

# Coalville Times At War

**Friday February 4<sup>th</sup> 1916 (Issue 1248)**

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## HUGGLESCOTE PATRIOTIC SOCIAL

A patriotic whist drive and dance at the Hawley Institute on Wednesday night was well attended. Mr J. Cooper, of Coalville, played for dancing, and Miss Edith Bott, of Coalville, was much applauded for her songs. Messrs. Wright-Mason (Ellistown) and J. H. Dean (Hugglescote) were the M.C.'s. The M.C.s for whist were Messrs. E. Darby and D. S. Moore, and the excellent prizes were won respectively by the following:

Ladies: Miss Aust 181, Miss E. Wright 174, and Mrs L. Smith 172.  
Gentlemen: Mr A. Pegg 175, Mr G. Geary 171, and Private Wildgoose 170.

The proceeds were for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild.

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## FURTHER EXAMINATION FOR ARMLET MEN

### BEFORE FINAL EXEMPTION

Mr Thomas asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that local recruiting officers are summoning men who have been previously rejected under Lord Derby's scheme to submit to further medical examination, and whether, having regard to the fact that these men hold a white certificate which states that they presented themselves to join the army, but were not accepted on medical information, they will be exempt under the Military Services Act?

Mr Tennant, in a written answer in the Parliamentary papers, says, "*In view of the many decisions which had to be hurriedly reached and the desirability for greater uniformity, a fresh medical examination will be necessary.*"

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## DO YOU KNOW THAT

An aeroplane passed over Coalville at a rather low altitude on Saturday, and attracted much attention?

There are 17 old boys of the Coalville Belvoir Road (formerly Wesleyan) Council School now serving in the forces, a list of whose names appears on page 6 of this issue?

As a certain number of Belgian refugees have failed to register as aliens, all refugees are warned that they must register with the police and inform the police before they change their address?

## LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Many people, up to this week, have been of the opinion that enemy aircraft would never penetrate to the Midlands, but the official reports show that Zeppelins were over Leicestershire on Monday night and this fact should serve to emphasise the importance of observing the new lighting regulations which have just been issued. The matter was referred to at the Urban Council meeting on Tuesday night, and the hope was then expressed that the public, for their own safety, would strictly carry out the new regulations. As far as possible, lights at works, shops and private houses, if not absolutely obscured, should be so dimmed as to unobservable from the air.

The war is revealing that there are many things we can do without and one of these is a restricted postal service. Hitherto, Coalville and district has enjoyed three deliveries of letters per day, but after this week, one of these, (the evening delivery) is to be dispensed with and there are certain alterations being made in the

times of dispatches and collections from wall and pillar boxes, particulars of which appear in a letter read at the Urban Council meeting on Tuesday night, and reported in another column. These alterations are in accordance with a general cutting down movement throughout the whole postal service of the country, by which a considerable saving will be affected.

Sergeant G. R. Brown, of Leicester Yeomanry, who has been on a visit to his parents at Ibstock, and returned to the front last Sunday evening, related an unfortunate incident which befell him and his mate, a Leicester man, as they were journeying home from the trenches. They entered the Leicester trains at St. Pancras, and were both fast asleep when it reached Leicester. They slept on until the train arrived at Carlisle, when they awoke to find themselves almost as far away from home as when they started. There was no help for it, however, but to wait for the returning train bringing them back to Leicester.

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## **VOLUNTEER INSPECTION AT LEICESTER**

Major-General Lord Ranksborough on Sunday inspected the Leicester Citizen Volunteer Corps in the Market Place. About 500 men paraded under command of Major Rolleston. In the course of a short address Lord Ranksborough expressed the opinion that the volunteer movement was of great value to the country. He did not believe the danger of invasion was over yet – Germany was in a corner, and they never knew what an animal in a corner would do.

Subsequently a recruiting meeting was held, under the chairmanship of Major Rolleston, and upwards of a hundred recruits were added to the corps from the crowd.

## **COALVILLE BELVOIR ROAD SCHOOL**

### **165 OLD BOYS SERVING IN THE FORCES**

There are 165 old boys of the Coalville Belvoir Road Council School (formerly Wesleyan) as far as the head master, Mr T. Frith, has been able to ascertain, and now serving in the forces, and the following is a list of their names, rank and regiment.

Allard, Stanley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, 16528, Corporal.  
Allen, Samuel, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, 12224, Private.  
Baker, Major, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2431, Private.  
Baker, Walter S, Army Service Corps, 6640, Sergeant.  
Baker, Albert Edward, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 3134, Private.  
BASFORD, Harold, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Ammunition Column, Gunner.  
Batho, John Stephen, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1946, Private.  
Batho, Ernest, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 15926, Private.  
Beale, George, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1995, Private.  
Beard, J. Harry, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 15962, Private.  
Beniston, Frank P, Royal Sussex, 5214, Private.  
Bennett, George, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Private, killed July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915.  
Boot, Ernest Samuel, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Private, killed April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915.  
Booth, Christopher, 4<sup>th</sup> Grenadier Guards, 22559, Private.  
Booth, Harold, R.A.M.C., 8434, Private.  
Booton, Ernest, 1<sup>st</sup> Notts and Derby, 29052, Private.  
Bourne, Horace, L, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 3273, Lance-Corporal.  
Bradshaw, William, H, Royal Engineers, 35162, Sapper.  
Bradshaw, Fred, Army Service Corps, Ammunition Column, 635274, Corporal.  
Bradshaw, Chas. Howitzer Brigade, 29199, Driver.  
Bradshaw, Cecil, A, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2554, Lance-Corporal.  
Bramley, Wm. Alfred, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 15406, Private.  
Briers, Fred, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 16025, Private.  
Briers, Horace, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 11025, Private.  
Briers, Wm. Alfred, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, 11527, Private.  
Brown, Leon D, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 16132, Signal Section.  
Burford, (Cliff) Harry, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4149, Private.

Chadwick, George Wm., 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, 11103, Lance-Corporal.  
Clark, Fred A, Army Service Corps, 0/40986, Sergeant.  
Clibbery, John, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, Private, killed July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915.  
Cockerham, Edward, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4204, Private.  
Coleman, Leonard, Royal Flying Corps, 15228, Mechanic.  
Collier, Horrace, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1299, Lance-Corporal.  
Collins, Samuel, Army Service Corps, 1199, Sergeant.  
Crooks, John, 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, M.G. Section, 10152, Lance-Corporal.  
Crooks, Arthur, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 13121, Lance-Corporal.  
Crooks, Douglas, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, M.G. Section, 20150, Private.  
Crookes, Joseph, Royal Engineers, 136399, Sapper.  
Deacon, Robert, Army Service Corps, 90, Corporal.  
Dodds, Sydney, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2537, Private.  
Dooley, Hy., 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 16683, Private.  
Ducksbury, Wm., 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 11950, Private.  
Ducksbury, John H., 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 12136, Private.  
Drinkwater, Douglas, Army Service Corps, s/409144, Private.  
Eames, Martyn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, 16768, Private.  
Eames, Wm., 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 16709, Private.  
Eagles, J. Ed., R.A.M.C., T, 51, Private.  
Ecob, Horace, 24<sup>th</sup> Middlesex, 2417, Sergeant.  
Edwards, Alvin G., Howitzer Brigade, 723, Gunner.  
Edwards, Frank, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 11459, Lance-Corporal.  
Egan, Wm., 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2550, Private.  
Evans, Lewis, Royal Garrison Artillery, 37588, Gunner.  
Evans, George Harry, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1200, Lance-Corporal.  
Finch, John Henry, H.M.S. Benbow, 8869, Leading Seaman.  
Finch, Edwin, H.M.S. Adamant, 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stoker.  
Goulson, Edgar, Royal Scots Fusiliers, 8002, Private.  
Gray, Walter, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Private, killed July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915.  
Green, John, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, M.G. Section, 16845, Gunner.  
Green, Arthur, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, M.G. Section, 1999, Gunner.  
Green, David, 6<sup>th</sup> Rifle Brigade, 1304, A-Corporal.  
Hall, John, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1900, Sergeant.  
Hall, Albert Arthur, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 3426, Drummer, Private.  
Hancock, Wm., 11<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, (Pioneers) 22568, Private.  
Hancox, Harold, Army Service Corps, 1103, Sergeant.  
Handford, Walter, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2518, Lance-Corporal.  
Harper, John W., 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2523, Lance-Corporal.  
Harper, Harold.  
Harris, Walter, 3<sup>rd</sup> East Yorks, 7627, Private.  
Harrison, Bertie, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2532, Private.  
Hewes, Aubrey, Army Service M.T. Corps, 150407, Driver.  
Hewes, Kenneth, Army Service M.T. Corps, 2/054117, Private.  
King, Leonard, Army Service Corps, M.T., 113034, Private.  
King, Horace Ed., 5/1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Contingent, 13748, Corporal.  
Hirons, George, Royal Engineers, 86220, Co. 174, Corporal.  
Hodgkinson, Bert G., H.M.S. Princess Royal, Leading Stoker.  
Hodgkinson, Dennis, H.M.S. Zeelander, A.B.  
Hodson, Samuel, Royal Army Medical Corps, 8433, Private.  
Holyoak, Emmanuel, 9<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, 3752, Corporal.  
Hopkins, Louis.  
Hoult, Fred, 3/8<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters, 2597, Private.  
Ison, Harry E., 55<sup>th</sup> New Brunswick Batt. 445099, Bugler.  
Ison, Ernest A., Canadian Expeditionary Force, 445008, Private.  
Jamie, John P.W., 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.  
Johnson, Albert E., 3<sup>rd</sup> Rifle Brigade, 31302, Corporal, killed April 1915.  
Johnson, Arthur.  
Jones, Jesse, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 16714, Private.  
Kilby, John, R.A.M.C. Private.

Kirk, Aubrey, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 3218, Private.  
Lacey, Harry, 1<sup>st</sup> Notts and Derby, 19952, Private.  
Lakin, Wm. Ball, South Notts Hussars, 1819, Trooper, 3<sup>rd</sup> Yeomanry Regt.  
Landon, John Wm., 11<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters, 7328, Private.  
Leech, Chas, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 16436, Private.  
Lees, Joseph, Royal Engineers, 104453, Driver.  
Lees, Edgar, H.M.S. Pelorus, Engine-Room Artificer.  
Lindley, Albert, Derbyshire Yeomanry, 22904, Corporal.  
Litchfield, Sydney, Royal Engineers, 54939, Sapper.  
Lycett, Wm., 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 16768, Private.  
Manders, John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, Private, died of wounds 15<sup>th</sup> March, 1915.  
March, Wm., Royal Engineers, 121076, Sapper.  
Mason, Albert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, 12194, Private.  
Massey, Arthur, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1202, Lance-Corporal.  
Massey, Ernest, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1213, Private.  
Meakin, George, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 15414, Private.  
Merry, Sydney, 3/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 5286, Private.  
Moon, Joseph, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 15966, Private.  
Moore, John Henry, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 315, Private.  
Moore, Walter, Army Service Corps, 177, Private.  
Morris, Austen, H.M.S. Natal, Gunner.  
Moult, James, 9<sup>th</sup> South Staffs, Private.  
Mugglestone, Thos, 11<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, (Pioneers), 23045, Private.  
Newman, Clifford, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 16539, Private.  
Newman, Frank J., 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 22487, Private.  
Nixon, Bernard, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4325, Private.  
Owen, Joseph, Canadian Expeditionary Force, Private.  
Owen, Wm., Canadian Expeditionary Force, Private.  
Owen, George, Canadian Expeditionary Force, Private.  
Palmer, Tom, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 9700, Private.  
Palmer, Harry, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 13255, Lance-Corporal.  
Palmer, Albert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, 34529, Private.  
Palmer, Leon, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 20995, Private.  
Palmer, Frank, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4188, Private.  
Peace, Arthur, 2<sup>nd</sup> York and Lancaster, 9200, Sergeant.  
Peace, Leonard, H.M.S. Conqueror, Ordinary Seaman.  
Petcher, Edwin, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2817, Drummer, Private.  
Pickbourne, Leonard, R.A.M.C., 81, Private.  
Pickbourne, Hedley, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, Lieutenant.  
Platts, Jack, Army Service Corps, M.T., 032146, Private.  
Platts, Walter.  
Platts, Alfred, 2<sup>nd</sup> Northhamptons, B. Co., 19492, No. 5 Platoon, Private.  
Powell, Harry, Lincolnshire Yeomanry, T132, A.S.C., Driver.  
Reeve, Vivian, 11<sup>th</sup> Leicesters (Pioneers), 21436, Private.  
Savage, Horace, Army Service Corps, 154, Driver.  
Setchell, Wm., 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1077, Private.  
Shaler, Thomas, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 3269, Private.  
Sherwin, Josh, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4193, Private.  
Sitdown, George, M.T., Army Service Corps, 046923, Driver.  
Smith, Samuel C., 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 1206, Private.  
Smith, Roland, Royal Field Artillery, 1826, Corporal.  
Smith, Wallace, R.A.M.C., 26446, Private.  
Smith, Harold, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 104, Private.  
Smith, Leslie, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4293, Private.  
Stanley, Norman A., 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Private.  
Swain, John W., 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, 12073, Private.  
Swain, Hy. W., 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 16145, Private.  
Swift, Albert E., H.M.S. Myrtle, A.B.  
Taberner, Ernest, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 20971, Private.  
Tudge, Harold Thos., 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 16177, Private.

Tudge, Austen Har., Royal Engineers, 136002, Sapper.  
Tugby, John, 6<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 10153, Private.  
Upton, Arthur, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 3180, Lance-Corporal.  
Upton, Geoffrey, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 23216, Private.  
Usherwood, Lawrence W., 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2698, Lance-Corporal.  
Vesty, Hy. Thomas, Royal Naval Division.  
Walker, Wm., 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters, 16710, Corporal.  
Walker, Percy, H.M.S. Temeraire, 13419, Gunner.  
Walker, Arthur, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2475, Private.  
Walker, James, Howitzer Brigade, 784, Gunner.  
Walker, Harry.  
Watson, Arthur, Army Service Corps, M.T., 150087, Private.  
Watson, Ray, H.M.S. Dartmouth, 9233, Leading Seaman.  
Wells, Millis, 3<sup>rd</sup> South Staffs, 19460, Signaller.  
Whiflin, George, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 22488, Private.  
Whitehurst, Wm., 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4116, Private.  
Wildgoose, George, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 4274, Private.  
Williamson, John T., 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, Private, killed March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915.  
Wilton, George, 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 32421, Private.  
Wood, Alfred.  
Woolley, Victor Ev., 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, 2482, Private.  
Wright, Arthur.  
Wright, George.

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## **COLEORTON SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES IN GERMANY**

### **FORMER DEPUTY AT WHITWICK COLLIERY**

### **FOURTEEN MONTHS IN A PRISONERS' CAMP**

### **THRILLING NARRATIVE**

After being fourteen months a prisoner in Germany, during which he had some terrible experiences, Corporal Elijah Toon, No. 1466, of the Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry, recently arrived in England, and is now spending a well-deserved furlough with his wife and four children in their little cottage near the brook at Coleorton.

In the course of an interview with a representative of this paper, Toon told an interesting and thrilling narrative of how he had fared since he fell into the hands of the enemy. It may be explained at the outset that prior to the memorable August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1914, Toon was working as a deputy under Mr W. Price in the Whitwick new pit. He had then had about seven years' experience in the Leicestershire Yeomanry, having served as orderly to Major Burkitt, of Whitwick, during practically the whole of that time, and as the Yeomanry were mobilised immediately after the outbreak of war, he soon found himself on active service. It was on November 1<sup>st</sup> that the Yeomanry, after various operations in several parts of this country, left for France, and ten days later, on November 11<sup>th</sup>, they took part in their first big battle. It was in the early hours of November 14<sup>th</sup>, about one o'clock in the morning, that Toon was taken a prisoner. He was riding a bicycle, carrying despatches, and being in a strange locality, and in the dark, missed his way. In the gloom, he noticed two outposts, but rode on, not knowing whether they were friends or foes. Then he came upon an obstruction across the road – a house which had been demolished by gunfire – and realising that he was on the wrong track, decided to return to the sentries, and enquire the way. Immediately he reached them, he was covered by their rifles, and soon found that he was close to the German trenches, and that the sentries were German soldiers. They called an officer, but as shells were falling round, he soon retired to the safety of the trenches again and Toon was escorted to a place just outside Ypres. There three more prisoners of the Bedfordshire Regiment joined him and they remained there till the afternoon when they were taken to Wervick. Here they assisted with the German wounded in a hospital, and in burying the dead, and were thus occupied for four days. They slept on straw in a cathedral, but they complained of the vermin in the straw, and asked to be moved. They then were sent to Lille, there joining other prisoners, both civilians and military. They were in a Lille military prison for three days, thence being conveyed to Geisson. In reaching the latter place they were

travelling for 36 hours in a cattle truck. There were 27 of them packed into one truck which was without a particle of straw, and no sanitary conveniences whatever, and during the whole 36 hours they were each supplied with one slice of bread, and a basin of soup. At one of the stopping-places they were to have been supplied with coffee, but to keep up their spirits the men were singing, and for this they were made to go without coffee. After four days at Geisson, they proceeded to Wittenberg, a place, said Toon, famous for its association with Martin Luther. The latter, by-the-way, was at one time professor of philosophy in the University of Wittenberg. It was in the camp at this place that Toon found that he was destined to stay in captivity for nearly 14 months. On entering the camp they were all searched, and tobacco, matches, knives, and all such things were taken from them. *"We were shamefully ill-used,"* said the soldier, *"We were knocked about and spat upon. We thought we were going to be eaten."* Soup was the chief article of food.

*"The next morning,"* said Toon, continuing his narrative, *"I started to attend the English wounded. There were no English doctors, and these men had not had their wounds attended to for weeks. There were three Russian and two French doctors attending to their wounded in other parts of the camp. When our fellows were taken ill we had to do the best we could for them until a permanent hospital was built. Early in December cholera broke out, and another corporal and myself were placed in charge of the suffering Englishmen. There were between 20 and 30 all in need of medical attention."*

Toon went on to explain that having acted for seven years as doctor's orderly, he had some knowledge of medical treatment, and in four days and nights he made as many as 58 injections on patients. In the worst cases morphia had to be used. In connection with this work, he was complimented by a German doctor who spoke good English. Subsequently typhus also broke out in the camp and Toon, who was much over-worked and under-nourished, fell a victim to the disease. He had been on duty from 7 in the morning till 9 at night, and in addition he had to take a turn on night duty, only getting one full night's rest in four. Night duty was worked in relays – 9 to 12, 12 to 3, 3 to 6 and 6 till 9, and the one who was on the last three hours had to continue through the day until 9 in the evening.

Questioned as to the meals, the soldier said they had coffee in the morning and soup for dinner and tea. The three meals were all served in seven hours – between 10 and 5 – and for 17 hours they had nothing. He complained to the French doctor about the insufficient nourishment, but he said he could do nothing, and he gave them ten marks cash to purchase a few extras. That doctor, added Toon, died of typhus. Before he himself had recovered, six English doctors arrived, and three of these also contracted the disease and died. One of them, he said, was Major Fry, a brother of Mr C. B. Fry, the famous cricketer. When he (Toon) was recovering, cholera was still raging in the camp, and before he was well again, he had to get up, and make injections in the patients. After that he was placed in charge of the English surgical ward containing twenty patients. There were only two beds, other patients occupying mattresses on the floor. The patients were in a fearful state said Toon, and he had to remove vermin from them to make them presentable to the doctor. One small piece of soap among twenty patients had to last three days. They had to wash and pass the soap along. It was a difficult matter for him to get bandages and medicines. The majority of the prisoners in the camp were Russians, and it was only through the kindness of one of the Russian doctors that he got a few supplies from their store. When the cholera broke out the Germans ran away and left them to themselves for eight months, none coming near, except the patrols outside the camp. A lot of men have now been withdrawn from the camp, and are engaged on construction work, and in the cultivation of land, also in factories. Some are also working in the mines, but they drew the line at working on munitions, a flat refusal being the answer to such a proposal.

Replying to a question as to whether parcels and letters sent to the prisoners from England were reaching them safely, Toon said that at first the parcels were very much battered, and when the American ambassador came round, they complained to him of this, and also of their general treatment. Things improved somewhat afterwards.

*"The reports you may have seen in the papers,"* said Toon, *"about ferocious dogs being sent into the camp and attacking the prisoners were quite correct. There were also severe forms of punishment for breaking various rules, such as tying one to a post for two hours at a time, or confinement in cells on bread and water. One of the rules was 'No smoking' and there was punishment for the violation of this."* During the last three months at the camp, they seemed to have got into a more civilised state. They were allowed to write two letters and three postcards a month, but at first they were not allowed to write at all for fear of spreading disease.

Concluding, Toon said he could not describe all they had gone through. Were he to attempt it, one would scarcely believe him. He would not have thought himself capable of going through it, but one never knew what he could do until put to the test. He assured the writer that British prisoners were now practically living on the food sent from England. The German food was such vile stuff that they could not 'stomach it.' He received several welcome parcels while there from ladies in Leicester, from the officials of the Whitwick Colliery, from relatives at Coalville and Coleorton, and from Miss Hosking, daughter of the Vicar of Coalville, and to all these he desired to express his sincere thanks. For the sake of the unfortunate prisoners still in Germany, he urged that kind friends should keep on sending these gifts of food which were so greatly appreciated. The men were allowed certain forms or recreation, but the great thing which kept up their spirits, he said, was the sure and certain hope of being relieved some day when the Allies shall make a triumphal entry into the land of their ruthless foe. "Roll on that day," is the all-absorbing thought and wish of the prisoners.

The last question to the gallant soldier was as to how he succeeded in getting away. Toon replied that it was on account of his ambulance knowledge, and his assurance that he was attached to the R.A.M.C., another man getting away with him on the same grounds. They left camp on December 28<sup>th</sup> and were escorted to Aachen, being detained there for over a week before being allowed to cross the frontier. The British War Office was not aware of their coming, and no arrangements were made for them, as a result of which they had to pay their fares to Flushing. Meanwhile they had wired to the British Government's representative at Flushing and after reaching there all was plain sailing. They landed in England on January 6<sup>th</sup> and after spending several days at Aldershot, proceeded home.

Corporal Toon, it may be added, is a Coalville man, born in the Newmarket there, but from 12 months old he lived at Coleorton, being brought up by his uncle, Mr. Jno. Hall, an agricultural labourer. He intends re-joining his regiment in a few weeks' time. Before leaving him, he asked the writer to mention one other thing. He said that while inspections were not made of the housing conditions of the out-workers, which he was sure would stand considerable improvement. He added that the Germans were still of the impression that they were winning. The people were not allowed to get hold of any information to the contrary, and while their hatred of the English was still pronounced, it was significant that Corporal Toon should have heard such expressions from German officers and others that the British possess a great Navy. Working in unison, said they, the German army and the British Navy could command the peace of the world. But that seems a remote possibility.



Corporal E. Toon.

#### **DONINGTON-LE-HEATH SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **COMRADE'S TRIBUTE TO HIS "BEST PAL"**

Mr and Mrs James Haywood, of Brook Terrace, Donington-le-Heath, have received a letter from Private Jason Wallace, a friend of their son, Private James Haywood, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, conveying the sad news of the latter's death. The letter states:

*"Dear Mr and Mrs Haywood, - Just a few lines, hoping you are all well, as it leaves me about the same, only I am sorry to tell you that I have lost my best pal. But I expect you have heard about it by now. I should have written before, only we were in the trenches, and we are not allowed to write from there. I went to have a last look at him, but was not allowed to do so. Cartwright has also died, since I heard of it. It took all the steam out of me, as I had been talking to him not long before, and you don't know how I miss him. We had got like two brothers since we had been out here, and he was one of the best pals anybody could have, and there was not a better soldier in all France than Jim. They keep picking us out. I have had some very near shaves, but have been very lucky up to now. At the rate they are going on there will soon be none left of the old*



**Private J. Haywood.**

*hands who came out with us. I can't go into details of his death in this letter, but I expect coming over on leave if I have the luck and then I will tell you all about it. But one thing I can tell you and that is he was doing his duty, and I can only say one thing more – I have lost my best pal. Hoping you are all well under these trying circumstances, I remain, your old friend, Jason Wallace, 13178, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, B. Co. B.E.F. France.”*

The man named Cartwright referred to in the letter as also having died is an Ellistown soldier, but this has not been confirmed. Another letter as to the death of Private Haywood, has been received by Mr P. Bird, of Coalville, his uncle, from the latter's son (cousin of the deceased) also with the army in France. Bird states that Haywood was buried with every token of respect in the soldiers' cemetery on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Since receiving the above, Mr and Mrs Haywood have also received letters from the deceased's officers.

Captain T. E. Breacher writes expressing sympathy with the parents on the death of their son, killed by a German rifle grenade, on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and continues, *“He was a battalion grenadier, and has been under my command since September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915. Always a conscientious worker, nothing I ever*

*set him to do was too much for him. At the end of a hard day's work, when volunteers were called for to work the machines etc., which throw grenades into the enemy trenches; he was always amongst the first of the men to come forward. As the result of his death, I have lost one of my best grenadiers but it may please you to know that he died – like many others have done – doing his duty.”*

Lieutenant E. S. Allen, also expresses sympathy in a letter, which continues, *“As his platoon officer for a year I knew him well and there was no better soldier in the platoon. Out here he joined the battalion bombers, and became one of the best of them. I can assure you that I, personally, and the rest of his comrades of No. 7 platoon feel his loss keenly. He himself can have had no pain, his death being instantaneous. He was struck, as you probably know, by a rifle grenade, whilst doing his duty. There is no more to be said.”*

Private Haywood was a single man, 32 years of age, and before the war worked at the Ellistown Colliery, where his father is also employed. He enlisted in September, 1914, and had been several months at the front. Mr and Mrs Haywood have two other sons serving in the army.

#### **D.C.M. FOR ELLISTOWN SOLDIER**

#### **SON OF THE COLLIERY MANAGER**

The recent list of awards of the Distinguished Conduct Medal included the name of an Ellistown soldier, Lance-Corporal (now Corporal) Jabez Emmerson, one of the two soldier sons of Mr A. B. Emmerson, manager of the Ellistown Colliery.

Corporal J. Emmerson is in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, and was one of the noted first fifty to leave Coalville. The incident which gained for him a certificate of merit and subsequently the D.C.M., has already been recorded in our columns, but is worth repeating. It will be remembered that in July last a Measham





soldier named Starbuck, Emmerson, and two others were engaged in sapping operations when they came upon a German mine laid ready for exploding. They promptly severed the connecting wire, and then removed the 4,000 lbs of explosives which were ready to be charged, thus, in all probability, saving many lives.

A piece of the wire and other small parts of the apparatus connected with the German mine, have been sent home to Corporal Emmerson, and are now in the possession of his parents. The elder brother of the gallant corporal – Lance-Corporal W. H. Emmerson – was also one of the Coalville 50, having resigned his position as surveyor at the Swanwick Collieries, Derbyshire, in order to join his brother in the services of their King and country. From the time of leaving Coalville in October, 1914, until recently, the two brothers and W. Handford, of Coalville, another of the 50, have kept together, except when the two Emmersons, on account of their special mining knowledge, have been engaged in tunnelling operations. The services rendered by the soldiers in the incident referred to were brought to the notice of the military authorities by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Joseph Emmerson, of Bagworth. They were together in the charge in which the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters suffered so severely on October 13<sup>th</sup> last, since which date, Lieutenant J. Emmerson, we very much regret to state, has been missing.

Soon after the charge on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Lance-Corporal W. H. Emmerson became ill, and was sent into hospital, where he was operated upon for appendicitis. He was invalided home, and was at Cambridge Hospital until last week, when he visited Ellistown on a few days' leave. He returned to his military duties on Tuesday. Corporal Emmerson, with others of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, recently left Marseilles, on a sea voyage to an unknown destination.

## **ELLISTOWN SOLDIER WOUNDED**

### **HIS RIGHT LEG AMPUTATED**



In our last issue reference was made to the kindness of the Ellistown Vicar in handing his Easter offering to Lance-Corporal J. Clarke, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, who had been wounded in the war. As a youth Clarke was an altar-server at the church. He is the eldest son of Mr Wm. Clarke, formerly a miner, who was disable 10 years ago by an accident in the Ibstock pit, and now resides at Whitehill, Ellistown.

Lance-Corporal Clarke, who is 26 years of age, had been in the Army 5 ½ years when war broke out, and was then in India. He formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery. He went to France with the Indian Expeditionary Force in October, 1914, and went unscathed through the great charge at Neuve Chapelle, being with Corporal Jack Sheffield and Private Owen Hallam, two of the brave fellows who fell on that memorable occasion, just before they received their mortal wounds. It was in the comparative quiet of the following day, March 11<sup>th</sup> that Clarke was shot. He carried out an order to go and examine a Maxim gun and was in the act of getting over the parapet into the trenches again when he was picked out by a German sniper, and shot through both legs. His right leg was subsequently amputated on account of the wound.

## **Friday February 11<sup>th</sup> 1916 (Issue 1249)**

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### **ASHBY MAGISTRATES AND THE AIR RAID**

#### **WHY THE PUBLIC WERE NOT WARNED**

No damage was done at Ashby in the recent enemy air raid, but at the Police Court on Saturday, the chairman (the Rev. C. T. Moore) said the Bench desired to know whether any information of the raid was issued to the police.

Supt. Lockton: At 6.30 we heard that they had been seen over England.

The Chairman: Was any intimation sent out by the police authorities to the inhabitants of the town?

Supt. Lockton: Not until we knew they had got over the Midlands, then we went out and saw that the lights were put down.

The Chairman: The point is, how is it that information was not given to the inhabitants?

Supt. Lockton: It was sent to me at 6.30 and I was to await further instructions. It was given to keep us alive to the thing.

The Chairman: When did you get those further instructions?

Supt. Lockton: I did not get them till after we had been round and they were bombarding \_\_\_\_\_ (naming a town some miles away).

The Chairman: Did the intimation you had come from the Chief Constable?

Supt. Lockton: Yes. I had a similar intimation three months ago, and when I went round then I was jeered at. The people said I was off my head to think that they would come as far inland as that. I went round in a motor-car to let them know, and I was pooh poohed.

Mr Shields, (one of the magistrates) suggested that it was a matter for the military authorities. Supt. Lockton said he had no power to order anyone to put a light out. They could do just as they liked and laugh at him.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS**

#### **INTERESTING REPORT**

#### **THE COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS CADET CORPS**

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Associations was held on Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1916, at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester. The Earl of Gainsborough, vice-chairman, was in the chair. Captain Serjeantson read the report of the Emergency Committee as follows:

Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee, the Emergency Committee has only met on a few occasions. – Further details of the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt have been received, and your committee greatly regrets to report that Captain L. Corah, at first reported missing, has since been notified as having been killed in the attack. – A long list of names has been published in the London Gazette, of officers and men mentioned by Sir John French in his dispatch of the 15<sup>th</sup> October, and amongst them are the following officers and men of units administered by the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Associations.

Leicestershire Yeomanry

Major W. F. Martin (killed), Major W. F. Ricardo, Lieut. W. S. F. Johnson, Quarter-master and Hon. Capt. J. Crowley, No. 1062 Squad Sergeant-Major Swain.

Leicestershire Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Lieut.-Colonel R. E. Martin, Major J. E. Vickers (headquarters staff), Major B. F. Newill, Second-lieutenant J. Emerson, No. 2660 Private B. S. Alexander, No. 2455 Pte. A. E. Lowes.

Leicestershire Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Lieut-Colonel C. H. Jones, Major W. S. N. Toller, Major and Adjutant W. T. Bromfield, Captain E. G. Langdale (killed), Lieutenant A. G. de A. Moore, Captain C. H. F. Woolaston, No. 2086 Lance-Corporal W. Fisher.

North Midland Field Ambulance

Major J. C. S. Burkitt.

Since then His Majesty the King has conferred the following honours on members of the Territorial Force in the Gazette of the 12<sup>th</sup> January – C.M.G., Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Jones; Lieutenant-Colonel R. E. Martin, D.S.O., Major W. S. N. Toller. Military Cross, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, G. G. Moore, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment; 1062 S. S. M. H. A. Swain, Leicestershire Yeomanry. Brevet, Quarter-Master and Hon. Captain J. Crowley to be Hon. Major. D.C.M., 2352 Lance-Corporal Emerson, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment; 3354 Private A. W. Healey, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment; 2579 Private C. Hurley, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, 2310 Private A. Parker, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, 4440 Acting Sergeant-Major R. E. Small, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Class R, Red Cross, Miss C. E. Vincent, 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital.

Your committee has not much news of the doings of the Territorial units since the last meeting of the Joint Committee. The position of the second line units remains much the same as in the last report, except in so far as they are affected by the calling up of the first groups under Lord Derby's scheme, which is noted later in this report.

Your committee has to report that the command of the 177<sup>th</sup> Brigade, a brigade of the second line North Midland Division to which the 2/4<sup>th</sup> and 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiments belong, has been given to Brigadier-General C. G. Blackader, D.S.O., A.D.C., lately commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment. Your committee especially notes and welcomes this appointment as bringing the Territorial still more into touch with the Regular units of the county regiment.

During the last quarter the number of recruits enlisting into the Territorial units has been very few, but this is due, partly to the fact that the only units open for enlistment have been the two infantry battalions, but more especially because the enlistment into groups under Lord Derby's scheme has been in operation, and has very considerably reduced the number of direct enlistments.

The first groups to be called up under this scheme came up on the 20<sup>th</sup> January, and the first recruits were apportioned to the second line Territorial infantry. These recruits, after being medically examined and approved by the military authorities at Glen Parva Barracks were passed on in batches to the administrative centres of the battalions at Leicester and Loughborough to be clothed and equipped before being sent off to the second line battalions.

Since the last report of the Emergency Committee the chief work carried out in connection with the Base Hospital has been the heating of the nurses' quarters. This was a matter of such urgency that your committee took the responsibility of putting the work in hand, and then applying for sanction which has since been granted. Early in December, the hospital was visited by Colonel Yolland, on behalf of the War Office, and that officer reported at some length on the general planning and enlargement of the hospital. In the report appeared the following paragraph:

*"This hospital generally seems to have been well and economically enlarged at a cost of £15/10/0 per bed." And "It was noticed that the fittings for the new buildings were generally quite economical ones," also, "the details of the shutters for open-air wards seemed quite successful and an improvement on any I have yet seen, though of course it remains to be seen how they will stand wear and tear."*

It is understood that it is the intention of the War Office to further enlarge the Base Hospital by about 520 beds, and that this work will be carried out by the Barrack Constructions Department. The work of the Separation Allowance Office continues to grow, and the calling up of the groups under Lord Derby's scheme will still further increase the numbers to be paid. Your committee regrets that since the last report four cases of fraud in connection with claims for dependants' allowances have arisen. In the prosecution which followed, convictions were obtained in every case. One or two more cases are still pending.

A copy of two balance sheets furnished by the County Director, Mr A. W. Faire, in connection with the conveyance of the wounded from the station to the Base Hospital, and the provision of rest rooms at each of the two big stations in Leicester, have been received by the Association.

The following is an extract from the County Council Education Committee's report with reference to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Battalion Leicestershire Regiment:-

*"The Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet (Grammar Schools) Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, desires to thank those who have given donations to the Battalion fund for the purchase of instructional stores and appliances."*

The School Establishment Funds and the annual cadet subscriptions have proved sufficient for the provision of uniforms, and in some cases also for the making of small grants for officers' training. Consequently the annual grants provided by the local education authorities in the borough and county, together with the Battalion Fund above mentioned, are wholly available for instructional purposes.

The strength of the battalion is now 939. Owing to the short interval which has elapsed since the battalion was officially recognised by the War Office (19<sup>th</sup> May, 1915), and owing to the fact that all boys enrolled are present pupils in the Grammar Schools of the Borough and County, the number of cadets who have so far become eligible for military service is not large. Twenty-one have either joined the forces or have gone to Military Schools directly from the battalion, including five who have received commissions at once, and two who have entered Woolwich and Sandhurst respectively. During the ensuing year the battalion should provide a reasonable number of cadets who will be suitable for further training as officers.

In addition to the cadets above mentioned, the following cadet officers have also received commissions in the army:-

C. J. Knight, Melton Mowbray Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. South Staffs; R. M. Carr, Hinckley Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 11<sup>th</sup> Lincs; F. C. Andrews, Quorn Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 3/7<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters; P. Lidster, Quorn Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters; C. E. Condliffe, Market Bosworth Grammar School, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 4<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers.

The application to the War Office for recognition of a junior O.T.C. Battalion, referred to in your Committee's Report of November last, was in due course made by the Territorial Force Association of Leicestershire and Rutland. The Army Council, in their reply of December 8<sup>th</sup>, informed the Association that there are many questions to be dealt with collectively, and with due regard to the future policy of the Army Council towards the Officers' Training Corps in general, and that accordingly the opportunity for considering officers to furnish further contingents to the Junior Division of the Officers' Training Corps will not occur before the cessation of hostilities. In the meantime, the training will continue as hitherto on the O.T.C. lines, under Cadet Unit Regulations, the curriculum of Military Instruction being associated with the curriculum of the Grammar Schools, according to a scheme specially prepared for the county.

Further donations to the Battalion Fund are required and will be gratefully acknowledged by the hon. treasurer, Major Freer, 10, New Street, Leicester.

Major Freer said: *"In the absence of Colonel Harvey, and being chairman of this committee when the report was adopted, I beg to move its adoption. We all join in the great regret expressed as to the losses sustained in officers under the Territorial Association, and are very pleased at the honours received so worthily by those mentioned. I think the next thing I must refer to is the paragraph relating to the hospital. As you know, the nurses' buildings were erected under the management of this Association, but no arrangement was made for heating at all. We therefore consulted with Mr Pick and arranged for heating pipes to be carried through the nurses' quarters. That has been efficiently carried out under his supervision. We ventured to take the risk, and I am glad that a short time ago we obtained the sanction of the War Office. I think you will agree that we were justified in dealing with the matter as one of urgency, and risking being found fault with by the powers that be. As to that portion of the report that the War Office are going to enlarge the hospital by the addition of 520 beds, the chairman of the Association, Mr Dagleish, has had correspondence with the War Office on the subject. The War Office has given them instructions to do the work. The chairman wrote to York and the correspondence that we have received since that date shows that while declining to allow us to carry out the work of enlargement, they have conceded so much that the supervision and management of the hospital is to remain in the hands of the Association."*

*As to the Cadet Battalion, I moved that that part of the report be added, as Mr Brockington was reporting to the County Council at the meeting next Wednesday, and I thought the information would be useful to the members of this Association. I therefore obtained Mr Cope's permission to put it in. With regard to the funds of the honorary treasurer we have a considerable amount of expenditure to incur which cannot be obtained from the various subscriptions to the different schools. For instance, there is the apparatus for lecturing, shooting, and so on, which we provide from headquarters, and send round to the different schools. I shall be happy to answer any further questions, and I beg to move that the report be received and adopted."*

Major Rolleston seconded, and the report was adopted.

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### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Gunner Norton Williams, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, one of the two soldier sons of Mr and Mrs T. Williams, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, and formerly employed in the tailor's shop at the Coalville Co-Operative Society's stores, is at home this week on sick leave, having been in hospital with influenza. He enlisted several months ago and is still in training at a south coast resort. He is making excellent progress in his new duties, is associated with a splendid lot of fellows at the barracks, and so far has been very happy in his military life.

Inspector Dobney informs us that Coalville and district has now been placed under the Lighting Restriction Order, which calls upon residents of private houses as well as tradesmen and others to see that no light shows from their premises. Lights on motor cars, and other vehicles, are also to be subdued. When the matter was mentioned at Ashby Police Court, on Saturday, Superintendent Lockton said he had been laughed and jeered at when he had gone round to people and told them to subdue their lights. This, however, was before the new regulation had been applied to the district. The police will now be in a position to enforce it. But the public, we imagine, will readily comply with the order. Total darkness is recognised as the greatest safeguard against the German marauders.

Mrs J. W. Farmer, hon. treasurer of the Coalville and District Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild has received from Mrs Atkins, of Swannington, the sum of £3, for the funds of the Guild, being the balance from an effort made in the village to send Christmas boxes to the Swannington men serving in the forces. An accompanying letter from Mrs Atkins also expresses the thanks of the Swannington people for the comforts that Swannington boys have received from the Guild.

It looks as though the public will soon have to prepare themselves for smaller newspapers and to economise greatly in the use of paper generally. Since the war commenced, the cost of paper has gone up by leaps and bounds, making it a serious matter for newspaper proprietors. These difficulties will be increased in the near future, through the action of the Government in limiting, among other things, the quantity of the raw material (wood pulp) imported from abroad for the manufacture of paper, this being to liberate ships to carry the food of the people and munitions of war.

### **DO YOU KNOW THAT**

A large number of men left Coalville, on Wednesday morning, to join their groups under the Derby scheme?

The committee of the Queen's Head Inn vegetable show, Shepshed, have sent 100 parcels to Shepshed lads on active service, which contained 824 packets of cigarettes and packets of tobacco?

Pte. J. Gowdrige, of Hugglescote, on leave from France, related some of his experiences in the R.A.M.C. at the Coalville Men's Adult School, of which he is a member, on Sunday morning?

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### **MEMORIAL TO CARLTON OFFICER**

A brass tablet has been placed in the sanctuary at Carlton Parish Church in memory of Lieutenant Eric Compton Dougherty, who was killed at the Dardanelles on July 13<sup>th</sup> last. Lieutenant Dougherty, who

belonged to the Royal Marine Light Infantry, was the son of the rector, the Rev. J. A. Dougherty. He had been mentioned in a dispatch for gallantry in rendering assistance to his Colonel in the heat of an engagement.

### **WHITWICK MAJOR'S GALLANTRY**

#### **DR. BURKITT'S DEVOTION TO DUTY UNDER HEAVY FIRE**

The current issue of the "Whitwick Parish Magazine" contains the following:

*"It will interest all our parishioners to read the following letters received by Major Burkitt. The letters explain themselves.*

*'Leicestershire Yeomanry, B.E.F. France.*

*My Dear Doctor, I am only too delighted to send the enclosed for your information and retention. I fear it does not sufficiently meet what you ought to have, still, it is something in the right direction. I am pleased to have the honour of offering you the heartiest congratulations of everyone in the regiment, and to tell you how glad they are one and all to have the chance of doing so in such an honourable way. We all thoroughly appreciate the fact that you are one of the bravest and most gallant men we have had the honour of serving with, and our regret is that you are not with us still. However, in leaving your old regiment, you have left it with a most honourable memory, and have been one of the best in making the honourable name it now bears. We all wish you every good and kind wish for the future. – Yours ever.*

*Abbot Robinson.'*

*The enclosures referred to above are the following:*

*'Dear Robinson, G.O.C. Division has asked me to send round the accompanying list of officers and men of your unit whose names he has forwarded for recognition of good services rendered. He thinks that the officers and men mentioned would like to know that their names have been forwarded. – Yours sincerely.*

*Ed. Chas. Newham.'*

*On the list only two officers are named, of whom Major Burkitt is one. The remarks are as follows:*

*'Major J. C. S. Burkitt, R.A.M.C. displayed great gallantry and devotion to duty in attending to wounded under heavy fire near Ypres on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1915. Subsequently collected the wounded and took them to a place of safety.'*

*We too, heartily congratulate Major Burkitt on the fine reputation he has in the army. He was mentioned recently in Sir John French's despatches.*

*During January it has given us great pleasure to welcome at our services Sergt. A. R. Crane, R.A.M.C., Petty-Officer A. J. Wilson (Blandford), Private Harry Bonser and Private Horace Underwood, (Portsmouth). Letters were received last month from Private J. W. Brotherhood, Sergeant A. W. Hanson (France), Corporal Walter Adams (France), Mr Cecil Brown and Corporal R. P. Rice. We very heartily congratulate W. Adams on his promotion to be a full Corporal."*

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### **D.C.M. FOR COALVILLE SOLDIER**

#### **RESCUED THREE COMRADES**

#### **AND IS NOW WOUNDED IN HOSPITAL**

Information has been received by Mrs Collier, of 56, Melbourne Street, Coalville, that her husband, Sergeant E. J. Collier, No. 86523, of the 176<sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Co., Royal Engineers, has been awarded the D.C.M., but,

unfortunately, has been severely wounded and is now in hospital. The first intimation was conveyed in a letter from the Rev. C. J. Donaldson, chaplain, dated, January 21<sup>st</sup>, in which he states:

"I am glad to say that your husband, Sergeant Collier, continues to make a little progress and is doing well. He sends his love to all at home. He is going down to the base. As you will know, no doubt, that he has been awarded the D.C.M."

A letter, apparently from one of the nurses, signed by M. Leslie, and written on January 30<sup>th</sup> from the Lahore British General Hospital, Calais, advises Mrs Collier not to be alarmed at receiving a letter from a stranger, and continues: *"Your husband is not quite strong enough to write today. You know he expected to go to England on Sunday, but unfortunately, on Friday, he had haemorrhaged from his wounded arm, and his name was struck off the list for that boat. Late on Saturday evening, there was more bleeding, and he was taken to the operating theatre to have a vessel tied. He is quite favourable this morning (Sunday), but rather weak. In these cases, it is a rule to send a telegraph to the nearest relative, and I am anxious that this letter should reach you first. He is seriously ill, but we quite expect he will soon be able to travel home. We will keep you informed as to his condition until he can write himself. Will you write a nice cheery letter to him. I am sure it will help him a great deal."*

This was followed by a telegram:

*"Regret to inform you officer commanding Lahore British General Hospital, Calais, reports 86523, Sergeant E. Collier, dangerously ill from gunshot wound in left elbow. Regret permission to visit cannot be granted."*

Another letter from the regimental chaplain, the Rev. J. H. Nicholls, dated February 1<sup>st</sup>, stated, *"Your husband is now going on very well. I trust he will soon be able to come home to England. His case was somewhat anxious, but now he seems much better, and is going on alright. I trust the improvement will continue. He is very bright, and is getting every care and skill."*

A telegram received from the hospital on Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., stated that Collier had been removed from the 'dangerously ill' list, and on Monday morning last, Mrs Collier received a postcard from her husband, stating that he had arrived in England, and had been admitted to the Lincoln Hospital.

A companion of Collier, Private Upton, of Highfields Street, Coalville, who is in the same company, has been home on leave, returning on Saturday, and he informed the sergeant's relatives that the incident for which he was awarded the D.C.M. was the rescue of three comrades when the Germans had exploded a mine.

Sergeant Collier, before the war, worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He has seven children. Formerly, for some years, he was the hon. secretary of the old Coalville Excelsior Football Club. Many friends will congratulate him upon the honour conferred upon him, and wish him a speedy recovery.

## **TWO COALVILLE SOLDIERS KILLED**

News was officially received on Wednesday that two Coalville soldiers had been killed in action at the Persian Gulf on January 13<sup>th</sup>. They were Privates Stenson Hardy and Geo. Wilkinson, both of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters. Hardy was married and leaves a wife and child residing in Hotel Street, and Wilkinson was single, and before the war worked on the South Leicestershire Colliery bank. He lived with his father, Mr Jos. Wilkinson, an Urban Council roadman, of Margaret Street. Further details of these casualties and photos will appear in our next issue.

## **ELLISTOWN SOLDIER WOUNDED**

### **DOING WELL IN HOSPITAL**

We are pleased to hear that a rumour that Private Alf. Cartwright, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, had died from wounds is incorrect. The report was circulated through a statement in a letter from another soldier at the front, who apparently was under the impression that Cartwright had succumbed to his wounds.

The soldier's mother, who lives at Ibstock Road, Ellistown, informed us on Tuesday that her son had been severely wounded, but was now in hospital in England and was making good progress. Before the war

Cartwright was employed as a collier, and was a cornet-player in the Hugglescote Town Prize Band. His many friends will wish him a speedy recovery.

**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF ZEPPELIN RAID**

**AIR RAID ILLUSTRATIONS**

A bomb struck the centre of the house, completely demolishing it, and killing five of the inmates.

**OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF ZEPPELIN RAID.**



Four houses were partially demolished here: two people were killed – a man and a girl.





This is a picture of a mission hall which was completely wrecked by a bomb which struck the ground a few yards away. A lady who was addressing a religious meeting, and three members of the congregation were killed outright.



Photos by Walsham's Ltd, 60 Doughty Street, W.C.

*Note: A further report appeared on the front page of the February 25<sup>th</sup> edition. For completion, that article is reported here. (See also the notes at the end of this month's articles).*

### **ECHOES OF THE GREAT RAID**

#### **TRAGIC INQUEST STORIES IN THE MIDLANDS**

The resumed inquest was held on Monday in a Midlands town on the bodies of 14 persons – two men, five women, three boys and four girls – who met their deaths on the night of the air raid on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Two of the women and two of the girls were killed outright in a mission room upon which a bomb fell, and the third woman died later. The killed included a lady missionary, the wife of a clergyman and a daughter of a well-known colonial Governor.

In the case of the mission room victims, evidence was given by the vicar, who deposed that on the night of the raid the last service of a ten days' mission was being conducted. The explosion occurred at 8.30 and he was struck by a piece of bomb. The lady, who was preaching at the time, was killed instantly, also three members of the audience. Witness first turned off the light and then helped the people out. One curious effect of the explosion was to blow off the door of the electric light switchboard in the church and all the lights were thereby turned on. They were extinguished without delay.

The husband of another victim stated that he was sitting in the meeting by the side of his wife. In the rush after the explosion, he and his wife became separated. Later he found her injured in a neighbouring house, and she died on the Thursday following.

The Coroner next dealt with deaths which occurred in the cottage property. Concerning that of a schoolgirl, aged 10, it was stated that the mother and her children were in the kitchen when they heard a terrible explosion from a bomb, which fell in the back garden and wrecked the rear portion of the house. All the children were injured, and one so seriously that she expired the next day.

The widow of a man killed in an adjoining house, the back portion of which was also wrecked, testified that on hearing the explosion, went into the garden, and later she found him lying dead on the ground, killed by a second bomb, which demolished the house. She had just turned on the light when the explosion occurred.

Other evidence showed that a factory girl was killed as she was leaving a friend's house. The husband of another victim returned to find his home blown to pieces, with his wife and child buried in the ruins. Calling his wife by name, she answered, and having located the spot, he, with help, got her out alive, but his children when reached, were dead, as was also a young lady visitor.

It was shown that a railway labourer with several others after seeking shelter in various places, and finally crouching under a loading dock, was killed, and three others injured. The next case had reference to a man killed when playing billiards in a saloon which was partially wrecked, and in which were 50 people. In another it was shown that a mother and her little girl were passing along the street when an exploding bomb killed the child and a piece of shrapnel went clean through the hat which the woman was wearing – she herself was uninjured.

The verdict was "*Death from injuries caused by explosive bombs dropped from enemy aircraft.*" The jury added a rider that the delay occurred in carrying out necessary precautions in the lighting department.

#### **SHEPSHED**

Mrs Hinchcliffe, widow, Queen Street, Shepshed, has received information that her son, Private Alfred Hinchcliffe, (13989) was killed during a bombardment in France on Friday last. Private Hinchcliffe joined Lord Kitchener's Army about a month after the outbreak of the war and went to France about July last. He was not quite 21 years of age. Previous to joining the colours, deceased was employed at the Loughborough Falcon Works.

Co.-Sergeant-Major J. Whitworth, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Notts and Derbys Regiment, has been awarded the D.C.M. for gallant service in the field in the Dardanelles on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He volunteered to carry Capt. T. B. Black, "A" Co., 9<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters, back from where he fell on the morning of August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He is a son of Mr John Whitworth, who resides at Sparrow Hill, Shepshed.

#### **IBSTOCK PARISH CHURCH**

On account of the recent raids, the rector (Rev. S. Flood) has decided to hold the Sunday services at Ibstock Parish Church, on Sunday morning and afternoon, instead of Sunday evening, and this arrangement was acted upon for the first time on Sunday last. There was a good attendance in the afternoon, and in the course of the sermon, the rector referred in comforting terms to the Zeppelin outrage, and said it was against all civilised rules of warfare.

#### **AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS**

The various places of worship at Ibstock have decided to hold their evening services at an earlier hour, and have also darkened the windows, in accordance with the usual safeguards adopted by the shopkeepers.

#### **WHITWICK MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A memorial service for Pte. Whittaker, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, was held in the Holy Cross Church on Sunday evening, conducted by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. There was a large congregation which included the Whitwick and Thringstone boy scouts, and members of the Citizen Corps, under Commander G. F. Burton, also representatives of the Coalville Corps. The National Anthem was sung and the organist played the Dead March, while the "Last Post" was also sounded by one of the buglers of the boy scouts, the service being an impressive character.

**Friday February 18<sup>th</sup> 1916 (Issue 1250)**

## LOCAL CASUALTIES

### LOSSES OF LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Reported from Mesopotamia under various dates:-

#### KILLED 2<sup>ND</sup> LEICESTERS

Attewell 18516 A.; Ayre 17183 P.B.; Bacon 17295 E.; Bailey 17391 A. Ball 17273 A.; Barsby 17234 E.; Baxter 11060 L.; Beaver 12307 A.; Bentley 17494 C.T.; Booker 10753 H.; Boughton 16580 J.; Burgess 19207 L-Cpl. G. W.; Chaplin 6940 L-Cpl. S.; Commander 3257 G.; Crompton 17733 W.; Cooper 17188 A. W. R.; Copley 8312 J.; Curd 17744 W.; Demott 11974 J.; Fall 10834 W.; Gibbins 9829 J. H.; Goodey 8492 W. G.; Gregory 18360 W.; Hall 17648 G.; Hartwell 7362 Cpl. G. E.; Hay 19242 J. G.; Hewer 7619 W.; Hougham 7633 Cpl. P.; Hunt 11374 E. H.; James 13297 Cpl. W. H.; Lambert 20266 F.; Landon 12089 F. W.; Matthews 17830 G.; Merrick 17605 B.; Monument 18887 W.; Moss 17442 G.; Myatt 18108 J.; Notman 19175 R.; Perry 16605 W. E.; Perkins 17048 H.; Patye 8973 F. A.; Regan 9450 E. J.; Reynolds 16192 G.; Rosling 16770 R.; Shorthus 7871 Cpl. W.; Smith 8218 L-Cpl. J.; Stenson 18129 B.; Storell 11587 C. W.; Stubley 6639 W.; Wall 9035 W. A.; Walton 9890 H.; Ward 17895 W.; Wright 12937 W.

#### DIED OF WOUNDS 2<sup>ND</sup> LEICESTERS

Beeby 9556 L-Cpl. F.; Benstead 10958 L-Cpl. G.; Brooks 9824 A.; Chambers 8376 C.; Smith 20225 G.; Spencer 5730 L.; Wedge 16522 E.

#### WOUNDED 2<sup>ND</sup> LEICESTERS

Balding 5672 L-Cpl. J.; Ball 12141 W.; Ball 18435 W. E.; Ballard 8213 A.; Barnes 18191 S.; Bassett 7965 J. A.; Beardmore 18046 E.; Bellas 11362 J. H.; Benton 9902 A. E.; Bill 6938 W. G.; Bolland 18141 C. O.; Bolesworth 16705 W.; Bradley 17396 F.; Brown 11508 A. E.; Brown 11255 B.; Brown 6461 A.; Brown 11853 F. W.; Carter 9514 H.; Clark 8734 J.; Cook 8409 L-Cpl. C.; Crisp 8738 H.; Darlison 17101 A.; Diamond 8953 W.; Driver 17059 J. W.; Dyer 10172 W.; Evans 9083 Sgt. J. W.; Farnell 18132 E.; Farnsworth 11504 F.; Ellis 11705 R. W.; Fleming 19038 A.; Fozzard 19037 F.; Ford 4208 W.; Ford 18595 A. H.; Freeman 10254 B.; Galloway 11868 W.; Gamble 9877 G. H.; Goodwin 8635 Sgt. W.; Green 17578 P.; Greet 18158 H.; Gregory 17892 C.; Gimmill 12191 J.; Hall 18059 J.; Hankers 8876 L-Sgt. F.; Harris 9421 L-Cpl. P. T.; Harrison 16360 J.; Harold 17832 D. A.; Heath 10279 G. W.; Herbert 7504 Co-QMS. C. P.; Holmes 9933 A.; Howe 12075 E.; Hudson 9273 E.; Hughes 17819 J.; Hunt 18196 J.; Illston 16431 J.; Ingram 11545 J.; Jarvis 15451 A.; Jones 15839 S. P.; Jones 10076 R.; Johnson 17527 A. E.; Johnson 17870 A.; Kurfoot 19251 S.; Leathborough 8337 E. W.; Lewis 7920 T.; Limb 12435 M.; Lord 8258 Sgt. A.; Lyons 5767 Co-Sgt-Maj. J.; McDonald 19166 L-Cpl. F. W.; March 17672 C. E.; Marland 17074 E.; Mason 18063 C.; Mayes 18362 E.; Noon 17549 A.; Norman 8180 L-Cpl. T. A.; Osborne 9535 L-Cpl. A.; Palmer 8144 D.; Packwood 12793 T.; Parlmer 9577 A. S.; Pegg 19869 G.; Perry 11638 W.; Phillips 6043 A.; Pickering 5958 G.; Plumb 12125 Cpl. F. W.; Powell 17352 L-Cpl. N.; Powell 9906 C. W.; Prime 11432 L-Cpl. C.; Pyne 8014 Sgt. W.; Rock 20432 A.; Richards 19182 F. L.; Riley 17342 T.; Robinson 7905 J.; Rugg 11549 W. J. S.; Sharman 11379 R.; Shaw 18027 R.; Simms 17335 W.; Simpson 17711 W.; Smart 7971 E. S.; Smith 15948 W. L.; Smith 6235 P.; Stafford 18361 W.; Staley 18116 J.; Storey 9186 S.; Thatcher 9822 W. C.; Tingle 11405 E. A.; Titmus 17654 A. G.; Tovey 12000 E.; Toseland 11794 J.; Towers 9532 E.; Townsend 18085 S.; Travers 6397 S.; Tysoe 20061 E.; Vials 16328 W. C.; Veoght 11721 A.; Wardle 17362 H.; Waring 16488 B.; Waring 7911 W.; Warsop 17644 L.; Wilks 18505 A.; Williams 8730 E.; Wilson 9924 H.; Wood 17535 W.; Wright 20441 D.; Wright 12535 W.; Wright 6428 W.

## LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Private Haywood, late manager of the Olympia, paid a visit to Coalville for the weekend, being on sick leave after inoculation. He has joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and is in a large camp training in the South of England.

Mr and Mrs T. Williams, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, have received an intimation from the War Office that one of their two soldier sons, Sergeant L. A. Williams, is in hospital in Greece, suffering from pyrexia. Sergeant Williams is in the Royal Warwickshire Regt., and before the war was in the Coventry City Police Force.

The Coalville Urban Council has issued a notice to the public in connection with possible air-raids, stating that with a view to safeguarding the district immediately on receipt of information of hostile aircraft approaching the Midlands, warning will be given by five blasts on Messrs. Stableford's and the South Leicestershire Colliery Co.'s hooters, 2 short, 1 long, and 2 short. On this signal being given, the public are instructed to take steps promptly to prevent the slightest ray of light issuing from any part of their premises, and conform strictly to police regulations. Particular attention must be paid to any skylight or glass roof. To accustom the public to the signal it will be given at 5.15 pm on each Monday in February, commencing February 14<sup>th</sup>. At any other time it must be understood to be a warning of aircraft approaching. The public are reminded that the majority of personal injuries arising from these raids have been sustained by persons in the streets. Further, that the safest position to assume in the event of getting into a danger zone is to lie down perfectly flat on the ground.

### **DO YOU KNOW THAT**

A requiem service will be held in the Whitwick Holy Cross Church, on Sunday next, for Private E. Hunt at 3 pm?

For the first time for many years none of the church bells in Leicester were rung for evening service on Sunday?

Joe Lees, who is on his last leave before proceeding to the Front, will play for Coalville Swifts on Saturday next, against Burton Workers' Union?

Mrs Baldwin, hon. secretary of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild, acknowledges the receipt of 42 packets of cigarettes and 93 loose, from the Engineer's Arms, Coalville?

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### **LEICESTER SOLDIER FAMILY**

Private C. B. Goodwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs Goodwin, 78, Woodgate, Leicester, who was wounded in the Persian Gulf operations on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, is one of six brothers serving with the Colours, while a seventh, the eldest of the brotherhood, has attested, and is waiting for his group to be called up, and an eighth has been rejected.

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### **SIX SOLDIER SONS**

#### **LEICESTER FAMILY'S FINE RECORD**

Mrs E. Hall, 4 Bay Street, has fine sons serving with the colours, and the sixth son has attested, and is waiting to be called up. The sons with the colours served and are serving with the Leicestershire Regiment, save Thomas, who is now in the Notts and Derby Regiment. William, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, was killed on the Tigris on the 19<sup>th</sup> December last. Harry, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, is now a prisoner of war in Germany; Thomas and George, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup>, were both wounded at Richebourg on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1914 and Thomas has since been transferred to the Sherwood Foresters. Shirley, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, has not yet left for the front, and Fred has attested under Lord Derby's scheme.

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### **HOW A COALVILLE SOLDIER WON THE D.C.M.**

## INTERESTING LETTER FROM SERGT. E. COLLIER

Writing from No. 3, A Ward, 4<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital, Lincoln, Sergt. E. Collier, D.C.M., of the Royal Engineers, formerly a miner at the South Leicestershire Colliery, whose wife and seven children reside in Melbourne Street, Coalville, states that he was pleased to receive a copy of last week's "Coalville Times" sent on to him there, and containing his photograph and a short account of how he won the D.C.M. He points out that Sapper Upton, of his company, was apparently under a misapprehension in stating that the honour was awarded him (Collier) for rescuing three comrades. For his action in connection with the latter incident he has been recommended for further recognition by an artillery officer who saw him perform the deed.

Collier continues: *"At the time I did not know that anyone had seen me, but I had got two men into safety and found the third man was too heavy for me, when this officer came, I don't know where from, and gave me a lift. He then took my name and number and also the company I belong to and he told me that he should recommend me for my gallant deed. I have been told, since I have been wounded, that the same officer has written to my officer about it. I will now try and explain to you how I won the D.C.M. We had been mining on the front line for a considerable time and had got under a good way when I heard the Boches at work. What they were doing I could not tell for a time, but later on I found out that they were getting ready for a charge against us, so I reported it to my officers and they came to listen. They were of the same mind and asked me what should be done. I replied that all we could do was charge against them and the officers gave consent. I started to lay my charge and I am pleased to tell you that we beat them at their own game. We blew our mine up and blew theirs up at the same time. My officer was that pleased with the blow that he told me he should give me all the credit for the charge. He was a man of his word and that is the truth how I won my D.C.M. I might also say that I had been recommended twice before in dispatches, for gallantry, so I think that as a man of 40 years of age with a family. I have done my bit for King and Country if I do no more. I should like to say to the single young men of Coalville, if there are any who have not yet made up their minds, to do so at once, and come and do their bit. Never let it be said that one single young man of Coalville had to be made to do his share. I am pleased to say that I am steadily improving and hope to be soon at home again."*

## PRESENTATION TO SWANNINGTON SOLDIER

### TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL G. WALDEN

A farewell concert was held at the Corporal's Mess, R.A.M.C. Depot, Aldershot, in honour of Corporal G. Walden, Royal Army Medical Corps, who was leaving after thirteen years' splendid service in the corps. As a soldier his record stands as an example to all, and as a comrade, he was everything to be desired, as the large numbers who attended the concert testified. In fact it may be said that if there were a few more "Walden's" in the army, there would be no need for compulsion.

At the conclusion of a very enjoyable evening, Corporal Walden was presented with a case of pipes and a tobacco pouch, by the members of the Corporals' Club, R.A.M.C., as a token of their esteem and as a desire to express their gratitude and appreciation of his services while acting as treasurer of the club and their admiration of his conduct as a comrade and a man. The intrinsic value of the presentation is not intended to adequately represent the total of its worth.

Corporal Walden is a Swannington man, and those who had the honour of being his comrade in the Corps wish to record with feelings of sincere regard, their unalterable good wishes for his future welfare, and trust that the years to come will hold for him a good store of health, happiness and prosperity.

Corporal G. Walden is the caretaker of the Ashby Rural District Council's isolation hospital at Swannington. He formerly served in the Northamptonshire Volunteers, and his total service amounts to upwards of 17 years, out of which



he spent a considerable time abroad. His first tour was to South Africa, where he was wounded in the left leg, and the second in 1903, when he proceeded to China, where he remained for three years. During the early part of that period he had a considerable amount of work amongst the highly infectious diseases which frequent that country generally (such as plague, sleeping sickness, smallpox etc). The latter part he spent assisting in the pathological and bacteriological laboratory at Hong Kong. He returned home in January 1907. In November, the same year, he had another trip out East, and landed at Singapore a little before Christmas, where he remained until October, 1910. During his stay there he was doing nursing duties in the military hospital. The latter part of his service he spent in home hospital. His experiences while abroad were many and varied.

## FOUR COALVILLE SOLDIERS KILLED

### 2<sup>ND</sup> LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENTS LOSSES AT THE PERSIAN GULF

We regret to learn that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, which was so prominent, and suffered heavily in the battle of Neuve Chapelle, and at Loos, has sustained further heavy casualties in the fighting at the Persian Gulf, and among the number officially reported killed, so far as we have been able to ascertain upto the present, are four Coalville soldiers. They are Privates S. Hardy, Hotel Street, E. H. Hunt, Victoria Road, and G. Wilkinson and J. Copley, both of Margaret Street. All belonged to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, and are reported to have been killed at the Persian Gulf during January.

Private George Wilkinson, was a single man, and resided with his parents at 28, Margaret Street, his father, Mr Joseph Wilkinson, being a roadman in the employ of the Coalville Urban District Council. The deceased had served 12 years in the army and for about two years had been working on the bank at the South Leicestershire Colliery, being called up as a reservist on the outbreak of the war. He reached his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday four days before he was killed, on January 13<sup>th</sup>. He was a good son to his aged parents, who naturally feel his loss very keenly.

Private Stenson Hardy leaves a widow and one child who reside in Tebbett's Yard, Hotel Street. The deceased soldier had returned from India (where he served several years with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Leicesters) only six months when war was declared, and he immediately re-joined as an army reservist. He was wounded when fighting in France, being shot through the jaw. After being granted an extended leave, he was ordered to Hull, where he was marker for some time at the rifle butts, and then was sent out with a draft to his battalion. He was about 28 years of age, and his youngest brother, James, is serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, whilst George Harry, his eldest brother, a former well-known racing cyclist, went to Australia, eight years ago. Private Hardy had only been married for nine weeks when he re-joined the army on the outbreak of the war, and much sympathy is felt for his young widow and child.

Also a single man, Private J. Copley, lived with his brother, Mr Wm. Copley, a miner, of 101, Margaret Street. He was killed on January 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>. Private Copley served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters in India for four years, embarking with his battalion for France on the outbreak of the war. He escaped being wounded but suffered for a lengthy period from malaria fever after a spell in the trenches. On recovering, he went to Egypt, and thence to the Persian Gulf, where he met his death, after eight years' service in the second battalion. Another brother, Harry, 23 years of age, who enlisted in the second battalion, has been missing since the 15<sup>th</sup> May last. He had been soldiering nearly five years, part of which time was spent in India, where he met his brother, John, (now reported killed) just before the war. John's last letter was dated 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1915, when he stated they were going to have "a packet at the Turks."

The sad news has just reached Mr and Mrs Hunt, of Victoria Road, Coalville, that their second son, Edward Henry, has been killed in action in the vicinity of the Tigris and the Persian Gulf. The Rev. J. Degan writes: "*Flavius Josephus the Jewish soldier-historian, declares that the Tigris, or as it is sometimes called, the Diglath, (which means narrow and rapid) was one of the four rivers which watered the Gardens of Eden, in the days of Adam and Eve. It will, doubtless, prove a little consoling to the relatives of those brave second Leicesters who have gone under in the recent fighting, with their forces, we may be sure, towards the enemy, to reflect that the mortal remains of their beloved ones rest in ground which is hallowed by its having been selected by God for the cradle of the human race, and the earthly paradise of our first parents.*"

Edward Hunt was born in Whitwick, but spent most of his life in Coalville. He was only 20 years of age. His great friend, George Bennett, was killed in action last year in France. Both lads, like many thousands of other

youths, left the comforts and solace of a good home, as soon as the dread news was proclaimed that war with all its horrors and terrors had broken out, and the liberty and safety of our empire were imperilled.

A special memorial service will be held at the Holy Cross Church, Whitwick, on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, at 3 pm, for the eternal repose of the soul of the late Edward Hunt. The Citizens' Corps have kindly consented to be present, and Father Degan will preach the panegyric.

### **FORMER COALVILLE POSTMAN KILLED**

The list of casualties among the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters at the Persian Gulf, contains the name of Corporal G. E. Hartwell, a Leicester postman who, before going to Leicester, was similarly engaged for about three years on the Forest Rock round at Coalville, and lodged with Mrs Parsons in Hotel Street, Coalville. He re-joined the army as a reservist on the outbreak of war with a friend, Private Sten Hardy, another Coalville soldier also reported killed. Corporal Hartwell was married, and his wife resides in Leicester.

### **COPT OAK SOLDIER KILLED**

Private Alec Howard Mason, aged 19, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, has been killed in action. Pte. Chamberlain writes to the relatives: "All comrades and myself feel his departure from us keenly. He was such a good and faithful comrade, always willing to do anything. He is the second ringer at the Parish Church to give his life for his country. A muffled peal was rung on Sunday to his memory. Mrs Mason has also received word that her brother has been admitted to hospital suffering from a bullet wound in the head.

### **HUGGLESCOTE GUARDSMAN KILLED**

#### **HIS BROTHER POSTED AS WOUNDED AND MISSING**

The death of Private Amos Elkin, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, was officially notified to his parents, Mr and Mrs H. C. Elkin, of 148, North Street, Hugglescote, on Tuesday. The letter, dated February 12<sup>th</sup>, was from the Regimental Orderly Room, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W., and stated that Elkin was killed in action overseas on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Accompanying it was a map, marked in ink, showing approximately the position of the grave in which the deceased soldier was interred. There was also a letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen. The bereaved parents have received a further letter from the Rev. A. S. Chindley, Church of England chaplain, No. 4 Field Ambulance, who wrote: *"I think you will like to have a line from me to tell you about your son. I expect you will already have received the sad news that he was killed in action while keeping sentry in the trenches on January 30<sup>th</sup>. I went round to see some of the men of his platoon, and also the sergeant-major of the company. They spoke very well of him as a keen friend, and good soldier. Indeed, that day he had volunteered to go out on a rather dangerous patrol between the lines, and would most certainly have gone had he not got killed. His death must, I think, have been a painless one, and he knew nothing after he had been hit. I buried him in what we call the Min Post cemetery, reserved for the British troops about 2,000 yards behind the firing line beside several of his gallant comrades in arms. The sergeant-major of the battalion and several of the men were present, and his body was carried to the grave side wrapped in the Union Jack, and the service conducted with simplicity but with reverence. Let me please offer you my most sincere sympathy. I hope that the thought that he has given his life for his country, and died a brave soldier's death, may help to comfort you in your great loss. His sacrifice, I hope, may win him a high place in the Kingdom of the God of Love, where it will be appreciated by our Saviour, who said, "Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." If you would like me to do so, later on, when it is possible for them to take a photograph, I will apply to the Graves Registration Commission, asking for a photograph for you."*

The deceased soldier, who is 21 years of age, joined the army on the outbreak of war in August, 1914, prior to which he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery. His father, Mr Herbert Chas. Elkin, is a miner employed at the Ibstock Colliery.

Mr and Mrs Elkin have one other son, also a soldier, Lance-Cpl. H. C. Elkin, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters. Unfortunately, he has been posted as wounded and missing since September 25<sup>th</sup> last. The last letter received from him was dated September 22<sup>nd</sup>, three days before the battle of Loos, in which he stated that

as they were expecting a big battle, his relatives need not send any parcels until he wrote again. He had previously served in the army, and is 20 years of age. Photos of the two brothers will be published in our next issue.

### **SWANNINGTON MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps, under Commander G. F. Burton, together with the Scouts, under Scoutmaster Armstrong, and the Swannington Scouts, on Sunday morning attended the memorial service at St. George's Church, where the Rev. G. Robinson, the vicar, preached a special sermon on patriotism and sympathy with the relatives of the fallen soldiers of his parish, viz., Privates J. A. Johnson, Wm. Wardle, Walter Shaw, Alfred Smith, and \_\_\_\_\_ Buckley. Citizen Company Sergeant-Major J. Lester read the first lesson, and Citizen O. Geary the second. Miss Atkins ably played the Dead March in "Saul," and two scouts sounded the "Last Post." Corporal Toon and Private Robinson, both soldiers on active service took the Citizens' salute on their return march.

## **Friday February 25<sup>th</sup> 1916 (Issue 1251)**

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#### **BOGUS SOLDIER AT LEICESTER**

At Leicester on Monday, Geo. Judkins, 51, labourer, of Evington, was charged with unlawfully wearing a military uniform on Sunday. P.C. Robey stated that he found defendant wearing a military tunic on which were the South African medal, with five bars, and the Imperial Service Medal. The man had been previously warned by witness about wearing the clothes, which he said he had bought. Defendant was remanded in order that the military authorities may be communicated with.

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#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WHITWICK**

##### **SERMON BY FATHER DEGEN**

On Sunday afternoon, at the Holy Cross Church, Whitwick, a memorial and requiem service was held in honour of the late Pte. Edward Hunt, of Victoria Road, Coalville, and formerly of Whitwick, who was recently killed in action in Mesopotamia. The first part of the service was conducted by Father O'Reilly and consisted of the penitential psalms, prayers and ceremonies customary at a Catholic funeral. The catafalque, which represented the coffin, was blessed with holy water and incensed. The Dead March in Saul was then played and afterwards two boy scouts stepped forward and sounded "The Last Post." The Whitwick Citizen Corps presented arms before the catafalque. This was followed by the hymn, "Oh, Paradise" in which the whole congregation joined, and which formed a joyful and dramatic contrast to the earlier note of lamentation and mourning predominant in the first part of the service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Degen, of St. Saviour's Church, Coalville, from the text, "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins." (2 Maccabees xii, 46). Father Degen spoke as follows: "*We are assembled here this afternoon for a two-fold purpose. First to render public homage to the memory of Edward Henry Hunt, who, like many hundreds of other young men from all parts of the Empire, has made the supreme sacrifice of his life in the cause of honour, justice, peace, freedom and patriotism. Secondly, by our united intercessions to obtain from God the hastening of that moment when the soul of our friend shall be admitted into the joy and happiness of the Beautiful Vision. It is fitting that the avowed we make of our respectful admiration of his heroic conduct should be as public and as solemn as possible. For he is our benefactor and we are his debtors. It was for your sakes and for my sake that he left the comforts and quiet of a happy house to sacrifice his life in the very spring-time of his youth, in the bloom and blossom of his age, during just that period of human existence when everything seems to be so full of charm and of sweetness. For the world does appear fascinating and entrancing, it does indeed wear a rosy and beautiful complexion to a youth of but 19 or 20 summers. Far more so than to those of more mature years, who have experienced*



some of these reverses and mischances of fortune, which disillusion the mind and damp the ardour of early youth. But to a young man, on the threshold of early manhood, everything appears to be smiling and gay, his path seems smooth and easy, sunny and bright, all flowers and but few thorns, full of hope and full of promise. The surrender of life just when life tastes sweetest, enhances the merit of the sacrifice made. Edward Hunt was born in Whitwick, he was baptised here, he made his first confession and first communion here, and here it was too that he was confirmed. Nevertheless, he spent most of his life in Coalville. He was a member of the Sanctuary Guild at St. Saviour's, both under Father Quilter and myself, and later enjoined the recreation circle of St. Francis de Sales. He bore a high character among all those who knew him, being pre-eminent for his generosity and sociability. He also adhered most faithfully to his religious duties, to Sunday Mass, and monthly holy communion. He was one of those whom I looked forward to as the hope of the future for the Catholic Church in Coalville. But he has run his course, he had fulfilled his task. His death on the battlefield is one more proof that where self-sacrifice is needed by the State in the cause of national honour, rights and liberties, Catholics are among the first to come forward and surrender, if need be, their last shilling and their last drop of blood. His death is one more proof that loyalty to the Pope, as the spiritual head of the Church, in no wise weakens or diminishes our allegiance to our King, the temporal sovereign of our dominions. Edward Hunt took part in several fierce battles in Flanders and Northern France, and on many occasions saw men falling thick around him in lifeless heaps upon the ground. He himself, however, was not even wounded. After a severe attack of pneumonia, he was invalided home, and four months ago was sent out to Egypt, whence he crossed more than one desert, and at length reached Nasiriya, an Arabian village on the Euphrates in Mesopotamia. With other men of the second Leicesters, he was sent forward on an expedition along a water course, the Shat-el-Hai, which leads to Kut-el-Amara, where General Townshend is besieged, and which connects the Euphrates with the Tigris. The object of this reconnaissance was to obtain information concerning the intentions of the nomadic Arab tribes. It appears that our men received from them assurances of neutrality and peacefulness. But on their return journey to give in their report, our men unsuspecting and confiding, were treacherously shot down by those same natives, who had previously pretended to be friendly.

To him whose memory we are honouring this afternoon we must express our unbounded indebtedness for the great sacrifice he has made in our defence of our rights and interests. Those of us who are Catholics know that we are not entirely bankrupt in the matter of rendering him some practical return for what he has done. By our prayers, communions, acts of mortification, in fact by any good notions whatsoever, we can ask Almighty God to hasten the moment when our benefactor will be admitted into everlasting bliss. We have every reason to believe that the sentence of the just has been pronounced upon him, but it may be that this sentence will be suspended, until his soul is cleansed of all the stains and imperfections which it may have contracted in its pilgrimage through this vale of tears. The words of my text are based on the principle of vicarious satisfaction. It is consoling to think that we are still united with the dead by the golden link of prayer. These waiting souls suffer patiently, sweetly and peacefully. It will also console the bereaved relatives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters to know that the mortal remains of their beloved ones lie buried in what was the Garden of Eden. In the second chapter of Genesis, the Tigris and Euphrates are expressly mentioned as flowing through the earthly paradise of our first parents. One final topic for consolation, and I have done. Death for those who die in a state of friendship with God, who die in the fulfilment of their duty is not a matter for sighs, tears and groans. 'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished for. Death under such circumstances can mean nothing else than the passage, sooner or later, to a happy immortality. It means the return of the soul to God, to whom it really belongs, and who alone can quench its thirst for complete and lasting happiness. Death to one who is just and righteous possesses nothing about it but what is eminently desirable. Why then this "solemn black?" Why "the fruitful river in the eye?" Why the "dejected behaviour of the visage?" Why all the "forms and moods and shows of grief," and all "the trappings and the suits of woe," when he, for whom we are praying, is not lost, but saved? If he, whom we love so dearly, is happy in the knowledge that the sentence of the just has been pronounced upon him, why should we lament and weep? Rather let us stifle our sighs and dry our tears and rejoice and be glad in the conviction that one more soul has been judged worthy by God of citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven."

The service closed with the Benediction. The mourners were Mr and Mrs Hunt, Mrs Williamson and family, and Mrs King and family. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity, the congregation consisting of quite as many non-Catholics as Catholics. Among the latter were noticed Mr and Mrs de Lisle from Garendon and Mr J. R. Bennett, of Coalville.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

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

#### One Hundred and Twenty 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.

**Gerald Stewart**

Captain, 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars, and **John Stewart**, Lieutenant, Royal Irish Guards, both killed in action. Only sons of Mr C. H. and Lady Mary Stewart, of Cliftonthorpe, Ashby.

**Fred Davis**

Private, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. Aged 26, single, formerly worked at South Leicestershire Colliery, and lived with his sister, Mrs Massey, late of 154, Ashby Road, Coalville.

**Edward Jarvis**

Private of the 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He formerly resided at 88, Hermitage Road, Whitwick, and worked at the Snibston Colliery.

**Harry Toon**

Private, 9<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was aged 20, formerly worked at Coleorton Colliery and lived at Griffydarn.

**C. H. Smith**

Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action in France, November 1915. His parents reside at Nottingham Road, Ashby.

**A Litherland**

Private, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France, November 1915. His home was at Chapel Yard, Ashby.

**Frederick Barttam**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) killed in action in France, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. An Osbastone man.

**W. Hadland**

Private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) died of wounds received in action in France, November, 1915. He was formerly employed on the Cadeby estate of Messrs. Scott and Brown.

**Joseph A. Hall**

Lance-Corporal in the 9<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He was a Whitwick collier, aged 22 years, and his wife and child reside at the Dumps.

**Charles W. Cook**

Private, 10<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Aged 22, an Ashby man.

**Robert Ashby**

Sapper of Royal Engineers, killed in action December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1915. A Battram man and former member of the Nailstone Colliery Rescue Party.

**L. G. Beck**

Corporal in the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1915. Late of Leicester and formerly of Park Road, Coalville, aged 27.

**Oliver Pratt**

Private, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, died on New Year's Day, 1916, from wounds received in action in France on December 27<sup>th</sup>. He was a collier at the South Leicestershire Colliery and resided at 5, Wilkins Lane, Hugglescote.

**J. W. Archer**

Of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He formerly lived at Hill Entry, Desford.

**A Lee**

Private, of the Royal Engineers, died of pneumonia. He belonged to Ulverscroft, Markfield.

**R. Cramp**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, January 1916. A Markfield man.

**George Spencer**

Private in the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, died while in training in Yorkshire, December 1915. Son of the late Mr Nat. Spencer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville.

**Alfred Bernard Smith**

Private of the Grenadier Guards, died January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1916, from wounds received in action in France the previous day. A former employee of Messrs. Stableford and Co., aged 19 years, of Main Street, Swannington.

**Stanley Samuel Snell**

Private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, posted wounded and missing in France, from September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1915, death officially confirmed January 12<sup>th</sup>. Had spent 5 years in the army, son of Mr S. Snell, of Snibstone.

**James Haywood**



Private in the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, January 1916. Formerly worked at Ellistown Colliery, aged 32, and lived at Donington-le-Heath.

**Eric Compton Dougherty**

Lieutenant, of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, killed at the Dardanelles on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Son of the Rector of Carlton.

**Thomas Sleath**

Private in the Leicestershire Regiment, died from wounds in hospital at Torquay, on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1915, and was buried with military honours at Hugglescote on November 20<sup>th</sup>. His wife and children reside at Coalville.

**Alec Howard Mason**

Private of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, February, 1916. Aged 19, a resident of Copt Oak.

**Stenson Hardy**

Private, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January, 1916. Lived in Hotel Street, Coalville, aged 28 and married.

**George Wilkinson**

Private, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Banksman at the South Leicestershire Colliery, and resided at Margaret Street, Coalville, single, aged 33.

**John Copley**

Private, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Lived in Margaret Street, Coalville.

**Edward Henry Hunt**

Private, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 1916. Aged 20, single. Lived in Pretoria Road, Coalville.

**G. E. Hartwell**

Corporal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 1916. A former Coalville postman.

**Amos Elkin**

Private in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Guards, killed in action January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Formerly a collier, single of 148, North Street, Coalville.

**James Thomas Bishop**

Company Sergeant-Major, of the Army Service Corps, died February 17<sup>th</sup> from illness contracted while on military duty. Formerly a collier, married, and resided in Crescent Road, Hugglescote.

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**LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The first meeting of the Coalville and District Tribunal under the Military Service Act was held in the Council Chambers on Monday night, and under the new rules, the proceedings were conducted in public, though none of the public were present, possibly because they were not aware of the fact. A representative of the "Coalville Times" however, attended, and in another part of this issue will be found a report of the applications for exemption. Several interesting points were raised and the publicity of the proceedings at the Tribunals in Coalville and District and throughout the country will doubtless help to clear away many doubts and difficulties which exist at the present time under the new legislation. There may, of course, be some details given to the tribunals concerning family affairs which applicants may desire to be heard in private, and in such cases a statement to that effect has to be made to the Tribunal. On Monday night, 18 applications for exemptions were dealt with in all, and nine succeeded, most of these being in reserved trades. It was pointed out, however, that the Tribunal has no power to grant total exemption to any man. Any sound man of military age is liable to be called on by his country at any time, if he is wanted. The tribunals can only defer this for the time being and if eventually the country should not want these deferred men, so much the better.

A notice is being issued by the Gas Department of the Coalville Urban District Council that in some towns which have been exposed to air raids, the military authorities had ordered the gas works to shut off the supply from the town. In the event of such a notice being given at Coalville, it would not be possible to warn the inhabitants beforehand. Therefore, if they should find the supply cut off some time they should at once see that all taps were turned off, so as to prevent any possibility of gas escaping into their rooms when the supply is turned on again at the works. It is added that if the supply is cut off at any time after sunset it will not, under any circumstances, be turned on again before 8 o'clock the following morning.

### **DO YOU KNOW THAT**

The Coalville Citizen Corps has decided to suspend the drills for the present?

The public are now at liberty to attend the meetings of the Military Tribunals?

On the authority of Lord Derby, men who reach their 41<sup>st</sup> birthday before being called up, whether under the Military Services Act or the Derby scheme, automatically become ineligible for military service?

Lieut. F. Scott, son of Mr W. V. Scott, Coalville East L. and N. W. Railway stationmaster, arrived home on Saturday on sick leave, after being in hospital through wounds received in action?

Mr Percy Stabler, of Highfields, Coalville, formerly manager of Worthington's Coalville branch shop and now of the 11<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment (Pioneers) has just been promoted to the rank of sergeant?

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### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

On Sunday evening last, Mr R. Briggs, of Nottingham, preached a special sermon to a fairly large congregation in the Coalville Unitarian Hall, and referred to Private Amos Elkin, who was killed in action overseas on the 30<sup>th</sup> January. He used to attend the services of the Unitarian Hall before the war, Mrs Elkin, the soldier's mother, being a member of the congregation. Mr Jones played the "Dead March" in "Saul," and the congregation sang "Beyond the smiling and the weeping."

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### **COALVILLE TRIBUNAL**

#### **FIRST MEETING IN PUBLIC**

#### **SEVERAL APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH**

#### **INTERESTING POINTS RAISED**

The first meeting of the newly constituted tribunal for Coalville and district to deal with applications under the Derby scheme and also the Military Service Act was held in the Council Chamber on Monday night.

Mr T. Y. Hay, J.P., presided, and there were present, Messrs. M. McCarthy, B. G. Hale, J.P., B. B. Drewett, A. Lockwood, C. W. Brown, J. W. Fisher, T. F. Fox, and L. Lovett, J.P., Mr G. J. German, with Mr K. Blower, represented the military authorities, and the clerk (Mr J. F. Jesson) with his assistant (Mr A. L. Bertenshaw) were also present.

In view of the new regulations which had been issued regarding tribunals, a representative of this paper attended the meeting. Some discussion ensued as to whether the powers of the reporter should be limited, and a resolution was moved and seconded that the Press be only allowed to publish the names of applicants and the result of the application, without going into details. The clerk said his idea was that they had to leave it to the discretion of the reporter, except certain cases that they might desire to take in committee. An amendment to this effect was moved and carried by a good majority.

The first case dealt with was an application by Mr T. B. Pickworth, draper, Coalville, on behalf of an employee, Mr John Hy. Downes, aged 29 years, single, described as a manager of furniture and general

stores. Exemption was claimed on the ground that the man was indispensable to the business. Applicant appeared, and stated that four of his men had already gone and Downes was the only man he had left. He had been with Mr Pickworth for five or six years. The application was refused.

The Highfields Weaving Co., Coalville, through Mr Josiah Kemp, applied for the exemption of Mr Charles Clutsom, of Quorn. He was in Group 11, and was stated to be on Government work. Clutsom also applied for himself and on behalf of Mr Wm. Griffin, weaving room overlocker, who had previously been postponed from Group 4 to Group 10.

Evidence was given both by Mr Kemp and Clutsom, showing that the firm were now working to the extent of 90 per cent on War Office contracts. Griffin was the only man who understood the looms, and it would be greatly inconvenient if he had to go, while if Clutsom went, the place would have to be closed absolutely.

Replying to Mr German, Clutsom said the contracts at present entered into with the War Office would carry them on until July. The question arose as to whether the Tribunal could grant total exemption to any applicant. Mr Blower said they could only grant total exemption under the Military Service Act, but not from military service.

Mr McCarthy said he thought they had power to make it absolute or they could do it partly. Mr Drewett said they were told in the instructions that they could make exemption absolute, conditional or temporary.

The clerk said that applied to the Military Service Act only. Notwithstanding the Tribunal's certificate, the military authorities could call on these men at any time. It put them in the position of starred men. They were exempt only until the military authorities thought they should not be starred.

Mr McCarthy: Does that apply to reserved trades – farmers, etc?

The clerk said it did.

Mr McCarthy: We should all have to go if it came to that, I should go myself if necessary.

The clerk: All up to military age.

The chairman: And they might extend the age?

The clerk: Yes.

The chairman: But we have not got there yet.

The clerk said he did not wish the Tribunal to give certificates to men and give the impression that they were totally exempt. It was decided to assent to the two applications.

The South Leicestershire Colliery Co. applied for the exemption of Mr Bertram Bott, aged 24, and single, of Oxford Street, Coalville, who is employed as colliery pay clerk. They claimed that he should be treated as a starred man and exempted altogether.

Mr W. Hurst, secretary of the company, said Bott was responsible for keeping complicated and intricate wage books. He had worked at the job for 7 years, and was in another of their offices before then for four and a half years. It would be impossible to replace him by an inexperienced person. If Bott was taken it would mean five clerks gone out of a staff of 15 clerks. He said he could not really spare the man or he would not apply. He had a son of his own at the front, and would not unnecessarily stand in the way of any young man going, knowing that men were wanted.

Mr German: Suppose this man died, I suppose you have someone in view to take his place?

Mr Hurst: I really have not.

Mr McCarthy: We can all be done without when the time comes.

Mr Hurst said he thought his firm would say that he was indispensable, but if he died someone else, of course, would have to do his work. It was decided not to assent to the application.

Mr Chas. Ern. Thompson, fruiterer, of Wilkin's Lane, Hugglescote, made a second application for exemption. He said he wanted the same chance as others employed at the same business. He protested against certain young men employed at the same trade being able to say that they were glad that he (Thompson) had to go, as they could then take his business.

It was remarked that another man in the same trade who had been exempted, was the only one, but Thompson had a younger brother. The application was disallowed.

Mr Walter Harrison Hemsley, boot and shoe maker, Hugglescote, applied for exemption on behalf of Mr Walter Rogers, his manager and repairer. Mr Hemsley said Rogers managed a branch shop in Highfields Street, which would have to be closed if he went. He (Hemsley) had recently lost another man through illness. The application was refused.

Messrs. J. Burgess and Son, elastic web factory, Coalville, through their manager, Mr J. W. Farmer, succeeded in an application for Mr Ernest Handford, described as a loom alterer. Mr Farmer said that if this man was taken away it would mean stoppage of some female labour. They had tried, unsuccessfully, to get a man over military age to do the work and they were now engaged on Government contracts. Out of 380 employees, there were only three eligible for the army. Exemption was granted temporarily – for 3 months.

The Coalville 'Bus and Garage Company applied for the exemption of Mr Robert Wortley, 'bus driver and mechanic, on the ground that he was indispensable for repairs. Wortley said that he was the only mechanic left in the employ of the company, and they had four 'buses and a private car. He asked whether a mistake was not made as to the group he was placed in. He was 27 years of age, and was put in Group 10 as a single man, but he was a widower with one child, and the sole support of his widowed mother.

The clerk said Wortley should have been treated as a married man. There was evidently a mistake. The case was adjourned for further enquiries.

Messrs. Coleman and Sons, ironmongers, of Coalville, applied for the exemption of Mr J. H. Percival, of London Road, Coalville, general repairer of agricultural implements, etc. Mr George Coleman said he was the only repairer they had left. The application was not allowed.

Messrs. E. T. Casson and Co., beer retailers and grocers, Coalville, applied for exemption of Mr Frank Casson, 29, on the ground that he managed machinery, gas and steam, and was general out-door manager. Mr E. T. Casson supporting the application, said he tried to get another man and failed. The taxes of the country would suffer if he lost his trade.

A member remarked: But the people pay the taxes.

Mr Casson: But we have to sell the beer first.

It was decided to put the case back a month.

Mr J. H. Underwood, baker, of Whitwick, applied on behalf of Robert Underwood, baker, saying he had tried to replace him by an older man and failed. This was assented to.

The Whitwick Colliery Co. requested the exemption of John Burton, aged 29, waggoner. Mr Hay (the chairman of the Tribunal) said they had about 120 horses to attend to and Burton was engaged in trussing hay, carting, etc. The claim was not allowed.

The application of Mr Edgar Gough, sen., butcher, for his son, also a butcher, was granted, and one by Mr H. Lager for James Ellis was adjourned.

The Tribunal assented to the application of Mr James Mander, farmer and milk seller, in respect of his only son, Mr Albert Mander, who assists in the business, and also exempted the Whitwick Colliery Co.'s head waggoner, Charles Rose.

Mr John Wm. Stevens, railway clerk, of Ashby Road, Hugglescote, applied for exemption on the ground that he supported his widowed mother, who was an invalid, and also his sister, and this was allowed.

The last case was that of Mr Arthur Willett, of Bardon Road, employed at the Ellistown Colliery, who said he had a widowed mother and three children dependant on him and his application was granted, it being remarked that he was entitled to be starred.

## DEATH OF CO. SGT.MJR BISHOP

### MILITARY FUNERAL AT HUGGLESCOTE

We regret to report the death of Company Sergeant-Major James Thomas Bishop, of the Army Service Corps, which occurred at his home in Crescent Road, Hugglescote, on Thursday evening, last week. The deceased had been stationed at Watford (Kent) for the past few months. Latterly he had complained of not feeling well, but he held on to his work until induced to apply for a short leave to visit his home. He arrived on Saturday night and was attended by Dr. Meredith. On Monday, he took to his bed having contracted pneumonia, and Dr. Blakesley, of Leicester was summoned, arriving just as the gallant soldier had passed away. Deceased, who was 27 years of age, leaves a widow and two children, four and three years of age respectively.

Company Sergeant-Major Bishop had served eight years in the Territorial Force, joining on the Territorial system being introduced, and at the outbreak of war was posted to his company. He was a keen soldier and his promotion was rapid. He ranked as a second-class warrant officer, and refused a commission. Before enlisting, Bishop was a miner at Ellistown Colliery. His father, the late Mr William Bishop, was a member of the old Hugglescote Band.

The funeral took place at Hugglescote Cemetery on Monday afternoon, when about two thousand people assembled to witness the interment accompanied by military honours. At many of the houses on the route to the church and cemetery blinds were drawn, there being every indication of the great respect in which the deceased was held by the residents and sympathy felt for the widow and two little ones.

The following were the chief mourners:- The widow and Mr Norris Bishop (brother), Mr W. Bishop and Miss Bishop (brother and sister), Mr G. Bishop and Mrs F. Smith (brother and sister), Miss Amy Bishop (sister) and Mrs Shackleton, (mother-in-law), Mr and Mrs F. Dent (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs Shackleton (brother-in-law and sister-in-law), Mrs N. Bishop, Mrs W. Bishop, Mrs G. Bishop, Mrs F. Smith and Sergeant and Mrs Holt. Messrs. G. Duffield and J. M. Sauders attended wearing the regalia of the Ancient Order of Foresters (Court St. John) of which the deceased was a member. A number of officers and staff non-commissioned officers of the Divisional Train of the Army Service Corps, in which deceased served, also followed to the grave, these being Capt. and Adjutant Thornbery, Capt. Green, Capt. Fletcher,

Lieut. Tensdale, Staff Sergeant-Major Biddles, Bennett, and Irving, Com. Sergeant-Major Hadfield, Squadron Quarter-Master-Sergeant Shaw, Company Quarter-Master-Sergeant Colley, Wheeler Staff-Sergeant Goodman, Staff Sergeant Petty, Farrier Staff Sergeant Allen and Trumpeter Steele.



A firing party from Wigston Barracks paraded opposite the house in Crescent Road and led the procession, arms reversed, to the Parish Church, where the first part of the service was conducted by the Rev. Canon Broughton (vicar) assisted by the Rev. H. V. Williams (curate). At the cemetery, Canon Broughton read the committal, after which three volleys were fired over the grave and Trumpeter Steele sounded the "Last Post."

The coffin, on which were placed the deceased soldier's sword and helmet, was covered with the Union Jack and was borne to the grave by eight staff-sergeants, mentioned above, comrades of the deceased. The inscription on the breast-plate was: "James Thomas Bishop, died February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1916, aged 27 years."

There was a splendid lot of floral tributes sent by the following:- "*A last token of love*" from his sorrowing wife (a harp with a broken string); Brothers Norris, Will and George; Frank and Lily (brother and sister-in-law); Sisters Alice, Mary, Annie and Amy; Herbert and Edith (brother and sister-in-law); Jack and Annie, of Westcliffe, (brother and sister-in-law); Capt. and Mrs Harper (Hugglescote); Mr Walter Measures and family (Ellistown); Mrs Tebbett

and family; Mr and Mrs Richards and Mrs Kenting; *"With deepest sympathy and in affectionate memory of our esteemed comrade"* from the officers, warrant officers, NCO's and men of 516 Company, A.S.C.; Mr and Mrs Cross; Geo. and Mrs Kirby; Sergeant-Major Hadfield and wife (Hugglescote); Lieut.-Col. L. G. Reading, Capt. and Adjutant S. R. Thornbery; Capt. R. J. Green, S. Wilkins, H. Fort, J. Griffin, and W. Bonser (a token of respect from four old chums); Sergt. and Mrs Holt (Nottingham); and from his fellow workmen. Mr T. Hatter carried out the funeral arrangements.

## **GIFTS TO DONINGTON AND ELLISTOWN SOLDIERS**

### **LETTERS OF THANKS**

Mrs Edwards, of the Corner Pin Inn, Donington-le-Heath, has received a letter from Private A. Knifton, No. 17216, D. Co. 15<sup>th</sup> Platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, in France, in which he says he hopes they are all well and happy. He continues, *"I received your parcel quite safely and enjoyed the contents very much, for which I thank all the Donington boys, and I also thank you for the interest you have taken on my behalf. I should have written before, but was in the trenches. We have seen four Zeppelins cross over our front, the only ones I had seen. As it is nearly work time again, I must now close my letter, wishing you and all the boys the best of luck and hoping the time will soon come when I can thank you personally for your goodness."*

Mrs Edwards also informs us that in connection with the soldiers' and sailors' comforts fund for Donington and Ellistown, a sum of £4/19/6 has been paid to soldiers on leave from the trenches and £1/4/3 expended in parcels sent, leaving £4/11/6 in hand.

The last three soldiers to receive parcels were Geo. H. Wilcox, J. Wallace and J. W. Turner and several letters of thanks from the soldiers have been received by Mrs Edwards and have been read with interest by subscribers.

## **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER BROTHERS**

### **ONE KILLED, THE OTHER WOUNDED AND MISSING**

As fully reported in our last issue, Private Amos Elkin, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenadier Guards, aged 21, was killed in action in France on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and his brother, Lance-Corporal Herbert Chas. Elkin, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, aged 20, has been posted as wounded and missing since September 25<sup>th</sup> last. They were the only sons of Mr and Mrs H. C. Elkin, of 148, North Street, Hugglescote.

## **IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED**

A well-known Ibstock footballer, Private J. Flaherty, has been killed in action. Further details and a photograph will appear in our next issue.

## **MARKFIELD**

### **NARROW ESCAPE**

Edith Pegg, the three year old child of Mrs Pegg, whose husband is interned in Holland, narrowly escaped death by drowning on Monday. In her mother's absence she fell into a tub of water. Happily, her mother returned and got her out, but it took an hour to bring her round.

## **NOTES TO ACCOMPANY THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, PAGE 8.**

The Great Zeppelin Raid of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1916 was undertaken by nine Zeppelins which left their bases at *Friedrichshaven and Lowenthal*, their target was Liverpool. It was to be an attack on an unprecedented scale and was meant to show Britain that anywhere could be hit and destroyed by the giant airships.

In command of L21 was Kapitänleutnant Max Dietrich, crossing the North Sea and passing over Norfolk around 6 pm. Mist and fog made ground recognition difficult but a large city, with lights blazing below him

was Manchester and flying south he saw the lights of another smaller town, Birkenhead and started to drop his bombs. However, he was nowhere near the west coast, his Manchester was Derby and the bombs did not fall on Birkenhead, but Tipton and what he thought was the nearby city of Liverpool, was Wednesbury. Further on they dropped more bombs on Walsall.

Kapitänleutnant Loewe, commanding L19 had flown a similar course. Seeing fires burning below, he also believed he had reached his target and commenced bombing. L19 had taken longer to arrive due to engine problems and on the return journey, was the only one not to return to base, coming down in the North Sea, sinking with no survivors.

Kapitänleutnant Franz Stabbert, of the Zeppelin L20 also believed to be on course and dropped his bombs on what he thought was Sheffield, but in reality was Loughborough. The first bomb landing in Ashby Square, in the yard of the Crown and Cushion public house. A second bomb landed in The Rushes, four people being killed in the blast. A third bomb landed on soft ground in Thomas Street causing no injuries. However the fourth, exploding in Empress Road killed five.

Because of previous Zeppelin raids Leicester, Derby and Nottingham had been blacked out, but Loughborough's lights shone out brightly, their new electric lights recently installed the week before.

After attacking Loughborough, L20 dropped four bombs on Ilkeston and the remainder of its load on Burton-on-Trent. The number of deaths in Burton-on-Trent was 15, including a lady preacher from Brighton who died clutching a bible, and serious injuries to another 72. In an act of bravery, a young man despised as a conscientious objector, ignored the falling bombs to climb up the lampposts and extinguish the street lights.

Three Zeppelins dropped bombs on Burton-on-Trent, L19, L20 and L15, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Joachim Breihaupt. Bombs fell over a wide area, with 25 high explosive and 25 incendiary bombs landing throughout the town.

In the centre of the town, some 200 people had gathered in the Christ Church Mission Room to hear Mary Rose Morris from Brighton. She had been persuaded to stay for the final evening after preaching in Burton the previous week. The bomb fell between the church and the mission room, killing six people. The death toll would have been substantially higher had the bomb not fell into soft earth.

Others were killed near Burton RFC's ground at Peel Croft, in Shobnal Street, Wellington Street, at the Midland Railway goods sheds and at the Black Cat billiard saloon in High Street.

The raid on the Midlands on that fateful night was one of the heaviest of the war. In all, 70 people were killed and 113 were injured by 205 high explosives and 174 incendiaries.