# **Coalville Times – May 1915**

# Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1209)

### **Local News**

## **Baptist Sermons**

The school anniversary was observed at the Whitwick Baptist Church on Sunday last, when the Rev. W. H. Wills, of Coalville, preached two appropriate sermons to large congregations. The children, conducted by Mr O. Geary, nicely sang special hymns and the choir gave good renderings of the anthems "Praise the Lord with harp" (F. Peace) in the afternoon, and "Let the earth be glad" (C. Jessop) in the evening. Mr A. Aris officiated at the organ and an efficient orchestra also assisted. The collections realised £15 4s which is about the same as last year.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 'Coalville Times' Appreciated in the Trenches

Pte. Edgar Howe, of Golden Row, Whitwick, in a letter dated April 20<sup>th</sup> 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!

## **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.



Sergt. Charles Stone, 7962, 7<sup>th</sup> Seaforth Highlanders.
Corp. S.S., Charles Yearby, 1780, Z. Battery, R.H.A. Now in France.
Lce-Corp. Albert William Hanson, 2346, A. Company, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers. Now in France.
Pte. J. Harold Pegg, 13176, B. Company, 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Bellringer, and Steward of the Men's Service. Now in France.

Pte. Alfred Charles Pegg, Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry. Assistant Secretary of Men's Service, Choirman and Assistant Scoutmaster.

Pte. G. Harry Webster, 10<sup>th</sup> Middlesex, Chairman.

Pte. Samuel E. Perry, 12135, G. Company, 3rd Leicesters, Scoutmaster.

Pte. Frederick W. Ducker, 1193, A. Company, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters.

## Do You Know

That the Whitwick poor rate for the ensuing half year will be the same as before -1/6 in the £?

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

## **Quarryman's Strike at Whitwick**

Trouble at the Forest Rock

A number of the men employed at the Forest Rock Quarry, Whitwick, came out on strike a few days ago on a question of wages. Enquiries made by our reporter at the quarry office show that the trouble arose over the request of the men for a war bonus.

The management did not feel that they could grant this seeing that all the men getting less than 25s per week were given an advance of 1/2 d per hour only in February last which was to meet the extra cost of living owing to the war. When the men persisted in their demand for a war bonus of 2s per week in addition, the manager offered to allow them to work an extra hour a day which would have meant an increased wage of 2s 5d per week, but this offer was declined. About 40 men were affected and they came out on strike about the middle of last week and still remain out.

A few men are still working in the quarry and the business is still going on, all the carters being kept going from the stocks. It is understood that three or four of the strikers have enlisted in the army.

## **Coalville Urban District Council**

The monthly meeting of the Urban Council was held at Coalville on Tuesday night, Mr T. Y. Hay presiding. There were present, Messrs. A. Lockwood (vice-chairman), Mr McCarthy, A. J. Briers, C. W. Brown, R. Blower, F. Griffin, B. G. Hale, W. Fellows, and T. Kelly, with the clerk (Mr J. F. Jesson) surveyor (Mr L. L. Baldwin) assistant surveyor (Mr F. G. Hurst) and gas works manager (Mr J. W. Eagles).

Severe Epidemic of Measles

The medical officer (Dr. R. W. Jamie) reported that during the month of April three cases of diphtheria were notified – one in Skinner's Lane and two in Green Lane, Whitwick. No further cases had been reported since April 6<sup>th</sup>. Four cases of scarletina had been notified – one in Ashby Road, one in Park Road, Coalville, one in Hall's Lane and one in Brook's Lane, Whitwick. Two cases of phthisis had also been reported – one in Jackson Street and one in Gutteridge Street. In the central ward there had been an outbreak of measles of a somewhat severe type, and one death had resulted from this cause. On account of the outbreak, the infant department of Bridge Road School had been closed. During the month of April, 24 deaths occurred, giving a death rate of 16 per 1000. These included one from diphtheria, two from pneumonia and one from phthisis. During the same period 51 births had been registered giving a birth-rate of 34 per 1000 – a high one.

## Whitwick Lodgers

The surveyor reported that the number of persons accommodated at the Whitwick lodging houses during the month was 734, against 761 the previous month and 1130 in the corresponding month of last year. The places had been lime washed and were in a satisfactory state.

## **Coalville Police Court**

To-day (Friday) – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair) and Mr W. Lindley.

### **Applications**

Michael McCarthy, surveyor, New Swannington, made application for permission to proceed for the recovery of a tenement occupied by Charlotte Kenyon, married, at Whitwick. Mr T. H. Moore was for the applicant and the order asked for was made, defendant having to pay 2s 6d costs. Defendants said they could not get houses.

Perry Williamson, fitter, Whitwick, made a similar application in respect of a cottage occupied by Isaac Lamb, collier, Whitwick. Mr T. H. Moore was for the applicant and said it was a bad case of over-crowding. Leave to proceed was given, defendant having to pay 2s 6d costs.

## Court Proceeding

Nellie Broadhurst, single, of Whitwick, was summoned by Charles Williamson, factory hand, for assault at Whitwick, on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Jane Johnson, married, of Whitwick, was summoned for assaulting Maud A. Johnson, another married woman, of Whitwick at that place on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Window Smashing at Whitwick

Old man leniently dealt with

To save his pension

Before Mr W. Lindley (in the chair) and Mr B. G. Hale, at the Coalville Police Court on Monday, George Naylor, aged 73, a blacksmith, of no fixed abode, was charged with breaking nine panes in a window at Whitwick lodging house, the property of Mr A. J. Briers, and doing damage to the amount of 10s on Saturday night.

Defendant said he was too drunk to remember anything about it. He met some friends and did not want to drink, but they forced it on him. Clara Emma Harper, wife of Fred Harper, manager of the lodging-house, said the defendant came to her for lodgings and she refused to admit him because he had been causing some bother at another place. As soon as her back was turned he smashed the window with his stick, which he also hooked round the window frame and tried to pull that out. He was very drunk and his language was very bad.

Defendant said he did not remember even coming there. He knew he was ill-used.

Mr Lindley: Who gave you the black eye?

Defendant: I could not say. Some man gave me a thump which knocked me down and then he kicked me on the head.

Replying to the Bench, Inspector Dobney said the defendant was tramping about the country. He was about to apply for an old age pension. Mr Lindley said it would affect the pension if the man was sent to prison without the option of a fine. They would therefore fine him 10s and he must pay the 10s damage, seven days in default.

Defendant: I am very thankful to you gentlemen, for being so lenient with me.

## **Sport**

#### Football

Coalville Cup Final

Loughborough Corinthians beat Whitwick

Having made a draw of two goals each on Easter Tuesday, Whitwick Imperial (holders) and Loughborough Corinthians met again on the Fox and Goose ground on Saturday in the final for the Coalville Cup. Fortunately, the weather, though threatening in the morning, held fine, and there was a bigger "gate" than on the previous occasion, between 3,000 and 4,000 people being present.

Loughborough made two changes from their Easter team, Spencer, playing for Belton Neal for Kirk, the players being: Hunt, Atterbury and Cumberland; Neal, Butler and West; Armstrong, Ravenscroft, Spencer, Williamson and Harriman.

Whitwick were represented by Roadley, Cooke and Waterfield; Moore, J. Bird, and Lovett; M. Bird, Lockwood, Dexter, Thorpe and Roach.

Mr R. T. Bradshaw was referee, with Messrs. J. Tivey and H. Deacon on the lines.

The Corinthians were lucky to win the toss as a strong wind was blowing straight down the ground towards the road end and they had the advantage of this in the first half. The game was mostly in the Whitwick territory, the Loughborough men, particularly Armstrong and Butler, making things very lively for the Imperial defence, but for half an hour they kept the citadel intact. Roadley was once loudly applauded for a magnificent save from Armstrong. On another occasion Lovett returned when a goal seemed inevitable. Armstrong, however, the most dangerous forward on the field, was not to be denied and ultimately he beat the custodian with a nice shot. The same player was partly responsible for the second goal, which came a few minutes later, as it was from his centre that Spencer was enable to head into the net. The player who scored, however, undoubtedly stood in an offside position. It was clear that Whitwick were a beaten team after this and though they occasionally broke away, they never really became dangerous.

Commencing the second half two goals to the bad, the Imperial made desperate efforts to wipe out the arrears and though the game was now no more in their favour, they failed to break through the stubborn defence offered by the Corinthians, who maintained their half-time lead and they won by two goals to none.

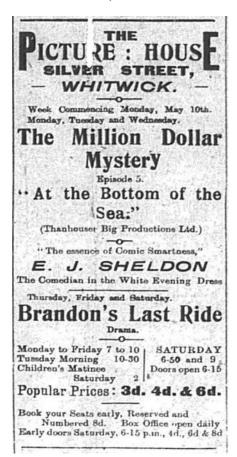
The "gate" amounted to £60 15s 5d of which the charity took a third, £20 5s 2d, and after meeting the expenses, the clubs shared the balance, each receiving £17 14s 4 1/2d. The proceeds on Easter Tuesday amounted to £45, giving a total for the two matches of practically £106.

## **Round the Theatres**

The Picture House, Whitwick

There have been some good "houses" here again this week, and the theatre is becoming more and more popular every week. The film subjects and "turns" are up to the usual high standard of excellence and they have been much enjoyed and applauded. The screening of the pictures is excellent, and their clearness is a credit to the operator. The star film at the beginning of the week was episode four of the "Million Dollar Mystery" series, entitled "The Top Floor Flat." The conspirators entice Florence Gray to a flat on the top floor of a building in an out of the way part of the town, by means of a note which comes presumably from the girl's father. Florence is to keep silence unless she wishes to sign her father's death warrant. She discovers the ruse, however, and when the conspirators attempt to frighten her into a confession by the use of a snake, she manages to escape by a very clever ruse. "The Coward" was a good drama; and "The Man who Knew," a drama by Vitagraph, was as usual with the company's productions, excellent in every way. — Others were also good.

The "turns" are; Learto and his clever Pomeranian, a real good "show" which should draw



big audiences during the week-end, Learto is good and his dog is a marvel. Both have received loud applause. – Dolly Phillis, comedienne and dancer, is a "turn" of very high order. Her dancing is something good to look on. The American wooden shoe mat dance is excellently executed, and stamps Miss Phillis as a "top-notcher." -Patrons must not miss seeing the above. – For the weekend the star film is "The Poisoned Bit" an Edison drama of exceptional merit. After Tom had been in the employ of Col. Standish a short time he fell in love with the Colonel's daughter. When he is discharged he goes to England where his identity as Lord Blyncourt's grandson is established, through the aid of a locket, and the Colonel's daughter becomes his bride. - "The Proof of a Man" is another good one. Bob Carroll, a cripple, secretly loved Alma, the waitress at the café where he lunched. Alma, however, favoured the handsome but unprincipled Jim Carter, gang leader. How Bob proved his manhood saved Alma from an awful fate in an opium den, and won her love, makes a gripping tale. J. Warren Kerrigan as the cripple is immense. - "Charles Smoker" and "In the clutches of the villain" are two good comics; and "The Man who Knew" and "In Danger's Hour" are two fine dramas. These should not be missed. - Next week's list see advertisement columns.

## **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

#### **Burials**

Holt – At Whitwick, to-day, Clara Holt, aged 28 years, from the Ashby Infirmary.

# Friday May 14th 1915 (Issue 1210)

#### Whist Drive and Social

A whist drive and social was held at St. Josephs, the proceeds for the benefit of the Whitwick Troop of Leicestershire Yeomanry. There was a good company present, Mr R. Webster of Shepshed acting as MC. The first prize for ladies was a handsome oil painting of flowers and fruit, given and presented by Mr T. Bayliss, of Charnwood Towers. Other prizes were given by Mr and Mrs Cockain (Loughborough), Misses Lee, Mr and Mrs Kerry, Mr Webster, Mr Heighton and Mr J. T. Rossell. Private H. Harrington of His Majesty's forces presented the prizes. The sum of £5 7s was realised.

## Do you Know

That from the mixed department of the Whitwick Church Day School, the sum of £5 15s 1d has been sent to the Belgian Relief Fund and £2 to the Red Cross Fund?

That £1 1s has been sent to the British Red Cross Fund, the proceeds of badges sold by the children of the Whitwick Church of England School?

## **Accident at Whitwick Colliery**

While working in the Whitwick Colliery on Tuesday afternoon, a miner named Arthur Birch, who resides at Coleorton, met with an accident, sustaining a fractured leg, through being struck by a prop. He was conveyed home in the colliery ambulance carriage and medically attended.

## Whitwick Scouts at the Front

Interesting Letter to Former Scout-Master

Signalman F. W. Ducker, of the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 there 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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."

### Whitwick Soldier Describes Life at the Front

Interesting Narrative

A long and interesting letter, dated May 5<sup>th</sup>, has been received by Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick, from Lance-Corporal H. S. Burton, of the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 lav 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.

### **Coalville Police Court**

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), and W. F. Lindley.

Sisters-in-law Reconciled

Jane Johnson, married, of Whitwick, was summoned for assaulting Maud A. Johnson, another married woman of Whitwick at that place on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Complainant said she wanted to withdraw the case.

The Clerk: Are you sisters-in-law?

Complainant: Yes

The summons was withdrawn.

#### Bad Language

Thomas Williamson, collier, Coalville, was summoned for using bad language at Whitwick, on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He pleaded guilty. P.C. Grewcock said the defendant was wanting to fight

someone in the Market Place. Defendant alleged that he was struck by someone. Fined 10s 6d or seven days.

### **Right of Way Dispute at Whitwick**

## **Police Court Sequel**

#### Assault Case Dismissed

At the Coalville Police Court on Friday, Nellie Broadhurst, single, of Whitwick, was summoned by Charles Williamson, factory hand, for assault at Whitwick, on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr J. J. Sharp (Coalville) appeared to prosecute and Mr W. P. Musson (Ashby) was for the defendant, who pleaded not quilty.

Complainant stated that he occupied a garden to which access was gained over defendant's mother's premises. He paid no rent, but Mrs Spencer, who allowed him to cultivate the ground, had part of the produce. There had been trouble with the Broadhursts through him using the right of road to the garden. On the date named he was going to the garden with his son when he found the yard doors fastened and the defendant stood on the other side. She said, "You are not coming through here today." He said he should and she replied that she had been to see Mr Berrington (another relative of Mrs Spencer) and he had told her to lock the door and not let him through. Complainant put his hand on the doors to pull himself up, when the defendant struck him a violent blow with a stick, which caused him to drop a small chopper he had in his hand. She was going to strike him a second blow and he let go and fell on the ground. They shouted to someone to fetch the police. He had the chopper intending to knock the lock off the doors but did not threaten to strike the defendant with it. As a result of the assault he was away from work for a week and was attended by Dr. Milligan. His left hand was swollen still and was discoloured, though the blow was received a fortnight ago. He had a perfect right to go that way to the garden.

By Mr Musson: He had permission from Mrs Spencer. Sometime ago he was summoned at that court for assaulting Mrs Berrington at Mrs Spencer's house but the case was dismissed. He was on good terms with Mrs Spencer until two months ago.

The Clerk: Who is Mrs Spencer?

Mr Sharp: She is an aunt with a little property and that is what it is about. I shall have a surprise for my friend if he goes on with that. (Laughter)

By Mr Musson: He had not tried to induce Mrs Spencer to make a will in his favour. He could not say whether Mrs Spencer was now living with Mrs Berrington. It was untrue that Mrs Spencer did not wish him now to have the garden, though he would not be surprised to hear that the Berringtons had said so. On the date named he told the defendant that he should knock the lock off, but did not threaten to throw the hatchet at defendant when she dared him to break the lock. He did not throw the hatchet at her after she struck him on the knuckles.

By Mr Sharp: He had had no summons from the defendant.

Charles Williamson, frame-fitter at Stableford's, son of complainant, corroborated. He said he heard the defendant allege that the chopper was thrown at her, which was untrue and she said she would swear her life away against his father.

Mr Musson, opening the case for the defence said the whole question was whether Williamson had a right of way through Broadhurst's yard. Mr Sharp produced deeds proving a right of road. Mr Musson said Mrs Spencer undoubtedly had a right, the question was whether Williamson had.

Mr Sharp said Williamson had sworn that and had cultivated the garden for two years. Mr Musson submitted that Williamson's right had not been proved and that Miss Broadhurst, therefore, was justified in taking steps to prevent trespass and damage on her mother's property. He asked the Bench whether they thought he had a case to answer. The answer of the magistrates was in the affirmative.

Defendant was then sworn and stated that the complainant lifted the hatchet up and said he would kill her with it. She thought he was going to strike her and she picked up her brother's stick and struck the complainant on the right hand which was on the gate. After that he threw the hatchet at her. She stooped and it went over her. She sent the boy (Underwood) for the policeman.

By Mr Sharp: She did say that she would swear her life away against him. She hit him on the right hand only and could not account for his left wrist being bruised. Her sister picked the hatchet up.

Alice Broadhurst, sister of the defendant, said she heard the complainant twice say he would kill her sister and saw him throw the hatchet at her.

Catherine Gertrude Edwards, wife of Thomas Henry Edwards, North Street, Whitwick, gave similar evidence.

The chairman said the Bench had heard enough of the case and would dismiss it. Williamson was ordered to pay the costs 3s.

### **Sport**

#### Cricket

Hugglescote Albion V Whitwick Holy Cross

At Hugglescote, on Saturday, a league match was played. J. Surman and W. Rowell did the bowling for Hugglescote, the former taking 5 wickets for 13 runs, and the latter took 4 wickets for 14 runs. B. Abell making the highest score with the bat for 14 runs. A. Twigg bowled well for Whitwick taking 5 wickets for 18 runs. Hugglescote won a poor game.

#### Hugglescote Albion

G. H.James	lbw	b E. Bourne	2
B. Abell	c B. Stanyard	b A. Twigg	14
J. Surman	c Newell	b A. Twigg	6

W. Rowell Herbert Smith W. E. Fisher G. Howkins W. Bird H. Weston J. Jackson T. Causer	c Bourne run run not run Ibw	b Bourne b Twigg out out b Twigg out out out b Twigg	0 3 4 0 3 0 7 9	
Extras Total			7 45	
Whitwick Holy Cross				
A. Twigg B. Stanyard E. Bourne L. Kane J. Newell J. Massey B. Massey T. Hull H. Beeson B. Orton C. Stanyard	c and c Abell run not c Bird	b W. Rowell b J. Surman b J. Surman b W. Rowell b W. Rowell b J. Surman out b J. Surman b W. Rowell out b J. Surman	7 0 10 2 0 0 3 2 0 2	
Extras Total			4 31	

### **Round the Theatres**



Doors open 6-15

Children's Matinee

The Picture House, Whitwick

A very good programme is to be seen here this week again – E. J. Sheldon is a good comedian and his songs and speciality whistling have been well received. At the commencement of the week the pictures were: Episode No. 5 of the "Million Dollar Mystery" vis., "At the bottom of the sea." Jones the butler leads the gang to believe he is moving the hiding place of the million dollars, and when they follow him, gives them a merry chase on the open sea in a motor boat. The gang is about to overhaul Jones, so he throws the box they imagine contains the money into the sea, then shoots and hits the petrol tank in the boat of his pursuers. The conspirators' boat catches fire, the occupants are forced to jump into the sea after their clothes have finally caught fire. The petrol tank explodes, sinks the boat, and Jones manages to easily escape. "A Double Error" was a good Vitagraph comedy. Brother and sister thought to be man and wife.

They meet another brother and sister. The brothers fall in love with each others sister. The double joke ends in a double engagement. "The Secret of the Air" was also good, and "Made in Germany" was an extra good comedy by B and C. For the week-end the 'star' picture is "Brandon's Last Ride." Two friends, Tom Brandon and Jim Wade are in love with the same girl. Jim is refused because of his drinking habits. Tom is accepted. Jim leaves for the West and "makes good." Tom goes astray later and in the end Alice finds happiness as the wife of faithful Jim Wade. A good subject. A comic by Keystone, "Those Happy Days" and "Fatty" eventually carries the daughter away. "The Master Hand" is a drama by Thanhouseer and a good detective subject which will please. "Tilly at a Football Match" is a good Hepworth comic. The Tilly girls would go to a football match. That they got into mischief goes without saying. Their pranks attracted more attention than the game. But the missing plum cake and the football shield were blamed on to the tramp. Then Tilly came to the rescue and, of course, no magistrate could be so hard-hearted to convict the Tillys. They both got off. They always do. Others are equally good and should be seen. Next weeks list, see advertisement columns.

Considerable alterations are being made at this theatre this week-end to enable the management to cope with the ever increasing business. The seating accommodation is being re-arranged and more seats being put in. The theatre is very comfortably arranged now, but after the alterations it will be more so. The sixpenny seats are being raised and patrons in all parts of the house will be assured of a good view of the stage and screen, and the management are sparing no expense or pains to ensure that their patrons shall have every comfort, and their efforts in this direction should be upheld by increased enthusiasm and support.

## **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

Mr Jarvis and family desire to thank all kind friends for their sympathy shown in their sad bereavement.

Church Lane, Whitwick

#### **Burials**

Brotherhood – At Whitwick, on Saturday, Louisa Brotherhood, aged 80 years, of Leicester Road.

# Friday May 21st 1915 (Issue 1211)

#### **Advertisement**

Fred Gardener's Pony, "Little Billy", 5 years, none better, at Stud. 50 Leicester Road, Whitwick. Moderate charges.

66, Leicester Road, Whitwick. Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1915. 100 lots of furniture, late the property of Mrs Brotherhood (deceased) Sale at 2 o'clock prompt. Moore and Hiller, Auctioneer.

### **Coalville Police Court**

Today – (Friday) Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr H. J. Ford and B. G. Hale.

### School Case

Joseph Haywood, collier, Swannington, and Harriett Johnson, of Whitwick, were summoned for not sending their children regularly to school. Mr C. Hart, school attendance officer, Measham, gave the facts in both cases. In the first case it was stated to be the first offence and defendant was fined 5s or seven days. Johnson was fined 5s or seven days.

## **Sport**

### Cricket

Coalville Baptist V Whitwick Holy Cross

At Coalville on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Whitwick won. Twigg took 5 wickets for 11 runs and Bourne 5 for 23. C. Price had 6 for 18 and T. Price 4 for 26.

## Coalville Baptist

C. Price		b Bourne	0
W. Baker	lbw	b Twigg	22
H. Ratcliffe		b Bourne	2
Rev. W. H. Wills		b Bourne	6
J. Price	c &	b Twigg	3
A. Andrews	lbw	b Bourne	5
T. Marriott		b Twigg	1
L. Ratcliffe	c &	b Twigg	0
A. Storer	c Kane	b Twigg	0
E. Veasey		b Bourne	4
T. Price	not	out	1
Extras			3
Total			47

## Whitwick Holy Cross

B. Stanyard		b C. Price	0
A. Twigg	s. Ratcliffe	b T. Price	10
E. Bourne		b C. Price	0
F. Middleton		b T. Price	0
N. Hibbert	c Andrews	b T. Price	5
P. Massey		b C. Price	13
J. Newell		b C. Price	1
J. Massey	c &	b C. Price	0
L. Kane	c T. Price	b. C. Price	9
B. Orton	c. Wills	b T. Price	6
T. Hull	not	out	0

## **Round the Theatres**

The Picture House, Whitwick

There has been a great improvement in the seating accommodation at this theatre and, although it was very comfortable before, it is doubly so now that the alterations have taken place. Patrons should see it now that there is increased patronage. A good programme is showing this week, and during the earlier part the chief picture was Episode 6 of the "Million Dollar Mystery," another clinking part which was much enjoyed. "Have a Cigar," and "A Joke in Jerks" were two good comics, and other films were also good. For the week-end the star picture is "A Law unto Herself," a champion drama by Rex. When Edmund Roger murdered his club friend, Rupert Levine, Andrea Dubois, Levine's fiancée, made an oath to bring the criminal to justice. She did not know that her lover had betrayed Roger's sister Elsie, which led Roger to such swift reprisals. Five years pass, when Andrea meets Roger, and plans to poison herself, fixing the crime on the man. She takes the poison, tells her story, and then learns the real truth. But the maid has changed the bottles. A slice of real life drama. "The Monkey Cabaret" is also good. A variety entertainment, complete with orchestra and number changers, is carried through in its entirety by performing monkeys. A trapeze artiste, a tight-rope walker, a weightlifter go through their turns with comical vigour and éclat. The drummer works hardest of all. A clever little novelty film. Others are "A Mother's Way," "Pimple, Spiritualist," "A

THE Week Commencing Monday, May 24th, fonday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Dollar Million Mystery Episode 7. "The Doom of the Auto Bandits." (Thanhouser Big Productions Ltd.) THE TWO FROLICS (Sid Wilford and Len Grant) L vely Cross Talkers & Patter Comedians. 000 POLLARD DOROTHY Chic Comedien se and Rope Dancer. hursday, Friday and Saturday. The Girl at the Lock Whit-Monday, Two Houses at 6-50 & 9 M inday to Friday 7 to 10 Tuesday Morning 10-30 Children's Matines SATURDAY 6-50 and 9 Doors open 6-15 Saturday 2 Popular Pricen: 3d. 4d. & 6d. Book your Seats early, Reserved and Numbered 8d. Box Office open daily Early doors Saturday, 6-15 p.m., 4d., 6d & 8d

Close Call" and several others. The 'turns' are: They Maynes, vaudeville artistes, a splendid combination who have gained much applause. Theirs is a first-class act and should be seen. Cora Ray is a dainty comedienne, her songs being well received. A good artiste. Full particulars of holiday arrangements and next week's programme, see advertisement columns.

# Friday May 28th 1915 (Issue 1212)

#### **Local Chit Chat**

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.

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 Hoult 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.

#### 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 10<sup>th</sup>. I rejoined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment on May 15<sup>th</sup> and on the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>, Pte. E. W. Ball, of the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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."

### 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 al I 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."

#### Whitwick Soldier a Prisoner

Two Loaves Better than One

Mrs G. Fairbrother, of 26, School Lane, Whitwick, has received a postcard dated May 14<sup>th</sup> from her husband, Pte. G. Fairbrother, of the Leicesters, who is a prisoner of the Kreigsgefangenen-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."

## Round the Theatres

The Picture House, Whitwick



There have been some good audiences attending here during the holidays, and a fine programme has been much appreciated. Another of the "Million Dollar Mystery" series was very good. It was entitled "The Doom of the Auto Bandits." Florence is captured by the conspirators while out riding horseback, and carried off to a lonely hut in the woods. The return of the riderless horse starts Norton away to investigate. He discovers the girl and has a stiff fight with her brutal keeper, managing after a hard struggle to lay him out. The two then escape by motorcar. Other members of the gang see them and follow them in pursuit. Norton fires and punctures their tyre and puts the steering wheel out of commission. The car containing the pursuers then plunges headlong into the river, and Norton and the girl are overwhelmed at the suddenness of the tragedy. Others for the beginning of the week were, "She Married for Love," she certainly gave the old chap a few frights. "Fighting Selina." Selina dreams, but it takes a few buckets of cold water to make her believe things are true. "The Girl in the Tenement" was a capital drama. There are two excellent 'turns' which have had a rousing reception, and they are well worth all the applause they have received. The Frolics are two smart cross-talkers and patter comedians, and their witticisms have fairly 'brought down the houses.' They should not be missed. Dorothy Pollard is a very

smart comedienne, and a fine rope dancer. She has also had a splendid reception. The 'star' picture for the week-end is "The Girl at the Lock," a picturesque and pathetic drama which will appeal to Whitwick patrons. Harold Bond, a young artist, was engaged to his patron's daughter, Geraldine Fair. One day while proceeding to Bond's residence in a motor yacht, he encounters Elaine Strange, daughter of a deaf and dumb lock-keeper, and at once becomes deeply attracted to her, believing that he has discovered in her the model for a masterpiece which he proposes to call 'The Girl at the Lock'. Elaine falls hopelessly in love with him though she has promised to wed Steve Hart, a young boatman. Encouraged by the taunts of Jack Case, who is in love with Geraldine Fair, the jealous fiancée cuts the picture into ribbons. This results in the engagement between Harold and Geraldine being broken, and a second picture is painted and exhibited. But alas! Elaine is once more doomed to disappointment. Harold again becomes engaged to Geraldine. Just before the wedding Elaine totters faintly to the church and falls unconscious as bride and bridegroom appear at the door. She is taken to the Bond's home, where she is found to be in a dying condition and her father is summoned. He arrives just after she has passed away, and in a frenzy of grief bears her from the house to his boat. Others are excellent. Next week programme see advertisement columns.