. V. Lardner, of Ibstock, who wrote a letter recently published in this paper stating that he was to be confirmed on the battlefield by the Bishop of Peterborough wishes to say that he meant the Bishop of Pretoria, who, he says, is doing an excellent work at the front.

At a meeting of the Leicester Recruiting Committee, on Monday night, the Mayor made an interesting statement with respect to the formation of a Leicester Howitzer Brigade, nearly a thousand strong, which he hoped would remove the stigma now resting on the town.

Two hundred wounded and sick soldiers arrived in Leicester on Friday night. Since the 1st May about 1,630 soldiers have been brought to the town, and the Base Hospital is now practically full.

We regret to hear that Mrs Brunt, wife of Mr F. Brunt, chemist, of High Street, Coalville, has recently lost two brothers in the war. One was in the Royal Scots and the other in the 2nd Life Guards and they were both killed in action within three weeks of each other. Prior to the war both men were residing in Edinburgh.

Mrs L. L. Baldwin, secretary of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild, has received a letter dated May 30th from Pte. O. W. Lines, on behalf of the "Coalville Fifty," 5th Leicesters, stating that they are rather short of cigarettes, and as they are a great comfort while in the trenches they would be grateful if a few can be sent. They are very grateful for the clothing received and wish to thank the Guild very much.

Mr E. M. P. de Lisle, of Garendon Hall, near Loughborough, has placed his park at the disposal of the War Office free till the end of the war for camp purposes. The Leicestershire Yeomanry, in which Mr Eddie de Lisle is a lieutenant, the Lincolns, and Staffordshire Yeomanry are gradually going in. In addition to these, there are the North Midland Mounted and the Ambulance Brigades. Several houses in Loughborough have been let at good prices, and tradesmen are benefiting considerably.

Capt. Sir Geo. A. H. Beaumont, Bart., King's Royal Rifle Corps, who has been appointed a staff captain and attached to a headquarters unit, has served in the Rifles since 1901, when he was gazetted to them from the Militia. He served in the Mediterranean during the Boer War. The Beaumonts have been associated with Leicestershire since the latter end of the 16th century. The first holder of the baronetcy, Sir Thomas Beaumont, received the title from Oliver Cromwell, and King Charles II, subsequently conferred it again. The present baronet is the 11th holder of it, and succeeded his late father last year.

On Monday, Mr and Mrs J. H. Lacey, of Highfields Street, Coalville, received a postcard from their son, Pte. Harry Lacey, of the 2nd Leicesters, who has been wounded with a bullet in the left thigh stating that he was now in hospital in England.

Miss A. Redfern, of Ashby, some time ago organised a sewing party to make shirts for wounded Belgian soldiers on leaving the hospital and in acknowledgement of a box of shirts sent, she has received a letter from J. Navaux, of the Belgian Relief Fund, Milton House, 8 and 9 Chiswell Street, London, E.C., saying how delighted he was to receive the garments for distribution. They were included in a consignment of clothing being sent to Belgium in response to a further urgent appeal, and in the name of the distressed Belgians, the writer thanked Miss Redfern and all her helpers for their splendid gifts.

A further contingent of German officers, prisoners of war, arrived at Donington Hall on Tuesday. They were escorted from Castle Donington Station by a strong guard with fixed bayonets. The prisoners were not furnished with motor-cars on this occasion, but marched through the town with each officer carrying his own pack. Nearly all were in their uniform.

It is said that probably 100,000 homing pigeons will be destroyed in England in the next few weeks as a consequence of the Government's order not to race and not to allow flying of any kind.

Official sanction has been received for the formation of the 1st Cadet Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, and Colonel C. E. Yate, C.S.I., C.M.G., M.P., is hon. colonel, and Colonel Robert Harvey, V.D., D.L., colonel commanding. The Director of Education for Leicestershire, (Mr W. A. Brockington) is captain and adjutant, and Councillor Mantle Hubbard, as representing the borough of Leicester, captain and quartermaster. There are fourteen grammar schools in the borough and county concerned in the movement in addition to Ratcliffe College.

The following are the officers for the local, or C Company (Ashby-de-la-Zouch Grammar School, Coalville Grammar School, Market Bosworth Grammar School and Hinckley Grammar School). Charles Elliott, M.A., (Dublin); John Maurice Underwood, B.Sc., (Victoria) (three years Victoria University Officer's Training Corps); Lloyd Storr-Best, D.Litt, M.A., (Lond.); H. G. Evans, B.Sc., (Birmingham), B.A. (Oxon) (two years Oxford University Officer's Training Corps); George Edward Cunliffe, B.Sc., (Manchester) (two years Victoria University Officer's Training Corps); Gilbert Fraser, B.A., (Oxon); George Edwin Shervil-Coxhead, M.A., (Lond.) (Cambridge University School of Instruction); Reginald Meridith Carr, B.A., (Lond.) (Cambridge University School of Instruction).

Mrs J. J. Sharp informs us that the box she has placed outside the offices of Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster in Marlborough Square, Coalville, for the reception of cigarettes for the 5th Leicesters was stolen on Bank Holiday. The box contained one shilling in money and three packets of cigarettes. She is having four more boxes made to be placed in prominent parts of Coalville and we would point out that the 5th Leicesters are asking for cigarettes.

DO YOU KNOW

That nine members of the Hugglescote Albion Cricket Club are serving with the colours?

That recruiting for the Leicestershire Yeomanry has been so brisk that the regiment is practically at full strength again?

That at a meeting of Miners' Relief Societies in London on Tuesday, it was stated that 65,000 miners were serving with the colours?

That the war bonus to miners of 15 1/2 per cent, which was paid for the first time last week, in the case of Leicestershire is equal to 3s 1d on each £1 in wages?

That Harry Lauder's band is coming to the Coalville Olympia next Tuesday night in connection with the local recruiting campaign?

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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 the 29th collection from 10 districts realised £7 10s 5d.

POSTHUMOUS HONOUR FOR COALVILLE SOLDIER

LATE LIEUT. DOOLEY AWARDED THE D.C.M.

In an official list of honours – soldiers awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal – published yesterday, appeared the following:

Company Sergeant-Major T. Dooley, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for conspicuous gallantry and marked ability near Neuve Chapelle from 10th to 13th March, 1915. He showed great resource in the able handling of his men under heavy fire, and also in strengthening the positions captured from the enemy.

This refers to the late Lieut. T. Dooley, killed in action on May 1st, a few days after he had received his commission. He was a son of Mr T. Dooley, of Margaret Street, Coalville.

ELLISTOWN

Mr Harry Brown, hon. secretary of the Ellistown Patriotic Society, has received acknowledgments from soldiers who were recipients of a cigarette case and cigarettes sent by the society to Ellistown men serving with the forces. Privates J. E. Emmerson, son of the manager of Ellistown Collieries, writing from "somewhere in Belgium," says: "*We are constantly assured and reminded of the good work you are all doing for us who have come out here to fight for good old England, and we pray that if we are spared to return we shall be a credit to Ellistown and district.*" Other acknowledgments were from J. W. Wheatley, A. Belcher and Private W. Cross.

CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

It is very gratifying to see the large number of the men of the 3rd, 5th Leicesters now training at Coalville who are availing themselves of the opportunity of learning to shoot at the magnificent miniature rifle range attached to the headquarters of the Coalville Citizens Corps, Mantle Lane. All men who join this battalion are made honorary members of the Beaumont Rifle Club, and are invited to use the range. During the past fortnight the Citizens have been shooting for their proficiency badges, the qualification for which entails attendance at not less than 40 drills, and be equal to second class shots. The qualification for shooting distinctions are:

	Deliberate Fire	Rapid Fire (10 shots in 100 seconds)
For Marksmen	95 per cent	90 per cent
First Class	90 per cent	85 per cent
Second Class	85 per cent	80 per cent

During the fortnight the following cards have been returned, and those starred are now entitled to their Proficiency Badges.

	Deliberate	Rapid
E. Fisher *	99	89
J. S. Turner *	97	89
H. Goodwin *	94	84

C. Devonshire *	92	87
L. L. Baldwin *	91	81
D. Hooper	98	--
A. W. Clarke	90	--
E. Holmes	90	--
C. Bailey	88	--
H. Swanwick	88	--

Mr T. Lashmore and Mr C. W. Gutteridge have previously obtained their right to wear Proficiency Badges on active service. The range is open every evening except Saturdays and it is hoped that many more members of the corps will avail themselves of the great advantage so easily within their reach and soon obtain their right to wear the badge.

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FALLEN LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMAN

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WHITWICK

There was a crowded congregation at the Whitwick Wesleyan Church on Sunday morning when a memorial service for the late Trooper G. Barker, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry was held. The members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps and the Whitwick Boy Scouts marched to the church, headed by the Whitwick Holy Cross Band. The Rev. T. Cottam, of Coalville, delivered an appropriate address and suitable hymns were sung. The organist, Mr J. West, played the Dead March, and one of the Boy Scouts sounded "The Last Post." Trooper G. Barker was a son of Mr A. Barker, of Onebarrow Lodge, a former local preacher and prominent member of the Wesleyan body.

SERVICE AT MARKFIELD

At the Parish Church, Markfield, Sunday evening, a memorial service was held for Trooper Harry Spence, of C Squadron, Leicestershire Yeomanry, who fell in action on May 13th. On the altar was placed a wreath of laurels.

Preaching to a large congregation from the text, "No man hath greater love than that a man lay down his life for his friends," the Rev. H. Chambers said he considered that service unique inasmuch as he believed it was the first service to be held in that church in memory of one belonging to the village who had died for his country. He thought the people of Leicestershire ought to be proud of the achievements of the regiments belonging to the county. They had made a name for themselves that would live in history. The brave men who had gone forth to fight the organised brutality – more terrible than they at home could imagine – were, in his opinion, fighting for the cause of Christianity, and therefore for the church. Surely then, the people belonging to the church should hold in reverence the memory of those who fell, for dying in a cause so sacred they were as blessed martyrs for their country and faith. While they thought of the one in memory of whom they were holding that service, as a healthy young man, a general favourite of the village, such as they knew him, he would like them to remember him as one who had made the greatest of all sacrifices for his country, that of giving his life; and although his grave may be unknown, save, perhaps, for a small wooden cross, he (the preacher) thought he was buried in a land consecrated by the blood of the thousands who had fallen fighting against the wicked brutality of the enemy. He pleaded with the congregation to remember that our brave soldiers were fighting and giving their lives so that we as a country might live; therefore those at home could not do too much for these brave men.

During the service the organist, Mr Dilks, played the 'Dead March.' The hymns, "Peace, perfect Peace," and "Fight the good fight" were sung, and also Psalms 89, 90 and 130. At the close the National Anthem was sung.

FALLEN YEOMEN

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT LEICESTER

A memorial service for the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of Leicestershire Yeomanry who fell in action near Ypres on May 13th was held at St. Martin's Church, Leicester, on Friday afternoon, in the presence of a very large congregation including many representatives of county families.

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Bishop of Leicester, Canon Blakeney (Melton Mowbray), and the Rev. H. K. Bros, Chaplain of the regiment, took part in the service. The last named gave an address outlining the bravery displayed by the Leicestershire Yeomanry in the fight, and spoke of the unselfishness and devotion to duty of Colonel the Hon. Evans Freke, who was killed.

A special order of service was used, and at the close the trumpeters of the regiment sounded the "Last Post."

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CITIZENS AT THE ALTONS

INTERESTING FIELD DAY

"The country is not yet free from the danger of invasion, and it is the duty of every man of non-military age to join one of the volunteer training corps." General Sir O'Moore Creath, V.C., Leeds, May 24th.

On Whit Monday the Citizen Corps of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville, Hugglescote, Whitwick and Woodville held another most successful field day, the manoeuvres taking place on the ground between The Altons and Normanton Woods, which, it was found, lent itself most admirably to the work in hand.

The Coalville and Whitwick Corps fell in at the headquarters of Coalville, under the orders of Platoon Commander Farmer, and headed by the Coalville Coronation Band, marched out some 70 strong at 10.15 am.

One could not but notice, as the corps swung along with rifles at the slope, the really soldierly bearing of the whole body, which bore eloquent testimony to the benefit which each man has derived from the training. If the local corps may be taken as a criterion of the million or more other men who are receiving similar training, there is no doubt that any enemy who regarded them as a negligible quantity would be made to realise his mistake, and before long the Government will doubtless make extensive calls on their services for one purpose or another. It, therefore, behoves every able man of non-military age to act up to the Scout's motto "Be Prepared."

The Coalville Corps arrived at the Altons and found the Ashby and Woodville Corps under the orders of Company Commanders, German and Riley respectively awaiting them. Hugglescote, under Company Commander Woods, arrived a few minutes later, with their machine gun sections, followed immediately by the motor transport and commissariat in charge of Citizens C and G Coleman, thus completing a parade of some 200 men, of which Commander C. W. H. Gutteridge, of the Coalville Corps, took command. After formal salutes, the parade marched to the manoeuvring ground, kindly lent for the occasion, and the serious business of the day commenced.

In the morning, two hours were well spent in company drill. Considering that very few of those present had had any military training prior to the formation of the Citizen Corps, and that this was the first occasion on which the units had taken part in combined drill, they acquitted themselves remarkably well. The afternoon was devoted to field practice. A defending force, Ashby and Woodville under Commandants German and Riley, occupied a strong position which was attacked by Coalville and Hugglescote Corps under the direction of Commandant Woods. Two strong flank attacks were gallantly repulsed by the defenders, but later when a well-directed frontal attack, supported by artillery developed, the flankers were able to get to work again, and

by enfilading fire from rifles and machine-guns, drove the defenders back and eventually took the position at the point of the bayonet.

In the hand to hand fighting, and more especially in the long range firing, it was at times difficult to make some of the men who were energetically charging up or down a hill, or very steadily scouting realise that they were actually dead, and, therefore, not capable of bayoneting the enemy, but the practised eye of Commandant Gutteridge who was acting as umpire, decided in favour of the attackers on the main issue.

Although the whole day's work was of serious intent, the social side was by no means neglected, and no happier gathering could be imagined than when, after about one hour's march and two hours drill in the brilliant sunshine, the men were dismissed and squatted in groups in the spinney adjoining the drill ground with "pocket rations" and drinkables, generously provided by Citizens C and G Coleman. Never was banquet more enjoyed, or meal more truly earned.

At the conclusion of the afternoon's battle and the roll call showed that no one had been mortally killed and that the wounded had all recovered, the opposing armies 'swapped fags' and, headed by the band, marched to 'The Altons' where Mrs H. W. Joyce graciously presided over the tea which she had provided in the grounds.

After tea, votes of thanks were passed to Mr and Mrs Joyce, Mr George Orchard, Mr A. J. Betts and Mr and Mrs Hatton for the great assistance they had given in various ways to make the day such a great success. The various detachments then marched home to their centres, feeling well satisfied with the way they had spent the day, and everyone expressing the hope that the next field day would not long be delayed.

RESCUED FROM THE NORTH SEA

GERMAN AIRMAN SENT TO DONINGTON HALL

The two German aviators who were rescued from the North Sea by British destroyers and brought into Harwich on Tuesday, left Harwich on Thursday. The officer went to Donington Hall, and the mechanic to Frimley.

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COALVILLE MAN NEAR THE DARDANELLES

THANKS COALVILLE LADIES FOR GIFTS

Writing to the editor of this paper, Driver Frank Taberner, of the Motor Transport, A.S.C., Mediterranean Expeditionary Force says:

"Dear Sir, Please allow me through your paper, to acknowledge with thanks the parcel just received from the ladies of Coalville. We are having a very busy time out here, conveying all kinds of provisions to and from the docks. There are two drivers to a lorry, and the roads being very bad, you have had sufficient by the time you get back at night.

There is only one other fellow from Coalville in my company, and I have never seen any of the other Coalville boys as yet; have met one or two Leicester boys I knew. A photograph of our convoy appeared in the "Sphere" April 17th, but we are not in France as that made us out to be. We take our own workshops about with us, in case of a breakdown. They are fitted up with a small engine, lathe, drilling machines, and a forge. There are two fitters to each workshop.

It is a fine sight to see us going along 300 lorries accompanied by several motor cyclists to show us the way. I cannot tell you where I am, but it is two days sail from the Dardanelles, and I expect to be going there any time. Again, thanking the ladies of Coalville – I remain, yours truly."

Driver Frank Taverner

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER WOUNDED

AFTER BEING AT THE FRONT SINCE AUGUST

Pte. James Smith, the Coalville Town footballer, popularly known as "Smosh," is now staying with his brother in Ashby Road, Coalville, on sick leave. He has been serving at the front in the R.A.M.C. since August 12th and was wounded in the battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 10th the same day that two or three Coalville soldiers fell. Smith was going towards the firing line to bring in a wounded grenadier when he was struck on the left leg with a piece of shrapnel. He fell near a house which the Germans were bombarding at the time and as he lay on the ground the gable of the house gave way under the fire and portions of the brickwork fell on him. He was for some time in hospital at Liverpool and has now come to Coalville to recuperate. He is returning to Aldershot this week.

Asked by our reporter whether he had seen any of the Coalville lads out there, Smith said the only one he saw was Herbert Gardner, who was attached to the 10th Hussars. He came across him quite unexpectedly one day. Smith has had some thrilling experiences. They are beyond words. He says he has seen more than he ever expected to or wants to see again. He thinks the war will last a long time yet but says the Allied armies are now on the top side of the enemy and are making progress.

LOCAL SOLDIER PROMOTED

RECOMMENDED FOR D.C.M.

Mr W. Brown, of Burton-on-Trent, dentist, who attends Coalville (Mrs Geary's, Hotel Street) every Friday, has received an interesting letter from a friend of his, Sergt. E. Battle of the 18th Hussars in France.

Having expressed thanks for letter and parcel and says: *"On May 13th, we had a terrible time losing over two hundred. It was hell let loose with a vengeance. All the cavalry caught it, especially the Leicestershire Yeomanry. You will be pleased to hear that I am Sergeant now and am also recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. What we want is plenty of big ammunition to smarten them up a bit. The other day I'll bet they have sent two thousand shells over our trenches. It was one continual explosion. One of our fellows went mad. I could never explain it to anyone. The people in England don't realise it. Roll on when it is all over. It is Whit Sunday today and we have been at it nearly ten months now."*

The promotion of this soldier to Sergeant, referred to in the letter, is the second he has received since the battle of Neuve Chapelle.

WOUNDED IN EGYPT

CHEERY LETTERS FROM A COALVILLE SOLDIER

Writing to Mrs Hornbuckle, of 78, Albert Street, Coalville, Pte. Frank Cooper, No. F. 1601, Armoured Cars R.N.A.S., says that he is lying in the Citadel Hospital, Cairo, Egypt, wounded in the side by shrapnel, but he is getting on alright up to the present. He adds, *"But I must keep smiling, as they have not killed me yet and I'll watch they don't if I can help it. Tell Joe I'll bring him something from Egypt when I come home. Kindest regards to all and hope to see you soon. Will you pass this on to the Rev. S. Hosking and the people I know? I have written to Mr Stinson. I cannot sit up to write long, so good-bye for the present. Hope to hear from you soon."*

In a letter dated May 16th Cooper says, *"I went under the operation for the extraction of the bullet on May 12th and am doing as well as can be expected. Hope to be home soon. How is work at the pit now, slack I suppose. The time here is two hours behind yours. When it is 8 o'clock in England it is 6 o'clock here, but I don't count time much lying here. It is a painful job, but I must make the best of it I suppose. Hope to hear from you soon. I have had no letters since I left England; they must have gone astray. I hope to get some now I am in hospital. When you write, put 'Please Forward' on the envelope as I may get shifted to a convalescent home later."*

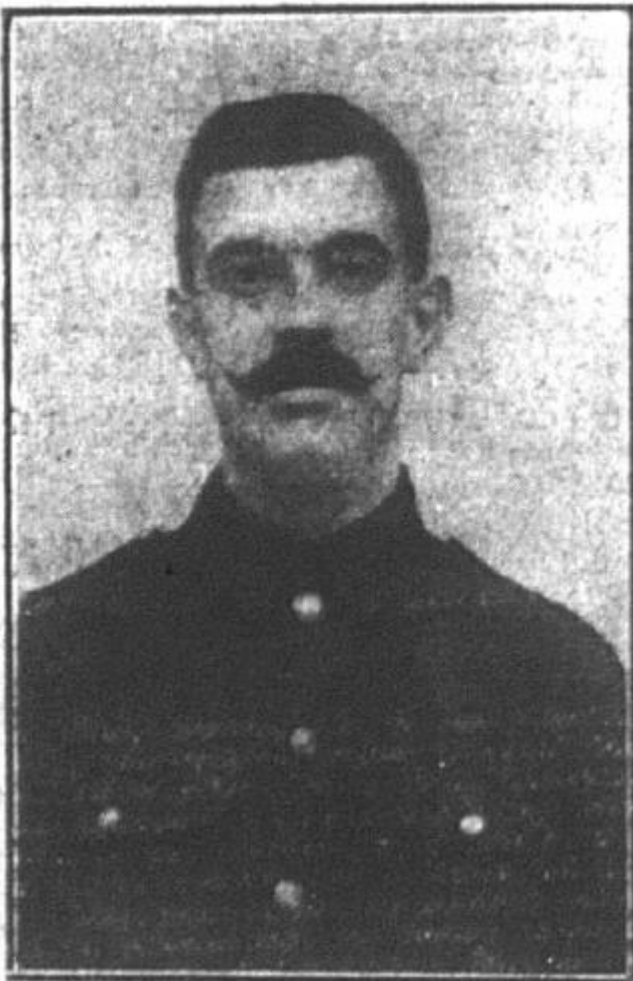
HUGGLESCOTE

The late Pte. C. T. Beadman. – At the morning service at Hugglescote Parish Church on Sunday, Canon Broughton in the course of his sermon made touching reference to the death of Pte. Cecil T. Beadman, a Hugglescote member of the Leicestershire Territorials, recently killed in action. Beadman, who was a former member of the choir, had, the preacher said, lived a good life, one worthy of being followed, and now he had died a glorious death in the service of his King and country. Suitable hymns were sung and the organist (Miss Wells) at the close of the service played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile.

WHITWICK SOLDIER'S RAPID PROMOTION

A YOUNG QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT

We are pleased to hear of the rapid promotion of a Whitwick soldier, Co-Quartermaster Sergt. E. Roughton, of the 8th battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, whose home is at St. Andrew's Lodge, near the Monastery. In a recent letter to his mother he announces his promotion to Quartermaster. He is still in England but is expecting to go away soon, though he hopes to pay a visit home first.



COALVILLE SAILOR WOUNDED

IN THE DARDANELLES BOMBARDMENT

A letter received from the Record Office of the Royal Naval Division states that Pte. Joseph Gregory Thompson, who was serving in the Portsmouth battalion, with the Royal Marine Brigade of the R.N. Division, was wounded in action near the Dardanelles on May 14th.

Thompson is the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thompson of the Registry Office, Belvoir Road, Coalville, and the letter referred to has been received by his wife who is staying with them, but whose home is at 36, York Road, Shirebrook. Before the war,

Thompson was a prominent member of the Shirebrook St. John Ambulance Division.



ELLISTOWN SAILOR LOST

WENT DOWN IN THE "GOLIATH"

Our photo is that of a gallant Ellistown sailor, Wilfred Pepper, who was one of the crew of the "Goliath," unfortunately sunk on May 13th in the Dardanelles. His home was at Whitehill, Ellistown.

GERMAN AEROPLANE BROUGHT DOWN

WHAT A COLEORTON SOLDIER SAW

Pte. Charles Fairbrother, of the 5th Leicestershire Regiment, writing to his parents, Mr and Mrs Joseph Fairbrother, Fishpond Row, Coleorton, on May 13th, says he is quite well and happy and hopes all are the same at home. He continues: "*We have just come out of the trenches again for a short rest. It has started raining again this morning, but we have had some beautiful weather. I saw Tom this morning and he said he was alright. While we were in the trenches last time I saw one of our airmen bring down a German aeroplane and you should have heard the troops cheer all the way along the trenches. The Germans tried to get*

their own back by shelling us at night, but luckily no one was hurt. I and eight or nine out of our platoon had a nice job ironing shirts and things this morning at the laundry, where they wash all the clothes of the troops. Must close now, with love to all."

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COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

Lads between 15 and 18 are invited to join the Junior Section. Now juniors show willing and make yourselves ready to do your full duty when you are old enough. The uniform question is well afoot. It is hoped within a few days to provide all regular attending members with caps and belts. Full uniform is on order and in a few weeks' time as many as possible efficient members will be equipped.

First officiates will be first equipped. To become efficient and to qualify for uniform members must have put in 40 drills and have passed the shooting test. The latter may be done either on the indoor or outdoor range. The outdoor range at Sinope is now open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Take advantage of the fine weather. A series of competitions have been arranged, particulars next week.

In the meantime a competition is held on Tuesday evenings indoor range. Last week, winners were Messrs. J. Stenson Turner and A.C.B. O'Leary. During the week several members have been successful at the "butts" and quite a number are well on the way for obtaining the Proficiency Badge, and we hope soon to double our present number who have passed the test. The following test cards have been registered this week.

	Deliberate per cent	Rapid per cent
A. W. Clarke	90	85
George H. Hurst	88	--
J. W. Haywood	89	--

A Qualified 1st class shot and to wear Proficiency Badge. On Sunday 6th the local Corps spent a good day. The Coalville Corps marched to the Oaks Church where the Rev. A. Holt preached a most appropriate and stirring sermon. The weather was delightful, the marching warm and the thirsty souls much appreciated a

short halt and even look at the closed doors of the "Forest Rock." After the service, the Whitwick Corps who had been to service at the Monastery joined the Coalville men and the whole headed by the Scouts' Bugle Band proceeded to High Tor Farm. Pocket rations were disposed of and after a rest of nearly an hour the combined companies were drilled until 3.15 by Commander Gutteridge.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Lieut. the Hon. F. S. McLaren, M.P., for the Spalding Division, who is on active service, has sustained a loss in the death of his friend, Lieut. the Hon. A. G. Coke, R.N.V.R., second son of the Earl of Leicester, who was killed by his side in the trenches. Lieut. Coke leaves a young widow. Three of Lieut. McLaren's brother officers have also been wounded.

The many friends of Mr Herbert Pochin, president of the Leicestershire Adult School Union, will be interested to know that his two sons, Roy and Eric, of the 4th battalion Leicestershire Regiment, have been granted commissions. They arrived home from the front on Saturday.

The Coalville company of Territorials, 5th Leicesters, who have been stationed here for some weeks and were a little over a hundred strong, left the town on Monday morning for another training centre. They formed up in Marlborough Square and were given a hearty send-off by a good number of spectators. The men looked very smart and had evidently been improved greatly by their drill.

This week, twelve young police constables, all single, from the Market Bosworth Petty Sessional Division, signified their willingness to join the army service corps and 9 of them left for Handsworth near Birmingham for that object yesterday. The other 3, P.C.'s Sreaton (Bagworth), Baker (Ibstock) and Collingwood (Hinckley) were asked by the chief constable to go back to their respective stations, as it would be difficult to replace them. Five of the men are from the town of Hinckley.

Writing in the current issue of the "Whitwick Parish Magazine," the Vicar (the Rev. T. W. Walters) pays a tribute to the Leicestershire Yeomanry for their gallantry on Ascension Day. He says, *"Those men of Leicestershire, many of them from our own neighbourhood fought and died like heroes. Our nation's story in all times, and especially in these later days, contains many a record of wonderful deeds performed with thrilling bravery, but not one of them can show a finer spirit of self-sacrifice for honour, King and for country; or a grander determination to fight as heroes than the story of those men of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. Their splendid fight has covered their own names and that of their Regiment with imperishable glory. We sympathise deeply with those of our parish and neighbourhood who are mourning after their dear ones who are now peacefully sleeping their last sleep, still in a trench on that distant battlefield, and we give thanks to Almighty God for sparing the lives of some whom we of Whitwick know well. May he continue to keep them in his safe keeping."*

There is a curious tinge of fatalism in some of our soldiers. Corporal Fuller, V.C., who captured fifty Germans single handed, says he believes *"if your name is on a piece of bullet or shell, you will get it: if not you will come through all right."* This superstition is more common than is generally supposed. Another man at the front, a Lincoln Territorial, also expressed the opinion that if *"a bullet is docketed with your name and number, you'll get it."* This doctrine of an irresistible and unavoidable fate, over-ruling all things, as quite Oriental, but it doubtless helps to eradicate the fear of death. In any case, whether they are fatalists or not, our soldiers are as brave as the bravest. The record of the war are full of deeds of heroism such as have never been surpassed. Some extraordinary achievements are mentioned in the last list of heroes awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. They stir the emotions, and should inspire every young man who has not enlisted to offer himself in his country's cause. They owe it to themselves and their motherland to "fall in" without delay.

New regulations as to the keeping of homer pigeons have cancelled all previous registrations have cancelled all previous registrations are having to be made with the police. The new law forbids the liberation of any pigeons away from their own loft and pigeons being carried by anyone are liable to seizure. There are many fanciers in this district and the local police are having quite a busy time.

The funds of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium now amount to over £420,000. Subscriptions are urgently needed to keep the 1,500,000 destitute people in Belgium alive.

A letter has been received by Mrs M Jebbett, of Bagworth, signed by 21 soldiers in the Rogers Ward of the Leicester Royal Infirmary thanking the ladies of Bagworth for cakes, which they enjoyed very much.

Mrs J. J. Sharp has had boxes placed at the Coalville Conservative and Liberal Clubs and at Mr W. Higgins' shop in High Street, for the reception of cigarettes for the 5th Leicesters at the front.

DO YOU KNOW

That P.C. Barker, of Ibstock, has 3 brothers serving in His Majesty's forces?

That during last week 86 recruits for the new army were obtained at Burton-on-Trent, the largest number for several months?

That Harry Lauder's band of pipers will play at a recruiting meeting in the Coalville Market Place tonight (Friday)?

That about 120 fine looking horses and men of the Staffordshire Yeomanry passed through Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Saturday morning, on their way to camp?

That all the soldier's letters which appear in this journal week by week are passed by the Censor at the Press Bureau in London before publication?

That at a meeting of the Leicestershire Automobile Club on Monday evening it was reported that the veto of the military authorities having been withdrawn, two motor outings for wounded soldiers in the country had been arranged?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in conjunction with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 30th collection from 7 districts realised £6 10s 3d.

ABSENTEE

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Tuesday, Lance-Sergt. Gough was charged with being an absentee from his regiment, the 2nd 5th Leicesters. P.C. Jelley deposed to arresting him at his home in Thringstone, and Gough was remanded to await an escort from Luton which arrived later in the day.

DESFORD

CONCERT TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS

On Thursday evening a concert was given to the wounded soldiers at the Convalescent Home, about 50 being present. Mr S. K. Millor presided, and the programme was as follows: Pianoforte solo, Mr Walter Grewcock; song, "Little Grey Home in the West," Mr P. Wiggington; song, "In Memory," Miss Beatrice Wells; duet, "Lively Tenor and Melancholy Bass," Messrs. Hibbert and Cubley; song, "Thorn of Roses," Miss Rayns; song, "Nirvana," Mr G. Munton; song, "Sophy's Sweethearts," Mr S. L. Jordan; quartette, "The Battle Eve," Miss Wells, Miss Rayns, Messrs. Munton and Wiggington; song, "Moya My Girl," Mr Hibbert; song, "Voila," Mr S. L. Jordan; duet, "Tenor and Baritone," Messrs. Hibbert and Cubley; duet, "Awake," Miss Wells and Rayns; song, "When you Come Home," Mr Wiggington; song, "Potty," Mr Jordan; duet, "The Ballad Singers," Messrs. Hibbert and Cubley. The concert was greatly enjoyed by all present.

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LEICESTER'S V.C. HERO

PRIVATE BUCKINGHAM RECEIVED BY THE KING

The King, on Friday, conferred the Victoria Cross upon Corporal William Fuller, of the Grenadier Guards, and Private W. Buckingham of the Leicestershire Regiment.

Private Buckingham, a Leicester man, who it will be recalled spent his boyhood at the Countesthorpe Homes, won his V.C. for conspicuous acts of bravery and devotion to duty in rescuing and rendering aid to the wounded whilst exposed to heavy fire, especially at Neuve Chapelle, on the 10th and 12th of March.

Fuller, who formerly worked as a miner and belongs to Mansfield, won his award for conspicuous bravery at Neuve Chapelle on March 12th. Seeing a party of the enemy endeavouring to escape along a communication trench, he ran towards them and killed the leading man with a bomb. The remainder, numbering nearly fifty, finding no means of evading his bombs, surrendered to him. Corporal Fuller was alone at the time.

WELCOME TO COUNTESTHORPE

Great enthusiasm prevailed at Countesthorpe on the occasion of the return of Private Buckingham, V.C., after receiving the Victoria Cross from the King. On Wednesday a telegram informed him that he was to appear before his Majesty on Friday for the decoration so nobly won. Throughout the life at the Homes proceeded as usual, but as evening approached it was evident an ovation was awaiting the hero. He was expected to arrive at the station about 8 o'clock, and accomplished by the band, under the conductorship of Mr Moore, about 120 children, boys and girls of the Homes, formed a guard of honour to greet their "big brother," as they have come to regard him. As the train drew up to the platform the youngsters were evidently the first to see that their hero had got back, and they gave vent to lusty cheering that must have been heard at the village a mile away, while the band struck up "See the Conquering Hero Comes."

As Buckingham passed along the platform, accompanied by Mr and Mrs Harrison, and when the simple bronze medal was seen on his breast, as attached by the King, the large crowd which had gathered took up the cheering. Back to the old home, of which he thinks so much, they led the way, followed by the band and the children. There was just a touch of simple humour in the proceedings when one of the children innocently inquired what the King would say if he lost the cross. All at the Homes hope that Buckingham may live long to enjoy the honour so deservedly won.

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LEICESTER RECRUITING

A large number of men have made application to join the 176th (Leicester) R.F.A. Howitzer Brigade which is now being formed. Colonel Croker is the commanding officer, and the headquarters are at the Leicester Rugby Football Club, at Aylestone Road. Mr A. Orchin, the secretary of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee, has received an acknowledgement from Lord Kitchener and the Prime Minister, through their secretaries, of the resolution of confidence in the War Minister passed by the Recruiting Committee.

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FORMER COALVILLE POLICEMAN

POSTED AS MISSING

The wife of P.C. Page, who is now residing with her parents, Mr and Mrs Taberner, in Jackson Street, Coalville, has received notice from the War Office that her husband has been missing since May 16th, following a battle at _____. It was pointed out that this does not necessarily mean that he has been killed or wounded, but he may have been taken prisoner, or have joined some other regiment. If any information concerning his whereabouts is received it will be at once sent on.



Pte. C. Page was formerly a police constable residing at Highfields, Coalville, for about two and a half years, after which he was moved to Enderby where he has been for about four months when war broke out. He was called up on August 5th as a reservist of the Worcestershire Regiment and has been at the front several months. A field postcard dated May 15th was recently received by Mrs Page from her husband, stating he was well and on May 17th she sent him a parcel which has now been returned.



BED IN A WAGGON

COALVILLE SOLDIER THINKS IT A PALACE

Writing to his father and mother, residents of Margaret Street, Coalville, Pte. George Wilkinson, at the front, says he is in the best of health. He continues, *"We are out of the trenches, about five miles away, but we are close enough to hear the big guns banging. We are billeted at a farm house and my bed is in a wagon, but it is quite comfortable with plenty of straw in and a cover over the top – quite a little palace. I don't know how long we are staying here, but probably for a week. I had a look at the 'Coalville Times' this afternoon and read all about the parade. I was glad to see that it was nice and fine for it."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER LUCKY

"THANK GOD I AM ALIVE"

Writing on Whit-Monday, from "somewhere in France" to his parents, Mr and Mrs J. Willett, of Ivy Dene Cottage, Highfields, Coalville, Pte. T. W. Willett, of the 2nd Leicesters says he is quite well and continues:

"We have just come out of the trenches for a rest and we need it. I am feeling a lot better now after a good bath, a swim and a clean change of clothing. I got the 'Coalville Times' while in the trenches. We were there six Sundays altogether. You don't know one day from another here. Whitsuntide makes no difference; the fighting has to be done just the same. We are giving the Germans "sock" now and I don't think it will last much longer, I hope not anyhow. I've had quite enough of it. I think we shall soon have a good rest now and we've earned it. I have seen something of the war this last week or two and thank God I am alive. I lost two of my pals by my side and I've been very lucky not to be hit. I am sending you some poetry written by my mate. He's a good friend to me and I think it's worth putting in the "Times." It refers to the same battle as that in which J. Sheffield and _____ got killed (the death of the second Coalville man has not been officially notified. Ed). The verses referred to, written by L-Corpl. Turner, of the 2nd Leicesters, of Peckleton, are as follows:



The battle was a fierce one,
And we've many a tale to tell
Of the glorious victory we achieved
In the fight at Neuve Chapelle.

The gallant second Leicesters
Right bravely faced the Huns,
Though comrades round were falling
Before their Maxim guns.

Bravely our heroes made the charge,
And hundreds of them fell,
When they reached the German trenches
Which are called the streets of hell.

The Huns came up in thousands,
To frustrate our attack,
But our gallant lads in khaki
Saw that they didn't get back.

Old England ought to be quite proud
Of all her soldier sons;
Especially our artillery,
For the way they manned the guns.

We've seen some funny sights out here,
Since we came across the foam,
And we've many a tale to tell them
When we reach the dear old home.

The verses I have made up here,
Are just a simple rhyme,
Of how things go on at the front,
Which pals will prove in time.

COALVILLE MAN WOUNDED IN EGYPT

Pte. Frank Cooper, of the Armoured Cars, R.N.A.S., from whom we published in our last issue a letter written to Mrs Hornbuckle, of 78, Albert Street, Coalville, stating that he had been wounded and was lying in hospital in Cairo. In another letter to Mrs Hornbuckle from the Cairo hospital, dated May 25th, Cooper says he is getting on nicely, though to move causes him pain. He is hoping to be home soon.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER MISSING FORMER CLERK AT DESFORD COLLIERY

The name of Lance-Corporal Fred Whitmore, of the 1st Black Watch, appeared in the official list of missing, published on Tuesday. Whitmore's home is at Main Street, Hugglescote, being a son of the late Mr Wm. Whitmore, and in civilian life was a clerk at the Desford Colliery. He joined the Black Watch soon after the outbreak of war. He was an expert shot and had been engaged in sniping. He was an old boy of the Hugglescote British School and his old master, Mr W. Fellows, has been in communication with the



War Office, but at present there is no information beyond that he is missing. A photo of Whitmore in his Highland uniform will appear in our next issue.

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER REPORTED KILLED

AT THE DARDANELLES

The Dardanelles official list of casualties published a few days ago included among the killed the name of Corpl. E. Butler, whose parents reside at Midland Road, Ellistown. Butler, an old Hugglescote British schoolboy, was in Australia when the war broke out, and was one of our gallant colonials to respond promptly to the call to arms. He joined the third Light Horse and went to the Dardanelles with the Australian Contingent. Up to yesterday his parents had not received official news, though they are making enquiries. He is their only son and his name and number were identical with those in the newspaper list.

COALVILLE SOLDIER ON GERMAN METHODS

NOT BAD SPORTSMANSHIP TO RETALIATE

Pte. W. Summers, of the 1st Leicesters, whose home is at 158, Ashby Road, Coalville, writing to us from the Front, says he has received several letters from friends and finds it impossible to answer them all personally. He hopes they will all keep on writing to him and take his reply through this paper. He cannot give much



detail as to places, engagements, etc., which would be cut out by the censor, "But I can say," he continues, "that at our immediate front, there is no anxiety, as there has been nothing but the usual trench warfare for months, and everything points to calm at present. In other places there is a certain amount of activity and considerable advances have been made. So we shall soon be looking forward to a move ourselves, and, I hope, for the better, as this mode of life is getting monotonous, month in and month out. We have had hail, rain, snow and blow, but I am pleased to say that at the present time there is a plentiful supply of sunshine which makes things a little more pleasant than what they were in the winter. Everything here is picking up now – nice green grass, trees with plenty of foliage, and business as usual is the motto in town. So they seem to be following old England. No doubt you will have heard by now of the Germans' latest mode of warfare, viz., asphyxiating gases, a thing which I should think has shocked the whole of the civilised world, or at least I hope it has. A thing like this should draw the sympathy of the world on the side of our Allies who are giving up everything they possess to crush this common foe – German militarism. There is no doubt that the Germans intend to crush us and now they find they cannot they make use of this criminal invention. I hope we shall be allowed to return the compliment. Some people might think that bad sportsmanship, but it is impossible to cope with

it otherwise. Why should Germany, one of the biggest subscribers to the Hague Convention, be allowed to break every law in it and get off scot free? It would never be the wish of our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, wives and sweethearts that we should take things of this description lying down."

He concludes with best wishes to all old friends, including the "Coalville Times."

**WHITWICK SOLDIER'S RESOLVE
MEAN TO KEEP THE FLAG FLYING**

A Whitwick soldier, Pte. H. Findell, writing to his sister, Mrs Howe, of Golden Row, on May 30th, says he is in the best of health and eagerly awaiting the chance to have a pop at the Germans. They are all waiting to pack up, having gone through everything a soldier could go through. He encloses a photo of a group of soldiers of his company and states that they are all married men, who have left wives and children to fight for home and freedom. He adds, "We mean to keep the flag flying."

IBSTOCK YEOMAN WOUNDED

Trooper John Dawson, son of Mr George Dawson, of Ibstock, who took part in the recent fighting in which the Leicester Yeomanry played so conspicuous a part, has been removed from the Base Hospital in France to the Military Hospital at Warrington. He has been visited by Ibstock friends recently and they report that although he is progressing favourably yet he is still very ill, due to shrapnel wounds and it will be some time before he is able to walk. He has undergone two operations at this hospital.



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COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

Pte. Harry Lacey, of the 2nd Leicesters, son of Mr and Mrs J. H. Lacey, of Highfields Street, Coalville, who has been wounded at the front with a bullet in the left thigh and is now in hospital at Clacton.

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ABSENTEE'S FOURTH TIME

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Monday Morning, Pte. Leonard C. Squires, of Hermitage Road, Coalville, was charged with being an absentee from the 3rd Leicesters since Saturday – P.C. Spiby said he found the man in bed that morning. Inspector Dobney said that was the fourth time the man had been charged. He was remanded to await an escort.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Last weekend two former residents of Whitwick, who emigrated to Canada some years ago were on a visit to their native place. They were Corpl. John Tompkins and Pte. Arthur Tompkins who have arrived from Winnipeg with the Canadian contingent now in England, and another brother, Joseph, is expected to join them shortly. They are sons of Mr Tompkins, who formerly carried on the business of a builder in Whitwick and have been working at their trade in Winnipeg. Another son of Mr Tompkins, making four now serving in the army, is Pte. George Tompkins, of the 1st Leicesters, who has been wounded at the front and is now in hospital. The men from Canada are looking extremely well, typical colonials, and they informed the writer that Canada is most loyal to the Empire and there is quite a keenness among the young fellows to enlist.

Pte. Ben Clibbery, of the 1st Leicesters, writing on the 10th inst., to his father, Mr John Clibbery, M. R. engine driver, Park Road, Coalville, says that the last time he was in the trenches he was slightly wounded in the forearm, but he has since recovered. It was only a splinter of a shrapnel shell, and made a small hole. Jack (his brother) was all right and in good health.

Having already lost two brothers in the war, and also her father, Mrs A. W. Williams, of Burton-on-Trent, learned on Saturday that her husband, Private A. W. Williams, 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, was killed on May 29th by a shell bursting in his dug-out. He was twice wounded in the battle of the Aisne last September,

but returned to the firing line. His brother, a territorial, is now invalided home, having been injured in the trenches. The late Private Williams leaves a widow and five children.

Corpl. J. Johnson, who before the war was in business as a fruiterer at Coalville, and has been acting as dispatch rider with his motor-cycle at the front, reached Coalville by the 8 o'clock train on Wednesday night on sick leave, having been injured in the knee.

All save two of the soldiers who formed the firing party at Pte. Martin's funeral at Coalville on Tuesday had been wounded at the front or, in their own words, "*had stopped a bullet.*" One of the men had had the remarkable experience of a bullet passing through his mouth. There were the marks on his cheeks showing where the bullet went in on one side and out at the other, his jaw bone just being missed. Another man had lost the sight of one eye.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports receiving cigarettes as follows: From Coalville Liberal Club box, 58 packets, 36 loose and 8d. Mr Higgins' shop, 22 packets and 12 loose. Conservative Club box, 12 packet and 5 loose and Marlborough Square box, 3 packets and 1s. The money was used to buy further packets. She has sent the cigarettes to her son, Lieut. A. T. Sharp, who has undertaken to distribute them among the 5th Leicesters at the Front. One hundred packets and 53 loose have been sent this week.

Private W. Lycett writes to the Coalville District Soldiers' Comforts Guild, "*Will you please be so kind as to send me two pairs of socks as we are doing such a lot of marching now and have very sore feet, so that we wear out a lot of socks, having to change them 3 or 4 times a week.*" In response to similar applications from our local men serving at the front and training in various camps about 60 to 80 pairs of socks per week are now being sent by the Guild. This has very quickly run the funds down until they are now almost exhausted and unless they are speedily replenished the Guild will be compelled to temporarily suspend the splendid work it is doing. Think of these brave fellows marching with sore feet for the sake of a clean pair of socks and show your appreciation of them by forwarding a subscription to Mrs J. W. Farmer, Hon. Treasurer, Mrs L. L. Baldwin, Hon. Secretary or any member of the Committee.

The Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps paraded on Sunday morning and attended service at the Whitwick Primitive Methodist Church, where the Rev. W. H. Whiting preached an appropriate sermon.

DO YOU KNOW

That recruiting is still booming in Leicester?

That Major Rolleston took over the command of the Leicester Citizen Training League on Saturday?

That the members of the Volunteer Training Corps at Burton-on-Trent have decided to help the Burton district farmers to get in their hay crop?

That Mr V. F. S. Crawford, the well-known Leicestershire cricketer, who went out to Ceylon about three years ago, joined the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps as a private and is now taking part in the operations in the Dardanelles?

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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 the 31st collection from 11 districts realised £5 19s 5d.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

On Sunday morning the Citizen Corps had its usual bi-weekly drill, and a most interesting and instructive two hours were spent. The drill took them the form of field manoeuvres, the main idea being that a small force was defending Mantle Lane Bridge, and a much superior force of the enemy attacked from the direction of The Hermitage. This enable the enemy to advance across the Whitwick Colliery Brickyard, where the spoil banks and sheds afforded ample cover but do not agree with "Sunday clothes." Much of the work was

excellently done, the final charge being quite realistic. At the same time the necessity of these drills was made apparent, and the proper use of cover is by no means the simple matter that it sounds to be. It behoves every member for his own safety's sake to use every opportunity he can of perfecting his education in this most useful and essential art. On Sunday there was scarcely a man in the attack who would not have been wiped out time after time. However perfect men may be in their close order drill, they cannot know too much about the open order, as on knowledge of that, the safety of one's kin to say nothing about his effectiveness against an enemy will largely depend.

SHOOTING

Very good progress has been made in the week by members of the corps; some have taken the opportunity of visiting the range at Sinope which has proved most beneficial. The result is that five more members have passed the Proficiency Test and many of those who have previously been able to pass are well on the way to 1st class shots and marksmen. The scores for the past week are as follows:

	Deliberate	Rapid
E. J. Holmes	90	85
J. W. Haywood	90	91
J. E. Goodman	92	84
W. Kinch	87	81
W. L. Moss	86	84

PUBLIC NOTICES

Mr and Mrs T. Jewsbury, Bakewell Street, Coalville, desire to tender their sincere thanks to all those kind friends who have expressed sympathy with them in the loss of their son who fell in action in Belgium.

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HARRY LAUDER'S PIPERS AT COALVILLE

GREAT RECRUITING MEETING

AN APPEAL BY WHITWICK CANADIANS

Thousands of people were attracted by Harry Lauder's pipers at Coalville on Friday night, a brief visit being paid to assist in a local recruiting meeting. Fine-looking men, all of them, they played their bagpipes through the town and then gave a few selections on the open space near the Post Office before motoring back to Leicester.

The meeting was largely attended and before the pipers departed, Mr B. G. Hale (the chairman) expressed thanks to the band. He said they were proud of the look of the men and hoped there were thousands like them fighting for the empire in the trenches. Three hearty cheers were given for the pipers as they left.

Mr Hale was supported on the platform by Mrs J. J. Sharp, Capt. Stevenson and Mr A. B. Talbot (Leicester), the latter being accompanied by Dr. Arthur Verheyer, formerly stipendiary magistrate of Malines, and now a refugee in this country. The chairman said that they could not but acutely feel that all was not going as well in the trenches as they would like. The fact that so many wounded were coming back day by day pointed out how strong both sides were. *"There is no doubt at all,"* said Mr Hale, *"that we shall ultimately win, but to shorten the war and diminish as far as possible its horrors and barbarities, it is necessary that we should put every possible man into the field."* Proceeding he said this was a war for freedom. Civilisation itself was in the melting pot. If we were beaten we should lose everything we possessed – liberty, honour, home, country, and we should become nothing but chattels of this accursed and inhuman system, known as kultur and militarism. It was every man's duty then – and he hoped they all realised it – to do his utmost, and make whatever sacrifice it was possible for him to make, to bring the Germans to reason and make this thing impossible again for at least another 50 or 100 years. They were fighting the cause of humanity and if every civilised nation realised their duty they would come into the arena and assist in treading this system and the half-maniac Kaiser in the dust. (Cheers)

Mrs J. J. Sharp said they have lived together in the district for many years and she had made appeals to them in the name of sweet charity always with a good response, but she was appealing to them now for help in the greatest crisis that the world had ever seen. They did not know yet what they were up against. That district had done magnificently and they had just sent another 150 of the finest type of men the British army had ever seen, for the 3rd 5th Leicesters. They had a glorious empire purchased by the blood of hundreds and thousands in the past and countless millions of money – an empire on which the sun never sets and of whose multitudes their tongue were babel. There were no people who enjoyed greater liberties. These must be maintained, though they were doing it at tremendous cost. The reason they were losing so many officers and men was that their numbers were insufficient and they were standing still, instead of progressing. After a slackening, men were again responding splendidly to the call to arms and she appealed to all those of military age in this district to come forward and help. It was the only way they could help. Their men had been standing in the trenches for ten months not having made progress through the sheer weight of the numbers against them. It was argued that the Germans had not gone forward, but the state of things were giving them more opportunity to prepare. When we started to go forward it was essential there should be countless men in reserve. Her only son was in the trenches so she had given all she had to give. (A voice: God bless him). There were hundreds who had only sons there and she knew that they felt as she did. She was told that there were a thousand men yet in the locality who could and ought to go. It could not be argued that the aristocracy were not doing their part. There was scarcely a noble house in the land that had not lost some dear one and in some cases three or four. Let them ask themselves the question, *“Am I doing my duty to my empire? – the empire to which I am proud to belong.”* (Cheers)

Mr A. B. Talbot said he had three sons and the only one of military age had gone to fight for his King and country. (Cheers) It might seem of little moment to some of them, so long as they could draw their wages, smoke their pipes and drink their beer undisturbed, but there would be a rude awakening if Germany did not win. He related some of the experiences of his friend on the platform, Dr. Verheyer, whose house was stripped after German officers have been billeted there for three weeks, even the picture rails being pulled from the walls and fireplaces taken out. He also narrated atrocities which were perpetrated on relatives of the doctor at Aerschot and said these were no fairy tales but actual experiences of unfortunate Belgians. They might say that Germany would be punished, but if Germany won who would punish her. And the Germans would try their hardest. The rise of asphyxiating gases was nothing to what she would do to gain her ends. So now was the time to punish Germany. Coalville had done well, but while their was one young man physically fit to enlist who was not doing equally good work for the Government, they felt it their duty to come round making these appeals. It was a war in the interests of humanity and he would rather see the human race wiped out altogether than that Germany should win and leave it to the animal kingdom to produce something better than Germany had produced. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson also made an appeal for recruits. Corpl. John Tompkins and his brother, Pte. Arthur Tompkins, two former Whitwick residents, but who have been residing in Winnipeg for some years and have come over with the Canadian contingent, happened to be in the crowd with Mr G. F. Burton, and accepted an invitation to step on to the platform. Corpl. Tompkins in a few words informed the audience how enthusiastic the Canadians are in regard to the war. It was not necessary to hold recruiting meetings in Canada as they got more men than they wanted without. Another brother of his went to the recruiting offices in Winnipeg every day for three weeks and because they could not take him, he travelled to Brandon, 150 miles away, and enlisted there. (Cheers)

The meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

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HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER MISSING

Our photo is of Lance-Corpl. Fred Whitmore, of the 1st Black Watch, who is reported missing. He is a son of the late M.P. William Whitmore, Main Street, Hugglescote, an old Baptist school boy, and worked at the Desford Colliery Offices as a clerk before joining the army soon after the outbreak of war.



BURSTING SHELL

KILLS COALVILLE GUNNER

OFFICER'S TRIBUTE

Mr. Thos. Jewsbury, a L and N. W. railway engine driver, of Bakewell Street, Coalville, on Saturday received information that his son, Gunner Charles Wm. Jewsbury, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial regiment, had been killed in action. The sad news was conveyed in a letter written by Lieut. A. T. Sharp, to whose section Jewsbury was attached. The officer wrote: *"It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you of the death of your son who was killed in action on the 6th inst., by a large shell. He suffered no pain and died almost at once. I feel his loss very much in the first place because he was a very efficient machine gunner, and in the second place because I looked upon him as a conscientious and thoroughly trustworthy man, and at the time of his death I had put him in charge of one of the guns..... I always found him brave and fearless. He was a great favourite with the men. I can only tender my deepest sympathy and hope that the fact that he died a soldier's death may lighten your heavy burden of grief."*

Another letter received on Sunday by Mr and Mrs Jewsbury was from Allan Evans, an Ashby man, of the same section, who wrote: *"As Charles' friend I must write for the section expressing our deepest sympathy. By his straightforwardness he gained respect among us. We miss his cheerful presence so much that our misfortune has thrown a gloomy shadow over us. He was washing him at the time in a shell hole with two more men of the section. All three attempted to dodge out the way, but Charles was unsuccessful. Death was instantaneous so he was spared any pain. Both the other fellows are suffering slightly from shock Charles and I agreed that if anything happened to one of us the other would come and see his parents on returning to England, so I will come at my earliest convenience. He was properly buried the same night and we shall attend to his grave while we are here. I opened the parcel and divided it among them. I thought you would wish to me to. Any letters I will return and his belongings you will receive in due time. Hope his brother Alf will have better luck."*

The letter also bears the following signatures: Sergt. G. H. Broadhurst, Corpl. G. Hutchinson, Corpl. R. F. Astle, Lance-Corpl. Hutchinson, A. Green, G. Beale, T. Dennis, E. H. Buswell, H. Smith, L. H. Burditt, E. W. Hyde, R. Harvey, O. Ward, G. Johnstone, E. Wilson, F. Tupp, A. C. Siddons, A. Young, E. Widdowson, J. W. Lowe, C. Buswell, J. H. Fuller, John Hill, W. S. Bagshaw, James Ottey, E. Carter, J. P. W. Adams, A. Allen and G. Benskin. These are men of the section who expressed sympathy with the parents.

On Monday, a few personal effects of the deceased were received accompanied by a letter of sympathy, dated June 10th, from Albert W. Hanson. On the day that Jewsbury was killed he had started to write a letter home and this unfinished epistle was received with his personal effects. It was a most cheery letter in which Jewsbury said that day (Sunday June 6th) was their fifth day in the trenches and they were expecting to go out for four or five days' rest. *"It is simply a glorious day,"* the letter continues, *"and it seems hardly possible to imagine there is a war when it is like this, only some restless beggar of theirs keeps whizzing one or two over. It is nearly always quiet in the day time but we get more fun at night for nothing than you pay a tanner for at the Rink I should like to go to the old chapel (London Road Baptist) tonight, just for old times' sake. I am sending you one or two German and French bullets. I got hold of a German bayonet and then lost the thing. Two would look alright crossed over the mantelpiece. I am going to have a swill now in the shell hole. Will finish this tomorrow."*

It was while Jewsbury was washing that the fatal shell came. The deceased soldier before the war, worked at Messrs. Stableford's, and was formerly a telegraph messenger at Coalville Post Office. He was 20 years of age and joined the Territorials 12 months last February, being amongst the first batch that went out. He was formerly a bugler in the boy scouts, joining when the Coalville troop was first formed. His brother Alfred, who used to work in the boot repairing department at the Coalville Co-Operative Stores is now serving in the Coldstream Guards.

Mr Jewsbury, sen., is a valued member and officer of the Coalville Men's Adult School and at the School on Sunday morning, Mr B. B. Drewett (president) made suitable reference to the sad event and a vote of sympathy was passed by the members rising from their seats. The deceased's parents have also received calls by the vicar of Coalville, Mrs B. G. Hale, Mrs J. J. Sharp and others, with many expressions of sympathy.



MILITARY FUNERAL AT COALVILLE

SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS IN ACTION

The death occurred in Sheffield Infirmary on Friday last, of Pte. Francis Frederick Martin, of the 1st Leicesters, from wounds received in action from a bursting shell. He lay in hospital for several days at Boulogne before being moved to England and just before he died his widowed mother, Mrs Martin, of Club Row, Coalville, was with him.

Deceased was a son of the late Mr F. Martin who was formerly an engine-driver at South Leicestershire Colliery. He was 28 years of age and was born at Coleorton, but before the war was working at the Whitwick Colliery and residing in Victoria Road, Coalville, with his wife and two year old boy. He had served in the regulars and would have completed his term as a reservist in December last. He was called up on August 5th. Three of his brothers are serving in the army, two in the Territorials and one in Kitchener's.

The body was removed to Coalville from Sheffield on Saturday, and Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, made arrangements for the funeral to take place with military honours. It was the first such burial in Coalville since the outbreak of war and was witnessed by thousands of people.



June 11th, 1915, aged 28 years."

A firing party came over from Wigston barracks and they marched at the head of the procession with rifles reversed. Following them were Capt. Stevenson, the Rev. E. Davis (curate of Hugglescote), Mr Edmund Holmes, (a neighbour) Mr W. Kinsey (manager of Coalville Liberal Club), Messrs. B. Wileman, W. Swift, D. Knifton and W. Maddocks (from the Coalville Working Men's Club), Messrs. G. H. Storer and G. Thomas (from the Wigston Hospital Oddfellows Lodge), the members of the Coalville Citizen Corps and others.

The body has been taken to the house of Mrs Edwards, in Hermitage Road, and from there to Cemetery, the Coalville Coronation Band, under Mr A. Clarke, played the Dead March. The route was thickly lined with people all the way. The service was conducted by the Rev. F. Pickbourne, the first portion being in the Baptist Chapel.

There were six coaches for the mourners, the chief of whom were the young widow and mother of the deceased and his three brothers all wearing khaki. Six men, also in khaki acted as bearers. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. On the breast plate was the inscription: "Private Frank Martin, No. 6613, 1st Leicestershires, died

The service in the cemetery having been concluded, the soldiers fired three volleys over the grave and then with bayonets fixed stood at attention while a couple of buglers sounded the "Last Post."

There was a splendid lot of floral tributes, including a harp from his sorrowing wife and little son Frank, and wreaths etc., from his mother and sister Nellie, Mr and Mrs Edwards and family, Bruce (brother-in-law), Mr and Mrs Darby and family, Brother Archie, Mrs Scar (Whitwick), little Joey Straw, seven soldiers' wives and friends, "His duty done, the cross now won," Lance-Corpl. J. Balding, Mr and Mrs F. Stanyard (Whitwick), (Committee of the Coalville Liberal Club, a handsome floral design in the national colours), an old friend and his wife Mr and Mrs C. Brown, Alice and Lizzie, Harry and Josiah, sister Lucy and three beautiful artificial wreaths under glass globes, one from friends and neighbours, another from the Coalville Working Men's Club and the other from a few friends.

The flowers were conveyed in a pony carriage sent by Mrs Butler, of the Fox and Goose Hotel. Before the soldiers and band were dismissed they lined up in High Street and were thanked by Capt. Stevenson for their attendance, the pony being led in the procession by Mr Ben Hall.



KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES

WELL-KNOWN ELLISTOWN SOLDIER

Within the last few days, Mr Joseph Butler, of 72, Midland Road, Ellistown, formerly a banksman at Ellistown Colliery, but who has been ill for some months, received official intimation that his only son, Pte. E. H. Butler has been killed in action in the Dardanelles.

Butler, an old Baptist School boy, went to Canada a few years ago and after being there two years returned home and then left for Australia, being also for some time in Egypt. He joined the army on the outbreak of war and went to Egypt with the Australian Contingent, thence to the Dardanelles. From Egypt he sent his mother as a gift, a table cover of oriental design. In the last letter received from him he wrote of the wonderful sights in Egypt. He also told his parents that whatever happened to him they were to "keep smiling."

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

WHILE GIVING A WARNING TO OTHERS

On Sunday morning, Mr G. C. Hart, insurance assistant-superintendent, of London Road, Coalville, received a letter from Pte. J. W. Lowe, at the front, expressing sympathy with him on the death of his son, Pte. Frederick Wilfred Hart, of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action in the trenches on June 8th. The letter stated that he was buried the same day, and the writer would look after his grave as long as they were in the locality. At the time he was killed, said Lowe, he had only just been telling another fellow to keep down, and he had been talking about Charlie Jewsbury, saying he was talking to him only 20 minutes before he was killed on Sunday, June 6th. Lowe adds that he feels it very much for two of them, Fred and Charlie, to be taken away, as they were the best all-round fellows that he had spoken to.



Another sympathetic letter sent with deceased's personal effects has been received from Albert William Hanson, who says Hart was popular with the men and will be greatly missed. The deceased soldier was 20 years of age. Before the war, he was engaged as an engine-cleaner on the L and N.W.R. Railway at Coalville. He enlisted in the Territorials about nine months ago and was one of the first fifty to leave the town. He was a former scholar in the Wesleyan Sunday School and among those who have called to express sympathy with the bereaved parents are Mr T. Watson, the Sunday School Superintendent, Mr T. Frith, the Vicar of Coalville (Rev. S. Hosking) and Mr W. A. Hull.

COALVILLE SOLDIER, LUCKY

Writing on Whit-Monday, from "somewhere in France" to his parents, Mr and Mrs J. Willett, of Ivy-Dene Cottage, Highfields, Coalville, Pte. T. W. Willett, of the 2nd Leicesters says he is quite well and continues:



"We have just come out of the trenches for a rest, and we need it. I am feeling a lot better now after a good bath, a swim and a clean change of clothing. I got the "Coalville Times" while in the trenches. We were there six Sundays altogether. You don't know one day from another here. Whitsuntide makes no difference; the fighting has to be done just the same. We are giving the Germans "sock" now and I don't think it will last much longer. I hope not, anyhow. I've had quite enough of it. I think we shall soon have a good rest now and we've earned it. I have seen something of the war this last week or two and thank God I am alive. I lost two of my pals by my side and I've been very lucky not to be hit."

"HOW GOES IT, COALVILLE"

LOCAL MEN MEET AT THE FRONT

We have received the following interesting letter from Pte. J. S. Newbold, now at the front:

Dear Sir, Perhaps your readers would be interested in some of the exciting times here. I took part in the battle of Festubert, where we advanced three miles. Though

this was a very hard position to take it was not so terrible as Neuve Chapelle which I also took part in. Perhaps this was due to that our shells were more effective in this last action. We advanced out of the reserve trenches on Sunday morning and were soon in the German trenches. We took three lines. The Germans were lying about in hundreds, showing what terrible havoc our shells wrought. We were 3 days in action. When we were marching through a village just behind the firing line I recognised a fellow named Cracknell standing watching us go by. I think he belongs to the artillery and shouted, "How goes it Coalville?" I don't think he recognised me as we were marching past so fast. Perhaps he will see this through. I hope the fellows keep rolling up to keep the ranks well filled. Well I don't think I can tell you much more as I am just off for a swim in the canal. Wishing your paper every success.

Yours sincerely
Pte. J. S. Newbold

COALVILLE AMBULANCE MAN AT THE FRONT

THE SORT OF MEN THAT ARE NEEDED

Writing from the front to Sergt. F. Allen and members of the Coalville Division St. John Ambulance Brigade, Pte. G. Jones, of the Coldstream Guards, says: *"I was very pleased to hear that the Brigade was getting on so well and to hear that you keep progressing as regards making new members, also to hear that the members were taking a prominent part in this great struggle, as it is such men that are wanted in the firing line. If people had only seen the cases that I have seen they would begin to realise how much such men are needed. I myself took part in a charge this month where there were over a thousand wounded cases in less than 30 minutes. That was in our brigade alone. It was about the same time and the same day that our practice takes place. It did one good to see the way that the stretcher-bearers carried out their duties at the same time as the shot and shell were flying about. They were as calm and cool as if they had been at practice where nothing was happening. I expect you have read some of the letters that have been sent to England about the way that they can march through the Germans at any time they wish to. Well, don't you take any notice of them as they are not letters from men in the firing line at all. I have taken part in seven different engagements and have always met with a very great resistance and the last one was worse than ever as I believe it was impossible to break through them. In my opinion they are quite as good fighting men as us and when we are in the ordinary trench work we have to be very careful, or they have got us in a minute. I thank you very much for your kind offer to send me any smoking material I may require, but I am very pleased to say that I have plenty at present but, by-the-way, you might send us a few more men – those that are single and staying at home, that is what is most needed out here. Tell them not to wait until they are forced to come. It is not the wish of the men out here to see a conscript army. They love to think that they have not come out here through that and that their services have been voluntary. I was very sorry to see so many men from Coalville fall in the Neuve Chapelle battle as I had only seen some of them a day or two before and was talking to them, but you see we never know who is next, and it is a great blessing we do not as it is bad enough to see your comrades fall. I think I shall have to close for the present, wishing yourself and the members of the division every success and every good wish to hope to be soon back again amongst you and the old friends at home."*

WHITWICK SOLDIER KILLED

BROTHER OF CITIZEN CORPS COMMANDER

Official intimation from the War Office was received by Mr G. F. Burton (Commander of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps) on Wednesday morning, that his brother, Lance-Corpl. H. S. Burton, had been killed in action. The deceased soldier had recently written some splendid letters to his brother. He was a schoolmaster in London and volunteered soon after the outbreak of war. Further particulars and a photograph will appear in our next issue.

Friday June 25th 1915 (Issue 1216)

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A SOLDIER'S THANKS

Mr W. Boswell forwards us the following letter for publication: *"Hyde Park Barracks, London, S.W. – To the parishioners of Stanton-under-Bardon – I thank you most heartily for the gift which I received from you last Thursday last, and the respect shown to those who have left their village and homes for military service in answer to their country's call to fight for their King and Country. I think at the present it is every man's place and duty, who is fit, to join his fellow men in this terrible crisis in which we are at present passing through. Yours very truly, Trooper H. Hurd, 1st Life Guards."*

BELTON

WAR NEWS

Miss Stella Deane, of the Vicarage, has sent a second 180 eggs to be dispatched from London to the Boulogne Hospital, and she has received a letter from a wounded soldier in that hospital saying how he enjoyed his first egg since August last. Private W. Knight has been home on leave from the trenches for a short period, and returned on Sunday morning. His younger brother, Tom, who was scalded in the trenches, has been transferred from Lincoln Hospital to Loughborough.

CITIZENS' LEAGUE

The members of the Ashby Citizens' Corps numbering about 40, had a march out to Donisthorpe on Sunday afternoon. After drill and exercises they were entertained to tea by Mr and Mrs H. German. In the evening they attended service at the Parish Church. The men were in charge of Commandant G. J. German.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

On Monday last the scholars attending the Girls and Infant's Schools and the boys of the Council Schools contributed between them 140 eggs for wounded soldiers. The appeal to the children was made by the Rev. W. Fowler, M.A., Vicar of Trinity Church, and the eggs have been forwarded by Miss Ena Jesson, of Kilwardby Street.

CITIZEN'S CORPS ROUTE MARCH

The Citizen's Corps marched on Tuesday evening to Boothorpe, the residence of Mr R. W. Lawton, about four miles from Ashby, where they joined the Woodville Company, and combined drill took place in a large field, after which the men were provided with refreshments by Mr Lawton at his house. He was heartily thanked by Mr G. J. German (captain) and Mr Riley (captain).

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

A SOLDIER'S BABY

Pte. John A. Moulton, of the Leicestershire Regiment, Andover, was summoned by Gladys Webster, single woman, Coalville, to show good cause, etc.

Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) was for the complainant and the defendant denied the paternity. Complainant said the defendant had promised her marriage and on his instructions she made arrangements for the wedding at Ashby registry office to take place when he came over at Xmas, he then made the excuse that he had not enough money. He said he would cost him about £5 and it was not worth bothering about. He brought a gold wedding ring with him which she tried on and it fit her, but he took the ring back with him.

Before enlisting in September, defendant worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery and earned 50s per week. She had received about 30 letters from him. Clara Webster, the girl's mother, said the defendant had admitted to her being the father of the child and said he would marry the complainant, but later said it was no use getting married as he was expecting to go to the front.

Defendant, on oath, denied the paternity, and also the story as to the ring and the suggested marriage at the registry office. The Bench made an order for defendant to pay 3s 6d per week until the child is 16 years of age, and the costs.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

In our report last week of the death of Pte. Frank Martin, of Coalville, we should have stated that his wife was with him in the Sheffield hospital when he passed away, having been there for a week.

A pretty incident took place on Saturday morning, when a number of Belgian refugees staying at Broom Leys visited the Coalville Recruiting Office and requested Capt. Stevenson to accompany them to the Coalville Cemetery where they desired to place a floral tribute on the grave of Pte. Frank Martin, buried with military honours last week, having died from wounds received in action. The Belgians numbered 16 in all, their names being, Fernard Cheruy, Alphonso Noudts, Frederno Coreman, Augusto Marchel, Alexandre Bernard, Jules Derume, Louis Cavier, Saul Van Nerom, Pierre Franckx, Francis Van Maddern, Pierre Fransart, Cornielle Gillis and Felix Bottn. They were accompanied to the Cemetery by Capt. Stevenson, Col-Sergt. Dye, the Rev. G. A. Davis (Hugglescote) and Mr W. Baldwin, and it was an impressive scene as they reverently placed on the grave a large floral cross in their own composition with a card attached bearing these words: "A small tribute from wounded Belgians to a comrade who fell in their cause."

Regimental Sergeant-Major J. H. Green, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, who is mentioned in dispatches, lives at Springburrow Farm, Belton. He was appointed regimental sergeant-major on the death of Sergt.-Major Parker.

Mr Winston Churchill, ex-First Lord of the Admiralty and now Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is coming to Leicester on Saturday afternoon, July 3rd. Under the auspices of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee he will address a recruiting meeting at De Montfort Hall.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports that this week she has received from the Coalville Liberal Club box 58 packets of cigarettes, 13 loose ones and 3 1/2d; from Mr Higgins' box 30 packets, 4 loose and 2d; and from the Coalville Conservative Club box 13 packets, 3 loose, and 3d. The cigarettes are for the 5th Leicesters at the front. Mr John Wootton has agreed to give a box which is to be placed outside the Coalville Midland Railway Station.

The Coalville and District Recruiting Committee have received this week for free distribution booklets on 'The truth about German atrocities' founded on the report of a committee of inquiry. They can be had gratis on application.

The third issue of Messrs. Stableford's "News Van" has appeared this week and is a very attractive number. It contains many interesting letters from employees of the firm on active service and other information, with two or three photographs. The laborious method of duplicating the publication from type-written sheets has had to be abandoned and the latest number is neatly printed. This it is pointed out, adds to the expense, but it is still hoped to make a profit. The surplus on the first two issues, we are informed, was £7 12s 3d, which is to be devoted to the interests of the firm's men now serving in the forces.

On a contingent of Leicestershire Yeomanry leaving Melton Mowbray, they were presented with a pretty little card bearing the town's coat of arms and the national flags of the allies with these words; "*The town wardens, on behalf of the inhabitants of Melton Mowbray, wish to express their appreciation of your excellent behaviour during your long stay in the town. Now that you are leaving, we are sorry to say 'goodbye', and take this opportunity of heartily wishing you God speed, good luck, and a safe and speedy return. God save the King.*"

DO YOU KNOW

That the Coalville and District Recruiting Office was decorated with flags and bunting yesterday in honour of Lord Kitchener's birthday?

That in the early hours of Monday morning, an ambulance train reached Leicester bringing over 200 officers and men from the front for treatment in the local war hospitals?

That a memorial service for local men who have fallen in the war is to be held at Whitwick Parish Church next Sunday morning?

That a garden fete is to be held at Gracedieu Manor by kind permission of the Right Hon. and Mrs Charles Booth, on Wednesday July 14th, in aid of the funds of Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Fund?

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In the early stages of the war, it was suggested that official badges should be issued to men who had tried to join the army, but had been refused, or were employed on war work at home. There was something they said both for and against this proposal, but since the call to arms has become more urgent, there is a greater disposition to look upon healthy young men in civilian dress, as shirking their duty. It is certainly unfair that those who have offered their services to the army, and been rejected on account of some organic weakness, or trifling physical effect, should be subjected to this public opprobrium, and it is the same with those who are employed to greater advantage in war work at home, than they would be in the trenches. If numbered badges such as "Exempt from Military Service," or "On Home Service," were issued it would go far to distinguish the worthy from the unworthy, and do more to shame the shirkers into a recognition of their duty, than all the supplicating appeals for men in the War Office posters on the boardings.

GIFTS TO WHITWICK YEOMANRY

LETTER OF THANKS

Mrs L. Cramp, of St. Joseph's Cottage, Coalville, has received the following letter from one of the Whitwick troop of the Leicestershire Yeomanry.

Dear Mrs Cramp, I am now writing to thank you on behalf of the Whitwick Troop for the many parcels and good things that we have received from you since we have been in France. We received the parcels on Monday, May 24th, two of us went to carry them; the sight of them made us think of the good old Forest and the kind friends that have so willingly given towards buying them. I shall be pleased when the time comes that I shall be able to thank you personally, if God spares me.

The only thing that we regret is so many of them that shared out of the parcels are not here to have their share of these. They fought nobly and died a brave death, and I don't think they shamed the name of their regiment. Should opportunity present itself, we shall only be too anxious to try and revenge their deaths. I must close, once again thanking you for the good things that we have received.

Yours sincerely

Trooper A. Page
L-Corpl. J. Wheatley
Sergt. J. H. Carter

France

LANCE-CORPORAL FRED WHITMORE

The friends of Lance-Corporal Fred Whitmore of the 1st Black Watch, of Hugglescote, who was reported missing, have received a letter from him this week, stating that he has been severely wounded and is a prisoner of war in Germany.



BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with the 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 32nd collection from 7 districts realised £2 11s 10d.

AN ABSENTEE

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Monday, Pte. William Measures, aged 18 years, No. 1909, of the second 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with being an absentee from his battalion at Luton since June 18th. Sergt. Kirkland deposed to arresting the soldier at his sister's house in Albert Street, Coalville, and when asked for his pass, he handed one to witness which he subsequently admitted having made out himself. He was remanded to await an escort.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Mrs Martin, wife of the late Pte. Frank Martin, who died from wounds received in action, desires through this medium to tender her sincere thanks for the many tokens of sympathy received and kindness shown to her in her great bereavement.

Coalville, June 23rd, 1915.

The mother and family of the late Private Frank Martin, who was killed in action, wish to thank all friends for their kindness and sympathy shown them in their sad bereavement.

Mrs E. Weston and family of Desford Colliery Villas, Bagworth, wish to thank the great many friends who by letter, floral tributes and presence, have shown so much sympathy towards them and respect to their loved one, at the loss they have sustained, having lost a faithful husband and loving father. Will all friends accept our many thanks.

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WHITWICK EGG COLLECTION

Mr R. Sharp, of 106, Silver Street, Whitwick, reports the following further results of his egg collection for wounded soldiers:

Previously Acknowledged	838
Mrs J. H. Robinson	45
Mrs W. T. Hull	24
Mrs T. Carter	20
Mrs J. Green	20
Mr R. Sharp	20
Mr Dan Ottey	9
Mr Dennis Ottey	9
Miss N. Birkitt	9
Mr O. Burton	9
Mrs W. Smith	6
Mrs F. Baxter	5
Mr Hoult	5
Mr Green	5

MOTOR OUTING FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

A RUN TO CHARNWOOD FOREST

The large majority of the wounded soldiers now being treated in local institutions – those who were fit enough to go – had a motor outing on Saturday at the invitation of the Leicestershire Automobile Club, whose members, along with other local motorists, placed their cars at the disposal of the injured warriors.

Altogether there were about 150 motorcars running, and these accommodated over 400 of the soldiers from the Gilroes Hospital, North Evington Hospital, the Base Hospital Royal Infirmary, Loughborough Hospital, and the Convalescent Homes at Desford, Charnwood Forest, Lutterworth and Melton, and a number of nurses and attendants. There could have been no better choice of route than the one taken. The cars left Leicester by the Groby Road, passed through Groby, turned into the second entrance gates to Bradgate House, went through the grounds (Mr T. E. Everard having generously given permission), and re-joined the Ashby Road. They were then driven by way of Markfield to Woodhouse and the Brand, and thence to Bradgate Park, where they halted to form into line. The return journey was through Anstey, along the road to Cropston, down the road to Mowacre Hill and to Abbey Park. Here they again lined up, and proceeded along Church Gate and London Road to Highbury, the residence of Councillor P. L. Baker, who, besides undertaking the whole of the arrangements in connection with the outing, entertained the soldiers to tea and provided recreation for their delectation.

RECRUITS

The returns of the number of recruits enlisted for last week in the No. 6 Regimental District, the 17th recruiting area (Leicestershire), show a total of 399. This is a very favourable return, and heads the list for the district, which comprises Leicester, North and South Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Notts and Derby.

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M.P. IN THE TRENCHES

MR H. D. MCLAREN'S BROTHER'S STORIES

Lieutenant, the Hon. Francis McLaren, M.P. for the Spalding Division of Lincs., brother of the Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P. for the Bosworth Division, is serving in the trenches in the Galipoli Peninsula. Writing home to Mrs McLaren describing the life, he says: "At dusk I went to get orders from the Colonel, and they were, 'You are to stop all night and cover a possible retreat' – an easy job, as our soldiers don't retreat, they go on."

"After dinner the Lieutenant and I walked up the firing line. The road is strewn with corpses in wonderfully dramatic attitudes: great pick Turks with picks, shovels and rifles scattered round them. When it was quite dark we walked home. One of our officers shot eleven Turks with his Maxim. They came up to the wire by night twenty yards away. The corpses were counted in the morning. Another officer comes along the road later, sees a Turk in front of him, thinks he's a sniper, leaps on him with a revolver, and finds to his disgust that the Turk is a corpse – and some days old at that."

Before entering the trenches Lieutenant McLaren was serving on a battleship. He tells of a naval capture: "After lunch a Turk came down to the shore and began to wash his shirt in the sea. The captain sent the cutter in with one of our midshipmen to fetch him. The Turk showed the boat where to land, stepped on board and gave everybody the opinion he was fed up with the war. It was funny seeing midship with a big revolver bringing the captive up to the bridge. He was a soldier, and excellently equipped.

"One of the sights that rejoiced my heart was the burning of Maidob. The _____, which was alongside us, fired about six salvoes of lyddite across the peninsula, and the result has been a gigantic pillar of black smoke and reddish glow in the sky all night. It was such a success that next day they lit up Chanak Loo. The Turks are wasting a tremendous lot of shells over us."

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COALVILLE TERRITORIAL OFFICER'S VISIT

LOCAL LADS IN GOOD SPIRITS

Sergt.-Major Roland Hill, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, who before the war worked for Messrs. Stableford and Co. arrived home from France on Sunday night on leave till Thursday. While looking through a periscope in the trenches, the instrument was shattered by a German bullet and the officer had his face slightly cut, but is better now again. Most of the Coalville and District lads are in his company and he says they are getting on well and are all in the best of spirits. The food they get is good and plentiful and they are kept well supplied with tobacco. The weather conditions in the trenches are very similar to what they are in England.

"CALL IT A DRAW"

A LEICESTERSHIRE ODE TO THE KAISER

(BY A WHITWICK TROOPER)

The following lines were composed by Trooper L. Rollinson, of the C Squad, Leicestershire Yeomanry, whose home is at Onebarrow, Whitwick, and who before the outbreak of war, was employed at the Monastery.

Make it a draw, Mister Kaiser, by gum,
But you have got a cheek;
Pray, what do you take us for –
A team that is fagged and weak?

The match won't be drawn or abandoned,
Till we've marched through the streets of Berlin,
A draw! Mister Kaiser, - now, now, mon,
Let me tell you our chaps mean to win.

Our team, as you know is a scratch one,
We've picked them up here and there;
But you'll find every chap that we've signed on
Knows how for the goal posts to steer

You've prayed for 'The Day' and you've got it:
You've boasted 'The Day' and it's here;
And you'll find when the game is all over,
That the map of your country looks queer.

We're playing the game that you asked for,
The winners are your team or mine;
And to call it a draw fairly caps me,
For the whistle's not yet blown half-time.

You kicked off before we were ready,
Your forwards kept running off-side,
We appealed when you rushed into Belgium
'Gainst foul play that we cannot abide.

You managed to kick towards Paris.
And no doubt you thought that you'd score;
But you found that our backs were quite ready
And your forwards were lain on the floor.

Now, we are dribbling, screwing and heading
And driving you back bit by bit;

Our team are now finding their stride, mon
And soon from the field you must flit.

“Make it a draw!” mon, you’re joking
Ask the Tommies and Jacks now afloat
And they’ll tell you they’ll not budge an inch, mon
Or go back on the paper they wrote.

So buck up, and fight to a finish,
Pack your goal, if you can, in Berlin,
But you’ll find when you’ve done all you can do
That old England is certain to win.

Get up from your knee, Mister Kaiser
Don’t cant about kultur and God;
We’ve a penalty kick up against you,
For the women you’ve put ‘neath the sod.

We’ve another for children you’ve trod on
And one for Termonde and Louvain;
Still one more for the foul against Belgium
And I’ll bet you we shan’t shoot in vain.

And when the game’s over and done with,
And you’ve got a big bill to pay,
I’ll bet you will earnestly wish, mon
That you’d never toasted ‘The Day’.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

On Sunday last, the Coalville Corps marched to Osgathorpe Church for Divine Service. A striking sermon from the text “For the Nation and Kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish” (Isaiah 60c, 12v) was preached by the rector Rev. Ray. After service the Corps was entertained by Dr. Atkinson. In the afternoon an hour’s drill. Cheers were given for Dr. Atkinson before leaving. Reached Coalville hot, tired and dusty, but still cheerful, at 4 pm.

Uniform caps are now being issued and will be worn for the first time on Sunday next, at parade to Whitwick Church.

Sergt. Spalding who is quite fit again leaves today to join the 10th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment.

Shooting practice has been going on as usual during the week both on the indoor and outdoor ranges. More marked improvement has been noticed in members shooting outdoor.

Mr G. Coleman passed the proficiency test with scores of 90 per cent, fired deliberate, and 81 per cent rapid.

Mr E. Holmes, has qualified as a marksman, making scores of 97 per cent, deliberate and 93 per cent rapid.

Citizens note – There are more marksmen somewhere in the Coalville Corps. Fall In.

COALVILLE BROTHERS IN THE TRENCHES

TWO OF THE FIRST FIFTY



Our photographs are of the brothers Lawrence and Thomas Usherwood, sons of Mr T. Usherwood, M.R. engine driver, who resides in Highfields Street, Coalville. Both are privates in the Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, 5th Battalion, and were among the first batch of fifty to leave Coalville. They have for some time been taking their turn in the trenches and their letters home, some of which have appeared in our column, are of a cheery nature. Both are in Sergt.-Major R. Hill's Company. The sergeant-major has been on a visit to Coalville this week and says



all the men are in wonderfully good spirits. Before the war Lawrence Usherwood was engaged at Messrs. Stableford and Co's works, and his brother Tom worked in the office of Messrs. Wootton Bros.

AN APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

BY A COALVILLE LAD AT THE FRONT

An interesting letter has reached us from Pte. P. Thomas, No. 8441, R.A.M.C., 7th Motor Ambulance Convoy, who writes:

Dear Sir, I should esteem it a great favour if you would allow me a brief space in your paper in which to insert this letter. I may say first of all, that Coalville was my birthplace, therefore, its progress interests me greatly, as also does its inhabitants.

At the commencement of this war, I considered it my duty as an Englishman, to offer myself for enlistment, which I did in company with several others, and since then, hundreds have left Coalville to fight for their King and country, but there are still a great number of able-bodied single men in Coalville and district who apparently, have not realised that their services are required to help to suppress the most dangerous race in the world, a race whose crimes have startled civilisation. Well it is quite time they did realise it, instead of devoting their time to various kinds of sport, which they could forego, at any rate for the present.

My father sends me your paper every week and it is one of the things that I look forward to, as I quite enjoy reading the local news, and letters from soldiers out here, but when I read of certain individuals making a good score at cricket, I think that they might be making a better score with a rifle, in a much more worthy cause.

It is pleasant to know of the glorious deeds of bravery and self-sacrifice of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment at Neuve Chapelle and other places, and I must say every regiment out there, hold the gallant Leicesters as one of Britain's finest regiments. Surely it is enough to shame the slackers, who are left behind, and who seem quite satisfied whether the war was going in our favour or not.

It is true that Coalville has a good number of representatives on active service, but there are hundreds still holding back, who, if they would only come forward, would find plenty of work for the recruiting sergeant. It seems that unless more recruits offer themselves, the country may have to resort to a system of compulsion, but it is to be hoped that such a system will not be necessary, and that those who are still keeping in the background, will show their manhood, and volunteer to do their share towards bringing this terrible war to a swift conclusion.

Hoping you will give this letter publication and wishing your paper every success.

I remain, yours very sincerely

Pte. P. Thomas

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

CLERK FROM THE CONSERVATIVE OFFICE

The Conservative Agent for the Bosworth Division, Mr W. Baldwin, has received information that his late clerk, Pte. Harold G. Blackham has been killed in action. Soon after the outbreak of war, Blackham enlisted in the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorials, and was one of the first 50 to leave Coalville. It is understood that he was killed in a village behind the firing line by the same shell that wounded Col. Jones and killed one or two others.

Blackham was a son of Mr A. P. Blackham, Conservative Agent for South-East Derbyshire, who resides at Staveley, Chesterfield, and in reply to a letter of sympathy received from Mr A. L. N. Howe, the present clerk in the Coalville Offices, Mr Blackham has written a letter of thanks. The letter states: *"Such sympathy as we have received helps us to bear our sorrow. It is gratifying to know that our dear lad was so beloved, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that he nobly died, fully prepared to meet his God, in the cause of freedom, King and country. He died for others."*

The deceased was 22 years of age.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF THE CHARGE AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

Lance-Corporal A. Ballard, No. 8213, of the 2nd Leicesters, "somewhere in France" writing to his brother, Mr Ballard, of No. 53, Long Row, Ashby Road, Coalville, on June 10th says he is progressing as well as can be expected and continues: *"The weather is lovely now. We are in sunny France and not up to the waist in water in the trenches as it has been for nearly nine months. You say I must have a wonderful constitution to have stood it. Well, you know, God is good, and we must trust in Him. I believe I am the only Coalville lad in the second battalion who has been in all the engagements and come through without a scratch – thank God for it. As you know I served six years in India and we landed in France on October 10th. Our first experience of fire was when we were relieving the Worcestershires, who had had rather a rough time in the trenches. The Germans opened a heavy fire on our part of the trench, or ditch as it then was, but by the time daylight came we had got things into shipshape order. Then the Jack Johnsons started to come and our lads had to duck under. The first man to fall about 8 a.m. was the captain commanding my company, so our first experience of the trenches was not to our liking. We were in the trenches for 24 days and then came out for a short rest, but the battalion was called out again to retake some trenches captured by the Germans. That was on the night of November 29th and we took the trenches, but lost a good many men. We handed them over to the Ghurkhas, but as we were marching back to our billets, the Allemandes let us have a lot of shrapnel and there was some ducking and scattering, and we lost a few more men. After that we had a few days' rest except for a few digging patrols at night. Digging trenches in front of the German lines with bullets whizzing round is no joke. On December 19th we made a charge and took the trenches, also some German maxim guns which you no doubt saw paraded in Leicester. That was a night I shall never forget. We lay for two hours in the rain waiting for the word to advance and every man was shaking rather with excitement or cold. I pulled through and thank God, we took the trenches with very little loss. We had rather a bad time in the trenches owing to the water and mud which was knee deep and no matter how we threw it out, it was just as bad an hour afterwards. As luck would have it, we were out of the trenches for Christmas and were able*

to partake of the nice plum duff for which we thank the contributors very much. We also had lots of other things and plenty of fags, but, of course it was not like Christmas at home; still we were a lot happier than I thought we should be."

The writer goes on to trace events of the next few weeks and describes how when they were preparing for another attack the battalion was reinforced at a certain village where they had been resting for a month. He continues: "I began to drop across a few Coalville lads, Sergt. Twigg, Corpl. Sheffield, Sergt. Shillram and others too numerous to mention, and it made me think that Coalville and district was doing its little bit for King and country. I know there are hundreds from Coalville serving in one regiment or another, but still we want more to help to pay back the cowards who don't know how to fight fair, and who are murdering our wives, children, relations and friends. When we went into the trenches again we had a hard time owing to the water being up to the waist, but things went on until that fateful morning of March 10th when we commenced the battle of Neuve Chapelle, or what I thought of at the time as the battle of hell. When the bombardment commenced, one would have thought that the devil had opened his gates and that all his imps were let loose. I shall never forget it, if I live to be a thousand years old and I don't think there is a man left who would like to go through it again, not for a million pounds. But if it had to happen again and the lads knew that they were wanted to go through it, I am sure they would do so with the same heart. At 7 a.m. a skylark rose into the heavens and burst forth into glorious song and all the world seemed at rest as we lay waiting for the music to begin. At about ten minutes to eight, the guns started, and the Allemandes retaliated, and I should think everyone went mad till they got used to it a bit. I can't describe the noise to you; it was hell upon earth. Anyway we all waited for the word to advance and when it was given we were over the parapet as one man. We rushed forward, our eyes sticking out of our heads and rifles grasped ready for the Allemandes. We cleared the first two trenches at a bound and left those who were in them to the mercy of the other two companies following us up, if they had an mercy for them, which I doubt. After we had scaled the first two trenches, we pushed on through an orchard and secured our objective with little resistance. But the Germans were at work with their artillery and shells fell like hail. God alone knows how any man was left to tell the tale. Our boys then had to start to dig to consolidate the ground we had won. With the late Pte. Owen Hallam, of Hugglescote, I went back with a message to say we had gained our object and I can tell you we had it hot going back. It was then that we heard of the deaths of our Coalville comrades, Sergt. Twigg and Corpl. Sheffield. Anyway, we delivered our message and got back to our company and started to help them in the work they were doing to make us safe for the night. The next morning the Germans made a heavy counter attack which seemed to be directed against our battalion but the boys were just in their element and mowed them down with 15 rounds rapid fire which we had practised in our musketry courses in India. We had a bit of our own back for the loss of our comrades the day before; in fact, a bit more than our own as I am sure we had three Germans for every Britisher. We held our ground until we were relieved on the evening of March

14th and there was not one who was not glad to get out of that hell. As we marched out of the trenches on the night of the 14th, it reminded me of a picture I have seen - 'The return from Moscow.' We had four or five halts and each time I fell asleep and had to be roused. We were dead beat and for 12 hours after we got to our billets we knew no more. No men were ever more glad to get out of the trenches, but after four days' rest we were quite ready to go back again, but as luck would have it we were given a rather easy time for a month. We went into a pretty French village where the people are very good to the British soldier and a few days stay in such a place away from the German fire makes you feel like new men again."



Ballard speaks of further incidents when they were back in the trenches during May and says that from this outline of the battalion's experiences since being in France the reader will be able to form some idea of what he has been through. Ballard is an old Coalville All Saints School boy.

The letter goes on at greater length and concludes with a humorous description of a dug-out named the 'Prince's Café Hotel' where a German band plays

daily and the menu includes shrapnel soup, sniper's cutlets, bomb pudding, lyddite roll and asphyxiating tart. It also says there are 'good beds'. "The music in the French park each evening includes such items as 'The barbwire two-step,' 'The dug-out barn dance,' 'My little wet home in the trench,' recitation, 'Gott strafe England,' 'Pick and shovel polka,' etc. The musical conductor is Von Kluck and during an interval, Turkish delight will be served to those catching big Willie in the firing line."

This is signed by five Coalville kids "doing their bit," viz., L-Corpl. A. Ballard, 8213, Ptes. A. Palmer, 11529, W. Noon, 11153, A. Curtis, 9526, and N. Cave, 10762, all of the C Company, 2nd Battalion Leicesters.

FORMER WHITWICK SCHOOL TEACHER

KILLED WHILE ATTENDING A WOUNDED COMRADE

As briefly intimated in our last issue, Lance-Corporal H. S. Burton, brother of Mr G. F. Burton, commander of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps, was killed in action on May 25th or 26th.

The official news from the War Office was received by Mr Burton on Wednesday in last week.

Prior to that a letter had been received from C.-Quartermaster Gardner, dated June 9th in which he stated: "I am sorry to have to inform you that your friend L-Corpl. H. S. Burton was killed in action on May 25th or 26th whilst attacking the Germans. Fortunately, the trenches taken were held but the losses were heavy. Please accept my sincere sympathy."

Another account says that the fatal shell badly wounded five or six of deceased's chums.

L.-Corpl. H. S. Burton was born at Whitwick, being the youngest son of the late Mr George Burton. He started as a monitor at the Whitwick Church School on July 5th, 1883, and commenced as a pupil teacher at the same school on November 3rd, 1891. Afterwards he held a teaching appointment at Hucknall Torkard, and he later entered King's College, Strand, of which he became an associate when he received the cap and gown. Before the war broke out he was assistant master at the Clapham School under the London County Council, a position he had held for 20 years. During this time he had served in the London volunteers and in September last he joined the first 23rd London Regiment, in which he became lance-corporal and French interpreter. He had travelled considerably in France and Germany and knew both languages well.



While in the trenches he wrote some most graphic and interesting letters to his brother, Mr G. F. Burton, some of which we were privileged to publish in these columns.

Mr F. J. Lovell, the head master of the Clapham school, writing to Mr G. F. Burton, says, "He was a big-hearted man, who will be much missed and regretted here; a good colleague, and as unselfish as he was courageous." His brother in London writing from information received from those who were in the same fight, and who have returned wounded says: "Sidney stopped to bind up a wounded soldier, and was killed by shrapnel whilst in the act."

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

THRINGSTONE MAN IN A BOXING CONTEST

Writing to Mr A. Wood, of 111, Belvoir Road, Coalville, Pte. Wilfred Jones, 16478, D. Co. 16th Platoon, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in France says the weather is lovely, and when the firing has ceased, as it does sometimes for a few minutes, one can hear the songs of the birds and can hardly realise that such a terrible war is on. Then the air is shaken again by the bursting of shells. *"I have met a few of the Coalville lads out here in the 2nd battalion. One is Corpl. Snell, who has been out some eight or nine months. He came with the battalion from India. There are also Pte. A. Palmer, one of my old friends, Corpl. C. Camp, and many others, but time has caused me to forget their names. We had an open air concert on Friday night with an old wagon for a platform and even that was appreciated under the circumstances. I gave one of the old songs. A boxing contest was arranged for Saturday evening and, of course, our district was represented. Pte. Joe Robinson, of Thringstone, put up a good show against a young gunner in the R.F.A. in a three round contest. It passed an hour or two away, but don't think we have nothing else to do, as I suppose by the time you get this we shall be fighting for the knock-out with bits of lead and bayonets and I can assure you Coalville and district will be well represented there. I had a good laugh the other night. While me and Robin Robinson were taking a walk through one of the French villages, he tried to bargain for a monkey, and the chap would not sell it. I have seen a few of the ruins out here. I went into a ruined house the other day not far from the firing line and there was a bed, furniture and other things which afforded proof that the occupants had to depart in a hurry. But that is only one of hundreds of such cases and I believe that by meeting the Germans where we are, we are defending our own homes from a similar fate. We have some good firework displays every night. I was sorry to read in the paper about my old chum Sergt. H. Wesson and also his brother, Sergt. A. Wesson, but all we can say is that they have done their duty in a noble and righteous cause. I also saw that a young man had written home stating that the war would last 88 years, but I expect he only said it in a joke. It is best to look on the bright side of things and I am hoping it won't last as many days. That we shall win is certain."*

Jones also says that he gets the 'Coalville Times' and is interested in the soldier's letters and local news.

WHITWICK SOLDIER'S LAST LETTER

REPORTED KILLED AFTER FIVE WEEKS IN FRANCE

News has, unfortunately, been received of the death of Pte. Ernest Tugby, of the D Company, 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, within five weeks of his landing in France. He was 21 years of age.

A letter dated June 7th from an officer has been forwarded to Tugby's parents who reside at Leicester Road, Whitwick, stating that on that date he was killed in action by a shell. Death was quite painless and instantaneous. *"During the time he was with us,"* said the writer, *"he always did his work well, was cheerful and popular with his comrades. Please accept my deepest sympathy."*

The bereaved parents have written to the War Office for official confirmation but at the time of our inquiry this had not been received.

The last letter written by Tugby was one to his father dated May 26th. Having acknowledged a letter and gift with which he said he was very pleased, he says: *"I shall never forget receiving it. I got it in the middle of a heavy shelling. We were working in the open digging, and our artillery had been letting them have it, when they opened fire on us. One shell burst close to us, but did no damage, just catching three of our chaps but not hurting them much. My word, dad, you wouldn't believe with what a force they explode and the heat from them is terrific. The officer had just told us that they were going to bombard and that if they fell close, we were to run for cover. And we took him at his word. We were laughing and talking together and all at once we heard something come screaming through the air – (you would be surprised to hear them coming, but it's true) – and someone shouted 'Look up.' Some ran, but I took an old soldier's advice and dropped down flat, and as soon as it had gone off, I got up and ran for cover. I don't think I ever ran so fast in my life before. Taking it on the whole it is not so bad. We have 2 hours in the day and two in the night digging to make the cover more secure. The country is a sight. It is all cut up and it is that hot in the day time that you sweat doing nothing. At the back of our trench we hear a cuckoo every morning and it makes us wonder if there is a war on, till boom, then you know, because your head is between your knees very quickly. It is terrible when*

they start shelling. It shakes the earth. There is a village behind our lines which is often shelled and the people are still there. At the time of writing this, I am in the trenches, but we come out tonight (Tuesday) for a rest. The regiment on our right lost about 30 men last night. It was just like hell let loose. I shall remember Whitsuntide. Many a man turned his eyes towards England yesterday and thought of the young chaps enjoying themselves with the girls, but that's all they are fit for, not to take a man's part. Thank God I am doing my part and if I have got to go under, I shall do it with a good heart. You can take it from me that our airmen are marvellous. They earn the V.C. every time they go up; they simply know no fear. It will make a bit of difference with Italy starting, but we have not won yet. But we are going to win. The food we get in the trenches is a lot better than what we used to get at Portsmouth."

Tugby, writing to other friends in a letter dated May 6th, stated that he had arrived in France after a rough passage. He continued: *"It was a sight to see the waves. They seemed as big as the ships. There were four or five other regiments besides ours. To hear them talk here you would die of laughing. I am sure I shall never understand them as long as I live. There are some fine sights here and it is beginning to look something like a war now. It is jolly hot too, but on the whole there is nothing to grumble at. The food is not bad and there is enough of it. I don't expect I shall be here long, as we shall have to be getting a bit nearer the front. I will let you know when I have been in the firing line. I will catch one of the bombs and send you one if it won't go off. We are only allowed a letter a day, so I shall not be able to write to you every week, but I will write when I can."*

