

Coalville Times At War

Friday May 7th 1915 (Issue 1209)

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LEICESTER

Another large contingent of wounded and sick British soldiers from the front reached Leicester by a Red Cross train in the early hours of Monday morning. Most of the men had taken part in very recent fighting, and there was a considerable proportion of stretcher cases.

RECRUITING AT COALVILLE

A DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE

CAPT. PRITCHARD'S WARNING TO SLACKERS

The recruiting campaign in Coalville and District was continued on Friday evening when a meeting was held in the Market Place and was well attended. Capt. Pritchard, of Leicester, who presided, said they wanted 2000 more men to make up the strength of the Leicesters. He was sorry that the response in that district had not been greater. They had just been into the Ilkeston district where they got 105 recruits, mostly colliers, Leicestershire men should be ashamed that they had to go outside their own county to get men for the Leicesters. He had the authority of the War Office to say that if Lord Kitchener did not get the number of men he wanted by a certain date, those who were now holding back would be compelled to join. He would much rather them respond to that appeal than that they should have to be fetched. Three young men had given in their names that night and he urged others to follow their example. It would be a terrible thing if the Germans ever got to England. He knew something of the atrocities committed by the Germans in Belgium, having himself seen a young Belgian woman with both her arms cut off above the elbows. She was in hospital at Leicester and she said the Germans did that because her husband, whom they had killed, was a soldier. She also told him that German officers took a baby, a few months old from her arms and carried it around stuck on top of a sword, while her two other children were placed in the roadway and trampled to death by German cavalry. Did not that make their blood boil. It would be worse if the Huns ever reached this country and he appealed to young Englishmen to come forward and assist in preventing that.

Capt. Stevenson also addressed the meeting and appeals were likewise made by five non-commissioned officers from Wigston who had been wounded at the front and who gave some of their experiences. The Desford Industrial School Band paraded the town playing patriotic airs before and after the meeting.

On Saturday the same band led a procession to the Fox and Goose ground where the Coalville Cup Final was played and before the match commenced, Capt. Pritchard addressed the crowd, to whom an appeal was also made by Mr W. Dyson, popularly known as "Will Workman."

On Sunday evening there was a large company at the Coalville Olympia Theatre (kindly lent) when an illustrated lecture on the war was given by Councillor C. J. Pearse, of Leicester. Capt. Stevenson presided and was supported by the 5 non-commissioned officers who had been assisting in the campaign. The lecturer was applauded when he referred to the gallantry of the Canadians, pictures of whom were shown, there were also some interesting pictures of the trenches and other battle scenes. Mr Pearse said Lord Kitchener had stated that he wanted yet another million men and if Coalville was to remain the peaceful town that it was and escape the fate of the Belgian towns which had been ruined they must keep on sending more men.

Captain Stevenson said it was nine months since the war started and Coalville had done well. At the first meeting they had in that theatre they got 64 recruits which was a record for the county at any one meeting, but they wanted 2,000 more men now to make up the strength of the county regiment. He regretted that the response to the week's campaign on which they had been engaged had not been very satisfactory.

Sergt.-Major Pugh, of the 2nd Leicesters, said he was in India when the war broke out and within five days of landing at Marseilles they were in the trenches. He went on to relate his experiences there and said they had never met the Germans in equal numbers. It had always been anything up to ten to one on the side of the

enemy and the British soldiers in the trenches had often asked when more men would come to help them. If one of their comrades in the pit was under a fall of roof, they would risk their lives to save him. Then why not help their comrades out there? A man told him on Saturday that he should not go till he was fetched. "I would like the job of fetching him" added the Sergt.-Major. God forbid that the Germans should win. If they did, life in this country would not be worth living.

Corpl. Bradshaw of the 2nd Leicesters announced that a Coalville lad, Lance-Corporal Nicholls had been recommended for the D.C.M. (Applause). Continuing he said he was at the football match on Saturday. Well, there was a good match going on in France. Ours was the weakest side and we were not over the halfway line yet, but with the help of the men of England they would drive the Germans back.

Sergt. Edwards, of the 1st Leicesters, said he had been 17 years in the Metropolitan Police Force and had a wife and three children, but he volunteered when the war broke out and had been out there to do his bit. He also had the honour of serving under General French in the South African War. The Germans gained ground last week and more recruits were urgently needed.

Miss Burkitt sang a solo and Capt. Stevenson expressed thanks to all who had assisted in arranging the meeting which terminated with the singing of the National Anthem. Afterwards Mr Pearse motored to Copt Oak and gave a lecture there.

Meetings were to have been held at Whitwick and Hugglescote on Monday, but these and others arranged for this week were abandoned owing to the poor response.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Sergeant G. A. Smith, of the A. Company, 5th Leicestershire Regiment, was one of the eight successful competitors in a recent examination at Bisley in Maxim gun training and instruction. Sergt. Smith, who is a native of Ashby, is now quartered in Luton, and is giving instruction to the Maxim gun sections of the 4th and 5th Lincolns.

DO YOU KNOW

That one of the Belgian children at Broom Leys, Coalville, is down with measles?

That there were six recruits from the meeting addressed by Mrs J. J. Sharp in Whitwick Market Place on Monday morning?

That Lieut. E. W. Harper, formerly of Hugglescote, now on service in the Midland Brigade Transport and Supply Column, has been gazetted temporary captain?

That two sons of the Hugglescote post master serving in the army have recently been promoted – Mr P. Hadfield to Co.-Sergt.-Major, and Mr T. E. Hadfield to Sergt., both of the Army Service Corps?

That under a new order just issued, the manager of every hotel, inn, boarding house, lodging-house or apartments, must keep a register in which persons staying there must write their nationality and other particulars?

That Captain John Ward, Labour M.P., for Stoke-on-Trent, was on Monday gazetted to command the 19th Middlesex Battalion (2nd Public Works Pioneers) a new navvies' battalion, and to be temporarily lieutenant-colonel?

That the Rev. J. R. Sharpley, of Ashby, has a son and six nephews, serving in the army and navy?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 26th collection from 12 districts realised £5 11s 3d.

CITIZEN'S PARADE

The members of the Coalville Citizen Corps paraded in the town on Sunday morning and marched to the London Road Baptist Church headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band. The pastor, the Rev. F. Pickbourne, preached an appropriate sermon.

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS

The Coalville Women's Adult School Knitting Party, conducted by Mrs Drewett and Miss Hatchett, for making soldiers' comforts, held a successful tea in the Bridge Road Hall in aid of the fund on Wednesday. There was a large attendance, necessitating two sittings down. A dance followed which was also well attended. Mr. T. H. Hatchett was M.C. and a string band with Miss Burton as pianist supplied the music.

AN ABSENTEE

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Tuesday, Pte. Lewis Hopkins, of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment at Glen Parva barracks since 7 am that morning. It was stated that he had been on furlough since January and had been ordered to return to the barracks to go away with a draft that morning at nine o'clock, but failed to turn up. He was remanded to await an escort, which took him by the 3.50 pm train.

ANOTHER ABSENTEE

Another absentee from his regiment was Pte. Amos Elkin, of the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, stationed at Chelsea and he was brought before Mr J. W. West at the Police Court on Wednesday and remanded for an escort which arrived and took him away in the evening. The soldier, it was stated, had been an absentee since April 25th and he was arrested by PC Langham at Hugglescote, where his parents reside.

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LEICESTER FOOTBALLER WOUNDED

Frank Taylor, the young Leicester rugby forward, who went to the front with the 4th Leicesters a few weeks ago, has been wounded. The information reached Mr Crumbie, the hon. secretary of the L.F.C. on Monday morning. Taylor wrote, "Have been admitted to the hospital wounded. Am going on well."

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ANOTHER COALVILLE SOLDIER PROMOTED

HOW HIS BROTHER DIED

Sergt. G. H. Wesson, of the Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr William Wesson, of the Midland Railway Loco Department, Coalville, and brother of Sergt. Alfred Wesson (Mr Wesson's second son, a noted army athlete, who died in the general hospital at Boulogne from wounds on the 12th March) writing to his father from France, says: "Every man enlisted is a help, one "one of ours is worth twenty Almands." The sergeant proceeds, "I can tell you one thing I saw in the papers that upset my palate, and that was the strike amongst the working class. I wish I had got a few here. I would make them that they would not strike again. What would England be if our soldiers were to stop in the midst of an action?" Telling of his brother's death, he says, "He had done his turn in the trenches, when he was in the rear of his platoon, in case anyone should fall out. Whilst crossing a road a machine gun was turned on them, and Alf, being in the rear, was the first to get in the line of fire. He was hit through both legs, about a foot above the knees. He did not seem to feel a deal of pain, as he was laughing and saying to his chum, 'I shall be in England first now'. A young chap of Kitchener's Army got mentioned for his good work in putting two tourniquets, fastened with bayonets, on Alf's legs. The first time I saw him I thanked him for his pluck and first aid work. Everyone here, including the

officers, asked about Alf, and all expressed their sorrow on hearing of his death. You will be pleased to know that I have been promoted sergeant; also to know that I have had a bit of my own back for Alf. I was very sorry to see the deaths of so many Coalville men, but at the same time proud of them dying for their King and country. You will also see in the casualty list that my regiment did not get off scot free.”

BAGWORTH MEN’S BAPTISM OF FIRE

WITH THE 4TH LEICESTERS IN THE TRENCHES

Private A. Emmerson, writing to the headmaster of Bagworth Council School says:

“Naturally we are broken in easily, being detailed off with the old stagers in trenches of a most elaborate kind. The approach to these trenches was through a very long communication trench – a raised floor of wood keeping it absolutely dry. Stray bullets cracked on the parapets or whistled shrilly overhead. It will hardly be allowed me to give you exact details of the construction of these trenches, but I will give you some faint ideas. They had been built with great care and by men who had been used to fixing props, etc., in coal mines. The earth at the back was held up by props and wire-netting and in front was a system of hutches running the length of the trenches. These were built up to the parapet of earth and sand bags. In order to fire, the men stood at the entrance to the hutches and fired over. Some slight head cover was arranged but very little. The popular name of these shelters is “Booby-hutches.” The name explains itself but they are used by everyone of course for purposes of rest and sleep. Each hutch has its brazier of coke and the men fry bacon and make tea all day long. It is amusing to note the apparent willingness of both sides to cry quite at meal times. There is a distinct lull in firing and smoke rises merrily from both lines. Just where I was situated the lines were only 30 yard apart and greetings were exchanged morning and evening between the rival combatants. To the ‘Tommy’ the German is familiarly known as ‘Fritz’ or ‘Allemand.’ As for my own personal experiences they were not very exciting. My brother and I were put on an observation post only 25 yards from the enemy and it grew so hot that we were taken off and the post abandoned. The line of trenches ran through a ruined nunnery, and the courtyard of this place was very dangerous indeed, for bullets struck the walls and ricocheted all over the place. It was here I saw my first casualty – one man getting a nasty wound in the head. Am glad to say it did not affect me in the least. So much for our baptism of fire. We are now holding our own lines and doing our own work. Of the latter commodity there is more than enough, for we found the trenches in a very poor condition. Our ambition is to make these trenches as comfortable and respectable as those we first went in. I got soaked through time after time on the occasion of our first venture here and stood and dried in the cold wind. Booby-hutches are rapidly making their appearance now thank goodness.

You’ll be wondering how many Germans I’ve seen, killed and so on. Well, I’ve seen at least three live Germans, plenty of dead ones, and my “bag” amounts to any figure I like to state, that is I don’t know.

To stay “in status quo” is all right, fairly safe and sometimes almost boring. A man must as a rule, expose himself unnecessarily in order to be shot by a bullet. Of course the danger from grenades and shells is always there. The old fashioned glorious close charge is a thing of the past – indeed it would mean swift and sure annihilation. Any advance that is made must be accompanied by fearful losses, so terrible and murderous are the modern implements of warfare. Loop holes, barricades, cover of every kind, makes this war one vast siege with both sides able to get supplies and reinforcements.

I am writing this in the firing line as opportunity arises, but two days ago I was in the supports. Behind us were ruined farms and homesteads and from one of the former we were able to procure wood (for fuel), straw, and best of all, potatoes and turnips! We feasted right well. Whilst prowling about I came across the skeleton of a human being. It gave me quite a ‘turn’ for the moment. Decaying remains of dead animals lay about polluting the air. Still, we enjoyed the potatoes!”

WHITWICK QUARRYMEN AT THE FRONT

FRENCH GUNS LIKE THUNDER

The following is a letter received by Mr J. H. Robinson, manager of the Whitwick stone quarry from one of his quarrymen at the front, Pte. A. Lucas, of the 5th Leicesters.

Dear Sir, - Just a few lines in answer to your letter and parcel which I received quite safe to-day. I thank you very much for the parcel you sent me, especially for the smokes, they are one of the best comforts we get out here, an English cigarette. The French fags are too strong, not one of us can smoke them. You ask if any who worked at the quarry are out here. There are Cotterill, Millward, Thorpe, E. Freer and Walker, that I know of, G. Freer and Gibson are at Luton yet. Well we have just come out of the trenches again for a day or two's rest, after being in five days. We had very few casualties in our battalion again this time, and I am sure we are all thankful for it. We were on fatigue carrying rations, wood and stuff, up to the trenches the other night when a chap who had been my mate ever since we got here was killed. We had delivered the stuff and got into comparative safety when a bullet struck him in the back and came out of his chest, and then he jumped and ran nearly 400 yards, but as soon as we got him to one of the first aid hospitals he died. These are the times when it tries us most, when our chums are getting shot down. The same bullet just missed me and then went through another chap's arm.

There was a very big attack on our left the other night, you ought to have heard the guns, the screech of the shells, and when they burst it was awful. We were a considerable distance from the guns, and it seemed like a fearful roaring, so what it would be like at the front God only knows. The French big guns are doing some grand work now. When they get going it is like a frightful thunderstorm, with peals of thunder following one another for hours. Well, Dear Sir, I must draw to a close, and hope to hear again from you soon and wishing you the best of luck.

I remain, yours faithfully.

Private A. Lucas.

P.S. You say you noticed Mr R. D. Farmer passed my last letter, he is the officer over our platoon. Lieut. Shields from Breedon is with our company now, so we have got two of the best.

“BOUND TO WIN”

IBSTOCK TROOPER IN THE TRENCHES

We have received the following letter from an Ibstock trooper at the front:

Dear Sir – May I beg the favour of a space in your valuable paper? We often get one out here, are delighted to get local news from the old country. In several editions we have seen where the Coalville and District soldiers, who are fighting out here, have written thanking the Coalville women for the nice presents received. I am writing on behalf of my Lance-Corpl. Charlie Hughes, who resides at Highfields, Coalville, when in civil life, and is now serving with the Leicestershire Yeomanry. He thinks he has been forgotten for he has not yet had the pleasure of receiving a present from the above friends. Pleased to say we are having very nice weather now, but we have experienced some rough times during the time we have been out which is now 5 months. The first time we went into the trenches the weather conditions were very bad; marching 3 or 4 miles in snow and hail, up to the knees in mud and water, with shells flying all around and the snipers on the go. We also had frost bitten feet to contend with. For over a week we were under continual shell fire. More than once we have had to run to dodge the “Jack Johnsons.” When once the enemy get the range we very soon have to clear out, for they don't half pepper them in. One night we had 26 horses killed but luckily all the men escaped. On Sunday afternoon we had just enjoyed a meal of bully stew and they began to shell us like – hello, and we had to run for our very lives. Again the Leicestershire Yeomanry were lucky with no casualties. After they had calmed down a bit, Hughes and myself went back to the wood to fetch rifles that had been left behind. On our second trip up the line we were favoured with rather better weather. We had 5 days and 6 nights in the first line trenches, within 100 yards of the enemy's first line, and had the pleasure of giving them a warm time from our Lee-Enfield's. At the same time we had to keep our nappers down low, for the snipers were always on the go (and they are dead shots). Pleased to say we only had one killed and seven wounded during our turn in the front line. We then came back in reserve for 5 days. The night before we were relieved about 10 o'clock they shelled us again. Our regiment is considered the most fortunate out here. We have not much work for our horses yet, but we are expecting to make a dash shortly. We are bound to win the day, but we have got some heavy fighting to do yet. We shall all be pleased when it is over and to get back to our dear ones at home. Charles Hughes wishes to be remembered to all friends in Coalville and District hoping one is not forgotten who is doing his bit for King and Country. We are fighting for the very existence of civilisation. Yours truly.

J. Dawson
A volunteer Ibstock Trooper

P.S. We were very sorry to hear Jack Sheffield and several more Coalville boys had gone down.

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

BY EXPLOSIVES DROPPED FROM AN AEROPLANE

Pte. A. Edwards, writing from the front to his sister, Mrs G. Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, states that Sten Hardy, another Coalville soldier, has sent word to him that he is now in hospital, having been wounded by a shell dropped from an aeroplane and was expecting soon to go to England. *"I got to know this on the telephone this morning, so thought I would let you know, but no doubt you will have heard by now. I haven't seen any more of the Coalville fellows since, but think they are all keeping well. I got the "Coalville Times" and saw the letter therein. Remember me to Harry Morris when you see him. I am out of the trenches now but go in again on _____. I think it only for a week this time and that we shall soon be getting a move on. I don't care how soon it is either. I hope both Frank and Alvin will get back safely. Remember me to Mrs Bott and tell her I keep smiling and am in good health. I hope that both her nephews and her brother will get through safely but a lot have got to go under yet and it can't be helped. We can't expect to win without some sacrifice. There are so many men on both sides that both are bound to lose a lot, but I bet the Germans have the heaviest casualties. They keep losing big numbers every day, and, of course, we expect to lose some as well. We are still having good weather here and hope you are having the same."*

The reference above to Sten Hardy has been confirmed by news since received in Coalville. Hardy is stated to have landed in England on Saturday night and is now in hospital at Bristol.

FALLEN HEROES

TWO MORE COALVILLE MEN KILLED IN ACTION

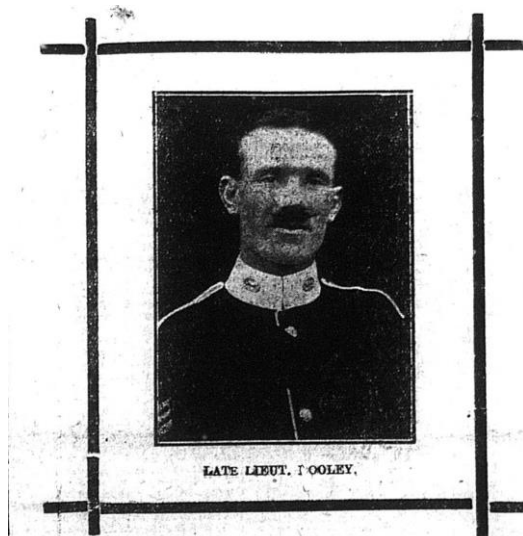
It was only in our last issue that we published a photograph of Lieut. T. Dooley, of Coalville, and congratulated him on having been granted a commission in His Majesty's Army. Alas, the gallant officer has not lived long to enjoy his promotion, having been killed in action on Saturday last. The sad news was contained in a telegram received by his aged father, Mr T. Dooley, of Margaret Street, Coalville, about mid-day on Tuesday. The telegram was from the War Office and ran as follows:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lieut. T. Dooley, Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action, May 1st. Can you wire wife's address? Lord Kitchener expresses deep sympathy. War Office."

The deceased officer was in the 2nd Leicesters and was in India when war broke out having been there for nine years of the twelve that he had been in the army. He went to the front with the Indian Expeditionary Force in October. Before leaving Coalville he used to play football for the Coalville Town club. He was married in India twelve months last March and his wife is at present staying with Mr H. T. Dooley, at the Elephant and Castle Inn, Shrewsbury.

In January, Lieut. Dooley had five days' leave of absence which he spent with his sister, Mrs C. W. Spring, of Park Lane, Darlington, where his wife, who has just returned from India, joined him. The news of the sad occurrence was forwarded to her at Shrewsbury on Tuesday. Mrs Dooley is a native of York.

Mr George Johnson, Midland Railway engine driver, Park Road, Coalville, and his wife have been informed that their eldest son, Albert, serving with the Rifle Brigade, has been killed in action at a place not stated. The deceased soldier is stated to have served in the Rifle Brigade prior to the outbreak of the war, and re-enlisted. He was shot through the body, and the first intimation was received by his fiancée, to whom Johnson had addressed a letter which was



found on his body. The young lady conveyed the sorrowful news to the parents. Before rejoining the army, Johnson was in a sanatorium at Rugby, where he had made good progress.

It is expected that Pte. J. A. Johnson, of the 1st Leicesters, has died of wounds received in action on April 16th. His parents live in Main Street, Swannington.

A COALVILLE SOLDIER POET

LINES FROM PTE. HARRY SHARP

The following lines have reached us from Pte. Harry Sharp, of the 6th Leicesters, whose home is 215, Hermitage Road, Coalville.

The 6th Leicesters

Of all the Regiments there are to see,
The 6th Leicesters seem the best to me.
And when they come up into town,
How all the girls they gather round,
To watch the Leicesters go marching by
'Midst many a smile and wink of eye.

Really its fine, man after man,
With rifle and bayonet all spick and span,
With bands of music they move along,
Looking so healthy, so firm and strong.
They're off to the station, as everyone knows,
Making for France and her most deadly foes.

The train makes a move, amidst cheer upon cheer,
But once out of sight, there's many a tear.
They had left dear old England perhaps ne'er to come back,
But they'd lay down their lives for the Union Jack.
When once in the trenches to face the foe,
They have not got a fear for their work they know.

The Captain cries, "charge!" and amidst shot and shell,
The men they dart forward with only a yell.
They mowed down the Germans and did their best,
But that some were then missing is easily guessed.
Many brave men that left England's shore
Are now laid to rest with honours galore.

The war it was over and the heroes come home,
To the dear ones they left when they first crossed the foam,
Only to tell how they fought and won,
And of their brave comrades whose long rest has come.
So now they're at home and the next we shall hear
Is the first battle honours for the 6th Leicestershire.



'COALVILLE TIMES' APPRECIATED IN THE TRENCHES

Pte. Edgar Howe, of Golden Row, Whitwick, in a letter dated April 20th says that his wife sent him a "Coalville Times" and he and his mates were very pleased to read it. They were still playing the game and keeping the Germans from scoring in France. Roll on old England!

“COME ON YOU ENGLISH ----“

COALVILLE SOLDIERS SAYS THE GERMANS DON'T LIKE THEM



Pte. Charles Cope, of the 1st North Stafford Regiment, writing from the Front to his parents who reside in Waterworks Road, Coalville, states that he is in the best of health. It is nice to hear from home and he is always looking out for letters from his friends. *“Ask Harry Darker to send a few fags and tell him to get a fat duck or an old hen or two ready for when we come home, for I don't think the war will last much longer. Anyway, lets hope so. I should like a small packet of writing paper and a few envelopes. The weather is alright now and the trenches are nice and dry. There is not much news to tell you. I am just going into my little home in the trench now for a nap. Thanks for the Woodbines. They are half the battle nearly. The Germans keep shouting, “Come on you English d_____.” They don't like us somehow. They will smell h_____ before many more days are gone.”*

In another letter, Cope expresses thanks to Mrs Hale for rock and cigarettes. He also says the cake was very nice and the socks were very useful. He will want some more when they get a move on, which will not be long now if the weather keeps nice. He continues, *“I don't think it will be long now before we can get it over. I am sorry to say that Mr Gordon*

has had his leg off and an old pal of mine has been killed. But we are here to fight for home and beauty. Good old England for ever and not what the Kaiser said, “New Germany.” He is mad. We are happy enough here and have plenty of fun among ourselves.”

COALVILLE R.A.M.C. MAN'S EXPERIENCE

DENIES A RUMOUR THAT HE HAS BEEN WOUNDED

COWARDS WHO REMAIN AT HOME



Pte. Sam Hodson son of Mr and Mrs J. Hodson, of High Street, Coalville, serving with the R.A.M.C. at the front, writing to his parents says he was greatly depressed of hearing of the fate of Jack Manders and Jack Sheffield. He does not think it will be long before it is over and he is hoping to be able to go to Blackpool in August. Alluding to the noise of the guns, he says he could do with a piece of dad's neck wool in his ear. Talk about the hammer he used to drive that was nothing to it. People used to sneer at the Territorials, but they had shown their pluck in this war. Remember me to all and I am just going to sing the song I love so well. *“My heart is with you to-night.”*

In a subsequent letter, Hodson refers to Tom Welch as having been made sergeant. *“I was told yesterday that the 5th Leicesters were coming out of the trenches and went to meet them. The 4th battalion were just coming out and I was told that the 5th could not come out for another 12 hours. I was feeling in a rage about it when someone shouted, “Sam,” and I saw George Beale. He said he had just had a letter saying I was in Netley Hospital with my leg off. It is a rumour going round Coalville and you can*

deny it as I am quite safe. The danger is from aeroplanes which are frequently flying over, but we give them our deserts. Our airmen are much better than theirs. I am just on the borders of Belgium and a long way from the trenches. You say you wish I was at home, and I do sometimes, if only for a little while, but it is only cowards who are remaining in England at present. Don't send me any more pudding as I get it every day, but send me a cake now and then for a change. I got the pipe and was very pleased with it.”

In another letter dated April 21st Hodson acknowledges the receipt of a photo and says one of the soldiers has fallen in love with that of his sister. He proceeds, "Did you get my photo? Not bad is it? Put it in the "Times", I might as well have mine in as anybody else. I went and saw the Leicesters and met Green and Beale just as they received their parcels. What a feed, not half! They were pleased to see me and Lieut. Sharp asked me a few questions. I don't want you to worry about me as I am quite alright."

Writing on April 24th Hodson says he was pleased to receive a letter and the "Coalville Times" and continues, "I am alright, plenty to eat, etc. This is the experience I always wanted and I am not bothering a bit. All the same I shall be glad to come home again. When the time comes, tell Jack to get the sheets well warmed as I have not seen a pair for nine months. But I could not rest at home at a time like this. I am getting on well and weigh 11 1/2 stone now."

WHITWICK CHURCHMEN SERVING IN THE ARMY

In an interesting little booklet published as the first annual report of the Whitwick Church Men's Service it is stated that 16 of the members including the secretary, assistant secretary, and three of the stewards, are serving in the Army. Three of them – Corpl. C. Yearby, Lance-Corpl. L. E. Brotherhood and Pte. W. Adams – were at the time the report was issued, in the thick of the fighting in Northern France and as far as can be known most of the others will also be in or near the fighting line before many weeks are past. We are proud to record the names of our soldier members says the publication, these being as follows.

		
Pte. Walter Adams, 1841, Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry.	Pte. Frederick W. Duckor, 1193, A. Company, 7th Leicesters.	Lce-Corp. Albert William Hanson, 2346, A. Company, 5th Leicesters.
		
Pte. G. Harry Webster, 10th Middlesex.	Pte. Alfred Charles Pegg, Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry.	Pte. J. Harold Pegg, 1376, B. Company, 8th Leicesters.
		
Pte. John E. J. Duckor, 15719, D. Company, 5th Leicesters.	Pte. Walter Adams, 1841, Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry.	Corp. S.S., Charles Yearby, 1780, Z. Battery. R.H.A.
		
Pte. Samuel E. Perry, 12135, G. Company, 3rd Leicesters.		

Sergt. Charles Stone, 7962, 7th Seaforth Highlanders.
Corp. S.S., Charles Yearby, 1780, Z. Battery, R.H.A. Now in France.
Lce-Corp. Albert William Hanson, 2346, A. Company, 5th Leicesters. Secretary of the Men's Service Sidesman of our Church, and Secretary of the Men's Money Club.
Lce-Corp. Louis E. Brotherhood, 8503, 1st Northumberland Fusiliers. Now in France.
Pte. J. Harold Pegg, 13176, B. Company, 8th Leicesters. Sunday School teacher, Secretary of Communicant's Guild, Secretary and Vice-Captain of Bell-ringers, and Steward of the Men's Service.
Pte. Walter Adams, 11841, Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry. Bell ringer, and Steward of the Men's Service. Now in France.
Pte. Alfred Charles Pegg, Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry. Assistant Secretary of Men's Service, Chairman and Assistant Scoutmaster.
Pte. G. Harry Webster, 10th Middlesex, Chairman.
Pte. Samuel E. Perry, 12135, G. Company, 3rd Leicesters, Scoutmaster.
Pte. Frederick W. Ducker, 1193, A. Company, 5th Leicesters.
Pte. John E. D. Ducker, 15719, D. Company, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. Edward Walton, 10328, C. Company, 6th Leicesters.
Pte. Oliver Bonser, 13125, 8th Leicesters.
Driver Harold E. West, 031437, Mechanical Transport, A.S.C.
Pte. George W. Underwood, 2456, 5th Leicesters.
Pte. Ernest Tugby, 16485, G. Company, 3rd Leicesters.

Friday May 14th 1915 (Issue 1210)

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COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS

Sir – Will you allow us through your columns to call attention of the men of Coalville to the Citizen Corps movement.

At the present time the need for national organisation generally is being pressed from all quarters. Our part locally is to organise as far as possible the men of the district, to drill and train in the use of arms, and to make ourselves ready for any duties that may be required of us by the authorities and if need be to take our part in the defence of our homes. Here in Coalville it is perhaps difficult to fully realise the terrible events that are happening, but we of the Citizens' Corps so far realise it that we feel it is the duty of every able-bodied man, no matter what his position in life to make the necessary sacrifice of his time to fit himself to do his part if the need of the country should require his services.

All that is asked is that men should give two hours a week to drill and to practice rifle shooting. There are not many men in Coalville who could not do this. The miner, mechanic, clerk, tradesman and men of leisure (if any) should all turn out and show that they are willing to do what they can in the serious time through which we are passing. Those who from physical disability are unable to drill can help the movement by impressing on others the desirability for civilian preparedness.

Apart from the possible need of the services of the corps we feel that the social side of the movement is good. At our drills and meetings all outside differences are dropped, we meet as men and loyal citizens, we get to know each other better and we feel the benefit of working together for the common good.

The present strength of the Coalville Corps is roughly 100 – it should be 500. We ask all men not of military age to join – also those of military age but who are prevented by good reasons for serving in the army. Full particulars may be obtained and names handed to the undersigned.

Thanking you, Sir, for the publication of this letter. We are, yours faithfully.

*B. G. Hale, President
Chas. W. H. Gutteridge, Commandant
Jno. W. Farmer, Platoon Commander
Harry Swanwick, Hon. Secretary*

ENGLISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

Sir, - The reports of the way in which our prisoners of war are being starved and ill-treated are so distressing that I am issuing this appeal for funds for forwarding food, etc., to them.

Through the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Mosse I have received a list of the names of 96 of the Leicestershire Regiment who are interned in Germany. Packages can be sent to these prisoners through the American Express Co. free of charge, and I am arranging to dispatch periodically a parcel to all men of this regiment, if sufficient money is forthcoming.

The parcels will contain such articles as tea, cocoa, tinned tongues, cakes, sugar, Keating's powder and suitable clothing. Mr T. Butler, Elmfield Avenue, Leicester, has kindly consented to act as hon. treasurer, to whom donations should be sent. A letter to each recipient will be sent announcing the dispatch of the parcels and asking for an acknowledgement of the same. Cheques should be crossed "Parr's Bank Limited, Leicester Branch."

*Yours truly
Helen Freer
The Stony Gate, Leicester*

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LEICESTER CITIZEN CORPS

COMMANDANT'S NEW APPOINTMENT

Captain R. W. Pritchard, the Commandant of the Leicestershire Citizens' Corps, in a letter to the officers and men says, *"It is with deep regret that I have to leave to resign my appointment as commandantThe military authorities have asked me to do so as they have more important work for me to do."*

GALLANT LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER

Captain F. H. Romily, of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, one of the recipients of the D.S.O. honour, was reported wounded in February. He got his company in India in *(date obscured)*. He served in the Boer War with the – Welsh Regiment, and has seen a good deal of service with the West African Frontier force.

COALVILLE POLICE COURT

RECRUITING MEETING INTERRUPTED

Joseph Sharpe, collier, Coalville, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Coalville, on April 30th. Defendant admitted having had a drop of beer, but he denied being drunk and disorderly. P.C. Sibson said the defendant interfered with the speakers at a recruitment meeting in the Market Place and Captain Pritchard complained. Witness and Inspector Dobney had to remove him. The Inspector corroborated. Defendant denied using bad language. He said he asked them to enlist him, that was all, and they told him he was too old. Fined 15s or 14 days.

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SOLDIER'S WIFE ASSAULTED AT THRINGSTONE

CASE AT COALVILLE POLICE COURT

The story of a Sunday afternoon disturbance at Thringstone, in which a soldier's wife was badly knocked about, was told at the Coalville Police Court on Friday, when Edward White, collier, Thringstone, was summoned for assaulting Louisa Squires, married woman, at Thringstone on May 2nd. He pleaded not guilty.

Complainant on being sworn, said she could not read. Replying to the Clerk, she said she was 25 years of age. She went to Thringstone School and was in the third standard when she left. Continuing her evidence she said her husband was a soldier and was now in Hants. On the day named, a little boy got his fingers trapped with a door, but it was not her fault. She said she was sorry, but the defendant knocked her down and kicked her several times. He also attacked her with a table knife, which caught her ear, but his wife pulled him off or it would have been worse. After that, however, defendant attacked her a second time and dragged her into the road by her hair. He knelt on her and caught hold of her throat threatening to strangle her. The little girl screamed and he also struck her. She produced an apron covered with blood stains which she said she was wearing at the time. She had not spoken to the defendant for a long time, though she had had words with his wife.

By defendant: She did pick up a poker but did not threaten him with a knife. She did not aggravate him in any way.

Sarah Haywood, a little girl, sister of the complainant, said she went to sleep with her sister while her husband was away. Witness saw the defendant come into the house and knock her sister down. There was a struggle for the poker. Defendant afterwards dragged Mrs Squires into the road by her hair and got hold of her throat and said he would be hung for her.

Elizabeth Stinson, wife of William Stinson, miner, Thringstone, said she saw the defendant drag the complainant into the road by the hair and he threatened to serve anyone the same who tried to assist her. The defendant punched the complainant and her ear and nose bled. Women whose husbands were away wanted protection from men like him. It was all over nothing.

Defendant said he had been in the army, and produced his papers as to character. He asked the complainant why she had served his boy's fingers like that and she replied by abusing him and calling him offensive names. She threw a plate at him, which he dodged by ducking. Then she went for the poker and he took it from her. While the bother was on complainant's brother came up and struck him, giving him a black eye.

The Clerk: Have you summoned him? – No.
How came her brother on the scene? – He was fetched.

Defendant was fined £1 1s and 3s 6d witness's expenses or 21 days. Fourteen days allowed to pay.

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LOCAL NEWS

A Coalville party visited Donington Hall on Sunday afternoon and, having obtained a permit, were shown round by one of the soldiers forming the guard. Surrounding the hall is a thick barbed wire entanglement, inside which no visitors are allowed, but from the other side some of the German officers who are now there as prisoners – there are a little over a hundred in all – were observed playing hockey and tennis on the greensward in front of the hall, it being a lovely afternoon. Others, all smartly dressed, were parading the walks in the beautiful grounds, smoking cigars and apparently passing their time pleasantly. The visitors were led to understand that practically all the prisoners were men of wealth and paid for what luxuries they enjoy beyond the ordinary fare allowed to prisoners of that class. The soldiers forming the guard are quartered in wooden huts in the park and these were also inspected and found to be very clean and comfortable.

Twenty-five members of the City of Coventry Police Force have recently joined the army and these include P.C.'s Albert Williams, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, and Walter Wright, of Margaret Street, Coalville, who have been given the rank of Corporal in the Warwickshire Regiment and have proceeded to the Isle of Wight. We hope to publish their photographs in our next issue.

DO YOU KNOW

That Colonel Cretton, MP, has returned from the front on leave, owing to his eyesight being injuriously infected by the strain of active service?

That it is a year ago today since an Adult School party numbering about one hundred, left England on a peace mission to Germany?

That a recruits' squad is being formed in connection with the Coalville Citizen's Corps and it is hoped that a large number of men will join and get through the awkward drills in good company?

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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 27th collection from 10 districts realised £6 0s 1d.

LEICESTERSHIRE FRUIT MERCHANTS AND GERMANS

At a meeting of the Leicester and District Wholesale Fruit and Potato Merchants' Association, held on Wednesday evening, a resolution was unanimously passed to the effect that no member shall do trade of any description with Germans.

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HOW LIEUT. T. DOOLEY DIED

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

Mr and Mrs T. Dooley, of 122 Margaret Street, Coalville, have received many expressions of sympathy on the death at the front of their son, Lieut. T. Dooley, and for these they are very grateful. The messages include the following:

Lord Aberconway's Regret

43, Belgrave Square. *Dear Sir, I saw with great regret the death of your brave son at the front. He has for many years served his country well and his loss will be widely felt. I beg you will convey my sincere sympathy to his wife. Believe me, yours truly.*
Aberconway.

Kind Message from the King and Queen

Mrs Dooley, the widow, has also received the following:

Mrs Dooley, Elephant and Castle, Shrewsbury Spring. The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the army have sustained by the death of your husband in the service of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow.
Private Secretary.

Sympathy of the Colonel, Officers and Men

Dear Mrs Dooley, I am writing to you on behalf of Colonel Gordon, officers, N.C.O.'s and men, to express to you how grieved we all are at the death of your husband, and sympathy for you in your bereavement.

It will comfort you to know that he suffered no pain. A shell burst in a splinter proof, where he was, and he was killed instantly. Your husband will be a great loss to the regiment. He was always so cheery and took a great part in all games, was an excellent soldier exceedingly popular with everyone. He was my Company Sergeant-Major for a short time previous to his being promoted and I never wish to have a better. Also as an officer afterwards, everyone recognised his good qualities. We all trust you will accept our deepest

sympathy, and that the knowledge that he was killed when fighting for the good of his country will assist you to bear your terrible loss. Believe me, yours sincerely

M. Lewis

May 2nd, 1915.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

The following is a further list of eggs collected by Mr R. Sharp of Whitwick, and sent to the Base Hospital at Leicester, for the wounded soldiers.

Mr S. P. McCarthy	22
Mrs Stinson	20
Mrs Atkins	20
Miss D. N. Burkitt	20
Mrs Webster	15
Mr A. Bull	15
Mrs Murray	12
Mr A. Smith	12
Mr W. Smith	12
Mr A. West	12
Mrs E. Newton	12
Mr W. V. McCarthy	10
Mrs Bastard	10
Mr Musson	10
Miss C. Taylor	5
A. Friend	4

TRACED BY A PHOTOGRAPH

A remarkable circumstance in connection with the photograph of British prisoners in Germany, published last week, is the discovery of Private Sam Bird, of Hucknall, who was in the Gloucester Regiment. Letters came regularly to his wife until the middle of November, but for the past six months he has been unheard of. Last week, however, Mrs Bird recognised the countenance of her husband in the group of prisoners, and even the children (of whom there are five) picked out their father.

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MET A GERMAN SNIPER

HOW HUGGLESCOTE MAN'S BROTHER WAS WOUNDED

Mr Marper, of Wilkin's Lane, Hugglescote, has two brothers serving in the Forces and he has recently received a cheery letter from one of them, Private P. Marper, of F Company, 6th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, who has been wounded and is at present in the 16th General Hospital in France. He says, *"I expect you will have got to know my getting hit, but don't worry yourself, as I am mending now. I am living in hope of going and having another 'pop' at them."*

Explaining how he received a bullet in his *(text unclear)*, he says "The officer picked me out early one morning to take a message to our headquarters. It was just two o'clock and the Germans were firing at us. But I got there alright with the message. On the way back it was murder. Germans were firing at our chaps, and the bullets were like rain dropping. I got nearly to the place where our officer was, then I met a sniper, and he got one in first." He concludes with the time-honoured enquiry, "Are we downhearted?" and furnishes the reply, "No."

The other brother is Bandsman G. Marper in the same battalion serving in France.

COALVILLE SAILOR'S VISIT

Two Coalville sailor lads have been on a visit this week to their parents, Mr and Mrs Hodgkinson, of Vaughan Street. They both arrived unexpectedly, and therefore the visit came as a pleasant surprise, Denis

Hodgkinson, who is one of the crew of H.M.S. "Zealandia," arrived on Friday night and Bert Hodgkinson, of the "Princess Royal" reached home on Saturday. Both came from places widely apart and it was a happy coincidence although unknown to them when making arrangements for leave that they should be home together. The younger of the two brothers, Denis, has not yet actually been in a battle, though in a chat with the writer, he spoke of various small affairs in the North Sea, such as the capture of several small vessels and the dodging of German submarines. He has experienced very rough weather at times. He is anxious for the German ships to come out that he may assist in giving them a taste of what the British navy is like and in this respect he is somewhat envious of his brother Bert, who has participated in both the victories gained under Sir David Beatty. It will be remembered that the "Princess Royal" was one of the ships which took part in the fight off Heligoland, and as one of her crew, Hodgkinson also assisted in the sinking of the "Blucher." Both the Hodgkinsons are old Coalville Wesleyan School boys.

COALVILLE SOLDIER SAVED BY A BUCKLE

POETRY FROM THE TRENCHES

Mr J. Woodward, of Margaret Street, Coalville, has received a letter from Pte. S. Bunn, with the forces in France, stating his pal Pte. Pettitt had been hit with a bullet, but it did not hurt him. Fortunately, it hit a buckle or it would most likely have gone through him. It broke the buckle and went through two straps, he adds, "We are getting plenty of food, but not many cigarettes. Aeroplanes are more common than cigarettes. We came out of the trenches last Monday night and are expecting going in again when we have had a rest. When out of the trenches we live in (*text unclear*), which are quite warm, but a bit hard. However, we can put up with that." He asked to be remembered through the 'Coalville Times' to all Coalville friends, saying that while in the trenches they think of the wenchies, whom they left far over the sea, and he concludes:

And when the time comes,
The German Huns,
Shall feel the contents,
Of our heavy guns,
The foe will run,
And you will see,
The Allies win the victory.

This is the war as everyone knows,
That makes us hate our German foes,
And when it's over I hope that we,
Shall return to old England over the sea.

WHITWICK SCOUTS AT THE FRONT

INTERESTING LETTER TO FORMER SCOUT-MASTER

Signalman F. W. Ducker, of the 5th Leicesters, writing to Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick, having expressed thanks for pipe and tobacco, says that the scout work he learned in the Whitwick Troop has come in very useful. He was now serving as a signaller in France and he learned a good bit as a scout. But there is not much flag work done. Three of them were working the telephones in a small dug-out just behind the sand bags. He proceeds, "I had a good time the other night. Our officer was going out in front of our lines to learn something about an old German trench and wanted someone to go with him. It fell to my luck to be picked to go. We had to crawl up a very narrow trench containing plenty of sludge, and also climb over dead animals. I should like you to see the land out here and the farms destroyed by the Germans. All the way up to the trenches you pass a little cross here and there denoting the burial place of some hero who has fallen in reply to the call for King and Country. I am pleased to hear of nearly all the old boys who were in the scouts taking their part. You ought to feel proud of us. I hope there are not many slackers at Whitwick. All should respond to the call and help to crush the Kaiser and his men. I hope all the people who cannot take part out here will make it their duty to keep the old flag flying."

The letter is dated May 5th and Ducker says they were going into the trenches again on Saturday night. He concludes, "Pte. Ball gave me some of the cake you sent him. Thanks."

OSGATHORPE MAN IN FRANCE

ENJOYED THE TRIP ACROSS



Writing to Mrs Siddons, his aunt at Osgathorpe, Pte. Eric Siddons, of the 1st Leicesters, now in France, says he is in first rate health. It was grand coming across on the boat. It took them about 15 hours and some of them were sick, but he stood it alright. They were still at the base and had not yet been in the trenches. He asks her not to worry about him, as he will be alright. There were 17 different regiments on the boat. He concludes, "Remember me to the Osgathorpe chaps and tell them they ought to come out."

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER



Our photo is of Pte. William George Harris, of 35 Owen Street, Coalville, who belongs to the H Company of the 1st Leicesters. Before the war broke out, he had completed 21 years in the army and on the reserve, but the call to an old soldier was strong and he again volunteered, leaving his work at the Ibstock Colliery. He was soon on the scene of the operations in France and was wounded in the back by a piece of shell, which buried three of them in the trenches. He was taken to hospital at Boulogne and later to Manchester, where he made excellent progress and was able to pay a visit home just recently and he is now stationed at Hull.

Harris was for 7 1/2 years stationed in Burma and fought in the South African war. He has a wife and four children one of whom, Pte. John Thomas Harris, is also at Hull and expecting soon to go to the front.



BAGWORTH SOLDIER A PRISONER IN GERMANY

Pte. G. Bevins, of Bagworth, from whom we published a letter a few weeks ago. He has been captured by the enemy and is now a prisoner of war in Germany.

WHITWICK SOLDIER

DESCRIBES LIFE AT THE FRONT

INTERESTING NARRATIVE

A long and interesting letter, dated May 5th, has been received by Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick, from Lance-Corporal H. S. Burton, of the 23rd London Regiment, who gives as his address: "La Belle France – Somewhere."

He says, "I am writing this in a little lean-to with wattled walls and corrugated zinc roof resting against the earthwork capped with sandbags which forms our second line of defence here. The floor is warmly carpeted with sheaves of unthreshed wheat brought from a neighbouring barn with battered walls. (I wonder where the peasant owners of all these ruins are and what must be their feelings). This little dug-out I am sharing with another, who at the present moment is struggling with a dog biscuit and cheese. A lighted candle fixed in the wattles lights up this luxurious little guard-room, for that is what it is. For the next 24 hours I am the corporal in charge of the guard of six who guard the communication trenches which concentrate near here. The remainder of the guard are in the next dug-out. This job gives one more spare time than usual. As I write, German bullets are whistling and hissing over the parapet above. Our boys and theirs are indulging in a little unfriendly fusillade from the first line of trenches on the off-chance of hitting somebody. Someone has caught a "packet," for a call for stretcher-bearers is being passed along the line.

This makes about the fifth casualty we have heard of today. An owl is just flitting by calling to its mate. I can hear it plainly during the lull. A digging party is just going by. One of them, a chap of over 6ft., has just been struck in the head with a stray shot – hence the call for stretcher bearers. A ration party is just struggling back with tomorrow's rations. I was on that job last night in the wet and slosh and slippery trenches. Each carries his rifle slung and a bandolier. One is struggling by with a tin of biscuits, another with a box of "bully," another with the mail, another with a bag of army loaves, jam, bacon, cheese, tea and sugar etc. Just here the communication trenches are very bad. They twist and wind in and out behind houses and barriers and earthworks and through open country for over half a mile to the battalion's local and temporary headquarters and stores – usually some battered building with sandbagged windows, as near the firing line as safely possible. The enemy observers like to find these spots and direct their artillery shell fire on them when possible. Digging parties are a nightly occurrence for improving communication trenches etc. We were digging in one trench the other night and raising the earthworks when the Boches turned their machine guns on – fortunately the shots were just too high. Talk about flopping down. We did it like lightening and the language was most picturesque as we lay at the bottom of the trench. It was anything but complimentary to *Monsieurs les Allemands*."

"Stand to" I can hear the order coming along the line. More later.

"Later – 11:45 pm. Something in the atmosphere tonight. Have been standing to arms for some time, but are now standing down a bit with equipment on and rifles handy. Instructions to reinforce first line (200 yards away) if necessary by communication trench here. Some idea of German attack in the air. They have been very restless lately. We hear that the first line are standing to arms (in the ordinary way only one in three at night and he is supposed to keep a sharp look-out over parapet.) Some engineers are now dashing by struggling with long poles. They say our bombardment is to start at 12:30. Our line curves around somewhat and we are subject to a lot of enfilading and have lost rather heavily through it. It has been rumoured for a long time that our line is to be straightened out by an attack on the wings and that the guns are ready for it. We are in the middle and shall not be concerned in the attack except by dodging enfilade fire. The curve of course is on a somewhat big scale. I am sure the Germans are expecting this for they are working energetically every night on their barbed wire entanglements. We heard their mallets distinctively when last in the first line of trenches near here – 75 yards from them. Our first dose was eight days excluding two nights' rest in barn at back, since then we have had four days and now again four days, two in reserve and two in on front line. As you probably know, they and we send up flares or rockets which light up the whole country from time to time. To-night as their flares go up they keep sending in a few rounds rapid at our trenches. Our boys reply in kind, so things are lively at present. The bullets plough away into the distance with a loud swishing sound. The skeleton trees and skeleton buildings look ghostly in the artificial light. Another order of "Stand to" is coming along. Some guns are booming in the distance and the rifles are rattling and crackling like fury."

"Thursday morning – Nothing of importance happened during the night after all, except that we got a little sleep. The shelling of the reserve trenches will commence soon I expect. We had an exciting time yesterday. Seven shells dropped in our vicinity twenty or thirty yards away. It was a case of sitting tight. Then they gave us a few doses of shrapnel and one of our section got hit on the leg – not serious. Our artillery always repay them with interest. We outnumber them in guns now, I am glad to say and also in aeroplanes.

Watching shrapnel firing on aeroplanes is a daily amusement. We have seen very few Taubes here. We have experienced pretty well all the phases of trench warfare, except an attack. (an important exception n'est ce pas?) Bullets, shells, shrapnel, rifle grenades, bombs, trench mortars (nasty things) sniping all the time, sapping (both sides are busy mining), etc., etc. One lives in this atmosphere and gets used to it. The reserve trenches are more dangerous than the first line, as they rarely shell that for fear of hitting their own. When in the first line before, about a mile from here, we had nothing but clay dug-outs and waterproof sheets to lie on – not the warmest of beds. Have written at much greater length than I anticipated, but one could write a book, there is so much here to experience, to interest, to excite and to describe. After two days in the first line we go back some miles to rest and to civilisation, away from ruins and desolation. No civilians are to be seen near the firing line. When in billets (mostly barns for the men), I am the company interpreter and live with the company staff. I was given my stripe for this and am relieved at those times from guards and fatigues. The life to me is extremely interesting, and always provided I can dodge accidents, I enjoy it although it is anything but a picnic. I get the "Times" sent out direct to me so get reliable news and keep in touch with things. Must dry up they are calling for letters. We usually get them collected each day. You might let Sam Clamp see this when you can. He asked me to write him de temps en temps."

L-Corpl. Burton is a brother of Mr G. F. Burton and before the war was engaged as a schoolmaster in London. He is a native of Whitwick.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S WARNING

IF THE GERMANS GET TO CALAIS

We have received an interesting letter, dated May 8th, from Pte. J. S. Newbold, late of 50, North Street, Hugglescote, and now of No. 8 Platoon, 2 Company of the 1st Grenadier Guards in France. He writes:

"I suppose the readers of your splendid paper would be pleased to hear from one of their boys at the front. We are all very cheerful here and very confident in soon inflicting severe punishment on the Germans. We have not experienced their new shabby way of fighting yet, but we are all well prepared for it, being equipped with respirators for protection against asphyxiation. I had the pleasure of seeing the other night a very novel sight. It was about six o'clock in the evening, when an aeroplane came over from the German lines. The gunners thought at first it was British, but on further examination they saw it was a German machine, trying an old trick of theirs of flying our colours. Of course we were soon pumping shrapnel at him and forced him to retire. But there must have been a mistake on the German side for they also shelled him. He came over our lines again and again we shelled him, then he sent two starlights from his plane as a signal to let the Germans know he belonged to them. He was very lucky to get back safe. I was so sorry to hear that the recruiting effort had done so badly. I hope next week's "Times" will see things improving.

Once the Germans get to Calais, England is bound to be invaded. That is my opinion. Everybody out here admires the "Citizen Corps" and such organisations. Good luck to them. They are doing their duty as lies in their power. I must close now, wishing your paper every success."

Friday May 21st 1915 (Issue 1211)

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FATAL MEASLES AT COALVILLE

SOLDIER'S TWO CHILDREN DEAD

The severe epidemic of measles prevailing in Coalville and District is, unfortunately, claiming several victims. Two children have died in one house in Margaret Street. They were Mary Ball, aged 3 years, and Edmund Ball, aged 15 months, the children of Pte. Thomas Ball, who joined the army some time ago, working as a

collier before the war. One of the children died on Friday and the other on Saturday, and Ball was sent for from Luton in connection with the sad event.

In the case of the boy, measles developed pneumonia, while the girl contracted whooping cough. They were buried together at Coalville Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

Three of the Coalville schools are closed on account of the measles – the infant departments of the Bridge Road and Belvoir Road Council schools and All Saints. The former was to have been re-opened last Monday, but it was decided not to re-open until after the Whitsuntide holidays.

LIEUTENANT S. P. D. THOMSON

We regret to announce that Lieutenant S. P. D. Thomson, eldest son of Mrs S. M. Thomson (Grey Lodge, Groby) is amongst the list of fatally wounded in the truly gallant stand made by Leicestershire Yeomanry last week end. Mr Thomson joined the regiment in 1911. He resided at Grey Lodge, Groby, and was a Director at Ibstock Collieries Ltd., where he regularly attended previous to the outbreak of war. He was well known and very highly respected by officials and workmen at the colliery and by all who knew him. It is only some few weeks since we had to report the death of his brother Lieutenant Kenneth Thomson who was also killed in action.

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EXTENDING THEIR LEAVE

THREE COALVILLE SOLDIERS ARRESTED

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Monday morning, Pte. Thomas Warren, of Albert Street, Coalville, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment, the 1st Leicesters, since May 13th. PC Mason deposed to arresting Warren at his home that morning.

It transpired that prisoner was wounded in the battle of Neuve Chapelle and the magistrate said that it seemed a pity to have to arrest a wounded soldier. Sergt. Kirkland said they had no alternative as they had a military order. He saw Warren on the previous day and he promised witness that he would return by the 9 am train on Monday morning to report himself at Glen Parva Barracks, but failed to do so. He was remanded to await an escort.

Pte. Leonard Charles Squires was charged with being an absentee from the 3rd Leicesters since May 5th. Sergt. Kirkland said he arrested the defendant at his house at Stone Row, Hermitage Road, Coalville, and he admitted that his leave expired on May 5th, but said his regiment had moved from Cosham and did not know where they had gone. Inspector Dobney said he could have told him. Sergt. Kirkland said this man had given him more trouble than any other Coalville soldier. It was the third time he had been arrested on a similar charge.

Squires: I am willing to go to the front, and have volunteered three times, but they won't send me.

He was remanded to await an escort.

The other defendant was a Nottingham youth, Pte. Chas. Smith, who had also been an absentee from the 3rd Leicesters since May 5th. Sergt. Kirkland said he arrested the man at the house of Mr Harrison, Stone Row. Smith said he was persuaded to stay by Squires. He wanted to get back and went to the railway station, but they would not change his ticket.

The Magistrate: You could have been put right by application at Wigston.

Smith said he had no money to get there.

The Magistrate: If you had come to the police station, Inspector Dobney would have told you how to go on.

Replying to questions, Smith said he was a native of Nottingham and had been in the army about 12 months. He was transferred from the Notts and Derby regiment to the Leicesters.

Inspector Dobney said they had instructions as to advising soldiers who might get stranded and not able to rejoin their regiments. Defendant was remanded to await an escort.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The Measham Colliery Rescue Brigade, comprising Messrs. C. Very, J. Atkins, C. G. Wileman, E. Blockley and A. Walker, have left Measham, Burton-on-Trent, in order to take in service at the front for combating the effects of the German poisonous gasses.

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 28th collection from 9 districts realised £3 17s 8d.

CITIZENS' CORPS CHURCH PARADE

The Coalville Citizens' Corps under the command of Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge (captain), travelled to Ashby by train on Sunday to attend service at the Parish Church. The Ashby Company, commanded by Mr G. J. German (captain) marched to the station to meet the Coalville Corps, and the combined parade, under the Coalville Commandant, marched to the Parish Church for the morning service. The Vicar (Rev. H. E. Sawyer) officiating. The Coalville Corps marched home, more than five miles, the Ashby company accompanying them a little way out. Before separating, Mr German expressed the pleasure which the visit of the Coalville Corps had given the Ashby Citizens, and hoped that the visit was the first of many more. Mr Gutteridge said that he and the Coalville Citizens hoped to meet the Ashby Corps, with the Whitwick, Hugglescote, and Woodville Corps, on Whit Monday, and in thanking Mr German for the welcome to Ashby, hoped that the different corps would meet on many pleasant occasions in the future.

DO YOU KNOW

That compulsory military training of every able man is being adopted in Holland?

That Lord Kitchener has asked for 300,000 more men?

That another batch of wounded arrived at the Leicester Midland Station early on Sunday morning?

That a hundred and eight recruits were obtained by the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association during last week?

That a memorial service for Major W. F. Martin, killed in action, is to be held at St. Paul's Church, Woodhouse, at 2.30 today?

That the recent entertainment in the Thringstone Hall to provide tobacco for local soldiers realised a profit of £1 4s 5d?

That a draft of 100 men from the third 4th Leicesters left Leicester on Tuesday and a hundred more recruits are wanted quickly to replace them?

That Mrs J. J. Sharp has arranged for a box to be placed outside the offices of Messrs. Sharp and Lancaster solicitors, Marlborough Square, Coalville, for the reception of cigarettes to be sent to the 5th Leicesters?

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MARKET BOSWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

IBSTOCK HOSPITAL FOR SOLDIERS

A letter was received from the Leicestershire Medical Officer (Dr. Robinson) stating that as troops were shortly to be camped in the county he had been consulted by the army medical officer to what arrangements could be made for isolation of various forms of infectious disease, whether notifiable or not, and the Bosworth Authority were asked whether they would be willing to isolate in their hospital, soldiers suffering from German measles and mumps, on what terms and whether fully qualified nursing would be available. The patients would be moved in the army ambulance. Mr Eggington said they ought to help the military authorities if they could.

Dr Kelly: They only say German measles and mumps and neither are very serious. Neither would want very skilled nursing.

Mr Jaques: German measles are nicer than English then, doctor? (Laughter)

Dr Kelly: Yes.

Mr Sykes said the soldiers would have to run the risk of contracting scarlet fever, as there were children there suffering from this disease. Mr Eggington said the county medical officer had visited the place with a representative of the War Office and knew the conditions. In reply to questions, Mr Sykes said that in the block they could let to the military authorities there were eight beds. The question of terms were discussed, Dr Kelly remarking that the highest payment that he knew for soldiers in hospital was 3s 6d per day. The whole matter was referred to the Isolation Hospital Committee.

THE YEOMANRY CASUALTIES

MARKFIELD SOLDIER KILLED

News reached Markfield on Wednesday morning from Lance-Corporal Simons, that Trooper Harry Spence, had fallen with others of the Yeomanry, in the recent engagement. Trooper Spence joined the Yeomanry early in October and went to the front with the regiment in November. Previous to his journey he had worked for a considerable time at Messrs. Stableford and Co's Works, at Coalville. He was well known in the Coalville and District league football circle, and was interested in cricket and running. He was highly respected and much sympathy is felt for his father and other relatives.

Lieut. Samuel Pestell Donald Thomson, Leicestershire Yeomanry, who was killed near Ypres on May 13th was the elder son of the late Mr S. M. Thomson and Mrs Thomson, Grey Lodge, Groby, Leicester, and a grandson of the late Dr. Thomas, Ibstock. He was educated at Uppingham and Pembroke College, Cambridge. He joined the Cambridge D.T.C., and in 1911 the Leicestershire Yeomanry, being promoted Lieutenant in 1913. At the outbreak of war he joined his regiment, which was stationed at Diss, Norfolk, till November when it went to France to join the 7th Cavalry Brigade. Lieut. Thomson was killed in action on May 13th, when the Leicestershire Yeomanry so gallantly held the position against a heavy bombardment and fierce infantry attacks. He was a director of Ibstock Collieries Ltd., and of Wisham Coal Company Ltd.

He was a keen follower of hounds, hunting with the Atherstone and Lord Harrington's – and also very greatly interested in politics, and supported very strenuously the Unionist candidate for the Loughborough Division, Mr N. W. Smith-Carrington. His younger brother, Lieut. K. C. Thomson, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, was killed in action on December 31st, 1914.

A memorial service is to be held at Groby Church.

Trooper G. Barker, in the Leicestershire Yeomanry list of killed, is a son of Mr A. Baker, of Onebarrow Lodge, near Coalville.

ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

Private C. Avins of the 1st Leicesters was killed in the trenches at a place not named. He served eight years in India and prior to being called up last August, resided with his sister at Shelbrook, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

ASHBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL CADET CORPS

On Tuesday this newly formed corps was inspected on parade by Mr W. A. Lockington, who expressed his satisfaction with the progress made. Of the £150 required for uniforms and rifles, £110 has now been subscribed.

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KILLED IN ACTION

MILITARY FUNERAL AT KEGWORTH

Corporal Joseph Bowler, a native of Kegworth who died at Wilderness Hospital, Seal, as the result of wounds received in action in France, was interred with military honours in the parish churchyard on Monday. He was 38 years of age, and joined the 1st Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment). After serving eight years with the colours he was called up to rejoin his regiment upon the outbreak of the war. He went through the Boer War, and gained a medal and four clasps.

After a brief spell in this country, chiefly devoted to instructing recruits, he was drafted to France and eventually found his way to the front. Wounded from shrapnel he was removed from the firing line to a hospital in Boulogne, thence to Chatham, and finally to Seal.

Crowds of people lined the route to the parish church. The coffin was draped with flowers and the Union Jack, and was borne by 6 comrades in arms and an officer, all soldiers from Kegworth, being accompanied by a military guard of the Leicester Regiment. Col. Picot and Col. Piercey were present, and there were two buglers from Loughborough, viz., Corpl. Jarrom and Pte. Waldrom. The service was choral and most impressive. The grave was draped with the Union Jack, and after the committal service the firing party fired four volleys over the grave and the buglers played "The Last Post."

DESFORD CHORISTER WOUNDED

A report has reached Desford that Corporal E. Hunt, of the Black Watch, has been wounded, and is at present at a hospital in France. He was formerly a clerk in the Desford Colliery offices, and also a chorister at the Parish Church. He enlisted a few months ago.

A DESFORD TRIBUTE

A short muffled peal was rung on the Desford Church bells before the evening service on Sunday as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Lance-Corporal C. Bromage, 2nd Leicesters, who was killed in action on April 24th. The following were the ringers: Messrs. L. Evans 1; A. Dilks 2; G. Dawson 3; E. Orchin 4; A. G. Hornsby 5 (conductor); W. Sargeson, tenor.

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LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

REPORTED HEAVY LOSSES

An announcement made on Monday at the headquarters of the Leicestershire Yeomanry states that the regiment has been in action, and that, in recovering a lost trench, heavy losses were incurred.

Possibly referring to the same engagement 'The Telegraph' says: Reports have reached London that severe fighting in the district north-east of Ypres is now taking place. One of our cavalry brigades was shelled out of the trenches it was holding, but, re-forming, charged across some open ground, re-captured the trenches and re-established itself in its previous position. The brigade suffered heavily, but did magnificent work.

Another report says: In the desperate fighting which lasted throughout the whole of Thursday last, the Leicestershire Yeomanry helped to save the British lines on the Menin-Ypres road, by holding up hordes of the enemy and massed artillery, until such time as reinforcements could arrive on the scene. In the process

the Yeomanry lost over 200 men, and casualties amongst officers was particularly severe. We regret to announce that the following officers are reported to have been killed.

Lieut. Col. the Hon. P. C. Evans Freke (Commandant)
Major W. F. Martin
Major Liebert (late 7th Hussars)
Lieut. T. E. Brooks
Lieut. Thomson
Lieut. Colin Peake
Second-Lieut. Turner

Officers Wounded

The following officers have been wounded.

Major W. F. Ricards
Captain G. Codrington
Captain E. R. Hanbury
Captain C. F. Martin

The Leicestershire Yeomanry Regiment went out on 2nd November 485 strong, and is now being brought up to the full cavalry strength of 550.

LIEUT-COL. HON. P. C. EVANS FREKE

The news that Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. P. C. Evans Freke, in command of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, has been killed, was received with deep regret.

Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Percy Cecil Evans Freke was a son of the eighth Baron Carbery, and uncle of the present peer. He was born in 1871, and was educated at Eton. He married in 1895 Eva, daughter of the late Charles Kirwan, of Dalgan Park, County Mayo, and in recent years has resided in Bisbrook Hall, Uppingham. He was Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Rutland.

Joining the Leicestershire Yeomanry in 1895, he was promoted Lieutenant in 1899; captain in 1903; major in 1905; brevet lieutenant-colonel in February, 1913, and lieutenant-colonel in December, 1913. He went out to the South African War as lieutenant in the 7th Company, and served for a year and four months, receiving the Queen's South African medal and four clasps. On his return he was made honorary lieutenant of the army. He took over command of the regiment in 1913 in succession to Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Harrison.

Lieutenant-Colonel Freke was exceedingly popular with the men of the regiment, and, in every sense of the word, was regarded as a keen officer and a most proficient leader.

MAJOR W. F. MARTIN

Major William Francis Martin was well known as the chairman of the Mountsorrel Granite Co. He took an active part in public life, and was a fluent and forceful speaker. He joined the ranks of the Leicestershire Yeomanry in 1897. In the following year he was promoted second lieutenant; in 1903 he was made lieutenant; in 1904 captain and in 1911 became Major in command of the "C" (Loughborough) Squadron. He served as lieutenant in the 7th Company Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry during the South African War, and received the Queen's medal with four clasps.

LIEUT. THOMSON

Lieut. S. P. D. Thomson joined the regiment in 1911. He resided at Grey Lodge, Groby. His brother was killed at the front a few weeks ago.

COALVILLE SOLDIER REPORTED KILLED

NOT CONFIRMED

A few days ago a rumour was extensively circulated in Coalville and district that Pte. G. Sitdown, who is motor driving in France in the Army Service Corps, had been killed. It will be remembered that a letter from Sitdown, with his photo, appeared in a recent issue of this journal.

The rumour naturally caused his parents anxiety and his father Mr Dan Sitdown, fruiterer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, communicated with the War Office. On Friday last, he received the following reply:

War Office, London, S.W.
May 11th 1915

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 5th May, I am directed to inform you that the name of 046,923, Private G. N. Sitdown, of the Army Service Corps, has not appeared in any casualty list that has yet been received. I am to ask you to state the authority for the report to which you refer. I am, sir, your obedient servant.

C.F. Watherston

TWO LEICESTER OFFICERS KILLED

CAPT. H. HAYLOCK

Information has been received that Captain Henry Haylock, commanding H Company of the 4th Leicestershire Battalion (Territorials) was killed in action in Belgium on Tuesday. It is believed that a German shell inflicted the injuries which caused his death. Captain Haylock was very popular with his men. He was a son of Mr J. W. Haylock, of Leicester.

CAPT. A. C. HART

It is also reported that Captain Arthur C. Hart, second son of the late Sir Israel Hart, of Leicester, was killed at the front on Sunday. Captain Hart who was born at "Ashleigh," Stoneygate, Leicester, about 34 years ago, was in the Northumberland Fusiliers, or the "Fighting Fifth" and had been in the army between 12 and 14 years. He came from India with his regiment to go to the war. He served for a short time in South Africa towards the end of the last campaign there.

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FIRST COALVILLE SOLDIER TO ENLIST

INTERESTING LETTER FROM GUNNER W. J. CRACKNELL

The following is a copy of an interesting letter received by Mr W. J. Cracknell, of Bakewell Street, Coalville, from his eldest son, Gunner W. J. Cracknell, of the R.F.A., now in France, and who, we understand, was the first Coalville recruit to join the colours after the outbreak of war. He writes:

"I received your letter and parcel alright and thanks very much. Everything was sound, even the cake. You should have seen the war dance by my chums round the parcel when I opened it. Please thank all contributors to the parcel. Tell Mr Roughton I wish to be remembered to him and that I will write to him in a few days. You ask about our guns, well, you can take it from me our lads outclass the Germans. I have seen some "Jack Johnsons" but our little lumps of mischief – I daren't tell you the size – can beat them. It is touching to see the "Jocks" come out of their trenches scraping their kilts, washing knees and scraping their top coats. They don't half look in a mess, but it takes more than that to dishearten our boys. You ought to see us in our dug-outs. We have a mouth organ and an old melodeon, and the "Jocks" have a bagpipe and when we have a chance we have a tune and a sing song. There will be plenty of work for plumbers here when this job is over as they have simply mown the houses down for spite, because our chaps are too good for the swines. You can believe all you see in the papers that's bad about the Huns, as it is worse than you have heard of. Please remember me to George Conibear. I don't suppose you can do so to my other pals as I expect they have enlisted, unless they have been rejected and are not in the colours by now, they are no pals of mine anymore. We did have a picnic on the 9th (Sunday). We simply gave the sausages (Germans) _____. The noise was deafening, shaking the ground for miles, but the excitement was grand. I went the other day and saw Leslie Cope and his brother Douglas. I also saw a Coalville lad named Snell. I went and asked him for Leslie as I knew the Leicesters were about three miles from me. I had two hours with them and

they were pleased to see me (as I was them) in the pink and as happy as sand boys. They all wish to be remembered to friends. I hope Mrs Baldwin received her letter of thanks for the nice useful present that was sent to me before Christmas. I am getting quite a don hand at washing. I washed my shirt today and one of our lads washed his and hung it on a bush to dry and a Jack Johnson came and dropped near and blew his all to bits. He did swear and I laughed; couldn't help it. I would pity that fellow that fired the gun if he had him then. This job may last a long time yet. What with their gas bombs and shooting liquid fire and gas cylinders in front of our trenches, but it is of no avail to them. They can't leather our boys and our leaders know what they are about and how to carry things out. They are a fine lot of toffs, real good chaps so don't worry about me. I am in good company and the best of health. Best love to all and kind regards to Captain Stevenson, I hope he is still busy."

FORMER COALVILLE MINER

SERVING IN THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

Pte. Ernest Sparkes, of the Royal Engineers, formerly a Whitwick collier, residing in Margaret Street, Coalville, writing from the front to a friend, Mr H. Jacobs, also of Margaret Street, says he was pleased to hear from them. He was in the pink. They were having some beautiful weather now and he hoped this would last while this disastrous war was on that they might soon get it over.

He continues, *"I shall be very pleased to get back home to my dear wife and child, as I am sure they are anxiously awaiting my return. I am very pleased to hear of the good recruiting round about Coalville and hope they will turn out to be a fine battalion. I dare say you will not know me when I do return, as I have been away from home nearly twelve months now. You see the time is rolling on. I am attached to the Royal Engineers and like it very much up to now. I don't know what your opinion is, but I don't think this terrible war will last much longer. I hope not. Thanks for the 'cigs,' they come in very useful at a time like this. My wife wants to know when I am coming home and I tell her it will be when I have been to Berlin for a bun with a cherry on."*

ANOTHER THRINGSTONE SOLDIER KILLED

PTE. W. MOORE



The death of another Thringstone soldier becoming the third who has fallen in the war is reported. On Sunday, Mr Joe Moore, an old resident of the village, a retired collier, received official intimation that his grandson, Pte. William Moore, was killed in action on May 1st. The deceased soldier was about 25 years of age and had been in the regular army for some years, being attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery. He had been stationed in Ireland and in India. When the Ulster trouble threatened he was on furlough and was called for duty there and he has only been at the Front about six weeks.

Moore was the son of an old soldier, the late William Moore, who, after leaving the army was for some time in the Metropolitan Police Force. Pte. W. Moore joined the army as soon as he was old enough. He was a native of Thringstone, where his father and also his grandfather were born, and many friends will regret to hear of his death. He was a member of the Thringstone Cycling Club.

AT THE FRONT

CHEERY LETTERS FROM A COALVILLE SOLDIER

Pte. E. C. W. Massey, of the North Midland Division, son of Mr G. H. Massey, of 15, Melbourne Street, Coalville, has written several letters to his parents from the front, from which we take a few extracts. In one

letter he says how he appreciates the 'Coalville Times' being sent out to him, as it is nice to read how things are going on at home and all the boys come to him to enquire whether it has come. Writing on April 5th he acknowledges receipt of a parcel and says he wishes to thank everybody who sent anything, as he cannot write to them all.



He continues: "The weather has come very hot today and if it lasts very long I dare say the war will start. A Zeppelin came over where we were on Tuesday night and dropped bombs about 1 1/2 miles off. They killed two women, three children and five horses, and played havoc with the houses. The report is that the airship was brought down when passing over the trenches. I hope it is right for such things are not war. We spend hours at night watching them fire at aeroplanes. It seems like being at a firework display. I wish they would send over here some of those chaps who are laying three to one that the way ends in May. We reckon it will last 88 years, for it has taken us six months to drive them 100 yards and we have got to drive them over 100 miles. We shall be old men drawing a pension by the time it is over."

Wednesday, April 21st. "I am quite well and have never felt better in my life. I was pleased to receive your papers and to see by the 'Times' that the parade will be on Whit Monday as usual. When I see those things it makes me wish I was at home, but we are looking forward to being home for the show. I have got a bit of German shell to bring back. I haven't got those helmets yet, we shall get them when we send one or two Germans west. I expect you have heard of the capture of that hill last Saturday night. You ought to have heard the guns. It was one continual roar. I don't want you to send me a parcel of 'fags' every week now the hot weather has come. Every fortnight will do, if you don't mind. In about a month's time you will see what happens to the Germans. We are worrying them now and making them unsettled, but we shall play _____ with them soon. We have got a Salisbury Plain, a Bowden camp and an Aldershot out here, also a big cemetery and anyone who is fond of seeing ruins should just come out here."

Tuesday, April 27th. "Am quite well and still smiling. I am very sorry about Sam Boot getting killed. I am surprised at Leicestershire having to go to such lengths to get recruits. If only the chaps could hear the guns and realise what it was to be in France, they would be only too pleased to get over here quickly. The guns have been playing havoc for a week now and I think we have started the war well. The Germans have started shouting over the trenches, "Come on you Territorial _____." Our chaps shout back, "Waiter!" and they all pop up."

Thursday, May 6th. "I am quite well and still putting flesh on. I was very pleased to receive your letter last night, and delighted to get your parcel this afternoon. I wish to thank everyone who sent me things, especially _____ for her bit of birthday cake. We are satisfied with our jam when we cannot get anything else. I am sure most of us used to turn up our noses at jam when in England, but we all grumble if there is none for us now. I am pleased to hear that the garden is done but I don't think I shall have the pleasure of having anything off it this year. It is a most certain fact that nothing only a miracle can end the war this year. We have all settled down now to at least another twelve months. The weather is quite nice now. I have enclosed you a Belgian half-penny and will send a penny when I have one. Through the sun I am just like a red Indian now in colour."

BAGWORTH SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

LETTER TO HIS SISTER

We regret to report the death of a Bagworth soldier, Pte. A. Heathcote, of the 5th Leicesters, as a result of wounds received in action. The news was contained in a letter to his sister, Miss Heathcote, Bagworth, of which the following is a copy:

No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station,
British Expeditionary Force,
April 26th, 1915.



Dear Miss Heathcote,

I am very sorry to tell you your brother, Pte. A. Heathcote, 5th Leicesters died in the hospital on April 23rd. He was severely wounded in the head. He was well cared for and looked after but there was never much hope for him. He did not suffer much pain.

Yours sincerely
M. S. Mewfests
Sister-in-charge

COVENTRY POLICEMEN JOIN THE FORCES

COALVILLE AND HUGGLESCOTE MEN

P.C. Walter Wright, of the Coventry City Police Force, who has just joined the army. His father resides in Margaret Street, Coalville, and has four sons now serving in the forces.



P.C. Albert Williams, also late of the Coventry City Police, and now in the forces. His home is in Crescent Road, Hugglescote, his father being Mr T. Williams, a colliery winding engine driver.

Both men have been given the rank of corporal in the Warwickshire Regiment and are now in the Isle of Wight. The Coventry Corporation are allowing them 8s per week while on active service and keeping their places open. In all, 35 policemen from Coventry have enlisted.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER TO BE CONFIRMED

CEREMONY ON THE BATTLEFIELD



Pte. Victor Lardner, who is with the R.F.A. at the front, writing to his mother, Mrs A. Lardner, of 10, Leicester Road, Ibstock, states that he is in the pink – “fat as a pig and brown as a berry.”

He continues: “You will be surprised to hear that I am going to be confirmed on the battlefield by the Bishop of Peterborough. I am going to the class this afternoon. They asked all those who were willing and I went forward. I do not know yet which day it will be. I hope this will find you quite well.”

Another letter enclosed which is addressed to Gunner Lardner from a second Lieut. of the R.F.A. states, “I have not yet run across your son but hope to sometime. We are right up in the firing line and I have had lots of

experience of all those new German shells. I must say that our men out here are a very fine lot of chaps, and I often have a chat in the trenches with one or another, though, of course, the gunners are my favourites and I am very proud of the men in my section. It's a pity to see the increasing number of little wooden crosses on the green countryside but it's all for country's sake and the finest way that a man can die. I think those strikes should be stopped by law and the men sent out here."

TWO ASHBY SOLDIERS KILLED

FELL AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

The death of two Ashby soldiers is reported. One is Private J. G. Poyser, who formerly belonged to the Worcester Regiment, in which he had served seven years. He was called up with the National Reserve and joined the 2nd Leicester Regiment. He was killed at Neuve Chapelle, on March 10th. He leaves a widow and three children, who reside at present at The Green, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He was 41 years of age. Two of his brothers are serving in the 5th Leicesters.

The other is Lance-Corporal Timothy Betteridge, of A Company, 2nd Leicesters, who came with his regiment from India at the outbreak of war. He is 28 years of age, and had served five years with the colours. He was killed in the battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 10th. His mother resides at 17, Mill Bank, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

SHEPSHED MEN REPORTED KILLED

In a letter to his wife, received on Tuesday morning, Corpl. F. L. Bowley, son of Mr and Mrs F. Bowley, of Blackbrook Farm, states that amongst the killed, as far as he knows at present, are Corpl. J. Parker, of Longcliffe Lodge, son of Mr Joseph Parker, Trooper B. S. Tomlin, of Garendon Road, where his wife and family still reside, and Trooper G. H. Barker, son of Mr Arthur Barker, of One Barrow Lodge. Corpl. Bowley states that he was one of the bearers at the funeral of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. P. C. Evans Freke.

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COPT OAK

PARISH CHURCH

Special services were held on Sunday in aid of the choir fund. The vicar (chaplain of the Yeomanry) referred sympathetically to their recent losses of the regiment, and said their sympathy and prayers went to those who mourned the loss of so many brave men. Men of serviceable age should not only recognise their right but also their duty. Might the noble example of the yeoman inspire them with a spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion.

ITALY IN THE WAR

GERMANS AGAIN USE POISONOUS GASES

The official news that Italy had at last declared war on Austria was published on Monday morning. Sir John French, reporting on Monday night, states that at 3 o'clock on Monday morning, the Germans, under cover of poisonous gases and gas shells, attacked our positions east of Ypres.

Our troops were forced to evacuate some of their trenches, and the Germans penetrated our lines in two or three places, but portions of the original line have already been retaken. The fighting continues.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Master Fred Parker, aged 15 years, of 30, Park Road, Coalville, has composed eight verses on "Kultur" and by selling them in leaflet form, at one penny each, has been able to hand over to Mrs Jamie £2 2s for the Soldier's and Sailors' Comforts Guild. It did one good says our informant to see the very modest way in which the lad handed over the contribution. He said he had merely "done his bit" and would be glad if everyone else would do the same.

In every part of the town of Ashby are to be seen Victoria Crosses printed in colours on a card and placed in the windows of houses of families from which someone has gone on service. Some families have as many as three, the name of the soldier or sailor being written at the top.

Owing to the War Office having imposed important and additional duties upon Capt. Stevenson, he has been compelled to resign his position as commandant of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps, to the regret of all. Lieut. G. F. Burton has been elected commandant; Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, president, and Rev. C. Shrewsbury, vice-president.

An extended report of the excellent work done to date by the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild (now badly in need of funds) is unavoidably held over till next week, as also are full reports of the Citizen's field day at the Altons, on Monday and the Catholic Procession at Coalville on Sunday.

Mr R. Sharpe, of Whitwick, has previously collected 621 eggs for wounded soldiers in hospital and the following is this week's additional list: Mr Gutteridge 12, Mr Blower 6, Bag Pipe Player 2, Miss Hunt 10, Mrs Toone 20, Mrs Wheatley 10, Mrs John Houlst 25, Mrs G. Greasley 24, Mr W. Middleton 5, Mr G. McCarthy 10, Mrs T. Hull 16, Mrs G. West 12, Mr C. Beasley 10, Mr A. Middleton 10, Mr W. Higgins 10 and Miss N. Broadhurst 12.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS COMMANDER

Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge, the popular commander of the Coalville Citizen Corps, is a native of Market Harborough. He served for 11 years in the Leicestershire Volunteers and for several years was Lieutenant in the Market Harborough Church Lad's Brigade and sergeant in the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. He was in the South African War for which he received two medals, having the honour of being presented with one of them by His late Majesty King Edward VII. After the war he returned to South Africa and served four years in the Cape Peninsula Rifles. His last three years in Africa, 1906 to 1909, were spent chiefly in German S.W. Africa, so that he knows something of German military rule.

An interesting sketch of Mr Gutteridge's career with the accompanying photo, appeared in the last issue of the "Leicestershire Citizen Corps Gazette."

THE OAKS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

At the Oaks Church on Sunday morning, a memorial service for the late Mr George Barker, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, was held, and was largely attended. The Vicar (Rev. A. Holt) delivered an appropriate address. Suitable hymns were sung and Mr G. Thurman played the Dead March.

DO YOU KNOW

That Bagworth ladies have been very busy lately collecting various articles for the wounded soldiers in Leicestershire?

That the members of the Coalville Men's and Women's Adult Schools have decided to let their hall in Bridge Road one night a week for social purposes to the Territorial billeted in the town?

That the Local Government Board have sent another circular to all local authorities emphasising the necessity of all possible facilities being given to men to enlist, and the necessity of only engaging men not eligible for the army when substitutes are necessary?



WELL DONE MARGARET STREET

Sir, As a recruiting officer in this area, I think it is my duty to bring to the notice of the public through your popular paper, if you will kindly permit me, the following excellent voluntary response which has been answered by two streets in the Coalville parish, namely, 1st Margaret Street with 127 houses, out of which 65 men are now serving, 7 rejected. 2nd, Club Row, with only 17 houses, out of which 11 are now serving and 1 rejected.

I consider the percentage in these two streets most excellent and, if other streets in the neighbourhood and other towns had responded in such a magnificent way there would have been no need for Lord Kitchener to appeal for another 300,000 men.

Yours truly

*W. E. Stevenson
Recruiting Officer*

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

The Hugglescote Citizens' Corps on Wednesday night held a whist drive and dance at the Hawley Institute in aid of their equipment fund and there was a good attendance. The MC's for the dance were Messrs. G. Griffin and T. Hatter, and Mr W. Gimson was the pianist. For whist the MC's were Messrs. E. Darby and J. Dean and the prize winners were: Ladies, 1st Mrs S. T. Shaw; 2nd Miss Fort; Gents, 1st Capt. Woods; 2nd Dr. Meredith; mystery, Mr W. Thomson. During an interval, Mr R. Blower of Ellistown, gave a short address bringing the citizen movement before the audience and urging the necessity of every man fitting himself to do something for his country. Mr W. Eames supported the appeal to men over military age to join the corps.

BREEDON SOLDIER KILLED

News has been received of the death of John Gadsby, of the 5th Leicesters. He was shot dead on leaving the trenches. This is the first death or casualty among the 21 who are serving with the colours from this village, although Gadsby's brother is in a hospital at the front with a sprained ankle. This weeks second pound of tobacco and chocolates has been sent to the Breedon soldiers by order of the Parish Council.

WHITWICK POSTMAN'S RECORD

GOING TO THE FRONT AGAIN

The record of Pte. E. Hutchins, a Whitwick postman is interesting. Writing from the Soldiers Club at Hull, Hutchins says, "I was an army reserve man when the war broke out and went out to the front. I was there for three months and was wounded in the battle of Neuve Chapelle. I killed three Germans on March 10th. I rejoined the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment on May 15th and on the 16th was passed by the doctor as fit for the front and am sailing shortly. I hope the men of Coalville will rally round and come in strength to help us bring this war to a finish. Never let it be said that you would wait till you were forced to come. Join at once and do your duty.

Hutchins' photo was published in one of our recent issues.

WHITWICK FOOTBALLER'S HUMOUR

GETTING READY FOR THE FINAL AT BERLIN

Pte. Lewis Wheeldon, of the 5th Leicesters, who home is at Alma Villas, Whitwick, writing to Mr T. Irons, of the Prince of Wales Inn, Whitwick, says he is in the best of health and continues, "We have been in the trenches for four days and have now come out for a rest. I see Whitwick lost the cup, but they will have to win it next year. A match will shortly be played in Berlin between the 5th Leicester crack shots and the German snipers. For further particulars see small bills. We are about to play in the final for Calais and I dare

say before the finish a few of us will be crocked, as we are playing a rough team. We want some good men to be ready as reserves, men with plenty of pluck and dash and good shots. And we don't want pressed men, but good volunteers. There will be rum at half time and medals and tobacco issued after the match. The German's don't want us to play the final in Berlin for fear of spoiling their parks, but we shall. So if you come up now you will be able to get a place in the team for the final. The way we got into this final was by charges and good shooting. All railway expenses are paid and we will find you full kit, good food, tobacco and money, so what more do you want. So any new recruits who wish to play in the final should go to the nearest recruiting officer and he will sign them on. Remember me to S. Glover, Paddy Limb and all the old friends.

GERMAN AEROPLANE BROUGHT DOWN

WHAT A WHITWICK MAN SAW

In a letter to Whitwick friends on May 16th, Pte. E. W. Ball, of the 5th Leicesters, says: "We are still struggling on out here and shall win in the end. I hope the end is near so that we can return to England. At the time of writing we are out of the trenches for a rest, but not for long. We can stick it better now. The weather is just right for fighting now, but it was rotten at first. I saw one of our airmen race a German the other day and fetch him down. He followed him right over his own lines and the German dropped to earth like a stone. We gave our chap a good cheer as he came back; the Germans fired at him, but he got back over our lines quite safely. It cheers us up a good deal to see anything like that. I hope the war will soon be over now and that we shall be home by August. I have been here more than three months but it seems like twice that time."

In another letter he expresses thanks for a parcel, the contents being quite a luxury out there, where everything had been looted by the Germans. "As you say," continues the writer, "*there is terrible work going on along the line, and the strain can't last much longer. The weather is hot out here now, though we had a tidy lot of rain a few days ago. It made the trenches like sludge pits. It's awful when it rains, as we can't get our clothes dry. Fred Ducker told me about the offer of Mr G. F. Burton for the first one who got the V.C. I wish I could win it, but they are not won every day. There are some splendid horses out here, thousands of them, and it makes one wonder where they all come from. I hope to see you all at Whitwick soon. If the Germans will fight fair like men and not brutes, I should not mind so much.*"

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY RECAPTURE THEIR TRENCHES

TOLD BY A WHITWICK SOLDIER

Pte. Storer, a Whitwick man, in the Leicestershire Yeomanry, writing on May 17th, to friends from the front, after expressing thanks for a parcel proceeds, "*I have just come out of the trenches, for which I am thankful. We went in on the 12th and about three o'clock in the morning, they started shelling us with shrapnel, which lasted for three hours. Then they sent a few "Jack Johnsons," and after that they charged and got into our trenches, but they did not half catch a cold I can tell you, for they fell in hundreds. We had to retreat or we should not have had a man left. But in the afternoon we made a counter attack. There were only 57 of the Yeomanry numbered off under the Brigadier-Major, who led, but we got our trenches back, so they caught it again. We gave them a taste of our bayonets and they ran from us like a flock of sheep being chased by shepherd dogs. But I am sorry to say that we lost five of our squad officers, the Colonel and Major Martin, also Pte. G. Barker and Tomlinson from off the Forest. I am glad Sergt. Carter was not with us. He was behind with the horses.*"

WHITWICK SOLDIER SEEING LIFE

HAVING AN ENJOYABLE TIME

Writing from Hull to friends at Whitwick, Pte. Ernest Clarke, of the 3rd Leicesters, says he is in good health and enjoying the life very much. He continues: "*We are billeted in an old skating rink, about 300 of us. We are well fed. We have current duff twice a week now, whereas we never had any in camp. I have been and looked through one or two boats and saw one last week that had been mine sweeping. I have been on the pier and on Hull City's football ground. Am just beginning to see life now. There are two soldiers' homes here where we can go every Sunday for tea free. We go every Sunday morning to the swimming bath and have free rides on the trams.*"

COALVILLE SERGEANT KILLED

TWO IN ONE FAMILY



News was received from the War Office on Saturday morning by Mr W. Wesson, engine-fitter, of Margaret Street, Coalville, that his son, Sergt. George H. Wesson, was killed in action on May 9th. His brother, Sergt. Alfred Wesson, it will be remembered was killed on March 14th. They were both in the Sherwood Foresters and had a short stay at Coalville on their way from India to France in October. Mr Wesson has another son in the army and a fourth son, a boy of 15, is eager to enlist as a bugler.

Sergt. G. H. Wesson was 27 years of age and was engaged to be married to a niece of the late Lieut. T. Dooley, for whom much sympathy is felt. On a memorial card which this young lady is having printed appears the following verse of her own composition.

“He rests in the tomb of a warrior’s grave
For his King and Country he fought:
In heart he was kind, in action brave,
He has gone to the Saviour he sought.”

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

ANOTHER INTERESTING LETTER FROM A WHITWICK MAN

Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick, has just received another interesting letter from his brother, Mr H. S. Burton, at the front. He writes:

“This is our third day here in the front line trenches. We are here four days. Things have been humming all along this line, English and French, for over a week now. (The French starts next to our battalion, we are at the end of the line).

The whole area is a sight. It is one labyrinth of trenches (real trenches with sandbag parapets, dug-outs, craters, ridges, brick-heaps, debris, and barbed wire entanglements. It is the most uninteresting spot we have yet struck. The trenches are deep and pretty safe. Some of them are German made (the Germans make excellent trenches and dug-outs). They cannot be taught much in the art of war – in fact I am afraid it is very much the other way. As one of the sapping engineers here said yesterday ‘They can teach us something every day.’ Their determination and thoroughness, their preparations and skill I am afraid mean making this a long job, ie., if fighting pure and simple has to finish the war. Their system and organisation for same far in advance of ours. Last Sunday we were in support trenches some distance back while a terrific bombardment was carried out on the German lines opposite the trenches we occupied when I last wrote you. The casualty lists will tell their own tale.

The French on our right as you read made excellent progress. We heard their bombardment all last Saturday. Last night we were standing to all night and giving the Germans opposite ten rounds rapid at intervals – in the nature of a demonstration. An hour before dawn our artillery started another attack on our left – about a mile away. From our parapets we could see the line of bursting shells and explosions and flashes along the German lines. This time we had the help of some French batteries of 75’s which fire stronger explosives. For an hour they gave them hell and then made the attack, which I hear has been a great success. I hear that in the last attack the Germans were found to have cemented their trenches and dug-outs. Consequently they were ready for the attack which followed the bombardment and I hear from those who actually took part in the attack, that they were literally fighting for places on the parapet to get a pop at our men and absolutely laughing and jeering at them.

However, they seem to have paid for it this morning. This spot is an area of mines and counter-mines from end to end. Have had the experience of seeing three out of the four mines explode during the last two days.

The Germans were short. Our sappers found themselves working under a German mine. Their digging and voices could be heard so it was promptly decided to blow them up. This was done at dawn yesterday. We retired to our reserve trenches just behind while it happened. It was for all the world like a volcano explosion. Some of the craters here are tremendous and have to be watched by both sides as they make fine shelters for bomb throwers. Bomb throwing and rifle grenades have been going on at intervals all day. Between the lines are three dead Germans – been there since February when the last scrap for the brickfields took place. I understand there are any amount of dead bodies lying about but are hidden by long grass, debris and buried by mine explosions. Germans, English and French lie rotting out all along between the lines. I went along one of our mines yesterday – almost under the German trench. We have had no casualties so far – thanks to the excellent trenches.

We have had the usual accompaniments today – shelling and shrapnelling reserve trenches, artillery duels, aeroplane flights, sniping (chiefly German) all the time. Some of the shells seem to skim just over the top of our parapet. There is a regular staff of miners here – mainly colliers. Have just heard good news from ‘up the line.’ I hope it is true. I can imagine it is from what I saw this morning. I hear the Guards got through with very few casualties. It is a funny sort of Sunday evening – but then there is no difference between Sunday and any other day. It is beginning to get dark. We shall stand to arms on the parapet soon and then the long watch through the night. We get our sleep by turns in the daytime here. Last Friday (resting six miles away) we were roused up at one o’clock to march off here at an hour’s notice. The language!!

One must keep strict watch here on account of them creeping up with bombs. Flares are pretty freely used at night. D Co. during the night had the good fortune to capture two German prisoners. They were engineers or working party and jumped down into our trench by mistake when our fusillade started. “Stand to!” – More later.

Monday morning – Just heard our attack was a big success and that we have taken three trenches and 3,000 prisoners and a number of guns by breaking through at two points.”

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ASHBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A MILITARY ENQUIRY

A letter was received from Dr. Robinson, medical officer to the Leicestershire County Council, enquiring on behalf of the army authorities, whether the Council could accommodate in their isolation hospital at Swannington, any soldiers who might be suffering from scarlet fever. The clerk said he had shown the letter to Drs. Hart and Logan (medical officers) who both thought that the sanitary conveniences at the hospital would not be likely to meet with the requirements of a military authority. Dr. Atkinson said he was quite agreed and it was left to the clerk to reply accordingly.

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COALVILLE SOLDIER IN A CHARGE

HOW GERMAN TRENCHES WERE TAKEN



Pte. Ernest Nicholls, of Ashby Road, Coalville, serving at the front in the Royal Engineers, writing to his sister, Mrs A. Wharmby, also of Ashby Road says: “Thanks for papers and parcel which I received after coming back from the trenches. My company left on Saturday night for the trenches and on Sunday morning about five o’clock our artillery started to ‘biff’ the Allemand (this the French word for German). At six o’clock the infantry charged, but when they got to the German trenches they found nobody there. We advanced further, and the enemy, who were in the next trench, opened fire on us. They had a machine gun every ten yards and although they fired as fast as they could, we captured the trenches. The mischief was done after this, and after a desperate struggle we had to retire into our own trenches again for

want of support. On our right the French made splendid advance, gaining over seven miles. Must close now hoping this will find you in the best of health. You may put this letter in the "Coalville Times" if you like mentioning that I should like to know where some of the boys are."

BAGWORTH SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES



The following is a copy of a letter from Lance-Corporal Astle, of Bagworth, and formerly of Bardon Hill to his mother: "Just a line to say we are well and in the best of health. We came out of the trenches on Tuesday night for a short rest. It is raining today and the ground is in an awful mess, in particular the trenches. There are boards to walk on, but it is awkward on a dark night going in and out of the trenches, what with falling into ditches and holes made by the shells. They keep sending up star shells and we can see a little better then, but you have to look out for them, for the bullets begin to fly by you. We are in Belgium now. I have just bought a paper and it cost 2 1/2d (a 1/2d paper at that). I like Belgian folks better than the French. I could tell you something if I dare. We see some sights I can tell you. What did you think of the Canadians. I saw one of our airmen fetch a German aeroplane down. Our man seemed to come out of the clouds right above the Germans and down he came and didn't we cheer. Thanks dad, Mr and Mrs Marvin and W. Hinsley for the cigarettes and Mr Russell for paper. Remember me to Tom and his wife (next door). I got the parcel safely, don't worry about me as I am in the pink of health."

WHITWICK SOLDIER A PRISONER

TWO LOAVES BETTER THAN ONE

Mrs G. Fairbrother, of 26, School Lane, Whitwick, has received a postcard dated May 14th from her husband, Pte. G. Fairbrother, of the Leicesters, who is a prisoner of the Kriegsgefangenen-Sendung Camp, Germany. He writes: "Just a few lines hoping you are well, as it leaves me at present. I was sorry to hear about Ghent Hall and others. I have received the parcels alright and I hope you will keep on sending them. I would like two loaves instead of a bun loaf – two loaves and a cake would be better. I would like to be at home and able to go to the pictures with you. Let them know at Coalville that I am alright as we are allowed to send only one card at a time."

SOLDIERS IN MAKING

Pte. John Jones, of the 6th Leicesters, writing to friends at Coalville from the Perham Down Camp, Hants, describes the vigorous training they are undergoing, including a night attack on a hill. When they marched into _____ the streets were lined with people who gave them a good reception. The people he was billeted with were very kind to him. The country around was the nicest he had ever been in and the people very kind and would do anything for them.



RAVENSTONE SOLDIER A PRISONER

WOULD LIKE SOME NOURISHING FOOD

Pte. J. Broadhurst, a Ravenstone soldier in the Coldstream Guards, is a prisoner of war at the prisoner's camp, Schneidemuhl, Germany. In a letter to his parents residing in Church Lane, Ravenstone, dated April 15th, he says: "I hope this will find you in the best of health, as I am getting along nicely after coming out of hospital. Don't be alarmed. You will guess that it has left me a bit weak and I could do with some

nourishment such as cake, jam, or anything tinned and don't forget pipe, tobacco and cigarettes. I will repay you when I get home. I should like you to send as regularly as possible and send in those biscuit tins. Write back as soon as possible. By the way, I wrote to you 13 weeks ago – in January – let me know if you received it or not."

HUGGLESCOTE TERRITORIAL KILLED

PTE. CECIL THOMAS BEADMAN



A letter dated May 21st, written by Lieut. A. G. Moore, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, was received on Monday by Mr Thomas Beadman, an employee of the Coalville Co-Operative Society, residing in Forest Road, Hugglescote, stating that his son, Pte. Cecil Thomas Beadman was killed in action on May 19th. The letter proceeds: *"He was most popular both with the officers and men of his company and we all feel his loss bitterly. I can testify to him being a true soldier and a man. I could rely upon him to do anything, no matter how hard or difficult, and he feared nothing. You will have this to comfort you. He laid down his life for his country and died like a soldier and a man. Again offering you my deepest sympathy and that of all his company officers."*

Pte. Cecil Beadman was a draughtsman in the drawing office at Messrs. Wootton Bros' works and was one of the first fifty Territorials to leave Coalville. He was a friend of Pte. S. Boot, killed a few weeks ago. Beadman was a nice lad, always attentive to his work and very studious. His anxiety to get on was shown by the fact that for some years he had most regularly attended the Coalville evening classes and had passed several Board of Education examinations in

drawing.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr Beadman, his father, whose wife also died only last July.