

# Coalville Times At War

**Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> 1915 (Issue 1230)**

**Page 1**

## ASHBY

### CITIZENS' CORPS INSPECTION

The Ashby Citizen Corps had a practice and drill in the Bath Grounds on Sunday, under G. J. German and were joined by the Woodville Company under Mr Freckleton. The drill consisted of exercises in preparation for the inspection by Lord Rankesborough, which is to take place next Sunday. Lord Rankesborough will be remembered by old volunteers as Major-General Brocklehurst, who inspected the Ashby Company about ten years ago at Ashby.

**Page 3**

### WOUNDED SOLDIER'S OUTING

#### A JOLLY PARTY

About 200 wounded and convalescent soldiers from the Base Hospital at North Evington, Lutterworth, Charnwood and Melton hospitals had a glorious time on Saturday. They were entertained by the employees of Messrs. Walker, Kempson and Stevens (Sileby Branch) and Mr J. W. Molt, (of Sileby).

As usual, the motor car arrangements were under the able supervision of Mr C. Geoffrey Barradale, on behalf of the Leicestershire Automobile Club. An informal procession, which started from the Victoria Park Gates, was made through the town. As on previous occasions, the Tommies were heartily cheered and showers of cigarettes, fruit, chocolates, etc., went into the cars.

At Sileby, large crowds of people greeted the soldiers. The village was handsomely decorated with banners, flags and festoons. In a field adjoining the Conservative Club, a large marquee and platform had been erected. Among those present were Col. Yate, M.P., Mr J. H. Bott (manager for Messrs. Walker, Kempson and Stevens at Sileby), Mr J. W. Moir, Mr Wye (secretary of Messrs. J. W. Moir Ltd), Councillor R. Hull, Mr and Mrs C. H. Martin, Mr and Mrs A. Smith, and Mr Preston.

After an excellent meat tea a first-class entertainment was contributed to by the Sileby Town Band (who also played selections in the afternoon), Mr Bert Wright, Mrs Arnold Navin, Mr Donald Adcock, Mr J. J. Mawby and Mr F. Godfrey. Seasonable games were much enjoyed.

The marquee was tastefully decorated and great credit is due to the girls employed by the firms named for their efforts to help Tommy to forget that he was wounded. A number of Belgian refugees employed at the factories joined in this laudable task. Col. Yate, who is popularly known as 'the soldier's friend' referred to the function as an entertainment by the workers at home on behalf of the workers at the front.

Councillor Hull wished the men a speedy recovery to health and strength. Other short speeches were made. Sergeant Major Wilkins replied, and another sergeant said:

"Life is too short for sorrow  
If you don't enjoy yourself today  
You never will tomorrow."

**Page 4**

## **SHEPSHED**

### **MENS ADULT SCHOOL**

At the usual weekly gathering on Sunday morning a letter was read from Pte. Robert Hollis, a member of the school, who is at present in France, expressing thanks for the very welcome parcel of cigarettes. The president suggested that a collection be made for tobacco and cigarettes to be sent to each member of the school at the front, which he should be pleased to start with £2. This was adopted and the collection was fixed for Sunday morning.

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

During last week 48 recruits joined the Leicester and Leicestershire Territorials. Since August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1914, no fewer than 7,342 men have joined the Territorials in this county, while the National Reserve men who have come forward since the outbreak of war number 824.

In response to a letter which appeared in our last issue from C. M. S. Sharp and other Coalville lads at the front appealing for a pair of boxing gloves for their entertainment when out of the trenches, we are pleased to state that we have received two excellent pairs from Mr R. Tebbett, saddler of Hotel Street, Coalville, to be forwarded with his best wishes to all at the front.

Lieut. R. D. Farmer, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, has been gazetted captain. He is the son of Mr George Farmer, of Tamworth Road, Ashby and clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians. Capt. Farmer being assistant clerk to the Board. He began his military career as a private in 'A' (Hastings) Company, of which he was some time, colour-sergeant. When he obtained his commission he was posted in the Shepshed Company, and went out with his battalion in February. Lieut. Lawton, whose promotion is also announced, is the son of Mr R. W. Lawton, the chairman of the Hartshorne and Seals Council.

It is interesting to note that up to date over 2,000 pairs of socks, to say nothing of mittens, mufflers, helmets and body belts have been sent by the Coalville and District Soldier's Comforts Guild to one thousand local men at the front, or in the forces, while 276 have been re-supplied. The need will be greater in the coming winter and the members of the guild are again busy knitting. They are meeting in Coalville Council Chamber every Thursday evening from 6 to 8.30 pm, and any who would like to help are invited.

At the inspection of the Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick Citizen Corps by Lord Ranksborough and Col. Bruxner Randle on the Fox and Goose Ground, Coalville, next Sunday afternoon, a collection will be made and the proceeds divided between the fund for sending Christmas parcels to Leicesters at the front, and the Coalville and District Soldier's Comforts Guild.

### **SOLDIERS CHARGED WITH POACHING**

#### **A LOUGHBOROUGH PROSECUTION**

On Wednesday, at Loughborough, John H. Warner and Joseph Russell, privates in the Leicestershire Territorial R.H.A., in camp at Garendon Park, were summoned for trespassing in search of game on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. Warner was further charged with taking a gun for the purpose of taking game and Russell with aiding and abetting him. Defendants pleaded not guilty.

George Hare, gamekeeper to Mr W. H. Paget, spoke to hearing a shot and finding the defendants on land in the occupation of Mr Smalley. Warner had a rifle, and said he did not know they were doing wrong. To P.C. Mee, who stopped the men on the highway, the defendants said they had only been for a walk. Asked what he wanted with a gun, Warner replied that he wanted to have a 'snip'.

Warner's defence was that he simply wanted to try the rifle, and Russell denied being with the other defendant. The case against Russell was dismissed and Warner was fined 10s for each offence.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

That Sir John French was 63 on Tuesday?

That the number of men from Thringstone serving in the forces is now 83?

That two hundred and fifty more wounded arrived at Leicester on Monday night, making a total for 1,050 for the week?

That £30 3s 11d has been received to date towards the cost of the soldiers' memorial window proposed to be erected in Thringstone Church?

That Private Kilworth, who before the war was engaged by the Coalville Co-Operative Society as confectioner and has been in the trenches some months, has been to Coalville this week on four days' leave and returned to France yesterday?

**Page 5**

## **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 44<sup>th</sup> collection from 6 districts realised £4 5s 2d.

## **THORNTON**

### **COMFORTS FOR THE SOLDIERS**

A collection has been made in Thornton for the purpose of sending gifts to all those men belonging to the village who are serving in His Majesty's Army, and the sum of £12 has been realised.

### **AMBULANCE CARS FOR THE FRONT**

### **COMING TO ASHBY AND COALVILLE**

At a meeting of the Council of the Leicestershire Miners' Association at the Railway Hotel, Coalville, Mr John Wilton presiding, the agent (Mr Levi Lovett) reported the receipt of a letter from Lieut. A. Dennis Bayley, of Lenton Abbey, Beeston, Notts, stating that the new convoy of ambulance cars, subscribed for by the colliery owners and miners and officials of Notts and Derbyshire would be on view in Nottingham on October 7<sup>th</sup> and also at Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr Lovett was requested to write asking the time the cars would be at Ashby and whether they could be brought to Coalville, and on Wednesday morning the agent received a reply from Lieut. Bayley that the cars would be on view in Ashby at 1pm on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, and he would be pleased to arrange for them to be brought to Coalville that same afternoon.

## **HUGGLESCOTE OFFICER KILLED**

### **LIEUT. B. HATTER**

We regret to state that in the fighting in France last Saturday and Sunday, a well-known Hugglescote soldier, Second Lieutenant B. Hatter was killed. The sad news was conveyed in a telegram received from the War Office by the deceased officers' parents about ten o'clock yesterday morning as follows:

War Office, London

T. Hatter, North Street, Hugglescote, Leicestershire. Deeply regret to inform you that 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. B. Hatter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment was killed in action 26 / 27 September. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy.

Secretary, War Office.

Lieut. Hatter joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials soon after the outbreak of war in August last year. He was a smart young man and soon rose to the position of sergeant, while six months ago he was given a commission. He received a good deal of his training at Luton and was later quartered at Hull. He visited his parents at Hugglescote Wake in August and had only been in France some five or six weeks.

Before joining the army, he assisted his father in his business as builder and joiner, at Hugglescote, where he was well-known and held in high esteem. As a boy he was a chorister at the Hugglescote Parish Church and for some time he was also a patrol leader in the Coalville Boy Scouts. He was 20 years of age and was the only son of Mr and Mrs T. Hatter, for whom much sympathy is felt.

A letter from the deceased officer was received by his parents only on Monday last. This states that they had been resting a few days, but were going into the trenches again on Friday (which would be on the eve of the great British advance on Saturday and Sunday last). The letter continued:

*“Don’t be surprised if you don’t hear from me for a few days, as we are expecting great things.”*

The late Lieut. Hatter, it may be mentioned, was a singer of no mean order, and he had frequently assisted at local concerts. He was a member of the Coalville Lyric Quartet, who, until the war intervened, were gaining much popularity in Coalville and District by their excellent musical abilities.

## **WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZEN CORPS**

### **SHOOTING HANDICAP**

A shooting handicap of the above Corps took place on the Whitwick range on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915. The conditions consisted of ten rounds at both deliberate and rapid. The following were the results:

	Del.	Rapid		Total
Mr Blow	92	86	Ser	178
Mr Hull	82	81	8	171
Mr Robinson	90	60	8	151
Mr Burton	60	79	8	147
Mr Lester	78	56	9	143
Mr Pegg	76	47	5	128
Mr Harris	63	42	10	115
Mr Millership	84	17	3	104
Mr Dodd	27	10	10	47
Mr Holland	26	0	13	39
Mr Hawkins	8	0	13	21

1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Mr Blow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Hull, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mr Robinson.

**Page 7**

## **DONINGTON HALL FUGITIVES**

### **GERMAN OFFICERS CAPTURED AT CHATHAM**

After six days of liberty, the two German officers who broke out of the Donington Hall military prison, Leicestershire, have been retaken.

The two men, Flight Lieut. Otto Thelen and Naval Lieut. Hans Kielback, were noticed in the vicinity of Chatham, the well-known port on the Medway, at the mouth of the Thames’ Estuary, on Friday night, and information having been conveyed to the authorities they were placed under arrest.

The men made their escape during the night a week last Friday and were subsequently said to have been seen in the Loughborough and Melton districts but they evaded capture, and in the succeeding days made their way due south. Chatham is in Kent, and it is said that the couple had endeavoured to secure a passage across the North Sea.

Another report states that they were arrested at sea on board a vessel bound for the continent in which they booked a passage and which was held up and searched by a British patrol boat.

They have been taken back to Donington Hall.

**Page 8**

### **SHEPshed MEN KILLED**

Information reached Shepshed on Monday morning that Pte. Harry Unwin had been killed in action in France last week. Pte. Unwin formerly belonged to the Shepshed or 'G' Company, of the Leicestershire Territorials. His parents reside at Hall Croft, Shepshed, and the greatest sympathy is felt for them.

News was also received by the same post that Pte. Horace Thompson, youngest son of Mr John Thompson, Forest Street, had been killed in action. Pte. Thompson also belonged to the Shepshed Company.

Amongst those who have been wounded and are now in hospital are Pte. T. Webster, (for the second time), of Forest Street and Pte. T. Whitworth, Kirkhill Street, both of the Shepshed Territorials, and Sergt. J. Whitworth, Sparrow Hill, Shepshed, of the Notts and Derby Regiment.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATION**

#### **VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENTS AND THE NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL**

#### **INTERESTING REPORT**

A meeting of the joint committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915, at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester. His Grace, the Duke of Rutland presided. Capt. Serjeantson, the secretary, read the report of the Emergency Committee as follows:

Since the last report was submitted by your Emergency Committee for the consideration of the Joint Committee, the anniversary of the declaration of war, has gone by and more than a full twelve months has passed since the Emergency Committee held its first meeting on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 1914. It will be quite impossible until the war is over to attempt to give anything approaching a full history of the Leicestershire and Rutland units since that date, but during the year the number of units administered have been more than trebled, and the number of men more than quadrupled.

Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee in July very little news of the 1<sup>st</sup> Line Units has reached the Committee, but from officers who have been at home, and letters which have been received, it would appear that the history of the past six weeks is one of trench work.

Your Committee greatly regrets to record the death of Lieut. F. N. Tarr, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, killed in France. Lieut. Tarr was a very highly esteemed officer of the regiment, and for some time prior to his death held the post of Acting Adjutant. Amongst the rank and file your Committee is very sorry to report the following casualties which have been officially notified:

Leicestershire Yeomanry	1
4 <sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment	24
5 <sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment	32

In addition your Committee greatly regrets to report that the lists of wounded in both the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiments have been very considerable. It is a source of pride to the Committee to record that the undermentioned honours have been granted to Territorial Units:

Military Cross. Lieut. W. S. F. Johnson, Leicestershire Yeomanry  
Distinguished Conduct Medal. Squadron Sergeant Major J. P. Swain, Leicestershire Yeomanry.  
Distinguished Conduct Medal. Pte. H. G. Starbuck, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Yeomanry.  
Russian Order of St. George, 4<sup>th</sup> Class. Sergeant J. H. S. Christian, Leicestershire Yeomanry.  
Russian Medal of St. George, 4<sup>th</sup> Class. Lance-Corpl. H. S. Trotter, Leicestershire Yeomanry.

Sergeant-Major Swain has since been granted a commission to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment. Lieut. Col. A. H. Robinson has been gazetted to the command of the Yeomanry, vice Lieut. Col. Fisher. Col. Robinson has been a member of the Territorial Association since 1908.

During the last fortnight 8 rifles fitted with telescopic sights have been sent out to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Battalions. The Associations are greatly indebted to the Mayor of Leicester for his kindness in collecting the money to pay for these.

The problem of recruiting is one which your Committee has under consideration at the present time. With 3 lines to be supported, the necessity for a steady flow of recruits is imperative and the records for the last 6 weeks, namely 39, 61, 60, 59, 27 and 35, an average of not quite 47, does not appear very satisfactory. Your Commission hopes that the use of men of the Expeditionary Force who have been invalided, and are now being employed in recruiting, may bring an improvement, and there are already signs of slight recovery.

During the first week in August, a splendid week's recruiting campaign was held in Leicester and Leicestershire, being part of a recruiting week held throughout the Northern Command. During the week, meetings were held daily at different places in the town and county, and were combined with marches of regular and territorial units, short addresses being given at each halting place. Your Committee voted the sum of £100 towards the expenses of this week. £20 has also been voted to the officer commanding 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment Administrative Centre towards recruiting for that unit, which has been very poor just lately.

By War Office instructions everything has to be done at present to stimulate recruiting for artillery and infantry units. In all recruiting questions your Committee endeavours to co-operate as closely as possible with the Military Authorities, whom they have always found ready to advise and assist.

Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment has considerably advanced its organisation. It is divided into four companies, drawing their numbers from 14 schools in the borough and county. The strength of the battalion is about 850 cadets between the ages of 12 and 18.

During the summer holidays many of the officers attended the O.T.C. course at Cambridge, or were attached to either the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiments. It is understood that for the pressure of work at headquarters, this unit would have been organised on the footing of an Officer's Training Corps with the corresponding responsibilities and privileges and its size and importance as compared with other units already recognised as Officer's Training Corps would seem to warrant it seeking to be recognised as such, in which case it would be of immediate use in furnishing qualified officers for all branches of the army.

It is suggested that the Association should press upon the War Office the advisability of carrying out this scheme. The Association have been requested by the military authorities to give what assistance they can in carrying out the work under the Registration Act, and your Committee has promised to co-operate as far as they are able with the officer commanding the regimental district who is supervising the military side of the work.

Your Committee is now practically at the end of its contracts for clothing, and is receiving everything on indent from the Ordnance Department. There has been no delay in the receipt of these supplies. The Associations are now paying out about 6,600 allowances for families and dependants, and your Committee regrets to report that in certain cases it has been necessary to prosecute for fraud in connection with these payments.

Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee, sanction has been received from the War Office for the building of quarters for the orderlies at the North Evington Infirmary at an estimated cost of £1,020. An application has been submitted for various additions and alterations at the Base Hospital on the Victoria Park at an estimated cost of £593. These include: Orderlies' mess room, motor shed, Sergeant Majors' quarters, a pathological block, a shed for bath chairs and dinner wagons, improvements to the quarter-master stores. Intimation has been received since this report was drafted of the approval of this scheme.

Appended are two reports – The 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital has now been established for about one year and the following reports from Colonel Harrison and Mr Faire, the County Director, Voluntary Aid Detachments, give some idea of the extent of the work which has been carried out.

## Voluntary Aid Detachments

Since September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, we have transported 6,623 wounded soldiers to the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital, and the Leicester Royal Infirmary. 4,463 soldiers have passed through rest rooms at the Midland Railway and the Great Central Station. Over 47,000 men on troop trains have been served with light refreshments. About 3,563 letters have been written from this office during the year.

We have eleven well-appointed ambulance wagons (to take 42 stretchers) and a new one will be ready this week, making twelve in all. In addition there are five hospital cars, one covered and four open. Twenty-one voluntary aid detachments are now registered, five men's and sixteen women's. Ninety members of the women's detachments have volunteered and been accepted for service in military hospitals; some of these have already been called up, and a few have been sent to France and Egypt. Over 260 men have left the town for various duties; about eighty men are engaged in transport work at the railway station.

Over 100 reports of missing officers and men have been sent direct to the War Office and to the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John. From September 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> inclusive, I accompanied Surgeon General Fawcett when visiting auxiliary hospitals in the county, and one in Warwickshire – 12 in all. I have since had the Surgeon General's report on these hospitals, and, with the exception of one, all have been spoken of very highly. 757 patients have passed through these auxiliary hospitals since they were first opened.

I wish to express my best thanks to all owners of motor cars which have been kindly lent for the transport of the wounded, also to Chief Supt. Neal, of the Fire Brigade, who has always kindly given me the use of the fire ambulance wagon. To all owners and drivers of commercial vans, which have been most useful at times when a large convoy has arrived.

(Signed) Arthur W. Faire.

1/5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital,  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915.

Sir, - I have the honour to send the following report of the formation of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital and its work during twelve months since it was first opened for patients. I returned with the unit from training at Netley on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and the Old County Asylum was at once put at our disposal, rent free, by the County Council of Leicestershire and Rutland. I was fortunate in securing the services of Major R. Wallace Henry as registrar. By dint of very hard work 300 beds were equipped and ready for patients by the end of the month with kitchen, offices, and the whole of the administrative block. On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first convoy of 127 wounded arrived from Southampton. By the middle of September, 460 beds were ready.

A Church of England chapel was built in the grounds by voluntary subscription and consecrated by the Bishop of Peterborough on October 25<sup>th</sup>. This has since been enlarged. By October 20<sup>th</sup>, the hospital was fully equipped with its 520 beds, but by order of the Deputy Director of Medical Services on October 30<sup>th</sup> it was increased to 560. Plans for a further extension to 1050 were forwarded to the War Office.

Owing to quite unexpected and increased amount of work various improvements and additions have from time to time been found necessary, e.g. enlargement of kitchens, increased pack-store accommodation, a second operating theatre, larger out-patients department, dispensary, post office, and pathological laboratory.

A considerable number of inspections have taken place by Surgeon Generals Ford, Kenny and Fawcett. About Christmas time Sir F. Milner visited the hospital, on behalf of His Majesty the King and personally gave a present and message of sympathy to every patient. 100 beds at Nottingham General Hospital, 100 at Derby Royal Infirmary and 150 at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, were put at our disposal, and in addition to this we have over 40 Auxiliary Hospitals affiliated to us containing upwards of 1,000 beds. We transfer patients to all these hospitals and look after the discipline, pay, statistics and equipment of all the men, and finally arrange their furlough and give them a railway warrant home. This work is very considerable and gives employment to a number of clerks.

These hospitals are subsequently inspected by Major Henry and myself and reports are received from each one every day. On October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, we admitted 350 Belgian wounded soldiers; the compiling of the roll of their names caused a great deal of trouble. By December 9<sup>th</sup> we had a 1,000 patients on the books. Every effort was made to give the patients and staff an enjoyable time at Christmas and their expressions of appreciation led us to believe we had succeeded.

On January 9<sup>th</sup> we sent another report to the War Office re the extension of the hospital, but it was not until March 18<sup>th</sup> that a deputation consisting of the Mayor, Col. Clarke, Col. Bond, Mr Pick and myself, were permitted to interview the Director General, Army Medical Service, and lay before him the advantages of building an extension of the hospital over the transforming of a number of Council Schools into isolation hospitals. Our plans were favourably received and permission was granted a few days later to extend up to 1650 beds at an estimated cost of £8,350. By the end of the month building was in full swing, and on May 13<sup>th</sup>, two wards of 166 beds were ready, equipped and occupied. The completion of the other eight wards rapidly followed, and as quickly as the workmen left them, they were equipped and filled with patients.

While this building was going on North Evington War Hospital was being altered and adapted as a military hospital. The Guardians gave us every assistance by rapidly transferring their patients to other quarters and handed me the keys on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The work here proceeded smoothly, but not so quickly as we wished, as we were constantly held up for want of equipment, and it was not till May 9<sup>th</sup> that the first batch of 165 patients were transferred from the Base.

Recruiting for the extensions at the Base Hospital and Evington increased our staff to 269 N.C.O.'s and men, with 36 officers and a nursing staff of over 200, including V.A.D. workers. I must express my gratitude to the Mayoress and her Working Committee, and also the many kind friends in the town and county for the very great assistance they have given in completing the equipment of the Hospital and also for the large amount of mending which has been sent down to them twice a week.

Through the generosity of all classes interested in the hospitals I have collected a sum of over £1,000, a considerable portion of which has been expended in increasing the comforts and amusements of the patients. Games have been provided including a large skittle alley and my thanks are due to Councillor Squires, Mr Gibbs, and the members of the Games Committee for their kind co-operation.

Three concerts are arranged each week by Captains the Rev. W. C. Luxmore, and the Rev. Jenkins at each hospital, and are very much appreciated by the patients. The amusements of the R.A.M.C.T. have not been overlooked. An amalgamated club was started last September and cricket and football matches have regularly taken place. An enquiry office has been instituted and by its means, many people have been able to learn particulars of their relatives at the front from the patients at the hospital.

The number of visitors to the hospital seems to be on the increase; the average is about 1,200 a week; last week they reached the total of 1,800 at the Base Hospital alone, and every pass had to be signed. A chapel similar to that at the Base has also been erected by voluntary subscription at North Evington War Hospital, and Captain the Rev. C. E. Jenkins has been appointed chaplain. I have appointed Captain Holmes as officer in charge at Evington.

49 of our R.A.M.C.T. N.C.O.'s and men have been transferred to other units, 30 of whom proceeded on August 19<sup>th</sup> to join the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. Four sisters and 13 nurses have also been sent on foreign service. In addition to looking after the patients in hospital, the medical staff has also had many other duties. Owing to the shortage of medical officers for units training in the neighbourhood we have had a very large outpatient department, 6,638 attendees having been made in the last six months. Over 3,000 inoculations against typhoid have also been performed and many hundreds of men examined to see if they were fit for foreign service. 639 Medical Boards on officers and men have also been held since the beginning of the year. Medical Boards appointed by the Deputy Director of Medical Services sits four times weekly. 50 new R.A.M.C. have been attached for training and instruction besides half a dozen officers. We have been fortunate in having Colonel Bond appointed as consulting surgeon for the district.

The total number of admissions from September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915, has been 8,623. Of these, 7,294 have been Expeditionary Force, 351 Belgians and 978 Central Force. There have been 56 deaths, 43 in the Expeditionary Force, giving a percentage of only 0.6, a result which I believe will compare favourably with any other hospital. The average stay of patients in the Base and Auxiliary Hospitals has been 26.6. days. There have been 967 operations, and 2,129 x-ray examinations.



During the past month the wards in the old buildings have had a thorough cleaning at a cost of about £100. This was considered very necessary on account of the large number of patients admitted with septic wounds. Several alterations are still urgently required, viz; larger garage, increased accommodation for out-patients, much larger pathological laboratory, etc.

I think we have very good reason to be thoroughly satisfied with our transport. Owing to the energy of Mr W. A. Faire, County Director V.A.D., and the generosity of several friends, a fine fleet of 12 covered motor ambulances, in addition to 5 other cars, is at our disposal. Every possible arrangement has been made to ensure a speedy and comfortable transference of patients from the station to the hospitals, and the townspeople of Leicester have been particularly good in lending their cars at all times of the day and night to assist in this work. A word of praise is due to the detachment of V.A.D., both male and female, who so willingly gave their services at the station on the arrival of convoys of wounded and who have become so perfect and expeditious in their work that they have earned the commendation of the medical officers in charge of the train.

A Ladies' Visiting Committee has been appointed and is doing valuable work. The nursing arrangements throughout have been admirable and we much appreciate the valuable advice given by the principal Matron, Miss Vincent.

I have the honour to be Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) Louis K. Harrison, Lt. Col R.A.M.C.T.

## **Friday October 8<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1231)**

### ***Page 1***

#### **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 45<sup>th</sup> collection from 5 districts realised £2 15s 8d.

#### **LOUGHBOROUGH DOCTOR KILLED**

Lieut. Edgar Faulks, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.D., R.A.M.C., has been killed in action between September 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in France, during the recent advance. Lieut. Faulks was the second son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Faulks, of Loughborough and was 38 years of age. He was educated at Nottingham University, from where he went to Guy's Hospital, London, and was house surgeon during the latter part of his time. He received an appointment at the Health Asylum, Bexley, Kent, who was occupying the position of senior medical assistant to the superintendent, Dr. Stansfield. He joined the R.A.M.C. three months ago and had only reached the front a few days before the action in which he lost his life.

### ***Page 4***

#### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Sergt. Watson, of Thringstone, 3<sup>rd</sup> K.R. Rifles, wishes to be kindly remembered to all his workmates at Coleorton Colliery, and writes to say that he has just been promoted to Acting Sergeant Major of the Sappers and Miners' Company of the Brigade, who are doing good work sapping under the German trenches somewhere in France.

Co.-Sergt. Major Roland Hill, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, is now at home, at Coalville, on six weeks sick leave. He contracted fever and was eight weeks in hospital in France before leaving for England. We are pleased to learn that he is making good progress.

A former Coalville policeman, P.C. Granger, who has been some months at the front and was wounded, has been on a visit to Coalville this week and having recovered is returning to his military duties.

Mr Alfred Emmerson, Bagworth, who joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials soon after the outbreak of war, has been granted a commission, on which he will be congratulated by many friends. Last week, Lieut. Emmerson visited Bagworth on a few days' leave from the front, where he has been engaged for several months. He is one of the three soldier sons of Mr J. Emmerson, manager of the Bagworth Colliery. His brother Joseph also has a commission and is at the front, while his brother William is now a prisoner of war in Germany. Lieut. A. Emmerson is well-known in Coalville and district as a sportsman. He played football with Ellistown St. Christopher's and cricket with Bagworth United. While at Ashby Grammar School he was captain both of the cricket and football teams. He was engaged in the teaching profession before joining the army.

Mrs J. J. Sharp has received during the last three weeks further cigarettes for the Leicesters at the front, as follows:

Mr Tyler, Engineer's Arms, 83 packets; 136 loose.  
Coalville Liberal Club, 13 packets, 3 loose and 6d.  
West End Club, 2 packets, 7 loose and 1d.  
Whitwick Liberal Club, 76 packets  
Mr Higgins, 26 packets.  
Mr Smith, Fountain Inn, 5 packets, 28 loose and 1 1/2d.

### **MR KIPLING'S SON**

#### **"MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED"**

Mr John Kipling, of the Irish Guards, is reported, "missing, believed killed." John Kipling (says the 'Morning Post'), was the child for whom his father wrote the "Just So Stories," the boy for whom Puck told immortal tales of the beloved land, for which this supreme sacrifice has now been made. Mr John Kipling was barely eighteen, a boy of delicate health but indomitable zeal and resolution. He had been nominated for the Irish Guards by Lord Roberts, and was determined to take his share in the war. In assenting to his urgent pleas the father – and the mother also – offered the dearest of all possible sacrifices on the altar of their country – an only son, whose youth and health might have given them a good reason for evading the ordeal. The sympathy of the whole Empire will go out to Mr and Mrs Rudyard Kipling in their sorrow.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That there are now 151 men from Whitwick serving in His Majesty's Forces?

That the Coalville and District Roll of Honour – local men who have given their lives for their country has now reached the total of 71?

That 25 of the motor ambulances for the front, given by the Notts and Derbyshire coal owners and miners, will visit Coalville tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon?

That Lance-Corpl. A. W. Hanson (son of Mr E. Hanson, of Coalville), who recently came on a few days' leave from the front, has been promoted to corporal since his return?

That the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, which includes Ashby Grammar School (80 boys); Coalville (45); and Market Bosworth Grammar School (40), are to be inspected by the Duke of Rutland at Leicester tomorrow?

That one of the revelations of National Register is stated to be that of the men of military age in England, 60 per cent are unmarried men with no dependants?

### **Page 5**

A limited number of skilled miners being required by the military authorities for special work at the front, and the Leicestershire Miners' Association and Coalowners' Association having undertaken to try and procure 36, the number allocated to Leicestershire, meetings were held with this object in view at all the local collieries at the close of work yesterday.

## **ABSENTEE**

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Monday morning, Pte. H. T. Cliff, no. 4149, whose home is at No. 8, Marshall's Row, Coalville, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment, the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, stationed near Grantham, since September 25<sup>th</sup>. It was stated that he was apprehended by Inspector Dobney and P.C. Spiby at the above address on Sunday night. He was remanded to await an escort.

**Page 6**

## **ASHBY**

### **CITIZEN CORPS INSPECTION**

A large number of persons witnessed the inspection, which took place in the Bath Grounds on Sunday afternoon, of the Ashby and Woodville companies of the Citizen Corps by Lord Ranksborough, the President of the County Battalion. The companies were commanded by Mr G. J. German (Ashby), Mr Frockleton, of the Woodville Company, being also present. After the inspection the companies marched past in a line and drilled. They were then addressed by the General and Brigadier, who praised them for their self-sacrifice, and said that they were doing good work in spreading that spirit of discipline which was so necessary for the country.

### **AMBULANCE CONVOYS**

#### **COAL INDUSTRYS SPLENDID GIFT**

#### **FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ASHBY AND COALVILLE**

The two motor ambulance convoys presented, at the instance of Mr Dennis Bayley, to the joint War Committee of the British Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance Association by the Derbyshire and Notts. Coalowners and the Derbyshire and Notts. Miners' Associations are now nearing completion, and an official inspection was arranged for yesterday afternoon in Nottingham Market Place. Twenty-four motor ambulances were on view, and afterwards toured through the main streets of the city. On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> inst., the cars will tour the mining districts of Notts, Derbyshire and Leicestershire. Meeting at Ashby on Saturday morning at half past ten, they will proceed through the following mining districts of Notts. Derbyshire and Leicestershire: Ashby, Woodville, Swadlincote, Newhall, Bretby, Ashby Road, Burton, Stapenhill, Stanton, Gresley Station, Gresley Pit, Mushroom Lane, Moira, Donisthorpe, Donisthorpe Colliery, Cockspur, Oakthorpe, Measam Road, Measham.

An inspection by Corps Supt. J. Turner will take place in Ashby Market Place at 12.30 o'clock. The cars will leave Ashby at 2.30 and pass through the following villages: Coleorton, Swannington, Hoo Ash, Red House, Coalville, New Swannington, Whitwick to Coalville, and Whitwick Pit, Hugglescote, Ibstock, Ellistown and Bagworth.

On Sunday they will assemble in the Market Place, Nottingham, at 9 am and proceed on a tour through the mining districts of Derbyshire and Notts, via Bulwell, Hucknall, Ripley, Heanor, Eastwood, Ilkeston, and Sutton-in-Ashfield, Mansfield, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Blackwell, Pinxton, Alfreton, Ripley, Heanor, Eastwood, Ilkeston and Kimberley, back to Nottingham.

It is hoped that other mining districts will follow the example of Notts and Derbyshire. Each convoy when completed will comprise 50 motor ambulances, four touring cars, three lorries, seven motorcycles and one field repairing lorry.

## **RECRUITING CAMPAIGN**

### **OFFICERS BUSY AT LEICESTER**

Two very successful recruiting demonstrations were held at Leicester on Sunday. In the morning there was a recruiting march through the town headed by the 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters and the Territorials, the wives, children and relatives of men who have already enlisted joining in the procession.

The meeting was held in the Market Square, several thousand people being present. Councillor Frears, Deputy Mayor, presided, and some excellent speeches were delivered by M. Bouchard, Councillors Kelly, Salt, Pearse, and Hincks, and Nurse Scott.

During the meeting recruiting officers were busy amongst the young men in the crowd, and a fair number of recruits were brought forward. In the afternoon a second demonstration took place on the Victoria Park, at which the speakers were Lieut.-Col. Mosse, Capt. H. Simpson and Councillor Pearse.

### **LOUGHBOROUGH**

An appeal for further recruits to the colours was made at Loughborough on Saturday evening. A contingent of 200 men from the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment came back to the town with their band and paraded the streets in preparation for the public meeting held in the Town Hall. Lieut. Watson Wright, the recruiting officer for the district presided, and was supported by Sir John Rolleston, M.P., D.L., the Mayor (Councillor W. W. Colman) and the Mayoress, Capt. Woods and Sergt. W. Mason. Brigadier-General Smith was unable to attend, having been called up to the War Office.

Sir John Rolleston, in a vigorous speech, said splendid and effective as our new army was, at least 1 ½ million more men were needed and that soon if the ranks of the fighting forces on land and sea were to be kept at full strength, and in order that this war might be terminated in a manner which should prevent the threatened breaking up of this empire and invasion of this country, and which would scotch the brutal Prussian power for a century at least to come. It was the spirit of the volunteer which was such an asset to the army, and made the British and Irish soldier and our brethren from the Dominions beyond the seas more than a match for any other soldier. Men were not only wanted in France and Flanders and Gallipoli Peninsula, but we should also need very probably to send men to Serbia and Greece.

**Page 8**

### **BILLETING HOAX**

#### **SOLDIER'S "GOOD TIME" IN LEICESTER**

At the Leicester Borough Police Court on Friday morning, before the Mayor (Alderman J. North) and Councillor J. Russell Frears (Deputy Mayor), Harold Victor Hayes (24) and John Parrott (19), soldiers, were remanded to await an escort for being absentees from the 46<sup>th</sup> Battery F.R.A., at Weedon, since September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

It was stated by the Chief Constable, (Mr H. Allen) that the defendants said they had had a "good time." They had been getting people, in various districts to prepare for the billeting of soldiers, informing them that they had come from Weedon, and that they were sending 400 men over. Many people had been put to inconvenience and expense as the result. The statement was quite wrong; there being no instructions for the billeting of soldiers.

Mr Allen pointed out that people should not take any notice of a soldier who stated that he had come to ask people to prepare for the billeting of soldiers, unless that soldier had a blue billet form, signed by him (Mr Allen).

## **COALVILLE FARMERS AND THE WAR**

### **LORD SELBORNE'S SCHEME**

### **LOCAL COMMITTEE FORMED**

### **REMARKABLE LEICESTERSHIRE STATISTICS**

In accordance with a suggestion by Lord Selborne, president, of the Board of Agriculture, the Leicester County Council are taking steps in each agricultural centre in their area to form a farmer's committee, which will be in touch with the County Council Agricultural Committee and the Board of Agriculture, the principal objects being to assist farmers in difficulties which are arising during the period of the war in reference to labour, recruiting, commandeering of hay and fodder, livestock orders, supplies of machinery, fertilisers and feeding stuffs, and also in increasing the production of food.

A meeting of farmers in furtherance of this project was held at the Coalville Conservative Club on Friday night, Mr M. McCarthy, county councillor for the Swannington Division, presiding, and Mr T. Hacking, county agricultural engineer, attended to explain the scheme. There was a fairly good attendance.

The Chairman explained the origin of the movement, which, he said, was a conference in London called by Lord Selborne, at which he met the chairman of the various county councils and laid his proposals before them. As a result of that conference, the Leicestershire County Council Agricultural Committee met a week last Saturday and divided the county into nine districts: - Market Bosworth, Hinckley, Ashby, Coalville, Loughborough, Leicester, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough and Lutterworth. He was deputed to convene the meeting in the Coalville district. Introducing Mr Hacking, he said the county organiser had now been with them for two years and had done useful work. He was anxious to help the farmers and would do so if they would only take him into their confidence. (Hear, hear).

Mr Hacking said they were all of the opinion that the Board of Agriculture had not been of much use to farmers in the past, and Lord Selborne had apparently realised that if the Board was to be of use to farmers in the future, it must be brought into closer contact with them. It was all very well to tell farmers that they must do this and that and produce more from the land, but nothing was said as to where they were to get the labour from. It was necessary that something should be done to organise the labour of the district. He hoped they would talk these matters over freely. If these committees were to be of any use there must be outspoken reference in every detail to the difficulties they were experiencing every day. Could they increase food production and the output of their farms? Let them regard Leicestershire as one large farm. Roughly, they had 100,000 acres of arable land and 376,000 acres of grassland. Was the arable land doing all it ought to do and all it could do? He had prepared statistics showing the average yield in Leicestershire for the ten years 1904 – 1913, compared with the average for the rest of England. They would perhaps be surprised to hear that in the production of wheat, the Leicestershire average was one bushel per acre below the average for the rest of England, barley was a little over a bushel below, which was not surprising, theirs was not a barley growing county, but as to oats, Leicestershire was  $6\frac{1}{4}$  bushels per acre below the rest of the country. Was that satisfactory? He knew they had difficulties to contend with, but that applied also to the rest of the country, and so did not affect the average. Beans in Leicestershire were one bushel below the rest of England, though they could have nothing better or cheaper than bean meal for producing milk; turnips and swedes were two tons per acre below the average for the rest of the country, mangolds were also two tons below, while their permanent grassland yielded crops 3 cwt per acre less than the average for the rest of England. He asked them to be perfectly frank and recognise their shortcomings. He thought a lot of the crops could be brought up to the average conditions by the judicious use of manure. What that particular manure should be depended entirely on their circumstances. There was not enough farmyard manure to go all round and he suggested that they spin it out as much as they could and where they could not use it, they should use artificial manure. If he had the time he could show that artificial manure could be used to advantage on the land in the county. They had excellent grassland in the county and could not that be improved? They knew there had been wonderful effects from slag on some of this land. Referring to stock, he said the number of horses in the county had been reduced very largely through the demands of the War Office, but there had been a great reduction apart from that. As to cattle, from 1911 to 1913 there was a reduction of 5,000 head in Leicestershire, though he was glad to say that from 1913 to 1914, there was as large an increase as there had been decrease in the previous two years. There had been a reduction of 72,000 head of sheep in the county since 1909. That was a serious reduction in the food producing part of the land. But there had been an increase in the number of other stock and it had taken place chiefly in dairy cows and

heifers in milk. So grazing sheep had given way to the production of milk. That no doubt was the reason why they had a reduction in their arable land during the last three years of nearly 6,000 acres. Instead of ploughing up more land, as people talked so easily about, the movement had been more in the other direction and probably would be so in the coming years, as it was chiefly owing to the labour difficulty. These were some of the things that had prompted Lord Selborne to suggest the formation of these committees to see what could be done.

Mr C. McKenna, (Bardon) moved and Mr Jackson (Bardon) seconded that a committee be formed, and this was carried, those present to form the committee.

Mr McKenna also moved and Mr W. Moore (Coalville) seconded that Mr M. McCarthy be the chairman and this was unanimously carried. Mr McCarthy said he would take the office temporarily, but he had many other public offices, and reminded them that he was in his 68<sup>th</sup> year.

Mr McKenna moved a vote of thanks to Mr Hacking for his address and this was heartily accorded. Mr Hacking, in reply, said there were many ways in which the movement might be a help to farmers and he wished the committee great success.

Another meeting of the committee (which was given power to add to the number) was fixed for Thursday night.

## **LORD RANKSBOROUGH AT COALVILLE**

### **INSPECTION OF THE CITIZEN CORPS**

In the presence of about two thousand spectators, Lord Ranksborough, president of the Leicester and Leicestershire Voluntary Training Corps, inspected the Coalville, Hugglescote and Ellistown, and Whitwick and Thringstone branches of the Corps on the town cricket ground at Coalville, on Sunday afternoon.

His lordship was accompanied by the Regimental Commander, Col. R. G. Bruxnor-Randle, Major A. Coats, regimental adjutant, Mr S. C. Packer, regimental assistant adjutant, Capt. Stevenson, (local recruiting officer), Father M. J. O'Reilly (chaplain of the Whitwick Corps) and Mr S. K. Mellor of the Quartermaster's Staff.

The respective companies were in charge of Commanders C. W. H. Gutteridge (Coalville), J. Woods (Hugglescote) and G. F. Burton (Whitwick). The men, numbering over a hundred were put through certain drills by Commander Gutteridge, which they executed very creditably, and there was also a march past, 'present arms' and a general salute.

Addressing the men after the inspection, Lord Ranksborough said he congratulated them on their smart appearance and he was pleased to see them with rifles. He hoped that some of them were useful, though he dare say that many of them were only used for drill purposes. It made a great difference and he hoped that other corps would soon be in possession of rifles. They had experienced great difficulties in regard to equipment. As the Brigadier said, the War Office were up to their eyes in work and they could not pay much attention to them (the Citizen Corps). The War Office had not paid much attention to them so far, but he was afraid that it was because the movement was not properly understood by the War Office. At all events there was now a strong and growing feeling of appreciation of the work that was being done and he hoped that before long they might have better times. The thing he would like better than anything would be for them to get rifles. Many people were asking how these forces would be used. There were many ways in which they could be used. They could be used for fighting if it came to a German landing in this country and a good fight they would put up. As the Brigadier said, a good fight they would have to put up because no quarter would be given nor taken. Again, they might be called upon to do such duty as getting people away from the fighting area, driving cattle and thousands of little things that disciplined people could do in such a time, but which others could not. Another thing was that after this war – and please God, may that be soon – there would be problems, difficult problems, and whatever work may have fallen to their lot, they would find, to their credit that they had spread throughout England and a network of discipline, which sooner or later was bound to be of the utmost value to this country. It was discipline in Germany that was making the fight harder for us. The Germans were a disciplined nation, and hitherto we had not been. But what he had seen that day and what he knew of that movement, had convinced him that it could be done. To his mind it was that discipline which was the great value of that movement.

Col. Bruxner-Randle also addressed the men. The Coalville Coronation Band was present and a collection was taken on the ground by several ladies, the proceeds being for the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild and a fund for sending Christmas parcels to Leicesters at the front.

**Page 8**

### **FORMER COALVILLE MAN WOUNDED**

Pte. Fred King, of the 12<sup>th</sup> Notts and Derbys Regiment, son-in-law of Mr James S\_\_\_\_, of Margaret Street, Coalville, and whose home is at Shirebrook, Derbyshire, writes that he has been wounded, but is getting on as well as can be expected, and hopes to be sent to England shortly. The letter continues, "*I am wounded in the head and right leg. My head is worst but there is no need for anxiety. I got wounded in the battles of Hill 70 and I am, at present lying in the 23<sup>rd</sup> General Hospital near Boulogne. I will let you know as soon as I get into England.*"

### **SWANNINGTON SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **PRIVATE WALTER SHAW**

Mrs F. Dawkins, of Griffydam, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has received official intimation that her adopted son, Pte. Walter Shaw, 16680, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action on September 9<sup>th</sup> at a place not stated.

Pte. Shaw who was 26 years of age, was a widower and formerly resided at Swannington. His wife died in September 1914, and he enlisted in the following December. He was a labourer and worked for the Council for several years and prior to that for three years he lived with Mrs S. Atkinson, of Barrow Hill Lodge, Osgathorpe.



### **SHAW LANE SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS**

Pte. Walter Irons, No. 3155, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds in a hospital in France, on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was a son of Mr and Mrs W. and H. Irons, Shaw Lane, and worked the South Leicestershire Colliery before he enlisted. He was 20 years of age last May.



### **COLEORTON SOLDIER KILLED**

Private Alfred Clifford (Coleorton), of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in September.

### **HEATHER SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **PRIVATE W. L. PEARSON**

News is to hand that Pte. W. L. Pearson, of Swepstone Road, Heather, who was one of the three Pearson brothers, who were the first to enlist from Heather, and joined the K.O.S. Borderers, was killed in action on June 28<sup>th</sup> last. K.O.S. Borderers were part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and Pearson was killed by a bullet when in a charge on the Turkish trenches. He was buried with seven of his comrades and a large cross inscribed with all their names was erected over the grave. Previous to enlistment he was in the employ of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

### **SHACKERSTONE SOLDIER WOUNDED**

Mr George Blaza, of Shackerstone, has received information that his son, Trooper E. W. Blaza, of the Auckland Mounted Rifles, New Zealand Expeditionary Force was wounded on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August in the Gallipoli Peninsula. He now lies in a hospital at Birmingham.

### **NEWTON BURGOLAND SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS**

Mr Albert Pepper of Newton Burgoland, has received intimation that his son, Private J. H. Pepper of the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, has died of wounds received in action in France.

### **IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED**

We regret to announce that news was received yesterday morning that Pte. Dolman, whose home was in South Street, Ibstock, had been killed in action. He was called up as a reservist of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers at the outbreak of the war and had never been home since. He was an employee of the Nailstone Collieries and leaves a widow and two children for whom much sympathy is felt.

### **THE LATE LIEUT. B. HATTER**

#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HUGGLESCOTE CHURCH**

The Parish Church at Hugglescote was packed on Sunday evening on the occasion of a memorial service for late Lieut. Bernard Hatter, Hugglescote, and who was formerly a chorister at the church and a member of the Church Lad's Brigade, the present members of which, in uniform, marched to church headed by their bugle band.

The service was conducted by the Rev. R. P. Farrow (curate) who preached from the text Matt. 11c. 6v., "Blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me." In the course of his sermon, the preacher said they had a tremendous and most heart-felt sympathy towards the men who were giving their lives for their country in this war and the greatest sympathy was perhaps shown by saying the least.

The pulpit was draped in black crepe and shrouded with the Union Jack. Two of the members of the Church Lad's Brigade, Bugler's Palmer and Mathieson, sounded a bugle call and the organist, Miss Wells, at the close effectively played the Dead March.



### **Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1232)**

**Page 2**

### **ESCAPED GERMANS TRIED**

The court martial on Flight-Lieutenant Otto Thelen and Naval Lieutenant Hans Kielback, the two German officers who escaped from Donington Hall and were captured at sea, was held at the Hall on Thursday. Both pleaded guilty. The sentences will be promulgated shortly.

It will be remembered the officers made their escape by digging a 50 yards tunnel from a cellar under the library of the Hall to beyond the barbed-wire compound.

**Page 4**

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Last week the War Office issued instructions to the recruiting authorities in reference to an immediate canvas of men eligible for military service, who have not been "starred." The word presumably alludes to those men



of enlisting age who, though their names on the pink forms, are exempt because they are engaged in one of the scheduled war trades.

Mrs J. J. Sharp has received a letter from Lieut.-Col. Jones in command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters thanking her and through her all those who have so kindly collected cigarettes for the Leicestershire Regiment and says how highly they are appreciated by the soldiers.

Two Volunteer Aid Detachments are now in full working order at Coalville, the total number of men being about 80. They are registered at the War Office and expected to place their services at the disposal of the County Territorial Committee. Drills and lectures are held twice weekly. Dr. Hamilton being the lecturer, and Mr W. V. Scott in charge of the practical work. As is well-known, they would be expected to carry out some kind of work as that so ably executed by the Leicester V.A.D. in the event of wounded soldiers being brought to Coalville. The members are subscribing to themselves but have been compelled to make an appeal to the residents to help to pay for the necessary equipment. The men have had ambulance training and most of them have several certificates.

### **SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE**

On Saturday evening a social and whist drive were held at St. Joseph's in aid of the Whitwick Yeomanry Troop. The prizes were presented by Sergt. Major Snelling of the Garrison Camp to Misses. E. A. and H. Partridge, Mrs Wilson (Loughborough), Mrs Hooper, Messrs. J. T. Russell, A. Laundon and H. Kerry. The sum realised was £8 12s which will be divided between 38 boys.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That six M.P.'s have now been killed in action?

That a number of wounded soldiers are at Ashby Cottage Hospital?

That so far as 3/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters are concerned, recruiting during the past week showed a considerable improvement?

That forty-seven recruits for the Royal Naval Division left Leicester on Monday afternoon for the Crystal Palace?

That fifty more wounded soldiers from France arrived in Leicester on Monday evening, and were conveyed to the North Evington Hospital?

That the Borough of Leicester Working Men's Club and Institute gave 250 wounded soldiers from local hospitals a merry and bright entertainment at the club on Saturday afternoon?

That Lieut. Hedley Pickbourne, son of the Rev. F. Pickbourne, pastor of the London Road, Baptist Church, Coalville, visited his parents at Coalville from Friday till Sunday last on leave from France?

**Page 5**

### **LOCAL NEWS**

#### **FARMERS AND THE WAR**

The Coalville Farmers' War Committee met again at the Conservative Club on Thursday, under the presidency of Mr M. McCarthy, C.C., and had an interesting and profitable discussion as to the ways and means of best carrying out Lord Selborne's scheme. Mr McCarthy said he must ask the Committee to appoint a vice-chairman to relieve him at any time, and Mr C. McKenna, of Bardon Hill, was appointed. Another meeting was arranged.

**Page 6**

## BELTON

### SOLDIER'S PROMOTION

We are pleased to note our old Belton Villa outside left, J. T. Tivey 29237, who enlisted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers on the 31<sup>st</sup> May last, was appointed Lance-Corporal in eight days and promoted Company Quarter-Master Sergeant on 1<sup>st</sup> October after four and a half months' service. He is now stationed at Aldershot and expects to be going to the front shortly.

### DESFORD COLLIER KILLED IN ACTION

A muffled peal has been rung on the Peckleton Church bells as a tribute of respect to the memory of a former ringer, Pte. Turner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, who was killed in action in France, on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Deceased was employed at the Desford Collieries prior to enlisting. The following were the singers: 1. T. Wright, 2. B. Richardson (conductor), 3. W. Sargeson (Desford), 4. L. Jordan, 5. A. Richardson, tenor, W. Mayfield (Thornton).

**Page 8**

### ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

Mr and Mrs J. Cox, North Street, Ashby, received on Saturday an intimation from the War Office of the death in action of their eldest son, Private Joseph Cox, of the Grenadier Guards, who enlisted at the beginning of the war. Private Cox used to captain the Hastings Football Club, who a few years ago joined the Coalville and District League, and won the Leicestershire medals. He was a very safe goalkeeper, and enlivened many a game by his humour.

### ASHBY SOLDIER AND THE GREAT BATTLE

#### TOMMIES COOL AND COLLECTED

Private Alfred Watts, son of Mr H. M. Watts, surveyor to the Ashby Urban Council, writing home, says: *"Just a few lines to let you know I am all right, and in the best of health. No doubt you will see by the papers that we have been busy out here this last week or so. I can tell you we had rather a terrifying experience the last time we were in the trenches. Yesterday week (Saturday) we were in a great battle, and I think myself lucky I came through without a scratch. It began at twelve minutes to six in the morning, when we blew a mine up, and then, promptly at six o'clock, two battalions on our right and two on our left mounted the parapet, and over they went like heroes (all Kitchener's men, too). We opened rapid fire to cover them as they advanced, and we have heard since from high sources that our rapid fire was marvellous, and worked wonders for the advance. I lost all interest in the battle here, for I was called away to help one of the doctors, and never shall I forget the sights that met my eyes. I didn't taste a bit of everything from half-past three in the morning until seven o'clock at night, except a bit of bread that I picked off the ground, and I can tell you that seemed a godsend. I dare say you will see in the papers that some of our fellows are recommended for honours, and I hope they will get them, for they deserve them. It was marvellous how cool and collected all our fellows kept during the whole of the bombardment. It wasn't half a bombardment either, I can tell you, for they were putting "Jack Johnsons" and "Coal Boxes" by the score, and the noise was terrible. What beat it all, though, was the weather. It simply poured with rain, and I got drenched through from head to foot, and had to let my clothes dry on me, but I am pleased to say I am feeling no after-effects from it, only a bit unnerved. We are going in the trenches again tonight. I must close now, as we are going to have a church parade."*

### COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT

#### INTERESTING EXPERIENCES

Writing to his sister, Mrs Hill, of Margaret Street, Coalville, Mr Herbert Gardner, of the C Squadron, 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Hussars, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, says that he is *"in the pink"* at present. They have been having a lot of wet lately, which makes it awkward for getting about, and he wishes it was the summer coming on instead of the winter. But they must not grumble as they had had a good summer. When they went to the trenches last week the Germans started shelling them, but they made it hot for the enemy, killing thousands. They got into a place something like Coalville, only there was hardly a house standing

whole. The letter continues; *"The Germans have been there for twelve months, but when they saw us coming they ran like – hades – and us after them. We had plenty of prisoners and you could hardly get about for dead Germans. We had to go round all the cellars looking for the 'dogs' and we got 13 prisoners. I went into one place and saw about a dozen sitting as if they were playing cards. I began to look up, but when I got up to them I found they were all dead. It was a sight. One day I was getting a cup of tea when a shell came right through the roof into the fire. I left the tea and we had to go without. I see that some of the Coalville lads have been under shell fire. So have we, and I hardly thought I should be alive to tell the tale, but I tell them to cheer up, and that we shall get through. They call me Joe out here. I have had my watch smashed from shell fire, but have still got it. Remember me to all."*

## COALVILLE SOLDIER HONOURED

### D.C.M. FOR CORPL. E. H. KING

One of the honours lists recently published contained the following:

*"14113 Corporal E. H. King, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment (attached 175<sup>th</sup> company Royal Engineers).*

*For conspicuous gallantry on the night of September 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 1915, at Hooge. Corporal King, with another non-commissioned officer, was at the mine shaft with the outgoing and incoming relief. When the front trenches were destroyed by minenwerfer, there were several casualties in killed, wounded and missing. The shaft was cut off by the destruction of the trenches, and the enemy opened a heavy fire and bombardment. Although his companion was wounded, this non-commissioned officer brought in the wounded to cover under the trying conditions existing, and displayed the greatest bravery and devotion to duty."*



Corporal King is a Coalville man who formerly worked at the Snibston Colliery, and his wife, with her two children, is residing with her parents, Mr and Mrs J. W. Smith, of 191, Gough's Cottages, Ashby Road, Coalville. She received a letter from her husband on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, in which he said he was in the very best of health. He had stated in a previous letter that he had been recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and in his latest communication said he was *"very pleased now to inform you that I have been awarded it . . . . I have had congratulations from the high authorities and from the Divisional Staff and the Brigade Staff, let alone the officers along with us. So you can guess I am quite pleased with myself. If I get granted a short leave and don't have time to write and let you know, I will let you have a telegram as soon as I land in England, but I think all leave is stopped for the present. . . . But I hope it will soon start again, so that I shall be able to come and see you all before long. Don't lose that card I sent you. Give my respects to all my pals."*

The card referred to was the official intimation that his distinguished conduct was being brought to the notice of higher authority. King's parents also reside in Ashby Road, his father being an employee of the Urban Council. They have two other sons serving in the forces, one (John) at the Dardanelles, and Fred, who is stated to have been wounded in France and is in hospital. Another son, Joseph, who lives at Shirebrook, served through the South African War, in which he was wounded.

Corporal King is believed to be the second Coalville man to win the D.C.M., the first being the late Lieut. T. Dooley. He is 27 years of age and enlisted in August 1914. He was a well-known footballer and has played for Coalville Town and Hugglescote St. John's.

## TWO WHITWICK SOLDIERS KILLED

### MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

To the roll of honour has to be added the names of two more Whitwick soldiers – Ptes. Frank Underwood and James Cairns.

Underwood is the son of Mr Jno. Underwood, of Pare's Hill, Whitwick, and news that he has been killed in action in France was received in letters received a day or so ago from his lieutenant and the chaplain who officiated at the funeral service. The deceased soldier was in the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, having joined Kitchener's Army soon after the outbreak of war. He was a single man, and formerly worked at the Forest Rock Quarry, Whitwick. His brother Jack is also in the army serving in France.

Pte. Cairns was in the Connaught Rangers, and was killed in action in the Dardanelles on August 21<sup>st</sup>, though the news was only recently to hand. He left Whitwick before the war broke out to reside in Yorkshire, where he had obtained work. He was 27 years of age, a native of Whitwick, and as a boy attended the Holy Cross School, later working at the Whitwick Colliery. He leaves a widow, a Whitwick woman (nee Newell), and three children, and he has two brothers doing their bit 'somewhere in France'.

A memorial service for Cairns was held at the Whitwick Holy Cross Church on Sunday evening, when there was a large congregation. The requiem service was conducted by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly and Father Commons, professor of Ratcliffe College, preached an impressive sermon and gave the benediction. The members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps were present and also the Whitwick Boy Scouts. Four soldiers, with reversed arms, were guards of the catafalque. After the requiem service, the organist, Mrs Carter, played the Dead March, and one of the Boy Scout buglers sounded the "Last Post." The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



A memorial service for Pte. Underwood is to be held at the Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday next.

### BARDON HALL

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for the late Private Walter Irons, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, who was killed on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult., and buried "somewhere in Belgium," was held on Sunday evening at Bardon Park Chapel. There was a large congregation. Rev. J. A. Hopwood preached a suitable sermon and also referred to the loss of a brother by Mr Ball, another resident of the neighbourhood.

### Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1233)

*Page 4*

#### LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The members of the Coalville and Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps marched to Osgathorpe on Sunday morning and attended service at the Parish Church, where the rector, the Rev. J. Ray, preached an appropriate sermon. Before marching home again, the citizens were entertained by Dr. Atkinson in his orchard.

Miss Doris Moore, elder daughter of Mr D. S. Moore, a well-known and highly esteemed resident of Hugglescote, left home for London on Wednesday morning and is proceeding to Egypt, having offered her

services as a nurse to the military authorities. Miss Moore is one of the ladies who have attended ambulance classes in the district and has passed the necessary examinations. She will have the good wishes of many friends in her patriotic undertaking. At her home on Tuesday evening some of the members of the Charnwood V.A.D. presented Miss Moore with a dressing case. She is the first member of the detachment to go abroad, though there are eleven members now on active service in different parts of England.

Pte. Ben Clibbery, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, left Coalville for France on Wednesday morning after a short visit to his father, Mr J. Clibbery, of Bakewell Street. Pte. Clibbery had been at the front since the commencement of the war and his brother was killed in France some months ago.

An enthusiastic send-off was given to about 30 Leicestershire miners, who left by the 11.43 am train from Coalville on Wednesday morning en route for France, where they will be engaged in special mining work. The men had responded to an appeal recently made for thirty skilled miners from Leicestershire. A large crowd cheered them as the train moved out of the station and the men were in the best of spirits, some of them singing and others playing mouth organs. To the customary question, "*Are we down hearted?*" several times came a vociferous "*No!*" from the group of sturdy-looking miners as they stood on the platform just before their departure.

Forty-five wounded soldiers from Desford Hall were the guests of the employees of Messrs. Ney Bros., boot manufacturers, of Barwell, on Saturday. They arrived in motor cars lent by several local gentlemen, and were met by the Barwell Band. At the Wesleyan School they were welcomed by Mr R. Ney. A good tea was provided and a concert, presided over by Mr G. Cufflin, Miss A. Robinson, Mr Louis Herbert, Miss Eva Morson, Mr H. Freer, and Mr Dick Daniels (Hinckley) taking part. Mr Bates and Miss Burton (Hinckley) were the pianists. Cigars, etc., were given to the men.

Another batch of naval recruits left the Midland Station, Leicester, early on Monday afternoon en route for the Crystal Palace, where they will be trained. They numbered 44, and a smart set of young men they were too. Prior to leaving the Market Street offices the recruits were photographed and briefly addressed by Mr F. Herington. The bugle band of the 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters accompanied the batch to the station.

Pte. Sam Allen, of Margaret Street, Coalville, arrived home last night on ten days' leave, having been discharged from hospital after being wounded at the front, where he had been for 14 months.

We have been pleased to receive a letter from Pte. Edward V. Griffin, late of Forest Road, Hugglescote, who is 'somewhere in France' and to know that he is 'absolutely A1.' He wishes to be remembered to all friends. The verses he encloses composed by a friend in his regiment are hardly suitable for publication. Griffin is attached to the Motor Transport Supply as a butcher, and assists in supplying the boys in the trenches with food, etc. He says he gets the "Coalville Times" every week and looks forward to receiving it with much pleasure.

#### **DO YOU KNOW**

That under the new recruiting scheme, all men of military age in Coalville and district, not engaged on war work, are to be canvassed on the question of joining the army?

That Lieut. the Hon. Francis McLaren, M.P. for the Spalding Division, is home on leave from the Dardanelles, where he has been in charge of armoured motor cars in connection with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve?

That the treasurer from the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild received with thanks the sum of £14 16s 5d from the Hugglescote Horticultural Society, a portion of the proceeds of the last annual show?

#### **LIEUT. J. EMMERSON WOUNDED**

We understand that Lieut. Joseph Emmerson, son of Mr J. Emmerson, manager of the Bagworth Colliery, has been wounded in the recent fighting in France.

## **ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH**

A public memorial service will be held in the Parish Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm, in memory of Capt. P. C. J. R. Rawdon-Hastings, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters and Lieut. E. H. H. Rawdon-Hastings, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black Watch.

## **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 47<sup>th</sup> collection from 5 districts realised £4 10s 1d.

**Page 6**

## **COMFORTS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR**

### **£1,600 RAISED IN LEICESTER**

On Saturday the Leicester Alexandria Association conducted a street collection for the purpose of raising funds for sending parcels of food and comforts to Leicestershire soldiers who are prisoners of war in Germany. A small army of ladies was engaged throughout the day selling the "Tigers" badge, and in the evening it was announced that the sum of £1,600 had been realised.

## **A FIVE MINUTES' TRUCE**

### **BRITISH SERGEANT SAYS "THE GERMANS ARE NOT ALL BAD"**

Sergeant A. E. Berry, writing to a friend at Newport, Mon. relates an incident in which the Germans granted a truce for five minutes to enable the British to bring in a wounded man. He writes, "*I heard a cry in front of our trench. It was from a wounded man on the German parapet and he was begging us to bring him in. He had been there from Saturday when the charge was made until dinner time on the following Monday, and he was near dead from his wounds and from hunger. We knew we could not go out to him, but at last one of our officers who could speak German shouted and asked the enemy if we might carry him in. This was a brave act, for if we only put our heads over the parapet we were liable to be killed. The Germans shouted back and gave us five minutes in which to fetch him. Immediately fifteen of us jumped over to go to him, but our captain ordered us back, feeling that the Germans might be tempted to shoot on the assumption that we were going out to charge. So one officer and a man went out with a stretcher and carried the poor fellow in. He cried with joy when he knew he was safe, though he was very badly wounded. While they were carrying this man they saw another nearly covered with earth. Two others went out and brought him in, and then gave three cheers for the Germans who had proved they are not all bad. I can tell you, this incident brought tears very near to many a man's eyes.*"

**Page 8**

## **COALVILLE SOLDIERS IN A BAYONET CHARGE**

### **LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS EXPERIENCE**

#### **TWO GERMAN TRENCHES CAPTURED**

Letters received in Coalville by friends on Tuesday, state that Pte. Cyril Bradshaw (Gutteridge Street), Pte. T. Usherwood and Lance-Corporal Usherwood (Highfields Street) three of the first 50 Territorials who went from Coalville and other local soldiers had just been through a bayonet charge in which they captured two German trenches. They are glad to say they came through all right and are now resting.

Private Edgar Boot, son of Mr Arthur Boot was also in the charge and is now in hospital in Manchester, sick. Unfortunately, news is to hand of several losses, including Capt. Hastings, of Ashby, and Lieut. Moss of Loughborough.

## **CAPT. REGINALD HASTINGS**

### **HEIR TO THE EARLDOM OF LOUDOUN KILLED IN ACTION**

Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby, received the news on Tuesday morning that her only surviving son, Capt. Paulyn Charles James Reginald Rawdon-Hastings, commanding the Ashby and Coalville Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, had been killed in action. The news has been received with profound sorrow in the town. Only a month ago her ladyship lost her younger son, Lieut. Edward Hastings of the Black Watch, who died from enteric in France, where his mother went to see him.

Capt. Reginald Hastings was the son of the late Hon. Paulyn Hastings and Lady Maude Hastings, and heir to the Donington estates, and attained his majority on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1910, the event having been celebrated by a public presentation and rejoicings. Captain Hastings who was a fine looking man and a keen soldier, went to the front with his battalion in February. He came home on leave a few weeks ago after the death of his brother, and one of his last acts at home was the erection of a large crucifix in the family mausoleum in the chapel of Ashby Castle, where his father lies. His uncle, the Duke of Norfolk, was much attached to him, as was also the Earl of Loudoun, who was recently on a visit to Lady Maude Hastings, his sister-in-law. Captain Hastings was the patron of the living of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and also heir to the Earldom of the Loudoun and the old English baronies of Batreux, Molines, Hungerford and Hastings, and also to the Barony of Donington, peerage of the United Kingdom.

### **DEATH OF LIEUT. MOSS**

#### **KILLED LEADING HIS MEN**

Deep sympathy will be felt for Mr and Mrs Wilfred Moss, of the Knoll, Nanpantan, Loughborough, who have just learned of the death of their eldest son, Lieutenant Howard James Harding Moss, in the action of October 13<sup>th</sup>. Lieut. Moss was only 19 years of age, and was a promising young officer, exceedingly popular with the men of the First 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters. He was educated at Loughborough and at Hume School, Manchester, afterwards entering the business of W. Moss and Sons, Ltd., contractors, Loughborough. He was for some time assistant scoutmaster of the Nanpantan Troop of Boy Scouts. In August last year he obtained a commission in the First 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, and was then attached to the Second 5<sup>th</sup> at Luton and St. Albans, and while at the latter place was promoted lieutenant. He was very keen for active service, and relinquishing his star, joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the front as second-lieutenant.

Writing to Mr Wilfred Moss, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Jones, commanding the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters says, "*You will doubtless have heard officially already of the death of your son. I am so very sorry about it. I had only just written to you to say how much I valued him. We were in the attack on the 13<sup>th</sup> October and your son was splendid. He did all that duty and honour could demand. He was killed leading his men in battle, and when that has been said, all that can be said has been said. In all sympathy with you in your great sorrow.*"

### **LIEUT. LAWTON WOUNDED**

Mr and Mrs R. W. Lawton, of Boothorpe, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, have received an intimation that their son, Lieut. Lawton, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, has been wounded and is in hospital.

### **SHEPSHED CASUALTIES**

Information has reached Shepshed that the following belonging to the Shepshed or 'G' Company of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters (T.F.) were wounded in action last week:

Drummer J. A. Lester, son of Private H. and Mrs Lester, Bridge Street. Private Allen Lucas whose wife resides in Queen Street, and Private William Bailey, son of Mr and Mrs Allen Bailey, Church Gate.

## **LEICESTER CRICKETER SEVERELY WOUNDED**

### **LIEUT. W. N. RILEY**

Lieut. W. N. Riley, the Leicester county cricketer, serving in the Leicesters, has been dangerously wounded in action, one leg being so shattered as to necessitate amputation. The other leg is badly injured and the gallant officer was also wounded in the head. His parents reside at Appleby and his sister has left for France.

## **COALVILLE AND HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIERS WOUNDED**

Letters received by friends show that several Hugglescote and Coalville Territorials were wounded in the recent fighting. Mr and Mrs W. Smith of the Farm, Donington, Hugglescote, have been notified that their son, Pte. Wilfred Smith, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion has been wounded in the thigh. Prior to the war he was a bank clerk in Leicester. Happily, the wound is not believed to be serious and he is stated by the chaplain who wrote to be getting on nicely.

Other soldiers reported to have been wounded are Pte. Joe Tebbett, of 83, Crescent Road, Hugglescote; Pte. Walter Noon, of 54, Wilkins Lane, Hugglescote; Pte. F. Thacker, 74, North Street, Hugglescote; Lance-Corpl. Adkin, of North Street, Hugglescote, and Lance-Corpl. G. H. Evans, of Highfields Street, Coalville.

## **KILLED**

Captain R. A. Faire, son of Mr A. W. Faire, J.P., County Director of V.A.D.  
Captain F. S. Parr, son of Mr J. G. Parr, veterinary surgeon, Humberstone Gate.  
Captain R. A. Hastings, son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby-de-la-Zouch  
Lieutenant A. R. Forsell, son of Mr J. T. Forsell, of Bushby.  
Lieutenant R. S. Green, son of Mr Steptamus J. Green, of the firm of Messrs. G. Green & Sons, Ash Street.  
Lieutenant R. C. Harvey, son of Col. R. Harvey, former Borough Coroner.  
Lieutenant G. E. Russell, son of Mr Walter Russell, of Messrs. B. Russell & Sons, Eastern Boulevard.  
Lieutenant F. W. Walters, son of Mr William Walters, director of Messrs. Stead & Simpson, Leicester.  
Lieutenant P. Whittingham, son of the Rev. W. G. Whittingham, Vicar of Knighton.  
Second-Lieut. W. P. Scholes, son of Mr John Scholes, of Leicester.

## **WOUNDED**

Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Martin  
Captain and Adjutant R. S. Dyer Bennes.  
Captain B. F. Newhall  
Lieutenant J. F. Johnson  
Lieutenant Lawton

## **MISSING AND REPORTED WOUNDED**

Captain L. Corah  
Lieutenant J. F. Barker  
Lieutenant P. B. Burgess

## **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED**

Mrs Gadsby, of 30, Mill Row, Hugglescote, has received intimation that her husband, Pte. George Gadsby, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, was killed in action in France last week, the news being given in a letter from one of the deceased soldier's comrades. The young widow is left with one child. Gadsby was about 25 years of age and before the war worked at the Ibstock Colliery.

## **TWO ASHBY SOLDIERS KILLED**

Trooper Walter Woodward, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles, died on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., of wounds received in action the previous day. Trooper Woodward was the second son of the late William Wilder Woodward, of Smisby, and of Mrs Woodward of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He went through the Boer War in Strathcona's Horse, for which service he was presented by the King, then Prince of Wales, with a medal. After the Boer War, he



joined the Legion of Frontiersmen and at the commencement of the present war he enlisted in the Canadian Mounted Rifles, and went with the first contingent to France. He was 36 years of age and much sympathy is felt for Mrs Woodard and family in their bereavement.

Another Ashby soldier who has made the great sacrifice is Corporal E. Pringle, who was killed in action during the fighting in France on Thursday last week. He was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials and was a brother of Pte. Fred Pringle, also killed in action some months ago. Corpl. Pringle formerly played football for Coalville Town.

### **LEICESTER CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S TRIBUTE**

On taking his seat at the Leicester Borough Police Court on Wednesday morning, Sir William Vincent said it would not be appropriate to commence the business that morning without a brief reference to the distressing intelligence- as far as local units were concerned – that had come from the seat of war.

In doing their duty for King and country it so happened that one of their local battalions had the honour to lead the attack and were consequently exposed to a great amount of danger. It would be a source of great pride to Leicester that they nobly responded to the call of duty, and it was also gratifying that the attack was victorious, but unfortunately it was an expensive victory, as often happened under modern conditions of warfare. They rejoiced in the bravery of their fellow townsmen. They equally rejoiced in the sense of duty which led them without exception, officers and men, to lay down their lives for their King and country during that terrible time. Heartfelt sympathy would be felt with those who had suffered bereavement, but there remained the thought of satisfaction in the glory which was attached to this great action. The casualties of the officers had come to hand, and the names of the men would no doubt speedily follow. They must be prepared for a sad time, but their sadness was tempered with pride and gratitude to Almighty God that the Leicester men were permitted to act so courageously in their first attack. They expressed congratulation to those who were left and their reverence and regard for those who had died.

### **CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR SOLDIERS**

*Sir, Last week I noticed in the "Times" that efforts are being made to raise money for the purpose of sending Christmas parcels to Leicestershire men serving with the colours. Perhaps you are not aware that there are about one hundred men who joined at the commencement of the war and who were subsequently transferred to the Staffordshire Regiment. On behalf of my pals, I hope you will do your best to let the fact be known to the organisers of the fund and then I could let you know the names and addresses of the men concerned.*

Yours faithfully  
Lance-Corpl. C. Smith  
D.Co, 9<sup>th</sup> Batt. South Stafford Regiment, B.E.F. France

*Sir, Allow me a small space in your paper thanking the Coalville and District women for socks received – per Mrs L. L. Baldwin – whilst in the trenches yesterday. I am very pleased because it is beginning to get like winter now and we want something warm for our feet, and I thank the women of Coalville and District are doing their very best to give comfort to the boys who are now serving their King and country. I remain yours most sincerely*

Pte. J. A. Moulton  
Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>

### **HUGGLESCOTE OFFICER'S NOBLE DEATH**

**"COME ON BOYS!"**

### **HOW LIEUT. B. HATTER DIED**

Mr and Mrs T. Hatter, of North Street, Hugglescote, have just received a touching letter from a brother officer of their only son, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Bernard Hatter, recently killed in the action, describing how the sad event took place. The letter is as follows:

*"62<sup>nd</sup> Trench Mortar Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, 7<sup>th</sup> Division.*

*Mrs T. Hatter, My dear Madam – I must say how awfully grieved I was when I heard of your son's death. He and I were together at the School of Mortars. I have just seen the man who acted as servant to him, and he has given me the following account. The attack took place on September 25<sup>th</sup>. He and Lieut. James had orders to advance with the guns. A few minutes after they started the advance, Lieut. James was shot and, of course your son had to take our command. As soon as he realised his position he said "Come on boys, let us make the most of it." He advanced until within a few yards of the German parapet, when he was shot right through the heart. He muttered, "Oh God," and fell over the parapet into the German trench. Death was instantaneous. He suffered no pain. All the men in the battery say your son died a noble death. They all worshipped him and I am sure they miss him very much. He left no message, as there was no time. Your son was full of optimism. Even while at school and before the attack he said that he should not be shot and that he would see England again. He died a noble death madam. You have my sympathy and condolence. I miss him terribly, as he was a good friend of mine. I believe his kit has been sent on. If there is anything I can do for you, let me know and I will do it with a good will – I am yours faithfully."*

A. V. Nicholson. Lieut.

A similar letter has also been received by Mrs Hatter from Gunner R. Mercer, R.G.A., who states that he acted as the deceased's servant after he arrived in France. He expressed deep regret at Lieut. Hatter's death, and states that he covered the body over after the fatal shot and then had to take refuge in a shell hole until he was relieved.

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S FRIEND**

#### **TOCHING LETTER TO THE WIDOW**

Private W. Hughes, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, writing to Mrs Martin, of 35, Victoria Street, Coalville, respecting the death of her husband, Private Francis Frederick Martin, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, who died in a Sheffield hospital on 11<sup>th</sup> June last, from wounds received in action, says Martin was a great friend of his, and he was sorry to hear of his death. He assures Mrs Martin that it was a big shock to those who knew him, as he was highly respected by all the officers and men of the company. He was always a good worker, and a cleaner soldier he (Hughes) never saw. Martin used to make them all happy, as he would ding from morning till night. Martin and the writer went to the front at the same time, and they were always together. They were in the same section. Hughes has sent Mrs Martin her husband's cap badge.

Hughes concludes by wishing Mrs Martin and her little son the best of luck in their great struggle through life. Mrs Martin does not know Pte. Hughes, and expresses her gratitude to him for his letter.

### **WHITWICK SOLDIER REPORTED KILLED**

Pte. Bernard Whittaker, who formerly belonged to the C. Company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershires, and was a sapper attached to the Royal Engineers, is reported to have been killed in action on the 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The news was conveyed in a letter from a comrade of the deceased soldier to Whittaker's father and mother who reside near the Forest Rock Granite Quarry in Leicester Road, Whitwick. Accompanying the letter were several of the deceased's personal belongings which the writer says Whittaker gave him to keep for him before going into the great battle.

The deceased was 33 years of age and unmarried. He enlisted just before Christmas and up to then had been working as a miner at the South Leicestershire Colliery. His father, Mr William Whittaker, who has been in poor health for the last four years, was formerly kitchen gardener at the Mount St. Bernard's Monastery. The parents of the deceased, up to Tuesday, had received no official confirmation of the death, and Mrs Whittaker has forwarded the particulars, with an enquiry to the War Office.

### **ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED**

News has been received that Pte. George Fletcher, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, son of Mr George Fletcher, collier, of 9, Ibstock Road, Ellistown, has been killed in action. The information is conveyed in a letter from another

Ellistown soldier. Fletcher took part in the fighting last week, in which the Leicestershire Territorials so distinguished themselves though at heavy loss.

### **COALVILLE EX-POLICEMAN IN FRANCE**

#### **LIKES WOODBINES THE BEST**

Mr Herbert Underwood, tobacconist, of Jackson Street, Coalville, has received a letter dated October 16<sup>th</sup> from Lance-Corpl. H. W. Stevenson, who was formerly a policeman at Coalville, and is now with the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters in France. He says:

*“Just a line to let you know that I have arrived at the doings in France. It's fine out here, better than the other place. . . . I often think about the times in civil life when I was at your place and I wish I had one or two packets of Woodbines, I wouldn't half blow the smoke, I can tell you. The fags over here are rotten; not half so nice as the English. I hope you, and your wife and children are in the best of health. Remember me to them. Did Tom Granger (another ex-policeman) come to see you when he was in England wounded? I believe he is out here again now and I should be pleased if you will send me his address and regimental number, as I might possibly meet him out here. I expect soon to be at it now and shall be glad when I do get at the dirty \_\_\_\_\_. So long, but not good-bye, because I mean to come back and then we shall have a time. Kindest regards to all.”*

### **Friday October 29<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1234)**

**Page 1**

#### **GERMAN HELMET BROUGHT TO COALVILLE**

##### **SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S TROPHY**

Lance-Corporal J. Harper, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, who before the war was employed at Messrs. Stableford's Works, is on six day's sick leave this week at his home in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

During the bombardment by the British artillery of the German position, just prior to the great advance by the Leicesters on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Harper was struck on the thigh with a piece of shell and had to be sent to the dressing station. He was not actually in the charge, but saw some of his pals who were, before he left for England and one of these, Pte. Gilbert, son of Mr and Mrs D. Gilbert, of Sunnysdale, Swannington, asked him to bring home for him a German helmet which he (Gilbert) secured during the rushing of the enemy trenches.

Several of the Coalville lads, he says, brought back to their billets after the charge similar interesting mementos of their thrilling experiences.

Harper leaves Coalville again for France today.

#### **FORMER BAGWORTH COLLIER CONVALESCENT**

Another Coalville soldier who has been home during his period of convalescence after being wounded is Pte. J. Sheffield, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, whose home is in Park Road, and who worked as a miner at the Bagworth pit before the war. He had the middle finger of his right hand blown off. He left Coalville to report himself at Wigston on Tuesday.

**Page 3**

## COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

### ROLL OF HONOUR

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

#### Eighty-nine Names

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

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

#### **William Chambers**

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

#### **L. Henson**

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

#### **William Ogden Hoden**

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

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

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

#### **Sydney Herbert Sharpe**

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

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

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

#### **Thomas Jones**

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

#### **S. A. Meakin**

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

#### **Forester Roberts**

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

#### **Frederick Kirby**

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

#### **James Edwin Cox**

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

#### **Alfred Wesson**

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

**John Manders**

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

**James Young**

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

**Owen Hallam**

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

**John Williamson**

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

**John D. Sheffield**

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

**Ernest Moore**

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

**Ernest Hall**

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

**James Wardle**

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

**Val Hull**

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

**Ernest Samuel Boot**

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

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

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

**Albert Johnson**

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

**J. A. Johnson**

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

**Harry Spence**

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

**Samuel P. D. Thomson**

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

**George Barker**

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

**C. Avins**

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

**William Moore**

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

**A. Heathcote**

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

**J. G. Poyser**

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

**Timothy Betteridge**

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

**John Gadsby**

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

**George Henry Wesson**

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

**Cecil Thomas Beadman**

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

**Wilfred Pepper**

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

**Charles William Jewsbury**

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

**Frederick Wilfred Hart**

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

**Francis Frederick Martin**

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

**Ernest H. Butler**

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

**H. S. Burton**

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

**Ernest Tugby**

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

**Harold G. Blackham**

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

**Fred Whitmore**

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

**Arthur Brownlow**

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

**John Ison**

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

**William Barney**

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

**William Wardle**

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

**Harry Walker**

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

**G. H. Highfield**

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

**John George Bennett**

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

**Walter Gray**

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

**John Clibbery**

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

**George Andrews**

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

**Harry Smith**

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

**William Massey**

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

**Harry Badcock**

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

**Isaac Hall**

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

**H. Ing**

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

**Cyril Ernest Briers**

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

**Fred Pringle**

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

**E. Dowell**

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

**Clifford E. Scott**

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

**Herbert Smith Hurst**

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

**Arthur Charles Johnstone**

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

**Alfred Clifford**

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

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

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

**Bernard Hatter**

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

**Walter Irons**

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

**W. L. Pearson**

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

**Walter Shaw**

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

**J. H. Pepper**

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

**Pte. Dolman**

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

**Joseph Cox**

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

**B. Turner**

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

**James Cairns**



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

**Frank Underwood**

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

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

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

**Bernard Whittaker**

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

**George Gadsby**

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

**Percy Lawrence Smith**

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

**Walter Woodward**

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

**E. Pringle**

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

**George Fletcher**

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

**R. C. Lawton**

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

**C. Page**

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

**Samuel Thomas Berkin**

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

**Frank William Woolhouse**

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

***Page 4***

**LOCAL NEWS**

Mr S. Marper, an employee of Messrs. Griffin Bros., builders, Hugglescote, residing on Wilkins Lane has received news that his brother, Lance-Corporal Percy Marper of the 6<sup>th</sup> Notts and Derby Regiment, whose home is at Mosborough, Derbyshire, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The information states that after the recent great fight for the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Lance-Corporal Marper brought in twenty-seven wounded soldiers and in the process killed three German Boches who were trying to take our wounded as prisoners.

A Coalville soldier home on a few days' leave from the front this week informs us how popular the "Coalville Times" is in the trenches and it is eagerly looked forward to week by week. A good number of copies find their way there, and it is customary for them to be passed on after perusal by the Tommies who receive them, and in this way many of our local soldiers serving in France and Flanders get the news from home. The "Do You Know" column is always eagerly read, and is quite a by-word among the local soldiers in the trenches. The reference to the weather cock being blown off the Coalville Church spire a few months ago, says our informant, greatly tickled the Tommies, and for several weeks the Coalville lads came in for a great deal of good humoured chaff from their Leicester comrades. A weather cock indeed! "Why" it was remarked, "Whole spires and even churches are blown down here."

Mrs J. J. Sharp, during the last fortnight has received cigarettes for local soldiers at the front as follows: Whitwick Liberal Club, 100 packets; Mr E. Tyler, Engineer's Arms, Coalville, 3 packets and 160 loose; Coalville Liberal Club, 12 packets, 3 loose and 9d; West End Club, one packet and 12 loose; Mr W. Higgins, 22 packets, one loose and 2 ½ d; and Midland Railway Station box, 2 packets, 21 loose and 2s 6d.

A touching incident was noticed at the memorial service for Capt. and Lieut. Hastings at Ashby Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon. In the congregation, seated throughout the service was a wounded soldier from the Cottage Hospital whose foot and leg were heavily bandaged and who could only get along with the aid of crutches and assistance. By his side sat a nurse, and despite her kindly remonstrance's, the gallant soldier at the close of the service, persisted in standing whilst the National Anthem was sung. It was obviously an effort for him to do so, notwithstanding which he remained standing on one leg while the congregation sung all three verses.

## **BAGWORTH**

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

The Women's Guild met in the schoolroom on Monday evening, Mrs Percival presiding. Mrs Hinsley, secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting and also gave a report of the whist drive, which was as follows: sum collected from the village previous to the whist drive, £5 5s 3d and all the refreshments required. The total receipts were £8 17s 4d which will be devoted to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That during the week over a thousand men have enlisted in Leicester?

That the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild have received £2 from the Coalville Liberal Club flower show per Mr James Boot?

That a war emergency collection is to be made at all the Wesleyan Chapels in the district to meet the extraordinary expenses incurred by the calling out of so many ministers to act as chaplains to Wesleyan soldiers at the front and at home?

That under the provisions of the Defence of the Realm Act the letting off of fireworks will be totally prohibited on November 5<sup>th</sup> unless a modifying order is received meanwhile?

That a message from the King to every man of military age appears on page 7 of this issue?

### **Page 5**

### **IN MEMORIUM**

In loving memory of Pte. Clifford Page, 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcestershire Regiment, killed in action in France, May 15/16, 1915.

We never knew what pain he had,  
We never saw him killed  
We only know he passed away  
Without a last goodbye

"He did his duty"

From his sorrowing wife and little daughter Sybil aged two years.

Jackson Street, Coalville.

**Page 6**

## **LEICESTERSHIRE V.T.C.'S BUSY DAY**

### **SHAM FIGHT IN THE FOREST**

To the Leicestershire and Rutland Volunteer Association belongs to the credit of instigating and carrying through on Sunday a field day on a scale more extensive than any yet recorded in the history of the V.T.C. movement. The main object of the operations was the movement of the Leicester Battalion by motor transport to a given point in the Charnwood Forest, and the concentration of the Loughborough, Ashby, and Coalville Battalions by route marches within a neighbouring area. The field operations were in a sense subsidiary to this, but were designed to give useful exercise in attack and defence, and to afford knowledge of the country. This primary object was achieved with entire success. The Leicester Battalion assembled in the market place to the number of about six hundred and were conveyed in motor conveyances of all descriptions to a point near High Tor, the train of vehicles covering something like two miles of road. Loughborough Battalion, which comprises Shepshed, Sileby, Syston, Barrow, Quorn, Woodhouse, Hoton and Wymeswold, concentrated on the main road near Shepshed station, while the Ashby and Coalville Battalions met at Cademan Corner, near High Sharpley. The total number of men moved into the chosen area was probably from 800 to 966. The day opened very miserably in the matter of weather, but the rain cleared off gradually after noon.

In the field operations the Leicester Battalion were given the task of endeavouring to cut the Charnwood Forest Railway between Shepshed and Whitwick Station and it was the object of the other forces to prevent by holding back the attack from 12.30 to the 'cease fire' at 3pm. The Leicester Battalion, under the command of Major W. G. Stanhope Rolleston, was divided into three columns. A general advance was made along the line from Longcliffe to Whitwick, with a feint movement on the right flank towards Shepshed, while the main attack developed on the left flank. The defending forces were in two main bodies, the Loughborough Battalion holding a strong position from Shepshed Station to the reservoir, and Coalville and Ashby from the reservoir along Sharpley to Whitwick. The Loughborough Battalion held their position without any difficulty. Its natural advantages were strengthened with barbed wire entanglements and a good supply of bombs (paper bags loaded with sawdust). The machine gun section was well handled, and at no time was the defence seriously pressed. Scouts on each side were captured but the largest "bags" of prisoners were made by the defenders, who secured considerable numbers of the enemy. On the Whitwick side, Leicester's No. 3 tried to rush the village by sheer weight of numbers. In this attack they lost a whole company of men, and the defence of the place with wire entanglements and barricades – everything indeed except gas – was well sustained. The attackers claimed to have carried the village, although at very heavy loss, and also that while this was in progress an N.C.O. and two men of the motor cyclist corps got through and succeeded in blowing up the Gracedieu railway bridge, thus achieving the object in view. This claim, however, has yet to be confirmed by the umpires.

On the "cease fire," the Leicester Battalion reassembled at High Tor, and after refreshments, were motored back home. The other battalions collected at their respective rallying points and motored, cycled, drove, and marched back to their homes, damp and muddy, but well satisfied with a wholly enjoyable and instructive day's work.

### **THE TWO O'CLOCK TRAIN**

#### **LEICESTER SOLDIERS RETURN TO THE FRONT**

#### **PATHETIC PLATFORM SCENES**

Practically every day of the week Leicester warriors are to be seen walking through the street on their way to the station to return to France. Monday is the day of the week when the number of men returning to the trenches is the largest, and last Monday there was an exceptional lot of men for the 2.2 pm train to London,

which is now familiarly known as the "two o'clock train." Most of the men who returned on Monday belonged to the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters. They had been given two or three days' leave after their great fight at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, and many touching scenes were witnessed on No. 3 platform from which the train departed.

The men were accompanied to the station by numerous relatives and friends. They looked bronzed and well, and their equipment bore obvious signs of the vigorous trench warfare in which the wearers had taken part.

Prior to the arrival of the train, the soldiers, with their relatives and friends, sweethearts and wives – all those who are nearest and dearest to them, and who they had previously left behind and were leaving again at the call of their country – were standing on the platform in groups having their farewell chat. All too soon, the train slowly crept in the station and many a tear was shed. Never before have such scenes been witnessed at the station. Mothers could be seen clinging with fond affection to their sons, sisters kissed brothers, sweethearts gazed with sad and longing eyes at their departing heroes, and pals fondly gripped hands. The moment the guard signalled for the train to depart, however, all tears seemed to vanish and, as in one single voice, a tremendous cheer rent the air. Handkerchiefs, hats and hands were waived as the "two o'clock train" moved with increasing speed along the platform.

## **ELLISTOWN**

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

On Sunday evening a memorial service for Pte. George Gadsby, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in the recent fighting in France, was held at the St. Christopher's Church. There was a large congregation and the service was impressively conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. F. Boothby. Appropriate hymns were sung and at the close, the organist, Mr W. Hemsley, played the Dead March. The deceased soldier was a member and regular worshiper at the church.

### **THE LATE LIEUT. R. C. LAWTON**

#### **ASHBY GUARDIANS' SYMPATHY WITH PARENTS**

The chairman (Mr Varnham) at the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Board of Guardians meeting on Saturday, before the board rose, said he had a sad duty to perform. They all knew that their colleague, Mr R. Lawton, had lost his son in the war and he thought it would be the desire of the Guardians to express sympathy with him. He (the chairman) had not the pleasure of knowing Lieut. Lawton himself, but as the son of Mr Lawton, he had no doubt that he was a young man of great ability, and it was very sad to lose such a man just on the threshold of life. They knew that such losses were being experienced all round, but when it was a friend of theirs they felt that it was doubly sad. He was sure the Board would be unanimous in passing a vote of condolence with Mr and Mrs Lawton in the death of their eldest son.

Mr Parker, (vice chairman) said he would like to second that. He could go further than the chairman, because he had known Lieut. Lawton ever since he was a baby. He was born in their midst and had grown up among them. He was a very promising young man and the blow which had fallen on Mr and Mrs Lawton had fallen upon the district and they felt their loss very keenly.

The resolution was carried by the members standing.

#### **HARTSHORNE COUNCILLORS' TRIBUTE**

Before the business commenced at the meeting of the Hartshorne and Seals Rural District Council, at Ashby, on Saturday, Mr G. Blakesley said they all very much regretted the absence of their chairman (Mr R. Lawton) and the great sorrow that prevented him from being there and he moved that a letter expressing the sympathy of the Council be sent. They knew that other people had suffered, but when it came close to home to them they felt it more. One consolation was that he died fighting for his God, for his King, for his country and for righteousness. (Hear, hear).

Mr Soar seconded the resolution and he said he endorsed all that had been said. It was carried in silence, the members rising from their seats.

### **LIEUT. DE LISLE WOUNDED**

Lieut. Alexander Charles Nicholas De Lisle, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment has been wounded in the North of France. He is the youngest son of Mr Edwin De Lisle, formerly of Charnwood Lodge, who represented the Mid Division of this county in Parliament from 1885 to 1892.

Lieutenant De Lisle was born in 1896, and got his commission in the Leicestershire Regiment early this year.

### **ASHBY MAN'S 'SORRY CAREER'**

#### **APPEAL TO BE SENT TO THE FIRING LINE**

At London Sessions, on Tuesday, Sidney Leawood, (24), of the Royal Army Medical Corps, pleaded guilty to obtaining various sums of money by false pretences.

Mr Arthur Bryan, prosecuting, said the prisoner called at houses and represented that he had been wounded at the front, and was being treated at Woolwich Hospital. He pretended that he was on his way to see his mother, who was dying from cancer, and in that way obtained loans from sympathisers. One of the persons imposed upon was Mrs Jardine, who gave him 30s which he promised to repay.

Detective Taylor stated that at Ashby, in November, 1907, the prisoner was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for stealing a cashbox containing £9. In October, 1908, at Nottingham, he was ordered two year's detention at Borstal; in April, 1911, he was given four months imprisonment at Northampton for obtaining credit by fraud; and in September, 1912, he was ordered six months at Northampton, for obtaining money by false pretences. He was liberated in April 1914, and in August last year was sent to prison for six months at Blackpool, for failing to report.

Last February he joined the R.A.M.C., but deserted in March, since when he has been practising these frauds. The police had received 30 to 40 complaints about him, the sums obtained in these instances varying from 15s to £11. Sometimes he selected the houses of well-known members of Parliament, and said his father, a butcher, had helped them to obtain their seats in the House of Commons. He thus gained the confidence of the housekeepers, who, on hearing his stories of wounds in France advanced him money. On one occasion, he called on a nobleman, and obtained money on the representation that his mother was dying near the nobleman's estate.

Inspector Dunn, of Leicester, said the accused was a native of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and his parents, who were in a theatrical touring company, were highly respectable people.

The prisoner confessed to having had a sorry career, but appealed for a chance to show his grit. "If it be possible," he said, "send me under escort to the firing line, and let me take the place of fellows better than myself, so that I can show you I am honestly anxious to play the game."

Mr Robert Wallace, K.C., said it was impossible for him to yield to the appeal. In the army he had had a chance to wipe out the past and rise to an honourable position. But he had preferred to defraud the charitable. The prisoner was ordered 21 months' hard labour.

### **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 48<sup>th</sup> collection from 5 districts realised £4 18s 10d.



**.BUCKINGHAM PALACE,**

TO MY PEOPLE.

At this grave moment in the struggle between my people and a highly organised enemy who has transgressed the Laws of Nations and changed the ordinance that binds civilized Europe together, I appeal to you.

I rejoice in my Empire's effort, and I feel pride in the voluntary response from my Subjects all over the world who have sacrificed home, fortune, and life itself, in order that another may not inherit the free Empire which their ancestors and mine have built.

I ask you to make good these sacrifices.

The end is not in sight. More men and yet more are wanted to keep my Armies in the Field, and through them to secure Victory and enduring Peace.

In ancient days the darkest moment has ever produced in men of our race the sternest resolve.

I ask you, men of all classes, - to come forward voluntarily and take your share in the fight.

In freely responding to my appeal, you will be giving your support to our brothers, who, for long months, have nobly upheld Britain's past traditions, and the glory of her Arms.

*George R. I.*

## THE LATE CAPTAIN HASTINGS

### MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ASHBY CHURCH

At the Ashby Parish Church on Wednesday afternoon, a memorial service was held for the late Capt. Paulyn Charles James Reginald Rawdon-Hastings, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Edward Hugh Hastings Rawdon-Hastings, only sons of Lady Maude Hastings and the late Hon. Paulyn Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby, who have fallen in the defence of their country. Capt. Hastings was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, commanding A (Coalville and Ashby) Co. and was killed in the great battle about the middle of this month when the Leicestershire Territorials assisted in the capture of two lines of German trenches. His brother, Lieut. Hastings, was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Black Watch, and had gone to the front, but about six weeks ago contracted enteric and died in a military hospital in France.

There was a crowded congregation at the memorial service, many being unable to find seats. The members of the family present included Lady Maude Hastings (mother), the Misses Hastings (four sisters), Earl of Loudoun (uncle), the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, (uncle and aunt), Earl and Countess Verulam, and Lady Jane Joddrell. Also present were Mr J. G. Shields, J.P., of Isley Walton (agent for the Donington estate to which the late Capt. Hastings was the heir), Lady Beaumont, Mr R. Lawton, J.P., whose son, a brother officer of Captain Hastings was mortally wounded about the same time), members of the Ashby Urban Council and practically all the leading residents of the neighbourhood.

All the clergy holding benefices in the Hastings family were invited to attend. They were the Rev. J. Hewitson (Measham), the Rev. E. Finch (Breedon-on-the-Hill), the Rev. G. Moore (Packington), and the Rev. B. Kenyon (Blackfordby). Others invited and present included the Rev. H. E. Worthington, R. D. (Netherseal), the Rev. D. W. Lloyd (Ticknall), the Rev. C. T. Moore (Appleby), and the Rev. A. Phillemore (Willesley).

Several military officers in uniform were present, including Col. German, Capt. Stevenson, Staff-Capt. Hassall and Lieut. Faulkner, also a contingent of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, a number of wounded soldiers from the Ashby Cottage Hospital and all the members of the Ashby Grammar School Cadet Corps in khaki, under command of Lieut. C. Elliott.

The service was conducted by the Rev. H. R. Sawyer (vicar), assisted by the Rev. F. E. Hobbs (curate) and the Rev. W. Fowley (Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ashby), the latter reading the lesson 1 Cor: 15c from v20 to end. The hymns sung were, "Now the labourer's task is over," "Peace, perfect peace," and "On the resurrection morning." Mr Underwood, one of the Grammar School masters, officiated at the organ – the regular organist, Mr Walter Handford, being at the front – and after the singing of the National Anthem, played the Dead March. At the conclusion, buglers of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, under Sergt.-Drummer Crossley, outside the church sounded "The Last Post."

The service was very impressive and many of the congregation were in tears. Both the deceased officers were very popular in the town and district of Ashby and the greatest public sympathy is felt for Lady Maude Hastings and the family in their terrible loss.

As Lady Maude Hastings passed with other mourners into her home, nearby the buglers were called to "Attention." The Earl of Loudoun in highland dress saluted, and the Duke of Norfolk took off his hat and conversed with the sergeant in charge. His Grace and the Duchess, who have been staying with Lady Hastings, left the Manor House yesterday afternoon.

## THE CHARGE OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> LEICESTERS

### COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

#### HOW TWO GERMAN TRENCHES WERE TAKEN

#### DYING OFFICERS' LAST WORDS

Writing to friends at Coalville, Pte. T. Usherwood, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, son of Mr T. Usherwood, Midland Railway engine driver, of Highfields Street, gives some interesting details of the great charge in which the Leicestershire Territorials, and particularly the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion took such a prominent part.

*He says; "We left the billets at 2.30 pm, on October 12<sup>th</sup> in fighting order, knowing what we are going into. The band played us out of the village and off we went with light hearts fully determined to do our best. We halted at 6 o'clock at night and had a couple of hours rest and then off we went again and arrived in the trenches at 7 o'clock on the morning of October 13<sup>th</sup>. Then we had a bit of a sleep best we could till daylight. The day dawned rather dull and cold. But as the anxious hours passed by the sun broke through the clouds giving us better spirits. All at once the great guns broke forth, and our artillery bellowed forth their shells which caused havoc and destruction wherever they went. You talk about thunder clouds breaking, it's not in it. The German trenches were being battered to nothing, the very earth seemed to be shaking under our feet and not a word between one another could be heard. For an hour or two this went on and then the time came for the charge began to draw nearer. Hearts were beating, and thoughts wandering, and I guess, whispered prayers being muttered. We could see our homes and our loved ones. But away with thoughts, 5 minutes, 4 minutes, 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute – "Charge, Boys!" and over the parapets we went with the best of luck, officers and men together. Bayonets glistening in the sun, bombs flying in all directions, coal boxes, shells of all descriptions tearing the earth up. But on the terrier boys go, in ranks of open formation. The first German line trench is reached and captured. But there's no time for thinking and off again we go till the Hun's second lines are reached. Cries of mercy go up from them. That is captured, a struggle ensues for a fortified redoubt which is filled with machine guns and Germans, a stiff struggle in which are engaged the Lincolns and Leicesters (Tigers), Notts. & Derbys. The blood up, on we go, the redoubt is taken and mastered and the khaki boys are winning and mean to. We go again but the artillery fire is hellish, words cannot express what it is like. The very earth seemed to be going under our feet.*

*Night has come and we have got the two lines of trenches and the redoubt to our credit and have held them. Thus the terrier boys have gained a bit more back from the hated Huns. But the sight of it all I cannot tell you, words cannot express it. In the night everything is being done and the wounded are being got in as fast as possible. Men are out in the open risking their lives carrying wounded into the trenches. As for myself, I was doing the same. My own officer – a braver man never lived – was leading us out when he was shot. Two of us carried him in to safety and bound him up. But poor fellow, he died in a few minutes with the last words on his lips, "I have done my best." And so the rescue work went on. And the rest were digging for their lives to get under cover. All night long it raged. Next day dawned and we had made our position secure and held it. At night we were relieved and marched back to billets utterly exhausted, and we did justice to a good meal. Thus we struck one more blow into the hated Huns. There are funny incidents and deeds of heroism that I witnessed and will tell you later. We live thanking God that we are spared. Thanks be "Coalville Times" I am always glad to get it. Must close now. Remember me to all. Lawrence (another son of Mr Usherwood in the trenches) wishes to be remembered. Hoping you are all quite well."*

#### COALVILLE MAGISTRATES' TRIBUTE

At the Coalville Police on Friday the chairman (Major Hatchett) said that since the Court last met the A. Co. of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, had been in action. They had lost their commanding officer and they (the magistrates) had heard there was a large number of casualties. This company was recruited very largely from Ashby, Coalville and neighbourhood. "Some of us," continued the Major, "served in it for many years and we take the greatest injury in its welfare; and we are proud to know that the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the company have nobly sustained the splendid reputation of the Leicestershire Regiment. We admire greatly the heroic courage and endurance and devotion to duty of which we have heard much since they have been at the front and we desire to express our sincere sympathy with the relatives and friends of those who have died and who have suffered wounds in the performance of their duty, whilst fighting for their King and country."



Major Hatchett commanded "A" company (Ashby Hastings "1" Co.) in the Leicestershire Volunteers for many years and Mr B. G. Hale, one of the magistrates present was a non-commissioned officer in the same company as a volunteer.

### **MAGISTERIAL TRIBUTE**

At the Leicester County Petty Sessions on Saturday, Mr J. B. Everard, the presiding magistrate, said he desired to refer to the grief that had fallen on the town and county through the losses involved in the glorious action of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Territorials. It was a grief that had affected all classes from the highest to the lowest. From the head of the Hastings family to the youngest private all had given their best. The magistrates of the county had been among the greatest sufferers. The colonel of the battalion set a noble example which was followed by all others. They had covered themselves with glory, and had enhanced the lustre attaching to the traditions of the Leicestershire Regiment.

### **NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION**

#### **DISTINGUISHED GALLANTRY**

The following letter has been forwarded to us for publication:

*Dear Capt. Serjeantson, - I should be obliged if you would inform the President and Members of your Associations that in a recent attack on the enemy's position, the North Midland Division behaved with distinguished gallantry, worthy of the best traditions of the British Army.*

*I trust that their example may arouse enthusiasm in their various counties, and that the result of their gallant efforts may be to bring every able bodied man into the ranks. I am proud to command a division composed of officers and other ranks who, for love of King and Country have sacrificed private interests and whose example should be widely bellowed by every man imbued with patriotic sentiments. I should be glad if everyone could be informed of this. - Yours sincerely*

(Signed) E. Stuart Wortley  
Major General, Commanding 46<sup>th</sup> Division, October, 1915.

### **COALVILLE EX-POLICEMAN SHOT**

#### **WHILE PERFORMING A BRAVE DEED**

Some months ago, Pte. Clifford Page, who before the war was in the Leicestershire Constabulary, stationed at Enderby and formerly at Coalville and Hinckley, was posted as missing after one of the battles in France, and he is now reported to have been killed in action.



The "Police Review" of October 22<sup>nd</sup> contains the following paragraph:

*"About three months ago, we stated that Pte. Clifford Page of Coalville, of the Leicestershire Constabulary, was reported missing. We are now informed that he was shot dead on the night of May 15<sup>th</sup>, while trying to bring in a wounded man from ground which had to be abandoned. P.C. Page served at Hinckley and Coalville and his comrades there will feel proud in having been associated with one who met his fate so gallantly."*

Page was in the Worcestershire Regiment and was called up as a reservist on the outbreak of war. His wife, with one child, is residing with her mother, Mrs Taberner, of Jackson Street, Coalville, her father, who was in the Coalville Citizen Corps, having recently died.

On Wednesday morning, Mrs Page received an official notice of the death from the Infantry Record Office, Warwick, stating that

her husband was killed in action in France between May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Accompanying the notice was a letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen.

## **WHITWICK NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER ON CONSCRIPTION**

### **INTERESTING LETTER FROM SERGT. S. E. PERRY**

Sergt. S. E. Perry, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, in France, writing to his father, Mr S. Perry, of Silver Street, Whitwick, on October 18<sup>th</sup> says:

*"We have to be very careful indeed as to what we put in our letters. Of course, it is necessary, all this precaution; but really, I think the censorship is carried a bit too far. Don't you?"*

*No doubt the good people of my native town are terribly grieved at the death in action of some of its brave young soldier heroes. The people at home no doubt feel it more than we do out here. A soldier who is daily facing death soon loses all trace of sympathetic feelings. I think ours will be a different world after this war. Men will have a different outlook on life – a broader view. Husbands who have left their wives and children to fight for them – will go back to their homes, some day, with loving feelings in their hearts never there before. Sons will adore their parents and the military training they have received will make them obedient and submissive to their betters.*

*I'm happy to think that you favour conscription. I manage to get a fairly good idea of events happening in England and it seems to me that the present method of recruiting is nothing more than a resort to the old system of Press Gangs; only in these modern days the weapons used to press men into service are slightly different from those in the old days. Men are urgently needed; but if men will not voluntarily come forward why press them to become volunteers. It would be far better in my opinion, to make them real conscripts than force them to become moral conscripts, which is exactly what is happening. Men are not joining now because of their desire to fight, but because they are ashamed of what may be said, if they don't. Moral conscripts!*

*I hardly believe that my former comrades who have failed to join the colours are cowards. I cannot imagine any Englishman not wanting to fight for his country and yet that is the conclusion which everyone will come to if the 'slackers' are not very quick in deciding.*

*We are fighting against a nation who are evidently as brave and as clever as ourselves, and what is more – they seem to be united. Do not worry for me, dear dad, I shall pull through this alright and who knows? I may reach my cherished ambition, prove myself a great soldier in which case the war will have proved a boon instead of the reverse. I refuse to look on the other side of the possible. I am out to win. I am heart and soul in my work and endeavour to instil some of my regular training into the men of this new army. I have great cause to bless my instructor, Sergt. Stone at the School of Arms. The training had there has proved invaluable.*

*Remember me kindly to all my friends. I often think of the old days and wonder if everything is just as of old. It seems a long time since I was living at home and the future looks even further away, but I am quite confident that all will end well for you and me and although thousands of men have died fighting and thousands of homes have been wrecked through this horrible war, I feel convinced that I shall return in safety and our home will be just as I left it, many, many days ago. Goodbye, dearest dad, your deserved boy."*

S. E. Perry

### **BOXING GLOVES FOR COALVILLE SOLDIERS**

*Dear Sir, - I have great pleasure in writing and letting you know that I received the boxing gloves on behalf of the Coalville Boys which I assure you we are greatly pleased with and there is no doubt as to the sport they will cause amongst us, when out of the trenches. I am pleased to say we are all in good health and spirits, considering the circumstances we are in out here. Please accept our best wishes and heartiest thanks for so good a gift. – I remain, yours sincerely.*

W. Sharp, C.M.S.  
B. Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, B.E.F.

*P.S. I have written to Mr R. Tebbett whom we thank most heartily for the gloves.*

### **SWANNINGTON GRENADIER GUARD KILLED**

#### **FORMER EMPLOYEE OF MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.**

Mr James Berkin, a collier, residing at Ivyleigh Cottages, St. George's Hill, Swannington, has received an intimation from the Grenadier Guards Record Office, London, stating that his son, Pte. Samuel Thomas Berkin, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, was killed in action on September 27<sup>th</sup>. In a letter received from Pte. Thomas Johnson, another Swannington soldier, it is stated that Berkin was shot through the head during the battle at Hill 70. The deceased soldier was only 21 years of age and enlisted in September 1914. He had only been at the front for about three months and this was the first charge in which he had taken part. For some months after enlisting, he was stationed at Buckingham Palace. He was formerly employed at Messrs. Stableford and Co.'s Works at Coalville.

Mr and Mrs Berkin have received a letter from Lord Kitchener assuring them of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in their sorrow.

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED**

Private William Presland, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, is reported to have been wounded in the recent fighting in France. He is a son of Mr Albert Presland, of Albert Street, Coalville, a collier at the Ellistown pit, where the wounded soldier also worked before joining the army.

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **ONE OF FIVE FROM A FAMILY IN THE FORCES**

Mrs Warren, of 79, Albert Street, Coalville, has received news of the death of her son, Pte. Frank William Woolhouse, of the B. Co. 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action during the recent severe fighting when the fifths took two German trenches at the point of the bayonet. The news is not official, but has arrived from two separate sources – in letters from friends of the deceased soldier, Pte. Cato, of Park Road, Coalville, and Pte. Cross, of Hugglescote.

Woolhouse was only 20 years of age and before enlisting worked at the Whitwick Colliery. He was a popular member of the Coalville Swift's F.C., being a very capable forward. His father, Edward Woolhouse was accidentally killed in the Whitwick Colliery about 8 years ago.

The last time Mrs Warren heard from her boy was the receipt of a letter dated, Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, in which he wrote acknowledging receipt of a parcel and letter and a photo and stating that he was quite well. Woolhouse was one of five members from the same family serving in the forces. His step-father, Pte. Thomas Warren, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, was wounded in the battle of Neuve Chapelle, being close behind Corpl. Jack Sheffield, when the latter received his fatal shot, and Warren is now in camp near Hull. He was formerly a miner engaged at the Snibston pit. His son Pte. Walter Warren, in the Norfolk Regiment, was also wounded about a month ago, and is now at a convalescent home in Norfolk. He was a young miner at the Whitwick pit. Another son, Thomas Edmund Warren, is in the Royal Marines and Gunner Joseph Hall, another step-son of Warren, is in the R.F.A.

