Friday January 1st 1915 (Issue 1191)

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BARLESTONE

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

A good sharp frost caused the country to assume a most picturesque and seasonable aspect during Christmas Day. The village brass band and carol singers paraded the village, and the day was appropriately observed at Sefton House, where the Belgian refugees are living. Each received a Christmas card printed in English and Belgian as follows: "A Happy Christmas to you from the Ibstock District Committee. May God bless you, restore your country to you, and God save the King." The brass band and carol singers visited the home, their playing and singing bringing tears to the eyes of the Belgians.

ASHBY

CHRISTMASTIDE

Generally speaking business was not brisk during Christmas-time, but as this was not expected owing to the war, there was not so much disappointment. There have been remarkable variations in the weather. A sharp frost with fog on the Xmas Eve gave the old-fashioned touch to the scene, but since then there have been rain, gale and sunshine. An outstanding feature of the festival has been the khaki element, and the home-coming for a day or two of men who have joined the forces.

MARKFIELD

BELGIAN RELIEF

At a meeting in connection with the local Belgian Relief scheme, held in the schoolroom, Mr P. Preston, presiding, contributions were handed in totalling £5 3s. The Chairman, as delegate, eulogised the work being done at Coalville. The Secretary announced that the recruiting list had now been raised to 56 for the district.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs Lillington has given a "rest" room for the use of troops at Preston, Lancashire, in memory of the late Capt. Lillington.

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DEAD MAN'S DIARY

NOTES OF A BRAVE LOUGHBOROUGH SERGEANT

In pathos always is attached to the diary of a soldier who has fallen in action, and, telling of *"hairbreadth 'scrapes in the imminently deadly breach"* the record kept by a Loughborough sergeant of the King's Royal Rifles is the more pathetic because of the modesty with which he writes of his own deeds and actions of self sacrifice.

Sergeant L. Dennis, Coddington Road, Sileby, near Loughborough, was killed in action on October 23rd, and his diary has been forwarded to relatives. Commencing his narrative in August, the dead sergeant graphically describes the progress of our army into Belgium, and his last entry is dated "21/10/14" – two days prior to his death. Dealing with the reception given to the British troops in France, he has enumerated the various gifts showered upon the men, and on September 6th he writes about the French girls *"who did not mind the soldiers kissing them,"* and the scramble for souvenirs. On the same date there is a reference to food, and the menu appears to have included eggs, rabbits, fowl, potatoes and other vegetables, but on the 12th September, three days later, there is an entry affording a marked contrast to the foregoing. *"We have had rations issued today so are feeding on carrots and mealies"* – thus writes Sergeant Dennis after being under heavy artillery fire. *"We did not retire,"* he adds, *"but took up a position. We could do nothing, however, but sit tight while the shells were dropping around us."*

"At a place called Bourg," the sergeant touches upon an exciting brush with the enemy. *"When we got under cover, the commanding officer ordered me to advance with what men I could get hold of. I took these men forward and got under fire. We laid down, and I found out we were only 50 yards from the Germans. It was murder the way our fellows were falling.*

I fired at one, and as I came down to load again a bullet hit my bolt handle, and damaged my rifle, so I had to get another one. Captain Cathcart lay dead by my side as I was firing, and Sergeant Smales had his head blown off. After the firing had been going on for a while, the Germans started to put their hands up as if they were surrendering, so our fellows and some of the Sussex went forward to bring them in. When they got up to them, they picked up their arms, and started firing again. We got about 50 of them, and two officers. . . . Two or three men of my section went forward to help one or two fellows out of the firing line. Then I saw young Berridge (a Nottingham man) coming towards me, wounded, so a fellow named Dicks and I went forward to help him in. Just as we got up to him, and were getting down to see where he was hit, Dicks said to me, 'I am hit' and fell over. I told Berridge to try and crawl out, so that I could bandage Dicks.

I bandaged Dicks up as best I could, and then we both went back together. Two fellows were badly wounded, so I bandaged them up as best I could. One fellow had his leg shattered, and the other had a wound in his stomach. Just as I finished we had to retire, so we had to leave them. We went forward into some trenches and stayed there until dark. That was Monday, September 14th, and we stayed there until Saturday, September 19th. We had nearly all our officers killed."

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Seven wounded soldiers were on Tuesday afternoon transferred from Leicester Base Hospital to the Charnwood Forest Convalescent Home. They were met at the Loughborough Midland Railway Station by Mr R. S. Clifford, jun, and were conveyed to their new quarters in motor cars kindly lent by the Rev. W. J. Hiley (Woodhouse Eaves), Miss Fox (Maplewell) Mr J. W. Taylor and Mr Kenneth Walker. Their arrival at Loughborough was witnessed by a good number of people.

Coalville has had quite a military aspect during the Christmas holiday by reason of the fact that many local men who have joined the colours have been home on a few days' leave.

Early on Sunday morning 125 British soldiers arrived in Leicester from the front, and were taken to the 5th Northern Base Hospital. Most of the men were suffering from frost bite or general sickness.

The Belgian refugee who is to be married to another refugee at the St. Saviour's Church, Coalville, at 10 o'clock next Thursday morning, has been fortunate in having two suits of clothes presented to him during the holidays. He has commenced work in the bakery at the Co-Operative stores, where the employees subscribed enough to purchase one suit and Mr T. Grosert, the bakery manager, has given him the other. It will be observed that the wedding is to take place a Coalville and not at Whitwick as previously reported.

All the local "Terriers," some 180 of them, who are now stationed at Loughborough, came home on Thursday night and did not return till Tuesday and there were also numerous Coalville representatives of Kitchener's army paying their friends a visit. One could not help noticing how smart the young fellows looked in their uniform and it is very evident that the military training they are receiving is doing them much physical good.

Under the Defence of the Realm Act, an order by the military authorities came into force throughout Coalville and district and the rest of the county on Wednesday last for all public houses to close at nine o'clock every night, and also restricting the hours during which soldiers can be served with intoxicants. The following are the terms of the order:

"That all premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor within the areas specified in the Schedule hereto shall be closed for the sale of intoxicating liquors by any person not resident therein at 9 p.m. and shall also be closed as respects the members of any of His Majesty's Forces except during the hour between 12 noon and 1 p.m. and the hours between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m."

We are very pleased to notice the departure which the three local Citizens' Corps are making in getting Mr Brockington to come down to deliver his lecture to them on "War and Patriotism" particulars of which appear in our advertisement columns. By holding their rally in "Olympia" on Sunday afternoon, January 10th and giving the public an opportunity of hearing Mr Brockington again, the corps are doing very useful work, as all who were fortunate enough to be present in the Primitive Methodist Chapel on December 10th are agreed that they then heard the clearest exposition of the policies that led up to the present war which had been presented to them.

A rather pathetic circumstance connected with the death of Lance-Corporal J. C. Andrews, of Ravenstone, killed in action as reported in a recent issue, is that just before he met his fatal injury he wrote to his sister at Ravenstone, sending her a small present on which was written these lines:

"Think of me when the golden sun is sinking
And your mind from cares set free
When of others you are thinking
Will you sometimes think of me?"

It has been stated that the railways of the country have provided the Army and Navy with a force numbering 60,000 men. Towards this total the contribution of the Midland Company is considerable, and up to November 18th, a total of 7531 employees of all ranks had joined the forces. The under-mentioned local staffs of the Midland have contributed to the force the number of men stated:

Ashby 15, Ashwell 2, Bardon Hill 1, Barrow-on-Soar 2, Bourne 1, Castle Donington 1, Coalville 13, Countesthorpe 4, Desford 3, Heather and Ibstock 2, Hugglescote 1, Kirby Muxloe 1, Leicester 216, Loughborough 9, Manton 1.

The National Reserve which has been called up for service and is now at Leicester were kindly invited by Mrs Perry Herrick last Wednesday to visit Woodhouse Eaves, where they were entertained in the Parish Room, afterwards marching to Beaumanor for Mrs Herrick to inspect the men. There were 134 in all, under command of Major F. R. Griggs, with Lieutenant White, Lieutenant C. L. Hepworth, and Colour-Sergeant Jones.

The "News Van" is the title of an interesting little booklet which has just been issued at Messrs. Stableford and Co's Works, Coalville, giving the names of 70 men from the works who have joined the forces and other interesting particulars, with copies of letters received from them by their friends. The book is type-written and it is proposed to issue it monthly. The proceeds are for the benefit of the men and their dependants.

Very quietly at Emanuel Church, Loughborough, on Boxing Day, the marriage was solemnised of Lieutenant Frank Chapman, Royal Engineers, to Miss Lizzie Moss. The groom came home on four days' leave from his military duties at Chatham. He is the eldest son of Mr Ernest Chapman, of Westfield, Loughborough, and enlisted for the war. His bride, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Edwin Moss, is well-known in the musical world as a singer of fine ability and artistic capacity, using her professional name as Miss Lysette Mostyn.

HUGE COALVILLE SOCIAL

FOR THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' COMFORTS GUILD

About the biggest and most successful social and whist drive ever held at Coalville took place in the Bridge Road Council Schools last night, when about 500 people were present. The schools presented a charming appearance, Mr J. H. Massey (head master) having kindly allowed the Christmas decorations by the children to remain. About 200 played whist, the MC's for which were Messrs. W. Eames, S. W. and P. W. Brown, E. Darby and Dr. Meredith. Thirty-six games were played and the winners were:

Ladies: 1 Miss M Bailey, 258; 2 Mrs Darby, 255; mystery, Miss Lillian Mason (a little girl who was loudly cheered) 231; and lowest score, Mrs Hamilton, 208:
Gents: 1 Mr C. Morris, 264; 2 Mr J. Unwin, 261; mystery, Mr F. Baker, 236; and lowest score, Mr G. W. Hammond, 206:

Mrs Jamie presented the prizes and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks on the motion of Dr. Meredith.

In the Central Hall, Mr J. Cooper played for dancing and Messrs. F. Goddard, E. Hawthorn, H. B. Drewett, and A. L. Bertenshaw were the MC's. Masters Archie and Leslie Dable gave a piano and mandolin duet and Mr H. Stewart, of Ashby, sang. During the evening a prize drawing took place, Miss Mollie Brown drawing the winning numbers. At midnight the company joined hands and sang, "Auld Lang Syne."

Refreshments were admirably served by the ladies' committee and valued assistance in keeping the doors, selling programmes, etc., was rendered by the boy scouts. Miss Jamie discharged the secretarial duties for the social and Mrs S. W. Brown for the prize drawing, and it is expected that quite £100 will be realised.

DO YOU KNOW

That 56 men from Markfield have joined the colours?

That recruiting meetings will be held next Monday night at Bagworth and Barlestone?

That practically all the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville, were invited out by friends in the town on Christmas Day?

That with the advent of the new year, Capt. Stevenson is commencing another recruiting campaign in Coalville and district where several meetings are to be held?

That £4/18/7 has been handed over to the Coalville Soldier's Comforts Guild as the result of a recent tea and concert at Ravenstone?

That a reading room has been opened for the 5th Leicesters who are stationed in Herts and gifts of reading matter should be sent to the Soldiers' Reading Room, Assembly Hall, Sawbridgeworth, Herts?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

At a meeting of the Coalville collectors for this fund at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening, Capt. McKernon presiding, the Hon. Sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the result of the ninth collection was £7 12s 10d. Ten districts were represented at the meeting.

TENDERS

BELGIAN REFUGEES' COMMITTEE COALVILLE DISTRICT

The above Committee invite tenders for the supply of Provisions, Meat, Milk, etc., for the month of January; 74 persons to be provided for. Tender form and all particulars may be had from the Hon. Secretary.

Tenders to be delivered by first post Thursday, January, 6, 1915, to Mr Edgar Hawthorn, 12, Market Place, Coalville.

IN OLYMPIA

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

The members of the Citizens' Corps of Coalville, Hugglescote, Thringstone and Whitwick, cordially invite the public to attend their Rally in "Olympia" on Sunday afternoon, January 10th, 1915.

An attractive programme has been arranged including, solos by Madame Alice Coleman, Choruses and Part Songs by a choir of 250 voices, specially selected War Pictures, and an address by W. A. Brockington, Esq., on "War and Patriotism."

Doors open 1:45, commences 2:30.
Admission by Drum-head Silver Collection, or to Reserved Seats, by ticket price 1/- (limited to 260). Proceeds for Coalville District Soldiers' Comforts Guild. For future particulars see posters.

SOLDIERS' GIFTS FROM WHITWICK

YEOMANRY MAJOR'S THANKS

Mrs Harold Stinson, of Whitwick, has received the following letter:

Dear Madam, I must write to you a line of thanks for the various woollen garments sent out by you and the ladies of Whitwick for our yeomen, and to say how much the men appreciate the generosity of friends at home. It means a lot to them to get things by post that stand between them and the severity of the weather, a pair of dry new socks or a helmet, or a jacket often stand between a man and the hospital and goodness knows, they need to be sound to endure what comes and retain their health. Socks they use up to any extent and a woollen helmet helps a lot when sleeping out or in straw. The sad thing is every now and then we have to refuse them leave to bring their small comforts from lack of transport and that is where a post which bring small parcels is often such a help. I am sure you will be glad that I can say that they are a grand lot of men and are doing more than credit to their neighbourhood and county. I remain, yours faithfully.

W. F. Martin
Major, C Squadron, Leicestershire Yeomanry

WHITWICK YEOMANRY'S THANKS

Writing from France on December 20th, 1914, Sergt-Major Green, of C Squadron Leicestershire Yeomanry, on behalf of himself and Whitwick Troop, thanks all the kind friends on the Charnwood Forest for their generous gifts of tobacco, cigarettes, chocolates, etc., that they have received this Christmas.

Sergt. W. Harris, C Squadron, Leicestershire Yeomanry also writes the following: *"France, December, 10th, 1914: Received the welcome present from the people of Charnwood Forest. Please convey our sincere thanks to all the kind friends who think of the comforts the boys out here need so much and are delighted to receive."*

FOR ELLISTOWN'S SOLDIERS

SUCCESSFUL DANCE AND WHIST DRIVE

A very successful dance and whist drive was held on Wednesday evening in the Ellistown Church Schools, the proceeds of which were to provide new year gifts to all Ellistown men who are serving their King and country. Much enthusiasm was displayed in regard to the event and there was a large attendance.

Mr W. Mason acted as M.C. for the dancing, Mr Adcock being the pianist. Some capital songs were contributed by Mr Morris and great fun was derived from a musical chairs competition. Miss E. M. Kimber won the lady's prize, a lady's companion, and the successful gentleman was Mr George Shaw, his prize being a pipe rack.

The M.C. for whist was Mr G. B. Lagee and handsome prizes were offered. Mrs Hawley gave the first prize for ladies, a case of silver spoons and sugar tongs, which was won by Miss E. Richardson with a score of 175; Mrs Thorpe, of Barlestone, gave the second, a silver cruet, won by Mr H. Castledine, with 172; the gentleman's first prize given by Mrs Everard, of Bardon Hall, was won by Mr George Shaw with 178; and the second prize, a silver-mounted dessert bowl given by Mr J. Wootton, of Coalville, was won by Mr James Oxford, with 173. The mystery prize, a silver-mounted glass dish, given by Mr Griffin, of Coalville, was secured by Mr W. Blockley, with 135.

The ladies who assisted in the refreshment department were Mrs Brown, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Ward, Mrs Roe, Mrs Brewin, and Mrs Clarke. The cloak room was in charge of Mrs Moore, of Battram. The event was well organised and carried through most satisfactorily and will no doubt produce a good sum for the object named.

ELLISTOWN

WELCOME TO SOLDIERS ON FURLOUGH

On Christmas Eve a social was held in the Ellistown Church School with the object of giving a welcome to local soldiers' home on furlough. A good company assembled. Miss Gough played for dancing and musical chairs and various games were indulged in. Songs were given by Mrs W. Mason and others and Mr Morris recited. Refreshments were provided and the evening was very enjoyably spent.

ASHBY

CITIZENS' CORPS

A meeting of members of this corps, held in the Town Hall, was presided over by Mr G. J. German. An address was given by Mr Knocker, from the Central Volunteer Training Corps, on the organisation of the Citizens' Corps throughout the country, and the terms upon which recognition would be extended to them by the War Office. A grant towards the necessary equipment is to be expected, but Mr H. W. Joyce, C.C., and Mr Fanshaw, both members, promised £5 each as subscriptions to a proposed local fund, and it was decided unanimously to affiliate the corps to the central organisation.

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COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

FORMER EMPLOYEE OF MR MOSS

Official notification has been received in Coalville that Pte. Forester Roberts, of the Northamptonshire Regiment, was killed in action on November 16th. He was a reservist, and was called up soon after the outbreak of war. He was formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, builders, Coalville, and resided with his brother, Mr Jim Roberts, of Ashby Road. Deceased was 22 years of age and single.

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN HOSPITAL

SON OF GEORGE SWAIN

News has been received that Private Jack Swain, second son of Mr George Swain, of James Street, Coalville, an old Leicestershire football referee, has been injured and is in hospital in France. Pte. Swain was in the 3rd Leicesters and has been at the front. He went with Mr Jack Sheffield, son of Mr W. Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, Coalville.

CONTINUOUS RAINS AT THE FRONT

LETTER FROM SHEPSHED LIBERAL CLUB MANAGER

Private Harry Burton, 1st Leicestershire Regiment, manager of the Shepshed Liberal Club, writing to a Shepshed friend from the front, under date December 11th, says: *"The weather is so bad, owing to the continuous rains, that it makes it cruel for men to stand what they are doing. But let us hope that all this strife and trouble will be a great advantage in time to come, and that in the future we shall not be alarmed about Germany again. I hope it will not be so long a job as it looks. I am glad to see that the response to the call has been such a good one. It is something to be proud of to see the number who have enrolled for this great struggle from a small town like Shepshed, and I think they have done their duty well. It is a surprise to the whole world to see the general response, and what men there are willing to join in such a short time without compulsion. All we want just now is better weather, but we shall have to put up with what comes, as we are here for that purpose."*

LEICESTERS AND GERMANS ON VISITING TERMS

In a letter to his parents, who reside at 19, Walnut Street, Leicester, Lance-Corporal S. Morris, 1st Leicesters says: *"Things are very quiet here today (Christmas Day). The Germans have asked us not to shoot and they offer to do the same. The men got quite friendly, singing songs alternately, and exchanging tobacco – in fact they are visiting each other's trenches. But what's in store for tomorrow?"*

ASHBY OFFICER KILLED

The sad news has reached Ashby that Lieut. S. A. Meakin, of the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment, has been killed in action in France. Lieut. Meakin was the youngest son of Mrs Meakin residing at "Weeford," Leicester Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, with whom the deepest sympathy is being felt and expressed. The bereaved lady has two other sons in the service, and her son-in-law, Lieut-Commander Humphrey Willie-Best is serving in the Navy on H.M.S. Superb.

V.C. FOR ASHBY SOLDIER

News has reached Ashby that Lance-Corporal T. Betteridge, of the 2nd Batt. Leicestershire Regiment, is to be recommended for the Victoria Cross for carrying a wounded comrade under fire out of the firing line. Lance-Corporal Betteridge is a native of Oakthorpe, but for some time before the outbreak of the war when at home he resided with his mother at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Since he enlisted a few years ago he has been stationed in Ireland and also in India.

LEICESTER SOLDIER KILLED

Much sympathy will be felt with Mr and Mrs G. Johnson, of 221, Tudor Road, Leicester, who have received notification that their son, Sergt. W. F. Johnson, one of the five brothers serving in the army, was killed in action on November 7th at Ypres. Sergt. Johnson was 28 years old, and came from India with the Indian Expeditionary Force. He had been eleven years in the army. He leaves a widow and child in Ranikhet, India.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER'S XMAS DINNER

HOW KITCHENER'S MEN FARED

The following is an interesting letter from an Ibstock soldier in Kitchener's army.

"I expect our country folk would be glad to hear how their sons enjoyed their Christmas dinner. Well, I reckon it quite up-to-date. If every regiment fared as well as ours (Stafford) they have done very well. Everything we could wish for on Christmas Day. Our orderlies had been quite busy in preparing for a good feast, which consisted of turkeys, pork and beef and potatoes. As soon as we paraded into the mess room there were cries of 'Who wouldn't join Kitchener's army,' when we saw our well prepared dinner. When we had had enough of the meat line they brought in the plum duff to fill the last gap in our little 'tummys'. Those who are accustomed to take beer were allowed one pint and the teetotallers were given ginger beer. We were also given tobacco and cigarettes to finish up with. Most of us felt as though we should never want any more for a week. Hardly any went for tea when that was ready. We finished the day as all soldiers love to, with old Christmas songs and carols. One thing our country boys would like to have seen was a few more of our schoolday chums from Coalville and Ibstock rallying round the old red, white and blue. Although they have done well in sending out recruits and money also for relief, we want a record, so come on boys, join your old chums who have answered their country's call. Don't delay too long, we want to see Berlin in the hands of old Britain, (who can rule her properly) and the old Kaiser (mercy on him when we see him) crushed."

Yours, One of the Ibstock boys.

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HEATHER

CONCERT

On Boxing Day, a children's concert was given in the evening in the National School which was nicely decorated for the occasion, and which was also well attended. The Rev. H. Standidge presided in a very able manner and the creditable rendering by the children of songs, recitations, action songs, sketches, play, etc., displayed great credit on the part of their training. The accompanist was Mr J. Cooper. Two of the outstanding features was a play entitled: "Dorothy's Dream" which represented destitute homes in Belgium and the flight of the refugees, and also the Union Jack ribbon drill which had great effect on the audience.

The proceeds amounting to £5 10s are to be devoted to the Belgian refugee (local) fund. Great credit is due to Miss Daisy Cooper, the organiser of the effort.

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BELGIAN REFUGEES AT BROOM LEYS

The following are the family names and former addresses of refugees residing at Broom Leys, Coalville.

Monseur, Quai Londor 79, Liege.
Franckx, Rue de l'Escant 28, Anvers.
Lauwers, Bruxelles.
Vanmalder, St. Job Uncle by Bruxelles.
Transaer, Ermbodleghem.
Vanden Eynde, Rue Ceyligst 36, Anvers.
Hostens, Courte Rue de la Chapelle des bateliers 9, Anvers.
Decleene, St. Armand Rue de l'Angle 13, Gand.
Drumeaux, Provence de Namur, Chairiers.
Vantichelt, Rue de Gar No. 89, Anvers.
Vervaet, Rue Ville bourse, 9, Anvers.
Mortier, Rue des Tisserants, Grand.
Kennef, Rue de la Clouche 35, Grand.
Feems, Nouvelle Allie 5, Anvers.
Respeel, Rue de Deurne 57, Anvers.
Corman, Antwerpen.
Nahoel, Chaussee d'Herenhals 89, (Deurne Sud) Anvers.
De Witte, Antwerpen.
Romain, Rue de la Province nord 82, Anvers.
Georgevitch, Liege.
Keirsebelck, Rue du Paradis 8, Antwerp.
Yassens, Courte Rue de la Digue 3, Anvers.
Cheruy, Charleroi, Roux.
Mage, Flemalle Haute, Chassee de Liege, R.C.I.
Gillis, Pleine No. 2, Malines.
Derume, Celle-ler-Tournai.
Marchel, Bruxelles.
Bertrand, Rue St. Ghillain 26, Bruxelles.
Robert, Dorp Street, Hormael.
Bogaerts, Vielle (Street) Bourse No. 9, Anvers.
Bothi, Tirlemont
Knooren, Liege.
Bernard, Place du Manage No. 6, Charleroi.
Dessy, Rue de College 20, Verviers.
Gaspards, Place de Lagare, Herve.
Dutriene, R. Circle 18, Ostende.
Franconnier, Rue de l'Hotel, De Ville, 8, Herve.
Devos, Tirlemont.
Veryken, Marche aux emirs 28, Malines.
Houtiers, Rue Chauve Souris 30, Liege.
Caviere, Gilly.
Cabooter, Rue Torfs 34, Anvers.
Tarras, Rue Capelle Millan, Sweveghem.
Nieuvenhuysen, Leopold Street 37 (Bercham), Antwerpen.
Colinot, Rue Sovet 184, Ciney.
Nys, Rue de Ribaucourt 92, Molenbeck.
Isaac, Rue Grand gagnage 25, Liege.
Midroles, Rue du Laven 56, Liege.
Falise, (or Van de Voost), Rue Longue, Ostende.
Rosaert, (Dutrienne), Circle Street, 18, Ostende.

Andres (or Gaspars), Rue de la Station, Herve.
Goossens, Marche auxeniers 33, Malines.
De Maesschalck, Avenue Van Ryswyck 39, Anvers.
Peetess, Rue Potgretersterstraat 49, Anvers.
De Weges, Chaussee d'Herenthals 60, Anvers.
Rutten, Albert.
Demeyer, Jules.
Van Herramegh Emile, St. Amausberg, by Ghent.
Willens Joseph, Eagles Straat 4 F, Bruxelles.
Van Droogenbrock Johannas, Teniske, Anvers.

NAVAL DISASTER

BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

The Press Bureau on Friday afternoon issued the following statement:

"The battleship Formidable was sunk this morning in the Channel – whether by mine or submarine is not yet certain. Seventy-one survivors have been picked up by a British light cruiser, and it is possible that others may have been rescued by other vessels."

A SISTER SHIP OF H.M.S. BULWARK

H.M.S. Formidable, which was completed in 1901, was of the same pre-Dreadnought class as H.M.S. Bulwark. This class displaces 15,000 tons, 400 feet long, and has engines 15,000 h.p., giving a speed of 18 1/2 knots. The cost of each is roughly £1,000,000. These battleships are each armed with four 12in, twelve 6in, and sixteen 12-pounder guns, with four submerged torpedo tubes. The waterline is armoured with 9in and the turrets with 12in plates, and there is 6in armour on the casemates protecting the secondary guns. They carry 780 officers and men.

The Formidable was built at Portsmouth at a cost of £1,022,745. Captain Arthur N. Loxley was the captain of the vessel, while her commander was Commander Charles F. Ballard. A Brixham correspondent telegraphed on Friday night that 70 survivors of the Formidable were saved by a Brixham trawler. Two officers and 68 men have been landed by a tug.

The Press Association understands that the 70 survivors picked up by the Brixham trawler are in addition to the 71 saved by the light cruiser referred to in the Admiralty statement announcing the disaster. It has since transpired that there were about 200 survivors and that the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine being struck fore and aft.

LEICESTER MEN ON THE FORMIDABLE

Two Leicester men at least were among the crew of H.M.S. Formidable, viz:-

W. Cheney, able seaman
J. Farrer, stoker

It is not yet known, of course, whether they are among the survivors.

BELGIAN SOLDIERS IN A BURTON MINE

A party of convalescent wounded Belgian soldiers from the Burton-on-Trent Red Cross Hospital on Friday descended Messrs. Nadin's coal mine accompanied by some of the nurses who were afterwards entertained to tea. Being colliers themselves they were especially interested in the methods.

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ALD. COPE ON TREATING SOLDIERS

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC

Alderman Cope in his charge to the Grand Jury at the Leicestershire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday said there was one way in which many of them could help their country in the present crisis. It was to check the system of reckless and inconsiderate treating of soldiers and recruits. Of course, it was quite easy to see how it came about. The young fellows coming back, either on furlough or from the front, was immediately surrounded by a host of eager friends, who, with easy good nature, were anxious as far as possible to show their goodwill towards him, and so one and another began to treat the unfortunate man – the young fellow possibly possessing no great strength of character – and it was no wonder that the young fellow fell to the evils attendant on drunkenness. It was a sad sight to see along our roads, our railway stations, and in our streets, men wearing His Majesty's uniform and degrading themselves by the cursed habit of drunkenness. Let all in their individual capacities check the habit. Let them not give way to the easy good nature, but think what could be the result of the latter course. All knew as well as he did how drunkenness led to immorality and sickness and impaired discipline, in the sense of discipline, and how it made soldiers less fit for the arduous duties they had to perform. In this matter he was expressing by no means his own opinion. They had, in the first place, that great General and most noble gentleman, Lord Roberts – whose loss they had recently to deplore – as well as Lord Kitchener, upon whom so many hopes depended, both in the strongest possible way condemning the practice of indiscriminate and reckless treating of soldiers. The authorities had recognised the evils connected with the practice, and had issued regulations under which severe penalties could be imposed for selling or giving drink to soldiers helping in the defence of the country.

Proceeding, the Chairman said he had spoken about the question of treating, because he realised the importance of it, but at the same time, when he consulted the Chief Constable as to the state of the county, he gave encouraging reports about it. He (the chairman) believed that drunkenness was less rife in the country now than it was before the war.

RECRUITING IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

A SERIES OF MEETINGS

With the Christmas festivities well over, renewed activity on recruiting is anticipated and with a view to furthering this another campaign has been commenced in Coalville and district this week.

A series of meetings have been arranged under the auspices of the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, the hon. secs. for the Bosworth Division being Mr W. Baldwin, (Conservative Agent) and Mr R. Blower (Liberal Agent) who are acting in conjunction with the local recruiting officer, Capt. W. E. Stevenson.

On Monday night meetings were held at Bagworth and Barlestone. Mr J. Emmerson, manager of the colliery, presided at the Bagworth meeting in the Council School at which there was a good attendance. The chief speaker was Mr G. Sanford of London, who urged that at the present moment there was absolute necessity for more men. He said the warning which had been given was no idle threat, and he was sure that every eligible man in the room that night would feel the disgrace, not only now, but in after life, if he failed in his duty towards his country. He pointed out the loss of home and liberty which followed in the train of German occupation and if they wished to retain the privileges they had fought so hard for in the past, now was the time to come and do their share. It was most mean on the part of any man who was fit and unfettered to allow his chum to be bearing the brunt of the fighting for the protection of his liberties while he stayed at home and enjoyed ease and comfort. (Hear, hear.)

The chairman said he felt that everyone must be moved by the interesting address given by Mr Sanford. He believed that there were many still in Bagworth who should come forward; not only working men such as they had in the room that night, but others of the farming class. He was proud to say that three of his sons had volunteered to do what lay in their power, and, as Mr Sanford had said the sting of reproach must fall heavily on those who were evading the duty. (Cheers.) On an appeal being made for recruits four young fellows came forward and it was hoped that others would follow their example.

The principal speaker at the Barlestone meeting, held in the Church Schools, was Mr Jas. Dockett of London, the chair being taken by the vicar, the Rev. J. Bell.

Mr Dockett dealt with the position on the Continent in an able manner and strongly urged the need for more recruits to enable the Allies to push home the final victor. Four recruits came forward in response to the appeal.

On Tuesday night, meetings were held at Burbage and Sharnford, when Messrs. G. Sanford and J. Dockett were the speakers. On Wednesday night a meeting was held in the school at Bardon Hill, also a huge mass meeting in the theatre Hinckley. Last night the meetings were held in the schools in Swannington and the Picture Palace, Earl Shilton, and tonight (Friday) there is to be a big meeting in the Picture Palace at Barwell.

MORE MEN WANTED

Commander E. G. Marden, R.N.V.R., Bristol, has received a letter from a commanding officer at the front, who in the course of his communication says: *"We want all the men we can get, but they must be well trained, and able to use their brains as well as their muscles. We are up against a skilful foe, and one who has studied war in all its phases. Our foes are, in this and other countries trying to obliterate all industries etc., are systematically destroying them, so that in the end only German commerce may survive. If only our British employers could understand what this war of extermination means they would encourage their men becoming trained defenders of their country in every possible way, but, of course, you know as well as anyone it is a war of nations, not of armies."*

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

A former resident of Coalville, Mrs George Howkins, had a rather terrifying experience during the recent bombardment of West Hartlepool by German warships. Mrs Howkins is a sister of Mr James Hall, a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford's Works, and has been staying with her three children at her brother's house in Belvoir Road, Coalville, while she recovered somewhat from the shock. Mrs Howkins, who returned to Hartlepool on Saturday last, lives in a row of houses which face the sea and she says that during the bombardment she saw three warships which were all flying the British flag. The noise of the guns was terrific. It is noteworthy that none of the houses in the row where she lives were struck, and these houses were mostly occupied by Germans, employed at works owned by a German company. These German residents had now been removed by the authorities.

Many Ibstock residents will regret to learn that Mr Kenneth Thomson was killed in action on Friday. The deceased officer was the younger son of Mrs Thomson and the late Mr S. M. Thomson, of Ibstock Collieries, and Grey Lodge, Groby. About three weeks ago he had 48 hours' leave, when he paid a hurried visit to his home at Groby. The families of his parents have been closely connected with Ibstock for many years. Messrs. Thomson being large employers of labour at Ibstock Collieries and brickworks, and Mrs Thomson's father was the late Dr. R. H. Thomas, of Ibstock, whose son-in-law, Dr. C. S. Agnew, now carries on the practice.

Driver C. Hunt, of the A.C.S., North Midland Mounted Brigade, on service, writes stating that he wishes to thank the ladies of Coalville and district, through the medium of this paper, for the warm scarf, mittens and socks sent to him and his brother who is in the trenches. He says they were very welcome and are highly appreciated. Similar letters have been received by the Coalville District Soldiers' Comforts' Guild from numerous other soldiers.

Next Thursday afternoon, a pageant, entitled "Children through the Centuries," is to be given at Leicester Palace in aid of the war emergency fund of the Waifs and Strays Society and it is interesting to note that Mrs J. J. Sharp, of Whitwick, is responsible for one of the scenes, "Charles I." The following will be the characters: "Charles I," Mr R. L. Brown; "Bishop of London," the Rev. S. Hosking; "Princess Elizabeth," Miss N. Burkitt; "Prince Henry," Master Derek Lomax; "Faithful Herbert," Mr Stuart Turner; Lady Royalists, Mrs Barker and Miss Doris Turner; Jailors, Dr. Griffin and Mr Stanleigh Turner; these ladies or gentlemen will be pleased to supply tickets.

Pte. Jack Swain, of the 3rd Leicesters, son of Mr George Swain, of James Street, Coalville, has arrived home from France to recuperate, having been in hospital suffering from bronchitis. He had been in France just over a month when he was taken ill and his regiment had not then actually been in the fighting, but were about to move up to the front. He is getting all right again and is to return on the 25th inst. Swain says there are

several Coalville men in his company – Palmer, Williamson, Briers, Collier, Hunt, Corpl. Wildes, Hall (Thringstone) and others. He says they are enjoying it all right, except that the weather is very trying. At Le Havre, where they have been stationed, tents have been repeatedly blown over and the men move about in slush and sludge.

The annual meeting of the Beaumont Rifle Club will be held on Monday, Jan. 11th at 8 p.m. at the Snibstone New Inn. New members will be enrolled. Members of local Citizens' Corps are specially invited. Arrangements are being made to fit up an indoor rifle range in Coalville, and it is hoped that many will welcome the opportunity of making themselves proficient in the art of rifle shooting.

IBSTOCK

ARRIVAL OF BELGIAN REFUGEES

The Ibstock Patriotic Committee have received seven Belgian refugees at the Ibstock Town Hall where they arrived on Friday and Saturday last. Mrs Lane has been appointed matron and committee ladies have already been appointed to visit them at intervals to assist in making their stay as comfortable as possible. The refugees are all Belgian gentlemen who have escaped from the invaded districts of Brussels, Antwerp, Verviers and Ghent. Four of them are wounded Belgian soldiers. One is a sailor; another a musician and another an old gentleman who held a public position as Town Councillor. Mr J. T. Jacques has been instrumental in getting work at the National Brickworks for two of the men who are highly appreciate the opportunity to follow some employment.

DO YOU KNOW

That the public can now visit the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys on Wednesday afternoons?

That a number of Belgian refugees arrived at Ibstock on Friday and Saturday and are being accommodated at the Town Hall?

That some of the Ellistown soldier lads were entertained at the Vicarage by the Rev. F. Boothby on the last day of the old year?

That another batch of 150 wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester on Monday, all except 15 cot ones (taken to the Infirmary) being conveyed to the base hospital?

That on Monday morning two of the five quick-firing machine guns captured from the German trenches on November 19th by the Leicesters were brought by Colonel Blackadder to Glen Parva Barracks?

That £2/9/7 has now been handed over to the treasurer of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts' Guild (Mrs J. W. Farmer) as the result of a dance at the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote organised by Mr Fort and Mr Griffin?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

At a meeting of the Coalville collectors for this fund at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last, the hon. secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the result of the tenth collection was £14/7/7. All the districts were represented at the meeting.

Mrs Bowley, of Bardon Hill, has won the pig in the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts' Guild prize drawing.

COALVILLE WORKMAN AND SUPPOSED GERMAN SPY

At the Loughborough Police Court on Wednesday, Charles Cheney, labourer, Shepshed, employed at Messrs. Stableford's Works, Coalville, was charged with impersonating a police constable, and unlawfully arresting one Frank West on suspicion of being a German spy at Shepshed on December 24th.

Defendant said he was very sorry, and would see that it did not occur again. The Chairman said defendant seemed to have suffered from excess of zeal. If he suspected anyone else of being a spy he should report to the police. Mr West was prepared to accept his apology, and the Bench would let defendant go on payment of costs.

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COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The monthly meeting of the Urban Council was held at Coalville on Tuesday evening, Mr R. Blower, J.P., presiding, and there were also present, Messrs. T. Y. Hay (vice-chairman), M. McCarthy, S. Perry, A. Lockwood, F. Griffin, S. Armson, J. W. Farmer, B. G. Hale, T. Kelly and W. Fellows, with the clerk's deputy (Mr A. L. Bertenshaw), surveyor (Mr L. L. Baldwin), assistant surveyor (Mr F. G. Hurst) and gasworks manager (Mr J. W. Eagles).

THREE SHILLINGS SAVED BY ENLISTING

The Surveyor reported that in a case where the Council had given instructions for the collecting of a 3s fine for a chimney fire, the wife of the man had informed him that he had joined the forces. On the motion of Mr McCarthy, seconded by Mr Fellows, it was decided not to enforce the fine under the circumstances.

ABSENT MILITARY MEMBERS NOT DISQUALIFIED

A letter was received from the Local Government Board calling attention to the new Act providing that members of public bodies serving in the naval or military forces were not to be disqualified from membership through absence on that account.

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LEICESTERSHIRE CITIZENS' LEAGUE

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Mr S. C. Parker, hon. secretary Leicester Citizens' Training League states that important developments are arising in connection with the Citizens' Corps of the town and county of Leicestershire.

On Saturday next, January 9th, a meeting will be held in Leicester of representatives of every corps in the county to consider the formation of a county association of all units so that there may be uniformity of direction and effort. More important still is the news that Mr Percy A. Harris, L.C.C., the hon. secretary of the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps, has kindly consented to come down from London and address the meeting and fully explain the principles of affiliation and War Office recognition so that members of all corps may safely anticipate far reaching developments that may add largely to the further advancement of the object.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT BROOM LEYS

REFUGEES HAVE A GOOD TIME

There have recently been a few fresh arrivals at Broom Leys, Coalville, where the number of Belgian refugees being entertained is now about eighty. As nearly all of them were invited out by friends in the district on Xmas day, the committee decided to postpone the Yuletide festivities at Broom Leys, which took place on Monday.

The house was decorated with holly and evergreens by Mr and Mrs Hardwicke and several members of the committee spent the day there and assisted in giving their guests a good time. A capital dinner was served consisting of roast beef, roast pork and vegetables and plum pudding and the afternoon and evening were spent in games, music and dancing. Through the kindness of various friends in the district, all the children received toys and sweets and oranges were handed round, while cigars were provided by Mr William Hurst.

Several of the local ladies and gentlemen present contribute to the programme, Mr L. J. Burge sang a French song, Mr E. Hawthorn and Miss Hawthorn were loudly applauded for their songs, “I’ve got rings on my fingers” and “Tipperary” and songs by Miss Doris Lindley and Mr R. J. Brown were equally well received, as were several items by the Belgians themselves. Mr S. W. Brown played for dancing and the refugees were much interested in witnessing the English lancers, somewhat different from the way the dance is executed in Belgium. “Pinning on the donkey’s tail” and other games in which members of the committee took part, caused much amusement. Altogether it was a very happy party.

One of the refugees who has started at Messrs. Wootton Bros. engineering works in Coalville is the first to have left Broom Leys and gone into lodgings in the town. Seven or eight of the men are working at different places, four or five being at Whitwick Colliery, one at the elastic web factory in Whitwick, one at the Coalville Co-Operative Society and printed in English, Flemish and French on the front page is an expression of sympathy with them in their position and the hope for a safe return to their country and a prosperous future. The diaries are nice little books and the writer was assured that they are being made good use of and are very much appreciated.

Regret was expressed that the chairman of the committee, Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., who has become very popular with the Belgians was unable to be present at Monday’s festivities owing to indisposition.

ROLLS OF HONOUR AT CHURCHES

In the “Peterborough Diocesan Magazine” there appears the following letter from the bishop, sent to the clergy of the diocese:-

“At a meeting of the Leicester Recruiting Committee the following resolution was passed; ‘That the Bishop of Peterborough be requested to ask the clergy of the diocese to institute a roll of honour in their respective parishes in which the names of all parishioners who are serving in the war may be inscribed, and to affix such roll of honour to the church door. That the names also be published each month in the Parish Magazine, and that they also publish in their magazine, any letters from parishioners serving at the front that they may be able to obtain for such purpose.’ This resolution expresses what I had already tried to bring to the notice of my clergy, and I hope that it may be carried out in every parish, and without unnecessary delay, and I find that in many parishes it was done before I wrote. I would only add my hope that the church bell may every day be rung at noon as a call to private prayer, and my hope that frequent service of intercession may be carried on in every parish.”

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COALVILLE TOMMY’S HUMOUR

NOT TROUBLED WITH THE BEER TAX

Lance-Corporal L. G. Beck, writing from France to his sister, Mrs L. Curtis, of 88 Albert Road, Coalville, intimates his promotion from private and says things have not been going amiss with them lately. *“At present,” the letter continues, “I am sitting in my happy home – a hole dug out in a ditch – sludged up to the eyes but still smiling, and am not bothered with rent, rates, nor beer taxes (the latter underlined) and if I got sold up, the lot could be had for a packet of Woodbines. We have had plenty of rain lately which has left us rather uncomfortable. We have not had a wash, shave or change for a fortnight, so I will leave you to guess what we look like. I am getting quite proud of my whiskers and am going to give them a start up a beanstalk if I don’t have to part with them soon. Since I have been out here I have learnt enough French to get me into any asylum. You should hear us splutter. I get a look at the ‘Coalville Times’ from Sten Hardy and have got a Coalville policeman, Granger, in my company in case we have a row (Germans admitted free). We have had a few dust-ups with them. Some say they cannot shoot, but I have had my eyes filled (with dirt), dirty dogs, and gave them my blessing. But I think I levelled the score the next day, as I got a pot shot at one who went down without picking a soft spot to sit on. I counted ten, and he did not get up so I guess he was ‘out.’ It’s a fine game, “Hit ‘em and dodge ‘em,” but I shall not be sorry when it is over, as the excitement sometimes is not good for your health.”*

TWICE REPORTED KILLED

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S HURRIED VISIT HOME

A former popular member of the Coalville Town Football Club, James Smith, better known as "Smosh," whose home is in Ashby Road, Coalville, paid a hurried visit home last week-end, coming straight from the scene of operations in France and returning on Monday. He is serving with the R.A.M.C. and his work in assisting the wounded is carried on in the danger zone, just behind the trenches. In a chat with our reporter, Smith spoke of some of the terrible sights that he had witnessed and said the war was a cruel business. He hoped it would soon be over. He laughingly referred to the reports which had twice been circulated in Coalville and district to the effect that he had been killed and said they probably arose from the fact that he was once posted as missing for several days. He got separated from his regiment for several days, but he was safe with a British battery all the time. During these days they were entertained by a French nobleman at his mansion and were looked after splendidly. Smith, in his droll way, remarked that that was all right, and he could have done with a bit more of it. It was better than being close to the firing line, where, he said the noise of the guns was terrific. It was quite a treat to get into peaceful Coalville again if only for a few hours.

Smith is working with another Coalville footballer, "Menty" Commons, who is to have a few days' leave shortly. During one of the battles some eight or nine weeks ago, 'Smosh' stated that he also saw another former Town footballer, Dick Keeling, of the Northumberland Fusiliers and hailed him as they marched past. He has not seen him since. Smith was an interested spectator at the Coalville Town match with Shepshed on Saturday.

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT

HOW HE SPENT CHRISTMAS

CAROL SINGING IN THE TRENCHES

In a letter to Mr A. E. Johnson, chairman of the Committee of the Coalville Town F.C., Private W. Scoon, an old Town player at the front, says he is 'in the pink' and expresses thanks for two boxes of "fags" received and a parcel, the contents of which, he says, were grand. He congratulated the one who packed it observing that it arrived without being damaged in the slightest. His Christmas had been very different from what it was twelve months ago but he did not grumble. They all had a champion Christmas dinner. Both armies kept up the festive season as much as possible and on Christmas Day things were very quiet at the front. One regiment in their brigade started singing Christmas carols very early in the morning and he did not know what the Germans thought about it. He concludes, *"It was very good of the boys to buy me that football. We shall not be able to play with it yet, but it will come in a treat when we go for another rest. I am pleased to hear that the Town are standing yet for the Rolleston Cup and hope they may win it."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

A GOOD CHRISTMAS

We have received the following letter from France:-

Dear Sir, I thought I would write to you and let you know how I, one of the Coalville lads, am going on. We are having a good time and a busy one out here, but it is awfully cold, the hospital being right up the sea front. We had a very good Xmas and the men in the corps, besides the patients, received Princess Mary's Xmas gifts. I am glad to hear that a good number of the Coalville lads have joined, and are almost ready for coming out. I am sure it is for a good cause. I have seen a good number of wounded Englishmen and Germans, being a private in the R.A.M.C. and always working among the wounded. When we first started out we intended to land at Ostend. We did land there but only to draw rations, and there we saw all the Belgian Artillery retiring, and we had to quit there sharp. From there we came to the place we are now stationed at and have been awfully busy ever since. We had Seymour Hicks, Miss Gladys Cooper and one or two more good artists giving a concert to the patients. I think myself the motto is "Play the man, and win the fight."

From H. S. Booth
4, London Road, Coalville
13th General Hospital
British Expeditionary Force

P.S. I have the "Times" sent to me every week.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

The following letter has been received by Mrs Ben. Robertson from her son Joe who is now serving at the front in the Leicester Battalion:-

Dear Mother, This is Christmas Eve and it is the first time that it has been quiet from firing. I am in the trenches again and I am sitting in my "dig out" writing, you would hardly believe it that we and the Germans are singing hymns and hurrahing and clapping each other. We are just asking them if they will play us a game of football. One of them asked us to sing the latest song. They say they are quite fed up and asked us for some "fags." We are only about 450 yards off. It shows what they are for while we are having a bit of fun with them they keep on sniping at us and we don't fire a shot back. It is now Christmas Day, we have just been on the top of our trenches and the Germans have even given one of our chaps some cigars. I have received your parcel and it is just what I wanted.

Your son, Joe.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST BAGWORTH SOLDIER

ILLNESS OF A MATERIAL WITNESS

CASE ADJOURNED

At the Market Bosworth Police Court on Wednesday. Leonard Ward, a soldier in the Connaught Rangers, of the Royal Barracks, Dublin, late of Bagworth, who appeared in court in khaki uniform, was charged with a serious offence against Doris Gamble, between the age of 13 and 16 years at Bagworth, on Aug. 23rd, inst. Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) was for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Dr. T. Wilson, of Ibstock, deposed to being called by Sergt. Iliffe to examine the girl, which he did in the presence of her mother at Strawberry Villas, Melbourne Road, Ibstock, on August 29th, and he found no absolute proof bearing out the alleged offence, the condition of the girl being such that it may or may not have been committed.

The clerk stated that Mrs Baxter, in whose service the girl was at the time, and who was a most material witness was not present. Mr Baxter appeared and said his wife was ill. Mr Jesson asked whether she was under the doctor.

Mr Baxter*: Not at present.*
Mr Jesson said that if the police could not prove their case, the accused should be discharged. He was on furlough and should return to Dublin that night. The Clerk asked when the defendant enlisted. Mr Jesson said he believed it was August 27th. The clerk suggested an adjournment.

Mr Jesson said that it was unfair to his client who wanted to get back to serve his country. If they adjourned the case till Monday, Mrs Baxter might then be able to come, and defendant would be suffering all the time – suffering innocently. Supt. Smith asked for the case to be adjourned to Hinckley on Monday.

Mr Jesson: *And suppose Mrs Baxter can't be there?*
Supt. Smith: *We will see that she is there if it is at all possible. If not, we will let the case go through on its merits. I will not ask for a further demand.*
Mr Jesson applied for bail.

Supt. Smith said the man absconded a few days after the date of the alleged offence. Defendant's mother offered to be surety. She said she was a widow and the defendant had been a good son to her. The case was remanded to the Hinckley Police Court on Monday and bail was allowed, defendant in a bond of £10 and one surety (his mother) in £10.

THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

Another of the series of war lectures took place in the Village Hall on Monday night when there was again a capital attendance. The lecture, which was on "The fight for Calais," should have been given by the Hon. Malcolm Macnaughton, but as he was called away in connection with the death of his brother, Mr Ritchie stepped into the breach. The Hon. Charles Booth presided. The lecture was illustrated with some capital slides, the lantern being managed by Messrs H. Upton and W. Watts, stage manager, Mrs J. J. Sharp and Miss Burkitt of Whitwick, ably contributed songs. The proceeds amounted to £3 for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

GIFTS TO WHITWICK YEOMANRY

OFFICERS' LETTER OF THANKS

The following letters have been received by Mrs Sharp.

Colonel Freke writes: *"Thank you very much for cheque for £17 7s which I am taking out with me to France and will give to Major Martin for the benefit of the C. Squadron. I should like to specially thank the children of the Holy Cross School who gave up their treat for the benefit of the men serving at the front."*

Major Martin writes: *"Col. Freke handed me on the most generous gift from your neighbourhood on his return from leave and the men are deeply grateful for the good feeling of friends at home specially the children. I shall hope to buy things from time to time for them as they are wanted which just makes all the difference. We are on an average a fortnight away from everything for which we write home and what is an urgent need one day becomes a superfluity in a fortnight or the converse. The local yeoman are all doing themselves and their regiment credit and I never wish to command a better lot, take them all round. Corporal Hughes has amply justified his promotion, and such men as Green and Carter are the backbone of any corps lucky enough to contain them."*

BELGIAN REFUGEES MARRIED AT COALVILLE

AN INTERESTING EVENT

Yesterday (Thursday) morning, St. Saviour's Church, Coalville, was packed to the doors, with hundreds outside unable to obtain admission, the occasion being the wedding of two of the Belgian refugees now staying at Broom Leys, Coalville. The congregation included many of the other refugees and also several members of the local committee.

The names of the couple were Bertha Maesschalck and Frans Janssens, who both hail from Antwerp. They were acquainted before leaving Belgium, and the acquaintance being renewed at a meeting in Holland, they became engaged after reaching England. The event created a great deal of interest in Coalville and district and thanks to the generosity of friends, the happy couple presented quite a smart appearance yesterday. The bride wore a dove grey dress which had been presented to her by Mrs Thompson, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, and a white straw hat with pink trimmings, and she carried a pretty bouquet given by Mr J. Alldread. The bridegroom wore a new suit and gloves presented to him by the workmen in the Coalville Co-operative Stores Bakery where he is now employed. Madame Jeannie Deroux was bridesmaid and M. Peter Lauwers gave the bride away. The bridesmaid also carried a bouquet and this, with the button holes of the bridegroom and best man, were also given by Mr Alldread.

The Rev. Father Degen conducted the ceremony in English and Flemish and this was followed by a nuptial mass. Masters William Wardle and Albert King were the acolytes. Harry Bond, cross bearer, and Sidney Jordan master of ceremonies. Others who assisted in the Sanctuary were J. McHugh, H. Wardle, J. McGowan, G. Wileman and H. Hill. Miss Beatrice Harrison presided at the organ, and the girls' branch of the Children of Mary connected with the church sang "Veni Creator," "Jesus the very thought of Thee," "O Salutaria Hostia," and "Sweet sacrament divine," and at the close the organist played the Belgian National Anthem.

The civil marriage ceremony was afterwards conducted in the vestry of the Registrar, Mr C. E. Hussey, of Ashby, the witnesses to this being Mr A. E. Hawthorn, (secretary to the local Belgian Relief Committee), Mr J. Husband (treasurer) and Mr T. Grosart. The newly married couple had a tremendous ovation and were covered with confetti as they proceeded from the church to the carriage and pair, kindly lent by Mr George Henson. They were driven off amidst cheers to Broom Leys where the wedding breakfast was served.

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ASHBY

BELGIAN REFUGEES' CHRISTMAS TREE

The Ladies' Committee presided over by Lady Maude Hastings, who have the care of the Belgian Refugees, provided a most enjoyable "At Home" in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening of last week, a large company being present. A Christmas tree, bearing useful gifts was set up in the centre of the hall, which was tastefully decorated, and tea and coffee etc., were served. An entertainment was also given by the following ladies and gentlemen, Mr Thomas, Miss M. Slater, Miss L. Slater, Master G. Orchard, Miss E. Orchard, Mr C. Elliott, M.A., and Mr Hamlyton (conjuror). Lady Joyce gave an address in French, wishing the Belgians a happy New Year. She said that it had opened with a cloud which she hoped would soon pass away. She had a young relative who had been wounded, and who desired much to have been present that evening, but it was difficult for him to come, and he sent every kind wish to them. Miss Allen also spoke in French at some length, and added that she had been desired by the Belgians to express their great gratitude to Mrs Abel Smith and the ladies and gentlemen of Ashby for their great kindness.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Mr and Mrs William Grigg, of 156, Jarram Street, Leicester, have eight sons serving in the army and navy. Three are at present in France, and one is a prisoner of war in Germany. The names of the men are as follows: William (aged 33), National Reserve; Arthur John (31), Sherwood Foresters; Robert (30), Leicester Territorials; Henry (27), Sherwood Foresters; Thomas (26), R.A.M.C.; Bert (21), Canadian Highlanders; Ernest (19), Sherwood Foresters; Mark (18), the navy. The King has been notified of the family's excellent record.

On Tuesday morning a draft of Leicester men, 160 strong, who had been training at Glen Parva Barracks for the new army left the depot for the several Leicestershire battalions at Aldershot. A company of the 4th Leicestershire Territorial (Reserve) Battalion also left Leicester at midday, to join the Foreign Service Battalion, now in training.

Before the Whitwick Citizens' Corps started to march to the Coalville rally on Sunday an interesting event took place at their headquarters. This was a presentation of badges by Capt. W. E. Stevenson to the Rev. T. W. Walters (vicar) and the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly (Catholic Priest), the two chaplains of the corps. The captain made a few appropriate remarks to which the recipients of the badges replied.

Another batch of wounded soldiers arrived at Leicester Midland Station on Monday on their way to the 5th Northern General Hospital. They were all English – 139 of them – a large proportion of them surgical cases, although there were some who were invalided home, and a few frost-bite cases. Only 29 were "cot cases" – a smaller proportion than usual. The men had come over from Boulogne to Southampton, and had a good passage. Most of them sustained their wounds in the neighbourhood of Armentieres or La Bassee.

Lady Dimsdale, on behalf of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, writes desiring us to acknowledge with thanks the kind help and assistance of Coalville ladies, who through Miss A. L. Richardson, of Vaughan Street, have contributed parcels of warm garments and winter woollies for the blue jackets and mine sweepers in the North Sea, which are much appreciated by the men.

The local Citizens have been much in the lime-light this week. Their rally at the Coalville Olympia on Sunday afternoon was a huge success, and the splendid reception accorded to Mr Brockington has fully redeemed Coalville's character in regard to its sense of appreciation of what is good and elevating. On the occasion of the Director's former visit the organisation may not have been all that could have been desired, at any rate, there was a meagre attendance, but on Sunday, Mr Brockington had probably one of the largest audiences that he has met in the county, and certainly he has met none which was more appreciative. The lecture, as well as being most instructive, was delightful for the brilliancy of the oration, and we doubt not that it made a profound impression on the vast audience assembled. In this, the Citizens accomplished the object of their rally and at the same time they materially helped the Soldiers' Comforts' Guild. The collection realised £14 for that object and probably nearly a similar sum will be forthcoming as ticket money.

The Coalville Citizens' again gathered in good force on Monday night on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Beaumont Rifle Club. The fortunes of the club have varied a good deal since it was started some eight or nine years ago and just before the war broke out had fallen to a very low ebb, there being only about half a dozen members, but the club now seems to be having the time of its life. Events have shown it to be a most useful institution and the bulk of the Coalville Citizens having joined, they will now be able to obtain shooting practice without having to go through the formality of getting a range approved by the War Office, which would doubtless have delayed matters for some little time. The range and equipment of the club are at the disposal of the members – among whom are several other than members of the Citizens' Corps – and in order that no time may be lost in obtaining shooting practice, an indoor range is to be opened almost immediately, thanks to a kind offer by Messrs. Stableford and Co. through Mr B. G. Hale, of the loan of a suitable building.

The recruiting campaign in the Bosworth Division is still being carried on by Capt. Stevenson and the two political agents, Messrs. R. Blower and W. Baldwin, but the meetings this week are all on the Hinckley side. On Monday they were at Witherley and Ratcliffe Culey, Tuesday at Sibson and Sheepy, Wednesday at Sutton Cheney and Market Bosworth, last night at Higham and Stoke Golding and tonight (Friday) they are at Sapcote and Stoney Stanton. The speakers are Messrs. G. Sanford and J. Dockett from London.

The local recruiting campaign is meeting with encouraging results. For the week ending January 9th, 85 recruits came forward at the various meetings as follows: Bagworth 4, Barlestone 5, Sharnford 5, Burbage 1, Hinckley 35, Bardon 5, Earl Shilton 15, Swannington 3, and Barwell 12. A number of them on medical examination were found to be physically unfit but all honour is due to them for their willingness to serve King and country. A bright spot is to be found in Leicestershire in the village of Ratcliffe Culey. With a population of less than 200, this small parish has sent no less than 35 recruits.

Typical of the splendid sacrifices which are being made by all classes of people in Coalville and in various ways for helping the men who are fighting our battles in France and the North Sea, a gift of five guineas to the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts' Guild has just come into the hands of the treasurer (Mrs J. W. Farmer) in an interesting manner. For some years it has been the custom of Dr. Jamie and Mr George Glover (colliery under manager) to act as hon. lecturer and hon. instructor respectively to the St. John Ambulance classes which are run during the winter months in connection with the South Leicester and Snibston Collieries, and in recognition of their services, it has invariably been the custom of the miners to

make them a small present at the end of the term. They were desirous of doing so this year, but both Dr. Jamie and Mr Glover intimated their willingness to forego the gift on this occasion and let the money go to the funds of the Guild. Five guineas, therefore have been handed over as stated.

SHEPSHED

DANCE

The 'Knuts' who are down at their homes for a week's furlough organised a successful dance at the Britannia Street Schools on Monday evening in aid of the fund for the relief of the Belgians in Belgium.

FROM FRANCE

Sergeant J. H. Green (Springbarrow Lodge) and Trooper Leonard, (Finney Spring), of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, had 96 hours leave from the front last week and paid a visit to their homes.

HIGHLAND PIPERS

Crowds of people turned out last Wednesday evening to witness the parade of the Highland Pipers, who were accompanied by a contingent of soldiers now billeted at Loughborough. From the Market Place a move was made to the County Schools where successful recruiting speeches were made.

WHITWICK

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

A successful whist drive and dance were held in the Holy Cross School on Wednesday night, the proceeds being for the local Belgian Refugees and hospital funds. About a hundred were present. Messrs. J. H. McCarthy and J. Beeson were the M.C.'s for the dance, Mr J. Cooper being the pianist. The M.C.'s for whist were Messrs. Dickens and M. Downes and the following were the prize winners:

Ladies: 1st Mrs Abell (Hugglescote), an umbrella; 2nd Mrs Smith, box and gloves; Mystery, Miss Rawson.
Gents: 1st Mr Stretton, brace of pheasants; 2nd Mr Ward (Thringstone), walking stick; Mystery, Mr Beeson.

Refreshments were provided by a ladies committee.

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ADVERTISEMENT

TENDERS

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT BELGIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE

The above Committee invites tenders for Men's and Women's Boots, also repairs, up to March 31st. Samples to be delivered to Broom Leys. Quotations to the Secretary, 12, Market Place, Coalville.

By the authority of the Committee
Edgar Hawthorn
Hon. Secretary.

A SOLDIER OF THE WAR

In the Progressive Hall at the Coalville Liberal Club, on Wednesday night, Pte. S. Rouse, of the Oxford Light Infantry, who has returned from France wounded, gave an interesting lecture on the war to a good audience. The lecturer gave a history of the war from the commencement, and, using maps, traced the movements of the various armies explained how battles were fought and the methods of advance and retreat. Mr A. Lockwood proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and to Mr B. G. Hale for presiding, which was seconded by Mr E. King and heartily accorded – Mr Hale responding, said he had spoken to many experts and all agreed that we should certainly win. Some people said the war would last for another two or three years, but

he believed it would be over in about six months. There was a seething mass of discontent in Germany and that would be the solution. The moment the military power in Germany was broken and the people could voice their feelings with no uncertain sound, he felt confident that would be the end of the great struggle.

DO YOU KNOW

That the Bagworth Co-operative Women's Guild have contributed £1 to the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts' Guild?

That as far as can be ascertained there are 134 Whitwick men serving in the army and navy?

That eight Belgian refugees at Coalville were each presented with an overcoat by the Coalville Co-operative Society last night?
That two of the Belgian refugees who have been residing at Thringstone, left on Wednesday to take up farm work near Kettering?

That Leicester's military pageant, with the object of stimulating recruiting in the town which took place on Saturday, was witnessed by thousands of spectators?

That the sum of £3 5s has been handed over to Mrs J. W. Farmer, treasurer of the Soldiers' Comforts' Guild from a dance organised by Miss Choyce at Hugglescote during Christmastide?

That over £105 has been realised from a social and prize drawing recently held at the Bridge Road Council Schools in aid of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts' Guild, the social alone yielding £32/8/8?

That the ladies of the Soldiers' Comforts' Guild have already made over a thousand articles which have been distributed among men serving in the colours from the Coalville neighbourhood?

That Ptes. Wilson (Coalville) and Hancock (Ravenstone) of the Coldstream Guards, injured in the fighting on the Aisne, and who returned to their depot a few weeks ago, have been sent home again for a further period of sick leave?

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COALVILLE LEAGUE AND THE WAR

SEVEN RESIGNATIONS

The monthly meeting of the management Committee of this league was held at the Red House Hotel, Coalville, on Monday night. Mr J. Kirby presiding. There were also present Messrs. J. Tivey, D. Marston, R. T. Bradshaw and F. W. Smith, with the hon. sec. (C. E. Marston).

The secretary reported the resignation of Measham United and Coalville Swifts (Division I), Ashby Hastings, Whitwick Amateurs, Coleorton United and Thornborough United (Division II) and Stanton-under-Bardon (Division III). This left four teams in the first division, seven in the second and ten in the third. While regretting these withdrawals, due to extraordinary circumstances arising out of the war, the committee unanimously decided to continue the league where there were any teams left at all to play.

The Measham secretary, (Mr Meadon) attended and explained that they had also had to withdraw from the Measham League, the club having been abandoned for the season owing to nearly all the players having joined the forces. If things were better next season they intended making a fresh start. The Chairman expressed the hope that the war would be over and clubs able to go on as usual next season.

The resignation was accepted and the secretary asked to send a list of players' names to help the committee in deciding as to the return of the deposit.

The Ashby Hastings secretary attended as to the ground not being marked out and no nets up for the match with Ibstock Wanderers on December 12th and only playing eight men. Ibstock were late and the match was 19 minutes short. The score was 2-2. Mr Robey explained the circumstances and the difficulties of carrying

on the club owing to the war. They had been compelled to resign, nine of the players having enlisted. The resignation was accepted and Ashby were asked to send in the names of players who had joined the forces, which, it was stated, would have a bearing on the Committee's decision as to the deposit.

Whitwick Amateurs and Snarestone United reported each other for being late in the home matches, but as Whitwick had withdrawn it was decided to let the matters slide.

Coalville Swifts resigned owing to 12 players joining the colours and it was accepted with regret. The Swift's secretary was asked to send in a list of the players who had enlisted.

Whitwick Amateurs also sent in their resignation for a similar reason and saying they could not pay fines due as they had no funds. It was decided to accept the resignations with regret, but to report them to the L.F.A. for not paying fines when they had a club.

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CITIZENS' HUGE RALLY AT COALVILLE

MR W. A. BROCKINGTON ON WAR AND PATRIOTISM

EFFORT FOR SOLDIERS' COMFORTS

The members of the Citizens' Corps of Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick on Sunday afternoon had a great rally at the Coalville Olympia Theatre, kindly lent by Mr McDonald, the building being packed with an audience of about two thousand people despite a very wet afternoon.

The Whitwick contingent marched to Coalville to the strains of the Holy Cross Band, the Hugglescote Corps were led by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band while the Coronation Band brought the Coalville Citizens' from their headquarters. The proceedings in the theatre started with the playing of the National Anthem by the massed bands grouped on the platform led by Mr John Locker, conductor of the Whitwick Band, the audience joining in.

After an exhibition of war pictures showing the ruins of Termonde and other places and various aspects of the battlefield in Flanders, the chairman, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., said that though they had called that a citizens' corps rally they had not come there to talk about the corps. Sometime ago, Mr W. A. Brockington, the director of education for the county, gave an excellent lecture on "War and Patriotism" at the chapel across the way, but only very few people were there. A few of them thought it was not doing justice to the good sense of Coalville to let Mr Brockington go away with the idea that Coalville could only muster 30 or 40 people to hear such a magnificent lecture. The main object of promoting that gathering, therefore, was for Mr Brockington to repeat his lecture and he (the chairman) was glad to see such a large company. (Cheers). He had no doubt they would have a very enjoyable afternoon and would profit by the lecture.

The United Choirs of the district numbering some 200 voices, led by Mr F. Storer, of Woodhouse Eaves, then gave an effective rendering of the epilogue from Elgar's "Banner of St. George" – "It comes from the misty ages" – and this was followed by "Land of Hope and Glory" excellently sung by Madame Alice Coleman of Coalville. "The dawn of song," was another good item by the choir and the audience then sang "O God our help in ages past," to the accompaniment of the massed bands, led by Mr J. W. Burton, conductor of Hugglescote and Ellistown Band.

Mr Brockington, who was cordially received, opened his lecture by a recital on the ideals of peace and said that none had so closely approached to that as Great Britain. We became a free people from the time we became a nation. If they wanted to realise what a change an arrogant bureaucracy and military tyranny could affect in the homes of the free citizens of empire they had only to stand aside and see Germany conquer. The home might be a poor place and they had got to make it better, but in the meantime it was worth fighting for; this island of ours, with its immortal tradition of free institutions was well worth fighting for. (Applause). The war came home to them. He supposed there was hardly anyone in that building who had not someone in the fighting line or waiting to go. And it was very near to them geographically. Friends direct from the trenches had been over and spent weekends with them – a few hours leave – and had returned to the scene of the conflict. As Mr Winston Churchill said in his great speech in the Guildhall, London, only 80 miles away

the greatest battle ever known was going on and yet to the outward eye nothing had changed. They were gathered in that building in Coalville, on the 160th day, at the end of the 23rd week of the great war and to the material eye nothing had changed, thanks to our island position and a powerful navy. He referred to the devastation of Belgium and said it was not playing the game. The patriotism of our island race might not always be of a sober hue, but it was a fast colour and always came well out in the wash. (Applause).

Before this war we knew little of a new brand of patriotism patented a few miles across the North Sea. According to the philosophy of Trietschke, the State was power, and he went on to point out how this doctrine was opposed to civilisation, and it was against this that England had proclaimed a holy war. He doubted whether Germany would ever be able to hold an empire on such conditions even if her military capacity enabled her to gain one. The British Empire was a brotherhood of peoples made one in the gospel of freedom. (Applause). Treitscke said that the burning of towns and villages was a breach of international law. What of Termonde, Aerschot, Malines, Louvain? What of poor Belgium? When they thought of Louvain, Germany stood condemned out of the mouth of her own false prophet.

Proceeding, Mr Brockington said a nation's patriotism was not only shown in the time of war. There was the patriotism of poetry and he moved the audience with his fine recital of "There is a song of England," and other fine poems, including "England and St. George," which, he said, was the call of the blood, and which no true Englishman had heard and not obeyed. The poetry of the present war was more deed than song and on a recent visit to Scarborough, Kipling's lines were brought home to him:

For all we have and are,
For all our children's fate,
Stand up and meet the war,
The Hun is at the gate,
Our world has passed away,
In wantonness o'erthrown,
There's nothing left today,
But steel, and fire, and stone.

Mr Brockington continuing, said his boy talking to him the other day said, *"Are you 43, dad? You must be nearly dead."* The 'nearly dead's' would keep the administrative machines of this country smoothly running and they would keep up their drills so that if the hour should strike that a thousand men were needed for the 10th or 12th or the 20th battalion of the Leicestershire regiment, no man would be so nearly dead that he would fail to fall in. (Loud applause). In the meantime, their first duty was to those left behind – the dependants of the men with the colours. They must not be niggardly with these. (Cheers). Then their duty was to those who had suffered by the war – their devoted allies, France and Belgium – because it was their suffering that had warded off calamity for us. There was great occasion for sacrifice on the part of those who had profited by the war. Let no gain be at the expense of the public purse and let all private gain over and above the gain of normal times – all profit gained directly attributable to the war – be ultimately tendered back to aid the sufferers by the war, and let all those who could make it easier for our young men to obey the call, do so. Cursed be the man who placed any impediment, financial or other, in the way of any young man who would now step forward to serve his country. (Applause). Let them all be influenced by motives of patriotism and not by motives of profit. He need not commend to them the financial object of the assembly that afternoon. They knew it was to provide comforts for the lads at the front and more than that he need not say. But in giving his lectures his primary object had not been a financial one. The chairman had said that that was not a recruiting meeting, but he (the speaker) had been trying to get a recruit or two towards Kitchener's second million and he was glad that he had not been unsuccessful. He had been endeavouring, first of all, to appeal to the old boys because he felt that he could trust the lads he had known and loved in the schools of Leicestershire during the last eleven years. (Cheers). He had not asked them to come into the lime light, but to think the matter over and the more they did that, the more they would realise the enormous resources of Germany, the enormous speeding up of gigantic preparations which had taken place since the Agadir incident of three years ago. The more they thought about it, the more certain was he that they would ultimately obey the call. The women could also do their part. Let them make it easy for the men to go, give them of their love and sacrifice. Don't let them imagine that the men did not realise as much as the women the awful horror of it all. But it was a horrible necessity and they had got to see it through. He concluded a brilliant oration by reciting Harold Begbie's stirring poem, "What will you lack, sonny?"

The hymn, “Lord of Hosts” was then sung by the audience accompanied by the massed bands with Mr A. Clarke as conductor. The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Brockington and said he hoped the lecture would bear fruit in abundance. The vote was heartily accorded and Mr Brockington briefly replied.

The chairman then moved an omnibus vote of thanks embracing all who had in any way contributed to the success of the gathering. He mentioned the generosity of Mr McDonald in again lending that fine building and Mr Kirkham (the manager) and staff for the help they had given. The three bands and all the singers were also included, with the conductors and also Mr Storer. Mr Hale said Coalville owed a great debt to Mr Storer for his splendid services. Few men would come as far as Woodhouse Eaves in all weathers as Mr Storer did practically free and he was deserving of some recognition. The Committee were also thanked for having made arrangements by which the event had passed off without a hitch. They had hoped to repeat it in the evening, but Mr Brockington thought it would be too great a strain on him and the weather was against them. Finally, the chairman thanked the audience and announced that the collection for the Coalville and District Soldiers’ Comforts’ Guild had realised £14. (Cheers).

The united choirs sang the National Anthems of Belgium, France, Russia and England, the audience joining in the latter. The members of the Citizens’ Corps fell into line in Marlborough Square and marched to their respective headquarters, where they disbanded.

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RAVENSTONE SOLDIER’S BATTLES

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF DRIVER PLOWMAN

Few soldiers from the Coalville district, perhaps, have seen more of the fighting than Driver R. Plowman, of the Royal Field Artillery, who has recently returned to his home at Ravenstone after being discharged from hospital, suffering from injury to his leg.

Plowman joined the army in August 1905, and served for six years, after which he worked at the Whitwick Colliery. Being six years in the reserve he was at once called up on the outbreak of war and left to join his regiment on Wednesday in the August holiday week. He was with the first British Expeditionary Force and has been present in all the principal engagements since then, including Mons, Le Osteau, Marne, Aisne, Soissons, Richberg and several fights round La Bassee and Ypres.

As the artillery took a prominent part in the famous retreat from Mons, Plowman had his share in that memorable event and he helped in the saving of the guns at Le Cateau. He was wounded near Ypres being struck in the leg with a piece of shrapnel while mounted, the explosion causing the horse to rear and unseat him. He speaks in high praise of the provisioning of the British army and the excellent manner in which the wounded are tended. When he left, he said, the British were gaining all along the line, but every yard was strongly contested and dearly bought. He bears out what other soldiers have said in regard to the poor marksmanship of the German infantry but says they are very good with their artillery though no better than the English.

“There is nothing like British pluck,” says Plowman, *“Our troops are splendidly disciplined, have faith in their officers and would not flinch at anything. That’s where we are beating the Germans. I think we are on the right road now.”* In reply to further questions, Plowman said they were forbidden to talk much about the actual operations, the authorities being very strict in this respect. Asked whether he had had any narrow escapes, Plowman replied, *“I don’t know who has not,”* and he produced from his knapsack a bullet from a German rifle which whistled past his ear during one engagement and stuck in a wall behind him. Another grim souvenir was a shrapnel bullet which also struck the wall, after passing through, and killing a comrade by his side. He has had several narrow escapes from the “Jack Johnsons” which, he said, ploughed up the ground terribly. Plowman has not actually been in the trenches, his work with the artillery being at the rear and he said that sometimes they would be firing at the enemy at a distance of four miles. The roads were very bad and made it bad for marching, especially with artillery. Everywhere they were splendidly received by the French people.

After being in hospital in France, Plowman arrived at Southampton on December 24th and was in hospital for some time in Cambridge, being coming home. He resides in Church Lane, Ravenstone, and has a wife and two children.

ASHBY SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

SHOOK HANDS WITH THE GERMANS

Private J. W. Price, of the 21st Field Ambulance, whose parents reside at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, writing to a friend, says they had a fine time at the front on Christmas Day. "*We had a concert in our old barn, at which our officer took the chair. And to complete our joy there was not a shot fired on our part of the line. I must say I have experienced what I shall never forget. The men made an armistice, and they got out of the trenches and met each other half-way, shook hands, exchanged cigarettes, cigars and souvenirs. It can't seem real after the vicious fighting, but I saw it myself, and I got a piece of shell from one of the Germans."*
N

COALVILLE SOLDIER MISSING

WIFE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED

Mrs Keeling, of 69, Long Row, Ashby Road, Coalville, has received the following communication from the military authorities:

Dear Madam. – I regret to inform you that a report has been received from the War Office to the effect that No. 9102, Pte. Dick Keeling, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, was posted as missing on November 8th. Should he subsequently rejoin, or any further information be received concerning him, such information will be once communicated to you.

Yours faithfully
N. Payne
Officer in charge of records.

It is added that the term missing does not necessarily mean that the soldier is killed or wounded and he may be an unwounded prisoner or temporarily separated from his regiment.

Mrs Keeling is the wife of the soldier referred to and has one child. Pte. Keeling was formerly a player in the Coalville Town Football Club and was seen with his regiment in France by Jim Smith a few days before the date when he has been missing. We trust that he may eventually turn up safe and sound. Before leaving Coalville for the war, he worked in the South Leicestershire Colliery.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER IN FRANCE

Pte. John Latham, of the R.A.M.C., British Expeditionary Force, writes stating that the Leicester and District boys are doing as well as can be expected in these trying times. They are all in the pink and seem to be having a happy time in France. He was pleased to meet, among others, Mr Holyoak, who was in the Midland clothing shop only a few yards from his home at Hugglescote. The French inhabitants seem as if they cannot do enough for them, and he will never forget their kindness. Since he landed in France on August 21st, he has seen and done much and the memories of this modern battle will ever remain with him. He hopes that victory may soon come. He states how interested he is in getting a glimpse at the "Coalville Times" and concludes with good wishes to all readers from himself and the local boys.

A SOLDIER'S THANKS

Sir, Is it asking too much of you to insert in your paper my sincere thanks for the beautiful and welcomed parcels sent to me by people of Leicestershire and Rutland through the medium of the "Daily Post and Mercury" which I received at the front this morning. Being a resident of the village of Ravenstone near Coalville and also known to a good many people of the latter town, they might be glad to read and know I've received it safely. I am glad to say I am going on well and hope it won't be long before I can return home. Wishing you and all a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely
Pte. P. L. Smith. 6970
"A" Company, 1st Hants. Regiment
British Expeditionary Force

BAGWORTH MAN WOUNDED

Private Alfred Holland, of the 2nd Leicesters, is reported to have been wounded on December 21st at a place not stated. He served eight years in India, and was there when the war broke out. His mother lives at 22, Barlestone Road, Bagworth.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S APPRECIATION OF COMFORTS

Writing to his wife, who resides in Margaret Street, Coalville, Pte. A. Brownlow, of the C. Co. 1st Leicestershire Regiment, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, expresses his appreciation of mince pies sent and also says he wishes to thank the people of Coalville for sending comforts. The articles were very welcome as it was cold in the trenches where he was, and they will help to keep him warm. He hopes the weather will soon change though he is as well as can be expected. The letter proceeds, *"I hope you had a merry Christmas. Mine was not very pleasant but never mind, I hope to have one better another year, all being well. Tom Granger is with me and he is quite well at present, also Sten Hardy and a lot more Coalville boys."*

ELLISTOWN GOALKEEPER'S RETURN

EXPERIENCES WITH THE LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

A former goal-keeper for Ellistown St. Christopher's F.C., Trooper S. Black, son of Mrs Black of the Ellistown Hotel, has returned from France, where he has been serving with the Leicestershire Yeomanry. He was in the trenches for 13 days in the neighbourhood of Ypres and had to go into hospital with an injured knee. Black says that the trenches are very muddy and damp and the muddy roads also make marching difficult. Despite this, he said the men were enjoying good health. He was in the Whitwick troop and Whitwick people had been good in sending out comforts which were very much appreciated. But for his troublesome knee, Black says he would gladly take his part again with the men in the trenches.

TOMMY WELL LOOKED AFTER

TESTIMONY OF A COALVILLE SOLDIER

Further excellent testimony to the splendid manner in which the British soldiers in the fighting in France are being looked after is contained in a letter received this week by Mrs G. Ward, of 17, Oxford Street, Coalville, from her brother, Pte. A. Edwards, of the No. 4 Signal Section, 18th Brigade.

Having expressed thanks for her letter, paper ("Coalville Times"), and cigarettes, he says he hopes that they all had a good time at Christmas and continues: *"I am pleased to hear that they keep busy at the pits. We still keep having plenty of rain here and it was awful last week, where I was in the trenches. We were nearly flooded out. We have to keep making dams to drain the water off. None of us will be sorry when the nice weather comes round again, as we cannot do much yet, only wait for a change, but we are holding them off alright. It is only a matter of time, and we don't mind, as we are fighting for a good cause, and with right on our side we can look forward to victory in the end. There is a lot to be done yet, but we shall tire them out and in the end I shall not be sorry when we start tracking for Berlin. I am still quite well, and "in the pink" and all they boys are keeping fit. We have had very little sickness, which speaks well for the comfort and health of the troops as I can assure you that all that is possible is being done for Tommy's welfare."*

MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.'S ROLL OF HONOUR

LIST OF WORKMEN WHO HAVE JOINED THE FORCES

The following is a complete list of all the men (73) who have left Messrs. Stableford's works in Coalville since the outbreak of war to join the King's forces:-

Roland Hill, Harold Hancox, Lewis Wheeldon, Fred Bradshaw, Henry Smith, Ernest Massey, Robert Deacon, Arthur Massey, William Scoon, Charles Jewsbury, Albert Thirlby, Harold Deakin, Wilfred Lilley, John Hall, Samuel Boot, Alfred Freeman, Fred Ducker, Horace Savage, Charles Hunt, Walter Smith, Harold Smith, Wilfred Fowkes, William Howell, Edward Knight, Emanuel Holyoak, James Massey, Joseph Brown, Samuel Allen, Albert Mason, William Saddington, Arthur Poole, Horace Crofts, Jesse Weston, Joseph Cowley,

Edward Walker, Walter Gray, Alfred Deakin, James Coles, Arthur Congrave, Walter Hagger, Oswyne Peck, James Hurst, Benjamin Grew, Alfred Smith, Thomas Berkin, William Cooke, Cecil Bradshaw, John Harper, Harold Jones, William Harrison, Joseph Collier, Frank Wheeldon, John Spriggs, George Gilbert, Fred Williamson, Lawrence Usherwood, George Clarke, Harry Spence, Edgar Boot, Frank Glynn, Fred Toyer, Fred Briers, Joseph Capnor, Charles Topham, Frank Tabener, Jack Platts, Harold Clark, George Wilkes, Frank Bonser, and Stanley Harrison.

FRAUDULENT COLLECTING FOR WOUNDED SOLDIER

A SERIOUS OFFENCE

MEASHAM COLLIERS SENT TO PRISON

At the Ashby Police Court on Saturday, James Walker (37) and Ezra Spacey (28), colliers, Measham, were summoned for collecting alms under a false pretence that a wounded soldier was in great need and had received no pay, at Measham, on January 2nd. Both pleaded not guilty.

Emily Biggs, wife of George Biggs of the Union Inn, Measham, stated that the defendants came into the smoke room about 5 p.m. They showed her a paper, stating that H. Sanders, a wounded soldier, of Measham, was in great need, and they were collecting to try and get him something to eat for next day's dinner. She said, at first that she would not give anything as he should be receiving pay from the War Office. Both men said that Sanders had received no pay for six weeks. She said that altered the case and gave them one shilling. Another man also gave them something.

By Walker: *He did not ask her to give anything, but asked her to read the paper. She said he ought to be receiving pay and he (Walker) then replied that Sanders had not had anything for six weeks.*

Alexander Meaden, landlord of the Bird in Hand, Measham, said the defendants came into his house and he gave them one shilling, but he made the remark that it was a shame that anyone should have to come round collecting for a wounded soldier. Similar comments were made in the bar.

The Clerk: *And this would not help recruiting?*
Witness: *No, I thought it was a bad example. – He added that when the defendants presented the paper, he questioned whether it was legal and the defendants said it was, as Sanders had received no pay for seven weeks.*

Henry Sanders, the wounded soldier referred to, who appeared in khaki uniform, said he was in the Coldstream Guards and was wounded at Ypres. His wife received 16s per week and 2/6 per week from a local fund. Since he returned home on 9th November, he had received in addition, £5 from the army authorities, the last payment of £2, being on December 13th. He had also received half a ton of coal from the Measham Colliery. The rent of his house was 2/6 per week. He never asked these men to make a collection for him.

P.C. Holmes said he and Sergt. Wood went to Sander's house on Saturday night and found the two defendants there with Sanders and his wife. A gallon of ale was on the table. He saw a collecting paper bearing Sanders' name and the following words:

Dear Friends. – Can you help me, as I am a wounded soldier from the front and am in great need.

There were various subscriptions marked on the paper to the amount of £1/4/6. Sanders told witness he had not written it. Spacey admitted writing the paper and when served with the summons said he thought he was not doing any harm. He added that on Sunday morning they paid over £1/5/8 to Sanders. Witness received complaints from nearly every tradesman in Measham about the defendants making this collection, saying it was a shame that anyone should have to collect for a wounded soldier. The defendant Walker, on oath, admitted the collecting and said it was to give Sanders a present before he returned to the front.

By Supt. Lockton: *He did not see Sanders before making the collection, and did not get his permission.*
The Supt.*: Did you tell the people Sanders was in great need? – No sir, I said his wife had been ill for six or seven weeks.*
Supt. Lockton: *You wrote the paper without getting Sanders' permission? – Yes.*

And when the policeman went to the house, you had a full gallon of ale there? – Yes.
The other defendant, Spacey, said he was not much of a clerk. He wrote the paper without thinking and did not think he was doing any harm? – Yes.

The Bench considered the case in private and on their return to Court, the chairman said they regarded it as a very serious offence. It was so serious that the case could not be met with the infliction of a fine, but called for a term of imprisonment. It was bringing the whole army into disrepute, and causing people naturally to say that if that was the way they were going to be treated they would not enlist. It had been proved to be a wholly false statement and the defendants would both be sentenced to 21 days' hard labour. He hoped this would be a lesson, as if the offence was repeated, the offenders next time would not get off so easily.

BABY BORN AT BROOM LEYS

ANOTHER MUSICAL EVENING

An interesting event happened at Broom Leys, Coalville, on Sunday morning, one of the Belgian refugees giving birth to a bonny baby girl. Both mother and child are doing well. The former is the wife of M. Gaspars, formerly a hotel proprietor at Herve, near Liege. Some twenty years ago, M. Gaspars was a waiter in England. Returning to Belgium he started in business for himself and at the time of the German invasion owned a fine hotel and restaurant worth £4,000, which the Huns destroyed, and the unfortunate owner with his wife and two children (the new arrival is the third) had to flee for their lives. M. Gaspars speaks fairly good English and recently informed the writer that he hopes to return to Belgium in due course and to be able to resume his business with funds awarded him from the indemnity which we all hope will be extracted from Germany at the conclusion of the war. That his hopes may be realised will be the wish of his many Coalville friends, who in the meantime will congratulate him and Madame on the event of last Sunday. There are several other interesting events to relate in connection with Coalville's guests from Belgium.

News has been received from one of the refugees who left Broom Leys a few weeks ago to go in search of his wife and family. He returned to Belgium and was fortunate enough to find his wife and children at Maestritch. First of all he wrote to Mr W. Lindley saying he had arrived safely in Belgium but could find no trace of his dear ones. Since then he has written in a joyful strain saying that he has found them and that they are well. They have arrived in Flushing and the man, expressing appreciation of the kindness received at Coalville, anxiously enquires whether he may bring them over. Somewhat touched by the man's devotion to his wife and children, the committee have unanimously agreed to allow him to do so.

To make room for new arrivals – there are many refugees waiting in London for homes to be found them – the committee are arranging for the men who get work likely to be a permanency to go into lodgings in the district. There are several cases where this is being done, including the couple recently married. Miss Titerton, of Newark, has been appointed to take charge of the cooking and provisioning arrangements.

The collectors for the Belgian Relief Fund in the parishes of Coalville, Whitwick and Swannington, were invited to Broom Leys, Coalville, on Monday to spend a musical evening with the refugees. Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., chairman of the committee, presided and a capital programme included songs by Miss Hawthorn, Miss Doris Lindley, Miss Harper, Messrs. L. J. Burge, H. B. Drewett, R. J. Brown, L. L. Baldwin and E. Hawthorn. Miss Harper and Mrs Sobec sang a duet and there was a pianoforte duet by Misses Gladys and Vera Bourne. The accompanist was Mr W. Gimson, who also played for dancing.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST BAGWORTH SOLDIER

COMMITTED TO THE ASSIZES

At the Hinckley Police Court on Monday, Leonard Ward, formerly a collier, of Bagworth, now serving in the Connaught Rangers surrendered to his bail charged with a serious offence against a girl under the age of 16 years, named Doris Gamble, at Bagworth, on 23rd August last.

Mr Fisher Jesson, of Ashby, appeared for defendant. Dr. T. N. Wilson, of Ibstock, spoke to examining the girl at the request of Sergt. Iliffe, but as a result he found nothing either to confirm or refute the charge. The girl gave evidence and was closely cross-examined by Mr Jesson. Mr and Mrs Baxter, of Bagworth, in whose service the girl had been, and the mother of the girl were also called.

P.C. Screaton said he received information of the offence, and obtained a warrant for the arrest of the defendant, who, however, absconded. He arrested him on the 5th inst., as he was leaving his mother's home in civilian dress. When charged and cautioned defendant replied*, "I'm sorry I've got into this mess now. It's all through a drop of drink."*

Mr Jesson submitted that the prosecution had made out no case for him to answer, but after a brief consultation the Bench decided that it was a case for a jury to decide and defendant, who pleaded not guilty, and reserved his defence, was committed for trial at the next Assizes, bail being allowed, defendant in his own recognisance of £10 and his mother in a similar sum.

MAINTENANCE OF BELGIAN REFUGEES AT HINCKLEY

The Hinckley Relief Committee have up to the present expended upon the maintenance of Belgian refugees housed at Hinckley and in other ways, £52/10/1, leaving a balance in hand of £181/5/1.

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LEICESTER V.C. HERO

Second-Lieutenant James Leach, of Leicester, was among the recipient of the Victoria Cross who received their decorations at the hands of His Majesty the King at the investiture held at Buckingham Palace on Thursday afternoon. Sir Reginald Brade, as the representative of the Secretary of State for War, read to the King a brief record of service as each recipient was presented. Each saluted on approaching his Majesty, and again saluted as he retired after the King had pinned the decoration to his tunic, shaken hands with him, and expressed his cordial approval.

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GALLANT LEICESTER SERGT'S DEATH

Information has reached Leicester of the death in action, on November 7th, of Sergeant Noden, of the East Lancaster Regiment. In a letter to the sergeant's widow, who resides at Leicester, Lieut.-Colonel Lawrence, after expressing deep sympathy with her in her loss states that Sergt. Noden was killed while gallantly leading his men to an assault on the German trenches in a night attack. Both he and his captain were killed as they reached the trench, which was taken at the point of the bayonet.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence adds that Nolan was a very brave man, so conspicuous for good leading and gallantry that his name had been sent up to be mentioned in dispatches. His fine shooting had accounted for many Germans, and he was *"a man the regiment could ill afford to lose."*

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Mrs Edwards, of Oxford Street, Coalville, has received an official intimation from the War Office, that her son, Pte. A. Edwards, of the Notts. and Derbyshire Regiment has been missing since October 20th, but it is gratifying to know that this is an error and that the soldier is safe. Mrs Edwards herself last week received a letter from him dated January 6th saying that he received the Christmas parcel all right and was still enjoying good health. Also one or two letters from Edwards have appeared in our columns since October 20th, one appearing last week. In none of his letters does he say anything about having been missing. This news will serve as a little consolation perhaps to other Coalville people who have received similar letters from the War Office notifying that their relatives are missing. In each of the communications, it is stated that the term "missing," does not necessarily mean that the soldier has been killed or wounded, or even taken prisoner, but may be temporarily separated from his regiment.

The question is also being discussed locally as to whether there will be any Coalville League Cricket this season, owing to the war. We see no reason why the League should not go on as usual. A meeting will be held soon at which the matter will no doubt be fully gone into.

A postcard from the battlefield in France from G. H. Irons, of Coalville, received by us on Wednesday morning, states that he is well and a letter follows at the latest opportunity.

The members of the Coalville Citizens' Defence Corps between the ages of 35 and 38 are up against the rather important question as to whether they should sign a roll by which they agreed to offer themselves for service in the regular army if called upon. When the corps was formed, the age limit for enlistment was 35, but since then it has been increased to 38, hence the new order, the idea being that men are not really eligible for such corps if they are of military age, unless they can show good reason for not enlisting. The question was fully discussed at a meeting on Monday night and one will readily understand that it is due to no lack of patriotism that married men, most of whom are holding responsible business positions at home, should hesitate to take on this obligation while there are thousands of young and unfettered men still available. The fact that the Coalville citizens joined the corps is an indication of their willingness to do what they can and we doubt not that not one of them in the last extremity would refuse to respond to his country's call.

The question is one which is causing a good deal of unrest not only at Coalville but among Citizens' Corps throughout the country. As the point at present seems somewhat in doubt the following extracts from a letter by Mr S. C. Packer, secretary of the Leicester Corps which reported in the Press on Tuesday night will be of interest. Mr Packer writes, *"On Sunday last, the 16th inst., the Acting Chief Staff Recruiting Officer for London made a vitally important statement as follows:*

'The War Office wishes it clearly to be understood that men of military age who enlist in the Volunteer Corps will not be taken away for the regular army, if they are managing important businesses or cannot be spared because of the responsible positions they hold in these businesses.'

Again, General Sir O'Moore Creagh, military adviser to the Central Association Volunteer Training Corps, on Saturday last also said, "It is extremely unlikely that any recruiting officers will visit corps and pick out men individually. If his Majesty requires the services of volunteers they would be called upon by certain classes. The undertaking to be signed by men of military age is a War Office step to prevent undesirables entering these corps, men able but mean enough not to enlist to help their country in the present crisis. The War Office has no ulterior object, no idea of, in that way, imposing conscription."

'The Volunteer Training Corps Gazette,' in discussing this question says:- "In the event of the recruiting officer inspecting the Corps register and deciding to call upon any men of suitable age to enlist, they will have the option of either accepting attestation or of resignation from the Corps. Upon the responsible officer of the corps lies the individual responsibility of the acceptance of a genuine reason."

Mrs F. Tyler, and her two children from King's Lynn arrived at Coalville on Wednesday to stay a few days with her sister, Mrs A. W. Tyler of the Red House Hotel. Mr F. Tyler, her husband keeps the Rummer Hotel, King's Lynn, near to which on Tuesday night one of the bombs from a German airship was dropped. Bentick Street, where several houses were wrecked, is just at the rear of the hotel. The latter was protected by another large building, though it was considerably shaken. Mrs Tyler and several others spent the night in the cellar and had a terrifying experience.

ASHBY

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

A large company was present at a concert given in the Town Hall on Tuesday, arranged by Miss Redfern, in aid of the war funds. Nearly all the items were of a patriotic nature, and were generally encored. The artists were: Mrs Sharp, Dr. Logan, Miss Burkitt, Mr Thomas, Mrs Bridges, Miss Beatrice Stubbs, and Mr J. Shields. Miss Stubbs made quite an impression by her recitations, especially in "The Day," whilst Mr J. Shields' comic songs were greatly enjoyed. The accompanists were Miss Holbrooke, L.R.A.M., and Miss Flora Hastings.

LOCAL NEWS

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The Coalville collectors for this fund held their weekly meeting at the Adult School Hall on Monday night, all of them being present. The amounts from the various districts were paid in to the hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) who stated the total was £21/8/3.

DO YOU KNOW

That the members of the Coalville Citizen Corps will march to Ravenstone Church next Sunday morning?

That a concert at Ashby, arranged by Miss Redfern, on Tuesday night, has realised over £21 for local war funds?

That the proceeds from the Coalville Citizens' Rally at the Olympia for Soldiers' Comforts Guild amounted to £16/16/10?

That the Gracedieu Lodge, Thringstone, R.A.O.B., has contributed through the Provincial Grand Lodge, the sum of five shillings for the Belgian Relief Fund?

That Mr J. Sheffield, son of Mr W. Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, Coalville, is at present near Lille, with his regiment who are operating with the Ghurkhas?

That Pte. J. A. Moult, of the B. Co. Leicestershire Regiment, writing from Aldershot, expresses thanks to the ladies of Coalville and District for articles received per Mr Baldwin on the 21st?

PRETTY PAGEANT AT LEICESTER

"CHILDREN THROUGH THE CENTURIES"

LOCAL PERFORMERS

A pretty pageant, entitled, "Children through the Centuries" was given at the Leicester Palace on Thursday afternoon, in aid of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society War Emergency Fund and it was a great success.

One of the scenes, "King Charles I bidding farewell to his children" was of local interest, inasmuch as it was cleverly arranged by Mrs J. J. Sharp, of Whitwick, and was performed by the following ladies and gentlemen: Mr R. J. Brown, Rev. S. Hosking, Miss Norah Burkitt, Master Derek Lomax, Mr Stuart Turner, Mrs Marker, Miss Doris Turner, Mrs Sharp, Dr. Griffin, and Mr Stanleigh Turner.

The scene opens with the King and the Bishop pacing up and down the stage engaged in earnest conversation. Afterwards they heat themselves at the table on which are books and a casket. Two jailers are present. After about one minute, the children enter accompanied by three lady Royalists and the faithful Herbert; the ladies curtsey to the King and then to the Bishop and pass on. The children greet the Bishop, who blesses them, and the King greets them as they run to him affectionately. The lady attendants, the Bishop and Herbert now retire, Charles draws the boy onto his knee and Elizabeth kneels by his side, and all engage in earnest conversation for a minute; the King then takes the garter from his knee and puts it on Henry's and takes a necklace from the casket and puts it round Elizabeth's neck. The Jailers now approach and whisper to the children that it is time to retire. The ladies now re-enter weeping with the Bishop and Herbert. The children reluctantly rise to go after affectionate embraces, and the King is greatly moved, and as the children depart he rushes after them and takes Henry up in his arms. Herbert takes them from the attendants and all withdraw. The King now shows signs of great emotion and paces the stage impatiently (the Jailers and the Bishop are in the background). He then throws himself down at the Pri-Dieu and the Bishop advances and holds the crucifix over him.

The staging of this scene was perfect in every detail and the colouring was quite delightful. The properties used were entirely 16th century and were kindly lent to Mrs Sharp by the Holy Cross Church of Leicester and Messrs. Withers, of Silver Street, Leicester.

COALVILLE CITIZENS' AND ENLISTMENT

THE SIGNING OF THE ROLL

IMPORTANT NEW ORDER

A largely attended meeting of the members of the Coalville Citizens' Defence Corps was held at the Snibstone New Inn club room on Monday night, when the chairman, Mr B. G. Hale, explained the conditions of signing the long roll and a letter which had been received by Lord Desborough from the War Office on the matter. It was to the effect that all who were under the age of 38 agreed to enlist if called upon.

Mr C. W. Gutteridge gave a report on a meeting he attended in Leicester on Saturday when the question was discussed. Dr. Atkinson said there was a little information which had come to his knowledge which might interest them. When the corps was formed, the age limit for the army was 35 and since then it had been altered to 38. He had a brother who was a member in a large corps in Yorkshire who sent a deputation to the War Office on the matter and the reply given to them was that all who joined while the age limit was 35 were exempt from being called up by the recruiting officer. Mr Gutteridge said that if it was so it would clear the air as regards the Coalville Corps. He would like to know whether all between the ages of 35 and 38 who joined a corps while the age limit was 35 were exempt from joining the roll. Dr. Atkinson said he could not say. The Chairman said that in that case there would have been no object in the War Office increasing the age limit to 38. He thought the matter was final, but they could postpone it for a further explanation if they like. Dr. Atkinson asked how many members of the Coalville Corps it would affect.

The Chairman: *About forty.*

Mr Gutteridge said they had accepted no members under 38 since this new rule came out. Mr Webber asked how many members it would leave them with if 40 were struck out. Mr Gutteridge said a man of any age could join the Citizens' Corps but he had to sign the paper agreeing to be called upon if required. Mr George Sheffield asked how the members of the Corps would stand if the age was increased to 45, which was possible.

The Chairman: *They would come under it.*

Mr J. W. Farmer said that if the War Office would not tell them plainly they must indulge in a little plain talking. There were plenty of able young men walking the streets yet who might be called upon. Most of the Citizens' Corps had important home duties to perform but had shown a willingness to do what they could. Mr Rames suggested they go on as the Hinckley Corps proposed which was to continue as a Rifle Club. The question was asked how they would stand if they were not affiliated. The Chairman said they would not be recognised and might be called upon to have a gun license. Mr Stabler said signing that paper did not make any man a soldier. Mr Webber said the point wanted carefully considering. They had come to a crisis and this matter was either going to make the corps or break it. If 40 were struck out it would make them look very small. They were all willing to go if called upon. He had said before and he repeated it, that when the single men had gone, if the married men were wanted, he was prepared to go. It was a question as to whether they meant business or only wanted to be a show corps. He would rather adjourn the matter to think it over than do anything rashly.

Mr C. Coleman asked whether there was a time limit. The Chairman said there was not. The secretary had had several requests from the commanding officer of the district to send in the roll. Mr Allen said he did not think they could carry a gun without a license unless they were recognised. Neither could they take their rifle for practice on the range.

Mr Lashmore: *Yes, as members of a shooting club we could carry rifles.*

Mr Allen thought there would be difficulties in the matter. The question was whether they could go about carrying rifles and do one of their chief things – help in recruiting. If forty of the members left it would leave a small corps, but it might be better to have a small and effective corps than a large one to the contrary. Mr S. Turner asked for more information as to the advantages of affiliation.

The Chairman said the chief thing was recognition and they would belong to a county regiment and be called up for county drill occasionally. Officers would be detailed to inspect them at stated intervals and it would make for greater efficiency. But the main idea of forming the corps was to form themselves into a last

defence. They did not expect to go to Germany, but were prepared to defend their own shores if necessary. No doubt they could all give a reason for not joining the regular army, but the question was whether the recruiting officer would accept it.

Dr. Hamilton said he understood that the only reason that would be accepted were if they were Government servants or men engaged on Government contracts. The Chairman said he understood a good reason to be that they were engaged in business necessary for the carrying of the country. Dr. Atkinson thought it would be a mistake not to affiliate. He did not think that this latest, or any future order, would be made retrospective. They wanted more information, and he would move that the meeting be adjourned pending that being obtained. The Chairman said they were affiliated and they had the information from Mr P. A. Harris that all under 38 would have to sign that paper or cease to belong to the corps. That had been definitely stated. Dr. Atkinson said he thought his information was correct and the point should be finally cleared up.

Mr Land said they should get to know how many of the forty objected to sign. Sergt. Speddings said he thought no importance was to be attached to the paper. It was like the householders' papers sent out. Mr H. Gray said he thought it was an attempt on the part of the Government to get members of the Citizens' Corps to enlist. He was also just under 38 and had good reasons for not enlisting. He was quite willing to take his part in the defence of the country for which the corps was formed. Mr J. R. Bennett favoured Mr Land's suggestion and said the forty should decide for themselves. As to the value of the paper he thought Mr Speddings was mistaken. He knew a man who signed the householders' form and he was going this week.

Mr Jepson Turner said he had business at the War Office next day and if they would give him the questions he would try and get them answered. (Hear, hear). Mr Gutteridge said they did not want to lose a man from the corps if they could help it. Mr A. Harrison said he favoured the suggestion of Dr. Atkinson to leave the matter over while information was obtained. Mr Farmer said it must not be taken that any of the 40 were afraid to go. He had control of 300 employees who might suffer some inconvenience if he went and there were others similarly placed. His point was that it was not right for the War Office to come down on those who had intimated their willingness to do something for home defence, while there were others who could easily go, doing nothing.

Dr. Atkinson said that they might communicate with the Bradford Corps asking what information they had in the matter. He moved that in addition to what Mr Turner would do. This was carried. The Chairman said there was to be a meeting of the Leicestershire Association at the Saracen's Head, Leicester, on Saturday and if they sent a deputation they might thrash it out. It was decided that Dr. Atkinson, Mr J. W. Farmer and C. W. Gutteridge be appointed as delegates to attend the Leicester meeting. Mr C. W. Brown asked whether a man between the ages of 35 and 38 who signed the slip and gave a reason for not joining the regular army which was not adopted by the authorities, could withdraw his signature. Mr Baldwin said he had that day been talking to a man in the Hyde corps and he said that such a man had the alternative of joining the army or leaving the corps. Some members doubted that.

Mr Eames said that if he signed the paper he would abide by his signature and he thought they all would. They would rather leave the corps without signing than have to leave on those conditions. (Hear, hear). Mr G. H. Massey asked how the signing of the roll affected men over 38. There was a rumour going about that the Citizen Corps were to guard the prisoners at Castle Donington.

Mr Gutteridge said they had it from Mr P. Harris that Citizens' Corps would only be called upon in case of invasion. Mr Webber said they would do whatever they were called upon to do. It was country first, not what they were to do or not to do. The meeting was then adjourned for information to be obtained.

HINCKLEY CITIZEN CORPS

SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS

Hinckley Home Defence Corps has decided to suspend its operations for the present, and to continue merely as a rifle club. In a statement to the Corps, Mr Hawley said they were formed before the War Office required, as a condition of recognition, that members under 38 years of age must sign an agreement to enlist in the Army if called upon. Some useful and efficient men could not, for business and other reasons, agree to that condition. Those men should have the liberty to withdraw if they wished and he would say they could do so without displaying any lack of patriotism.

Fifty-two of the hundred members present voted for a resolution to continue the Corps but it was eventually decided to suspend operations.

WHITWICK MAN IN HONG KONG

Writing to his mother from Hong Kong in China, Stoker F. Swift, of H.M. Torpedo boat F38, a Whitwick man, says they are having a busy time out there. The battleships "Triumph" and "Kennett" had had some killed and wounded, but they had captured Tsingtau in company with the Japanese fleet. It was on August 8th that they heard war had broken out, being then on a long river trip at a place called Sing-Lee, 900 miles from Canton City. They heard on August 4th at Hong Kong but could not pick us up with the wireless so far away and they sent H.M.S. Moorhen after us. We had the order to proceed to Hong Kong at full speed. The river was in flood and all over the rice fields. When we got to Canton 29 miles from the mouth of the river, we ran on to the mud, but she floated just after. She had to go in dock at Hong Kong and our crew had to go to another boat (38). We then got live torpedo heads aboard, coaled, and had orders to scout for 40 miles for the German fleet coming from Tsingtau. The battleships went after them, driving them near to Hong Kong and I think they sunk one and captured two. We had orders to proceed with the "Triumph." We stopped at Wei-Hai-Wei to coal and then had to escort the South Wales Borderers from Tien-Tsin to Tsingtau to land with the Japanese. Then the "Triumph" started banging at the forts and we lay under her guns. The German boats came out one night and we were soon after them in the chase, the "Kennett" got too near the forts and they banged away at us all. We had a wireless message to keep away. There were mines all over the place and a Japanese torpedo boat was sent sky high. The "Triumph" had her top mast shot away, but one of the German ships was run on to the rocks and we finished her. We only had a shot through our funnel. We have been on the go night and day and once were 3 days and 3 nights without sleep. The writer then describes how one of the German battleships with three funnels, rigged up a fourth to imitate the British ship "Yarmouth" which has four and was known to be coming soon to anchor. The Germans by this trick and flying the British flag, got near to and sank a Russian and a French ship, leaving the men to drown. He concludes by saying that Len Hutchby (another Whitwick man) is at Hong Kong where there are several of the enemy's ships which they have captured.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THANKS

Pte. E. W. Osborne, of the Cyclist's Reserve Battalion, Sussex Regiment, writing from Hove to his mother and father, residing in Ashby Road, Coalville, states that he is alright except for a cold, in which he is fortunate, seeing that about 70 men out of 120 are sick. He expresses thanks for socks and belt and also asks them to thank the Rev. W. H. Wills (Ebenezer Chapel pastor) for the useful gift he sent, also Miss Jamie and Coalville ladies. He would write and thank them personally but he did not know where to write to.

In another letter he states that he has had a post card from Mr William Eames wishing him every success. He wonders what sort of weather we are having at Coalville, but where he is, it is continually raining. He had 37 hours on guard last week and it rained without ceasing for 24 hours. Thirty-three Canadians had recently joined their company, these men having paid their own passages from Canada to come and enlist in England. They told him that there were over 80,000 soldiers situated on the border separating Canada from

the United States and they did not want to be stuck there. They wanted to get here so that they could have a good chance to go and see the fun. In reference to the gifts for which he expresses thanks, he says they are frequently needing new socks.

FLOODING GERMAN TRENCHES

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF A SHEPSHED SOLDIER

Mr A. Caurah, of Thringstone, has received an interesting letter from a friend of his, Mr Ambrose King, of Shepshed, who is serving in H.M. Forces and is now in France. Mr King writes:

"I suppose you would like to hear a little of what we are doing out here. At present things are at a standstill owing to the floods which are very bad just here. It is an awful, and yet almost laughable sight to see our brave boys struggling through 15 inches of mud for over a mile with full pack and 50 lbs box of biscuits on their backs to get food up to the boys in the trenches. That is what is stopping us here – the mud. It gets into your pockets, in your hair and even in your food. Our job at present is fixing pumps in the trenches and we have some exciting times I can tell you. Here is one incident. At one place, the German trenches are only 39 yards away, so we thought we would have some fun with them. After fixing the pump up, two of us got a long length of hose and fixed it on the pump spout, then waited for night. It came of course, and when it was dark enough we crawled across the ground between the trenches and just laid the end of the hose on the front of the German trench. The fun began when our boys started pumping and the Germans realised there was a chance of their being flooded out. When they tumbled to the trick that was being played upon them, my word, didn't they call us some things at the top of their voices and we answered by pumping harder. The snipers are just as busy and daily take the toll of food carriers going to and from the trenches. It is a fine life and you can get some very exciting moments out of it, although I am not venturing out too much as I now have someone besides myself to think about. I am hoping this war will soon be over, although I am thinking that the Hun is a long way from being beaten yet. I hope you will excuse my scribble and the fact of the paper not being over clean, but the mud gets everywhere and my fingers are very cold as we do not light a fire. If we did a coal box or a dose of shrapnel would visit us. Must close now, as I see my officer coming towards me on his hands and knees, so I know there is something more to be done. I might get a sleep, but no such luck. Will hear what he wants (ten minutes later), I have got to go out with him to try and blow in the banks of the canal to flood the German trenches. They have just brought up the explosives. If I get back I will let you know. God alone knows whether I shall. Well, here goes."

ASHBY

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT

A successful dramatic entertainment was given in the Ashby Town Hall on Thursday night, the proceeds of which were for the fund supplying tobacco for the men at the front. The programme included a children's play, entitled, "Domestic Economy," in which the characters were well taken by Phyllis German, Clive German, N. Sumner, Ruth Logan, R. Logan and Marjorie German. An amusing comedy in one act, "Little Toddlekins," was also given by Miss Muriel Ward, Mrs Kenyon and Messrs. E. A. Mammatt, W. P. Musson, E. Davenport and C. Elliott.

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT COALVILLE

A SATISFACTORY REPORT

At a meeting of the Committee for the Coalville area dealing with the war relief funds on Monday night, a report was read from Mr Walter Lindley, chairman of the sub-committee having charge of the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, which was as follows:

"The sub-committee have pleasure in reporting that since their appointment they have received (including a girl born at Broom Leys on the 10th inst.) 87 refugees, viz., 55 men, 16 women and 16 children, of these, two were married on the 7th inst., one has returned to Belgium to fetch his wife and ten children, whom he has succeeded in finding. They are now in Holland and the committee have written him an invitation to bring them to Broom Leys. Two have returned to Belgium, two have gone to work in Leicester, one to Coventry, one to London, one aged lady had gone to her married daughter at Dartford, Kent, twelve have obtained

work locally, and the committee regret to say that they were compelled to return six men and one woman to the Central Committee in London, because they were not amenable to discipline. They are very pleased to say that the general conduct of those remaining is eminently satisfactory. It should be stated that a number of the men are soldiers who have been wounded in the war; some of them have been discharged and others are convalescent and liable to further service when fit. Your committee have thought it desirable to obtain frequent tenders for provisions etc., both from a financial point and also to give all tradesmen equal opportunity of supply. Owing to the destitute state in which the unfortunate refugees arrived and the paucity of clothing they possessed, the committee have had to beg and buy a fair quantity of clothing and boots. It was also necessary at the commencement to buy a considerable quantity of bed clothing etc. They are glad to announce that they have received four bags of flour, ten sacks of potatoes, and two 80 lb cheeses, their share of Canada's gifts to the war refugees. They have found it necessary to engage a competent woman to take charge of the catering and cooking department and Miss Titterton commenced her duties this week. They beg to express their deep sense of gratitude to the public for their general kindness to the refugees and their continued financial support and also to the various committees and collectors for their excellent services to the cause. Your committee meets weekly and although they have found the duties of a very trying and arduous nature, they have spared no effort to manage the house economically, having due regard to the comfort and proper treatment of your guests, and from the expressions of thanks received from the refugees, they feel that their efforts have been successful."

The Hugglescote District collectors for the Belgian Refugees' Local Fund were invited to Broom Leys, the residence of the refugees, Forest Road, on Monday night by the committee. Mr Walter Lindley, chairman of the committee, presided over a large attendance, including the Belgians. The following contributed to a pleasing programme: The Misses Burkitt and Bourne (Whitwick), Miss Hawthorn, Mrs P. W. Brown, Driver F. A. Clarke, Army Service Corps of Bradford, Messrs. F. W. Smith, A. G. Ball, and the Coalville Lyric Trio. One of the Belgians sang a song, and Mr Gimson was pianist. At the close, the national Anthems of the Allies were sung. A dance followed.

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KING CONGRATULATES LEICESTER MAN

EIGHT SONS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY

Mr Grigg, of 156, Jarrom Street, Leicester, has eight sons in the Army and Navy. The fact has come before the notice of the King and Mr Grigg has received the following congratulatory letter from his Majesty.

January 19th, 1915.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that the King has heard with much interest that you have at the present moment eight sons in the Army and Navy. I am commanded to express to you the congratulations and to assure you that his Majesty much appreciates the spirit of patriotism which prompted this example, in one family, of loyalty and devotion to their Sovereign and Empire. I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant.

F. M. Ponsonby
Keeper of the Privy Purse

HINCKLEY DEFENCE CORPS

MR HAWLEY ELECTED PRESIDENT

It was reported at a meeting of the Hinckley Home Defence Corps on Thursday that 216 cards were sent to members for their vote on new War Office regulations. The replies were: 18 of military age voted for and 27 against and 66 over military age for and 21 against. Mr Hawley suggested that further action be deferred pending Saturday's meeting at Leicester. The Rev. J. F. Griffiths said it was the desire of those willing to continue that Mr Hawley continue to be captain. Mr Hawley replied that other claims upon his time prevented him from doing that. He was proud of every man belonging to the corps and though leaving them they could rely upon a continuance of his sympathy and support. Mr Davis wrote resigning his position owing to failing

health. It was agreed to continue and to ask Messrs Hawley, Sefton and Kinton to represent the corps at Leicester. Mr Hawley was elected president, Mr Kinton chairman, and Mr Sefton secretary-treasurer.

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BAGWORTH SOLDIER ACQUITTED

ALLEGED ASSAULT UNCORROBORATED

At the Leicestershire Assizes on Saturday, Leonard Ward (30), was charged with an indecent offence against Doris Alice Gamble, under the age of 16 years, at Bagworth, on August 23rd. Mr Disney was for the prosecution, and prisoner, a soldier appearing in khaki, who pleaded not guilty, was defended by Mr G. W. Powers (instructed by Mr B. W. Edwards). Mr Disney opened the case, and spoke of what took place between prisoner and the girl, who is 13 years of age. He added that prisoner went away and enlisted in the Army, and when he came back on leave the warrant was issued.

Evidence being given by the girl and other witnesses, Mr Powers for the defence submitted there was no corroboration of the girl's story. It would therefore be dangerous for the case to go to the jury. Mr Disney said he was unable to point to any corroboration. On being asked to express an opinion by the Judge, the foreman of the jury said they did not think there was a case against the prisoner and returned verdict of not guilty. Prisoner was therefore discharged.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The members of the Coalville Citizens' Corps paraded in Marlborough Square on Sunday morning and then, headed by the Coronation Band, marched to Ravenstone Church, where the Rector, the Rev. S. Dowling, preached an appropriate sermon on "Citizenship." The men disbanded in the square after the return march.

The Coalville Soldiers' Comforts' Guild have up to now, sent out 1334 articles to 544 local men serving with the colours and many interesting letters of thanks have been received by the hon. secretary, Mrs L. L. Baldwin. We propose to give a selection from these in our next issue.

The Hugglescote Citizen Corps met near Mr Atkins' in Belvoir Road on Sunday afternoon and, headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band, marched to the Hugglescote Wesleyan Chapel, where an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. W. E. Garment, of Measham.

Coalville was invaded by a khaki-clad army on Tuesday, the arrival of some 1,100 to 1,200 territorials from Loughborough occasioning much interest, particularly as several of them were residents of the district. The men presented a splendid appearance as they marched along and formed up in Marlborough Square. They were dismissed for about a couple of hours and started to march back to Loughborough about two o'clock. The object of the visit was to stimulate recruiting, more men for the 5th battalion being required.

WHITWICK

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

On Wednesday evening a successful concert was held in the Whitwick Picture House in aid of the Leicestershire Yeomanry and Artillery. The arrangements were excellently carried out by a committee, Miss Burkitt and Mr J. W. Eagles rendering splendid help, and the building, which had been placed at the disposal of the committee on very favourable terms was nearly full. The proceedings opened with the singing of the National Anthem and the excellent programme included the songs, "There's a Land," by Miss Margaret Neale; "He was very kind to me," and "Just the same as his father did before him," Mr J. Shields; "The Navy," Mr L. L. Baldwin; "Roses of Forgiveness," Miss Doris Burkitt; "Land of Hope and Glory," Mrs H. D. Gee Clarke (Shepshed); and one by Miss Maud Wheeldon; Mr J. Goddard, Leicester, gave amusing ventriloquial and musical sketches. Mrs Hatter of Hugglescote ably recited, "The Victoria Cross," and Miss Norah Burkitt "Fall In," and two violin solos were played by Mrs A. E. Payne, of Leicester, while Mr Slattery gave a clever skipping rope dance. Practically all the artistes were encored. The proceeds amounted to between £13 and £14 from which a few items of expense have to be met.

THRINGSTONE

ANNUAL GATHERING

On Tuesday in last week, Mr W. J. Gough gave his annual tea to the members of the House Committee of the Thringstone Club and friends, those present included the Right Hon. Charles Booth, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, Mr J. W. Webb, Corpl. Joseph West of the Royal Scots, who is home on sick leave from the front, Mr H. Upton and others. An enjoyable evening was spent.

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LOCAL NEWS

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The Coalville collectors for the fund held their weekly meeting at the Adult School Hall on Monday night, Capt. McKernon presiding. The amounts from the twelve districts were paid to the hon. secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver) who stated the total was £9 7s, four districts not being represented.

CITIZENS' CORPS UNITED

A COUNTY REGIMENT ESTABLISHED

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE

An important conference was held on Saturday night at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Leicester, of representatives of all the Citizens' Corps in Leicestershire, the primary object being to establish a County Regiment for Leicestershire of the Citizens' forces as specified in the War Office recommendations.

Mr R. Dalgliesh, D.L., J.P., chairman of the Leicestershire Territorial Force Association presided, supported by Mr A. E. Hawley, Captain W. E. Stevenson, Captain R. W. Pritchard, Alderman J. Parsons, Mr S. C. Packer, and delegates to the number of 70 from the following corps: Leicester, Leicester Motor Corps, Leicester Home Defence Corps, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Coalville, Hinckley, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough, Syston, Sileby, Lutterworth, Wigston, Blaby, Narborough, East Norton, Withcote, Great Easton, Whitwick and Thringstone, Hugglescote and Ellistown and Kibworth.

As arranged at the meeting held a fortnight previously, each unit presented a report, and the total strength was shown to be over 3,500 men. All the corps were in favour of affiliation to the Central Association. It was then proposed that a County Regiment be formed, and the resolution was carried unanimously amidst applause.

Coming to the election of officers, it was decided that the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, the Duke of Rutland, be invited to accept the presidency, and that the Mayor of Leicester, (Alderman J. North), the Mayor of Loughborough (Alderman W. W. Coltman) and Mr R. Dalgliesh be asked to become vice-presidents. Alderman J. Parsons was elected hon. treasurer, and Mr S. C. Packer, hon. secretary. It was resolved that the committee consist of one delegate from each unit, to be appointed by them, of 500 men or under. Every unit of 500 to have additional representation for every further 500 men.

A discussion ensued as to the equipment of the regiment with arms and uniform, and it was ultimately decided to ask the president and vice-presidents to issue a general appeal to the county and town to subscribe to an equipment fund. The uniform for every unit will be alike, and it is hoped very soon after the committee have fully considered the question to provide arms in sufficient quantities to enable every man to undertake musket drill.

The chairman, replying to a vote of thanks for presiding, expressed his delight in being associated with the movement. The spirit of the meeting clearly showed that every man meant business, and he felt sure that the Duke of Rutland, to whom he would report fully, would give the project his full support, as also the Mayors of Leicester and Loughborough. His own sympathy was entirely with the men and their objects in preparing for

any danger that might arise, and he felt sure the public would subscribe most liberally for what, after all, was their own protection. The way the men were coming forward voluntarily for drill and to become efficient combatants was splendid. For this alone they deserved every recognition from all, and he would himself do all in his power to further the proposed fund. (Applause).

Altogether it was a most successful meeting, and the developments from it may prove of paramount importance. The proceedings were closed by singing the National Anthem.

DO YOU KNOW

That a concentration camp for German prisoners will, it is stated, be shortly established at Scraptoft, Leicestershire?

That the Ibstock district subscription list for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund has this week exceeded £2,000?

That badges are to be presented to the Hugglescote Citizens' by Mrs Meredith at the Hawley Institute, tomorrow night?

That the Coalville district contribution to the Prince of Wales's Fund have this week exceeded three thousand pounds?

That Mr T. Frith is preparing a roll of honour of old Coalville Belvoir School boys who are serving with the colours, the list, not yet complete, now containing nearly one hundred names?

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ASHBY CITIZEN CORPS

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting in support of the Ashby Citizens' Corps was held in the Town Hall on Thursday, presided over by Mr John German, J.P. There was a parade of the Corps, under the command of Mr G. J. German (captain), prior to the meeting and the Ashby Band played selections outside the hall. The principal speaker was Mr J. H. Watts, of the Central Volunteer Training Corps, who, after dealing with the circumstances leading to the war, said he firmly believed the Germans would attempt to land in England, and he called on every man, whatever his civil obligations, and however serious the claims of his business, to join one of the armies now being raised. It seemed to him that the emergency was so great that every man, woman, and child, of reasonable age was absolutely compelled to do what they could to help the country. Mr Watts explained the conditions of service in the Citizens' Corps.

Mr W. A. Musson said they had met to stimulate the formation of the Citizens' Corps, and there could only be one answer as to the necessity of such a body, upon which a very serious responsibility might rest. Mr G. J. German (captain) gave an encouraging report of his company, and said the question was how to get rifles and uniform but with or without rifles and uniform they were determined to go on.

Mr C. Elliott, the secretary and lieutenant, Mr G. D. Orchard, J.P. (lieutenant), and Mr H. W. Joyce, C.C., also spoke, and a very successful meeting closed with the National Anthem.

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COALVILLE SAILOR IN NORTH SEA FIGHT

ON BOARD THE "PRINCESS ROYAL"

AN OLD WESLEYAN SCHOOL BOY

Coalville was represented in the fight in the North Sea on Sunday by Mr Bert Hodgkinson, whose home is in Vaughan Street, where his father (a railwayman) and mother reside. Hodgkinson is engineer's mate on board H.M.S. "Princess Royal," which not only had a share in causing the German rout on Sunday, but also

one of the ships which participated in the great victory in Helligoland Bight about the end of August, being slightly damaged on that occasion.

According to letters he has sent home, the Coalville lad has, since the August encounter, been with his ship to Halifax (Nova Scotia) and to Jamaica in the West Indies and, though he does not say so, it is supposed that the "Princess Royal" was one of the battleships which transported Indian troops to Europe. Hodgkinson refers to the cold weather of Canada and the heat of the West Indies, and getting the contrast in such a short time made them notice it more. Writing on Christmas Day, he said his thoughts were of home and the comforts he missed so much, but he was only one in two million who were experiencing the same feelings. He believed now more than ever in the old song, "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home." He had never realised the truth of that like he had since he left home. He expressed thanks to Whitehurst's boys for sending books and said more would be very welcome.

Referring to his West Indian trip, in a letter dated January 7th, he says he does not want to emigrate now, he is satisfied with England. He had received a parcel safely but not in time for Christmas. They had gone five weeks without getting any mail. He adds; *"There is no news to speak of, and when we do get a bit of excitement we have to keep it to ourselves."*

Mr and Mrs Hodgkinson have another boy, Denis, also in the navy. He is on board the "Zealandia," having been transferred from the "Bulwark" a few weeks before that vessel was blown up. Both Bert and Denis Hodgkinson are old Coalville Wesleyan School boys and in one of his letters Bert expresses hearty thanks to Mrs Frith, wife of the headmaster, (Mr T. Frith) for having sent him a body belt and other comforts, including mittens made by the school children.

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S RETURN TO THE FRONT

In a letter to Mr Alfred Cockerill, landlord of the Royal Oak Inn, Coalville, Pte. James Smith of the R.A.M.C. an old Coalville Town footballer, popularly known as "Smosh" and who was recently in Coalville on furlough, says he landed back all right and just now was *"in the pink."* He says he hopes "Twiggie" won't get married before he gets back as he wants to be at the wedding. He hopes to get back in time to see the final for the English football cup and would like to know who is now in the running. In the struggle on the continent he says he is backing England to win. He would like to see more of his old pals joining the colours. He has not dropped across many out there that he knows yet, but mentions having seen Garner, who was not looking well. The weather was not yet very gay out there, but it had considerably improved.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER SUFFERING FROM FROST-BITE

GIFTS THAT ARE APPRECIATED AT THE FRONT

Mr and Mrs R. Booton, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, have received information that their son, Pte. Ernest Booton, of the 1st Leicester, who has been at the front, has now been removed from Havre to hospital in Manchester suffering from frost bitten toes.

Letters received from Booton before going into hospital were of a cheery nature. He expresses thanks for parcels sent and says the Christmas pudding and cake were “extra.” He did not half enjoy them and it was just like being at home. He thanks several friends for sending figs, cigarettes, etc., and says it is no use sending postal orders, as they cannot use them there. He also states that they are plentifully supplied with tobacco and cigarettes, and they need not send him any more of those, but anything in the eating line for “Little Mary” would be gladly welcomed, such as a good, solid home-made cake. They go down “extra,” but to reach him safely they should be packed in a good strong tin box. He expressed the hope that they would all have a merry Christmas and happier times in the new year.

Writing from the Manchester hospital on January 11th, Booton says he is getting on as well as can be expected. When he gets better he expects to get home on furlough before returning to the front, but at present he has to stay in bed all day, not being able to walk. He adds, *“I got these cigarettes and the new sixpence just before I left the front, also the parcel of cake, nuts, milk, etc. Tom Palmer happened to be with me so we had a little tea-fight. I had not seen Horace Briers for weeks but he is in a different company to me, I hope he is getting on alright.”*

LETTER FROM A “MISSING” COALVILLE SOLDIER

“COALVILLE TIMES” WELCOMED IN THE TRENCHES

Mrs George Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, has just received a letter dated Jan. 20th, from her brother, Pte. A. Edwards, who was recently reported by the War Office to have been missing since October 26th.

He expresses thanks for letter of January 18th and says he received the parcel intact and the contents will be found very useful. He also thanks Miss Drewett, of Hugglescote, and a relative of hers, Mrs Jackson, of Lancashire, for socks, cigars, and other comforts. He proceeds, *“I am in the trenches again this week, but we are not having quite so much rain as usual, although in the vicinity of the trenches it is almost up to the knees in water and mud. I wish it would come on a good hard frost so that we could walk about a bit more comfortably. It would be much better than all this rain. It is like being on board ship in the middle of the ocean when you glance out of your dug out at night and see the water shining all around. Gum boots have been issued out to the men to enable them to get ashore for rations, etc., but when all is said and done, things might be far worse, so we can’t grumble. I don’t know how the Germans find things, but I’ll bet they are not looked after so well as we are. All that is possible is being done to make the trenches habitable. I hope this will find you all in the best of health as I am “in the pink” myself at present.”*

Edwards, in his letter also says how he appreciates receiving the “Coalville Times” every week and adds; *“The letters that were in last week were very interesting. I see my old pit chum, “Smosh,” has been on furlough. Lucky dog! I was pleased to see also that Lance Beck was still in the land of the living, also Wesson.”*

WITH KITCHENER’S ARMY IN FRANCE

ELLISTOWN MAN SAILED ON TUESDAY

A member of the Rifle Brigade, Mr Harry Lagoe, only son of Mr and Mrs G. B. Lagoe, of Ellistown, is the first soldier in Kitchener's Army from Ellistown to set foot on French soil. Mr Lagoe joined Kitchener's army almost immediately after the outbreak of war, leaving a good situation at Rugby to do so and he paid a hurried visit home last weekend – the only furlough he has had – before sailing for France on Tuesday last. He has arrived safely and his many Ellistown friends will wish him good luck and a safe return, after having done his bit for King and country in helping to crush Prussian militarism.

WHITWICK SOLDIER IN FIERCE FIGHTING

ANOTHER BIG BATTLE EXPECTED

Writing to Mr W. J. Gough, of the Talbot Farm, Whitwick, Corpl. Charles Yearby, a Whitwick man, of the Royal Field Artillery, says he hopes all the members of the club (Thringstone House) are well. They were having a very trying time with the wet and snow and it was very cold at night. They would not care if the weather would only clear up. He had been in some fierce fighting, but things had been quiet the last few days and they were expecting a big battle soon. He was enjoying the sport though it would be a good job for all if it was over. He wishes to be remembered to members of the club and hopes that all the young fellows will come forward to help their country.

COALVILLE POLICEMAN A PRISONER

NOT ALLOWED TO RECEIVE LETTERS

Friends in Coalville have this week received a postcard from P.C. Durrands, the first communication from him for four months. Durrands, who was stationed at Coalville, when war broke out, was a reservist in the Coldstream Guards, and was wounded early in the war, being taken prisoner. His present address is Private W. Durrands, No. 8079, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, block 9, hut 5, Gefangenen-Lager, Doeberits, Germany. He states that he has recovered from his wounds and is in the best of health. He was not allowed to receive letters, only postcards, though parcels could be sent and he had received some tobacco and a pipe.

IBSTOCK MAN IN THE TRENCHES

EVERYMAN DOING HIS BEST

Pte. J. Lockton, an Ibstock man, in the Coldstream Guards, and who before going to the war was Sergt. Major in the Church Lad's Brigade, writing to a friend in Ibstock, Mr A. J. Walker, states that he is in good health at present which was something to be thankful for, as what they were going through was enough to knock the stuffing out of the best of men. He proceeds, *"A week ago today I stood for over five hours, knee deep in water, in the firing line and we could only move to raise our heads to fire and then bob down again. Going into the trenches it was over waist deep in places and the whole of the 24 hours that we were in it rained hells' delight. It is a very trying time for us, but every man out here is doing his best to keep the old flag flying. It is better that we should suffer now than that those who follow us should be ruled by such a dirty,*

rotten and disreputable nation as the Huns. That will never be unless the Kaiser walks over the dead body of every British soldier out here, and I don't think he can do this. We have potted the pride of his army, although we have lost fine men, but his losses are ten to one more than ours. Thank Jack Warner and Mr Brooks for "cigs." I don't know when I shall be able to repay you for all your kindness. I am keeping a good heart and hope to come back and see you all again some day." He concludes by saying that newspapers and periodicals are always welcome. He wishes to be remembered to all old friends.

COALVILLE POLICEMAN SAFE

TRENCHES LIKE CLAY PITS

A rumour was recently circulated in Coalville that Police-Constable Granger, late of this town and now with the Leicesters at the front, had been taken prisoner. That such is not the case, happily, is proved by the receipt by P.C. Ball, of Coalville, of a postcard from Granger dated January 23rd on which he says he is well. They are having very rough weather, raining every day and the trenches are like clay pits. They are up to their knees in mud, but are getting used to it now. Granger says, however, that he would sooner be doing his daily 8 hours police duty at Coalville. He will be pleased when the Kaiser says "finish," but does not think that will be just yet.

SOLDIER'S DEATH AT BURTON STATION

Upon the arrival at Burton on Saturday afternoon of the Bristol express, a private of the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment, named Brolan, was taken from the train in an unconscious condition, and expired in the waiting room. He had been wounded at the front, and discharged that morning from Bristol Infirmary. He was proceeding home to Stoke on sick furlough.

FAMOUS ADMIRAL

LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER'S SUCCESSES

Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, who was in command of the patrolling squadron which chased the German ships, has previously seen active service in this war, the ships under his command having destroyed three German cruisers and two destroyers in the Bight of Heligoland on August 28th.

Sir David Beatty is well known in the Melton hunting country. Born in 1871 he entered the Navy 13 years later. He served in the Soudan in 1898, when he received the D.S.O. and was mentioned in despatches; and in China in 1900, when he was similarly honoured and promoted captain. In 1912 he was Naval Secretary to the First Lord of the Admiralty.

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THE NORTH SEA FIGHT

BURTON SAILOR'S INTERVIEW WITH GERMAN OFFICER

In a letter to his parents at Burton-on-Trent, Corporal Matkin, of the Undaunted, describing the North Sea battle says, *"When we took the prisoners aboard the Blucher after we had sunk her, I had an interview with one of her officers. He said the compliment of the Blucher was 1,145 officers and men, but only 208 were saved." It was, he added, "worse than hell on the Blucher. Before they had been in action fifteen minutes there were 600 dead and dying on the upper deck, and only six upper deck hands were saved.*

The English, added the officer, were a brave nation. He further stated that he was in the Scarborough raid, and that when the British fleet encountered them they were going to Newcastle". He was surprised, continued the Burton bluejacket, *"When I told him about the Emden and the Falkland Islands battle. He said they had not been told anything of that. I asked him his opinion of the war, and he said the Germans were very confident on land, but on sea they were not so good."*

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5TH BATTALION'S DEPARTURE FROM LOUGHBOROUGH

The 5th Battalion Reserve of the Leicestershire Regiment left Loughborough on Friday morning. Recruiting for this battalion began in September, and the required strength was quickly obtained. The companies went through their preliminary training at their respective centres in the county, and at the end of November they were brought together, about half the battalion at the headquarters at Loughborough and the remainder at Hinckley. After Christmas the whole battalion was billeted in Loughborough, where the men have made rapid progress, in smartness and efficiency under the command of Colonel Atkins. It was known that they would move before long, but the order came on Wednesday unexpectedly, and rather sooner than was anticipated. The battalion fell in on the market place at nine o'clock, each man with his kit, and shortly before ten o'clock marched to the Midland Station, where they entrained southwards in two specials. Their destination was, of course, known unofficially, but all that can be stated in print is that they are following in the wake of the 4th Battalion. The departure was witnessed by a large crowd, which thronged the station approaches and the Nottingham Road bridge, and gave the men farewell cheers as the trains steamed out. A number of the men have been picked to join the 5th Battalion, and a few, who will leave Loughborough next week, are selected to guard German prisoners.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Six Barnardo lads have joined the Army this week and two have joined the Navy, bringing the list which is prepared up to a total of 757 Barnardo boys known to be serving in the Army and Navy. Boys from the homes have been in all the naval engagements.

It is proposed to erect a children's window in Thringstone Parish Church in memory of late school master, Pte. T. Jones, who was killed during the German bombardment at West Hartlepool. The sum already in hand towards the object amounts to over £6.

The members of the Coalville Citizens' Corps are making good progress with their drills and are looking forward to the opening of the rifle range which is being fitted up near the drill room.

Pte. J. Goulson, of the Scots Fusiliers, son of Mr J. Goulson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, has this week returned to the front for the third time. The gallant soldier fought in the battle of Mons, where he was wounded and again took his place in the trenches after recovering. He was there on Christmas Day, and in a letter home he stated that it was the coldest day he had ever experienced. Since then he has been in hospital with frost bitten toes, but according to a letter received a day or two ago is better again and has returned to the trenches this week.

Splendid assistance has been rendered to the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild by a cripple. People whose business takes them in the direction of Whitwick Colliery are familiar with the figure of Charles Bradford, who is often to be seen lying in his bed carriage outside the residence of his father, Mr Charles Bradford, who keeps a small shop at the corner of Hermitage Road and Mammoth Street and works as a miner at the South Leicester Colliery. Young Bradford's is a sad case. He is only 25 years of age, but about nine years ago, when he was at work in the pit he met with an accident causing injury to his spine. He has never walked since and is not likely to, being regarded as a cripple for life. Lying in his carriage since the ladies of the Guild got to work, he has knitted four large mufflers, two body belts and four pairs of mittens, using up 70 ounces of wool.

DO YOU KNOW

That Hugglescote and Ellistown is the first local Citizen Corps to be affiliated?

That fifteen more Belgian refugees arrived at Broom Leys, Coalville, on Monday?

That Surgeon-Major Burkitt visited Whitwick on short leave last week and returned to France on Friday?

That on a roll of honour at the Whitwick Holy Cross School, there are already the names of about 50 old boys serving with the forces?

That at a meeting of the County Insurance Committee, held on Wednesday it was reported that a former inmate of the sanatorium was now serving with the Army?

That with the batch of wounded soldiers (131) who arrived on Friday night, 2,500 have now been brought to Leicester since the outbreak of war?

That Coalville Fur Fanciers' Society will hold their 2nd annual show on Wednesday, Feb. 10th in the Baptist Schools. All profits to Belgian Relief Fund?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund, was held in the Adult School, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. secretary reported the 13th collection from 12 districts realised £8 8s. Four were not represented.

HUGGLESCOTE CITIZENS' CORPS

BADGES PRESENTED BY MRS MEREDITH

The members of the Hugglescote and Ellistown Citizens' Corps had a supper at the Hawley Institute on Saturday night, about 80 being present.

Dr. Meredith (the corps medical officer) presided and in a few remarks after supper, spoke of the serious times through which the country was passing and described what he saw at Hartlepool on a visit since the bombardment. The Citizens' Corps was likely to be a useful body of men. He had pleasure in asking Canon Broughton (who was present) to accept the position of Chaplain of the Corps. (Cheers)

The Canon accepted the office. Capt. Woods expressed satisfaction at the progress made so far and said the real work would commence when they had company drills and skirmishing in the open. He hoped that all who received badges that night would accept them as a pledge that they would do their utmost for the good of the corps and to make themselves as efficient as possible.

The badges were then presented by Mrs Meredith. During the evening there were songs by Messrs. A. Haywood, F. T. Bellward and J. Barratt, violin solos by Mr J. Warden and selections by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band.

CITIZENS' MEETING AT COALVILLE

THE SIGNING OF THE ROLL

SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION BY CAPT. PRITCHARD

There was a large gathering of the members of the Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick Citizens' Defence Corps at the Snibston New Inn club room, on Monday night to hear an explanation by Capt. Pritchard, of Leicester, in regard to the form to be signed by members of the corps who are under 38 years of age. Mr B. G. Hale presided, and Capt. Stevenson (recruiting officer) was also present.

The chairman said they all knew the object of the meeting. Capt. Pritchard had come over to make things clear to them and would no doubt set their minds at rest in regard to the difficulties which had occurred to them in connection with the signing of the roll.

Capt. Pritchard, who was well received said he was pleased to meet the Coalville Corps. He could congratulate them on having a splendid commandant, who was heart and soul in the work. (Cheers). He could also congratulate them from what he had seen and heard, on their instructors. (Applause). He would not say that the Coalville Corps were better than Leicester, which he had the honour to command, but they came very near to them. He went on to say that difficulties had occurred to men under 38 in signing the roll. When the corps was first formed, the War Office was opposed to them, but that attitude was changed now. The reason for calling on men under 38 to sign the roll was to avoid giving shirkers a chance for not joining

the army. He knew that there were plenty of young men who had not enlisted who ought to. If any young fellow joined the corps and signed the roll, Lord Kitchener would initial it if reasons for not enlisting were satisfactory. They should get it out of their heads that if they signed the roll they would be obliged to go. It was extremely unlikely that recruiting officers would visit any corps and pick out men. It was simply to avoid a loophole to young men who ought to join the army. There was no compulsion about it at all. As regards satisfactory reasons, these referred to men engaged on Government work, in municipal employment, telegraphic or postal work, while another valid reason was if men were engaged in businesses which would suffer if they left. He was pleased to say that the Leicester Citizens' Corps now numbered nearly 3000 men. (Applause). He called them together, with the mayor in the chair, and when he explained it to them, the decision to affiliate was carried without a single dissentient. (Applause). His opinion was that if their commandant was satisfied with the reasons given, no compulsion would be brought to bear on any member. (Cheers). He (the speaker) was the responsible party for accepting these reasons from Leicestershire Corps and if the War Office differed from him he took the whole responsibility. He had had letters from corps asking when they would have uniforms and rifles, and, what he liked better, whether they were likely to go to the front. (Laughter). He went on to outline home duties what Citizens' Corps might have to perform – the guarding of public property, railways, bridges, etc. In that way, if necessary, they might release a good number of regular forces and territorials. Although Lord Kitchener opposed the corps at first, now that had been put to him he supported it whole-heartedly. (Cheers). Having eulogised Lord Kitchener as war minister he said the Duke of Rutland had been appointed president for Leicestershire and he anticipated after he had seen the Duke that an appeal would be made for funds to equip the corps and he quite anticipated that in Leicestershire they would easily raise £10,000 (Cheers). He had heard that the corps at Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester were already in uniform and he anticipated that Leicestershire would soon follow suit. It would be a huge battalion for the whole of Leicestershire and he was doing his utmost to get them fully equipped by the end of February. (Applause). He intimated at a publication known as the "Leicestershire Citizen Corps Gazette" was shortly to be issued and that would be found most useful in imparting information concerning the movement. He said he should be pleased to answer any questions.

A question was asked as to what was the moral responsibility of signing the form. Capt. Pritchard said that if the reasons giving for not joining the army were approved by the commanding officer that settled everything and in his opinion they would never be called upon. A man might say that having signed the form he regarded it as a point of honour to stand by it in any event. That was to say if the reasons he gave were not considered by a recruiting officer who might come down, as being sufficient, would he decide to go, or resign the corps. That was a difficult question to answer, but personally he should do his best to go, were he placed in that position. (Hear, hear).

Another question was, as to whether in case of invasion, members of the Citizens' Corps could use their rifles. Some doubt existed on that point. Capt. Pritchard replied that under the Hague Convention they would decidedly be full combatants. If any of these corps were used, in case of invasion, after being recognised by the War Office, they would be full combatants and would have power to use a rifle and shoot the enemy. (Applause). Replying to another question, the Captain said he had ordered several thousand armlets to be distributed among the corps of the county. He had not waited for subscriptions for that. He added that these armlets would have to be firmly stitched on their cuffs; not simply tacked on so that in the case of invasion – which he hoped would not occur – a man could shoot two or three Germans and then take off his armlet and say that he had done his duty. (Laughter).

The question was whether the police could interfere with them for carrying rifles, or whether they would require to have a license. Capt. Pritchard said that as soon as they were affiliated, and the War Office had recognised them, they could carry a rifle going to range, and the police could not prosecute or interfere with them in any way. But he asked them not to go shooting rabbits, as a Leicester member had done, or they might get into trouble. (Laughter). When the whole of Leicestershire was affiliated they would be quite safe to carry their rifles. (Cheers). Capt. Stevenson was asked whether he would initial the forms which the commandant thought contained sufficient reasons for not joining the army. Capt. Stevenson said he had the fullest confidence in the men of Coalville in regard to this matter. He hoped to see them at their drills without being looked upon as a ghost. (Laughter). If there was anything he could do to help their commandant in passing these forms where good reason were given he would be pleased to do so. (Cheers). In regard to young fellows who may have tried to join the army and for physical reasons may have rejected, he would be pleased to supply them with forms which would enable them to join the corps. They had a full record of all these at the recruiting office.

Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge expressed thanks to Capt. Pritchard for coming over and making the matter clear to them. He went on to refer to the progress of the movement locally and suggested that they might do much better if the Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick Corps were to act together. (Hear, hear). They could form one company and four platoons. They would have more interesting and better drills if they could drill together and it would be for the good of the whole. After what had been said he remarked that he did not think many men would refuse to sign the roll. All who did sign, he hoped would do so with the object of sticking to it. (Cheers). A small company of determined men would be better than a large one, most of whom were indifferent. They wanted something more than turning out for church parades. They were in serious times, and though he did not think they would be called upon, they wanted to make themselves efficient and be more than a show company. (Cheers).

Mr Jepson Turner said none of them should have any doubt about signing now and he had much pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks. Mr A. Harrison, supporting, asked what would be the standing of the officers. Capt. Pritchard said the Commandant would be selected by the Duke of Rutland. As regards company commanders, platoon and sectional commanders, they would have their names submitted to the local commandant, and if he approved of them, the Duke of Rutland would, and that would be final. He did not want them to think that officers would be selected from outside; they would be selected from their own units. (Applause). The Chairman putting the resolution also included thanks to Capt. Stevenson and it was heartily accorded. Capt. Pritchard said he should be glad to do anything he could for the Coalville company. (Cheers).

Capt. Stevenson said that when he was instrumental in forming some of these corps in the Coalville district, he was looking forward to the long evenings when they would all be able to meet on the Fox and Goose ground and have some good united drills. He did not come to address them that night but came as they did, to learn something, and he had done so. To facilitate signing of the roll he should be pleased for it to be at the Recruiting Office and they could come there and sign it at their pleasure. He moved a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, remarking that he knew Mr Hale before the war broke out, having served with him in the old volunteers, and he knew that they could not have a better commandant. The vote was heartily accorded and Mr Hale, having briefly replied, the proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

BECAUSE HE COULD NOT ENLIST

Thomas Maids, collier, Barlestone, was summoned for using bad language at Barlestone, on January 22nd. He pleaded guilty. P.C. Shaw gave the facts. Defendant said he went to enlist and because the doctor would not pass him it upset him.

The Chairman said the defendant had done his best for his country and they would not record a conviction. Dismissed on payment of 5/6 costs.

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SNARESTONE

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive was held in the school on Friday evening. The room had been tastefully decorated by Miss Seal and her assistants. There was a full attendance, and Mr W. Glover acted as M.C. Musical items were contributed by Misses Breedon, Brown, Bell, Riley, Sutton, Turner, Messrs. J. Best and W. Riley. A good profit was realised which will be given to the Belgian refugees at Appleby Magna and the Snarestone Needlework Guild for providing soldiers' comforts.

COALVILLE LADIES' NOBLE WORK

TOMMY'S APPRECIATION OF COMFORTS

INTERESTING LETTERS OF THANKS

For some months past, the members of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild and friends have been, and are still, busily engaged knitting mufflers, mittens, socks, scarves and body belts for local men who are serving with the colours both at home and abroad, and that the gifts which are being sent out as completed (nearly 1,100 have already gone) are greatly appreciated, is amply shown by a shoal of letters of thanks which has been received.

Appended for some interesting extracts from these letters the whole of which, with the exceptions shown, have been addressed to Mrs L. L. Baldwin, 88, London Road, Coalville, the hon. secretary to the Guild.

FIRST SNOWSTORM FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

Fort Southwick, Fareham, Hants.

I received your parcel this morning and I wish to thank you and all concerned very much. The articles will be very useful. It has been extremely cold here since we came. They told us there had not been any snow here for 15 years, but we had a severe storm this morning and it now lies to the depth of six inches. I shall be very pleased if you will thank the ladies who have so thoughtfully made and sent the articles.

George W. Moyens

GLAD TO HAVE SUCH A FRIEND

Aldershot.

Just a few lines to say that I received the parcel you sent me. I thank you very much for it and am glad to have a friend like you. I hope you and your family are in the best of health, as I am myself. We are having a pretty good time of it at Aldershot. We had an inspection on Friday by Lord Kitchener. We got wet through and your socks and scarf came in very handy.

G. Bizzell

"GOD BLESS YOU ALL"

Cosham, Hants.

I received your parcel with great pleasure and I am pleased to tell you that by the time you receive this letter, I shall be ready to get on the boat for France. I am very glad they are sending me out to the front to fight for my King and country and I am living in hopes of coming back. If I do, I will come up and see you. I hope you will live long and die a happy lady for your kindness to the soldiers of Coalville. Please remember me to the people that live at 21, Hermitage Road. Give the children my best love and tell them we are going to France on Monday. Good night and good luck to the women of Coalville. God bless you all.

Pte. J. Watkins
3rd Leicester Regiment

GETTING READY FOR FRANCE

Winchester.

To Mrs Drewett and the Women of Coalville. – Just a line to thank you for the parcel which I received this morning. They will come in very useful. My regiment goes out about next Thursday and we have plenty of hard work on hand, getting ready for it. My aunt (Mrs Bolton) asked me to write and thank you for the things. I shall take great care of them. It is terribly cold here and I think it will be a little colder in France, but these things will keep me warm. Again thanking you all for scarf, helmet and belt.

Drummer W. A. Titterton
2nd Northumberland Fusiliers

"CHEERS US UP"

Talavera Barracks, Aldershot

I wish to thank the members of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild very much for the welcome parcel received yesterday. It cheers us up very much when we know that those at home are doing their best to help us. I will close with best wishes for every success and the best health to all the members of the Guild.

Private J. Walker
9th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment

THINKS OF HIS BROTHER

Aldershot

Just few lines to thank you for your useful present, which I received today. I am sure we ought to feel proud that we have such good people who are looking after our comfort. They have come just right, as it is very cold out here in the mornings. We are having some frosty weather. They are a grand lot of things and I have a brother serving in the Leicester Regiment, who would like some. His address is Pte. H. Findell, D. Co., 1st Service Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, Badajos Barracks, Aldershot.

Private W. T. Findell.

MOST USEFUL

Diss, Norfolk

I am requested by the Coalville men who are members of the A.C.S. to ask you to tender to the Soldiers' Comforts Guild our sincerest thanks for their gifts, received through Lieut. Powell. During the hard weather we are now experiencing, they will prove most useful. Thanking you once again, and wishing you a happy new year.

R. E. Deacon (Corpl)

SPLENDID WAY OF SHOWING APPRECIATION

Belton Park, Grantham
I received your gift of warm clothing for which I thank you and your workers. I am sure it is a splendid way in which to show appreciation of men who have volunteered to serve our country and I for one am deeply grateful for your kindness and consideration.

Corporal Hollyoak
9th Lancashire Fusiliers

NOT AFRAID TO GO

Talavera Barracks, Aldershot

Just a few lines to say that I received the parcel alright and was very pleased with it, and very useful too. I think it is very good of you and your friends to do such good work for us, for it we have to go to the front they could not have been better. I think we shall have to go either next month or in March, though I hope it will then all be over, not because I am afraid to go, but for the sake of the women whose husbands are there. Thank all the Coalville women and wish them heaps of luck.

Private J. T. Mugginson
South Stafford Regiment

A BIG COMFORT

Sawbridgeworth

Kindly accept my very best thanks for the nice muffler you have sent me. I can assure you it is very warm and will be a big comfort to me on cold nights. We here are all in fine form and I think all are in the best health. Again, thanking you.

Lance-Corporal A. W. Hanson
5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

FOUR IN ONE

Aldershot

Just a few lines to thank you for the parcel to Private Hicken and Private Findell, which they were pleased to receive for I can assure you that they will be appreciated by them, also by E. Ducker and Private N. Burrell. They wish me to send their very best wishes and to thank you again for your kindness.

Lance-Corporal S. Toogood
7th Service Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment

GOING TO DO THEIR LITTLE BIT

I have very great pleasure in thanking you on behalf of myself and G. Genders for the parcel received. Please thank the women of the Guild and Mr Mason for postcard. I am pleased to say that we leave for the front on _____ and mean to do our bit.

Private Fingay
2nd Battalion, Indian Expeditionary Force

AT HOME ON THE SEA

H.M.S. Cochrane
C/o GPO., London

Just a card, as promised, hoping to find you enjoying the best of health, as it leaves me A1. I wish to thank the Women of Coalville and District for their kindness in getting such useful things for the men with the colours. I am back again on my ship now, but it is alright, as I like the life and this is my home for a bit. Wishing you every success and happiness in life.

Stoker F. Wheeldon

FROM THE TRENCHES

British Expeditionary Force

Dear Miss Drewett – My best thanks for parcel of comforts, which I received quite satisfactorily on the night of January 18th. I assure you I appreciate them very much. They are the ideal things for this weather. I am deeply grateful to you and the Coalville District women for their kindness and will you kindly convey my message of thanks to them. I must tell you that I got a small parcel containing a pair of socks and four cigars from Mrs Jackson, of Clepsley Lodge, to whom you forwarded my address. I have written the lady a line of thanks for her kindness. It is good to know that we are so well thought of by our friends in England; it puts new life into us. No words can express our appreciation of any gift sent over from England, no matter how small or what it consists of. We are getting plenty of cigarettes at present and they are appreciated as much as anything, which is only natural. I am pleased to say we have not had as much rain as usual this week, which is something to be thankful for, as it makes everything so miserable and you can't walk about in any degree of comfort. I don't think there is any news as things are very quiet here at present. With best wishes to yourself and the Guild.

Private A. Edwards

The batch of letters received also include expression of thanks from Private S. Fouracres (Aldershot), Private E. Tugby (Fareham), Private E. W. Hicklin (Billerjeay, Essex), A. Hall (Leicester, A.S.C.), Private L. Lovatt, Private T. Price (Aldershot) and others. One of the writers covered the foot of his letter with crosses.

MARKFIELD

BELGIAN REFUGEES

Mr Walter Lindley, chairman of the Coalville and District Belgian Refugee Committee, was present at a very well-attended local meeting, held on Monday, Mr P. Preston presiding. Mr Lindley said that at the outset 87 refugees were housed at Broom Leys. A further contingent of 15 had arrived that day. They had been given free use of the house, with coal and gas, and in addition had received numerous articles of clothing and gifts of food. The approximate weekly cost was £30, a sum which was, he was sure, very moderate. Great care was used to prevent imposition, and suitable work was found where possible, but they must understand that not many of the men were fit after what they had endured in the trenches, suitable openings could not always be found. Some complaint had been made that some were being housed who appeared better off than many subscribers, he could assure them they were “borrowed plumes,” and the men were certainly not fit. It was England’s war more than Belgium. There was a danger – as the novelty wore off, and owing to increased cost of living – of contributions falling off. He hoped all present would do their utmost to maintain their generosity, for which they were very thankful. The Chairman emphasised the need for increased efforts, and announced additional receipts of £4 13s 1 1/2d.

THRINGSTONE

CITIZENS’ CHURCH PARADE

The members of Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens’ Defence Corps paraded on Sunday and marched to Thringstone Church, headed by the Holy Cross Band. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury.

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HINCKLEY CITIZENS’ CORPS

MR A. S. ATKINS APPOINTED COMMANDANT

At the adjourned meeting of the Hinckley Home Defence Corps, Mr G. Kinson, being in the chair, Mr A. E. Hawley said the proposed arrangements warranted the continuation of the Corps. Mr A. Shirley Atkins, Clerk to the Hinckley Urban District Council was unanimously elected commandant.

With reference to the financial position of the Corps, Mr Hawley explained that no member would be responsible for any payment beyond the amount of his subscription. A subscription of 1s per quarter was decided upon, with donations in addition from those able to help in that way.

Mr Hawley offered to subscribe £25 per annum for the use of Trinity Hall or any other suitable building as headquarters. Thanks were heartily accorded, and the Rev. J. Griffiths, vicar of Holy Trinity said the offer would be considered.

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COALVILLE SAILOR ON THE ‘LION’

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES OF GUNNER A. MORRIS

It is interesting to know that in addition to Bert Hodgkinson, as reported in our last issue, another Coalville sailor helped in the sinking of the German battleship, “Blucher” in the North Sea last Sunday week. This was Gunner Austin Morris, son of Mr William Morris, picture framer of Belvoir Road.

Morris really is one of the crew of the armoured cruiser “Natal,” but by a remarkable circumstance he took part in this action on board Admiral Beatty’s flagship, “Lion.” On the Saturday, about a dozen men of the “Natal” were ordered aboard the “Lion” for practice with larger guns on Monday, and, said Morris, in an interview with our reporter, *“we had the real thing on Sunday morning.”* In reply to questions the sailor said the message was received by wireless early on Sunday morning that a German squadron was steaming in the direction of Newcastle and they at once went out to meet them. The “Lion” led the way, the “Tiger” coming next, with the “Indomitable” and “Princess Royal” behind with a number of destroyers.

“It was a clear morning,” said Morris, *“and the sea was as calm as a mill pond. We opened fire at a distance of about 15 miles and never got never than about 12 miles except when we passed the “Blucher”. The Germans were scurrying away as fast as they could. Unfortunately the “Lion” was only in the thick of the fight for about a quarter of an hour, as the starboard feed tank was hit, depriving us of the use of one of the engines and reducing speed to 12 knots. I was with the gunners in the turret and I am sure a lot of our shots went home, though it was the “Tiger” which did most damage to the “Blucher.” We were out of action long before she went down, but she seemed in a poor mess when we passed her at a distance of about ten miles. It was most exciting while it lasted. The Germans have some good gunners but their firing was much inferior to ours.”*

In the course of further conversation, Morris said that the crew of the “Scharnhorst,” which was sunk off the Falkland Islands, had the reputation of being the best gunners in the German navy. He explained that the “Natal” was not in this action as reported at the time. Probably the mistake arose from the fact that Admiral Sturdee a few years ago had charge of a squadron which included the “Natal.” This vessel has been in the North Sea since the outbreak of war, during which time it has steamed 49,000 miles. The lads on board his ship, said Morris, were longing for their chances and hoped it would come soon, though up to now they had been in one or two interesting incidents. He then related how the “Natal” had been attacked both by aeroplane and submarine at the same time, but had come out all right, in spite of shells dropping all around them.

They had an amusing experience one morning. The report went round the ship that a hostile submarine had been sighted on the starboard bow and immediately everyone was on the alert. The object was sighted and practically riddled with the fire of the guns and yet it did not sink. Closer enquiry proved it to be the carcase of a whale floating just under the surface.

Typical of the British Jack Tar, Morris spoke in the highest confidence of the ability of our navy to deal with the enemy. His leave, which commenced on Thursday, expired on Monday when he left in the evening to rejoin his own ship, the “Natal,” a vessel of 13,550 tons and a crew of about 820. Any record of her movements will, we feel sure be pursued with interest by Coalville people. Morris is an old Coalville Wesleyan school boy.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIERS’ DEATH

FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION

Information was received from the War Office yesterday, by Mrs E. Cross, of 27, Crescent Road, Hugglescote that her brother, Private Kirby, No. 8707, 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, died of wounds received in action on December 9th. Further particulars and a photograph of the deceased will appear in our next issue.

ANOTHER OLD COALVILLE WESLEYAN SCHOOL BOY

IN THE FIGHTING IN FRANCE

Writing to his parents at Highfields Street, Coalville, from the trenches in France, on January 11th, Private J. Williamson, of the 2nd Leicesters, says he is *"in the pink"* and received the parcel safely. He was very pleased with it and didn't half have a tea. They had some plum duff for Christmas and he enjoyed himself as best he could. He thanks Mrs T. Frith for having sent him a body belt. It was very good of her to send him one, also Booton and Palmer. He proceeds, *"I shall not be sorry when it is over. I've had enough of the Germans. You need not send me any more 'cigs,' as I have got tons of them. We have had a lot of Christmas boxes, including one from Princess Mary. We are having a rest now. Send a bit of chocolate and remember me to all."*

In a subsequent letter, Williamson refers to the wet weather and say they are *"up to their necks."* It's awful. It rained the whole of one week. In his latest letter dated January 28th, Williamson states that he is still in good health. He had been in the hospital through sickness but was better again. They had been having a rough time in the trenches, owing to the weather conditions, but were getting plenty of warm clothing sent out to them. He asks for letters to be sent frequently as it is nice to receive them and enquires whether they have heard anything of Booton lately. Williamson and Booton are old Coalville Wesleyan School boys.

COALVILLE BAKER IN THE TRENCHES

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

GERMANS FED UP WITH THE WAR

One of the Coalville Co-operative Society's bakers, Private H. Kilworth, of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, writing from the trenches to Mr T. Grosert, the head baker, asks what sort of Christmas they had spent at Coalville. He had rather a rough one in the trenches. They had bully beef and biscuits for dinner and had to stand to arms all day anticipating an attack by the Germans. The enemy did not come, however. They seemed to be enjoying themselves too much. They were singing all night long and some of them shouted across to the British trenches asking the men how they were getting on. Some of the English soldiers went across to the German trenches and exchanged things with them.

The letter, which is dated January 23rd, proceeds: *"We have just come out of one lot of trenches, and the Germans have not fired a shot since Christmas and come across to us, just as if it was in peace time. They say they are fed up with the war and that as soon as the Austrians give way they are going to do the same.*

Some of them belong to the Saxon race and they say they do not care for the Prussians. I think I have told you about all this time, give my best respects to all at the bakehouse."

SAVED BY HIS WATCH

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S WORK AMONG THE WOUNDED

Private George Walden, of the R.A.M.C., who is the caretaker of the Ashby Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital at Swannington, and is now at home on sick leave, has an interesting souvenir of the war. This is a silver watch. While attending to the wounded in the neighbourhood of Ypres, Walden was carrying the watch in his hip pocket, when he was struck by a German bullet. Apparently, it was somewhat spent, but it had sufficient force to embed itself in the watch, the point penetrating through the face. So the watch, if it did not actually save the owner's life, at any rate saved him from getting a nasty wound.

Walden left England with the first expeditionary force, and landed in France on August 17th. He was present at the battles of Mons, the Aisne and several engagements around Ypres before being sent to hospital suffering from dysentery. His work, of course, was not in the trenches, but in tending the wounded and fetching them off the battlefield, often under fire, he and his comrades were frequently in great danger, particularly as the Germans seemed to have a fondness to sniping Red Cross men. Originally there were 80 men in Walden's company when they first went out and of these only eleven are left, the others being either sick or wounded, killed or prisoners. He thinks a good number of them have been taken prisoners. The Germans are particularly pleased, he says, if they can capture ambulance officers and especially the surgeons.

As emphasising the barbarism of the Germans in deliberately firing on the Red Cross, Walden told our reporter that one of his earliest experiences of the war was to see nine of their ambulance wagons out of a convoy of eleven, smashed up by the German fire and the drivers all killed, though luckily the ambulance men themselves escaped. If a party of stretcher bearers were observed, he said, carrying the wounded the Germans would immediately fire on them. He himself witnessed such acts on several occasions and had had one or two narrow escapes. He recalled one incident on the Aisne when he, with a party of ambulance men were bringing some wounded over a pontoon bridge. Just as they were in the centre of the bridge a German shell dropped behind them and blew part of the bridge away. Almost immediately another shell came over their heads and carried away the portion of the bridge in front of them, leaving only a portion standing in the middle of the stream. Walden and some mates from the shock fell into the water. They managed to scramble again on to the portion of the bridge which remained and were in that perilous position for three quarters of an hour. He attributes a good deal of his illness to the shock and exposure on this occasion.

His other most thrilling experience was in connection with the watch incident. There were 500 yards between the combatants and Walden was about 800 yards behind the British lines at the time the bullet struck his watch. *"The Germans are most brutal to our wounded,"* he said, *"at times men we have carried in wounded have told us how the Germans kicked them about as they went past. On the other hand, some of the wounded reported kindness by Germans, who they said, had put tins of water near them to drink. The Uhlans have the reputation of being most brutal."*

Answering further questions by the interviewer, Walden said they often had great difficulty in getting the wounded away, owing to the terrific fire and in some parts of the line, the only time they could get to them was after dark. Every soldier carries in his knapsack a first field dressing to use when he can in case of need. The British wounded were being well looked after and it was often thrilling work. He said it was frequently that one saw a poor fellow with an arm or leg blown away, though when in the thick of it, he did not seem to notice it so much as when he lay in hospital among the wounded. The men in the trenches seemed to have no fear. *"Do you attend to the German wounded as well as the English?"* we asked, *"Oh yes,"* replied Mr Walden, *"though naturally we look after our own first."*

Another question was whether Walden had been in conversation with any of the German wounded he had attended who could speak English. He replied that had come across numerous cases of wounded Germans speaking English and the thing which impressed him most from their talk was the great confidence which they seemed to have that the Germans would win. In the later stages of the war he noticed also that the Germans seemed better supplied with provisions. Most of the wounded had a good supply of food in their haversacks, though it was mostly pressed food in the form of meat juices. We were pleased to hear that

Walden was practically fit again and ready to return to the front. He is due to leave Swannington on February 16th.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr R. Blower, J.P., presided at the monthly meeting of the Urban Council on Tuesday night, when there were also present, Messrs. T. Y. Hay (vice-chairman), M. McCarthy, S. Perry, A. Lockwood, W. Sheffield, F. Griffin, J. W. Farmer, B. G. Hale, T. Kelly, W. Fellows, with the clerk (Mr F. Jesson), surveyor (Mr L. L. Baldwin), assistant surveyor (Mr G. F. Hurst) and gas works manager (Mr J. W. Eagles).

HIGHWAY'S COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs Caunt was reported for allowing the chimney of her house to take fire, and as her husband had joined the army, the Committee recommend the fine be remitted.

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Mr Baldwin also reported that his junior clerk (C. Dean) had been passed for the King's Royal Rifles. (Hear, hear). He (the surveyor) would want some assistance. – The matter was referred to Committee.

Friday February 12th 1915 (Issue 1197)

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COALVILLE SOLDIER'S LETTER CORROBORATED

DISAFFECTION IN THE GERMAN ARMY

SAXONS NOT ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE THE WAR

In a letter published in our last issue from Private H. Kilworth, a Coalville soldier at the front, it was stated that the German soldiers, of Saxon origin, desired to cease fighting, being bitterly opposed to the Prussians, and this is strikingly borne out by a letter received by the Mayor of Southport, from Capt. Armitage (Chief Constable of that town), who is on service at the front with the 2nd Worcestershires. The Captain writes, *"This sharp, dry weather has made a good deal of difference to the health of the men, and we are all now in the best of spirits, anxiously awaiting the time when more rapid progress can be made towards clearing the Germans from French soil.*

The Saxons here are not at all anxious to continue the war. They put up a notice on their trenches a little north of us, saying 'We are Saxons, you are Anglo-Saxons, keep your bullets for the Prussians who relieve us tonight.' Afterwards they sat on the outside of the parapet smoking, and declined to go back until bullets were fired over their heads. Our guns are wonderful, and their shooting and organisation beyond all praise. I have only to ask for a certain kind of shell to be fired on a place I name on the map, and it explodes to a yard in a very few seconds of the time I ask for it, and very likely from a gun a mile or so behind our line."

DUBLIN FUSILIERS AT HINCKLEY

On Monday morning, some 1,000 of the Dublin Fusiliers, at present billeted at Nuneaton, passed through Hinckley on a route march. A halt was called in the market place for half an hour, during which time hundreds of pairs of mittens were distributed to the men from Messrs. Atkins Bros., factory in Lower Bond Street. The visit caused considerable interest, thousands of the operatives of the town ceasing work for the purpose of viewing the unusual sight. The soldiers were accompanied by two bands, which discoursed martial music en route.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Nine of the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys left Tuesday morning for Barrow-in-Furness, where they have obtained work. As departures take place there are several new arrivals so that the number in residence at Coalville is still about 80. Of a party of six wounded soldiers who arrived last week, two of them were suffering from severe injuries which had been caused by dum dum bullets – another evidence of the barbarity of the Germans.

Among the twelve refugees who arrived on Monday last week was M. G. De Pauw, who was captain of a light ship off Ostend. He was still at sea when Antwerp capitulated and knew nothing of the war until October 10th when he was taken off his ship and landed at Ostend by a British torpedo boat. Four days later he had to leave Ostend through the arrival of the Germans, and he escaped with his wife to Flushing. While at Flushing, the lady gave birth to their first child. The somewhat perilous journey to England, under the circumstances, was safely accomplished, and the baby, now eight weeks old, and the mother are both doing well at Broom Leys.

A propos of Belgian babies in Coalville, there is an interesting incident to record in connection with the one born at Broom Leys a few weeks ago. Mrs H. R. Mansfield, formerly of Broom Leys, and now in London, hearing of the event, has knitted a nice little woollen coat and sent it as a present for the baby. Naturally the parents, M. and Madame Gaspars, are delighted with this kindly consideration. The little one has been christened 'Margaret Marie Doris'.

On Saturday last one of the refugees had a rather amusing experience, though it was not without its pathetic side. A lady arrived at Broom Leys, a refugee from Earls Court, London, and stated that she believed her husband was residing there. Naturally she was in a state of great expectancy as she asked for M. Joseph Robaerts. Alas, when the gentleman came forward, the disappointed lady exclaimed, *"This is not my husband"* and M. Robaerts, of course, said with equal certainty, *"This is not my wife."* The poor woman had seen the name, spelt exactly the same as her husband's in a published list of the refugees staying at Coalville, and had travelled from London to see. She returned to London the same day.

Following up a postcard received by us a fortnight ago came a letter this week from Pte. G. Hirons, No. 6519, D. Co. 1st Leicestershire Regiment, with the British Expeditionary Force in France. He expresses pleasure at having received from his brother a copy of the "Coalville Times" of January 22nd and says he is getting on as well as can be expected, but the weather has been very bad just lately and a lot of them have had bad colds, which in the absence of proper treatment, linger with them. Apart from that they cannot grumble. He adds that Pte. Hardy and the Coalville policeman, Pte. Granger, wish to be remembered and they all desire to thank the people of Coalville for their kindness to the local soldiers at the front.

Mrs R. W. Jamie, wife of Dr. Jamie, of Coalville, has received a contribution of one guinea for the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild from Pte. C. E. Lee, of the 2nd Battalion, Welsh Fusiliers, who resides at Berrisford Street, Coalville, the money having been derived from the sale of copies of a poem on the battle of the Mons, which Lee composed while in hospital and has had printed. In the battle of Mons he was wounded in the foot, from which he recovered and was afterwards invalided home through an attack of rheumatic fever. He recently reported himself at headquarters and is at present still detained in hospital. Lees sent the guinea to the Guild in grateful recognition of the kindness of the Coalville ladies to himself and to his wife during his absence. The Guild has also received subscriptions of £1 1s from the Coalville Co-operative Women's Guild and £1 from the members of the Ellistown Women's Adult School.

About twenty German officers arrived at the concentration camp, Donington Park, on Wednesday afternoon. Accompanied in a saloon, they arrived at Trent Station from Wakefield by the 1:45 pm train, and they left by the 1:58 for Castle Donington. The officers, who wore civilian dress, were young, and several of them were enjoying a game of cards. Members of the W.R.N.R. with fixed bayonets were on guard at the saloon.

Captain Stevenson informs us that after sending out gifts to the men at the front, a small balance remained to which a sum was added and 15s worth of cigarettes are being sent through Mr Higgins by a wholesale firm to each Leicestershire battalion.

DO YOU KNOW

That the Vicar of Thringstone (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury) has received a Chaplain's badge from the Citizens' Corps?

That the Coalville Citizens' Corps has been affiliated for some months and was the first local corps to have this distinction?

That Mr H. Dobney, second son of Inspector Dobney, of Coalville, and chauffeur to Mr John Wootton, of Park House, has this week joined the forces in the Mechanical Transport Section?

That the wives and children of soldiers and sailors, as well as the fathers and mothers and unmarried sisters of men with the forces all residing in the urban area of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, were yesterday entertained to tea by the townspeople at the Ashby Town Hall?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 14th collection from 13 districts realised £14/5/3. Three were not represented.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

On Saturday night a successful concert was given in the London Road Baptist School by the members of the Junior Christian Endeavour in aid of the local Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Fund. Mr James Smith presided and there was a capital attendance. An excellent programme, which was much enjoyed, was well rendered as follows: Piano solo, William Geary; recitation, "The flag that never comes down," Cynthia Holmes; song, "My sweet bird," Elsie Hays; recitation, "The new church organ," Florrie McDuff; song, "Your King and Country need you," M. Smith; dialogue, "The brotherhood," Esther Cadle, Gladys Holmes, Willie Price, Wilfred Smith; song, "Britain's defenders," Elsie Hays; tableaux, "The Allies," children; chorus, "Under the British Flag;" piano solo, Ester Cadle; recitation, "Jeanette," Grace Colver; song, Gerty Clarke; recitation, Cynthia Holmes; song, Elsie Hays; operetta, "The Fairy King," characters: Cissy Wagtail, Gladys Colver; Walter Wagtail, Willie Price; Blue Bells, Cynthia Holmes; Queen Mab, Gwennie Grew; King Oberon, Baden Badcock; Puck, Ernest Davies; Billy Bold, Willie Geary; chorus of fairies; songs of allies; France, children; Russia, Children; "God Save the King." The pianists were Miss Betts, Miss Edna Brown, and Miss Esther Cadle. The arrangements for the event were ably carried out by Miss Betts, who also made the dresses and it was so successful that it is to be repeated about the end of the month.

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THANKS TO COALVILLE LADIES

ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE FIRING LINE

Corporal F. Wilde, No. 9785, with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, writes asking us on his behalf, to thank the ladies of Coalville and district for their thoughtfulness and kindness in sending scarves and other warm clothing, which they are very thankful for. The letter proceeds: *"I got hold of a 'Coalville Times' the other day and was very pleased to see Mr Brockington's name figuring so well and I am sure that the people*

of Coalville and district ought to encourage such lectures, as I am sure they are doing much good. Then again, sir, I was very pleased to read in your paper about the resignation from the Football League of so many clubs through members enlisting, which shows the pluck of Coalville footballers.

We are having heaps of wet out here and it is very sludgy in the trenches. Roll on nice weather! I hope the war is not interfering with the business of Coalville or the coal mines. There can only be one issue to this war and that is – We shall win of course we shall! I am writing this letter in a barn and hope you will receive it safely. I conclude by again asking you to thank the ladies."

KEEP SMILING

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

The spirit characteristic of the British Tommy is shown in a letter from Pte. D. Cope of the 1st Leicesters, written to his father, Mr J. Cope, Midland Railway signalman, of Waterworks Road, Coalville. Cope also has a brother at the front and in his letter he says, *"I suppose you are not so happy with your two sons away from you, but, dad, keep smiling! We shall work through it somehow if God spares us. The weather out here with the wet and snow is awful and the gloves came in just right."*

The writer says he is in the best of health and Leslie (his brother) from whom he has two letters, is also all right. He adds that he has been in the trenches for three weeks and was hoping soon to get out for a few days. He thinks it won't be long before it is over. He asks for socks and matches and would like to receive some home-made cake.

COALVILLE SOLDIER AND THE GIRLS

"VERY NICE OF THEM"

Writing to the chairman of the Coalville Town Football Club, Mr A. Johnson, of Ashby Road, Coalville, Pte. W. Scoon, a former player of the Town club now at the front, says he hopes the letter will find them all in the best of health, he is 'champion' at present. He continues: *"I was very pleased with that book that Mr Hale sent me and also to see the names of so many young men who have left the firm (Stableford and Co.) since the war began. We had been having a rather a quiet time but since we took up our present position things have got a bit hot. On January 25th, the Germans wanted to break through our part of the line and having been strongly reinforced, they made a strong attack, which lasted the best part of the day. They pushed our brigade back a little at the start, owing to their numbers, but we soon had our reserves up and I can tell you they went back as quickly as they come. We lost rather heavily, but they lost a lot more. I see in the paper our navy has had another good victory. I am sure the Germans will always come off second best when they meet our boys on the sea. Our brigade are, at present having a few days' rest out of the trenches, but we may have to go up again at any moment. I think the Germans are expected to make another attempt to get through, but if they do, they will always meet with some shock. I see the Town are not doing so badly as I thought, but I suppose the war has taken a lot of interest out of the game this season. I have received a very nice parcel from two girls in Coalville. Don't you think it was very good of them? I can't say that I know them, but they seem to know me."* Concluding, Scoon says, *"We are in good hopes of having a few days' leave later and if all goes well, I shall be glad to spend a day or two with you."*

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS

A FORMER BAGWORTH COLLIER

As briefly announced in our last issue, Mrs S. Cross, of 27 Crescent Road, Hugglescote, has been notified by the War Office that her brother, Private Frederick Kirby, of A Company, 2nd Leicesters, died from wounds received on December 9th. The deceased soldier was a son of the late Mr John Kirby, of Ellistown, having lived in this district practically all his life, and before enlisting, resided with his sister, Mrs Cross, at Crescent Road, and worked at Bagworth Colliery. He had also worked at the South Leicester and Ellistown Collieries. He was 29 years of age and had been in the army for some five or six years, the last three of which were spent in India.

Mrs Cross received a postcard from her brother bearing as recent a date as December 2nd, only seven days before he is reported to have died. On this card he thanked her for a parcel duly received and said he was very pleased with it. He added that if it was his luck to come back again he would do his utmost to repay her for her kindness. On another card Kirby wrote*: "I shall be pleased when it is all over, and I think everybody else will who understands war. I will inform you from time to time how things are, but don't get alarmed if I am a long time in writing, as I will write as soon as I can."*

The deceased's brother Richard is also in the army, being sergeant in the Ordnance Corps and is now engaged in office work at Chelmsford. On the outbreak of war he came from South Africa and the deceased from India, both being on the water at the same time. Another brother, Harry, now in Yorkshire, fought in the South African war, coming through without a scratch. The deceased was a member of the 2nd Leicesters' hockey team in India when a shield and medals were won and he figures in a photograph of the team with the shield. He was a cousin of Mr John Kirby, of London Road, a former member of the Coalville Urban Council.

COALVILLE SOLDIER

SAYS THE GERMANS ARE FED UP WITH THE WAR

In another letter to Mr T. Grosert, the Coalville Co-operative Society's head baker, received on Sunday, Private H. Kilworth, formerly employed in the stores bakehouse, and now with the 1st Leicesters in the trenches says he has a little more time for writing now as they have only four days in the trenches and four out, which was a bit different from 22 days in and 10 days out. *"They are getting more troops out here now and I expect they are getting ready for a big advance as soon as the ground gets a bit more firm so they can get the artillery up. We have been round about this place for about three months, but I expect we shall soon be making a move towards Germany. The enemy in front of us don't want to fight. They have never fired a shot since Christmas. They say they are fed up with the war. They have not signed an armistice with our General not to fire on one another and it seems funny to see our chaps and the Germans walking about on the top of the trenches talking to one another. They are only 50 yards away. We caught the Germans napping on our right at a place called _____. Our chaps caught the Germans retiring through the village and turned the maxims on them. They left 400 dead and 14 officers, so we did not do so badly. I am pleased to hear that trade holds good. The bread out here is not so good as we get at home. They do not put enough salt in it. They are about all batch cake and rolls, big flat stuff. I don't know what the people would say at home if they had to eat it."* Concluding Kilworth says he is in the best of health and wishes to be remembered to all his workmates.

COALVILLE RECRUITING OFFICE STAFF

A GOOD RECORD

When the final records to recruiting are known, Coalville and district, if present evidence is anything to go by, will be able to show a splendid response to the call for men in the hour of the country's need. Coalville's record, in proportion to population, would take a lot of beating and recruiting is still steadily going on. Our

illustration shows the staff of the Recruiting Office, adjoining the Labour Exchange in Hotel Street. The gentleman seated is Capt. W. E. Stevenson, of St. Michael's, Ashby, whose work as recruiting officer has been carried on with a zeal worthy of the highest commendation and is largely accountable for the splendid record that Coalville is able to boast of. With him are Col-Sergt. Alfred Dye, in charge of the office, and Scout-Patrol Leader, M. Boot (a son of Mr Arthur Boot, of Park Road), clerk, both of whom have rendered the Captain excellent assistance.

Several postcards have this week been received at the Recruiting Office from men at the front expressing thanks for gifts sent. The money for the gifts was provided by two patriotic concerts given at the Coalville Olympia on Sunday, November 22nd, organised by Captain Stevenson and Messrs. R. Blower and W. Baldwin, who constitute the recruiting committee for the Bosworth Division. Appended are a few of the replies received:

Received with thanks, they were very acceptable.

Pte. Levi Randle.

Very glad to receive your present which I was in great need of.

G. Lloyd.

My best thanks to you and your friends for your kind gifts, which are very useful this weather.

J. Talo

On behalf of myself and the men of my section, I send warmest thanks to you and your friends for your kindness.

Corpl. King

Allow me to thank you very much for the parcel of comforts received. It is very pleasing to know that our friends at home are thinking of us and our comfort out here. I can assure all friends that our Tommies are quite pleased with them.

Sergt. J. Twigg

Your parcel of comforts was very much appreciated by the men of number six section. They could not have come at a better time than now.

Lance-Corporal L. Wilson

It was good to see presents from "Good Old Coalville." I left in 1906 and not having been there since, I could not resist taking one of your presents, though they were for the men. All are very pleased with them and say

that they are the best presents yet received, and we have some good ones. I have issued 25 in my company to those who come from Coalville and district. Thanking you and hoping to be in Coalville again soon.

Thomas Doolby, C.S.M.

The parcel of comforts received by us has come in very useful and we send our best thanks to you and your friends.

Men of Six Section, A Company

Have received your cigarettes and clothing and wish you to convey our thanks to all concerned.

Pte. William Carter

A most acceptable and useful present, for which best thanks.

M. Goode

Thank you for your gifts to the Leicestershire Regiment.

Pte. G. F. Cooke

Thanks very much for cigarettes and underwear. I am sure they will come in very useful.

Pte. C. W. Gaze

Thanking you all very much for your presents. They come in very handy at such times as these.

Ernest Moore

As the N.C.O. who distributed your parcels, allow me to express on behalf of the men who do not acknowledge them personally, their most grateful thanks to the residents of Coalville.

W. G. Carney

Very glad to receive your present, which I was in great need of.

Pte. C. Hinsley

NELSON ALL OVER

SAILOR'S TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BEATTY

In a letter home regarding the British naval victory of January 14th, Gunner J. Newham, of H.M.S. New Zealand, and a brother-in-law of Inspector Dobney, of Coalville writes in typical cheery strain: *"Just a few lines to let you know I am quite well and doing fine. Of course, you have heard we have had a go at last. We caught them bending. It was a good run. They would not turn to fight us, they ran all the way, and got what they asked for. They found it was not children they were fighting, and I don't think they will try again. Where is their Grand Fleet? It was a grand day for the battle – "Better the day, better the deed" I am glad to say we never had a scratch, not even a bit of paint knocked off. But the time was trying. We are all safe as a rock. Well, as for our gallant Admiral, he is a marvel – Sir David Beatty, I mean. England's Nelson all over. He has kept his word. We have had our New Year's gift at last, and a good one. Now let them all come; he is sure to be there. We are all ready and eager to get at the rest. Never mind leave as long as we can push them under, and have leave when we are finished. Don't you worry about me. We are grand. All I hope is you and our darling are quite well, and in the best of health, as I am. And, please God, spare us to come home safe. I am sure we shall have a grand time. Cheer up, keep smiling, all's well."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S AT HOME IN THE TRENCHES

STAYING AT THE HALF-WAY HOUSE

Mr Wesson, of Margaret Street, Coalville, has received a letter from his son, Harry, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, in which he states that he is in the best of health and having a nice time. He proceeds: *"The trenches are getting quite nice now and not like claypits, as they were a week or two ago. I have got a lovely dug-out and nothing less than a Jack Johnson will find its way into it. It took four of us from five o'clock at night till seven next morning to make it and there is just room for four. We have named it the 'Halfway House Hotel,' as it is just half way between Coalville and Berlin. Roll on when we get there. Our artillery have been making it quite uncomfortable for the Germans just in front of us. I have seen what in my opinion was one of the finest feats of marksmanship. The German trenches are only 30 to 40 yards in front of us and five shots cleared the sandbags from their parapets, while through a gap made, the next five went into the trench. If groans and shouting count for anything there must have been a few of them hit. We get some excitement now as we often have a few hours' rapid firing at one another. The other night we saw quite a large body of them in the open and if any escaped being hit they were lucky, as we poured a perfect hail of lead into them and they were only a few yards in the rear of their own trenches. I had a busy time last time I was in the trenches, as we had some wounded and I assisted in bandaging them up. I often thank Dr. Jamie for his instruction in the St. John's Ambulance Classes I attended and I think it is the duty of every Englishman to learn it, as one never knows when it will be useful. Alf and myself are in the best of health. Am sorry I cannot tell you more, as the censor may object."*

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ELLISTOWN

PRESENTS FOR MEN IN THE SERVICE

The committee who organised a whist drive and social, held recently in the Church of England Schools have been enabled to purchase an aluminium cigarette case for each of the men of Ellistown and Battram who have joined the forces since the outbreak of the war. These number 62, and they will receive the case, filled with cigarettes and a card bearing an intimation, from Mr H. Brown, the secretary, stating the source of the gift.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Quarter-Master Sergeant Stimson (Ashby), of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, is one of the first recipients of the promotion under the new order in Council by which regimental quarter-master-sergeants are promoted to warrant officer's rank. Q-M-S. Stimson probably holds the record for service in the regiment, with which he has been on service since mobilisation. He joined the Ashby company in the 80's and has not only passed through all the grades of the service, but at one time played in the Ashby Band.

The members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens' Corps paraded on Sunday morning headed by Holy Cross Band and attended the Holy Cross Church, where Father O'Reilly preached.

Private C. C. Woodcock, of the 5th Battalion, 2nd Leicestershire Regiment at Luton, writes desiring to sincerely thank the Coalville Comforts Guild for the very nice parcel received by him on Saturday, containing a muffler, mittens and socks.

We understand that Mr W. V. Scott, stationmaster of the London and North-Western Railway, Coalville East, and superintendent of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, having volunteered for foreign service and received the consent of the railway company, will leave Coalville on Monday for Ipswich. Mr Scott has a wide circle of friends in the district, and is very popular amongst ambulance men generally. He has been given a commission in the R.A.M.C. Two of his sons have enlisted and one of these also holds a commission.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with the fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 15th collection from 10 districts realised £9 11s. Six were not represented.

IBSTOCK

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

Almost 70 people were present at a whist drive and dance held at the Limes, Ibstock, on Wednesday evening, February 10th, the room having been kindly lent by Mr T. B. Wain. The effort was in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund. The M.C.'s for the whist drive were Messrs. H. J. Ford and J. W. Dunstan. The following were the prize winners:

Ladies: 1, Miss M. Champion; mystery, Mrs Standidge.
Gents: 1, Mr Pegg; mystery, Mr R. Ferryman.

The refreshments and prizes were kindly given by local ladies and gentlemen. The prizes were presented by Miss Hind. The M.C. for the dance was Mr W. Gee. The arrangements were very ably carried out by Mrs Wain, Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Gee and Miss Dunstan (secretary). The proceeds handed over to the above fund amounted to £7.

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MORE WOUNDED AT LEICESTER

MIDNIGHT ARRIVAL AT THE MIDLAND STATION

Early on Sunday morning – about ten minutes after midnight – a train load of 90 wounded soldiers arrived at the Midland Station for the Base Hospital. Fifteen of them were "cot cases." The men came from Boulogne, and were landed at Dover, being conveyed to Leicester on the Great Western No. 4 hospital train in charge of Major Bird.

All the wounded men were Britishers, and a large proportion of them suffering from frost-bitten feet. They described the weather conditions prevailing in the firing line as terrible, but were very cheerful under the circumstances. A great variety of regiments were represented. Excellent arrangements were, as usual, made by Mr A. W. Faire and his staff of workers for conveyance of the men to hospital, and the R.A.M.C. workers at the hospital itself also did their utmost to provide for comfortable reception of the injured warriors.

Owing to the fact that the exact time of the arrival of the train was not available in good time on Saturday, the ambulance workers were kept waiting in the vicinity of the station for practically four hours, and the waiting-room on the platform of the passenger station was found very useful, it being possible to serve coffee to those who were waiting. The experiment of providing this room has been completely successful, its usefulness having been proved on numerous occasions.

CAPTURED GERMAN OFFICERS

22 ARRIVE AT DONINGTON PARK

After various "false alarms" the first batch (22) of captured German officers arrived at Donington Park on Saturday. It was just before five o'clock when the party motored from Derby. Instructions had been given earlier in the day to prepare for their reception at six o'clock, but this was only a kindly ruse on the part of the authorities to prevent the delicate susceptibilities of their cultured guests being wounded by the gaze of vulgar Britishers.

First came two taxi-cabs, each containing three or four Germans, and then followed a large grey motor omnibus with the remainder. A National Reservist with loaded rifle sat beside the driver of the taxis and there was another inside, while four or five armed men in khaki rode in the 'bus. There were very few people about and they saw practically nothing of the prisoners, for the windows were closed and the glass was streaming

with rain. Most of the officers wore uniform, blue, with narrow red facings, and flat caps of the colour, but several of them were in civilian dress. None had helmets. The majority were quite young, only two or three being apparently over thirty. One, a typical German of fair complexion and fine build, was smoking a cigarette, and as he saw himself being pointed out he laughed and waved his hand. Another, who might have been a baron out of a novel, wore a long fur coat.

The cars took the Park Lane road to the hall. Sentries were posted at the lodges, and when the motors drew up at the front entrance to the mansion, Capt. Aldridge, who is in charge of the prisoners, was the first to alight. When his captives followed it could be seen that they all had a pronounced military bearing. The guard in front of the hall numbered about fifty, but the prisoners seemed much more anxious to get indoors away from the razor-edged wind, than to test the efficiency of the barbed wire entanglements with which the new home is surrounded. Two tons of luggage followed them later from Derby. Several of the prisoners are men of means, and as a canteen has been fitted up at the hall, it may be taken for granted that they will do themselves comfortably.

When the party arrived at Derby only a handful of spectators saw them. On the platforms were a posse of Derby borough police, headed by the Chief Constable, together with a detachment from the Special Constables' Corps. The Germans seemed in the best of spirits. They had only a few yards to walk from the train to the motor vehicles, and while seated in these they commenced to laugh and talk and smoke cigarettes as though they were on holiday instead of prisoners of war. They were driven away without any demonstration of any kind being made.

CITIZEN CORPS

OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS TO UNIFORMS

The Central Association of Volunteer Training Corps has issued an order prohibiting corps from placing orders for uniforms to be manufactured from woollen cloth. This step has been taken as the result of an intimation from the Army Council objecting to the use of woollen cloth and serge's for uniforms of volunteer training corps, as the output of such cloths is required for military purposes. The council point out that cotton drill and cords will be found satisfactory and sufficient.

It is stated in a circular issued by the association that no objection will be taken in cases where corps have already place definite contracts for the supply of uniforms in woollen cloths.

LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

NEARLY 8,000 STRONG

EVERYTHING SATISFACTORY AT LUTON AND SAWBRIDGEWORTH

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester. His Grace the Duke of Rutland presided.

The Committee considered the following report of the Emergency Committee: Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee the units of the North Midland Reserve Division have moved up to their war stations after completing the elementary preliminary training at their Peace Headquarters.

The 1/4th and 1/5th Leicestershire Regiments are still on the Essex borders and are now complete with their 1st reserve or base companies. The first reserve battalions are now at Luton. The Leicestershire Reserve Battery R.H.A. has had its establishment increased from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the Imperial Service Battery. The Army Service Corps Units find no difficulty in obtaining numbers of suitable recruits. The Royal Army Medical Corps Units also have no difficulty in keeping up the strength. The 5th Northern General Hospital has done much work lately and more than 700 patients passed into the hospital during the month of January.

Your committee has sanctioned the building of a new pack store and disinfector at the Hospital, and has also agreed to undertake the upkeep and maintenance of the building and equipment, all indents being submitted for approval. Several subsidiary hospitals are now open in Leicestershire and Rutland, those at Melton

Mowbray and Knighton being two of the latest to be formed, the latter being entirely staffed by members of voluntary and detachment formed prior to the war.

The staff under Mr Faire who arranges for the conveyance of the sick and wounded from the hospital train to the hospital is working very smoothly now, and the last train load of 130 was moved out of the train and on the way to the hospital in less than 30 minutes.

We have raised 3 companies of the National Reserve in Leicestershire and Rutland and they are carrying out various duties. No. 11 under Col. Pierce is now acting as Guard at Donington for German officer prisoners. Several new Voluntary Aid Detachments have been raised during the last two months and are recognised by the War Office. The strength of the different units is now between 7,000 and 8,000 rank and file. The stamp of recruits obtained has been very good and Commanding Officers have commented on their keenness.

In spite of the bad weather the training has proceeded satisfactorily, and companies have had no difficulty in obtaining the use of land for manoeuvres and for digging. The thanks of the Association are also due to the Corporation of Leicester and other public bodies for granting the use of their halls for work in wet weather.

General Pole Carew came to Leicester and inspected a number of the Reserve Units and expressed himself as well satisfied with the progress made. Col. R. Smythe has been appointed to the command of the North Midland Mounted (Reserve) Brigade, and Col. G. M. Jackson to the command of the Lincoln and Leicester Reserve Brigades. The number of recruits obtained from 4.8.14 to 31.1.15 is 4,434.

The railway guards are now provided with comfortable huts, and a small advance from the National Reserve Funds at the disposal of the associations, has enabled them to make themselves comfortable. The Company at Donington will be provided with barracks fully equipped. The work of the Pay Office goes on increasing and the departure of the 2/4th and 2/5th Leicestershire Regiments to their war stations will increase the number of payments, as will the National Reservists who are now separated from their families. The work of the office is now proceeding smoothly, and the Associations have been fortunate in obtaining the services of several clerks who have picked up the work quickly. The main difficulties arise in the payments of dependants' allowances, and in the investigation of claims of men who have married after the 14th August.

The report was adopted.

Mr Dalgliesh reported that he had been to visit the 5th Leicestershire Regiment at Sawbridgeworth and also to Luton, where he saw the Reserve Battalion of the 4th and 5th Leicestershire Regiments. He said that he found everybody hard at work training, and that the men were all busy and keen about their work, and that his visit gave him the impression that everything was going on very satisfactorily.

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RAVENSTONE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

SAW HIS COMRADES FALL

Trooper William Turner, of the 1st Royal Dragoons, son of Mrs O. Turner (eldest daughter of the late Mrs William Ladkin of Ravenstone), is making a short stay with relatives in that village, after being in hospital at Portsmouth, and at a convalescent hospital in the Isle of Wight. Turner was with his regiment on manoeuvres in South Africa when the war broke out, and twenty days after landing in France went to the trenches at Ypres, where the enemy's trenches were only fifty yards distant. He received a severe wound in the right shoulder by shrapnel, the shell bursting within a few yards of him, and killing two of his comrades. With two other men he got away, and reached Ypres Hospital, where he was attended to, and sent to England. He was visited at the Isle of Wight Convalescent Hospital by Princess Henry of Battenburg and Princess Louise of Battenburg, who was specially interested in his case, and chatted with him. He has a brother in the Territorials and another in the Coast Defence Force at Great Yarmouth.

FRATERNISING WITH THE ENEMY

COALVILLE MAN'S EXPERIENCES

Pte. Ben Clibbery, of the 1st Leicesters, youngest son of Mr John Clibbery, M. R. engine driver, Park Road, Coalville, in the course of a letter home says:

"I suppose you have seen in the papers about the truce on Christmas Day. It was rather funny to be talking to the men we had before been trying to kill, and it was quite nice to get out of the trenches to stretch our legs in the daytime. We had been in a fortnight on Xmas Day, and they (the Germans) had been pretty busy all the time. When we went over to them we took plenty of cigarettes which we exchanged for tobacco and cigars. They seemed to be quite good chaps – so different to what you would think they were. We stayed in these trenches 22 days, and I can tell you it was pretty bad, as we were up to the knees in water by the time we went out. But still, it is no use troubling about small things like that."

Clibbery was scout bugler in the Coalville Troop of Boy Scouts before enlisting in the Leicesters.

THE GERMAN COWARDS

WHITWICK SOLDIER CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

Writing to some Whitwick friends, Corpl. S. Yearby, of the R.H.A. on active service with the British Expeditionary Force in France, states that they have been having some very cold weather and he will be glad when the wet clears off so that they can let the Germans see that they mean it. *"We are not far from their lines,"* he proceeds, "*and we let them have a few thirteen pound shells just as little souvenirs. They soon made themselves scarce when they hear them whistling through the air. They won't face it as they ought to. We are here and why not stop and have it out, as we want to get it over. We mean to smash them completely, so that there will be no rising again. When they are in large numbers they will stay and show fight, but when even in numbers they are like the cow's tail – all behind. I thought they were a bit plucky from what I read of the Germans, but, bless you, they are cowards and nothing else. We have been in action now for three months and the only casualty is one Corporal killed one night last week. We have been very lucky, as few days have passed but we have had shells dropping all round our guns and horse lines."*

Yearby then expresses thanks to his friends for asking him what he wants and says he is in need of nothing particular. He thinks they will soon be able to press forward now and will try to get a bit back for Hartlepool and Scarborough. He was glad that the navy were on the alert and had been able to get a bit back. He was only too pleased that he was fit to assist at the front. He would not have missed if for a watch as big as a frying pan. He had never been out of the firing line since he arrived out there and that was something to be proud of, or would be in days to come, and he would have a lot to tell them when he got home again, if it was his luck not to stop one from the Germans. He should dodge them if possible. He hoped they were all in good health. He kept smiling himself and was looking forward to a victorious end. He felt sure they would win, sooner or later.

COALVILLE SOLDIER UNDER FIRE

SOME LIVELY TIMES IN THE TRENCHES

Another old Coalville Wesleyan School boy at the front is Private Horace Briers, of the 1st Leicesters, son of Mr Alfred Briers, of Highfields Street, Coalville, a painter in the employ of Mr C. H. March. The young soldier himself also worked for Mr March before leaving for the war, and was called up as a reservist soon after the outbreak of hostilities. He went to the front some six weeks before Christmas and has been in some severe fighting.

In one of his letters home he thanks his parents and also the ladies of Coalville for sending him parcels, but says he has got plenty of things to wear and if they send him anything it should be something nice to eat – cake, sugar, cocoa, etc. The letter continues:

"I heard one of the chaps here had the 'Coalville Times,' so I went and asked him to lend it to me. He did so, and I wasn't half surprised when I saw my mate's photo in the paper. I also noticed Mr Frith's name was mentioned. Please remember me to him when you see him. I wonder if he has forgotten me. I used to go to his school. I have had a letter from Booton and am glad to hear that he is going on all right."

Writing subsequently, Briers says how pleased he was to get a letter from home, adding, *"It put fresh life into me. We were under shell fire the other night, but we came out all right. I am pleased to hear that Ernest*

Booton is going on all right. It almost makes me wish I was with him, but never mind, I am only doing my duty for my country and one cannot do more. Good luck to him and I hope he gets his feet all right again. I expect Kitchener's army will be here soon. When we were at Portsmouth I heard some of them say that they would like to go in the trenches at once. They will soon have the chance and good luck to them. I should like to come over to England and see you once more, as I think we have had a good innings from November 8th, but they will not let us off now. I have got enough tobacco to last me for six months."

Briers is 20 years of age and he has a younger brother in the Leicesters now at Cosham.

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BEAUMONT RIFLE CLUB

LADY BEAUMONT OPENS NEW RANGES AT COALVILLE

The excellent new indoor ranges which, through the generosity of Messrs. Stableford and Co., have been provided for the members of the Beaumont Rifle Club, were opened at the old Midland Brickworks, Mantle Lane, Coalville, by Lady Beaumont on Monday night. The ranges, side by side, are 46 yards long and each accommodates six riflemen. The building is lighted by electricity and the arrangements are excellent in every way. The opening of the ranges was also made the occasion of the presentation of prizes to the winners of last season's competitions.

Mr W. P. Sheppard (president) presided, and was supported by Lady Beaumont, the Rev. H. and Mrs Robinson (Coleorton Rectory), the Rev. H. K. Bros (vicar of Copt Oak, chaplain to the Leicestershire Yeomanry, who appeared in khaki), the Rev. S. Hosking (chaplain of the club), Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., and others, there being a large attendance. Many new members have joined the club including the whole of the Coalville Citizen Corps (about 200).

The chairman announced letters of apology for absence from the Hon. H. D. McLaren, Mr A. E. Hawley, the Right Hon. Charles Booth, Capt. Chambre, Canon Broughton and Mr E. Orton. The chairman remarked that the club had had its ups and downs but they were looking forward to the best year it had had. Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge then announced the winners of the competitions.

Wooton handicap, 10 shots each at 25 yards and 50 yards fired each month during the summer; highest possible without handicap points, 1600. G. Clay was the winner who, with handicap points added, totalled 1606; 2nd J. Bown, jun., 1568.

Bell medal presented by the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs won by T. Lashmore, with 281 out of a possible 300; 2nd G. Clay 253. Bronze medal presented by the S.M.R.C. winner Mr Walker with 313 including handicap. Without handicap the possible was 300. The Sheppard Bowl and Club Championship, G. Irons with 1620 out of a possible 1750, which was a record for the club. (Cheers); 2nd C. W. H. Gutteridge 1531; 3rd

T. Lashmore 1529; 4th G. Walker 1500; 5th G. Clay 1435. Monthly spoons, 1st month, G. Walker; next three months, G. Clay.

In presenting the prizes, Lady Beaumont said how pleased she was that it was chiefly Swannington men who had won them. The chairman said he hoped the ranges would be put to good use. The club had long felt the need of an indoor range and they were greatly indebted to their friend Mr Hale for having brought them to such a happy state (cheers). They were greatly obliged to him for providing the ranges and also for having them fitted with electric light at his own expense. At present it was proposed to open the ranges on five nights a week, Saturdays excepted, from 7 till 9; on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays only from 7 till 8 would they be for the use of members not in the Citizen Corps, the latter having preference on those three evenings from 8 to 9. He urged the greatest care with the rifles and said he hoped no accidents would occur. So far the Beaumont Club had been very fortunate in having no accidents. He said range officers had been appointed for the first week and he hoped all as they became proficient, would volunteer to take their share of that work, to see that everything went off properly. He went on to state other rules in regard to the firing.

Lady Beaumont, in declaring the ranges open, said how pleased she was to do so as she had always taken the greatest interest in the club. It was started in response to the request of the late Lord Roberts who urged that the nation should be prepared in the event of war. That was about 8 years ago and at first the club had bright and hopeful prospects, but interest dwindled to such an extent that some time ago, the committee decided to carry it on for one more year. Then the war came and they realised the great work they had been doing. They had the organisation and now was the time to enlarge it. She was pleased to see so many anxious to learn to shoot and she hoped they would all become proficient shots. Their country was well worth all the time and trouble it would take (Applause). While they could do good service for their country, let them do it with all their hearts. She would watch the doings of the club with the greatest interest. (Cheers).

Mr Walter Lindley, proposing a vote of thanks to her ladyship, said it was up to Coalville to see that the bulk of the prizes did not go to Swannington next time. It was the duty of every man with good health and eyesight to march and drill and learn to shoot. He was amused to hear that Irons had the prize for killing running and disappearing man and hoped it would be like that with the Germans before long (Cheers). He hoped to see many taking part in the competitions. (Cheers).

The Rev. S. Hosking seconded the vote of thanks, remarking that he had always felt that they should have a range in Coalville. What they wanted now was men to win the prizes. He was sure these would be forthcoming as soon as there were men to win them. The vote of thanks was heartily accorded and Lady Beaumont replied.

Dr. Atkinson moved a vote of thanks to Messrs. B. G. Hale, R. Tebbett, G. Irons, G. Clay, T. Lashmore and W. P. Sheppard for lending rifles for the range and this was carried with acclamation. The Rev. H. Robinson moved a vote of thanks to the sub-committee who had made the arrangements for the opening of the ranges, which was also carried with applause. Mr T. Lashmore replied and said he was pleased that the Citizen Corps to a man had joined the club. (Applause). The company sang the National Anthem and Lady Beaumont then fired the first shot, nearly scoring a bull's eye amidst applause. A match followed between teams selected by Mr T. Lashmore and Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge, the former winning.

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LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER KILLED

Official intimation has been received by Mrs Collington, of Quorn, that her husband, Private James Collington, of the Sherwood Foresters, has died of wounds received in January. A letter received by Mrs Collington from an army chaplain stated that her husband was shot in the head, and died without regaining consciousness. Private Collington was a reservist, and at the outbreak of war lived in Ratcliffe Road, Loughborough, and was employed at the Brush Works.

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Private E. W. Capell, of the 2nd Leicesters, writing from Luton, desires to thank the ladies of Coalville and District for muffler and socks. It was a very useful present, he says, and he wishes them every success in the good work in which they are engaged.

Mr W. V. Scott, L. and N.W.R. stationmaster at Coalville East was to have left this week to take up work in the R.A.M.C., in which he has been given a commission, but his departure is delayed owing to difficulties the Company are experiencing in temporarily filling his place, a large number of employees having joined the army.

DO YOU KNOW

That on Monday night, Lady Beaumont was presented by Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge with one of Coalville Citizen Corps badges?

That the monthly meeting of the Coalville collectors for the National Relief Fund will be held at Bridge Road School on Tuesday evening next?

That a tea for the Soldier's Comforts Guild is to be held at the Hugglescote Institute on Wednesday, March 10th?

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 16th collection from 10 districts realised £9 9s. Two were not represented.

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GIFTS TO LOCAL SOLDIERS

MORE LETTERS OF THANKS

Another batch of letters and postcards have been received by Capt. Stevenson at the Coalville Recruiting Office from men at the front, expressing thanks for gifts which were provided from funds raised at two concerts at the Olympia in December. Appended are extracts from a few of them.

Just a line hoping to find you all in the best of health. Allow me to thank you for your kind presents, which were very useful, as it is very cold out here. I am very pleased to think that the people of Coalville and district think about those who are fighting for their King and Country. While we are doing our best out here, it gives us pleasure to know that those at home are also doing their best. We were under a very heavy fire on February 5th. I have seen Joe Read and Brownlow and they were pleased with the gifts.

Pte. J. Cooper

I am pleased to receive the parcel from our friends at Coalville and thank them very much for thinking about the boys at the front. I also thank the Recruiting Committee (Capt. Stevenson and Messrs. R. Blower and W. Baldwin) for the work they have done, also the Olympia staff.

Pte. G. Hirons

Just a line to say how useful your gifts will be to us out here. The weather is better now than it has been, but it leaves much to be desired. Give my thanks to your committee and all subscribers and I wish you luck in your recruiting campaign.

Pte. B. Clibbery

Thanks very much for pants. It is good of friends in Coalville to do so much for us, but I am pleased to say that all the boys from the district are doing their bit. We hope to wipe the Germans out and return safely to the old place.

Pte. W. Summers

I thank you and our Coalville friends for the parcel and am sure we shall not forget their kindness. Owing to the local bad weather here, the articles come in very useful. A second shirt is a luxury at these times.

Pte. T. Gee

Good old Coalville! Pleased to receive the parcel safely and know you are not behind the other towns in doing your share towards the troops here. They were much appreciated especially as they arrived at a time when they were most needed. We have just now come out of the trenches.

Corpl. J. D. Sheffield

Allow me to thank the people of Coalville and district for the parcel of woollen goods. The comfort obtained from these while in the trenches is very great, as the weather is terribly cold out here. Again expressing my warmest thanks for the gift.

Pte. S. Hardy

Was pleased to receive the parcel of comforts which I can assure you was greatly appreciated. Please give my best wishes and thanks to all Coalville friends. We are all in the best of spirits (a bit damp) but still smiling.

L-Corpl. L. Beck

Thanks for gift of clothing, which was most acceptable on account of being wet through from one week to another. A change is always very welcome if only one a month.

Pte. Owen Hallam

Thanks so much for kindness. Glad to say the Coalville lads are doing their best to wipe out the Huns. Hoping to return amongst you all again.

T. Grainger

Others received include expressions of thanks from Fred Lewin, L-Corpl. S. Porter, Pte. A. Simpson, Pte. Joseph Read, Pte. C. Read, Pte. W. Riley, Sergt. W. G. Carney, Pte. E. Moore, L-Corpl. W. Wain, Col-Sergt. Major S. F. Gamble, Pte. J. H. Robertson, Frank Martin, Major B. C. Dent, Pte. H. Briers, Pte. L. Starkey, Pte. L. Hodgetts, Sergt. H. Pepper.

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COALVILLE GIFTS APPRECIATED

DOMINOES IN THE TRENCHES

Company-Sergeant-Major P. R. Foister, of the 2nd Leicesters, writing to Mr P. Stabler, of Highfields, Coalville, branch manager at Coalville, for Worthington's who sent some dominoes in one of the parcels from the Coalville Recruiting Office, with a request that the recipient would acknowledge who he was and where the present was received, and the use it was put to, says that he received Mr Stabler's little note with the dominoes, but he had been in and out of the trenches for the last three weeks, and had had no time for writing. He found the dominoes very useful indeed, the most useful of amusements. They were used in and out of the trenches, but only now and then had they opportunities for a game, when they played 5's and 3's. As that necessitated a marker, they found a difficulty, as they had but a limited supply of paper and they had no peg board, which he asked might be forwarded, though he did not like to pledge. Needless to add, one is being sent. Foister is one of the heroes mentioned as being a recipient of the D.S.O.

LETTER FROM CORPL. SHEFFIELD

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

Corporal Jack Sheffield, son of Mr William Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, Coalville, writing to Mr Walter Higgins sen., tobacconist, of High Street, Coalville, and acknowledging a parcel from Coalville people, said he found the packet of cigarettes with Mr Higgins name on it. *"It was like old times,"* he says *"to see the old name once more, and no less to say I enjoyed the smoke immensely. We had just come out of the trenches, so we enjoyed them all the more. I am pleased to say that I am all right up to the present, and am enjoying myself as much as is possible in the circumstances."* Corporal Sheffield served in the South African War with the Leicestershire Volunteer Company, and afterwards joined the National Reserve, from which he enjoined one of the Leicestershire Reserve Battalions, and previous to proceeding on war service was stationed near Portsmouth for six months.

UPSET THE GERMAN BAND

In another letter written to Mr Sam Goacher, Corpl. Sheffield says, *"We are in the firing line, and, at places, only about 70 yards, or less, from the German trenches – in fact we can hear them speaking quite plainly. We were bothered the other night by a few playing a varied sort of musical instruments, and thus once more listened to a German band. Then one, who, no doubt has worked in England, would sing some of our comic songs, usually finishing by singing "God Save the King," but instead of 'King' they would say 'Kaiser'. They had an interruption to their concert, though, in the shape of one of our shrapnels. There was no more singing that night or a few nights after. There will be a little excitement as soon as the weather picks up. I have had heaps of narrow escapes, but am pleased to say up to now I am well. One night a sergeant and myself were talking at a little village (or I might say, the ruins of one) about 200 yards from the German trenches when a shot came and flattened itself behind our heads. Another few inches! Well, it might as well have been a mile away. It did no damage. A shell came one day and dropped about the next house, killing two little French children, wounding several more. We are still as lively as ever, and not at all down-hearted."*

SHELLED BY THE GERMANS

COALVILLE SOLDIER THINKS OF HOME

Private W. J. Chippendale, C. Company, 1st Leicesters, writing to his wife, residing at 183, Ashby Road, Coalville, says the Germans shelled them for over an hour, and he would not forget it as long as he lived. The Leicesters were digging when the Germans started to shell them. *"I never heard such a row in my life,"* he continues, *"It made me think of you and Billy and the baby. But we must look on the bright side of things."* Chippendale was a reservist and rejoined his regiment at the outbreak of the war. His youngest child was then five days old.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S HUMOUR

AN INVITATION TO TEA

Lance-Corpl. Beck, writing from France on February 14th to Mrs L. Curtis, of No. 88, Albert Street, Coalville, says, *"Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in the pink and hope this will find you all the same. I am sorry I have kept you waiting for a letter but I thought I had written before, but better late than never. We received parcels from the fund at Coalville today and the things will come in very handy. I see Pte. Edwards mentioned my name in the 'Coalville Times'. He had better drop in for tea if he gets round our way any time, visiting hours; any time between dusk and dawn; he had better come round the back as the front road is a bit dangerous and kept for one sort of visitors. You would laugh to see us tracking in the trenches. We look like some rag and bone men with full kit and generally a sack slung on top with French busters (bread), and other oddments in the way of waist belt packing. It's alright if you don't drop in a "Jack" hole, if its your luck, I should not like to mention the things that are said. _____ keeps writing to tell me they are coming home on furlough, but I have not started to reckon my turn out yet, about 1918 I think. We had a bit warmer reception last time in. On the 4th they started shelling at about 7 pm. sending them over six at a time. Talk about "wasps," they did buzz. They are nice fireworks if they are not too close. We got ready to do some work but they did not show up. I think they are long distance scrappers round our way, but we shall be at it when the weather clears up I expect. Well I will dry up now, lets hear soon and keep smiling."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH

WHILE TRAINING AT CATERHAM

We regret to record the death of Mr James Edwin Cox, one of the gallant Coalville men who have offered their services for King and Country in the great war. He joined the Coldstream Guards and was training at Caterham, Surrey, where, unfortunately he passed away shortly before mid-night on Saturday, a chill he contracted being followed by broncho-pneumonia and pleurisy. He was 23 years of age.

The deceased man was popular with all his associates, having formerly been a member of the Hugglescote Baptist Choir and of the Ellistown Glee Party. A sad circumstance is that Cox was the main support of his widowed mother, who resides in one of Mr J. Atkins's houses in Belvoir Road. Before joining the army he worked at Ellistown Colliery. The funeral will take place at Hugglescote tomorrow.

AN OLD MELODEON WANTED

ANOTHER LETTER FROM "SMOSH"

In a letter we have received from Pte. J. Smith, of Coalville Town F.C., popularly known as "Smosh," who is working with the R.A.M.C. at the front, he says he is in the best of health and things were going on very well where he is. The Germans, he says, are losing very heavily just now, and he hopes this will continue, so that it will not be long before it is over. He continues, *"I should like to be at the cup final this time, but I am afraid I shall not. It is a good many years since I missed one. I suppose football is not so brisk now the war is on, but I hope they will have a good 'gate' for the Charity, though I don't suppose it will beat last year."*

Smith then makes a request for an old melodeon to be sent out to him, observing that a bit of music sometimes cheers them up. He hopes to come back all right and lead the Town to the final again. He has not forgotten how to play. The writer also says that they are getting plenty of food and clothes.

LIKES THE FUN

COALVILLE SOLDIER SEEING THE SIGHTS

Private Herbert Gardner, of the 10th Hussars, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, writing to his sister, Mrs A. Hill, of 66, Margaret Street, Coalville, expresses thanks for letter and parcel which he says were three weeks on the way. He got them just when he had come out of the trenches and was very pleased with the cake and mince pies. He proceeds, *"Tell my old pal the cigars were all right and I didn't half swank with them. How are they all getting on at home? I am glad to say that I am "in the pink" myself. Remember me to James Gutteridge and thank him for nice parcel, also the helmet and mittens and nice cake and snuff. Tell him I wish he was here, for the sights are worth seeing. The Germans have riddled the place, but we shall give them Germans, before we have finished with them. They are lining us ready for a move on _____ and they are coming here now in thousands. I like the fun. I have seen old "Smosh" and he looks all right. Remember me to all the old pals and enquiring friends."*

IBSTOCK MAN IN THE TRENCHES

THRILLING EXPERIENCES

Private J. Robertson, of Ibstock, writing from France to his brother, Mr Walter Robertson, of Melbourne Road, Ibstock, states that he and his mate, Sid Richards, of Ibstock, were both writing letters at the same time in their dug-out. Owing to the bad weather, they were having a rough time, there being a lot of water and sludge in the trenches, which were only about 60 yards from those of the Germans. He had had several narrow escapes. The other night they were digging when the man next to him said, *"Have you got it?"* and immediately fell into his arms shot through the back. *"His name is Suffolk and the doctor says he will live. We have had about four months of wet and sludge, but we are well off for clothes and shoes and food and we are expecting a rest shortly. I was very pleased with the parcel from the Coalville people and I thank you for the socks. I was sorry to hear of the death of George Rudin. I often get a look at the 'Coalville Times.' Do you ever read the letters in it?"*

He concludes by enquiring about his children and his old dad and say he often thinks about them and hopes they will be well cared for. In a letter to his wife Robertson describes how during an attack by the Germans on February 4th a piece of shell went through his trousers without hurting his leg.

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S LETTER TO CATHOLIC PRIEST

Father Degan received the following letter on February 23rd.

Dear Rev. Father – I hope this letter finds you in the best of health, as it leaves me at present; at least as well as I can expect, for the work and bad weather have been enough to ruin the constitution of a horse. Ted Hunt is here somewhere, but I have not seen him yet. I wonder how he is getting on. Remember me to his parents. I have been fighting out here now for three months and I have seen men on both sides of me killed at once and also behind me, and I have not yet been touched. What do you think of that Father? Isn't it enough to make one grateful to God and to our Blessed Lady and to make you go to the Sacraments more when you get back to civil life? You can show this letter to any of your friends if you like. Whoever you show it to ask them to say a little prayer for me. Tell them I have seen shells bursting and have been in more than one shower of bullets. Well, I can't say much on paper, I must live in hopes of coming back and tell you all the news, as I could fill a book, so good-night, Father, and God bless you, from

Joseph Hart
France, 12th February, 1915

ASHBY

CITIZENS' CORPS

About 60 members of the Ashby Citizens' Corps assembled at the Town Hall on Sunday morning, and, accompanied by the Ashby Prize Band, attended service at the Wesleyan Chapel. Mr G. J. German (captain)

was in command. Mr C. Elliott, M.A., headmaster of the Grammar School, read the lesson, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. R. Sharpley, a retired Army chaplain. At the close of the service the National Anthem was sung.

IN A WARM CORNER

WHITWICK SOLDIER GETS THROUGH SAFELY

Mrs E. Hall, of 20, Talbot Street, Whitwick, has received a letter from her husband serving at the front saying he had received her letter and parcel safely. He got it just as he came out of the trenches and it put him all right. He states that Ted Collier is not with him, but there is one in his company he knows well – Jack Storer, who used to work for Mr Enoch Briers. He wishes to be remembered to Potter. The letter continues: *"I am all right if I could only keep a bit warmer, but, thank God, the weather is getting a bit better now. I always said I should see something, but I did not think it would be like this. But never mind, we are doing it for a good cause and we are letting them know to it now. I have been in a warm corner, but I got out all right, thank God."*

In a subsequent letter, Hall says how he and his pals in the trenches enjoyed the cake his wife had sent him. *"We were just giving the Germans some cake with currants in at the same time. I am sorry to tell you that I have seen a few of my pals go under, but I don't think it will last much longer."*

In a postscript Hall adds: *"Tell my little birds that their dad will come home some day. Shall not be sorry when."*

GERMAN OFFICERS AT DONINGTON

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

In the House of Commons on Wednesday, Mr Tenant, replying to a question by Lord Charles Beresford, said the approximate expenditure on Donington Hall for accommodating German officers was £13,000 of which £4,000 was for furnishing. Information received from unofficial sources gave ground for the apprehension that British prisoners in German camps were not as well treated as they should be. Statements to the effect that their treatment was harder than that meted out to the prisoners of our allies were not sufficiently well established to enable him to speak with certainty on the point. Mr R. McNiel asked if these officers were taken to Donington Hall by motor cars, whereas the National Reservists guarding them had to walk?

Mr Tenant: *I am not aware of that.*

Mr Butcher: *Is it necessary a large country house should be taken for the German officers?*
Mr Tenant: *There was no other accommodation available.*

HUGGLESCOTE MAN IN BIG BATTLE

BROKEN IN NOW

Pte. J. W. Brown, of the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, writing from France to his brother, Mr Percy Brown, of 17, Forest Road, Hugglescote, says that he was in a big battle on January 25th and is now broken in. It was as the papers say "like Hell" – canon shots and bullets everywhere. *"We had three clipped in our trench out of nine, so we had our share. But I got used to it before the day was out. You think no more about going into the trenches than going to dinner. Ours was the water trench, so it was lovely. We get hot baths when we come out, so it puts us right."*

Brown concludes by wishing to be remembered to the foreman and all his shop mates at Messrs. Stableford's works.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS

The members of the Coalville Citizen Corps paraded in strong force on Sunday morning and headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band, marched to Bardon Hill Parish Church, where an appropriate sermon on "Self discipline" was preached by the Rev. R. P. Farrow.

(A photograph of the Citizen Corps also appeared with the words: “Coalville Citizen Corps, headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Prize Band, passing along London Road on Sunday morning, on their way to Bardon Church.”)

LOCAL NOTES

The largest batch of wounded which has yet arrived in Leicester reached the Midland Station shortly after midnight on Tuesday. They numbered 183, as against 175, which was the previous number. The men were of all regiments, and there were injuries and ailments of all sorts, ‘everything from shrapnel to whooping cough’, as one of them precisely phrased it. No less than 60 of the cases were suffering from frozen feet, there were 46 cot cases. Fifteen were taken to the Infirmary, the remainder to the base hospital. Most of the wounded men came from the neighbourhood of Ypres, Armentieres, or La Bassee. Excellent arrangements for the conveyance of the wounded were, as usual, made by Mr A. W. Faire and his Voluntary Aid workers.

Two interesting weddings in which Hugglescote Church School teachers were united to khaki-clad bridegrooms have taken place within the past few days. At the Hugglescote Parish Church on Saturday morning, Miss Maggie Lee was wedded to Private A. Emmerson and at Sawbridgeworth on Monday, Miss Cissie Weston was married to Lance-Corporal S. Oakley, both weddings being by special licence, and the bridegrooms afterwards rejoined their regiments expecting to be called away on foreign service at any moment. Private Emmerson is a son of the Bagworth Colliery manager. Both he and Oakley were among the first 50 Territorials to leave Coalville for Luton some months ago. Both couples will have the best wishes of many friends for a happy reunion after the war.

Friday March 5th 1915 (Issue 1200)

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SOLDIER CHARGED AT COALVILLE

ALLEGED THEFT OF A WATCH AT HUGGLESCOTE

SAID HE WANTED A KEEPSAKE

Before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court on Monday morning, George Frederick Walker Mee (17), bandsman in the 1st Rifle Brigade, stationed at Winchester, was charged with stealing a lady's silver watch and wrist strap, value 30s, the property of Annie Hands, factory hand, of 61, Forest Road, Hugglescote, on Saturday, February 27th.

Inspector Dobney stated that having received information of the offence on Saturday, on Sunday he went to Desford and saw the prisoner at the Industrial School there. He told him he was making enquiries about a lady's watch having been stolen from Hugglescote on Saturday from a house which he (prisoner) had visited and he replied, *"I know nothing about it."* Witness cautioned him and asked him where he had obtained the watch that he was wearing on his wrist and he replied that he had bought it at Winchester. He told him he would be charged with stealing it and conveyed him to Coalville. Witness showed the watch to Annie Hands, who identified it as her property.

Supt. Lockton asked for a remand to the Ashby Petty Sessions on Saturday. Asked whether he had anything to say prisoner, who was dressed in khaki, commenced to cry and said he did not mean to steal the watch. He was expecting to have to go abroad and took the watch as a keepsake from the girl. He was remanded in custody. The prisoner, on Saturday, attended the funeral of Pte. J. Cox, of Hugglescote, walking with other soldiers in the procession.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The members of the Whitwick Citizens' Corps, some 40 or 50 strong, paraded on Sunday morning, headed by the Holy Cross Band and attended service at the Whitwick Parish Church. They afterwards had a march via New Swannington, and were accompanied by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Walters, who is one of the chaplains to the corps.

Officers of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps have been elected as follows: Capt. W. E. Stevenson, company commander; Mr G. F. Burton, platoon commander; Mr B. Berry, chairman of the committee; Father O'Reilly, vice-chairman; Mr J. W. Eagles, treasurer; and Mr J. West, secretary.

Delegates from the Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps attended a meeting at the Snibston New Inn club room on Monday night and elected Mr B. G. Hale (Coalville) on the Finance Committee of the Leicester County Volunteers Association and Capt. Woods (Hugglescote) a member of the Equipment Committee of the same association.

Arrangements are being made for manoeuvres on an extensive scale in the vicinity of Coalville, to take place about Easter time between various Citizen Corps in the County. It is proposed that the Leicestershire Corps shall be the attacking force against the Coalville, Woodville, Whitwick and Thringstone, Hugglescote, Shepshed, and possibly Loughborough Corps. Mr S. C. Parker, secretary of the Leicester Corps is corresponding with others concerned in the matter, which is creating a good deal of interest.

The Coalville Urban Council, through the gas works manager, (Mr J. W. Eagles) have sent out a notice that the gas supply may be cut off at any time in the event of an enemy air raid.

We regret to hear that Rifleman H. Lagoe of Ellistown, who has been fighting in the trenches has had to be taken into hospital suffering from frost-bitten feet.

Private C. Reed, of the 1st Leicesters, writing to Mr Potter, says he was in his dug-out as he writes and he had a very bad cold. A present from the Coalville people received last week was very useful. He appreciates the 'Coalville Times' sent to him and desires to be remembered to all his old friends. He adds, *"It is like being in hell here. Cannons to the right, cannons to the left, and all over the place."*

Ten Coalville ladies who have been attending classes for instruction in nursing in the town, conducted by Dr. Hamilton, and have passed an examination, have sent in their names for service in hospitals in England or abroad in response to an appeal for volunteers by the War Office. The ladies are likely to be called up within the next month or so.

A suggestion of the Bishop of Peterborough has been carried out in the Ibstock Parish Church this week and a roll of honour has been hung up containing the names of all the Ibstock soldiers, sailors, reserves and volunteers who have enlisted in connection with the war. The roll is headed by the name of Nurse Eggington who has gone as a Red Cross worker.

HEATHER

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

On Saturday last, Mr H. J. Ford, J.P., presided at a concert in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Fund, held in the Heather Wesleyan School, given by the Sunday School children and choir to a crowded audience. The programme included selections by the children and choir, recitations, "The Day," Mr A. W. March, and "Keep Smiling," Mr Herbert Foster, also a number of patriotic tableaux and the cantata, "Motherland." Thanks were accorded at the close and the National Anthem was sung. Great credit was due to Mr Hands, who had trained the children, Mr Harry Hands was the accompanist. The concert realised £5.

DO YOU KNOW

That the Coalville Territorials have arrived safely in France?

That enquires are being made with a view to utilising the Coalville Bridge Road Council Schools as a hospital for wounded soldiers?

That Viscount Curzon, son of Lord Howe, is on board H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth, which is one of the warships taking part in the bombardment of the Dardanelles?

That the Coalville monthly collection £7 7s 10d, paid in this week, for the Prince of Wales's Fund, was the lowest yet recorded?

That a lecture arranged by Mr L. L. Baldwin is to be given at the Coalville Olympia, on Sunday, March 14th in aid of the fund inaugurated by the Salvation Army for providing ambulance motor cars for service at the front, to be known as the "Queen Alexandria unit"?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 17th collection from 10 districts realised £7 5s 10d.

DESERTER FROM THE CAMERONIANS

Frances Todd, of the 7th Battalion Cameron Highlanders, was charged on Monday before Major Hatchett, with being a deserter from the battalion since the 23rd February. P.C. Culpin arrested the man when he was working at the South Leicestershire Colliery as a banksman. An escort arrived on Tuesday afternoon and took charge of the prisoner for conveyance to Cirencester. The private soldier of the escort was Riley, the Blackburn Rovers' famous player.

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COALVILLE URBAN COUNCIL

Highway Committee Report

The Committee recommend the wages of the Surveyor's Clerk, C. S. Dean, who has joined the King's Royal Rifles be paid so as to make up same to full amount with the pay received from the army.

Gas Committee

The manager reported that he had been in communication with the Police, who stated the Military Authorities would require the extinguishing of all lights in the event of an enemy air raid, and the Committee recommend a circular be issued to all customers notifying them of the possibility of their supply being cut off at any time, and that all possible notice would be given them of such an order being received. The Committee considered the question of the earlier extinguishing of the public lamps and recommend that whilst the present Closing Order of Licensed Premises continues at 9 o'clock, the lamps be extinguished at 10:30 each night, except Friday and Saturday nights, when same be as at present, viz. 11 o'clock.

Mr Lockwood moved the adoption of the report and in regard to the earlier extinguishing of the street lamps, said the committee thought they might exercise a little economy without inconvenience to anyone. They understood that the miners would all be at the pits by the time the lights were put out. The report was adopted.

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Mr John Shields, eldest son of Mr John Gillies Shields, J.P., (Isley Walton) and formerly Captain of the Leicestershire Cricket Club, has joined the Royal Field Artillery (Territorial Forces), and has been given a commission as second-lieutenant. Mr Shields appeared at the meeting of the Shardlow Board of Guardians (of which he is a member) on Monday morning in full uniform, and received the hearty congratulations of his numerous friends.

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ELLISTOWN SOLDIER AT THE SEASIDE

News just received from Drummer G. H. Wilcox, one of Ellistown's gallant young men who responded to the call of King and Country, states he is going on well and enjoying a soldier's life. He is in the band of the 8th Leicestershire Regiment and has been stationed at Aldershot but his present address is Devonshire House, Marine Parade, Folkestone. In a letter to Mr A. Richardson, a friend of his residing in Crescent Road, Wilcox says it is lovely now at Folkestone, Blackpool being nothing in it. It is a fine sight to see the ships passing and the other day, unfortunately, he saw a wreck, a vessel going down straight opposite the house where he is staying. Before leaving Ellistown, Wilcox was the first cornet player in the Hugglescote Town Band.

GUARDSMAN'S FUNERAL AT HUGGLESCOTE

WITNESSED BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

The first military funeral to take place in this district since the war broke out was that at Hugglescote on Saturday when the remains of Private J. E. Cox, of the Coldstream Guards, were interred in the Baptist Burial ground in the presence of a huge concourse of people.

Cox formerly worked at Ellistown Colliery and joined the Coldstream Guards about two months ago. His company were in training at Caterham, Surrey, where he caught a chill, which brought on pneumonia. Arrangements were made for the funeral at Caterham on Wednesday, but at the request of his widowed mother, who resides in Belvoir Road, Coalville, the body was brought to Hugglescote and interred in a grave near that of his father.

The Hugglescote and Ellistown Band headed the cortege playing the Dead March and in the procession were Capt. Stevenson, Father O'Reilly, (chaplain, Whitwick Citizen Corps), Col-Sergt. Dye, of the Recruiting Office, Pte. Wilson of the Coldstream Guards and Driver Plowman, of the Royal Artillery, who have been wounded, Bandsman Mee, all dressed in khaki, a large number of the members of the Coalville, Hugglescote and Whitwick Citizen Corps wearing their red armlets which have been issued by the Government as a sign of recognition, members of the Hugglescote Church Lads Brigade, and others.

The chief mourners present were the deceased's mother; brother, Mr T. Cox; sisters, Mrs Butcher (London), Mrs W. Steel (Loughborough), Mrs A. Dalby (Shaw Lane), Mrs T. Thornton (Quorn), Mrs J. Hornsby (Leicester) and Miss May Cox (Coalville); Mr A. Dalby, Mrs T. Cox, Miss Chambers and Miss Finch.

Among those also present were Mr A. B. Emmerson (Manager of the Ellistown Colliery) Messrs. H. Hubbard, C. Cross, and H. Savage (representing the Hugglescote Baptist Young Men's Bible Class), Mr W. Hemsley and others (representing the Ellistown Glee Party) to which the deceased belonged. The service in the Baptist Chapel and at the grave yard was conducted by the Rev. C. Barker, and after the committal, a party of buglers from the Hugglescote Church Lad's Brigade sounded the "Last Post".

The coffin bore the inscription, *"James Edwin Cox, Coldstream Guards, died February 20th, 1915, aged 23 years."*

The bearers were young friends of the deceased – Messrs. A. Woollerton, J. Langham, R. Harris, B. Abell, T. Taylor and S. Chambers. Beautiful floral tributes were from his mother, brothers and sisters, Will, Charlie and Ella, Flo and Edie, Mr and Mrs Ernest Bonser, Mr and Mrs Willn and family, the teacher and fellow members of the Hugglescote Baptist Young Men's Bible Class, his comrades in Sergt. Moult's squad, the officers of the 14th Company, Coldstream Guards, his old friend Ivy. Mr and Mrs C. Chambers, Mr and Mrs J. Harlow, his friends Sep and mother, Mrs Orton and family and the neighbours. Mr E. W. Guy carried out the funeral arrangements.

The Rev. C. Barker preached a funeral sermon at the Hugglescote Baptist Chapel on Sunday night, and the congregation stood while Mr E. W. Guy (organist) played the Dead March.

THRINGSTONE TERRITORIAL PROMOTED

Mr Lawrence Gough, of Thringstone, will receive the congratulations of many friends on his promotion. Soon after the outbreak of war he joined the Territorials and has made such excellent progress that a few days ago he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is at present stationed in Epping. A vocalist of some merit, he has often assisted at local concerts and is well known and highly esteemed. He has been over to Thringstone again this week in connection with the death of his aged father.

Friday March 12th 1915 (Issue 1201)

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SOLDIER'S THEFT AT HUGGLESCOTE

WANTED A KEEPSAKE

A LENIENT VIEW

The Ashby magistrates on Saturday took a lenient view in a case in which George W. F. Mee (17), soldier in the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, Winchester, was charged with stealing a lady's silver watch and wrist strap, value 30s at Hugglescote, on February 27th. He pleaded guilty.

Inspector Dobney said that having received information of the offence, he made enquiries and on the 28th February went to Desford Industrial School and found the prisoner there. He told him he was making enquiries about a lady's wrist watch which had been stolen from a house which he had been visiting the previous day at Hugglescote. He replied, "*I know nothing about it."* Witness cautioned him and asked him where he had the watch from that he was wearing on his wrist. He replied that he bought it at a second hand shop at Winchester two months ago. Witness took possession of the watch and arrested defendant on a charge of stealing it. He said he was very sorry he did take it, but he took it with the intention of having it for a keepsake. He also said, *"I was silly I did not give it the girl back when she asked me for it."* The same night, witness showed the watch to Annie Hands who identified it as her property and valued it at 30s.

The chairman remarked that the Rifle Brigade was one of the smartest regiments in the service. On undertaking to rejoin his regiment, defendant was bound over in the sum of £5 to be of good behaviour for 12 months, and to pay the costs, 22s.

Defendant asked whether they could get him out of the band, but the chairman said that was not a matter for the Bench.

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At Donington Hall, where the German officers with a small army of soldiers as valets are quartered, an amusing incident happened a few days ago. The officers are learning football in a space in front of the hall. A vigorous kick landed the ball amongst the electric and barbed wire barrier, which surrounded the enclosure. There followed a sudden alarm, a frantic ringing of bells and a mad rush of sentries, and guardsmen. The explanation caused merriment on both sides.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Pte. Bernard Walker, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry, has been over on a visit to his parents, who reside in Crescent Road, arriving on Saturday and returning on Monday. He was at Scarborough during the bombardment by German warships, on duty guarding the wireless station and was unhurt although shells fell within 20 yards of him and a man close to him was struck down.

Messrs. Ellis and Everard have generously decided to make a war allowance to all their men and boys employed at the Bardon and Shepshed quarries to tide them over the difficulties in regard to the high cost of living caused by the war. Each man will be paid 2s per week and each boy under 16 years of age 1s per week. The first payment was made on Friday last, the extra money being placed in small envelopes marked "War Allowance." A similar concession has been made to the men and boys employed by the Groby Granite Company and by the Cliff Hill Granite Company.

News has been received that Capt. Sir G. A. H. Beaumont, only son of Lady Beaumont, of Swannington House, Swannington and the late Sir Geo. Beaumont has been wounded in action. Capt. Sir G. A. H. Beaumont is serving with the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and was in India some years with his battalion. The captain's name appeared in casualty lists published on Tuesday morning. Before leaving for the front he visited Coleorton and entertained the tenants, having a short time previously succeeded to the baronetcy.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr Tennant, in reply to Mr Alden said no more had been done to Donington Hall than was necessary to render the place fit for habitation seeing it had been unoccupied for many years. The style of furniture in the sleeping quarters corresponded to that of the servant's bedrooms and could not be described as luxurious. No billiard tables had been provided. The cost of housing worked out at 15s per man per week.

The summary of the annual report of the Pearl Assurance Company Ltd, printed in our advertisement columns makes very interesting reading. Up to the outbreak of the war the company was making its usual excellent progress and it is noteworthy that since then no less than 1908 members of the staff have joined His Majesty's Forces. In spite of the unprecedented conditions brought about by the war, the company's record for the whole year is a splendid one, the income being £126,206 5s 2d more than that of the previous year. The payments are also of a very complimentary nature and go to show what a strong hold the Pearl has in the favour of the public. Coalville and District has contributed in no small degree to the great success achieved and any information concerning the company will be gladly given by the local representatives.
Mr W. Wesson, fitter, employed at the Midland Railway engine sheds, Coalville, has received information that his son, Sergt. Alfred Wesson, 2nd Leicesters, Indian Expeditionary Force, has been wounded – shot through both legs. He is in hospital at Boulogne. Wesson was in India at the outbreak of the war, and before going to the front spent a few days at Coalville, being accompanied by his brother, who is also serving in the 2nd Leicesters.

The Recruiting Officer for the Coalville District, (Capt. W. E. Stevenson) informed our representative on Wednesday morning that he had just received instructions from the military authorities to the effect that double the number of recruits per week were to be found if possible. To facilitate this, the medical examination has been somewhat modified. That captain stated that the need for young men to come forward was most urgent and the recruiting office in Hotel Street, Coalville, is being kept open daily from 8.30 till late in the evening. Five recruits were sent off on Saturday, two on Monday and one on Tuesday from Coalville.

We were also informed on Wednesday that Messrs. R. Blower and W. Baldwin, the joint secretaries for the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee for the Bosworth Division had had an urgent appeal from the War Office to organise a further series of meetings and do all in their power to obtain recruits. Hence, another series of meetings are being arranged throughout the northern part of the Bosworth Division.

In consequence of an order issued by the Government last Saturday, all photographs and soldiers' letters have to be submitted to the Censor's department in London before being published. This has delayed the publication of a few such letters and photos we intended to give in today's issue, but we hope to publish the same next week. Will readers please note that we shall be glad to receive photos and letters as hitherto, but it will facilitate early publication if they are sent to us as early as possible each week.

The following are items from Messrs. Stableford's "News Van."

Private Louis Hopkins, formerly in the frame shop with Mr Speddings, who is home on sick leave, called at the works a few days ago. He was called up as a reservist and sent to Fermoy in Ireland with the 1st Battalion Leicester Regiment. After training at Cambridge, he went to France with his battalion, took part in the fighting on the Marne and the Aisne, and was finally wounded at Armentieres, being struck by shell in one arm and the other hand. Another fragment went through his cap. He took part in a bayonet charge at Armentieres.

W. S. Baker, formerly in the Drawing Office, has enlisted as an Army Clerk and is now at Aldershot.

We much regret to hear that Pte. Arthur Massey has met with a somewhat serious accident at Sawbridgeworth. He was thrown from a gun carriage, the horses of which had bolted; and sustained severe wounds on the head. Pte. Massey is, we hear, progressing very favourably and will, we hope, soon be on the way to convalescence.

D.C.M. FOR IBSTOCK SOLDIER

LANCE-CORPL. J. W. LOCKTON HONOURED

In the honours list published yesterday appears the name of L-Corpl. Joseph Wm. Lockton as having been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for distinguished conduct on the battlefield.

Lockton, who is in the 3rd Coldstream Guards, is a native of Ibstock, and a nephew of Police-Superintendent Lockton, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He was residing at Ibstock before the war, where he had for some time been Sergt-Instructor at the Ibstock Church Lad's Brigade, and he is well known among the Brigade officers and lads of Leicester, having acted as Provost-Sergt. at the Brigade camps.

We hope to publish a photo of Lockton next week and how he won the medal.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 18th collection from 12 districts realised £10 17s 5d.

HUGGLESCOTE

CITIZEN'S PARADE

The members of the Citizen's Corps paraded on Sunday afternoon headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band and attended service at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, where an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. J. T. Martin, of Coalville.

TEA AND CONVERSATIONE

A successful tea was held on Wednesday in the large room at the Hawley Institute and was followed by a conversatione. There was a large attendance. The time was pleasantly spent. The proceeds were for the Soldiers' Comforts Guild and several of the ladies were busy knitting during the conversation. Mr B. B. Drewett and Mr L. L. Baldwin read letters from soldiers showing how the articles were appreciated and that more was needed. Songs were given by Mrs P. W. Brown, Miss E. Smalley, Miss M. Darby, Mr L. L. Baldwin and Mr A. Haywood and Mrs T. Hatter recited.

DO YOU KNOW

That Mr Bernard Hatter, of Hugglescote, (5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorials) has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant?

That the Ibstock Ladies' Patriotic Committee have through Mrs Wilson, sent £1 1s to the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild?

That Mr Roland Hull, of Coalville (Leicestershire Territorials) has been promoted to Company Quarter-Master Sergeant?

That Messrs. Stableford's "News Van," No. 2 of which has just been published, realised £5 for the local war fund to which the profits are being applied?

That the War Office wants men to cut and tie hay in various parts of the country, for which work they prepared to pay 5s per ton?

That during last week Leicester and county enlisted only 22 recruits to seven units of the Territorial force – the Yeomanry, the Artillery, the Reserve Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment, the North Midland Field Ambulance, the North Midland Divisional Train, and the North Midland Brigade?

ASHBY

GIFTS TO OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

As the result of the recent social in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on behalf of our soldiers and sailors, parcels have been despatched as follows: To Lieutenant Sharpley, H.M.S. King Orry; to the mine sweepers; and a very large consignment of goods to the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in which a number of Ashby men are serving.

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SEPARATION ALLOWANCE

An Army Order, officially issued on Friday night gave details of the increased separation allowance which came into operation on March 1st and to remain during the period of the present war. Under the new regulation minimum separation allowance for wives is 12s 6d, with 5s for the first child, 3s 6d for the second, and 2s for subsequent children. For motherless children the separation allowance will be 5s weekly, and a soldier will not be required to make any allotment from his pay towards that amount. In addition, the wives of soldiers become eligible for separation allowance where the marriages have taken place after enlistment or mobilisation, while wives and children residing in this country of soldiers serving in India and not hitherto eligible as from February 1st last. The separation allowance will cease at the end of the war.

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ROLL OF HONOUR

HUGGLESCOTE CHURCH SCHOOL OLD BOYS WITH THE FORCES

The headmaster of the Hugglescote Church Day School, Mr F. J. Wainwright, is preparing a roll of honour, consisting of the names of old school boys who are now serving with the forces. Already nearly seventy names appear on the list to which additions are frequently being made as the information is obtained.

The list up to date is as follows:

	Dr. D. Egan	A.S.C.
	Tr. W. Stinchcombe	R.H.G. (Blue)
	Tr. T. W. Willett	N.Zeal M.R.
07259	Corpl. J. W. Lander	A.S.C. (M.T.)
17553	Pte. J. S. Newbold	Grenadier G.
14769	Pte. J. Kinsey	R.M.L.I.
28807	Sppr. E. W. Plant	R.E.
26429	Pte. D. Newbury	R.A.M.C.
15386	Pte. J. T. Mugginson	9th. S.Staff
15407	Pte. W. Newbury	9th. S.Staff
1344	Cpl. C. Willett	Leicester Ter.
2468	Sgt. G. Straw	7th R.M.F.
1303	R'man H. Lagoe	6th R.B.
1095	R'man F. R. Dean	16th K.R.R.
1331	Pte. H. Gamble	R.F.A.
2439	Pte. M. Gamble	R.F.A.
150	Dr. E. Smart	Linc. Yeo.
164	Dr. H. Kirk	Leicester Ter.
37	Sgt.-M. J. Bishop	Nth. Mid. A.S.C.
21	Dr. A. Smart	Linc. Yeo.
49	Pte. A. Burton	Nth. Mid. C.C.
7725	Pte. T. W. Summers	1st Leicesters
9723	Pte. A. E. Prior	1st Leicesters
9027	L.-Cpl. J. Clarke	2nd Leicesters
9043	Pte. R. F. Manning	2nd Leicesters
9153	Pte. J. Blakemore	2nd Leicesters
11476	Pte. J. Knight	3rd Leicesters
15864	Pte. W. T. Willett	3rd Leicesters
16526	Pte. J. Tebbatt	3rd Leicesters
1119	Pte. J. H. Bullen	5th Leicesters

1212	Pte. G. Gadsby	5th Leicesters
1240	Cpl. W. Barney	5th Leicesters
1250	Cpl. W. Smith	5th Leicesters
2331	L.-Cpl. A. Quilter	5th Leicesters
2411	Pte. G. Martin	5th Leicesters
2438	Pte. W. Pettitt	5th Leicesters
2487	Pte. J. Summers	5th Leicesters
2482	Pte. Wilfred Robinson	5th Leicesters
2493	Pte. W. Newbold	5th Leicesters
2326	Pte. F. Hill	5th Leicesters
2522	Pte. I. Harper	5th Leicesters
2534	Pte. C. Hatter	5th Leicesters
2540	Pte. R. Glover (Res)	5th Leicesters
2554	Pte. W. Baker	5th Leicesters
2560	Pte. W. Cowley	5th Leicesters
2566	Pte. C. Beadman	5th Leicesters
2810	Pte. H. Thompson	5th Leicesters
2865	Pte. W. Bradford	5th Leicesters
2999	Br. H. Watson (Res)	5th Leicesters
2515	Pte. H. Meadows	5th Leicesters
3001	Pte. S. Summers	5th Leicesters
3142	Pte. F. W. Cooper	5th Leicesters
3148	Pte. H. Gadsby	5th Leicesters
3099	Pte. J. Bamkin (Res)	5th Leicesters
14445	Pte. A. Neville	8th Leicesters
13298	Pte. O. Pratt	8th Leicesters
13205	Pte. G. Browne	8th Leicesters
13180	Pte. A. Cartwright	8th Leicesters
11483	Pte. A. Hull	8th Leicesters
14639	Pte. W. Hall	8th Leicesters
15279	Pte. J. A. Pegg	8th Leicesters
16046	Pte. T. Wilson	8th Leicesters
16781	Pte. W. Heward	8th Leicesters

THRINGSTONE MEN WITH THE FORCES

The following is a list of those who are in the King's Forces from the Parish and Congregation of St. Andrews, Thringstone.

Capt. T. Booth, Gordon Highlanders
Lieut. C. Booth, Army Trans., R.N.D.
Lieut. Rit---, Leicestershire Yeomanry
Capt. Gort-Browne, Post Office Rifles
Hon. Maj. M. Macnaughton, Anti-Aircraft Corps

Thringstone Civil and Ecclesiastical Parish.

	Sapper W. Turner	Essex (Fortress) Royal Engineers
295	Pte. T. Jones	County Batt. Durham (*)
1762	Pte. F. W. Rose	Leicestershire Yeo.
2347	Pte. J. Peace	9th King's Royal Rifles
6867	Corpl. J. West	Royal Scots Infantry
11759	L.-Corpl. W. E. Button	6th Service Batt. Leicesters
12465	Pte. G. Wilson	18th Hussars
12034	Pte. J. Hall	
12118	Pte. H. Findall	7th Service Batt. Leicesters
26939	Pte. J. H. Rennocks	Royal Engineers
7787	Pte. T. A. Commons	1st Leicesters

16712	Pte. J. Robinson	3rd Leicesters
	Pte. R. Robinson	3rd Leicesters
5833	Pte. T. Gee	3rd Leicesters
2529	Sergt. L. Gough (Res)	5th Leicesters
2521	Pte. I. Hall (Res)	5th Leicesters
2525	Pte. J. Hallam (Res)	5th Leicesters
	Pte. W. Stopp (Res)	5th Leicesters
1885	Pte. J. Sykes (Res)	5th Leicesters
10939	Pte. H. Granger	6th Leicesters
15523	Pte. J. Squires	6th Leicesters
	Pte. T. Squires	6th Leicesters
1997	Pte. J. W. Eaton	5th Leicesters
2564	Pte. J. Bancroft	5th Leicesters
1346	Pte. A. Bird	5th Leicesters
12134	Pte. W. Wright	8th Leicesters

(*) Killed during West Hartlepool bombardment)

Ecclesiastical Portion of the Parish outside the civil area.

2254	Cpl. A. R. Crane	5th Northern Military Hospital, Leicester
2021	Sgt. G. H. Watson	9th Batt. King's Royal Rifles
1323	Sgt. J. Carter	Leicestershire Yeo.
26150	Pte. W. Hoult	Royal Field Artillery
	Pte. C. Gibbons	Royal Bucks Hussars
	Gun. G. Roberts	Army Trans. R.N.D.
7321	Pte. G. Fairbrother	3rd Leicesters
5928	Pte. E. Hutchins	3rd Leicesters
16712	Pte. D. Robinson	3rd Leicesters
12975	Pte. E. Howe	3rd Leicesters
12041	Pte. E. Hall	3rd Leicesters
	Pte. J. Robinson (Res)	5th Leicesters
	Pte. Wilf'd Sykes (Res)	5th Leicesters
	Pte. G. Allcott (Res)	5th Leicesters
	Pte. A. Freeman (Res)	5th Leicesters
1491	Pte. Wm Sykes (Res)	5th Leicesters
2866	Pte. H. Freeman	5th Leicesters
2868	Pte. F. Hall	5th Leicesters
1350	Pte. F. Haywood (Res)	5th Leicesters
2324	Pte. J. Hibbert (Res)	5th Leicesters
	Pte. J. Rush	6th Leicesters
16234	Pte. F. Sear	6th Leicesters
16283	Pte. G. Wilkes	6th Leicesters
16779	Pte. F. S. Brown	7th Leicesters
13127	Pte. T. E. Walton	8th Leicesters

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SHEPSHED

News has been received that Lieutenant George Aked, of the 5th Leicesters, died on the 5th inst. Deceased was 19 years of age, and was the son of Mr George Aked of Nottingham. He was a clerk in the Shepshed branch of the Nottingham and Notts Bank, and in the Shepshed Territorial Co. when war broke out.

THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

Another in the series of illustrated war lectures were given in the village hall on Monday night, the lecturer being the Right Hon. Charles Booth and the subject, “Britain’s fight for freedom.” It dealt principally with the navy and some excellent lantern slides were shown. Mr J. Winters presided and Mrs J. J. Sharp sang “The lads of the red, white and blue,” and “The night has a thousand eyes.” The proceeds were for the Prince of Wales’s Fund, but the attendance was hardly as large as usual.

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SHEPSHED OFFICER KILLED

THE LATE LIEUTENANT AKED

Lieutenant George Aked, of the 5th Batt. Leicestershire Regiment, whose death at the front we announced in our issue, was the only son of Mr and Mrs G. Aked, of Tavistock Drive, Mapperley Park, Nottingham. He was educated at the Nottingham High School, and for some two and a half years served in the Officer’s Training Corps. On the raising of a new company at Shepshed (where he held an appointment at the Nottingham and Notts Bank), he was gazetted second lieutenant on the 19th November, 1912, and posted to the new company, which he in part raised, and as the only resident officer trained. He was promoted lieutenant in August last.

Landing in France in the 25th ult., he entered the first line of trenches, and was killed on the 5th inst. He was in his 20th year.

IMPRESSIONS OF MY LAST DAYS IN BELGIUM

BY AN EMPLOYEE OF MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.

In the second issue of Messrs. Stableford’s “News Van” appears the first contribution by M. H. Mage giving his experiences during his last days in Belgium. Mr Mage, who is now employed in the drawing office of Messrs. Stableford and Co., was formerly a draughtsman in the great engineering works of John Cockerill, Ltd., at Seraing, Belgium. The editor of the “News Van” has kindly permitted us to reproduce the article which is very interesting:

Mr Mage writes as follows: *I have the honour to submit to the readers of the “News Van” some notes on my impressions of the last few days of my life in Belgium; and on several incidents which marked them, at the time of the arrival of the German forces, and on my two journeys into Holland.*

Is it necessary to recall the circumstances of this ignominious war? Germans declared war on Prussia and France and demanded free passage for her troops through Belgium, afterwards invading my unhappy fatherland, on receipt of the dignified refusal of the Belgian Government. When the first anxious rumours of war commenced to circulate, I was still depressed by a recent bereavement, and took little interest in anything. However, the dejection from which I suffered did not prevent me being astonished at the contrast between the states of mind which existed in civil and military circles.

On the one hand, with some exceptions, was implicit confidence in the treaties concerning the neutrality of the Belgian territory; on the other, extreme anxiety, and active measures; that is, to put into readiness defensive works and to recall a great number of reserves to the colours. This state of things growing worse from day to day, I considered in the last days of July, that it would be worthwhile to go one afternoon to gather the latest news, and with that idea I went to Liege. There I perceived among the public, a change of opinion regarding Germany’s good faith, shown by the reluctance of trades people to accept paper money. The editors of the principal journals were continually publishing sensational news. In one of the last special editions appeared in large type: “Germany threatens war.” That afternoon one could see coming from districts near the frontier an interminable procession of vehicles bringing back to town holidaymakers from the delightful resorts of Tilff, Esnieuse Vise, Spa and many others, amongst which may be mentioned Laroche, a town much favoured by English tourists. In short, before leaving Liege, I was satisfied that we were on the verge of war, and I bought a reliable weapon.

In spite of all, there still existed in the dept of one's heart a hope which encouraged one to believe in the possibility of a false alarm, though the inhabitants of our communes felt themselves little heartened on seeing the passage of ammunition wagons, drawn principally by farmers, whose heavy carts and magnificent horses had been requisitioned for this purpose by the military authorities; and excitement was at its height when the last classes of reservists were called to the colours when one saw troops comprised chiefly of field artillery, marching via Liege to the frontier.

These troops had been proceeded by forty motor cars, which apparently carried munitions of war. Certain persons circulated the unlikely report that the first cars had been occupied by German officers. Finally all able bodied men were requisitioned for various defence works. Night and day there continually passed horses destined for cavalry remounts, after having been examined and purchased by gendarmes appointed to the task. Also passed numerous herds of cattle which were enclosed in large meadows, to wait to be sent to military slaughterhouses.

In the picturesque spectacle which all this offered, mingled the more sombre one of the passing of old soldiers in uniform, surrounded by their wives and children. They were making for the military depots. Many farmers' sons and their friends, under arms, were brought by their parents in carriages. The attitude of these last was grave and dignified, and to my mind, formed a striking contrast to that of the soldiers from industrial centres whom I had seen going away together singing at the top of their voices.

But, it was not without a shudder, when watching these brave men pass, that one thought that many of them went perhaps to death, and the soul revolted at the thought of the innumerable physical and moral pains which are engendered by this monstrous thing which is war. On the 3rd August, I received a summons from the Seraing section of the Liege Committee of the Belgian Red Cross Society. I replied to this special order by reporting myself at the depot, to receive there papers to serve in the stronghold of Liege, and immediately after, I went to the Town Hall of Flemalle wither another summons had called me, relative to the conduct of civilians during these stirring events. The Burgomaster after having recalled their civic duties to those present, related to them latest news. It was confirmed that the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg had been violated by the Germans, who had pretended that the railways were their property. He added that the attitude of Germany left no longer any hope of avoiding war, and that the soil of Belgium would also inevitably be violated. Someone amongst those present stated that the invasion was an accomplished fact, and that two columns, comprised each of 20,000 men were advancing, one on Cirney, the other on Dinant. He made the puerile suggestion that one might hope that German action would be confined to this.

Before continuing my narrative, I wish to record here the denials of the German Vice Consul at Liege, concerning the invasion of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and of the ultimatum sent to the Belgian Government; denials which were published in big letters in the "Liege Gazette" by the side of the exposal of the true state of affairs.

On the 4th August, as on the preceding days, the work of completing defences was carried on with feverish activity. It is thus that I saw my little garden and those of my neighbours transformed into a little fortress. Workmen and engineers installed there an entanglement of barbed wire after having cut down the trees and other obstacles. Further, the enclosing walls were pierced by loopholes opening on a street by our houses and making of it a strategic position of some importance. Soldiers of the line occupied this position.

The evening war was declared was eventful, there was a chase after a German spy. Three of these individuals were scouring the district in a motor car and were engaged in cutting the telephone and telegraph wires. There was an exchange of rifle and revolver shots.

On the 5th August, agitation was extreme in the commune, and it was reported by people coming from Liege that Capt. Marchand, aide-de-camp of General Leman, had been assassinated by Germans in military uniform. That appeared incredible, however, it has been confirmed. In the evening towards 9:30 as I was returning home to fetch a spare instrument, a formidable detonation was heard. It was the sound of the first shot fired by the fort of Flemalle. My astonishment was extreme, and I considered that the enemy already occupied the right of the Meuse. I did not expect to see such a sudden arrival of the German hordes. Shot after shot was fired without cessation and the whistling of the shells above our houses suggested to everyone the instinctive idea of seeking the safety of their cellars, like rats which bolt for their holes at the approach of danger.

Many of us did not stay long in this humiliating refuge, and soon we were in the street – a few men discussing and noting the direction taken by the projectiles. Thanks to the flash produced when the shells exploded, we were able to conclude that the object of the attack was chiefly Boncelles on the right bank of the Meuse, where is situated another of the twelve forts of the stronghold of Liege. From time to time the electric searchlight, that vigilant eye of the fortress, flashed rapidly a white beam towards the forests of Condrom.

Sunrise was hailed with satisfaction although it did not help the situation, but simply rendered it a little less tragic. But soon the rumour spread that the invaders had forced a passage between the forts and that the German troops were advancing already towards our communes. There was then quite naturally the beginning of a panic. I went to the chemist who had installed in his house an ambulance, and next to the Municipal Authorities in order to legalise as far as possible my position of ambulance man of the Belgian Red Cross Society, for the Seraing committee had not yet at its disposal sufficient armlets bearing the emblem of the International Convention of Geneva, and it had not been able to furnish me with that which had been promised me for some days. Thus, my position was not properly recognised, and I was liable to the accusation of espionage by the Germans, as had happened in the frontier villages. But the announcement of the arrival of the enemy in our communes was premature, for the attacks of their advance guard had been repelled by the forts of Liege which had inflicted heavy losses on the enemy; and the catacombs of Boncelles are henceforward celebrated in the records of the district of Liege.

(To be continued)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

A big batch of Territorials of the 5th Leicestershire Reserve Battalion, who are in training in the Midlands, visited their friends in Coalville and district on Saturday, and left on Sunday night.

Mr T. Sharpe, of Ibstock, received a letter a day or two ago from his son, Mr G. Sharpe who emigrated to Canada a few years since, and has joined a contingent of Canadian Volunteers, who have recently landed in England. The letter conveys the impression that the journey was of an interesting character.

Mrs W. Hurst, of Forest Road, Coalville, has received letters expressing thanks to the ladies of Coalville and district for gifts of mittens, helmets, etc., from Pte. C. E. Scott, and Pte. A. Lovell, which they received while at Luton, also from H. J. Smith, who is acting as nursing orderly in the 14th stationary hospital, France.

Mr J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, recently received an interesting letter from a gentleman he had hitherto not known, stating that the gentleman had received a letter from his son, an officer in the Lancashire Fusiliers, in which the latter said that while in the trenches, “somewhere in France,” he had met Lieut. Aubrey Sharp, whom he recognised as the Leicestershire amateur cricketer, having met him on the field several times in England in first class cricket. As a result of this communication, a friendship has been struck up between the parents of the two officer cricketers at the front, and each has promised to write to the other on hearing from their respective sons.

Members of the Coalville Men’s Adult School are not unmindful of those of their number who have left home to serve in one branch or another of His Majesty’s Forces, and on Monday a small gift was despatched to each of them. There are twelve in all, and some of them are already in the trenches. The gifts sent are in the shape of small pocket books, one, entitled, “The morning cometh,” being a series of short daily readings, and the other is “The happy warrior,” written specially for the war by the Hon. Mrs Bell. Inside each book was written by the President, the following message: *“From your comrades of the Coalville Adult School to --------, as a memento, with their sincere desire and earnest prayer for your health, preservation and speedy safe return to your home and friends, B. B. Drewett.”* The 12 are: J. Jones, M. Eames, W. Harrison, J. Gowdridge, S. Dodd, C. Simmons, F. W. Cooper, J. G. Bennett, C. Woodcock, C. Drewett, J. Bland and S. Boot.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 19th collection from 8 districts realised £7 3s.

ANOTHER COALVILLE SOLDER DIES FROM WOUNDS

The death is reported from wounds of Pte. John Manders, 2nd Leicesters, a Whitwick collier. Further particulars will be given in our next issue.

DONINGTON HALL

OPEN TO VISITORS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

HOW THE GERMAN PRISONERS ENJOY THEMSELVES

The military authorities having decided to open Donington Hall to the public for a few hours on Sunday afternoons, there was a large number of visitors on Sunday.

Motor cars, motor cycles, cyclists and crowds on foot from near and far streamed into the park. The visitors were conducted in small parties through the various buildings set apart for quarters for the British guard, and afterwards taken to the front of the hall, where within the maze of wire entanglements the German officers were playing hockey and football.

Others in full military uniform (German) sat on chairs and benches in front of the hall enjoying the sunshine and the music. The Germans have asked that a match be arranged between themselves and a side chosen from the British guard. If the match can be fixed for a Saturday afternoon the “gate” will be very large.

An interesting incident during the afternoon was the changing of the guard, which was witnessed by a large number of people. The roll-call of the prisoners is read twice daily, every man being required to attend on the grounds in front of the hall and answer his name. Nearly the whole of the prisoners speak English fluently, and the daily supply of London and local papers is eagerly looked for.

GERMANS TO REMAIN AT DONINGTON HALL

Asked by Mr R. McNeill if he will transfer the German officers from Donington Hall, and make use of the latter for the accommodation of convalescent British officers, and men, Mr Tennant says there is no intention of removing German officer prisoners from Donington Hall.

Mr Tennant, in Parliamentary papers, says that the tenure of Donington Hall may be determined by the War Office on giving one month’s notice. This right is not reciprocal.

ASHBY CITIZEN’S CORPS

The Citizen’s Corps at Ashby and Woodville marched to Alton Grange by invitation of Mr H. W. Joyce C.C., and Mrs Joyce, on Sunday. The company paraded it the market place under the command of Mr G. J. German (Captain), and proceeded first to the service at the Parish Church before marching to Alton Grange, where luncheon was provided by Mr and Mrs Joyce. The company was exercised in infantry drill, scouting, the attack, etc., in the grounds, and returned to Ashby at about 5 o’clock, after a most enjoyable day.

COALVILLE EFFORT FOR THE WOUNDED

THE SALVATION ARMY MOTOR AMBULANCE UNITS

HUGE GATHERING AT THE OLYMPIA

An interesting lecture on “How the British soldier fights” was given to an audience of about 1,500 people in the Coalville Olympia Theatre on Sunday afternoon, by Mr C. J. Pearse, of Leicester, the event being in connection with the Salvation Army, who are sending motor ambulances to the front. In such an excellent cause various parties and sects happily co-operated.

The Vicar of Coalville (the Rev. S. Hosking) presided, and the company included the members of the Coalville, Hugglescote and Ellistown, and Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps, who marched from various points headed respectively by the Coalville Coronation, Hugglescote and Ellistown, and Whitwick Holy Cross Brass Bands, while marching with them were members of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, Fire Brigade, Boy Scouts, colliery ambulance men, members of a women's nursing class, headed by Mrs W. Moss and others.

The vicar said the object of the meeting was to arouse interest in one of the most useful things they had in connection with the war. Coalville had done splendidly in sending young men to the war, but it would do better if it sent a few more. (Applause) One of the things by which they could increase the value of the army was to have a quick means of conveying the wounded to hospital, and the Salvation Army had raised money and wanted more money to equip two motor ambulance units, each consisting of six ambulances with the necessary baggage wagons. They could easily see that the better and more quickly the wounded were attended to, the sooner they were likely to get well again and return to the front. He did not know what the cost of the ambulances would be, but probably anything from £20,000 to £50,000 and the cost of upkeep and repairs would be considerable owing to the rough roads over which the motors had to travel.

The chairman also stated that he had been requested by Mrs W. Moss to announce that a Women's Ambulance Class for instruction in first aid was to commence at the Adult School Hall on Thursday night.

The lecture by Mr Pearse was illustrated with interesting slides, the first of which was an innocent looking landscape, said to have been drawn in England and sent to Germany by a spy. The second picture was an interpretation of the first as seen by German eyes and presented a drawing of one of our naval bases, the church and windmill on the former really marking the positions of forts. The life of the Kaiser, said Mr Pearse, had been one long lie. All the time that he had been professing friendship for England he had been plotting to bring about our downfall. The lecturer proceeded, in an interesting manner, to explain the modes of warfare, striking pictures of trenches and other war scenes being shown. In regard to that effort he said he was pleased to see the religious sects sinking their differences to work together in such a noble cause. He was delighted to meet the Vicar of Coalville on the Salvation Army platform. (Cheers). Both the Church of England and the Salvation Army were, after all, doing God's work, only in different ways, each reaching people which the other did not reach. (Cheers).

A number of excellent war pictures were also shown, military and naval, and during the afternoon there were capital songs by Miss Pearse (Leicester) and Miss Burkitt (Whitwick) and selections by the Olympia orchestra conducted by Mr T. W. Knifton.

Surgeon-Major Burkitt, of Whitwick, who is on leave from France, had quite an ovation when he stepped in front of the footlights to propose a vote of thanks to the lecturer. He said it was necessary that all in England should know what the war means. From his personal experiences near the trenches he could assure them that the object to bring prompt assistance to the wounded was a most excellent one. It was only under the cover of darkness that the wounded in the trenches could be removed. They could not get to them in the daytime, or they would be fired on by the Germans and all would thus see how important it was to have a swift means of conveyance. Moreover, it could not be done so well with horses as the congestion would be too great. Often after the wounded had been attended to in the field hospital they had to be conveyed ten or fifteen miles to the railway head where the ambulance train awaited them. From his knowledge of 30 years' residence in that district he knew that Coalville would respond nobly to that appeal, Leicestershire was one of the few counties which had the proud distinction to have its Regulars and also the Yeomanry and Territorials in the trenches (Applause). But they wanted more men, having determined that nothing should stop them until they saw the arrogance of Germany in the dust. (Loud applause). He appealed to the mothers and sweethearts not to stand in the way of the lads going. We had a great task before us as a nation and it was only by sinking self that we should carry it to a triumphant issue. (Cheers)

The vote of thanks was heartily accorded. Miss McKernon, captain of the Salvation Army having referred to the work of the Army in connection with the war, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, Misses Pearse and Burkitt, to Mr McDonald for kindly lending the theatre, to Mr Kirkham and the Olympia orchestra and staff and other helpers, also for a contribution to the fund of £2 2s from the workmen of the Forest Rock Granite Co.

A portrait of King George was thrown on the sheet and the company heartily sang the National Anthem.

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

Leonard Charles Squires, of the 3rd Leicesters, was brought before the Court as an absentee from his regiment. Inspector Dobney said the man was suffering from an affection of the throat and was an out-patient of the Leicester Infirmary but as he had exceeded his leave, a note came from the commanding officer. The man was quite willing to go back, but he was to go to Leicester Infirmary on Saturday, possibly to undergo an operation. The Clerk said the police might communicate with the commanding officer to that effect.

The man said £2 10s was due to him when he got back. He was quite willing to go. Inspector Dobney said the man had been in hospital and was afraid of being discharged, which he did not want. The soldier was discharged and advised to report himself at Glen Parva and the Bench asked Inspector Dobney to give him a note as to what had transpired to give to the officer.

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KILLED FIVE GERMANS

HOW IBSTOCK SOLDIER WON HIS MEDAL

(Passed by Press Bureau)

A very interesting letter has been received by a friend at Ibstock from L-Corpl. J. W. Lockton, of the Coldstream Guards, who, as briefly reported in our last issue, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The letter describes the act which secured for the Ibstock soldier this great honour.

Lockton, after saying he is *"in the pink"* and hopes all are well at home, continues: *"We have been having some very rough weather out here – frost, snow and rain. We have been in and out of the trenches for the last 30 days, or I would have written sooner. I am pleased to tell you that I have been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. My company officer (Lord Fielding D.S.O.) came at ten o'clock last Friday night in the trenches to congratulate me and said I had fully earned it – the second highest honour a soldier can ever obtain in decorations. Also, the next day, my other officers and N.C.O.'s and men came along with the same. It was on February 6th that I gained it in a charge. I jumped into a German redoubt, killed five and took one prisoner about 17 years of age. I did not like doing him in as he looked such a boy." The writer then asks to be remembered to all friends and to thank them for their kindness, not forgetting Ted Smith. He concludes, "I don't think it will last much longer than June, I hope not anyhow. We are all getting fed up with it as we have been through the mill in the Guards, I can tell you. But we are out to win and mean winning."*

GOLDEN ROW AT THE FRONT

ANOTHER WHITWICK SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Golden Row, Talbot Street, Whitwick, is well at the front in regard to the number of its residents in the fighting line. A fortnight ago we published a photo of Pte. Hall, who went from here, and this week we give one of another resident of the row who is doing his bit "somewhere in France".

This is Pte. Edgar Howe, who in recent letters to his wife, says he is going on well after a long and tiring time in the trenches. He was pleased to say that he had come through all right and was now having a rest. He has as companions two good friends in Ted Collier and G. Purple. He will be glad he says, when the weather clears up, as they are up to their ankles in mud and it is very difficult to get about. He adds: *"They could do with the Coalville County Council out here to repair the roads, or show them how to do it. Tell my son Edgar I hope he will take my advice and join the army to serve his King and Country, the same as his father has done. My God bless him and all the other children of mine. Tell Tommy Irons his cigars arrived safely and as me and my pals were smoking them we heard the Germans singing 'Auld Lang Syne.' Before we had finished smoking we started a different kind of music (rapid firing) and put their band out of action. Tell Tommy we can beat them with this sort of music. I have a very good rifle with which I am able to shoot well. Roll on, old England, the land I was born in."*

In a subsequent letter, Howe says how sorry he was to hear about Ambrose Hall (another occupant of Golden Row, killed by a Coalville motor 'bus a short time ago). Writing in lighter vein, he says his numbers not up yet; he is one of the lucky ones; and he has got his old job out there, like he had in the pit – that of shot-firer. He says several of the men have lost their woollen helmets and it is very cold.

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

EMPLOYEE OF MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Mr and Mrs T. Saddington, 58, Albert Street, Coalville, on Monday received official information that their son, Private W. T. Saddington, No. 12223, D. Company, 2nd Leicesters Indian Contingent, has been dangerously wounded in action at a place not stated and that he was in No. 2 Stationary Hospital, Boulogne. Private Saddington, who is 25 years of age, enlisted at Coalville from the National Reserve. He was posted to the 3rd Leicesters, and after training near Portsmouth for six months or so joined the 2nd Battalion in France, leaving England on December 11th. He formerly served in the Leicestershire Volunteers and was an employee of Messrs. Stableford and Co.

His mother received a letter from him on Tuesday last week, saying he was well, and asking her to send him some matches, which were very scarce there, and also a stick of shaving soap. He stated that they had a good comic singer with them, and had been having a concert. Saddington wrote also that the graveyard was as sight worth seeing. It was kept in good order. Every grave had a cross with the man's name on. At the time of writing he had just come back four or five miles from the firing line.

COALVILLE SERGEANT'S DEATH

CHAPLAIN'S KIND LETTERS TO PARENTS

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Writing from the General Hospital, Boulogne Base, on March 6th, to Mr W. Wesson, of Margaret Street, Coalville, the Rev. Robert F. Callaway, chaplain of the forces, states: *"Your son, Sergt. A. Wesson, has, I am sorry to say, been wounded by a rifle bullet through both legs. He received his wound three days ago and was admitted to this hospital last evening. He is being operated on now at this moment. Do not worry about him. He has a splendid courage and before the operation we prayed together that God would bless the work of the surgeon. I will write later and let you know how he goes on."*

WESSON DIES OF HIS WOUNDS

Unfortunately, since the receipt of the above letter, Wesson has succumbed to his injuries. Another letter from the Chaplain, the Rev. F. Callaway, dated 12th inst., states: *"I am very sorry to have to tell you that your son died at 4.30 this morning. I thought he was going on well, and when I last saw him he was quite bright and cheerful. I am sure that he himself did not think that he was likely to die. When I wrote to you before he was so anxious that I should tell you 'not to worry'. The funeral will be at 2.15 this afternoon, and he will be buried in the cemetery at Wimeraux in the space reserved for British soldiers. The Royal Engineers are going to put up wooden crosses over the graves, and after the war the British Government will erect a monument with the names of all who are buried in the cemetery."*

Sergeant Wesson was in the Sherwood Foresters, was 26 years of age and was unmarried. He was a well-known footballer and athlete. He won a 25 miles army marathon championship (silver medal), and in an 11 3/4 miles Durbar race he was 15th home. He also possessed a regimental football medal, and was a fine shot. In October, when his regiment was in England, from India, before going to the front, Wesson was interviewed by our reporter and cheerfully asserted that they would be having their Christmas dinner in Berlin. The deceased has two brothers serving in the forces.

EAGER TO GET BACK INTO THE TRENCHES

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Mr W. Wesson, of Margaret Street, Coalville, has two other sons, and one is now in hospital. His son Harry, in a letter recently received from the hospital at Rouen, says he is getting on well now, although he had had a rough time. A little while ago he had a touch of his old complaint, quinsies, and he is to have his toenails taken out, which he hopes will mean a complete cure. He continues, *"The hospital I am in is one belonging to the Scottish branch and you could hardly imagine the way one is looked after. One receives every comfort and it would be impossible to praise it too much. I am enclosing a photo of the three in our regiment in this hospital. The tall chap is one of the wounded that I bandaged up in the trenches, shot through the shoulder with a bullet from shrapnel. He had hardly got into the hospital when he came to see me. You can guess I was pleased to see someone I knew from my own regiment. The other is a drummer of my regiment. He is wounded in the foot, but I am pleased to say we are all getting on well and looking forward to rejoining our comrades in the trenches."*

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER WOUNDED

Notice has been received by the parents of Pte. John Clarke, of the Leicesters, who reside at Ellistown, that their son was injured during the recent fighting in France, being shot in both legs, and he is now in hospital.

WHITWICK SOLDIER WOUNDED

Mr Hutchins, a Whitwick postman, serving with the forces, has been wounded and is now in hospital at Runcorn, Cheshire. A letter from him and photo will appear in our next issue.

WHITWICK SOLDIER A PRISONER

HOW LETTERS AND GIFTS ARE APPRECIATED

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Mrs G. Fairbrother, of 26, School Lane, Whitwick, has just received a letter from her husband, Pte. G. Fairbrother, of the 1st Leicesters, who is a prisoner of war at Gottingen, Hanover, Germany. The letter is dated February 12th and states that he is well at present and hopes they all are at home. He has received parcels but was disappointed at not having heard from them lately. He was only allowed to write one letter now and again and so he hoped his friends would write often without waiting to hear from him. He adds, *"I shall write as soon as I have a chance, you can bet. I enjoyed the cakes and mince pies very much. The little cakes were broken into bits but they went down all right".*

Continuing, he asks them to send him eatables, another good big cake, a bit of cheese and butter, and chocolate in preference to cocoa as they had no fire to make it with. They were also allowed to receive fags

and he would be glad of some of these. He thanks all friends who have remembered him and hopes to hear from them every week.

A COALVILLE PRISONER

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Private J. W. Davenport, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, a prisoner of war at Gottingen, Hanover, writing to his father, Mr Robert Davenport, of Hermitage Road, Coalville, says he is allowed to write only one letter a month, and his friends must continue writing even if they do not hear from him for any length of time. It will find him something to do, reading them, as they have no papers or books to read. He also asks for money, tobacco, cigarette papers, bread, cheese and bacon every week. Davenport was in the Mons engagement and has been a prisoner of war since.

SINGING IN THE TRENCHES

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Writing to his wife at 48, Oxford Street, Coalville, acknowledging a parcel of dainties, Private C. W. Hall, of the 1st Leicesters, who enlisted from the Coalville National Reserve, said that he would be able to have a good tea with his comrades just before returning to the trenches the same night. It was raining hard. The enemy were so close that they could be heard singing in their trenches. He met Albert Mason (another Coalville National Reservist) at Harfleur. He was all right, and was joining the 2nd Leicesters. There were others from Coalville, including a Coalville Co-operative baker.

COALVILLE SOLDIER AT THE FRONT

SAW HIS PHOTO IN THE COALVILLE TIMES

(Passed by Press Bureau)

Mr and Mrs A. Briers, of Highfield Street, Coalville, have received another letter from their son, Pte. Horace Briers, who is in France. He says he was pleased to receive their letter and to know that they were in good health, being himself, *"in the pink."* At the time of writing he was temporarily out of the trenches. He has heard that Ernest Booton has to have four toes amputated and hopes he will be able to walk all right. John Williamson had been wounded and was believed to be in the base hospital.

Briers adds that he saw his photo in the "Coalville Times." He will be glad when the war is over and to come home again.

Friday March 26th 1915 (Issue 1203)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

We regret to hear that Corpl. J. Clarke, of Ellistown, whom we recently reported as having been wounded, has had to have one of his legs amputated above the knee.

We are obliged to H. L. (Thornborough) for his offer of articles on the war and regret that we cannot accept same.

Private L. H. Pearson, 4th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, who has been given a commission as Second-Lieutenant, is son of the Rev. L. H. Pearson, late headmaster of Market Bosworth Grammar School.

Pte. W. T. Saddington, of Albert Street, Coalville, whose photo with a report of him being wounded appeared in our last issue, has since written to his parents stating that owing to the wounds, it has been necessary to amputate his left foot, but he is progressing nicely.

The Coalville "Citizens" paraded on Sunday morning and headed by the Coronation Band marched to the Ebenezer Baptist Church, where an appropriate sermon was preached by the pastor, the Rev. W. H. Wills. There was a good muster.

Captain Sir George Beaumont, King's Royal Rifle Corps, who was wounded in action on March 2nd, and invalided to England, has paid a short visit to his mother, Lady Beaumont, at Swannington House, and left Coalville on Friday morning for London. The gallant officer appeared to have made a good recovery.

Mr Robert Sharp, of Whitwick, recently gave a home-cured ham, weighing 41 lbs, to be drawn for and the proceeds to be spent on tobacco for the Leicestershire troops at the front. The ham was won by Mr James Smith, of the Fountain Inn, Coalville. The proceeds amounted to £13 17s 6d and a wholesale firm, through Mr Walter Higgins, of Coalville, has forwarded about 30,000 cigarettes, 28 lbs of tobacco and 56 tinder lighters to be divided between the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th battalions of the Leicestershire regiment, and the Leicestershire Yeomanry.

As a result of the strenuous efforts being made by Capt. Herbert Simpson and a number of co-workers to improve the recruiting figures of Leicester, there has been a very satisfactory accession to the ranks of the new 4th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment during the week.

Miss Phyllis Moreton, aged 13, daughter of Mr F. Moreton, who is serving in the ambulance department of the Royal Navy, of James Street, Coalville, has been awarded a first prize and certificate of merit by the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, for excellence in reporting a lecture at the Bridge Road Council School on "Alcohol and the human body." Miss Moreton is now attending the Coalville Grammar School.

The members of the Coalville Citizen Corps last night (Thursday) presented one of their instructors, Sergt. Speddings, with a purse of gold (about £4) on his leaving Coalville. He is to undergo a slight operation at Leicester and afterwards will go to the depot at Glen Parva as an instructor.

Pte. J. Bland, of Jackson Street, Coalville – a member of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, who since the outbreak of war has been serving in the Auxiliary Sick Berth Reserve on a battle cruiser in the Atlantic, is now at home on sick leave. He has had some exciting experiences and his ship has encountered some very rough seas, but he says he has been enjoying the life. He was the only man from Coalville on the ship and knew none of the crew, but found all jolly good fellows. Bland is a Coalville Adult School man and he has met several comrades in the service, also Adult School men from Exeter, Teignmouth and elsewhere, and this has strengthened the bond of brotherhood between them. Bland attended the Coalville Adult School on Sunday morning. He came straight from Bermuda to Coalville.

ASHBY

WAR LECTURE

A lantern lecture was given in the Ashby Town Hall last night by Mr A. Orchin on 'The Great War," the Rev. W. Fowler presiding. The proceeds were for the Red Cross funds.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CLASSES

Five of the 27 successful candidates at the recent examination in first aid have gone on active service. They are Messrs. F. H. Moore, W. J. Spencer, B. Chadwick, J. Foster, C. Pegg, who left for Southampton on Monday last. Several others have volunteered and are expected to go soon.

CITIZEN'S CORPS

About 50 members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Citizen's Corps attended service at the Congregational Chapel on Sunday morning. The men assembled at the Town Hall and Mr G. J. German (captain) was in command. Mr C. Elliott, M.A. (secretary) headmaster of the Ashby Grammar School, read the lesson, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Robert Veitch, M.A. of Leicester.

DO YOU KNOW

That visitors to Donington Park on Sunday were not allowed in the park without permits from the military authorities?

That a few evenings ago, something went wrong with the electric plant at Donington Hall and for about three-quarters of an hour the place was plunged into darkness?

That Lieutenant Watson Wright attended at the Shepshed Picture Palace on Saturday evening and each entertainment made stirring recruiting appeals?

That Corpl A. C. Chandler, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, who is now serving on board H.M.S. Caesar, as a sick berth attendant, has been recommended by the Fleet Surgeon to promotion to the rank of sergeant?

That the Bible Society has provided about a million and a half New Testaments and Gospels in at least a score of languages, and in a dozen different countries, for sick and wounded soldiers and sailors, for prisoners of war, aliens, refugees, and for troops going to the front?

That the tea recently held at the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, realised £7/10/3 for the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday last. The hon. sec (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 20th collection from ten districts realised £6 6s 9d.

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THE LATE SERGT. WESSON

AN APPRECIATION BY FATHER DEGAN

News has just been received of the death in France through wounds received in action of Alfred Wesson, who only a few months ago interrupted his recent journey through India to the Western theatre of war by a visit to his relatives and friends in Coalville. He was in the Sherwood Foresters and thought his regiment the finest in the army. Whilst stationed at Delhi he bought a silk set of his regimental colours for 25 rupees (two pounds) and sent it to his father. In September he wrote from Bombay to say that all was bustle and hurry in speeding up the preparations for a hasty embarkation to Europe for the war. During his short stay in Coalville, he called with his friend Leonard Sheffield, at "The Scotlands," Forest Road, and there received scapulars and a badge of the Sacred Heart, emblems of piety which are being worn by thousands of our troops at the front. He looked forward eagerly to distinguish himself on the battlefield and to returning to Coalville with some military decoration for conspicuous bravery. Soon after his arrival in France, he had to spend a few weeks in hospital on account of frost-bitten feet. In December he wrote to Leonard Sheffield for a cake for Christmas, which would be, he said, a very welcome treat, *"on coming out of the trenches"* and he

added the remark that it is not only a matter of *"getting out but also of getting under"* in order to escape the enemy's bullets.

The sacrifice he made of his life proves that the days of the hero are not over. The men who are exposing their lives in the trenches are the saviours of our country. No tyrannical foreign power will ever print the footsteps of slavery on our shores so long as the same undaunted spirit breathes in Britain's sons as inflamed the breast of Alfred Wesson, and which inspires the vast army of young champions of liberty who are reddening the fields of France with their blood. Whilst already some of these heroes lie cold in their graves, it is a sacred duty to keep the memory of them and of our irredeemable indebtedness to them, ever fresh and green in our minds.

Joseph Degan

A DESERTER

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Thursday, Leonard Charles Squires who had been arrested by P.C. Ball, was charged with being a deserter from the 3rd Leicesters. He was before the court last Friday, and pleading illness, was discharged on promising to report himself at Wigston Barracks, but failed to do so. He was remanded to await an escort.

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ANOTHER SHEPSHED SOLDIER KILLED

Mr Charles Kirby, Hall Croft, Shepshed, has been notified by the War Office of the death of his son, Rudolph, who was wounded in action, and died in hospital in France. Pte. R. Kirby belonged to the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, and was about 21 years of age.

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HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS

EMPLOYEE OF COALVILLE URBAN COUNCIL

Another name to swell the local roll of honour is that of Pte. James Young, of the 2nd Battalion Notts and Derby Regiment, whose home was at 16, North Street, Hugglescote. Young went through the South African War and was called up as a reservist in August last. News of his death was received by his wife on Tuesday morning, from the sister in charge of the hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. He was an employee of the Coalville Urban District Council, 48 years of age, and leaves a wife and one boy aged 11 years. On Monday night, Mrs Young received the following letter:

March 18th. *Dear Mrs Young, I am very sorry to tell you that your husband has been wounded in the arm today. Although, of course, he is suffering from the shock, and slight loss of blood, I think you may take it that the wound is not very dangerous. Naturally he will be off duty and back at the base for some time, in fact he may possibly get back to England for a while. I assure you that everything that can be done to ease and comfort him will be carried out by his comrades. Yours sincerely.*

This letter was followed by another on Tuesday morning as follows:

March 20th, *1915. Dear Mrs Young, I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of your husband, 6295, Private Young, Notts and Derbyshire Regiment. Your husband was brought in here very severely wounded; in fact, he only lived for a few hours after his admission. Everything possible was done for him by the surgeons and nurses, but we had no hope for his recovery. The chaplain attended your husband and he will be buried in the churchyard here. I cannot tell you the name of the place, as it is strictly against army regulations to do so. You must feel relieved to know that your husband had every care and attention before he died. He asked me to write to you, but beyond that he left no message. With our sincere sympathy, yours truly.*

"COALVILLE TIMES" IN THE TRENCHES

LOCAL SOLDIER'S GOOD WISHES

We have received a letter from Pte. F. A. Capell, of the 1st E. Y. Regiment in France, in which he asks us to allow him through these columns to sincerely thank the members of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild for the parcel which he received from them quite safely. *"I very much appreciate their kindness,"* he goes on, *"as the articles will be of great service to me out here. I thank you for this favour. I often get the "Times" in the trenches and am delighted with the news of Coalville, the place I know so well. Success to the "Times" and the Coalville Women's Guild."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S PLEASANT SURPRISE

A postcard from France has just reached us and reads as follows:

Sir, Allow me through the medium of your paper to thank the Coalville and District Women for the parcel of valuable articles, which came to me as a pleasant surprise. It cheers me up when we know they are thinking about us in the old place.

J. W. Nicholls.

WHITWICK POSTMAN WOUNDED

IN THE GREAT BATTLE AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

KILLED THREE GERMANS

Miss E. Hutchins, of St. John's Terrace, Whitwick, has received an interesting letter from her husband, Pte. Ernest Hutchins, who took part in the great British victory at Neuve Chapelle, but was wounded, and is now in hospital at Runcorn, Cheshire. In civil life Hutchins was engaged as a postman in Whitwick.

He writes: *"I was wounded in the early morning on March 12th. It was in the charge on the morning of the 10th, when this advance started. Before we made a step towards the charge there were 480 guns firing for 35 minutes. I killed 3 Germans on the 10th; I cannot explain to anybody what the noise was like. It was the heaviest gun-firing that has been known in history and I shall never forget it, the longest day I live. I don't want to see any more of it either. I will tell you more about it when I see you again, but I think it will be the turning point of the war. I am pleased to say that I am happy and comfortable and I don't think they will keep me in here much above a week. They usually let them have eight days leave. My wound is at the back of the neck and is not that bad. I must tell you that I am a very lucky man, but, I forgot, it was on my lucky day – Friday. I should be pleased if you would get the weekly paper for Sunday, the 14th, and save it for me till I get home."*

Hutchins goes on to say that he hopes his wife as well and he is longing to see her again. He asks for a shillingworth of stamps to be sent, saying that if he posts his letters without stamping them they are delayed.

He proceeds; *"Remember me to all friends and people who know me in Whitwick. You need not trouble to send me a parcel, as I get plenty eat and drink. I had a nice clean bath and a change of clothes, but the worst of it is we are compelled to stay in bed. I think this is all the news this time. Cheer up! It seems lovely to be in good old England once more. Don't forget to send the "Coalville Times" on to me each week."*

WOUNDED IN SEVERAL PLACES

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH

The death of Private John Manders, 2nd Leicesters, on the 15th inst., in France, from wounds received in action, has been notified to his relatives living in Belvoir Road, Coalville, as briefly reported in our last issue. Manders was a National Reservist, and enlisted in the 3rd Leicesters, afterwards joining the 2nd battalion in France. He was formerly in the Leicestershire Volunteers, and singularly enough was a chum of Pte. W. T. Saddington, whom we reported last week as being seriously wounded and lying in one of the general hospitals in Boulogne. They enlisted together in September last year, and left Coalville together.

Manders leaves a widow and two children, aged four and two years respectively who reside opposite the factory in Belvoir Road. His mother is a patient in Leicester Royal Infirmary, she having met with an accident when alighting from a vehicle. Manders, who was 28 years of age, and formerly employed as a miner at Whitwick Colliery, was one of four brothers and three sisters. He wrote on a service postcard on the 7th inst., that he was quite well. On the 12th his mother was informed that he had been wounded in the knee and foot, and that he was getting on well, and was being sent to the base.

On the 14th inst., Nurse M. Blakely, matron of No. 11 General Hospital, wrote to the deceased's mother; "I regret to say your son is lying very seriously ill in this hospital. He has been very badly wounded in several places. He is so good and brave over it. I do hope he will soon be a bit better. Everything is being done for him that can be done."

The following day, however, the matron wrote to Mrs Manders; *"I regret to say your son died this afternoon in the hospital. Poor lad, I don't think he suffered at all towards the end and he was not conscious. We are all very grieved about him, but we feel that nothing more could have been done."*

HUGGLESCOTE FOOTBALLER REPORTED KILLED

MAIN SUPPORT OF HIS AGED PARENTS

Mr and Mrs Thomas Hallam, who reside near the Corner Pin at Donington-le-Heath, have had an intimation, though not official, that their son, Owen Hallam had been killed during the recent fighting in France.

The news was conveyed in a letter from another Hugglescote soldier to his parents residing in Wilkin's Lane, who was in the same company as Hallam – the C Company of the 2nd Leicesters. Mrs Hallam informed our representative on Wednesday that acting on the advice of Canon Broughton, she wrote to the War Office for information, but had received no reply.

Pte. Owen Hallam was well-known as a local footballer, being a member of the Coalville Swifts team and formerly of Hugglescote United. He was called up as a reservist when the war broke out, being then engaged at the Ibstock Colliery. His father, Thomas Hallam, was for many years driver of the winding engine at Ellistown Colliery and both he and Mrs Hallam are old age pensioners, this now being their only source of income. They have had six sons and five daughters, Owen being the youngest. He was the only son at home and the main support of his aged parents before the war. Another son, Francis was in the South African War, being in Ladysmith during the siege, and he died from disease on the way home.

Owen Hallam had but a month or two to serve in the reserve when the war broke out. He had been home from India about four years.

WHITWICK MAN'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

HELPED TO CAPTURE THE GUNS NOW AT LEICESTER

LEARNING TO SPEAK FRENCH

Interesting letters have been received by Mr Joe Kelly, of 18, North Street, Whitwick, from Pte. Thomas Roberts, also a resident of North Street now in the 3rd Leicesters at the front.

Roberts thanks Kelly for a letter he received in the trenches and hopes they are all well at Whitwick. At the time of writing, he was very well, except for his feet, which were rather bad, as they don't often have their boots off.

"We went into the trenches on Sunday, proceeds the writer, and came out on Thursday night. We have to go in and out when it is dark, so that the Germans cannot see us. It is a bit 'hot,' but we have to stick it. It is a wonder we are stricken with fever, for at some places we get to the smell is so bad from bad cattle and men which the Germans have not buried. I can tell you, Joe. I have had it warm since I came out here. I was the only one from our place that was in the charge when we took those two guns which they have got at Leicester. The others had not come out then, but they are here now. I have had eleven weeks' hard fighting so have been here long enough to know how to go on. They sent us a regiment of London Territorials to show them how to go on and we took them into the trenches for the first time on Sunday night. They fought very well. So you see we are not thought of so badly. You and I have always been good pals and if I live to come home again, we will sit toe to toe and have a pint of Tommy's best and mild, and I will tell you something that will open your eyes. I am not allowed to tell you the place we are at and the officer has to read the letters before they come. Sometimes I think I shall not see good old Whitwick again. The worst has got to come yet, when the ground gets dry, so that we can get our artillery about for a big advance. We can shift them when we like, but we are waiting for the weather to take up, and then it will be, God help them!"

In another letter Roberts writes, *"The same day that I got your letter, I was watching our artillery shelling the German trenches and I never saw anything like it in my life. They dropped shells straight into them, and as the Germans ran out we fired at them with our rifles. They must have lost heavily. All the places we get to are in ruins – blown to bits and nobody living there. It is funny to hear the French talk, and we can't tell much what they say, but I have learnt one or two words – "delay" for milk, "hufs" for eggs, "lapang" for bread, and "avis" for notice. I have got a ring of Rosemary beads which a poor woman gave me, as they are all Catholics out here. If I live to get home I will present them to your eldest daughter. I have carried them hundreds of miles. Will you have this letter put in the "Coalville Times"? You can depend on it all being the truth and I don't want the Coalville chaps to have it all their own way. Let them know there is somebody from Whitwick out here as well as them. Send me a copy of the paper with it in. If I live to come home I shall have nothing to be ashamed of, as I have done my duty. Remember me to Fred Sear and all enquiring friends."*

BAGWORTH SOLDIER A PRISONER

Private George Bevins, of the 2nd Leicesters, and late of Bagworth and Broad-lane, Markfield, who is a prisoner of war at No. 9 Barracks, Gottingen, Hanover, has recently written to a friend at Bagworth acknowledging a sum of money collected in the village and forwarded to him. He says, *"I am pleased that you think of me in the village. May you and those who sent it (the money) never want, and if ever it is in my power to do you a good turn, I shall never forget to do so."*

Bevins was a reservist of the Leicestershire Regiment, and joined the 2nd Battalion. He was the possessor of two football medals won in the army, and he also played inside-left for Bagworth Albion F.C. before the war. He was taken prisoner on the 15th October, and his brother Walter, also serving at the front with the 2nd Leicesters, was wounded and invalided home, and after a short stay in Bagworth rejoined his battalion. Private George Bevins has a wife and child.

Friday April 2nd 1915 (Issue 1204)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Pte. S. Strutt, of the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, writes us saying that on coming out of the trenches recently he received a parcel of clothing from the ladies of Coalville and District and desires to thank them very much.

The parents of Pte. Tom Palmer, of Bridge Road, Coalville, have received intimation that Palmer, and also a pal of his, Sam Allen, of Margaret Street, Coalville, have been wounded and are in hospital. Palmer, who is an old Wesleyan school boy, and in the 1st Leicesters has been some months at the front. He had been wounded earlier in the war and had returned to the trenches on recovering.

Members of the Thringstone House Club have forwarded 46 packets of cigarettes, 1/4 tin of golden flake tobacco and one of "Bruno" to Leicesters at the front and there is a small balance left in the fund to be augmented for further supplies.

Police Sergeant Betts, of Whitwick, who has been a drill instructor at Wigston Barracks, arrived home at Whitwick on Monday night for a few days holiday, prior to leaving today (Thursday) for York. He has been one of the drill sergeants at Wigston, who since September have trained 14,000 recruits.

DO YOU KNOW

That many of the soldier's letters we receive from the front and elsewhere are written on Y.M.C.A. paper?

That a good number of local Territorials visited Coalville and district on a short holiday last weekend?

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THRINGSTONE

MEMORIAL WINDOW

The current issue of the "Thringstone Parish Magazine" states that designs have now been got out for the memorial window which the school children are to erect in the Parish Church to the memory of Pte. T. Jones, late schoolmaster, who was killed during the bombardment of West Hartlepool. The subject is St. Alban, the first Martyr of Britain, who suffered martyrdom in AD 303, at Verulamiuff, now St. Alban's. Tradition has it that he sheltered a Christian priest and was converted by him. He enabled him to escape and offered himself while yet a catechumen to Christian martyrdom. The design is appropriate to the fact that the window is near the font and reminds us of the sentence in the Baptismal Service "Christ's faithful soldier and servant." The appropriateness of the design to the memory of him to whom the window will be erected is in itself sufficiently obvious. The Sunday School children have agreed that their savings for the last seven years amounting £7 10s 1d should go to this object. The cost of the window is estimated at £34, and this sum is beyond them. The vicar will be glad of subscriptions from any of the day school children as well as from adults. The total amount raised so far is £15 12s 2d. We shall be grateful if any who would like to subscribe would do so as soon as possible, that the window may be put in at an early date. The Easter offerings which in many parishes is customary to give to the vicar of the parish, will be devoted to the Window Memorial Fund. The work will be undertaken by Messrs. C. E. Kempe and Co.

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A NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN DAY

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN A GLORIOUS CHARGE

Writing to his father, Mr C. Palmer, of 96, Highfields Street, Coalville, Private Albert Palmer, with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, states that he has just come out of action in the best of health. They had just had a charge and had a few killed and wounded, but the Germans, he thought, could not last out much longer. If it was God's will, he hoped to return safely to see them again, but he would be British. At present, he was resting and looking forward to a parcel and the "Coalville Times." He thanks the ladies of Coalville for a welcome gift he had received from them.

Writing later he said they were still out of the trenches. The other day, the General came to see them and said he was very pleased to have the command of such a brave heroic lot of men. He went with a very good heart into the charge and they earned a good name. He thought it was a day unequalled in history and was a glorious day for thousand's of them – a day that would soon not be forgotten.

In another letter, written to his brother and sister, the gallant soldier again alludes to the charge and says they were under a heavy fire. He proceeds, *"In one of your letters you said 'mind those snipers,' but we pop a few over at times. We are out for a rest now and are lucky to get away for a bit. Hope to be home soon."*

WHITWICK SOLDIER IN A GREAT BATTLE

CONTINUED FIGHTING AFTER BEING WOUNDED

Since publishing a photo of Pte. E. Howe, of Golden Row, Whitwick, and copies of letters he had sent to his wife, we have received a further communication direct from Howe in the trenches, in which he states that he is still in the land of the living. Since his last letters appeared in this journal, he says, he has been through a big battle, during which he received a small wound in his right arm, but he kept on fighting and went for the enemy *"more savagely than ever."* He concludes, *"Roll on England! Come out here boys, and keep at it till it's finished."*

MOTOR DRIVING IN FRANCE

COALVILLE SOLDIER THANKS THE LADIES

Pte. G. Sitdown, who formerly drove a taxi-cab in Coalville, is now engaged in similar work in France, with No. 1 Motor Ambulance Convoy, and is having some interesting experiences. In a recent letter to Mr Fred Gr---, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, Sitdown states that he had received a parcel safely and could not say how pleased he was with it. He continues, *"I am enjoying the best of health at present and am getting on fine out here. I cannot say what I should like to, but if God spares me, I shall have a lot to tell you when I return. I was also delighted with the things the Coalville and district ladies sent to me, also Mr and Mrs T. Frith for their presents, all of which are very useful."*

BAGWORTH ASSISTANT SCHOOLMASTER AT THE FRONT

AN INTERESTING LETTER

The headmaster of the Bagworth Council School, Mr J. C. Williams, has kindly forwarded to us for publication a most interesting letter he has received from a member of his school staff, Mr Alfred Emmerson, now on active service in France. The letter is so brightly written and gives so much interesting information that we publish it in extenso.

Dear Mr Williams, Have time for a few small jottings to you now. Really we are very busy indeed. We are "right in it," except for being in the trenches. The latter is expected at any time. We are just outside the town – living in a barn (you've no idea how comfortable the barn is, we have never lived elsewhere since landing) but there is a café attached so we are all right. Even as I write the place continually shakes owing to the concussion of the big guns. One of the biggest out here is only 100 yards down the road and the thunder of it is great. It gives one huge crack half bang and even indoors the rush of air is felt as the shock travels. We are quite used to it now. There has been a rush out to see German shells bursting in the air quite near. Yesterday we saw a lovely sight – an aeroplane being fired at by big guns. It was an English plane and the daring of the pilot was great. He circled slowly round and round, then dived and then rose out of range and so on. The flashes of the bursting shells (shrapnel) around the machine, and the smoke which looked like small puffs of cotton wool against the blue sky made a very pretty picture. At night the whole district is illuminated by flashes from guns, searchlights and fire balls. The latter float in the air and are like electric arc lamps. They are thrown by the Germans to illuminate the immediate area and to prevent British soldiers leaving and entering the trenches. Of course, the old soldiers tell us many hair-raising yarns, but we take the proverbial grain of salt with them. These men as a rule possess amazing thirsts. You'd no doubt like to know

how we live – well you wouldn't recognise me. My hair is off – shaved almost – and after my usual flowing mane you can guess how I look. I have had to grow a moustache, my clothes are no longer immaculate – they are dirty and greasy – boots covered in mud and dirt, a handkerchief I have used for a month (fortunately it is a khaki one) and well, on the whole a lovely sight. We eat and drink out of the same vessel – a mess tin – which we carry with us everywhere. It is a good tin I can assure you. The outsides are black – like a gypsy's pot – with being on fires, but we contrive to keep the insides clean. We have knives and forks, but we have good clasp knives and we can get at them better. Besides we stick to the old phrase, "Fingers were made" etc. We have bacon for breakfast, "pootoon" soup for dinner, jam for tea and cheese for supper. When we haven't bread we have biscuits – like dog biscuits. Our dining tables are our knees and chairs the ground or straw. We move on long journeys in cattle trucks – each truck holding 40 men – and small journeys, anything to 20 miles, we walk. We carry all our belongings on our backs, except blankets and fur coats. That is, we carry towels, comforters, all change of underclothing, shirt, socks, overcoats, waterproof sheet, food and any other luxury you wish to have with you. The whole weighs 60 – 70 pounds, but at the end of the journey it seems double. We know nothing of outside affairs except for an occasional newspaper. Of the progress of the war we are ignorant. The wildest rumours float about. Of course, there is a gentleman known as the Censor, who stops me from telling you too much, so I can tell you no names of places or people or regiments and so on.

The people here are of the peasant class and on the whole live very meanly. They appear to thrive on filth. The children, of course, do not attend school now, and at our billet there are 9 children. They spend their leisure hours on the manure heap, and squeal and shout like young Indians. They have picked up many English phrases and delight in repeating them over and over again. There is one great difference between places in France and places in England – such as Bagworth especially – and that it, there are no young men in civilian clothes. The women carry on all the business whilst their husbands fight. There are lady signalmen, station masters, tram conductors and so on. If only a few young men in England realised how serious this business is they would soon give up their Saturday football and week-night pub and be out here doing their little bit.

Don't think we are serious. In my company are bank clerks, auctioneers, lawyers, surveyors and schoolmasters like myself (there are two of us), and we, of course, find many things that are real hardships to us. We have not been used to "roughing it" and so it comes hard sometimes. But we always smile. One never sees a British soldier who hasn't got a joke or a laugh ready – no matter under what circumstances you find him. That is the British temperament – a thing quite different to the French who are so easily upset. By the way, ask the children why it is nearly always raining here now. After I have been in the trenches properly I shall no doubt have more interesting things to tell you. Until then, think of me sometimes. I often think of you all. Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

Alf Emmerson

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S NOCTURNAL EXPERIENCE

DISCOVERED LEAVING THE TRENCHES

A THRILLING MOMENT

Mr C. Jones, of Primrose Hill, Swannington, has received a letter from his son, William, serving with the forces in France, in which he says he was glad to receive the letter from home. He was just wondering where he was to get a bit of paper from to write to them when the letter came. So was Bill Wardle. He shared the paper with him and they were both sitting together writing in a cobbler's shop. The letter proceeds, *"You ought to see our chaps jump with joy when the mail comes in. There was a parcel for Jimmy Blythe. He was not there, so I took it for him. There were twelve packets of fags and a tanner and I thought he would go mad. Talk about the relief of Ladysmith! . . . . You asked me in your letter to let you know what we want. Well, just send me a bit of cake and a bob; also the "Coalville Times." Don't send too much at a time for fear of it getting lost, but I don't think they will get lost if you direct them right. We are having a rest now. We have been at the Germans twice and shall be into them again before many more hours, I expect, but we are quite at home while we are under their fire, because none of the fopping lot of us are frightened at 'em. I was leaving the trenches one night about twelve o'clock in a place where the two lines are only about 30 yards apart, and the Germans must have spotted it, for they lit us up. There were eight of us, and three of us*

scuttled like rabbits to try and get under cover. The others dropped and lay in the mud till the light burned out and then ran for it, dodging a volley of lead which they fired at us. There are some ruins here which used to be a fine church and there is a shell, which failed to explode, sticking out of the wall. We are at a place now which is the subject of reports in the papers and where the Germans are retreating."

COALVILLE POSTMAN'S RETURN FROM THE FRONT

IN HOSPITAL WITH FROST BITTEN FEET

We have received an interesting letter from Pte. G. H. Kenney, of the 2nd East Yorks Regiment, who is now in hospital at 40, Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W. He has been doing his bit in the trenches and writes that he is now in hospital at this address with nothing worse than frost-bitten feet, from which he was recovering splendidly. He went out to the front on January 15th and went into the trenches on February 5th, remaining there until February 24th. *"So you see,"* he goes on, *"I had not been there long before Jack Frost had hold of my tootsies. I consider myself lucky to be alive, as our battalion lost heavily. My experiences while at the front were similar to those of others from Coalville who have been in the trenches. I shall be glad when it is all over and I am on my rounds again as postman, and after the day is done – Home, sweet home. Roll on!"*

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

CORPL. J. D. SHEFFIELD

It is with much regret that we record the death of Corpl. J. D. Sheffield, son of Mr W. Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, who was one of the heroes – there are four or five in the Coalville district – who fell in the great battle of Neuve Chapelle, and it will be some consolation to their sorrowing relatives to know that they did not sacrifice their lives in vain, since this was the greatest British victory yet achieved in the war, the Germans being utterly routed and suffering very severe losses.

It had been known, unofficially, for several days that Jack Sheffield had fallen, but we refrained from publishing the news until it was received from the military authorities, in the hope that their might be some mistake, but the official intimation of the sad event was received by Mr Sheffield on Tuesday morning. Sympathy with the family will be the greater as for several weeks Mr Sheffield has been confined to his home by illness.

The news conveyed in letters received from comrades of the deceased soldier at the front show that on March 10th, Sheffield participated in a brilliant charge against the Germans at Neuve Chapelle, in which the enemy suffered great loss and a lot of ground lately held by them was captured. The Leicesters, to which Sheffield was attached, were prominent in this attack, and the gallant Corporal was laughing and joking – as was his wont – to a companion in arms, when he was picked out by a German sniper and shot through the head, death being practically instantaneous. At the moment, the Leicesters were engaged in entrenching themselves on the new ground captured and Sheffield was remarking with pride to his mate what a smart piece of work they had accomplished.

When the South African war broke out Mr J. D. Sheffield joined the Leicestershire Volunteers and took part in this campaign being raised to the rank of corporal. He took his old rank on joining the Leicestershire Regiment some months ago to participate in the great war now raging. On returning from South Africa, Sheffield and other Leicestershire volunteers had a great reception, a dinner being given in their honour at the Grand Hotel, Leicester.

Mr J. D. Sheffield will be remembered as a brilliant and popular footballer, having played for Coalville Swifts and the Town club of which he was formerly captain. He also played outside right forward for Burton United (now defunct) when that club figured in the second division of the English Football League. He possessed a rare turn of speed which made him a terror to the opposing backs. Of a genial disposition he was very popular with all associates and there are many in Coalville who will regret his death.

The letters received state that Mr Sheffield was buried close to where he fell, and that the spot is marked by a wooden cross bearing his name.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

PARENTS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED

The report in our last issue of the death in France of Pte. Owen Hallam, of Donington-le-Heath, was officially confirmed on Tuesday, when his aged parents received a notification from the military authorities to the effect that Hallam had been killed in action at a place not stated. Deceased was a playing member of the Coalville Swifts Football Club and formerly of Hugglescote United. He was the main support of his parents, two old age pensioners who live near the Corner Pin.

LIFE AT THE FRONT

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S GRAPHIC NARRATIVE

The thrilling experiences of Pte. E. Goodman, formerly in the employ of Mr W. F. Moore, butcher, London Road, Coalville, who joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry and is now attached to the G. squadron of the 18th Hussars, are narrated in a letter written to a pal, Mr Fred Henson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville.

Goodman says, *"We have just come out of the trenches after ten days' fighting, and am pleased to tell you that I keep getting through it, though I have had some very narrow escapes having been blown out of the trenches and been buried and had to be dragged out, but still, I am none the worse for my adventures up to the present. But I think the last time I was in the trenches, they were the worst days I ever experienced. We were only 80 yards from the German trenches and our engineers were mining under their trench, while they*

were mining under ours, but we got there first and blew them up. You never saw such a sight in your life. There were legs, arms and bodies flying all over the place, and the explosion about buried our fellows with earth. After that, you talk about a scrap – it lasted about four hours. We did not have many casualties, but the Germans must have had a lot. We are resting at present. We billet in barns and sleep on the straw. I have not slept in a bed since I have been out here, but we keep healthy and fit enough. We have had an awful winter. It has been up to the knees in water and mud up to the waist in the trenches, but they provide us with high-topped rubber boots and they are very good keeping the water out. You would be surprised to see the villages and towns all in ruins where they have been shelled. I was at one town only a few miles from where we are billeted, where the cathedral and buildings are all smashed up and I don't believe there was a house left whole in the town, and yet there were people living in the ruins. There are some awful sights to see as we go up and down the country. Where we are staying we can hear the big guns bang away all night and day. It gets on your nerves at times. We always have our saddles packed ready for turning out at any notice, both day and night. How would you care for this life. It's alright for a change, but it gets monotonous too much of it. It seems a long time since I came out here – about 7 months – so it would be alright to have a few days in the old country again. We are looking forward to the time when we shall be home again. I think both sides are fed up with it. I am writing this on St. Patrick's night and I keep thinking of the times we had together at Whitwick. Remember me to all friends and tell them I am in the pink."

PS – You ought to see the black Belgian horses out here. Just do for the hearse work.

WHITWICK

The Vicar of Whitwick, the Rev. T. W. Walters, is this week, sending to all the men at the front he knows to have gone from his parish, a pictorial postcard emblematic of Easter, bearing his name and that of St. John the Baptist Church, Whitwick, also with these words, *"At our Easter communion we are praying for you."*

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 21st collection from 10 districts realised £7 16s 10d.

WHITWICK SOLDIER KILLED

FELL IN THE NEUVE CHAPELLE BATTLE

Official intimation was received on Tuesday morning, by Mrs Hall, of Talbot Street, Whitwick, that her husband, Pte. Ernest Hall, of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action between March 10th and 13th, which was the period of the battle in which the British gained a great victory at Neuve Chapelle.

The news had been broken to Mrs Hall a few days previously, having been conveyed in letters from comrades of Hall at the front. She is left with three children, aged 9 years, 1 year and a baby in arms. Hall wrote a cheery letter to his wife only a few days before.

The deceased soldier was a son of Mr John Hall, of Thringstone, a popular figure at the Whitwick Imperial football matches. Before leaving Whitwick for the war, he worked at the Whitwick Colliery. He is believed to be the first Whitwick man to be killed in action. A younger brother of his is now in the trenches.

A memorial service will probably be held at Whitwick Church next Sunday week, attended by the members of the local Citizen Corps.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Monday was a great day with the members of the Coalville, Whitwick and Hugglescote Citizen Corps. They marched to Woodhouse Eaves and participated in manoeuvres against the Leicester Corps in the neighbourhood of the Hanging Stone Rocks. Coalville led the attack and completely routed the enemy. A remark by one of the retreating Leicester warriors, *"That lot of colliers with guns were not to be trifled with,"* highly amused some of the Coalville citizens. The local men marched back quite sprightly and though after having covered 25 miles on foot some of them did not deny that they had had enough, they all declared that was one of the best days they had experienced for a long time.

We understand that Sir Maurice Levy, M.P., proposes to visit the British lines in France as a member of a War Office Committee engaged upon departmental work. The hon. baronet will be away from home about a week.

An instance of rapid promotion is that of Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Arthur C. Cave, who has very quickly made his way since he joined the army. He is an old boy of Melbourne Road School, Leicester. He enlisted in the 7th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in August, having had no previous experience in military work, was promoted lance-corporal in October, lance-sergeant in November, and C.Q.M.S. in March at the age of 22. He is believed to be the youngest quartermaster in Kitchener's Army. C.Q.M.S. Cave is the son of Mr A. Cave, of 7, Guthlaxton Street, who is an engine driver in the employ of the L and N.W. Railway, and before enlisting was a clerk at Messrs. Hart and Levy's, Leicester. He is a nephew of Mr Charles E. Marston and Mr David Marston of Coalville.

Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick, has received the following letter from Lieut-Col. Jones, commanding the 5th Leicestershire Regiment: *"Dear Sir, - Thank you very much for large box of cigarettes and tobacco sent to me for the men of this regiment. It is all most acceptable and much appreciated. It is good of your friends to take so much trouble. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. I am, etc."*

We are pleased to hear that Mr Charles Drewett, son of Mr B. B. Drewett, of Hugglescote (the president of the Coalville Men's Adult School) has been given a commission, being gazetted second lieutenant in the East Yorks Regiment. He paid a short visit to his home during Easter and while there received the notification from the War Office. He joined Kitchener's Army in August and has since been training in various parts of the country. Mr C. Drewett is an old pupil of Mr L. L. Baldwin, surveyor to the Coalville Urban District Council, and for some time before the outbreak of war, held a Government surveying appointment in Nottingham.

It was reported on Friday that Capt. Gore-Browne, son-in-law of the Right Hon. Charles Booth, had been wounded in the fighting in France.

Mrs S. W. Brown of 110, London Road, Coalville, has received a letter from Pte. G. H. Taylor, of Ellistown, who is working with the R.A.M.C. at Southampton Docks, thanking the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild for sending him socks and helmet, which was in response to letter sent to the "Coalville Times" and passed on by us to the Comforts Guild. Taylor says he and the others were delighted to receive such useful gifts and they all said, *"Good old Leicestershire."* He adds that they are proud to be doing their duty for their country.

DO YOU KNOW

That 130 men from Whitwick parish are serving in His Majesty's forces?

That two more of the Whitwick Granite Co.'s employees having enlisted this week bringing the total to 26 men who have gone from this firm?

That Alec Skedding, the Leicestershire fast bowler, has joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry, making 14 of the county players now with the colours?

That Dr. Birkitt, of Whitwick, wrote this week from the front stating that he was in excellent health, though they are having a strenuous time?

KHAKI WEDDING

A very interesting wedding was witnessed on Saturday afternoon at Holy Rood Church. The contracting parties were Corporal Frederick Grey, of the 2nd Leicesters, and Miss Ellen Bennett, of Bagworth, Miss Lily Heathcote being the bridesmaid. Mr George Cross of Bagworth acted as best man. The bride was adorned in a pale blue costume and white hat and the bridesmaid's dress was of blue silk and hat to match. The Rev. H. Badham officiated. The bridegroom has gained a Distinguished Service Medal and is to appear before the King shortly for decoration. The happy couple had many useful presents.

COALVILLE POLICE COURT

Pte. John Thomas Wardle, a Whitwick man, an absentee from the 9th Battalion, South Staffs. Regiment, stationed at Folkestone, was handed over to an escort.

Pte. Bunce, of the guard, Donington Park, made an application to the Bench to stay an order for ejectment. His wife occupied a house at Whitwick and had tried to get another but had been unable to, as they had a large family. Mr Jesson said he made the application for the Coalville Urban Council and an order for ejectment was made. He did not press the matter immediately, though it had expired, if applicant would give an undertaking to get a house within a month. He said he would try and the Bench allowed him a further month.

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LOCAL NEWS

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Tuesday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 22nd collection from 6 districts raised £7 8s 10d.

CITIZEN CORPS

At a meeting of the Coalville Citizen Corps, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., intimated his desire to resign the position of Commandant owing to the pressure of other duties. Mr Hale was unanimously thanked for his splendid services to the Corps since its formation and was elected to the position of president. Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge elected to succeed Mr Hale as Commandant of the Corps.

WHIST DRIVE AND SOCIAL

A successful whist drive and social were held in the Bridge Road Council Schools on Wednesday night in aid of the Soldiers' Comforts Guild, about 300 people being present. Mr W. Gimson played for dancing, Mr F. Goddard and Mr E. Hawthorn acting as MC's. Songs were rendered by Pte. Bagshaw. MC's for whist were Messrs. S. W. Brown, H. R. Brown, P. Brown, W. Eames, J. Husband, and J. W. Farmer. Handsome prizes were presented by Mrs Eames to the winners as follows:

Ladies, 1 Mrs Biddle, 182; 2 Mrs Abell, 177; Mrs G. W. Pickering, 172. Gents, 1 Mr G. W. Pickering, 174; 2 Mr A. Willett; 3 Mr S. Barron, 171 each, second and third decided on a cut. Refreshments were admirably served by a ladies committee and the proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem about 12.30.

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LEICESTER SOLDIER KILLED

BRIDE BEREAVED

Much sympathy will be felt for Mr J. D. Preston, the newly appointed headmaster of Narborough Road Schools, Leicester and Mrs Preston, who received news on Monday morning that their son, Private Edwin Preston, was killed in the trenches in France last Monday.

He was with the 4th Leicesters in the trenches for 24 hours, and was instantly killed by a hand grenade thrown from a German trench. Four others were wounded. The deceased was 23 years of age, and he enlisted with his brother, Francis, on the outbreak of war. The former held a post with Messrs. Inglesants, and the latter was a clerk at Parr's Bank.

A sad feature of the tragedy is that Edwin was only married a few days before going to France, the bride being Miss Thorne, of Brookhouse Avenue, Leicester. Deceased was a grandson of Mr J. Preston, the late chief attendance officer.

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ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs Louise Poyser, residing on The Green, Ashby, has been notified that her husband, Pte. J. G. Poyser, has been killed in action in France. The deceased was serving with his battalion, the 2nd Leicesters. He was a National Reservist and was called up soon after the commencement of the war. Besides the widow there are three children.

BRAVE LEICESTERS

SIX MEN AWARDED THE D.C.M.

A special supplement to the 'London Gazette' contains the following: "The King has been pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to the following for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Private E. W. Chatten, 9600, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on 23rd – 24th November.

Private H. O. Chamberlain, 9409, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on 23rd – 24th November.

Sergeant P. E. Foister, 7335, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on November 23rd and 24th.

Lance-Corporal F. E. Garton, 9130, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for conspicuous gallantry on November 20th near Neuve Chapelle, in leaving his trench at great risk and rescuing an Indian soldier of the 167th Pioneers, who had been blown out of his trench by a bomb from the enemy, who were only 70 yards distant.

Acting-Corporal G. Gray, 8244, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on November 23rd and 24th.

Private J. Taylor, 8569, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on November 23rd and 24th.

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IBSTOCK SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

FIGHTING WITH A GOOD HEART

An Ibstock soldier in the trenches, Private Joe Robertson, writing to his parents, says he is excellent health except for his knee, which with the wet was playing up a bit. They had had fine weather for about a week but when they woke up that morning (March 20th) snow lay on the ground and it was still snowing, which made things rather uncomfortable. *"But I shall stick it,"* he continues, *"I have never said die to anything yet and I have still got a bit of pluck left. My only thought is to get back to my poor wife and children. I am glad that you think I shall pull through it now, having got so far. I hope so too, but there is a lot of fighting to be done yet and we are the attacking party now. We have got to drive them into their own country and I hope they will get a little of what they have given to the Belgians. You cannot understand what lies before us. If you were here you would know why the advance is so slow. If you read the papers, you will see that the British are advancing. It would not do for me to say where, nor what my regiment is doing, as there is too much spying going on and this letter might fall into the hands of the enemy. That is why things are kept quiet, but we are doing our duty all the same and hope to be home by October. That will make me just one year out here. I have read in the paper about Joey Lockton getting the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was very pleased, but should have been more pleased had it been me. But only let me get a chance! But luck comes in a good deal, like backing horses. You may get away from a shower of bullets, but on the other hand, you may stop the only one fired. But we happen to have some very big guns now, and the Germans know it too. As I lie in my dugout with shot and shells flying over, any one of which may drop and put paid to my account, it makes me think of home and I look forward to letters from the ones I love."*

In a subsequent letter, Robertson says the war has got to be fought to a definite conclusion, and the Germans beaten, or God help those at home. *"It gives us all a good heart to fight because we know our children will be provided for. Tell Walter that a lot of the names of his old chums appear on the roll of honour (list of killed). I hope mine don't get on it, but if it is to be, then it will be well."*

P.S. The big guns are now playing a tune.

COALVILLE MOTOR CYCLIST IN FRANCE

HAVING A BUSY TIME

Corpl. J. Johnson, formerly carrying on business as a fruiterer in Coalville, writes as follows:

"Dear Sir – Allow me to thank the Coalville and District women through your valuable paper for the very useful gifts sent out to me. I feel sure that everyone out here that has received such gifts, welcome anything from the dear old place, and will look upon it as a kind action indeed, for the women workers at home to think of those that are doing their duty for their country.

It would have been nice for all old faces to have met, but I regret that that cannot be so, as I gave assistance to the wounded in the Neuve Chapelle battle and found that all will not return. I have nothing to complain about and hope we shall soon be busy again with an advance. I have been on duty since Feb. 10th. There is great excitement when the Taube is sighted again when one is brought down. I have lots of news but must keep within bounds. I am writing this letter in my little hut on my machine and hope the same finds all old

friends in the best of health and hope recruiting in Coalville is still going strong. Remember there is a machine here for all motorists ready to join. I have registered 3,000 kilometres on mine in ten weeks."

Wishing you one and all a happy Easter.

Yours faithfully

Corpl. Johnson

IN THE RESERVE TRENCHES

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

Pte. J. F. Spriggs, of Park Road, Coalville, now serving with the forces, "somewhere in France," writing to his sister, Mrs H. Reed, of Owen Street, Coalville, on March 25th, says he is well and proceeds, *"We are in a curious place here. They are a lot behind good old England in a great many things. They have a use here for dogs in pulling handcarts about. We were in reserve trenches on the 6th and 7th of this month. It is not actually the firing line, but nevertheless, it is just as dangerous for there you catch the stray bullets that come whizzing past. At present, we are about 8 miles from the firing line, so do not hear much of the big guns firing away now. We are in a barn full of straw and rats, but we are quite comfortable, considering."*

He adds that he hopes all are in good health and expresses the pleasure it gives to receive letters from his friends.

ELLISTOWN AMBULANCE MAN

WORKING AMONGST THE WOUNDED

Writing to us from Southampton, Pte. G. H. Taylor, of South Street, Ellistown, says how pleased he is to receive the “Coalville Times” but is sorry to see so many old faces of Coalville soldiers who are falling in the war. He was called up from the S.J.A.B. and is now stationed at Southampton Docks. It was strictly forbidden for him to give information of their doings, but he was seeing some sights, as his work was chiefly among the wounded, being in the R.A.M.C. He advises anyone holding first aid and nursing certificates to at once offer their services for he is sure that their King and Country need them. He says he was on duty all hours, and as it is very cold at night he would be glad if one of the local organisations would send him a sleeping cap or helmet. They were a jolly fine company and all in the pink. He had a pal, J. Foster, of Ashby, who wished to be remembered to all friends in Coalville and Ashby.

Pte. Taylor’s address is R.A.M.C., 10, Mess Room, Test Chambers, Southampton Docks.

He adds in a postscript: Buck-up old Ellistown.

COALVILLE ADULT SCHOOL SOLDIER

TWICE IN THE TRENCHES

The President of the Coalville Men’s Adult School, Mr B. B. Drewett, has received a letter from Pte. E. S. Boot, A. Co., 5th Leicesters, son of Mr Sam Boot, secretary of the Coalville Liberal Club, who states that he received the book recently sent by members of the school for which he expresses thanks. He says it is a very nice book, containing a text for every day. He continues, *“I have been in the trenches twice since we left England and I am pleased to say I was not hit. We have only had one bad day since we have been out, when it snowed all day. Shall be glad when I can get back and take my place in Mr Hatchett’s class again. Remember me to Mr Hatchett and all the school and let them know that I am going on all right. Wishing the school the best of luck, etc.”*

ANOTHER COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

A WELL-KNOWN FOOTBALLER

Official news was received on Tuesday morning by Mrs Wardle, of Margaret Street, Coalville, that her son, Private James Wardle, of the Grenadier Guards, had been killed in action between March 10th and 14th, apparently being at Neuve Chapelle, though the place was not stated. A letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of His Majesty King George and the Queen was also received.

The deceased soldier joined the army in August, prior to that being a collier, at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He was a well-known Coalville footballer, having played for the Amateurs and P.S.A. He was 25 years of age. His father, the late Mr Abraham Wardle, used to work at the Whitwick Colliery and died 17 years ago.

Mrs Wardle now has four sons, one of whom Joseph, is in the Coldstream Guards, and he is now at Windsor, having had two fingers shot off his left hand. He is expecting to go out to the front again as soon as he is fit.

COALVILLE TERRITORIALS PRAISED

A CREDIT TO THEIR COUNTRY

We have received a letter from Pte. J. S. Newbold, of the 1st Grenadier Guards, at the front, who thanks the Coalville and District ladies for the useful parcel they had sent him. He says, *"They will prove very handy to me in the trenches. The weather here improves every day, though it is very cold at night. We are looking forward to a very busy time this spring. We had a good taste of it at Neuve Chapelle. We showed the Germans what Britishers could do there. They (the Germans) are beaten any day. We could shift them any time we want to. I hear that they are a few eligible men left in Coalville yet, and I would advise them to join, as they will never be able to bear the contempt the boys are preparing for them out here. I am just off to hear the Bishop of London. He has just arrived today near our billet. The Coalville Territorials are stationed near to me, but I have not had the pleasure of dropping across any of them yet. But I hear on all sides they are proving a credit to Leicestershire and to their country."*

HAVING A GOOD TIME

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

Mr J. Woodward, of 41, Margaret Street, Coalville, has received an interesting letter from Pte. Stephen Bunn, of Albert Street, Coalville. Bunn is in the B. Co. 5th Leicesters with the British Expeditionary Force in France and says he is in the pink and hopes they are well in Coalville. He has been in the trenches for a week and went on alright. Sam Moore and Fred Beasley are with him. He continues: *"Are you working at the new pit yet? If so, remember me to Burton Holmes, Jack Price and Mr Price, the under-manager. Tell them that I am getting on alright and I hope the pit is working well. We see lots of aeroplanes flying about. I have been inoculated today. Will you remember me to the Thringstone girls if you meet them up at the Forest Rock any time. Tell them I am going on alright. I am having a jolly good time. Are they many more enlisting in Coalville?"*

Friday April 16th 1915 (Issue 1206)

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"CITIZENS" AT WHITWICK CHURCH

IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Whitwick Parish Church was packed to the doors on Sunday morning on the occasion of a memorial service for Pte. E. Hall, the first Whitwick soldier to be killed in the great war, and for the late Mr B. Berry, who had taken such an interest in the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps. The members of the Coalville Corps about 50 strong, under the Commander Gutteridge, marched from their headquarters and on reaching Whitwick, were joined by the Citizens there and marched to Church headed by the Whitwick Holy Cross and Boy Scouts Bands, Capt. Stevenson being in command. The parade attracted a good deal attention and was witnessed by a large crowd of people. A good number of relatives of the deceased were at the service.

Suitable hymns and psalms were sung and an impressive sermon was delivered by the Vicar (the Rev. T. W. Walters) from the text 1 Cor 15c, 20v, “Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.”

All over our country in these days, said the preacher, and indeed, all over this great empire of ours there are scenes such as this morning. The heart of the people has been touched, the whole nation has been stirred, men everywhere are rising up from thoughtlessness and you see everywhere upon their faces the serious looks of manliness, of responsibility, and of understanding. Men are becoming to know what we are engaged in; what the nation is engaged in. But deep as the heart has been touched already, I don’t believe, and I don’t think that anyone in this church this morning believes, that we have been touched quite deeply enough. There must be a deeper stirring of the human mind and the human heart. We must realise in a way that we have never yet done so, the great forces that are against us. We must understand in a way that we have not done yet that the enemy we are fighting against is extremely powerful; splendidly organised, prepared after years of constant and splendid preparation, and we have to face millions of men, trained, drilled and instructed not only in the art of war, but, unfortunately in the feeling of hatred against ourselves. We have to face such a nation as that and I am afraid, almost certain in fact, that we have not yet realised in this country what we are up against.

Proceeding, he suggested that they ought to keep three, or even four lists of the men who were serving their country. First, a list of the men who are fighting, or preparing to fight; secondly a list of men who had tried to join the colours but who for no fault of their own had been rejected – and there were several such in Whitwick; thirdly, a list of the men who had joined the Citizen Corps for home defence; and the fourth list should be of the wives and children and mothers of the men in the danger zone. Oh, what a list that would be. When they thought of all these things and of the seriousness of them, it was enough to stir them to the very depths. They could not see a congregation like that without feeling the stirring force of it and without feeling that they were awakening to the responsibilities they ought to feel as a nation when facing such an enemy as they were facing in these days. They were being stirred as they read of the great battles on the Continent of Europe. In the casualty lists for last Thursday, Friday and Saturday appeared 4,011 names. Over four thousand casualties recorded in three days. In Saturday’s paper they saw that the Leicesters, 75 were dead after one battle. Many of these men they knew; where were they today. Their bodies lay in graves on the battlefield far from their native land. Their wives, their children, their mothers, would never see them again. Their fathers and brothers would never take them by the hand again and give them a welcome home. They had been buried in graves with a crowd of other bodies, but was that the end of them? Was there not something else after that? If they faced such a question as that with a feeling of doubtfulness, then in the words of the lesson, they of all men were the most miserable. If that was the end of everything what would be the use of standing up and fighting for their country? They would be without hope and would indeed be the most miserable of men. When thoughts like that assailed them, let them think of the text, “Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that sleep.” What did that mean? Simply this: That as Christ rose from the dead so shall all men rise from the dead. There was a time coming when they would all come forth graves, a tremendous army facing their God from their graves, a great army facing God on the great resurrection day. In these days they thought far too much of the seriousness of death. It was hard to part from dear ones and they had come to think of death as a terrible thing. It was a mistake to think of it like that. Death was not the ultimate end of life but only the beginning. That was illustrated to them in the parable of the seed. The death of the seed was not the end of it but was only the beginning of a finer life which sprang from it, and so it was with every one of them. Death simply meant the passing into a higher life and that certainly ought not to be terrible. But as they lived today, so they were moulding their future life, and if they kept the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ they would become more like Him in the hereafter. They all sympathised very deeply with the mourners that morning, that large congregation of men had come together to express it in that way. They sympathised with the relatives of the brave young soldier whose earthly life had come to an end on the battlefield of France, and also with those who mourned the loss of the chairman of the Citizen Corps of that district. But the time was coming when they would all be reunited, and all the sorrows of partings and misunderstandings, and the difficulties, trials and temptations which they now experienced would be nothing before them but the higher life of that bright, glorious future. They prayed that God in His mercy would look down on the sorrowing ones and bless them and help them to bear the parting and may the relatives of the young soldier be comforted by the knowledge that he died fighting for his country and for them all, that he died in glorious company in the midst of hundreds, thousands, who fell in the same fight. While they sympathised with them, they almost envied them in having a relative so brave, so noble, and so unselfish as to give up his life in that way. May God comfort and bless the mourners and give them all the consolation possible from that religion of theirs – the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the close of the service, the organist, Mr R. West, played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, and as they were leaving he played, “O rest in the Lord.”

The flag was flying over the church at half mast, and before the service a muffled peal was rung on the bells.

The Citizen’s marched to the School of Arms in Silver Street, where after a few exercises, the Coalville contingent continued their journey home.

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LEICESTER MAN’S SUICIDE

SON’S PROTEST AGAINST THE VERDICT

A verdict of “Suicide” was returned at an inquest held in Leicester on Monday afternoon on the body of Edward Myring, a fish hawker, of Brunswick Street, who threw himself under a motor lorry on Friday.

Deceased’s son, a soldier, who was present, protested against the jury’s decision, remarking that his father suffered from gout.

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BELGIAN FLAG DAY AT LEICESTER

Under the auspices of a committee formed for the purpose a Belgian Flag Day was celebrated at Leicester on Saturday with the object of raising additional funds for the maintenance of Belgian refugees now residing in the town. A small army of lady helpers volunteered their services, and throughout the day a brisk sale of Belgian flags was carried on, upwards of 100,000 being sold. The total amount raised by the effort was about £650.

AN ABSENTEE FROM DONINGTON

At Leicester County Police Office on Monday morning before Mr A. Turner, Alfred Frederick Wallace, soldier, Donington Park, was remanded to await an escort, he being an absentee from the National Guard at Donington Park since Saturday.

LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT CASUALTIES

MEN WHO FELL AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

OFFICIAL LIST

Reported from the Base, 24th March

KILLED

11054 Ball, Private A.
10872 Barker, Private A.
12314 Bates, Private W.
9239 Betteridge, Lance-Corporal T.
11078 Bishop, Private J. H.
6131 Bradley, Lance-Corporal A.
11776 Bradley, Corporal G. J.
9838 Branston, Private E.
12142 Brooks, Private B.
11185 Brown, Private H.
8631 Brown, Private S. W.
11125 Carter, Private W.
8282 Congreave, Private F.

5393 Conway, Private A.
9898 Cooke, Private E. A.
8485 Corby, Private W. H.
10358 Cornish, Sergeant J.
6007 Cousins, Private C. E.
8829 Cox, Lance-Corporal F. J.
8854 Croucher, Private L.
12090 Cunnington, Private H.
9923 Davis, Private F. (Coalville)
7096 Elson, Lance-Corporal F. A.
8269 Emery, Private W.
9277 Ferguson, Private R. E.
9939 Garton, Private E.
11801 Green, Private G.
12041 Hall, Private E. (Whitwick)
6473 Hallam, Private O. (Hugglescote)
8740 Hayes, Drummer D.
6021 Helsdon, Lance-Corporal W.
10713 Hicks, Private E.
9160 Hinckley, Private L. J.
11718 Holt, Private C. H.
12093 Holt, Private W.
12383 Hopkinson, Private J.
8199 Hyde, Private J. W.
9242 Lake, Private H.
12468 Latham, Private W. S.
11330 Lee, Private E. H.
5329 Lees, Sergeant E.
8708 Littlejohn, Private T.
8961 Locke, Private L.
12700 McHugh, Private A.
9034 Mansfield, Private H.
8412 Morgan, Private A.
5661 Moore, Private E. (Coalville)
5342 Neat, Sergeant J.
6400 Needham, Private H. S.
11043 Peacock, Private G.
8959 Potterton, Private W.
12070 Poyser, Private J. G.
6164 Randle, Private L.
10162 Reynolds, Private J. S.
8732 Robinson, Private P.
9863 Rowley, Private W.
9225 Sanders, Private U.
12078 Sheffield, Corporal J. D. (Coalville)
6396 Shipsides, Private E.
8825 Skeleey, Private R.
11262 Soden, Private W. A.
7798 Tansley, Lance-Corporal W. J.
12412 Taylor, Private F. W.
5708 Towndrow, Lance-Corporal F.
7466 Twigg, Sergeant J.
10426 Vine, Private W.
10951 Ward, Private W. R.
6399 Wardle, Private W. (Coalville)
12045 Wareham, Private H.
9285 Warner, Private A. H.
9864 Warner, Private O.
11669 Watson, Private J.
9522 White, Private A.

9045 Woodford, Private A. F.

The following list of casualties in the Leicesters reported from the Base under date March 25th, is issued:

DIED OF WOUNDS

Cooper (9812), Private F.
Dingley (9833), Private W.

WOUNDED

Abrahams (7758), Private W.
Alderman (8551), Private A.
Allen (8229), Sergeant J. T.
Bennett (5549), Private T. K.
Benstead (10958), Lance-Corporal G.
Bond (11283), Private R.
Bond (10940), Private T.
Bradbury (5862), Private G.
Brown (9900), Private G. W.
Buckingham (6276), Private W.
Burr (8673), Private H.
Clarke (9027), Lance-Corporal J. (Ellistown)
Clements (11877), Private A.
Cockerill (7750), Private M.
Coleman (5952), Corporal W.
Crouch (10235), Private A.
Curtis (9925), Private T.
Dale (11113), Private W. H.
Dunkley (9901), Private E. T.
Edwards (8223), Act-Corporal H.
Evans (9454), Private F. A.
Evans (9083), Private J.
Eyden (11147), Private E.
Fall (10834), Private W.
Fenwick (9203), Private W.
Follis (11705), Private R. W.
Frisby (7552), Private W. C. V.
Frith (14157), Private A.
Gilbert (8290), Private E.
Gilbert (11092), Private T.
Gilliams (9089), Private H.
Glasa (15254), Private J.
Greenlear (11001), Private A.
Hall (12062), Private E.
Hanwell (9794), Private G.
Harding (8074), Private J.
Helps (6273), Private B.
Hill (5932), Private G.
Howard (8384), Private W.
Hughes (12254), Private J.
Huntley (11386), Private L.
Jackson (11342), Private J.
Jarman (9124), Private V. A.
Jelly (9755), Private A.
Judd (8041), Private S.
Larkin (8148), Private H.
Larrad (7876), Private H.
Lloyd (10502), Private E.
Lloyd (9296), Private G.

Manship (7946), Lance-Corporal D.
Marvin (6143), Private B.
Miller (9844), Private J. H.
Nash (9852), Private P.
Norman (7645), Corporal W.
Nunnley (8350), Private _.
Pell (11458), Private B.
Richardson (12190), Private F.
Robinson (9781), Private A.
Sadler (7225), Private C.
Sampson (7658), Private J.
Skelton (8809), Lance-Corporal S.
Smith (9876), Private F.
Smith (8650), Private W. -.
Staines (6624), Private J.
Tarry (16152), Private W.
Thornton (9862), Private
Turner (8498), Private C.
Varney (11619), Private _.
Watts (9896), Private H.
Wickwar (8892), Private G.
Wilson (6902), Lance-Corporal _.
Wright (9835), Private G.

The following casualties are reported from the General Headquarters under date April 8th:

WOUNDED

Second-Lieutenant H. F. Papprill.

Lieut. Papprill is a son of the Rev. F. Papprill, of Holy Trinity Church, Leicester. The wounded officer was attached to the Officer's Training Corps at Trent College, and joined the Territorials early in August.

Lieutenant T. Whittingham.

Lieut. Whittingham is a son of the Rev. W. G. Whittingham, Knighton. He joined the Territorials from the Officer's Training Corps on April 13th and was promoted Lieutenant on October 8th last year.

LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Casualties reported from the Base, under date March 27th.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Barratt (11802), Private T.

WOUNDED

Atkins (10594), Private A.
Ballard (10877), Private J.
Barnett (12385), Lance-Corporal H.
Beck (5805), Private G.
Bennett (10387), Private C.
Bollards (5280), Private _.
Bostock (12679), Private W.
Brewin (10432), Private J.
Brindle (7475), Private
Brown (12592), Lance-Corporal W.
Burke (9204), Private J.
Burke (11583), Private J.

Butler (8948), Private R.
Cartwright (11209), Private N.
Clacey (82-0), Private G.
Coleman (8921), Private A.
Cunningham (12405), Private J.
Day (1178), Private W.
Deakin (6926), Private _.
Dilkes (92-0), Lance-Corporal A.
Downs (11245), Private H.
Etchells (1-434), Private D.
Fletcher (14155), Private P. J.
Folwell (11496), Private A.
Garner (8316), Private T.
Gillett (95-2), Private H. W.
Glover (86-8), Lance-Corporal J.
Hall (9178), Private W.
Hartshorne (1044), Private _.
Hefford (12069), Private G.
Higgs (8141), Lance-Corporal _.
Hilleard (9865), Private A.
Hinckley (12001), Private R.
Hyde (7676), Private E.
Jacques (8005), Private W. J.
Jesson (10893), Private H.
Johnson (6096), Lance-Corporal _. J.
Keefe (9915), Private W.
Knight (10245), Private F.
Lowin (8967), Private H.
Miller (12361), Private H.
Page (9978), Private G.
Porter (9144), Private T.
Preston (1-784), Corporal J. W.
Pugh (11420), Private F.
Quirk (8989), Private J. A.
Roadknight (11039), Private _.
Saunders (14151), Private J.
Smith (1297), Private W.
Tipping (9129), Lance-Corporal J. W.
Travers (6397), Private S.
Wilkinson (9903), Private C.
Wood (8783), Drummer W.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The boys of the Whitwick Troop, Leicestershire Yeomanry, now on active service, write to thank all kind friends on the Charnwood Forest for the boxes of good things that have been sent out to them this Easter.

Mrs Lawrence (Hathern) has collected for the wounded soldiers 1,000 eggs and these were taken to the church on Sunday by the Boy Scouts, making the service especially interesting.

The following interesting paragraph appears in the “Ellistown Parish Magazine.”
“I am exceedingly sorry to have to record that Lance-Corporal Clarke has been most seriously wounded in both legs, and his right leg has been amputated above the knee. Jack has been so good and noble about it, and regrets he cannot rejoin his regiment, and hopes we shall find room for a one-legged man at Ellistown. I am sure our hearts go out to him and his parents in this trouble. The vicar thought good to forego his Easter offerings, and when Lance-Corporal Clarke comes home the offerings will be presented to him. The first one

from our Church and parish to shed his blood for King and country. Harry Lagoe we are glad to see among us this Easter. He is now on the fair way to recovery. Tom Robson has been wounded by a bayonet thrust in the knee, and is now in hospital in Rouen going on very well. I have had letters from Corporal Wheatley, at the front, Alf. Priest, Harry Gadsby, and others, all of whom are well and confident. It was a great disappointment to some of our soldiers not to be able to come home for their Easter Communion."

DO YOU KNOW

That Miss Vesta Tilley sang to the wounded soldiers in the 5th Northern Hospital at Leicester on Saturday night?

That four collectors are wanted, two each for two Coalville districts, for the Belgian Relief Fund?

That Mr A. Dobney, eldest son of Police Inspector Dobney, of Coalville, has this week been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Leicestershire Territorials?

That £18 was raised by the patriotic concert recently arranged by Mr E. E. Wallsgrove and committee for the benefit of Ratby men with the colours?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 23rd collection from 14 districts realised £11 1s 2d.

BAGWORTH

As the result of sending the parcels of clothing etc., to the soldiers who had gone from the neighbourhood by the Women's Guild, quite a large number of letters of thanks have been received from the recipients and are of a most interesting character. Some had come from the trenches, others from various parts of England. Some of the letters are of a most loving attitude and signed with crosses and styled your soldier boy, etc. The following are the names of those who sent letters of thanks:

Pte. L. Ward, Pte. F. S. Brown, Pte. Jack Read, Pte. Oakley, Pte. P. Hunt, Pte. J. W. Davis, Corpl. E. Curton, Pte. J. H. Jackson, Pte. R. Glover, Pte. C. Johnson, Pte. J. Emerson, Pte. A. Worth, Corpl. D. Linford, Corpl. D. Linford, Corpl. C. Hubbard, Pte. H. Heathcote, Pte. H. Emerson, Pte. W. Ribby, Pte. H. Lockwood, Pte. H. Vicars, Pte. D. White, Pte. J. Atkinson, Pte. G. Barker, Pte. A. Holland, Pte. J. Adkinson, Pte. G. Barker, Pte. A. Holland, Pte. J. Reed, Pte. A. Bowler, Lance-Corpl. R. Astle, Pte. G. H. Farmer, Gunner A. Smith, Pte. W. Bevans, Pte. W. Twigger, Pte. J. Witts, Pte. J. A. Bowler, Pte. L. Stretton and Pte. W. F. Jones.

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RECRUITING MEETING AT SWANNINGTON

SPEECH BY SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT

At a recruiting meeting held at Swannington School, the speakers were Captain Stevenson and Lieut. Briggs. Sir George Beaumont, who took the chair, said he was glad of taking the chair and saying a few words. Having been in the trenches he could assure the boys who went that there was a bright side apart from the intense pleasure it gave one to feel that he was fighting for his country, they would find all that was possible done for their comfort – food, clothing, and even luxuries received would make them feel that the people at home appreciated their services. From his own knowledge more men were wanted, and he hoped the glorious traditions of a volunteer army sufficient for our country's needs would be forthcoming; if not, neither this, nor any other Government would have any alternative but to adopt conscription and reduce England to the level of the conscript armies of the Continent.

Lieut. Briggs said he was there specially to appeal for the Leicestershire Territorials, who were now raising a new battalion. From the records of the past the Leicesters were a fine body to join, it was easy to sit in an

arm chair and criticise the conduct of the war and the poor reservist to the recruiting appeals, but it was the duty of all to encourage recruiting and help to maintain our volunteer army in the great task before them.

Captain Stevenson said he had visited Swannington before and had a number of patriotic responses but there were still many who were hanging back – many, he felt sure, who would be ashamed of themselves when the war was over. England had always added glory to her record by a volunteer army, he hoped it always would, but he was there to tell them that many more men were wanted, and he feared Sir George was only too correct when he said that other methods would have to be adopted if they did not come forward. He was sorry to say he had circularised 60 young men in Swannington of enlistment age asking them to join the army, and not one of them had been even patriotic or courteous enough to answer the request. He also thought it a disgrace for single men to allow the married men to go first; 75 per cent of the recent enlistments had been married men. He knew the majority present were not acceptable, to them the responsibility lay; they could each act in some small way to encourage the slacker to come forward; turn yourselves into amateur recruiting sergeants and give these fellows no peace until they take their share of the burden their comrades are bearing at the front.

A vote of thanks proposed by Mr T. Atkins to which Sir Beaumont replied, terminated the meeting.

PATRIOTIC ENTERTAINMENT

A patriotic lantern entertainment was given in the village hall at Thringstone on Monday night by the Whitwick Glee Party and members of the House Club, the proceeds being to provide tobacco, cigarettes, etc., for the men who have joined His Majesty's Forces from the village and from the House Club. The Vicar (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury) presided and there was a capital attendance. Nearly all the items given were illustrated with excellent lantern slides which helped to make it a very interesting and enjoyable entertainment. The programme opened with "The comrades' song of home" by the Glee Party and other items were:

Recitation; "Lines written in Devon," Scout J. Rossell; duet, "Life's dream is o'er," Messrs. Waterfield and Gee; song, "The lost chord," Mr J. W. Brotherhood; reading, "How Bill Adams won the Battle of Waterloo," Mr A. Woodward; song, "Hearts of Oak," Mr J. Lawrence; duet, "All's Well," Messrs. Baker and Waterfield; song, "Hurrah for the British navy," Mr Baker; "The loss of H.M.S. Victoria," Mr C. Watts; song, "Rule Britannia," Mr J. W. Brotherhood; song, "Your King and Country need you," Master E. Cooke; reading, "Corporal Smart," Mr Woodward; a quartet and "God save the King." On the motion of the Vicar, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Glee Party and also to Miss Crane, the accompanist.

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ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

SYMPATHY WITH THE CHAIRMAN

The chairman said he was sure he was voicing the feelings of all the members when he said how very much they regretted to learn that Corporal J. D. Sheffield, a son of the chairman of the Board (Mr W. Sheffield) had been killed at the front, his name appearing in the casualty list published in the papers that morning. It must be a great blow to their chairman. They all knew that Mr Sheffield, jun., was a very worthy young man, who did his duty before he went and also at the war. He (Mr Varnham) also hoped that Mr Sheffield would soon be restored to health and be able to take his place again in that room. (Hear, hear). Personally, he felt Mr Sheffield's continued absence very much. He moved a vote of confidence with him in the death of his son. This was seconded by Mr Fowler and carried.

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TWO COALVILLE COLLIER'S KILLED

In the list of Leicesters killed at the front published in this issue will be found the names of Pte. Ernest Moore and Pte. Fred Davis.

Pte. Moore was a collier lodging with Mr Joseph Brownlow, in Ashby Road, Coalville, and was called up as a reservist on the outbreak of war. He took part in the South African war. A brother of the deceased soldier is

Mr J. H. Moore, of No. 5 Marshall's Row, and a sister, Mrs Measures, resides in Highfields Street, Coalville. His father was one of the victims in the Whitwick colliery disaster.

Pte. Fred Davis was working at the South Leicestershire Colliery when the war broke out and he joined the colours in August. He used to lodge with Mrs Dennis, a sister at Hoo Ash. His brother, Mr Davis, a collier at the Ellistown pit, lives nearly opposite the Halfway House in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

A SOLDIER'S NERVES

Ernest Miles, soldier, was charged with being a deserter from the 1st Battalion Leicestershire regiment. P.C. Willars deposed to arresting the defendant at Higham-on-the-Hill that day. The regiment was stationed at Cosham, near Portsmouth and the defendant had been absent since last Wednesday.

Defendant said he had been in the trenches and his nerves had given way. He was 35 years of age and had a wife and family at Higham. Supt. Smith said the defendant was called up with the reserves on the outbreak of war and went out with the First Expeditionary Force. He was wounded in the retirement from Mons and was invalided home. He overstayed his leave and that was the fourth time he had been arrested for deserting. He was remanded to await an escort.

COALVILLE POLICEMAN IN THE TRENCHES

INTERESTING LETTER

We have received the following interesting letter dated April 9th, from Lance-Corpl. T. Grainger, who before going to the war was a Coalville policeman residing in Gutteridge Street.

Dear Sir, - Just these few lines to let you know how the Coalville and District boys are going on. I am pleased to say that they are enjoying good health and are taking the rough with the smooth, and you can rely on them doing their bit of work when the time comes. We expect to start moving them back as soon as the weather permits, but I must say that this is the worst country I have been in for rain. You cannot trust it for five minutes, but we are looking forward to the fine weather now and then we shall be finished with the trenches for a time. We have done nothing else but trench work since we arrived in this country, and I must say we have had our share as we were in for 22 days at a stretch and we spent Christmas and New Year in digging, but we had a day off Christmas Day and pleased to say it was quiet for a time. The Germans showed themselves for once, but they went rather shaky. They were the Prussians, but the regiment on our left were quite civil; they left their trenches and pulled together with our men and exchanged souvenirs with us. We have been working with another regiment in our brigade since January and doing six days in the trenches and six days rest. It was nice and quiet for the first week or two but when war was declared we had to keep under and it is rather bad now as we are under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and also a few shells just remind us that they have got a gun or two behind. But we know they have not got the best of ours now, if they had at the beginning of the war. Ours can bite quite as look and bite worse. Of course, we cannot see what damage they do in the way of casualties but they cannot all dodge them. I am sorry to say that the Coalville lads had a rough time during last month, but none serious. There were four in this battalion but they suffered much worse in the 2nd Battalion, and we heard of Corporal Sheffield and Sergeant Twigg being killed. We sometimes get hold of the "Coalville Times" and sometimes we don't but I have heard the lads in my company say, "Have you had the 'Times' this week?" Then Sten Hardy will say, "Yes, so and so has got it." Then there's a run to the next company. By the time I get to the last man he has lost it or something worse, and we keep quiet until the next week and 10 to 1 it's the same old tale I think I have told you all this time, but when I feel fit I will put a good letter together for the benefit of the old town.

Yours etc.
Lance-Corpl. T. Grainger

AT THE FRONT

ANOTHER COALVILLE MAN'S LETTER

Writing to his sister, Mrs George Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, Pte. A. Edwards, who has been some months at the front, expresses thanks for a parcel received safely together with the "Coalville Times." He proceed, *"I came out of the trenches last night (April 2nd) so still have a little more time to myself now for the next fortnight. We are having nice weather here now. It rained a little last night, but that was the first for about a fortnight. . . . . I see in the "Coalville Times" that another of my old school mates, Jack Manders, has gone under. It is a bad job but it can't be helped. There are worse things happening every day. It will be a blessing when it is all over. Tell Harvey Morris I haven't time to be making belts at present, but I will make him one if I have the good luck to get back to England. I am still keeping in the best of health and hope all are the same at home."*

COALVILLE SAILOR'S WEDDING

CEREMONY IN SCOTLAND

An interesting wedding took place at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, on Easter Saturday, in which the contracting parties were Miss Dorothy Lilian Laywood, eldest daughter of Mr Harry Laywood, one of the Coalville postmen, of Bridge Road, and Mr John Henry Finch, son of Mr John Finch, of Coalville.

The bridegroom is a gunner on H.M.S. Benbow and was to have been married at Hugglescote Church, but as he was unable to obtain leave the wedding had to take place in Scotland. The bride was attired in a pretty dress of cream satin, with a wreath of orange blossom and veil and was given away by her mother. There were no bridesmaids. Pte. H. Bellamy, of the Royal Marines, also of H.M.S. Benbow, was best man and the officiating clergyman was the ship's chaplain, the English ceremony being followed by that customary in Scotland.

The bridegroom appeared in his naval uniform and was given a hearty send-off by his ship mates, it being the first wedding amongst the crew of this vessel. After a short stay in Scotland, the bride returned home with her mother and the bridegroom rejoined his ship. They had many congratulations and the numerous handsome presents received included several from members of the crew.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

MR OWEN HALLAM

Killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. Deceased was a collier, and a popular member of the Coalville Swifts F.C. His parents reside at the Green, Hugglescote.

VESTA TILLEY AT THE HOSPITAL

SINGS TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS

On Saturday night, Miss Vesta Tilley in the interval between her two appearances at the Leicester Palace, paid a visit to the 5th Northern Hospital at Leicester, now full of wounded British soldiers, and delighted the men with a selection of her inimitable songs. She was received at the hospital by Lieut. Col. Harrison, and in order that as many of the wounded men as possible might hear the popular artist, a large number of them were carried into the large ward on stretchers.

Miss Tilley sang her songs in admirable style and was greatly touched at the end of the performance she was presented with a bouquet of flowers in the national colours. Subsequently she intimated to Mr W. G. Gibbs, the secretary of the Recreations and Literature Committee, her desire to present the hospital with sets of gramophone records of her songs, an offer which was gratefully accepted.

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GERMAN OFFICERS AT DONINGTON HALL

"JUST LIKE AN HOTEL"

The Berlin "Zeitung am Mittag" publishes a letter from London describing a visit to the well-known German lawn tennis player, Herr Froitzheim, who is a prisoner at Donington Hall. The visitor stayed to tea, which was served by a German waiter from a London restaurant. He writes, "One can have everything just as in a hotel. There is also a splendid bar. Froitzheim said that he was well housed. The rooms are all very large and simply furnished. From the dining room there is a very fine view. Thus far the number of prisoners is 70, and including servants, cooks and so on, there are 95 persons in the castle, but huts, with good beds, etc., are being constructed in the park. When I arrived they were playing squash racquets. There is also football, hockey, and lawn tennis every day, when the weather allows. The commandant is very charming and very nice to Froitzheim, and permits everything. He himself is a keen sportsman and is a great promoter of all games. While I was there an English girl came to pay a visit to an officer. A girl friend of hers had to wait outside the park as she had no pass. When she heard that Froitzheim, whom she evidently knew from a Nottingham Tournament was there, she asked at once after Rabe and Kleinchroth, and was disappointed not to find them all, as she would have liked to speak to her old friends.

SYSTON SOLDIER BROTHERS

ONE KILLED, THE OTHER CAPTURED

Of the two soldier sons of Mr and Mrs W. Earl, 2, Archdale Street, Syston, one has been killed and the other is a prisoner of war in Germany. The one killed was Lance-Corporal G. W. Earl, of the King's Own Scottish

Borderers, who gave up his life on March 9th. He was aged 25 years. The other son, Private Charles Earl, was captured as far back as October last, when serving with the 2nd Sherwood Foresters.

LOUGHBORO' SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs J. Easton, with her one child, lives at 43, Pinfold Street, Loughborough, received official intimation on Monday that her husband, Pte. J. Easton, of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action "somewhere in France" on April –th. Private Eaton, who was 31 years of age, was a Reservist, and was employed at the Empress Works.

LEICESTER TERRITORIAL KILLED

Information has been received of the death of Pte. Alec Clark, 4th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment (Territorials), who was killed in action on April 5th. Clark, whose parents reside at Park Road, Blaby, enlisted in August last, and the news of his death has caused much regret in the village where he formerly lived. He was only 21 years of age, and was a prominent member of the Blaby Swifts Football Club.

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DO YOU KNOW

That it is proposed to raise another Territorial Battalion in Coalville?

ELLISTOWN

SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE

On Wednesday in last week, a social and whist drive were held in the Ellistown School in aid of Soldiers' Comforts Guild. There was a capital attendance. The MC's were Messrs. W. Mason (dancing) and T. R. Grundy (whist) and the prize winners were:
Ladies 1, Mrs Trueman, 2, Mrs Hatter;
Gents 1, Mr Barnes, 2, Mr Elton;
Mystery, Mr G. Shepherd. The ladies of the knitting guild provided refreshments.

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

AN ADULT SCHOOL MAN

News was received in Coalville yesterday in a letter from a soldier at the front, that Private Ernest Samuel Boot, of Melbourne Street, Coalville, was killed in action on April 15th. Boot is a member of the Coalville Men's Adult School, and a son of Mr Sam Boot, employed at Messrs. Wootton Bros. works, and secretary of the Coalville Liberal Club. The young soldier was only about 18 years of age, and went out with the second batch of Territorials from Coalville. A letter written by him to Mr B. B. Drewett, president of the school, appeared in a recent issue of this paper.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 24th collection from 9 districts realised £5 15s 5d.

CITIZENS' CORPS CHURCH PARADE

A contingent of the Coalville Citizens' Corps attended Copt Oak Church on Sunday morning. The vicar (Rev. H. K. Bros) who conducted the service, gave an excellent address from St. Matthew x 34. He said that in the relationship between patriotism and religion there was a common bond; both demanded sacrifice. By sacrifice they were fulfilling the highest destinies of life. Appropriate hymns were heartily sung. The collection was in aid of church expenses. The rendezvous of the Citizens was Marlborough Square and they marched back after the service and were there disbanded.

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COALVILLE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHAPEL

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

39 MEMBERS AND SCHOLARS WITH THE FORCES

The anniversary services in connection with the Sunday School were held at the Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sunday and were largely attended, the chapel being packed.

The preacher was the pastor, the Rev. W. H. Wills, and the children and choir, as usual, excellently sang special hymns and anthems. The children were conducted by Mr Jonathan Burton and their hymns were: "Singing" (H. Buckley); "I am Jesu's little friend" (H. Dennis); "For the glory of the Lord" (H. E. Nicol); "The name forever precious" (A. Clarke); and "Sound the battle cry" (H. Dennis). The choir, under the direction of Mr W. Baker, opened each service with the Sanctus, "Holy, holy, holy" and in the afternoon sang the anthems, "How amiable are Thy Tabernacles" (H. Buckley) and "Be not afraid" from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" while in the evening the anthems were, "I was glad when they said unto me" (Thomas Allwood) and the "Hallelujah Chorus." Mr F. Newman officiated at the organ and an efficient orchestra also assisted in the accompaniment.

The annual report read at each service stated that the income for the year was £55 16s 6d and the expenditure, including £3 added to the school building fund, was £55 5s 9d, leaving 9s 9d in hand. The number of teachers was 27 and there were 265 scholars, an increase of 23. Twenty-five scholars sat for the county scripture examination and 21 gained prizes or certificates. An appeal was made for assistance in extending the school premises, the present accommodation being greatly overtaxed.

The afternoon collection realised £18 17s and in the evening the amount was £24 4s 9 1/2d, making a total of £43 1s 9 1/2d, which was a little better than last year. An interesting feature of the services was that a roll of honour containing 39 names of men from the church and school who were serving with the forces was read. This was as follows:

Pte. Fred Briers, 16025, Leicester Regt.
Gun. Arthur Green, 1999, 5th Leicester Regt.
Pte. F. Whitmore, 7106, 3rd Black Watch.
Pte. C. Hatter, 2534, 5th Leicester Regt.
Sergt. Walter S. Baker, Army Service Corps.
Corpl. Bosworth, 55081E, Railway Transport.
Pte. Victor Woolley, 2482, 5th Leicester Regt.
Pte. H. Savage, 154, North Mounted Brigade.
Pte. F. Williamson, 2702, 5th Leicester Regt.
Drummer A. Burton, 5481, Royal Warwicks.
Pte. J. Bullock, 3300, 5th Leicesters.
Pte. J. Smith, 3833, R.A.M.C. 4th Cavalry.
Pte. H. Fern, 10533, 6th Leicester Regt.
Pte. T. Davis, 16044, 9th Sth. Staffords.
Pte. W. Gray, 2528, 5th Leicesters.
Pte. Major Baker, 2431, 2/5th Leicester Regt.
Sergt. James Collins
Pte. Jack Knifton, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. A. Deacon, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. E. Hickling, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. A. Mason, 7th Leicesters.

Pte. W. Brewin, 1st Leicesters.
Pte. H. Arnold, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. H. Davis, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. F. Osbourne, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. J. Moon, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. H. Tudge, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. W. Maddocks, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. R. Smith, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. A. Peace, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. L. Peace, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. E. W. Osbourne, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. G. H. Osbourne, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. E. Moon, 7th Leicesters.
Pte. F. Bennistone, 7th Leicesters.
Corpl. A. Smith, Gloucesters.
Pte. F. Moon, 7th Leicesters.

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WHITWICK SOLDIER IN NEUVE CHAPELLE BATTLE

LIKE PLAYING SKITTLES

Pte. E. Howe, of Golden Row, Talbot Street, Whitwick, writing to Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head, Thringstone, says he is quite safe up to date (April 7th) and wishes to thank the good men of Thringstone for gifts sent to him and his pals. As soon as the parcel was opened and they saw the cigarettes they were all eager to get some as they were to get at the Germans at Neuve Chapelle. They all *"make a charge"* for it when anything comes from England.

Howe continues, *"Perhaps you know how it is out here, and I am going on as well as you can expect. I keep on doing my duty and if I should go under – I hope I don't – I can't grumble. As the old saying goes, "I've had a good run for my money." The Germans asked us to give them a chance, and we did – a dog's chance. It was like playing skittles for a time. I can tell you it was easy enough. I have got a lot of things, but they won't let us send them to England. The wounded can take them and that is how some people have got them in England. If I get a chance I will send you something. I think a lot more will have to come yet. I wish it was all over and I was having a pint of your good old Shardlow. But cheer up! I am not down-hearted, and don't mean to be. Keep smiling."*

BAD FOR THE HUNS

Howe has also sent a postcard to the office of this paper which was received on Tuesday morning. He says they are having better weather in France now, which makes it better for getting about. But if it is bad for them it is also bad for the Huns. Howe holds that they are more than holding their own now and they mean to keep pegging away. He comes from the right place for that and there are several more from Whitwick besides himself. He concludes: Keep smiling.

The card is dated April 16th, and the writer says he is still alive and kicking and in the best of health.

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL'S EXPERIENCE

Private Edgar E. A. Boot, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorials, son of Mr Arthur Boot, of Park Road, Coalville, writing to his father, says they were spotted by a sniper, with the result that one of them got his heel taken off. *"A little after that, another of our chaps was on guard, and he just got up to have a look round when he got one through his cheek. Of course, he died very shortly afterwards."*

GIFTS TO ELLISTOWN SOLDIERS

LETTERS OF THANKS

Ellistown people have not be unmindful of the gallant lads from their parish serving in the forces and Mr H. Brown of 234, Whitehall Road, secretary to the local committee, has received several letters from soldiers, expressing thanks for gifts received. Among these are the following:

35th Field Ambulance
Hillsborough Barracks
Sheffield

It is with the greatest pleasure that I send an acknowledgement for the gift I have received. I am pleased to hear that the people of Ellistown think of those who have left good homes to serve their country. Please remember me to the friends and thank them for their gift.

Pte. C. Whittaker

5th Leicesters

Received cigarette case and was very pleased with the same. Thanking the patriotic friends at Ellistown.

J. B. Bamkin

Ellistown Hotel

I received present kindly sent by Patriotic Concert Committee and thank all for same.

S. Black

Epping, Essex

Please thank all kind friends for present received while at Luton. It is nice to know that we have friends who think of us while we are away. Hoping to be home before very long.

Pte. W. Mason

35th Field Ambulance
Hillsborough Barracks
Sheffield

It gives me the greatest pleasure to write these few lines to you in answer to your gift, which I was very pleased with. Hoping to be remembered to all friends and thanking all who took part in the social and concert.

Pte. Arthur Cooper.

Among others who have written are Pte. Bowley, 5th Leicesters, Luton; Pte. B. Farmer, 4th Leicesters, Luton; and Pte. H. Partner, 4th Leicesters, Luton.

COALVILLE SOLDIER TWICE WOUNDED

PRIVATE J. WARDLE

Pte. Joseph Wardle, whose widowed mother resides in Margaret Street, has been twice wounded in the war and is now at Windsor. He is in the Coldstream Guards and went out with the First Expeditionary Force, being in the great retreat from Mons. He recovered from a wound and was taking his place again in the firing line fighting near Ypres when he had two fingers shot off. Last week, Wardle paid a short visit home and returned to Windsor.

He is a brother of Private Wardle of the Grenadier Guards, who as reported in a recent issue was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle.

THRINGSTONE SOLDIER'S EASTER HOLIDAY

IN CAPTURED GERMAN TRENCHES

An interesting letter has been received by Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head Inn, Thringstone, from Private William Sykes, A. Co. 5th Leicesters, also a Thringstone man, now at the front.

Sykes expresses thanks to the members of the Buffaloes' Lodge for present of cigarettes which he was very pleased to receive and he would have answered sooner, but on the Sunday night that he received the parcel they were just starting for the trenches and were there for five days. He continues; *"We are now out for a short rest before going in again. It seemed a very funny Easter holiday, firing at the Germans night and day for five days. I thought many a time about you and all the boys having the piano going and enjoying yourselves while we were hard at work, but it will only make me think more of the holidays if we live to come back. I am sorry but they will not allow me to send anything home in the shape of relics or else we could send plenty of all sorts of things. The Post Office would have nothing else to do. While we were in the trenches we found all sorts of things – rifles, bayonets, clothes, etc. The trenches we now occupy have been German trenches until they were driven out. There are scores of dead bodies of soldiers and horses lying about which they dare not fetch to bury. It does look a desolate sight. I hope you will have success with the cycle club, and I hope the captain, J. Lee, is well again. The last time I heard from him he was ill in bed. I have not heard any talk of Kitchener's men coming out here yet, so I doubt if Button has landed. I should like to meet him here and hear what he thinks of it. As for _____ this is just the place for him. He doesn't know what real soldiering is like yet. He would know more if he was out here night and day in the wet, and not able to go to sleep, but always on the watch for the Germans. Remember me to all the boys and tell H. Weston I wish him success in his promotion. I expect he fancies himself now he is W.P. Must close now, as we are just off for a bath. Will tell you more when I see you again, which I hope will not be long.*

P.S. Tell _____ and _____ we have got a vacant place for them here, if they like to come. They will be close to Tinker, who is in my company. If they let me know when they are coming I will try and meet them."

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RAVENSTONE

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive organised by Miss Cresswell and a committee was held in the Ravenstone School on Wednesday night, the proceeds of which were in aid of the funds of the Soldiers' Comforts Guild.

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MARKFIELD

Councillor Pearse (Leicester) addressed a large audience in the schoolroom, Markfield, on Wednesday evening. His subject "How the British Tommy Fights" illustrated by excellent lantern slides, was most instructive. The lecturer made an eloquent appeal for additional recruits. Mr Preston presided. Songs were sung by Miss Pearse and Mr L. C. Page, and a patriotic recitation was given by Mrs Hatter (Hugglescote).

LIFE AT DONINGTON HALL

GERMAN OFFICERS "LUXURIES"

CHAMPAGNE BARRED

Donington Hall and the German officers interred there formed the subject of further inquiry in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon.

Mr Butcher, the Unionist member for York asked whether Mr John B. Jackson, of the American Embassy, in Berlin, was correct in describing Donington Hall as *"a beautiful place where there is regularly a hot breakfast, a light meat luncheon, and three course dinner in the evening, and there is also a well stocked wine cellar, wines, beer, champagne, whiskey, etc., and a store from which the prisoners can buy practically anything which they want in the way of food, delicacies or clothing."*

Mr Tennant said that officers interred at Donington Hall were allowed to spend up to the maximum of 3s a day on their food. The exact manner in which this might be distributed between the various meals was a matter for local regulation. There was no free rations. Certain wines and beers might be obtained on payment, but champagne was not allowed. (Laughter). Articles of dress, tobacco, etc., might be purchased from the stores.

Mr Butcher asked whether the prisoners were given facilities for playing squash rackets, football, hockey and lawn tennis and whether English girls were allowed to pay them visits.

Mr Tennant said facilities for exercise were given by the provision of suitable ground within the internment area. Prisoners had to pay for whatever apparatus they might require for games. Any prisoner might, with the permission of the commandant, be visited once a month by not more than two persons at a time. These visits took place in the presence of a member of the staff. No rules had been laid down as to age or sex of visitors. (Laughter). The system under which German prisoners of war in Great Britain were being treated was based upon, and did not go beyond the engagements made by this country when she signed The Hague Convention. The Government did not propose to depart from it.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The Whitwick Colliery employees, in connection with their Death Fund decided to exempt men who enlisted from payment during service with the forces, or until such time as the committee determined. The widow of Pte. Jack Manders, of the Leicesters, is the first to benefit by the fund. Manders was a miner employed by the Whitwick Colliery Company, and a collection taken on Friday realised just over £30 for the widow and two children. In the unfortunate event of any other soldier who was an employee at the Whitwick Colliery losing his life in the country's service the same collection will be made for the dependants and paid from the Death Fund.

As a result of the recruiting effort in Coalville and district on Sunday, when meetings were held at Bagworth, Ellistown, Hugglescote and Coalville, 19 recruits were enrolled. At the four meetings combined it was calculated that at least 8,000 people were addressed and the result was hardly as satisfactory as had been anticipated. There are yet hundreds of young men in the district who would make excellent soldiers and the need for more men cannot be too strongly emphasised. This was the dominant note: *"Men, and still more men."* Some harrowing stories were told at the Swannington meeting on Monday morning by non-coms who have returned from the front wounded. These were no fairy tales but atrocities committed by the Germans of which the speakers were actual eye witnesses. The very thought of what might happen if ever the Germans get to England should make the young men stiffen their backs and be determined to do their utmost to prevent it.

A sum of £7 15s was realised by collections at recruiting meetings in Coalville district on Sunday in aid of providing a motor ambulance in Leicester to be used in carrying wounded soldiers. At Bagworth the amount was £2 15s, Ellistown £2, Hugglescote £1 5s and Coalville £1 16s.

An Army Order, issued on Monday states that a slip has been prepared for attachment to the front pages of Territorial force attestation and notice papers with a view to making it clear that men enlisting into the Territorial Force during the period of war and entitled to claim a free discharge at the end of the war.

A new recruiting campaign has been set in operation, *"The man the army wants now"* to quote the heading of the new poster issued by the War Office, is not only the soldier but the worker in armament factories. It is no secret that the supply of fitters, turners, machine hands and unskilled labour, is seriously inadequate to the demands for war material. Steps are being taken to induce local authorities to release all the suitable men in their employ, and Lord Kitchener made an urgent appeal for volunteers to assist in increasing the output of guns, shells and rifle ammunition. They are not asked to submit to military discipline, but they are regarded as serving their King and Country as truly as if they were in the trenches. It may be that a mistake was made at the outset in allowing so many skilled mechanics to enlist, but the mischief has now been done, and it only remains to organise all the resources that are available in order to furnish the troops in the field with an unceasing amount of ammunition.

Interesting letters from Pte. A. Emmerson, to the Bagworth schoolmaster, (Mr J. C. Williams) and Pte. A. Lucas to the manager of the Whitwick Quarry (Mr J. H. Robinson) have been forwarded on to us for publication, but are unavoidably held over till next week. We have to submit all soldier's letters to the Press Bureau in London for sanction and these did not reach us in time to enable this to be done this week.

DO YOU KNOW

That the lamp in Coalville Market Place which is lighted all night, has been blackened at the top in case of a German air raid?

That two machine guns captured from the Germans will be included in the Coalville charity parade on Whit Monday?

That a tea, social and dance is to be held by the Women's Adult School Knitting Party in the Adult School Hall on Wednesday May 5th, for the Soldiers' Comforts Guild?

That recruiting meetings are to be held in Coalville Market Place tonight (Friday) and on the Fox and Goose ground tomorrow afternoon?

That an illustrated lecture for recruiting purposes is to be given by Councillor Pearse, of Leicester, at the Coalville Olympia (kindly lent) next Sunday night?

That at the spring assembly of the Baptist Union, at Bloomsbury, on Tuesday, the president, the Rev. J. T. Forbes, introduced to the assembly 15 Baptist chaplains shortly bound for the front?

MARKFIELD

RECRUITING MEETING

A public meeting for the purpose of obtaining recruits for the army was held in the Church Institute on Wednesday evening, the Rev. H. K. Bros, presiding, when a very stirring and patriotic address was given by Mr R. J. Allen. Five names were given in at the close of the meeting which terminated by the hearty singing of the National Anthem.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 25th collection from 8 districts realised £4 9s.

SOCIAL

On Wednesday evening a social and dance were held in the Progressive Hall at the Coalville Liberal Club in aid of the funds of the Soldiers' Comforts Guild. There was a fair attendance Messrs. T. Kirby and F. Dent were M.C.'s and Mr J. Cooper played for dancing. Mr W. Burton sang.

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS GUILD

TO THE COALVILLE DISTRICT MEN AT THE FRONT

The Guild has discontinued sending mufflers and similar warm comforts but if any of you want socks to help you on your march to Berlin we women will be very glad to send them out to you if you will send your full regimental address, and also your house address to the hon. secretary of the Guild, Mrs L. L. Baldwin, 88, London Road, Coalville.

Will those who see this letter please tell any other Coalville District men about it.

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

FOOTBALL AT BAGWORTH

Robert Bennett, soldier, Sidney Bennett, carter, Wilfred Bevins, collier, William Sperry, clerk, Richard Bateman, Ernest Bennett, Sidney Murby, Alfred Farmer, George Reed and Robert Webster, pit boys, were summoned for playing football on the highway at Bagworth, on April 15th. They failed to appear. P.C. Screaton said he was in plain clothes when he saw all defendants playing football in the street with a tennis ball. He had cautioned them before, the same day and on other occasions. Defendants were each fined 5s or 5 days, the case against Robert Bennett, the soldier, being withdrawn.

TO AWAIT AN ESCORT

William Ashwell, soldier, of the 3rd Leicestershire Regiment, was summoned for being a deserter from the regiment at Purbrook since March 26th. Evidence was given by P.C. Shaw and defendant was remanded to await an escort.

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DESFORD BOYS COMMISSIONED IN THE ARMY

A meeting of the Leicester Education Committee was held on Monday evening, and was presided over by the Mayor. The reports, summaries of which have already been published, contained no contentious matters. A note of sadness was imparted to the proceedings by the statement that seven old Desford schoolboys had been killed and 21 wounded at the war, but not a little pride was felt when Councillor Sault mentioned that two old boys had been given commissions in the army. The report of the school was again excellent, and equally satisfactory was the testimonial of the work that is being done at the Boys' Home in Highcross Street. Satisfaction was expressed at the progress Mr Oxley was making towards recovery from his severe illness and, incidentally, the Mayor expressed regret that Mr Groves is somewhat seriously indisposed.

WHITWICK EGGS FOR SOLDIERS

The following is a statement as to the number of eggs collected by Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick, and sent to the wounded soldiers in the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester:

Mr Robert Sharp, Whitwick – 100
Mrs Swift, Greenhill – 30
Mrs W. T. Hull – 30
Miss Bell, Castle Rock – 20
Miss Thirlby – 20
Mr G. T. Harding – 20
Mrs James, Forest Rock – 14
Mr Joseph Merriman – 14
Mrs Beale, Greenhill – 12
Mr Glyn, Whitwick – 12
Mrs Neale, Greenhill – 12
Mrs A. J. Briers – 12
Mrs Thompson – 12
Mrs Popples – 12
Mrs Black, Whitwick Waste – 10
Mrs Pepper, Greenhill – 10
Mr W. Ward, Castle Rock Cottage – 10
Mr H. Stinson – 10
Mr Downes – 10
Mr G. McCarthy – 10
Mr Thomas Kelly – 10
Mr J Tacey – 6
Mr W. Berridge – 6
Mrs Belcher – 6
Friend – 2

Total = 410

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN AT COALVILLE

SUNDAY A BUSY DAY

Sunday was a busy day in the Coalville district with representatives of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee meetings being held at Bagworth, Ellistown, Hugglescote and Coalville. The Leicester Ivanhoe Band gave their services and paraded at each place, playing patriotic airs. All the meetings were

well attended, particularly at Bagworth and Coalville, and collections were made for a Red Cross motor ambulance to be used at Leicester.

The speakers were Councillor C. Pearse, Mr F. Tippetts, and Mr Rands, all of Leicester, and Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer. The Coalville meeting was attended by about two thousand people in Marlborough Square. Mr Rands, who is a socialist, occupied the chair, and in the course of his opening remarks said he had preached the gospel of socialism, but today, all parties were united in one common aim and that was to defeat the Germans. He pointed out that the aristocrats of the country had responded nobly to the call and were shedding their blood in the country's cause and he asked had the workers nothing to fight for? Would it be nothing to them if their homes, their furniture were smashed up, their wives violated and children slain? It was up to every eligible young man to enlist to defend their homes and friends. (Cheers).

Mr F. Tippetts said they were out for men. The German doctrine was Might v. Right, but ours was Right v. Might. Germany was placarded all over with the words: "Gott strafe England" – which meant 'God punish England' – and German children are being taught the gospel of hate. If it was necessary to bring the name of the Deity into this terrible business, Englishmen did not say, "God punish Germany," but "God forgive Germany." He went on to say that whatever might be the outcome of the war, today the Germans were victors. They occupied a large portion of Belgium, of France, and of Russian Poland and until they were driven out the real struggle had not commenced. It was a struggle for supremacy. The Belgian army were defending 16 miles of frontier, the British troops 33 miles, the French troops 583 miles and the Russians 1,800 miles. When they considered that the Germans, with the aid of the Austrians, were engaged on all those miles of frontier and blocking the Allies progress, they would realise how well organised the enemy was. The Allies had not made progress since they drove the Germans back from their mad rush on Paris and it was the "contemptible little army" that did that. They appealed to all young men between the ages of 19 and 38 to come forward and enlist and assist in driving the Germans back. At Neuve Chapelle within 20 minutes of the sounding of the advance, the Leicesters were over three lines of the German trenches. Did not that stir their blood? Go and help your pals, he urged. He recently heard a story of a West Kent soldier who had just returned from the front bringing some trophies with him and offered £5 for a German helmet, but the soldier's reply was, *"Why don't you go where they can be picked up for nothing?"* They are giving them away in France, said Mr Tippetts, so join this pleasure trip to the continent and get a German helmet for nothing.

CHEERS FOR A COALVILLE SOLDIER

Councillor C. Pearse said he was pleased to be on the same platform with his old opponent Mr Rands. For over nine years, week in and week out, Mr Rands had fought him at his meetings in Leicester Market Place, but all parties were united today. As a Unionist he supported the Government today, because they were up against the greatest thing known in history. He then called for three cheers for a Coalville soldier, Sergt.-Major T. Dooley, who had been made a Lieutenant in His Majesty's Army.

The cheers were heartily given and Councillor Pearse went on to say that our men were fighting for King, for law, for liberty. He asked trade unionists to remember the most precious thing they possessed was liberty. He heard one trade unionist say that he had no quarrel with the Germans and they had done nothing at him. The reason for that, said Mr Pearse, was that they had not had a chance to get at him. What did they do in Belgium? Another person had said that he could not enlist because his teacher had told him that he should love his enemies. Again he reminded them of what the Germans had done and said it would be much worse if they got to England. He had heard three boys and three girls talking in that crowd, and one of the former said, *"I am not going till I am fetched."* A young man was not worthy to walk out with a girl who was not prepared to defend her. The country would not fetch them and they would be branded cowards. He referred to the movement to release shop assistants, urging that women could sell cheese, butter and other things just as well as men and he suggested Captain Stevenson should send round every shop in Coalville, urging for the release of every eligible young man. Some of the young fellows made it an excuse for not going that they were supporting their mothers, but he pointed out that the Government made an allowance to mothers and other dependants which increased in amount according to the scale of allotment by the soldier himself and they could go out and know that their mothers would be well provided for. If there were any cases where that was not so, he said they should be brought to the notice of the recruiting committee, who had already rectified a number of cases.

Captain Stevenson also made an appeal to the young men to come forward and said that if any do so who were physically unfit he was prepared to give them a certificate to that effect. Coalville had done well, but when they remembered the number of young men there were in the district, it ought to do better. (Cheers).

Nineteen recruits were enrolled during the day.

MEETING AT SWANNINGTON

A meeting was held in Culvert Square, Swannington, on Monday morning with the object of drawing the colliers who work on the night shift. Prior to the meeting, Desford Industrial School Band paraded the village playing patriotic airs.

Mr W. Baldwin presided, and was supported by Capt. Stevenson and five non-commissioned officers from Wigston, who have been wounded at the front and are now convalescent. These were Sergt.-Major Pugh, Sergt. Arnold, Sergt. Edwards, Corpl. Bradshaw and Corpl. Williamson.

The chairman said he came among them as a friend and neighbour and he felt the position somewhat keenly, that after eight months of war he should have to be appealing for recruits. There were few families in Swannington had not one or more representatives serving in the colours in one branch or another, but it was deplorable to think that there were yet over 50 young men in that village who had not sufficient respect for their friends or patriotism enough to come forward.

Capt. Stevenson said he visited Swannington on several occasions and must say that he was disappointed at the response. Swannington still had a large number of available young men, it was the working classes which had the greatest privileges to protect. It the Germans were to get into Swannington, instead of enjoying an eight hour shift and a minimum wage, the colliers would be forced to dig trenches for the enemy and would have to be thankful to receive a little food and recognition. They would also undoubtedly suffer abuses, their wives and children would be violated and their whole freedom taken away. It was up to them to defend the privileges they had enjoyed.

An appeal was made by the wounded officers who said more men were urgently wanted and those in trenches out there were looking for the young fellows in England to go and give them a hand. One of the corporals described some ghastly things committed by the Germans which he had himself seen. In one house he saw a baby lying dead with both its ears cut off, while in another room a number of Germans were violating the mother. He concluded: If you can stand that without being determined to go and do your part to avenge such acts then all I can say is, God help you.

Capt. Stevenson said that was no tale. What the corporal had told them he saw himself. And if the Germans ever got to England; it would be ten times worse. It was up to every able-bodied young man to come forward and enlist for the duration of the war. They were only wanted while the war lasted and when peace was declared could take their discharge and come home with honour.

The Recruiting Sergeant moved about among the people inviting likely young men to give in their names, but the result of this meeting was not very encouraging.

OTHER MEETINGS

A similar meeting was held at Ellistown on Monday night, Desford on Tuesday, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe on Wednesday and Ashby last night.

COPT OAK SOLDIER KILLED

News has just been received that Val Hull was killed in action on Sunday, April 11th, “somewhere in France.” He enlisted in the 3rd Bedfords in September, and only went to the front last month. He was 19 years of age. The deceased was a valued chorister and ringer at the Parish Church, and on Sunday the flag was flown at half-mast, muffled peals were rung on the bells, and at the conclusion of evening service the organist played the Dead March in Saul.

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ASHBY COUNTY COURT

COALVILLE DEBTOR ENLISTS

Wilfred Fern, collier, Mammoth Street, Coalville applied for an administration order, his debts amounting to £17/13/4 which he offered to pay at 5s a month until 15s in the pound was paid. A letter was received stating that since sending in his application, debtor had joined the army. Under these circumstances the Judge said he could not deal with it. The clerk said the creditors could not do anything with the man.
The Judge: They might break into his house. I think I must protect a man who has gone to the front. I will adjourn the application and grant a protection order.

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RISEN FROM THE RANKS

COMMISSION FOR A COALVILLE SOLDIER

LIEUT. T. DOOLEY

Many congratulations will be offered by Coalville people to Lieut. T. Dooley on having been awarded a commission in His Majesty's Army. The gallant soldier is an old Coalville British School boy, and a son of Mr T. Dooley, of 122, Margaret Street. He joined the army, (Leicesters) 12 years ago and has spent nine years in India, being there when the war broke out. He came over with the Indian Expeditionary Force to France and has been taking part in the fighting. He was by the side of Corpl. Jack Sheffield when the latter fell at Neuve Chapelle. Only two months ago he was made Company Sergeant-Major. The news of his further promotion, announced at a meeting in Marlborough Square, Coalville, on Sunday afternoon, was enthusiastically cheered by a crowd of about two thousand people. He was married in March last and his wife is still in India.

Lieut. Dooley is every inch a soldier and has done remarkably well since adopting the army as his profession. For four years he has acted as a gymnasium instructor and he was captain of the regimental football team in India, having played for Coalville Town during the latter years of his civilian life.

His father, who is 67 years of age, had to give up work as a miner 12 months last August owing to receiving a blow in the eye while in the pit, and we regret to say that he is now nearly blind. The sight of the injured eye has completely gone and that of the other is affected. He is receiving compensation from the owners of Snibston Colliery in which, excepting a brief interval, he worked for 57 years. For 18 years he was master of the old Snibston (later Coalville Town) Brass Band being a soprano cornet player of great merit and allowing for the short interval that he was away in Yorkshire, he was in the band for 45 years. He has four sons and six daughters living and three of the former are serving in the army. In addition to the lieutenant there are Ptes. Joseph Dooley (R.A.M.C.) and Fred Dooley (Sherwood Foresters). They are both married and have wives and families living at Cresswell.

FORMER COALVILLE SCOUT'S MESSAGE

"KEEP ROLLING UP"

Pte. T. H. Bagshaw writes to Mr W. Baldwin, of Coalville, as follows:

"I am serving in the R.A.M.C. and have done for the past five months. I hope the Coalville boys keep rolling up. There is no mistake we have done remarkably well in Leicestershire, but there are still a lot more who are fit for service in the British army and navy.

I hope what is left of the Coalville troop of Boy Scouts are still doing the good work they were doing before I left them. I think that all the senior boys have enlisted, and I think it is only right that each one should be presented with an 'Old Scout Badge,' which is obtainable at headquarters. I am the only one serving at this hospital from Coalville Brigade, and it is up to me to keep up the honour of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. We are finding plenty to do, but you can always find that wherever you go. We have had two convoys of wounded in a fortnight, each consisting of 116 and 118 respectively.

Before those came in, we had over a thousand. I recommend every young man who holds a nursing, or ambulance certificate to enlist at once. There are hundreds wanted to play several football finals – grounds somewhere in Berlin. And as soon as they sign the forms, the times and dates can be fixed. My last appeal is: Keep rolling up Coalville. The Recruiting Office is in Hotel Street.

I must close now, you may show Captain Stevenson this if you like. Perhaps he will not remember me, but I played a bugle for recruits at Appleby Magna by his request, and if you think it would be a draw for recruits, you may use what you want in the "Coalville Times.""

Pte. T. H. Bagshaw
Known as Boy Humorist and Entertainer
No. 1 Barrack Room, 28,205, R.A.M.C.
R.H. Hospital, Woolwich.

COALVILLE SOLDIER THINKS OF HIS CHILD

"KISS HER FOR ME"

Pte. A. Brownlow, writing from the front to his wife at 83, Margaret Street, Coalville, expresses thanks for a letter and parcel received safely. The weather is getting nice out there now and the socks sent were rather too thick. He thanks his wife's dad for the twist sent and says he has smoked it all and would like a bit more, though he has plenty of the other sort of bacca. The latter burns his tongue, but it is better than none at all and so he puts up with it. He proceeds, "I saw Tom Grainger last night and he told me to remember him to all friends at Coalville. We are out of the trenches for a little while and I will drop you a few lines before we go in again. Ask your dad whether our Lily (writer's child) meets him coming home from the pits. Bless her! I shall be glad when she can come and meet me again. Kiss Lily for me."

In another letter written to his father and mother on April 18th, Brownlow thanks them for sending him more of his favourite “twist.” He goes on to say that he is quite well and asks his dad whether little Lily comes to meet him like she used to. The weather is improving now out there and it is much better for getting about. “I am in the trenches again for a little while,” he says, “and it is a treat when the weather is alright.” He enquires how the pits are working and hopes his father and brother have been doing well.

BAGWORTH SOLDIER A PRISONER

MORE FOOD WANTED

A letter was received this week from Pte. G. Bevins (Bagworth), now prisoner of war in Germany, addressed by Mr G. Swan of Bagworth. The letter is as follows:

Dear George, - I now write in answer to yours. I received your first letter and money safely. I was quite pleased to hear from you and glad to receive the money. It was most kind of you to think of me and I shall never forget your kindness and if you ever need any help and I am able to help you I shall be most willing to do it. I have thought of the many kind friends that contributed and of many old friends since I have been here, but owing to my ill luck I am a prisoner, but I am quite alright. I did what I could so cannot help it. I am going on as well as you can expect. I hope it will soon be warmer, it is so cold up here. If you hear of anyone wanting to send me anything, tell them they can send food up to 11 lbs I weight free. Kindly remember me to Jackie and tell him his son is keeping his spirits up as best he can. Tell him there are plenty of pork pies coming. Tell Sambo I shall try to and catch him up or have a good try, at 4d a pint. We are allowed to smoke but cannot get any Woodbines here. Many thanks George, I shall not forget your kindness, so goodbye till we meet at Bagworth. Good luck, yours, etc.

George Bevins.

DEATH OR VICTORY

COALVILLE SOLDIER’S THRILLING LETTER

Pte. Charles Cope, of the 1st North Staffs. Regt., writing from France to his parents at Waterworks Road, Coalville, states that he is in the best of health. He says how letters are appreciated by the soldiers at the front. They cannot write as much as they would like as the letters have to pass through the hands of the officers, but he asks his friends to *“buck up”* till he returns. It may be years and it may be never, but he is hoping to return some day. He goes on to relate how a mate in his regiment was killed by his side from a shell and says it was terrible, but they are Britons and don’t have to think of death. If the war is not over in about five months from now he thinks he may last years. He has had a slight wound in the leg, but nothing serious and he has now left off the bandages. He asks them not to fear for him as he is strong and can meet three Germans. He stabbed one through the heart with his bayonet, into another he put a leaden bullet and the third he met with the butt end of his gun. *“We are in a happy land”* he says, *“amidst shot and shell. You should see them spread as we go to meet them. It is death or victory all the time.”*

WHEN THE ZEPPELIN CAME

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

Pte. G. Hodson, son of Mr and Mrs J. Hodson, of High Street, Coalville, who is serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps in France, writing to Mr Fred Henson, of Coalville, says:

"I hope you are quite well, as it leaves me not so bad at present. I saw Goodman's letter in the "Coalville Times" and was glad to know that he was well. I am not in the trenches so get off a little better than them, but we see plenty of the wounded and at present we are taking the Leicestershire Territorials in. I went and saw them as they came out of the trenches. I saw Sergt. Roland Hill and Lieut. A. T. Sharp, who at present are quite well. I often think about you and when I saw Goody's letter thought I would write you. Have you got the old car yet and the phonograph? I shall be glad to see the Olympia once again and the Engineer's Arms. I want to tell you of our scare the other night. We were all asleep when suddenly we heard a bang. I looked out of the window and saw a Zeppelin. They dropped any amount of bombs, but did little damage. I hope to hear from you soon, as a letter from an old pal cheers us up."

SAW HIS COMRADE FALL

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL'S INTERESTING LETTER

The following are extracts from a letter of Private John George Bennett to his parents, Mr and Mrs J. R. Bennett, of Coalville, dated April 20th.

"The sun is shining lovely and it is quite hot today, but the nights are chilly. We have not long come out of the trenches and shall be in again by the time you get this. Our brigade band is now playing about four miles from the firing line and the artillery is quiet; it makes one forget almost there is a war on. Being in the trenches is a most trying time and we need a rest every _____ days, but they do their best for us when we come out, as can be seen by the thoughtfulness of the band. I am writing to Mrs Baldwin and Miss Drewett having received the socks. Thanks very much for the parcel; please send as many parcels as you like of eatables. I do like chocolate. Besides it being nutritious, it is handy to nibble at in the trenches, finding something nice to do.

When we are in the trenches we neither receive anything, nor send anything so I cannot write so often now. This is my third letter to you, the two previous ones being destroyed through having to meet yours waiting for me. I write as often as possible. You keep writing for it is such a pleasure to have a lot of news from home. I don't know what you would think about the havoc wrought by big guns near the fighting, every house is blown to bits and dead bodies lie about where it is dangerous to bury them; most are between our lines and the Germans which are 100 yards apart here. Convey to Mr S. Boot my sincere sympathy about the death of Sam. I was not far away when he was shot through the head and may tell him where Sam is buried after the war. It may be some condolence to his father to know he was doing his best and was buried properly with the church rites. I felt it a bit myself, knowing him since we were kids.

We do see life here and things that peaceful Coalville people would be horrified and faint at, we take not the slightest notice of now.

Tell Mr Holmes I will write a good letter soon and thank him for his card and good wishes. Miss _____ has sent me some writing material now so I shall need none for a week or two unless I get it pinched. Kind regards to the other neighbours and all who ask about me. I read Mr Guttery's lecture in the "Coalville Times." I hope you have a prosperous anniversary day. I should have liked to have been with you but impossible. Give 5s of my money as subscription.

Keep on wishing me good luck and I know I shall be permitted to see you again. Tell Morley we live sometimes in little places in the ground that would just suit a boy like him, also there are plenty of nice fireworks here at night."

"COALVILLE TIMES" AT THE FRONT

ADVERTISEMENT BRINGS INTERESTING LETTER

Mr F. Gregory, manager of Goodly's Worcestershire Furnishing Company, Market Street, Leicester, writes forwarding a letter he has received from a soldier in France which mentions the "Coalville Times" and shows that this paper, with its advertisements, gets a wide circulation. The letter is from Mr G. W. Massey, representative of Swinnerton's Ltd., Hanley, Staffs, who writes from No. 4, General Hospital, France, as follows:

"Dear Mr Gregory, - I have just picked up a copy of the "Coalville Times" and seeing your advertisement in same caused me to think you might like to have a line from me. I joined our local 'Terriers' at the outbreak of the war and after severe training we were sent out here, where we have been doing our little bit. I had the misfortune to stop a bullet on Saturday, April 3rd and have been here since Easter Monday, on which day the bullet was extracted from my neck. From what the doctor tells me and what I can see now for myself, I have had a very narrow escape, for it missed my jugular vein only by the smallest fraction of an inch. In spite of all, I am pleased to say I am now on a fair way to complete recovery and feeling very little the worse for my experience. I have quite a lot of news but, of course, we have to keep within bounds and not say too much. I shall be very pleased to get a line from you. Also if you see Mr Kirkman and Mr Wood will you please give them my kindest regards and say I should like to hear from them. If I get a chance I will drop them a word. Trusting that you are keeping in the best of health and that there is plenty of business about, etc."

ELLISTOWN

SOLDIER'S WEDDING

At St. Christopher's Church on Wednesday in last week, the marriage took place of Pte. Harry Lagoe, of the Rifle Brigade, only son of Mr and Mrs G. B. Lagoe, and Miss M. Chiswell, of Ellistown. The Vicar (the Rev. F. Boothby) performed the ceremony before a good congregation. The bride, who wore a grey costume and hat to match, was given away by her brother, Mr J. Chiswell, and was attended by two nieces as bridesmaids, Misses S and E. Galman, of Sheffield. They were dressed in navy blue with velvet hats trimmed with red roses. Mr A. Richardson, of Hugglescote, acted as best man. After the ceremony a number of friends were entertained by Mr and Mrs G. B. Lagoe. The bridegroom had been invalided home from the front with frost-bitten feet but has now recovered and this week returned to his regiment's headquarters.

COALVILLE 'TERRIERS' CHEERFUL

IN THE TRENCHES WHILE COALVILLE CUP FINAL WAS ON

Writing from the front on April 19th to friends at Coalville, Pte. T. H. Usherwood, who was one of the first 50 Territorials to leave Coalville, states: *"I am pleased to say that I am going on alright. We have been in action in the first line of trenches and are now out for a rest before going in again. You cannot imagine what it is like in the trenches only when you are here. It's bullets above, around and everywhere and the large guns fairly deafen you. We are in the very thick of the fighting but of course, cannot say where we are. Every man is intent on victory, although we are having to rough it in many ways. Though we are facing death all the time, yet we are all in good spirits and you would find us whistling and singing favourite tunes. The Germans are good shots. They are soldiers, but the boys are equal to them in any way. I don't know how we should have fared without the 'Terriers.' I have dropped across several old chums and faces from Coalville and had a good long chat with them. Thanks for "Coalville Times" and good wishes. It's so nice and cheery to read home news. We are hoping that the war will soon be finished and that we shall soon be home again. Although up to now we shall not all come back, but I have good faith that I shall come through alright. I was in the trenches when the Coalville Cup final was on and it was the first time I have missed it. I hope Whitwick will pull it off in the re-play. Remember me to all and Lawrence (his brother, who is also at the front) also wishes to be remembered."*

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

Pte. E. S. Boot, of the 5th Battalion, Leicestershire Territorials, who, as reported in our last issue was killed in action on April 15th, being shot through the head. He was a son on Mr Sam Boot, secretary of the Coalville Liberal Club, for whom, with the mother and other members of the family, much sympathy is felt. Before the war, the deceased soldier was employed at Messrs. Stableford's Works.

He was a member of the Coalville Men's Adult School, in which his father is also an official, and when the school met on Sunday morning, it was evident that the sad event was keenly felt by the members. The

president (Mr B. B. Drewett) made suitable reference to it and expressed sympathy with the bereaved parents, which the members passed in silence by standing.

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

Pte. Jack Measures of the Leicesters, with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, writing to friends at Coalville, states that he is well and is hoping to return safely. He asks for a “Coalville Times” to be sent to him and mentions that Arthur Brownlow is a few miles from where he is. He says they are taking turns in the trenches and are going on alright.

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LEICESTER

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

RECRUITING AT COALVILLE

A DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE

CAPT. PRITCHARD’S WARNING TO SLACKERS

The recruiting campaign in Coalville and District was continued on Friday evening when a meeting was held in the Market Place and was well attended. Capt. Pritchard, of Leicester, who presided, said they wanted

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

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

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

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

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

Sergt.-Major Pugh, of the 2nd Leicesters, said he was in India when the war broke out and within five days of landing at Marseilles they were in the trenches. He went on to relate his experiences there and said they had never met the Germans in equal numbers. It had always been anything up to ten to one on the side of the enemy and the British soldiers in the trenches had often asked when more men would come to help them. If one of their comrades in the pit was under a fall of roof, they would risk their lives to save him. Then why not help their comrades out there? A man told him on Saturday that he should not go till he was fetched. “I would like the job of fetching him” added the Sergt.-Major. God forbid that the Germans should win. If they did, life in this country would not be worth living.

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

CITIZEN'S PARADE

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

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS

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

AN ABSENTEE

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court on Tuesday, Pte. Lewis Hopkins, of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment at Glen Parva barracks

since 7 am that morning. It was stated that he had been on furlough since January and had been ordered to return to the barracks to go away with a draft that morning at nine o'clock, but failed to turn up. He was remanded to await an escort, which took him by the 3.50 pm train.

ANOTHER ABSENTEE

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

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LEICESTER FOOTBALLER WOUNDED

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

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ANOTHER COALVILLE SOLDIER PROMOTED

HOW HIS BROTHER DIED

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

BAGWORTH MEN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE

WITH THE 4TH LEICESTERS IN THE TRENCHES

Private A. Emmerson, writing to the headmaster of Bagworth Council School says: *"Naturally we are broken in easily, being detailed off with the old stagers in trenches of a most elaborate kind. The approach to these trenches was through a very long communication trench – a raised floor of wood keeping it absolutely dry. Stray bullets cracked on the parapets or whistled shrilly overhead. It will hardly be allowed me to give you exact details of the construction of these trenches, but I will give you some faint ideas. They had been built with great care and by men who had been used to fixing props, etc., in coal mines. The earth at the back was held up by props and wire-netting and in front was a system of hutches running the length of the trenches. These were built up to the parapet of earth and sand bags. In order to fire, the men stood at the entrance to the hutches and fired over. Some slight head cover was arranged but very little. The popular name of these shelters is "Booby-hutches." The name explains itself but they are used by everyone of course for purposes of rest and sleep. Each hutch has its brazier of coke and the men fry bacon and make tea all day long. It is amusing to note the apparent willingness of both sides to cry quite at meal times. There*

is a distinct lull in firing and smoke rises merrily from both lines. Just where I was situated the lines were only 30 yard apart and greetings were exchanged morning and evening between the rival combatants. To the 'Tommy' the German is familiarly known as 'Fritz' or 'Allemand.' As for my own personal experiences they were not very exciting. My brother and I were put on an observation post only 25 yards from the enemy and it grew so hot that we were taken off and the post abandoned. The line of trenches ran through a ruined nunnery, and the courtyard of this place was very dangerous indeed, for bullets struck the walls and ricocheted all over the place. It was here I saw my first casualty – one man getting a nasty wound in the head. Am glad to say it did not affect me in the least. So much for our baptism of fire. We are now holding our own lines and doing our own work. Of the latter commodity there is more than enough, for we found the trenches in a very poor condition. Our ambition is to make these trenches as comfortable and respectable as those we first went in. I got soaked through time after time on the occasion of our first venture here and stood and dried in the cold wind. Booby-hutches are rapidly making their appearance now thank goodness.

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

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

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

WHITWICK QUARRYMEN AT THE FRONT

FRENCH GUNS LIKE THUNDER

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

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

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

I remain, yours faithfully.

Private A. Lucas.

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

"BOUND TO WIN"

IBSTOCK TROOPER IN THE TRENCHES

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

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

J. Dawson
A volunteer Ibstock Trooper

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

BY EXPLOSIVES DROPPED FROM AN AEROPLANE

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

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

FALLEN HEROES

TWO MORE COALVILLE MEN KILLED IN ACTION

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

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

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

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

Mr George Johnson, Midland Railway engine driver, Park Road, Coalville, and his wife have been informed that their eldest son, Albert, serving with the Rifle Brigade, has been killed in action at a place not stated. The deceased soldier is stated to have served in the Rifle Brigade prior to the outbreak of the war, and re-enlisted. He was shot through the body, and the first intimation was received by his fiancée, to whom Johnson had addressed a letter which was found on his body. The young lady conveyed the sorrowful news to the parents. Before rejoining the army, Johnson was in a sanatorium at Rugby, where he had made good progress.

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

A COALVILLE SOLDIER POET

LINES FROM PTE. HARRY SHARP

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

The 6th Leicesters

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

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

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

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

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

'COALVILLE TIMES' APPRECIATED IN THE TRENCHES

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

"COME ON YOU ENGLISH ----"

COALVILLE SOLDIERS SAYS THE GERMANS DON'T LIKE THEM

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

In another letter, Cope expresses thanks to Mrs Hale for rock and cigarettes. He also says the cake was very nice and the socks were very useful. He will want some more when they get a move on, which will not be long now if the weather keeps nice. He continues, *"I don't think it will be long now before we can get it over. I am sorry to say that Mr Gordon has had his leg off and an old pal of mine has been killed. But we are here to fight for home and beauty. Good old England for ever and not what the Kaiser said, "New Germany." He is mad. We are happy enough here and have plenty of fun among ourselves."*

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

DENIES A RUMOUR THAT HE HAS BEEN WOUNDED

COWARDS WHO REMAIN AT HOME

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

In a subsequent letter, Hodson refers to Tom Welch as having been made sergeant. *"I was told yesterday that the 5th Leicesters were coming out of the trenches and went to meet them. The 4th battalion were just coming out and I was told that the 5th could not come out for another 12 hours. I was feeling in a rage about it when someone shouted, "Sam," and I saw George Beale. He said he had just had a letter saying I was in Netley Hospital with my leg off. It is a rumour going round Coalville and you can deny it as I am quite safe. The danger is from aeroplanes which are frequently flying over, but we give them our deserts. Our airmen are much better than theirs. I am just on the borders of Belgium and a long way from the trenches. You say you wish I was at home, and I do sometimes, if only for a little while, but it is only cowards who are remaining*

in England at present. Don't send me any more pudding as I get it every day, but send me a cake now and then for a change. I got the pipe and was very pleased with it."

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

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

WHITWICK CHURCHMEN SERVING IN THE ARMY

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

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

Friday May 14th 1915 (Issue 1210)

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COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENGLISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

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

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

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

Yours truly
Helen Freer
The Stony Gate, Leicester

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LEICESTER CITIZEN CORPS

COMMANDANT'S NEW APPOINTMENT

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

GALLANT LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER

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

COALVILLE POLICE COURT

RECRUITING MEETING INTERRUPTED

Joseph Sharpe, collier, Coalville, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Coalville, on April 30th. Defendant admitted having had a drop of beer, but he denied being drunk and disorderly. P.C. Sibson said

the defendant interfered with the speakers at a recruitment meeting in the Market Place and Captain Pritchard complained. Witness and Inspector Dobney had to remove him. The Inspector corroborated. Defendant denied using bad language. He said he asked them to enlist him, that was all, and they told him he was too old. Fined 15s or 14 days.

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SOLDIER'S WIFE ASSAULTED AT THRINGSTONE

CASE AT COALVILLE POLICE COURT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS

A Coalville party visited Donington Hall on Sunday afternoon and, having obtained a permit, were shown round by one of the soldiers forming the guard. Surrounding the hall is a thick barbed wire entanglement, inside which no visitors are allowed, but from the other side some of the German officers who are now there as prisoners – there are a little over a hundred in all – were observed playing hockey and tennis on the greensward in front of the hall, it being a lovely afternoon. Others, all smartly dressed, were parading the walks in the beautiful grounds, smoking cigars and apparently passing their time pleasantly. The visitors

were led to understand that practically all the prisoners were men of wealth and paid for what luxuries they enjoy beyond the ordinary fare allowed to prisoners of that class. The soldiers forming the guard are quartered in wooden huts in the park and these were also inspected and found to be very clean and comfortable.

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 27th collection from 10 districts realised £6 0s 1d.

LEICESTERSHIRE FRUIT MERCHANTS AND GERMANS

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

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HOW LIEUT. T. DOOLEY DIED

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY

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

Lord Aberconway's Regret

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

Kind Message from the King and Queen

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

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

Private Secretary.

Sympathy of the Colonel, Officers and Men

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

It will comfort you to know that he suffered no pain. A shell burst in a splinter proof, where he was, and he was killed instantly. Your husband will be a great loss to the regiment. He was always so cheery and took a great part in all games, was an excellent soldier exceedingly popular with everyone. He was my Company Sergeant-Major for a short time previous to his being promoted and I never wish to have a better. Also as an officer afterwards, everyone recognised his good qualities. We all trust you will accept our deepest sympathy, and that the knowledge that he was killed when fighting for the good of his country will assist you to bear your terrible loss. Believe me, yours sincerely
M. Lewis
May 2nd, 1915.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

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

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

TRACED BY A PHOTOGRAPH

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

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MET A GERMAN SNIPER

HOW HUGGLESCOTE MAN'S BROTHER WAS WOUNDED

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

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

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

COALVILLE SAILOR'S VISIT

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER SAVED BY A BUCKLE

POETRY FROM THE TRENCHES

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

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

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

WHITWICK SCOUTS AT THE FRONT

INTERESTING LETTER TO FORMER SCOUT-MASTER

Signalman F. W. Ducker, of the 5th Leicesters, writing to Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick, having expressed thanks for pipe and tobacco, says that the scout work he learned in the Whitwick Troop has come in very

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

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

BAGWORTH SOLDIER A PRISONER IN GERMANY

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

OSGATHORPE MAN IN FRANCE

ENJOYED THE TRIP ACROSS

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER

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

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER

DESCRIBES LIFE AT THE FRONT

INTERESTING NARRATIVE

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

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

This makes about the fifth casualty we have heard of today. An owl is just flitting by calling to its mate. I can hear it plainly during the lull. A digging party is just going by. One of them, a chap of over 6ft., has just been struck in the head with a stray shot – hence the call for stretcher bearers. A ration party is just struggling

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

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

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

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

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

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

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S WARNING

IF THE GERMANS GET TO CALAIS

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

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

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

Friday May 21st 1915 (Issue 1211)

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FATAL MEASLES AT COALVILLE

SOLDIER'S TWO CHILDREN DEAD

The severe epidemic of measles prevailing in Coalville and District is, unfortunately, claiming several victims. Two children have died in one house in Margaret Street. They were Mary Ball, aged 3 years, and Edmund Ball, aged 15 months, the children of Pte. Thomas Ball, who joined the army some time ago, working as a collier before the war. One of the children died on Friday and the other on Saturday, and Ball was sent for from Luton in connection with the sad event.

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

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

LIEUTENANT S. P. D. THOMSON

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

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EXTENDING THEIR LEAVE

THREE COALVILLE SOLDIERS ARRESTED

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

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

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

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

He was remanded to await an escort.

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

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

Smith said he had no money to get there.

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

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 28th collection from 9 districts realised £3 17s 8d.

CITIZENS' CORPS CHURCH PARADE

The Coalville Citizens' Corps under the command of Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge (captain), travelled to Ashby by train on Sunday to attend service at the Parish Church. The Ashby Company, commanded by Mr G. J. German (captain) marched to the station to meet the Coalville Corps, and the combined parade, under the Coalville Commandant, marched to the Parish Church for the morning service. The Vicar (Rev. H. E.

Sawyer) officiating. The Coalville Corps marched home, more than five miles, the Ashby company accompanying them a little way out. Before separating, Mr German expressed the pleasure which the visit of the Coalville Corps had given the Ashby Citizens, and hoped that the visit was the first of many more. Mr Gutteridge said that he and the Coalville Citizens hoped to meet the Ashby Corps, with the Whitwick, Hugglescote, and Woodville Corps, on Whit Monday, and in thanking Mr German for the welcome to Ashby, hoped that the different corps would meet on many pleasant occasions in the future.

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MARKET BOSWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

IBSTOCK HOSPITAL FOR SOLDIERS

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

Dr Kelly: *They only say German measles and mumps and neither are very serious. Neither would want very skilled nursing.*
Mr Jaques: *German measles are nicer than English then, doctor?* (Laughter)
Dr Kelly: *Yes.*

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

THE YEOMANRY CASUALTIES

MARKFIELD SOLDIER KILLED

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

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

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

A memorial service is to be held at Groby Church.

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

ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

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

ASHBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL CADET CORPS

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

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KILLED IN ACTION

MILITARY FUNERAL AT KEGWORTH

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

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

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

DESFORD CHORISTER WOUNDED

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

A DESFORD TRIBUTE

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

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LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

REPORTED HEAVY LOSSES

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

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

Another report says: In the desperate fighting which lasted throughout the whole of Thursday last, the Leicestershire Yeomanry helped to save the British lines on the Menin-Ypres road, by holding up hordes of the enemy and massed artillery, until such time as reinforcements could arrive on the scene. In the process the Yeomanry lost over 200 men, and casualties amongst officers was particularly severe. We regret to announce that the following officers are reported to have been killed.

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

Officers Wounded

The following officers have been wounded.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAJOR W. F. MARTIN

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

LIEUT. THOMSON

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER REPORTED KILLED

NOT CONFIRMED

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

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

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

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

C.F. Watherston

TWO LEICESTER OFFICERS KILLED

CAPT. H. HAYLOCK

Information has been received that Captain Henry Haylock, commanding H Company of the 4th Leicestershire Battalion (Territorials) was killed in action in Belgium on Tuesday. It is believed that a German

shell inflicted the injuries which caused his death. Captain Haylock was very popular with his men. He was a son of Mr J. W. Haylock, of Leicester.

CAPT. A. C. HART

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

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FIRST COALVILLE SOLDIER TO ENLIST

INTERESTING LETTER FROM GUNNER W. J. CRACKNELL

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

"I received your letter and parcel alright and thanks very much. Everything was sound, even the cake. You should have seen the war dance by my chums round the parcel when I opened it. Please thank all contributors to the parcel. Tell Mr Roughton I wish to be remembered to him and that I will write to him in a few days. You ask about our guns, well, you can take it from me our lads outclass the Germans. I have seen some "Jack Johnsons" but our little lumps of mischief – I daren't tell you the size – can beat them. It is touching to see the "Jocks" come out of their trenches scraping their kilts, washing knees and scraping their top coats. They don't half look in a mess, but it takes more than that to dishearten our boys. You ought to see us in our dug-outs. We have a mouth organ and an old melodeon, and the "Jocks" have a bagpipe and when we have a chance we have a tune and a sing song. There will be plenty of work for plumbers here when this job is over as they have simply mown the houses down for spite, because our chaps are too good for the swines. You can believe all you see in the papers that's bad about the Huns, as it is worse than you have heard of. Please remember me to George Conibear. I don't suppose you can do so to my other pals as I expect they have enlisted, unless they have been rejected and are not in the colours by now, they are no pals of mine anymore. We did have a picnic on the 9th (Sunday). We simply gave the sausages (Germans) _____. The noise was deafening, shaking the ground for miles, but the excitement was grand. I went the other day and saw Leslie Cope and his brother Douglas. I also saw a Coalville lad named Snell. I went and asked him for Leslie as I knew the Leicesters were about three miles from me. I had two hours with them and they were pleased to see me (as I was them) in the pink and as happy as sand boys. They all wish to be remembered to friends. I hope Mrs Baldwin received her letter of thanks for the nice useful present that was sent to me before Christmas. I am getting quite a don hand at washing. I washed my shirt today and one of our lads washed his and hung it on a bush to dry and a Jack Johnson came and dropped near and blew his all to bits. He did swear and I laughed; couldn't help it. I would pity that fellow that fired the gun if he had him then. This job may last a long time yet. What with their gas bombs and shooting liquid fire and gas cylinders in front of our trenches, but it is of no avail to them. They can't leather our boys and our leaders know what they are about and how to carry things out. They are a fine lot of toffs, real good chaps so don't worry about me. I am in good company and the best of health. Best love to all and kind regards to Captain Stevenson, I hope he is still busy."

FORMER COALVILLE MINER

SERVING IN THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

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

He continues, *"I shall be very pleased to get back home to my dear wife and child, as I am sure they are anxiously awaiting my return. I am very pleased to hear of the good recruiting round about Coalville and*

hope they will turn out to be a fine battalion. I dare say you will not know me when I do return, as I have been away from home nearly twelve months now. You see the time is rolling on. I am attached to the Royal Engineers and like it very much up to now. I don't know what your opinion is, but I don't think this terrible war will last much longer. I hope not. Thanks for the 'cigs,' they come in very useful at a time like this. My wife wants to know when I am coming home and I tell her it will be when I have been to Berlin for a bun with a cherry on."

ANOTHER THRINGSTONE SOLDIER KILLED

PTE. W. MOORE

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

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

AT THE FRONT

CHEERY LETTERS FROM A COALVILLE SOLDIER

Pte. E. C. W. Massey, of the North Midland Division, son of Mr G. H. Massey, of 15, Melbourne Street, Coalville, has written several letters to his parents from the front, from which we take a few extracts. In one letter he says how he appreciates the 'Coalville Times' being sent out to him, as it is nice to read how things are going on at home and all the boys come to him to enquire whether it has come. Writing on April 5th he acknowledges receipt of a parcel and says he wishes to thank everybody who sent anything, as he cannot write to them all.

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

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

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

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

BAGWORTH SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

LETTER TO HIS SISTER

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

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

Dear Miss Heathcote,

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

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

COVENTRY POLICEMEN JOIN THE FORCES

COALVILLE AND HUGGLESCOTE MEN

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

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

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

IBSTOCK SOLDIER TO BE CONFIRMED

CEREMONY ON THE BATTLEFIELD

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

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

Another letter enclosed which is addressed to Gunner Lardner from a second Lieut. of the R.F.A. states, *"I have not yet run across your son but hope to sometime. We are right up in the firing line and I have had lots of experience of all those new German shells. I must say that our men out here are a very fine lot of chaps, and I often have a chat in the trenches with one or another, though, of course, the gunners are my favourites and I am very proud of the men in my section. It's a pity to see the increasing number of little wooden crosses on the green countryside but it's all for country's sake and the finest way that a man can die. I think those strikes should be stopped by law and the men sent out here."*

TWO ASHBY SOLDIERS KILLED

FELL AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

The death of two Ashby soldiers is reported. One is Private J. G. Poyser, who formerly belonged to the Worcester Regiment, in which he had served seven years. He was called up with the National Reserve and

joined the 2nd Leicester Regiment. He was killed at Neuve Chapelle, on March 10th. He leaves a widow and three children, who reside at present at The Green, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He was 41 years of age. Two of his brothers are serving in the 5th Leicesters.

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

SHEPSHED MEN REPORTED KILLED

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

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COPT OAK

PARISH CHURCH

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

ITALY IN THE WAR

GERMANS AGAIN USE POISONOUS GASES

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

THE OAKS

MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS COMMANDER

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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WELL DONE MARGARET STREET

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

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

Yours truly

W. E. Stevenson
Recruiting Officer

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

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

BREEDON SOLDIER KILLED

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

WHITWICK POSTMAN'S RECORD

GOING TO THE FRONT AGAIN

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

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

WHITWICK FOOTBALLER'S HUMOUR

GETTING READY FOR THE FINAL AT BERLIN

Pte. Lewis Wheeldon, of the 5th Leicesters, who home is at Alma Villas, Whitwick, writing to Mr T. Irons, of the Prince of Wales Inn, Whitwick, says he is in the best of health and continues, "We have been in the trenches for four days and have now come out for a rest. I see Whitwick lost the cup, but they will have to win it next year. A match will shortly be played in Berlin between the 5th Leicester crack shots and the German snipers. For further particulars see small bills. We are about to play in the final for Calais and I dare say before the finish a few of us will be crocked, as we are playing a rough team. We want some good men to be ready as reserves, men with plenty of pluck and dash and good shots. And we don't want pressed men, but good volunteers. There will be rum at half time and medals and tobacco issued after the match. The German's don't want us to play the final in Berlin for fear of spoiling their parks, but we shall. So if you come up now you will be able to get a place in the team for the final. The way we got into this final was by charges and good shooting. All railway expenses are paid and we will find you full kit, good food, tobacco and money, so what more do you want. So any new recruits who wish to play in the final should go to the nearest recruiting officer and he will sign them on. Remember me to S. Glover, Paddy Limb and all the old friends.

GERMAN AEROPLANE BROUGHT DOWN

WHAT A WHITWICK MAN SAW

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

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

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY RECAPTURE THEIR TRENCHES

TOLD BY A WHITWICK SOLDIER

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

COALVILLE SERGEANT KILLED

TWO IN ONE FAMILY

News was received from the War Office on Saturday morning by Mr W. Wesson, engine-fitter, of Margaret Street, Coalville, that his son, Sergt. George H. Wesson, was killed in action on May 9th. His brother, Sergt. Alfred Wesson, it will be remembered was killed on March 14th. They were both in the Sherwood Foresters

and had a short stay at Coalville on their way from India to France in October. Mr Wesson has another son in the army and a fourth son, a boy of 15, is eager to enlist as a bugler.

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

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER SEEING LIFE

HAVING AN ENJOYABLE TIME

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

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES

ANOTHER INTERESTING LETTER FROM A WHITWICK MAN

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

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

The whole area is a sight. It is one labyrinth of trenches (real trenches with sandbag parapets, dug-outs, craters, ridges, brick-heaps, debris, and barbed wire entanglements. It is the most uninteresting spot we

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ASHBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A MILITARY ENQUIRY

A letter was received from Dr. Robinson, medical officer to the Leicestershire County Council, enquiring on behalf of the army authorities, whether the Council could accommodate in their isolation hospital at Swannington, any soldiers who might be suffering from scarlet fever. The clerk said he had shown the letter

to Drs. Hart and Logan (medical officers) who both thought that the sanitary conveniences at the hospital would not be likely to meet with the requirements of a military authority. Dr. Atkinson said he was quite agreed and it was left to the clerk to reply accordingly.

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WHITWICK SOLDIER A PRISONER

TWO LOAVES BETTER THAN ONE

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

SOLDIERS IN MAKING

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN A CHARGE

HOW GERMAN TRENCHES WERE TAKEN

Pte. Ernest Nicholls, of Ashby Road, Coalville, serving at the front in the Royal Engineers, writing to his sister, Mrs A. Wharmby, also of Ashby Road says: *"Thanks for papers and parcel which I received after coming back from the trenches. My company left on Saturday night for the trenches and on Sunday morning about five o'clock our artillery started to 'biff' the Allemand* (this the French word for German). *At six o'clock the infantry charged, but when they got to the German trenches they found nobody there. We advanced further, and the enemy, who were in the next trench, opened fire on us. They had a machine gun every ten yards and although they fired as fast as they could, we captured the trenches. The mischief was done after this, and after a desperate struggle we had to retire into our own trenches again for want of support. On our right the French made splendid advance, gaining over seven miles. Must close now hoping this will find you in the best of health. You may put this letter in the "Coalville Times" if you like mentioning that I should like to know where some of the boys are."*

BAGWORTH SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

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

RAVENSTONE SOLDIER A PRISONER

WOULD LIKE SOME NOURISHING FOOD

Pte. J. Broadhurst, a Ravenstone soldier in the Coldstream Guards, is a prisoner of war at the prisoners camp, Schneidemuhl, Germany. In a letter to his parents residing in Church Lane, Ravenstone, dated April 15th, he says: *“I hope this will find you in the best of health, as I am getting along nicely after coming out of hospital. Don’t be alarmed. You will guess that it has left me a bit weak and I could do with some nourishment such as cake, jam, or anything tinned and don’t forget pipe, tobacco and cigarettes. I will repay you when I get home. I should like you to send as regularly as possible and send in those biscuit tins. Write back as soon as possible. By the way, I wrote to you 13 weeks ago – in January – let me know if you received it or not.”*

HUGGLESCOTE TERRITORIAL KILLED

PTE. CECIL THOMAS BEADMAN

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

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

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

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COALVILLE SOLDIERS' COMFORTS GUILD

NEARLY 3,000 ARTICLES SENT OUT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COALVILLE RAILWAYMAN'S TWO SONS KILLED

LORD ABERCONWAY'S SYMPATHY

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

Dear Mr Wesson,

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

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

Believe me,
Yours truly.
ABERCONWAY

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MUST HAVE PLENTY OF WATER FOR BATHS

OUR GUESTS AT DONINGTON HALL

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 29th collection from 10 districts realised £7 10s 5d.

POSTHUMOUS HONOUR FOR COALVILLE SOLDIER

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

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

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

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

ELLISTOWN

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

CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

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

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

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

	Deliberate	Rapid
E. Fisher *	99	89
J. S. Turner *	97	89
H. Goodwin *	94	84
C. Devonshire *	92	87
L. L. Baldwin *	91	81
D. Hooper	98	--
A. W. Clarke	90	--
E. Holmes	90	--
C. Bailey	88	--
H. Swanwick	88	--

Mr T. Lashmore and Mr C. W. Gutteridge have previously obtained their right to wear Proficiency Badges on active service. The range is open every evening except Saturdays and it is hoped that many more members

of the corps will avail themselves of the great advantage so easily within their reach and soon obtain their right to wear the badge.

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FALLEN LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMAN

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WHITWICK

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

SERVICE AT MARKFIELD

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

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

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

FALLEN YEOMEN

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT LEICESTER

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

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

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

CITIZENS AT THE ALTONS

INTERESTING FIELD DAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESCUED FROM THE NORTH SEA

GERMAN AIRMAN SENT TO DONINGTON HALL

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

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COALVILLE MAN NEAR THE DARDANELLES

THANKS COALVILLE LADIES FOR GIFTS

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

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

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

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

Driver Frank Taberner

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER WOUNDED

AFTER BEING AT THE FRONT SINCE AUGUST

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

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

LOCAL SOLDIER PROMOTED

RECOMMENDED FOR D.C.M.

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

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

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

WOUNDED IN EGYPT

CHEERY LETTERS FROM A COALVILLE SOLDIER

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

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

HUGGLESCOTE

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER'S RAPID PROMOTION

A YOUNG QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT

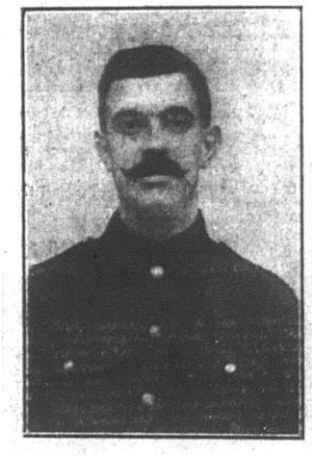
We are pleased to hear of the rapid promotion of a Whitwick soldier, Co-Quartermaster Sergt. E. Roughton, of the 8th battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, whose home is at St. Andrew's Lodge, near the Monastery. In a recent letter to his mother he announces his promotion to Quartermaster. He is still in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

COALVILLE SAILOR WOUNDED

IN THE DARDANELLES BOMBARDMENT

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

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



ELLISTOWN SAILOR LOST

WENT DOWN IN THE "GOLIATH"

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

GERMAN AEROPLANE BROUGHT DOWN

WHAT A COLEORTON SOLDIER SAW

Pte. Charles Fairbrother, of the 5th Leicestershire Regiment, writing to his parents, Mr and Mrs Joseph Fairbrother, Fishpond Row, Coleorton, on May 13th, says he is quite well and happy and hopes all are the same at home. He continues: *"We have just come out of the trenches again for a short rest. It has started raining again this morning, but we have had some beautiful weather. I saw Tom this morning and he said he was alright. While we were in the trenches last time I saw one of our airmen bring down a German aeroplane and you should have heard the troops cheer all the way along the trenches. The Germans tried to get their own back by shelling us at night, but luckily no one was hurt. I and eight or nine out of our platoon had a nice job ironing shirts and things this morning at the laundry, where they wash all the clothes of the troops. Must close now, with love to all."*

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COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

ABSENTEE

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

DESFORD

CONCERT TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS

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

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LEICESTER'S V.C. HERO

PRIVATE BUCKINGHAM RECEIVED BY THE KING

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

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

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

WELCOME TO COUNTESTHORPE

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

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

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LEICESTER RECRUITING

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

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FORMER COALVILLE POLICEMAN

POSTED AS MISSING

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

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

BED IN A WAGGON

COALVILLE SOLDIER THINKS IT A PALACE

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER LUCKY

"THANK GOD I AM ALIVE"

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

"We have just come out of the trenches for a rest and we need it. I am feeling a lot better now after a good bath, a swim and a clean change of clothing. I got the 'Coalville Times' while in the trenches. We were there six Sundays altogether. You don't know one day from another here. Whitsuntide makes no difference; the fighting has to be done just the same. We are giving the Germans "sock" now and I don't think it will last

much longer, I hope not anyhow. I've had quite enough of it. I think we shall soon have a good rest now and we've earned it. I have seen something of the war this last week or two and thank God I am alive. I lost two of my pals by my side and I've been very lucky not to be hit. I am sending you some poetry written by my mate. He's a good friend to me and I think it's worth putting in the "Times." It refers to the same battle as that in which J. Sheffield and _____ got killed (the death of the second Coalville man has not been officially notified. Ed). The verses referred to, written by L-Corpl. Turner, of the 2nd Leicesters, of Peckleton, are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COALVILLE MAN WOUNDED IN EGYPT

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

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER MISSING

FORMER CLERK AT DESFORD COLLIERY

The name of Lance-Corporal Fred Whitmore, of the 1st Black Watch, appeared in the official list of missing, published on Tuesday. Whitmore's home is at Main Street, Hugglescote, being a son of the late Mr Wm. Whitmore, and in civilian life was a clerk at the Desford Colliery. He joined the Black Watch soon after the outbreak of war. He was an expert shot and had been engaged in sniping. He was an old boy of the Hugglescote British School and his old master, Mr W. Fellows, has been in communication with the War Office, but at present there is no information beyond that he is missing. A photo of Whitmore in his Highland uniform will appear in our next issue.

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER REPORTED KILLED

AT THE DARDANELLES

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER ON GERMAN METHODS

NOT BAD SPORTSMANSHIP TO RETALIATE

Pte. W. Summers, of the 1st Leicesters, whose home is at 158, Ashby Road, Coalville, writing to us from the Front, says he has received several letters from friends and finds it impossible to answer them all personally. He hopes they will all keep on writing to him and take his reply through this paper. He cannot give much detail as to places, engagements, etc., which would be cut out by the censor, *"But I can say,"* he continues, *"that at our immediate front, there is no anxiety, as there has been nothing but the usual trench warfare for months, and everything points to calm at present. In other places there is a certain amount of activity and considerable advances have been made. So we shall soon be looking forward to a move ourselves, and, I hope, for the better, as this mode of life is getting monotonous, month in and month out. We have had hail, rain, snow and blow, but I am pleased to say that at the present time there is a plentiful supply of sunshine*

which makes things a little more pleasant than what they were in the winter. Everything here is picking up now – nice green grass, trees with plenty of foliage, and business as usual is the motto in town. So they seem to be following old England. No doubt you will have heard by now of the Germans' latest mode of warfare, viz., asphyxiating gases, a thing which I should think has shocked the whole of the civilised world, or at least I hope it has. A thing like this should draw the sympathy of the world on the side of our Allies who are giving up everything they possess to crush this common foe – German militarism. There is no doubt that the Germans intend to crush us and now they find they cannot they make use of this criminal invention. I hope we shall be allowed to return the compliment. Some people might think that bad sportsmanship, but it is impossible to cope with it otherwise. Why should Germany, one of the biggest subscribers to the Hague Convention, be allowed to break every law in it and get off scot free? It would never be the wish of our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, wives and sweethearts that we should take things of this description lying down."

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER'S RESOLVE

MEAN TO KEEP THE FLAG FLYING

A Whitwick soldier, Pte. H. Findell, writing to his sister, Mrs Howe, of Golden Row, on May 30th, says he is in the best of health and eagerly awaiting the chance to have a pop at the Germans. They are all waiting to

pack up, having gone through everything a soldier could go through. He encloses a photo of a group of soldiers of his company and states that they are all married men, who have left wives and children to fight for home and freedom. He adds, *"We mean to keep the flag flying."*

IBSTOCK YEOMAN WOUNDED

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

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ABSENTEE'S FOURTH TIME

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

Having already lost two brothers in the war, and also her father, Mrs A. W. Williams, of Burton-on-Trent, learned on Saturday that her husband, Private A. W. Williams, 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, was killed on May 29th by a shell bursting in his dug-out. He was twice wounded in the battle of the Aisne last September, but returned to the firing line. His brother, a territorial, is now invalided home, having been injured in the trenches. The late Private Williams leaves a widow and five children.

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

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

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports receiving cigarettes as follows: From Coalville Liberal Club box, 58 packets, 36 loose and 8d. Mr Higgins' shop, 22 packets and 12 loose. Conservative Club box, 12 packet and 5 loose and Marlborough Square box, 3 packets and 1s. The money was used to buy further packets. She has sent the

cigarettes to her son, Lieut. A. T. Sharp, who has undertaken to distribute them among the 5th Leicesters at the Front. One hundred packets and 53 loose have been sent this week.

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

That recruiting is still booming in Leicester?

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 31st collection from 11 districts realised £5 19s 5d.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

On Sunday morning the Citizen Corps had its usual bi-weekly drill, and a most interesting and instructive two hours were spent. The drill took them the form of field manoeuvres, the main idea being that a small force was defending Mantle Lane Bridge, and a much superior force of the enemy attacked from the direction of The Hermitage. This enable the enemy to advance across the Whitwick Colliery Brickyard, where the spoil banks and sheds afforded ample cover but do not agree with "Sunday clothes." Much of the work was excellently done, the final charge being quite realistic. At the same time the necessity of these drills was made apparent, and the proper use of cover is by no means the simple matter that it sounds to be. It behoves every member for his own safety's sake to use every opportunity he can of perfecting his education in this most useful and essential art. On Sunday there was scarcely a man in the attack who would not have been wiped out time after time. However perfect men may be in their close order drill, they cannot know too much about the open order, as on knowledge of that, the safety of one's kin to say nothing about his effectiveness against an enemy will largely depend.

SHOOTING

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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HARRY LAUDER'S PIPERS AT COALVILLE

GREAT RECRUITING MEETING

AN APPEAL BY WHITWICK CANADIANS

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

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

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

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

God bless him). There were hundreds who had only sons there and she knew that they felt as she did. She was told that there were a thousand men yet in the locality who could and ought to go. It could not be argued that the aristocracy were not doing their part. There was scarcely a noble house in the land that had not lost some dear one and in some cases three or four. Let them ask themselves the question, *"Am I doing my duty to my empire? – the empire to which I am proud to belong."* (Cheers)

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

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

The meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

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HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER MISSING

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

BURSTING SHELL

KILLS COALVILLE GUNNER

OFFICER'S TRIBUTE

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

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

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

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

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

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

MILITARY FUNERAL AT COALVILLE

SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS IN ACTION

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

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

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

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

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

There were six coaches for the mourners, the chief of whom were the young widow and mother of the deceased and his three brothers all wearing khaki. Six men, also in khaki acted as bearers. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack. On the breast plate was the inscription: *"Private Frank Martin, No. 6613, 1st Leicestershires, died June 11th, 1915, aged 28 years."*

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

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

wreaths under glass globes, one from friends and neighbours, another from the Coalville Working Men's Club and the other from a few friends.

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

KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES

WELL-KNOWN ELLISTOWN SOLDIER

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

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

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

WHILE GIVING A WARNING TO OTHERS

On Sunday morning, Mr G. C. Hart, insurance assistant-superintendent, of London Road, Coalville, received a letter from Pte. J. W. Lowe, at the front, expressing sympathy with him on the death of his son, Pte. Frederick Wilfred Hart, of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action in the trenches on June

8th. The letter stated that he was buried the same day, and the writer would look after his grave as long as they were in the locality. At the time he was killed, said Lowe, he had only just been telling another fellow to keep down, and he had been talking about Charlie Jewsbury, saying he was talking to him only 20 minutes before he was killed on Sunday, June 6th. Lowe adds that he feels it very much for two of them, Fred and Charlie, to be taken away, as they were the best all-round fellows that he had spoken to.

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER, LUCKY

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

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

"HOW GOES IT, COALVILLE"

LOCAL MEN MEET AT THE FRONT

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

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

COALVILLE AMBULANCE MAN AT THE FRONT

THE SORT OF MEN THAT ARE NEEDED

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER KILLED

BROTHER OF CITIZEN CORPS COMMANDER

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

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A SOLDIER'S THANKS

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

BELTON

WAR NEWS

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

CITIZENS' LEAGUE

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

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

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

CITIZEN'S CORPS ROUTE MARCH

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

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

A SOLDIER'S BABY

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

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

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

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

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

GIFTS TO WHITWICK YEOMANRY

LETTER OF THANKS

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

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

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

Yours sincerely

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

France

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 32nd collection from 7 districts realised £2 11s 10d.

AN ABSENTEE

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

LANCE-CORPORAL FRED WHITMORE

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

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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

Coalville, June 23rd, 1915.

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

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

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WHITWICK EGG COLLECTION

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

Previously Acknowledged	838
Mrs J. H. Robinson	45
Mrs W. T. Hull	24
Mrs T. Carter	20
Mrs J. Green	20
Mr R. Sharp	20
Mr Dan Ottey	9

Mr Dennis Ottey	9
Miss N. Birkitt	9
Mr O. Burton	9
Mrs W. Smith	6
Mrs F. Baxter	5
Mr Hoult	5
Mr Green	5

MOTOR OUTING FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

A RUN TO CHARNWOOD FOREST

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

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

RECRUITS

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

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M.P. IN THE TRENCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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COALVILLE TERRITORIAL OFFICER'S VISIT

LOCAL LADS IN GOOD SPIRITS

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

"CALL IT A DRAW"

A LEICESTERSHIRE ODE TO THE KAISER

(BY A WHITWICK TROOPER)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You managed to kick towards Paris.

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

Now, we are dribbling, screwing and heading
And driving you back bit by bit;
Our team are now finding their stride, mon
And soon from the field you must flit.

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

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

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

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

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

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COALVILLE BROTHERS IN THE TRENCHES

TWO OF THE FIRST FIFTY

Our photographs are of the brothers Lawrence and Thomas Usherwood, sons of Mr T. Usherwood, M.R. engine driver, who resides in Highfields Street, Coalville. Both are privates in the Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, 5th Battalion, and were among the first batch of fifty to leave Coalville. They have for some time been taking their turn in the trenches and their letters home, some of which have appeared in our column, are of a cheery nature. Both are in Sergt.-Major R. Hill's Company. The sergeant-major has been on a visit to Coalville this week and says all the men are in wonderfully good spirits. Before the war Lawrence Usherwood was engaged at Messrs. Stableford and Co's works, and his brother Tom worked in the office of Messrs. Wootton Bros.

Private Lawrence Usherwood

Private Thomas Usherwood

AN APPEAL FOR RECRUITS

BY A COALVILLE LAD AT THE FRONT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I remain, yours very sincerely

Pte. P. Thomas

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

CLERK FROM THE CONSERVATIVE OFFICE

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

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

The deceased was 22 years of age.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

GRAPHIC ACCOUNT OF THE CHARGE AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

Lance-Corporal A. Ballard, No. 8213, of the 2nd Leicesters, "somewhere in France" writing to his brother, Mr Ballard, of No. 53, Long Row, Ashby Road, Coalville, on June 10th says he is progressing as well as can be expected and continues: *"The weather is lovely now. We are in sunny France and not up to the waist in water in the trenches as it has been for nearly nine months. You say I must have a wonderful constitution to have stood it. Well, you know, God is good, and we must trust in Him. I believe I am the only Coalville lad in the second battalion who has been in all the engagements and come through without a scratch – thank God*

for it. As you know I served six years in India and we landed in France on October 10th. Our first experience of fire was when we were relieving the Worcestershires, who had had rather a rough time in the trenches. The Germans opened a heavy fire on our part of the trench, or ditch as it then was, but by the time daylight came we had got things into shipshape order. Then the Jack Johnsons started to come and our lads had to duck under. The first man to fall about 8 a.m. was the captain commanding my company, so our first experience of the trenches was not to our liking. We were in the trenches for 24 days and then came out for a short rest, but the battalion was called out again to retake some trenches captured by the Germans. That was on the night of November 29th and we took the trenches, but lost a good many men. We handed them over to the Ghurkhas, but as we were marching back to our billets, the Allemandes let us have a lot of shrapnel and there was some ducking and scattering, and we lost a few more men. After that we had a few days' rest except for a few digging patrols at night. Digging trenches in front of the German lines with bullets whizzing round is no joke. On December 19th we made a charge and took the trenches, also some German maxim guns which you no doubt saw paraded in Leicester. That was a night I shall never forget. We lay for two hours in the rain waiting for the word to advance and every man was shaking rather with excitement or cold. I pulled through and thank God, we took the trenches with very little loss. We had rather a bad time in the trenches owing to the water and mud which was knee deep and no matter how we threw it out, it was just as bad an hour afterwards. As luck would have it, we were out of the trenches for Christmas and were able to partake of the nice plum duff for which we thank the contributors very much. We also had lots of other things and plenty of fags, but, of course it was not like Christmas at home; still we were a lot happier than I thought we should be."

The writer goes on to trace events of the next few weeks and describes how when they were preparing for another attack the battalion was reinforced at a certain village where they had been resting for a month. He continues: *"I began to drop across a few Coalville lads, Sergt. Twigg, Corpl. Sheffield, Sergt. Shillram and others too numerous to mention, and it made me think that Coalville and district was doing its little bit for King and country. I know there are hundreds from Coalville serving in one regiment or another, but still we want more to help to pay back the cowards who don't know how to fight fair, and who are murdering our wives, children, relations and friends. When we went into the trenches again we had a hard time owing to the water being up to the waist, but things went on until that fateful morning of March 10th when we commenced the battle of Neuve Chapelle, or what I thought of at the time as the battle of hell. When the bombardment commenced, one would have thought that the devil had opened his gates and that all his imps were let loose. I shall never forget it, if I live to be a thousand years old and I don't think there is a man left who would like to go through it again, not for a million pounds. But if it had to happen again and the lads knew that they were wanted to go through it, I am sure they would do so with the same heart. At 7 a.m. a skylark rose into the heavens and burst forth into glorious song and all the world seemed at rest as we lay waiting for the music to begin. At about ten minutes to eight, the guns started, and the Allemandes retaliated, and I should think everyone went mad till they got used to it a bit. I can't describe the noise to you; it was hell upon earth. Anyway we all waited for the word to advance and when it was given we were over the parapet as one man. We rushed forward, our eyes sticking out of our heads and rifles grasped ready for the Allemandes. We cleared the first two trenches at a bound and left those who were in them to the mercy of the other two companies following us up, if they had an mercy for them, which I doubt. After we had scaled the first two trenches, we pushed on through an orchard and secured our objective with little resistance. But the Germans were at work with their artillery and shells fell like hail. God alone knows how any man was left to tell the tale. Our boys then had to start to dig to consolidate the ground we had won. With the late Pte. Owen Hallam, of Hugglescote, I went back with a message to say we had gained our object and I can tell you we had it hot going back. It was then that we heard of the deaths of our Coalville comrades, Sergt. Twigg and Corpl. Sheffield. Anyway, we delivered our message and got back to our company and started to help them in the work they were doing to make us safe for the night. The next morning the Germans made a heavy counter attack which seemed to be directed against our battalion but the boys were just in their element and mowed them down with 15 rounds rapid fire which we had practised in our musketry courses in India. We had a bit of our own back for the loss of our comrades the day before; in fact, a bit more than our own as I am sure we had three Germans for every Britisher. We held our ground until we were relieved on the evening of March 14th and there was not one who was not glad to get out of that hell. As we marched out of the trenches on the night of the 14th, it reminded me of a picture I have seen – 'The return from Moscow.' We had four or five halts and each time I fell asleep and had to be roused. We were dead beat and for 12 hours after we got to our billets we knew no more. No men were ever more glad to get out of the trenches, but after four days' rest we were quite ready to go back again, but as luck would have it we were given a rather easy time for a month. We went into a pretty French village where the people are very good to the British soldier and a few days stay in such a place away from the German fire makes you feel like new men again."*

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

The letter goes on at greater length and concludes with a humorous description of a dug-out named the 'Prince's Café Hotel' where a German band plays daily and the menu includes shrapnel soup, sniper's cutlets, bomb pudding, lyddite roll and asphyxiating tart. It also says there are 'good beds'. *"The music in the French park each evening includes such items as 'The barbwire two-step,' 'The dug-out barn dance,' 'My little wet home in the trench,' recitation, 'Gott strafe England,' 'Pick and shovel polka,' etc. The musical conductor is Von Kluck and during an interval, Turkish delight will be served to those catching big Willie in the firing line."*

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

FORMER WHITWICK SCHOOL TEACHER

KILLED WHILE ATTENDING A WOUNDED COMRADE

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

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

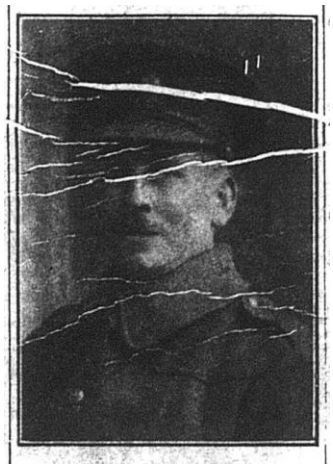
Prior to that a letter had been received from C.-Quartermaster Gardner, dated June 9th in which he stated: *"I am sorry to have to inform you that your friend L-Corpl. H. S. Burton was killed in action on May 25th or 26th whilst attacking the Germans. Fortunately, the trenches taken were held but the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

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

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

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

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



COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

THRINGSTONE MAN IN A BOXING CONTEST

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

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER'S LAST LETTER

REPORTED KILLED AFTER FIVE WEEKS IN FRANCE

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

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

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

The last letter written by Tugby was one to his father dated May 26th. Having acknowledged a letter and gift with which he said he was very pleased, he says: *"I shall never forget receiving it. I got it in the middle of a heavy shelling. We were working in the open digging, and our artillery had been letting them have it, when they opened fire on us. One shell burst close to us, but did no damage, just catching three of our chaps but not hurting them much. My word, dad, you wouldn't believe with what a force they explode and the heat from them is terrific. The officer had just told us that they were going to bombard and that if they fell close, we were to run for cover. And we took him at his word. We were laughing and talking together and all at once we heard something come screaming through the air – (you would be surprised to hear them coming, but it's true) – and someone shouted 'Look up.' Some ran, but I took an old soldier's advice and dropped down flat, and as soon as it had gone off, I got up and ran for cover. I don't think I ever ran so fast in my life before. Taking it on the whole it is not so bad. We have 2 hours in the day and two in the night digging to make the cover more secure. The country is a sight. It is all cut up and it is that hot in the day time that you sweat doing nothing. At the back of our trench we hear a cuckoo every morning and it makes us wonder if there is a war on, till boom, then you know, because your head is between your knees very quickly. It is terrible when they start shelling. It shakes the earth. There is a village behind our lines which is often shelled and the people are still there. At the time of writing this, I am in the trenches, but we come out tonight (Tuesday) for a rest. The regiment on our right lost about 30 men last night. It was just like hell let loose. I shall remember Whitsuntide. Many a man turned his eyes towards England yesterday and thought of the young chaps enjoying themselves with the girls, but that's all they are fit for, not to take a man's part. Thank God I am doing my part and if I have got to go under, I shall do it with a good heart. You can take it from me that our airmen are marvellous. They earn the V.C. every time they go up; they simply know no fear. It will make a bit of difference with Italy starting, but we have not won yet. But we are going to win. The food we get in the trenches is a lot better than what we used to get at Portsmouth."*

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

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MESSRS. STABLEFORD'S WORKMEN AND THE WAR

The following are interesting items from No. 3 of Messrs. Stableford and Co's "News Van."

In our last issue we recorded the promotion of Sergt. Roland Hill to quartermaster-sergeant. Roland has since been further promoted to sergeant-major, and as we go to press we hear of his appointment to warrant officer. Good luck to him, may he soon receive a commission. Men of his stamp are wanted.

Congratulations to W. S. Baker on his promotion to the rank of sergeant. Sergeant Baker is serving with the Mediterranean Fleet, and has witnessed some exciting scenes during the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts. We hope soon to be able to record some of his experiences.

All good luck to Privates George Dexter, William Hoult, Jeffreys Williams, Herbert Collier, Thomas Cockeram, Sidney Palmer and Bernard Nixon, who have enlisted since our last issue was published.

Sincere sympathy will be felt by all our readers with Mr G. F. Sheffield and family in their sad loss they have sustained by the death of Corpl. Jack Sheffield, who was killed at Neuve Chapelle.

Corporal Sheffield's reputation as soldier and sportsman is too well known to need any praise from us. No one of our local losses will be more widely or sincerely deplored.

The sympathy of all our readers will be with Mr W. Forrester in the tragic bereavement he has sustained in the loss of his son Charlie on the ill-fated "Princess Irene."

Mr Forrester has for a good many years been resident inspector here for the firm of Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster and Partners, and has been associated in particular with Bengal Nagpur Railway contracts. His son, through his visits to Coalville were of necessity rare, was extremely popular in Coalville and was well known as a vocalist and pianist of merit.

We congratulate Charles Brown, jun., on his recent distinction in the election. It is too old a joke to suggest that Councillor Brown, as a smith, will be able to bring "striking" arguments to bear on local affairs. He may, however, be depended on to "forge" ahead with anything he undertakes, and will no doubt have a "fuller" understanding of some of the questions which agitate our Council. Nor will he be daunted by lack of support – he is quite capable of working "single-handed."

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MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WHITWICK CHURCH

FOR TWO LOCAL MEN KILLED IN ACTION

AN IMPRESSIVE SERMON

A memorial service was held at the Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday morning for Lance-Corpl. H. S. Burton and Pte. E. Tugby, two Whitwick soldiers who have been killed in action. The Citizen Corps of Coalville, Whitwick and Thringstone, with the Whitwick Holy Cross Band and boy scouts also attended, and there was a large congregation, the church being packed. The flag was flying over the church at half-mast. At the foot of the altar were placed two wreaths, composed of evergreens, tied with ribbons of the national colours. The hymns sung included, "Jesu, lover of my soul," "On the resurrection morning," and "For ever with the Lord." At the close of the service, the organist, (Mr R. West) effectively played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, and after this, two of the Whitwick boy scouts, Buglers James Richards and Albert Williamson from the altar steps sounded "The Last Post," which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

The service was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. T. W. Walters, M.A.), who preached an impressive sermon, from the text St. John 11c. 32v. "Lord, if Thou hadst been here my brother had not died." He said they had

come together that morning, not for the first time, to keep in remembrance some of the men who had fallen in the war now raging on the Continent. Since they met together there before two things had happened. First of all they had witnessed the huge casualty lists published daily. At first they were small and came only rarely, but when the lists came as they had been doing during the past four or five weeks, they began to realise the greatness of the fight in which they were engaged. And part as a result of the publication of those casualty lists and as a result of the cry of the men who are fighting for us in France and in Flanders, the nation, the empire was awakening. During the past few days they had witnessed, as it were, the stirring of a mighty giant and knew that they would soon see it fully awake and using its great power to the fullest extent. Alongside this mighty empire of ours during the last 44 years, ever since the close of the last Continental war in 1871, they had witnessed growth and development in men and in power of another great empire which had become so powerful in the centre of Europe that it had persuaded itself that it could easily master the other mighty empire that existed alongside it – the British empire. And it was more easily for it to persuade itself of that because it thought that the British empire had fallen asleep. We never suspected that the German empire was making such preparations and were preparing such instruments of war to be levelled against us and at last the day came. The day that had been toasted and which the enemy had been praying for arrived, and war was declared. Yet we went for about for weeks and months in a false sense of security. Now the nation was realising that unless something wonderful could be done in the way of supplying our men with the munitions they require, something awful would happen to this island home of ours. We were living today in the most critical days since the year 1066, the time of the Norman conquest, when a hostile force landed near Hastings and took this island from the English. In less than ten years the Normans spread over the land and got a bull from the Pope declaring that it was illegal to place in high positions in the church of this land any man who could be proved to be an Englishman. He must be a foreigner, a man who had come with conquering armies from Normandy, and if the Germans came to England in these days – if it would be very much the same. We should lose everything and the vast majority would lose their lives also. Foreigners would fill all the leading professions, take all positions of trust, and we should be trodden underfoot and become the serfs of the land as our forefathers were the serfs of the Normans for a few centuries after the last invasion and conquest of this island. The people were beginning to realise that and so this great giant, the mighty British empire was moving itself. Every man who was worth calling a man was saying that there was not going to be another invasion of this island, and if they could not go out to fight on the battlefield they were fighting in the great industrial army at home. When they looked at the vastness of the war they could not realise it. During the whole of the 19th century it was estimated that the wars in Europe cost four thousand million pounds, but this amount would soon be put in the shade by cost of the present war. If they went on at the present rate, in 12 months from now, this war would have cost the British people no less than one thousand, one hundred million pounds. All the wars of the 19th century only cost a little over three times that amount. This war was also taking men at a terrific rate. Already Great Britain had lost five times as many officers and seven times as many men as were lost during the whole of the Boer war, and, apparently, they were only at the beginning. They could not say how long it was going to last. They asked themselves what was the cause of it? The answer was not Christianity: not anything that is good, but the ambition – that was the sole word that could describe it – the ambition of a man, or a small class of men in Central Europe. It seemed a shame and the blackest crime in history that one man, or one man with a few supporters, should have such immense and awful power that they could plunge not only their own country but the whole world in such an awful state as this.

Section damaged and unclear –

So he was pleased that a large number had gone from Whitwick and more would go he felt sure. But two who were from Whitwick had gone to their long lost home. Both were well known in Whitwick. They were both scholars in the church school, and one was apprenticed to the teaching profession in their school. He was working in London when the war broke out and being touched as hundreds of thousands had been touched, he offered his services for his country, was sent out to France, and there in that glorious company of thousands who had fallen, he fell, and now lay buried in a foreign land. The other was much younger, just over 21 years of age. He landed in France on his 21st birthday. Little did I think, continued the preacher, when I spoke to him in April last in Leicester Road, as I wished him goodbye that that would be the last time that I should speak to him. He was a member of our men's service here and on the 28th of last month, he wrote me a very beautiful letter. I thought I would just read you a line or two from the letter I received. He said, *"I am sorry if I am wasting your time but I must say a word about the Sunday services. As there are five Sundays in this month I expect you will have a mixed one – he referred to the combined service on every fifth Sunday – When I was in civil life I used to think they were grand, but now that I am in the army and away from home I think of these services Sunday after Sunday with loving memories, and as circumstances will not permit me to be with you in person on these afternoons, I am with you in mind."* And then he goes on to

ask me if I will send him a prayer book and report of the men's service. These things were being parcelled up to send to him when the news came that he had been killed. On June 7th, a Monday, a shell came and burst near him. He was killed instantaneously, and so Ernest Tugby goes in the glorious company of thousands more buried in a foreign land with his other brother from this parish, Lance-Corporal H. S. Burton.

The remaining section of the article is ripped and missing.

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ASHBY MAN KILLED

News has been received from the War Office that Gunner F. Jones, R.F.A., was killed in action on May 27th. When the war broke out Jones was in India. He was a native of Ashby and was 28 years of age.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

It was announced on Saturday that the 3 weeks recruiting campaign in Leicester which closed on Friday night, had resulted in 1,200 men being accepted for service. In addition to these, between 300 and 400 men who also offered themselves were rejected for various reasons. About half the number enrolled joined the new Howitzer Brigade.

From the date of mobilisation, August 4th of last year, to the present time, Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland have supplied 6,853 Territorial recruits, and 774 National Reservists. It must be emphasised that these figures refer to Territorial forces only, and that none of the recruits for the regular forces are included. The total number of men from the district who have enlisted is, of course, much greater, but official figures for these are at present, not available.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports this week having received 46 packets of cigarettes, 29 loose ones and 1s 3d from the box at the Coalville Liberal Club, 10s in envelope on which was written 'Good luck to them, S.E.A.' from the box at the Coalville Conservative Club, and 24 packets from Mr W. Higgins' box. The money will be expended in cigarettes and the whole sent to Major Toller for distribution among the 5th Leicesters at the front.

Lieut. H. Pickbourne, of the 3rd Leicesters, recently reported wounded, is a son of the Rev. F. Pickborne, pastor of the Coalville London Road Baptist Church. We understand his wounds were slight and that he has sufficiently recovered to be able to return to duty.

Lieut. A. T. Sharp, of the 5th battalion Leicestershire Territorials, returned to France on Wednesday morning after having three days' leave. Lieut. R. Farmer, son of Mr George Farmer, clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians, has also returned after a week-end visit home. Both officers have been taking duty in the trenches for some months.

A roll of honour for Coalville and District was posted up at the Recruiting Office yesterday, containing the names of no less than 1,636 men from this district who are serving with the colours, and this is not a complete list. The records have only been kept since Sergeant Dye came to the office on October 1st and before then some hundreds of men had gone from the district, either as recruits or reservists. It is safe to say that Coalville and district has over two thousand men in the forces – a splendid record. Capt. Stevenson is anxious to get the list completed and if relatives of soldiers whose names are not down will let him know, they will be immediately added.

The names of skilled workmen volunteering for work on the manufacture of war munitions are being registered at the Coalville Labour Exchange, and the manager informed us yesterday that there had been a steady flow and that a good number of names had been received, though hardly as many as he would have liked. Still, it had to be borne in mind that many men in this district were engaged, if not actually on war work, in industries such as the mines which it is essential should be carried on.

Two former Ellistown church choir boys – Henry Gadsby and George Gadsby – who are now in the 2nd 5th Leicesters, have proceeded to France this week.

Mr and Mrs Butler, of 72, Midland Road, Ellistown, have this week received an official letter stating that her son, Pte. E. Butler, of the Australian contingent, recently reported killed in the operations in the Dardanelles, has been wounded. It is to be hoped the latter report, rather than the first, may be true. Further enquiries are being made.

On Wednesday, Mr and Mrs T. Hemsley, of the Ellistown Post Office, received a postcard from Mr Jabez Emmerson, at the front, saying that he was quite well. He is a son of Mr A. B. Emmerson, manager of the Ellistown Colliery.

We regret to state that a brother of Mr T. Lashmore, of High Street, Coalville, has been killed in action. Readers will also be interested to know that Engineer-Commander Harry Lashmore, C.B., R.N., whose name appeared in the King's birthday honours list as a new Companion of the Bath, is a cousin of Mr Lashmore, of Coalville. Further details in regard to both of these events will appear in our next issue.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

The members of the Corps much appreciated the encouraging remarks Lieut. Sharp addressed to them after Church parade at Whitwick on Sunday last. He pointed out that it put heart into the men at the front to know that at any rate, some of the men who must stay at home are making themselves fit for service if the need should arise.

The Corps is willing to assist farmers in harvesting if they are short-handed, owing to their men serving in the army. Application should be made to Commandant, 5, Hotel Street.

The drill on Wednesday night on the Fox and Goose ground was good. Had the weather been more favourable there would no doubt have been a larger attendance. Thanks are due to the Coronation Band for their gratuitous services. It is hoped that there will be weekly parades of this character.

We hear that a company of Nottingham Citizens will be camping on the Forest during August holidays.

MEASHAM SOLDIER GASSED

Private J. Atkins, of Measham, attached to the Royal Engineers, has returned home from France after being gassed by the Germans when carrying out sapping operations on Hill 60. Atkins, who served through the whole of the Boer War, was until recently, employed by the Measham Main Colliery Company, and was a prominent member of the Rescue Brigade attached to the colliery.

DO YOU KNOW

That we shall be pleased to hear of local cases where there are three or more members from one family serving in the forces?

That a women's patriotic meeting to organise women's help during the period of the war is to be held at the Coalville Church School next Wednesday evening, to which all women and girls over 18 are invited?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 33rd collection from 7 districts realised £3 13s 4d.

A PATRIOTIC MEETING

WILL BE HELD AT THE

Coalville Church School,

ON

Wednesday Next, July 7th,

AT 7 P.M.

To consider the advisability of forming an organisation for Women's help during the period of the war.

—o—

The meeting will be addressed by the Secretary of the Women's Volunteer Corps, Mr. Michel. All women and girls over 18 years years of age are invited to attend. A1633.

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COALVILLE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

MANY MEMBERS PLAYING THE GREATER GAME

A meeting of the management committee of this league was held at the Red House Hotel on Monday night, Mr J. Kirby presiding, there also being present, Messrs. J. Lowe, G. Swain, D. Marston, R. T. Bradshaw, and C. E. Marston, hon. sec.

The chief business was to consider the claims of clubs who had withdrawn through players having joined the forces, for the return of their deposits. The clubs had been asked to send in lists of the players who had enlisted.

Measham United submitted a list of 17 as follows: J. W. Tyler, W. Shuttleworth, A. Bradford, D. Hart, W. Shuttleworth, A. Ensor, J. Thomas, H. Gibbons, T. Kinson, F. Wileman, T. Wood, S. Davies, F. Jones, J. Whetton, H. Underwood, and J. Buck. It was decided to return the club 10s after paying Ellistown 11s towards a claim of 15s for brake fare.

Coalville P.S.A. sent a list of 11 players, viz., J. Moore, T. Davis, F. S. Brown, B. Hickinbottom, J. Satchwell, G. Fenwick, E. Batho, J. Lively, A. Swain, J. Brotherhood and L. Squires. The secretary stated that only seven of these players were registered. The committee thought this did not justify the return of the deposit and decided that it be forfeited, after paying a referee's claim of 2s 9d.

Moira United's list was W. Adams, H. Askew, A. Bates, C. Dumelow, R. Finch, J. Grice, G. Marlow, E. Woodall, J. Sharp, C. Summers and G. Chambers. (Total 11). It was decided to return the Moira club 12s 6d after paying 8s 6d due.

Whitwick Imperial sent six names: E. Tugby (killed in action), W. Bird, R. Needham, J. Makin, W. Findall, and C. R. Ball. It was decided that Ellistown be paid 12s and Moira 8s for brake fares and the remaining shilling be forfeited.

Stanton-under-Bardon list was: G. Hill, B. Darker, S. Manning (wounded in action), W. Mason, B. Brown, J. Adcock, and J. Lloyd (7 in all). After allowing the claim of 5s to Bardon, 3s 3d referee, and 12s Ravenstone, this left 7d to be forfeited.

Whitwick Amateurs five players names sent were: J. Hall, T. Bailey, W. Cross, W. Lycett and J. Horobin. It was decided that the deposit be forfeited and 9s 5d owing be paid from it.

Coalville Swifts: 16 players – W. Commons, O. Hallam (killed in action), W. Williamson, F. Middleton, F. Woodhouse, L. Gough, G. W. Black, W. Swift, W. Priestland, A. Dale, W. T. Durrands, D. Egan, J. Tugby, H. Tivey and W. Platts. It was decided to return the deposit.

The chairman, (who is connected with the Swifts club) did not adjudicate in this case.

Pegg's Green and Swannington Robin Hood having withdrawn before the season commenced, it was agreed to return their deposits. The circumstances in regard to Hugglescote Wesleyans were stated to be somewhat peculiar, the secretary having received no names owing to secretaries joining the colours. The late secretary, F. Whitmore, has been killed in action. The question was deferred to give another opportunity for names to be submitted.

Thornborough United were ordered to forfeit their deposit and a fine of 2s and 4s 6d to Ravenstone to be deducted from it.

Coleorton United were reported to have sent no names and it was decided that the deposit be forfeited, 7s to be paid to Ashby Amateurs. The latter club were reported to owe 1s fine, 3s referee's fee and 4s to Ravenstone and it was decided to pay this from their deposit.

It was left to the secretary to call the annual meeting when something more definite as to next season was known.

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BIT OF STRAIGHT TALK

FROM A SNIBSTONE MAN IN THE TRENCHES

Mr Snell, of Lilac Cottage, Snibstone, has received a letter from his son, Stanley, at the front, in which he says:

"Just a line to say that I am going on alright and that I received your parcel. We are now out of the trenches, but I don't know how long for. I hope mother is better again by now, give her my love and tell her that with a bit of luck I hope to be home to see her before very long. We have quite a lot of Coalville lads out here now, but there is room for plenty more. We cannot win unless they enlist. I know plenty at Coalville who could do their bit if they would, but they have not got the heart. They do not think of us who have been in the thick of it for eight months and came from India at that. You can put this letter in the 'Coalville Times' if you like and tell them it is a bit of straight talk from one who has done a bit for his country."

STANTON SOLDIER WOUNDED

Mrs Manning, of Stanton-under-Bardon, has received a letter from S. Oakley, at the front, stating that her son, Sidney, of the 5th Leicesters, has been wounded.

Oakley writes: *"I am writing these few lines to acquaint you of Sid's accident, which we all regret, more especially as he was a good chum and the best of companions. He was hit in the right forearm this morning, by a bullet which entered just above wrist. Fortunately, the doctor was soon at hand and the wound was dressed with all possible speed and care. I was talking with him while it was being dressed and he walked out of the trench soon after, so that without making light of the wound, you see it was not so serious as to cause you over anxiety.*

Section damaged and unclear –

He was wounded while doing the work allotted to him like a hero. I am sorry indeed to lose him and I hope the wound will soon heal up satisfactorily. You have my sincere sympathy and I wish him the best of luck. He is in good hands."

ELLISTOWN SOLDER KILLED

Reports of Pte. Frederick Adams

Section damaged and unclear – (There is mention of having a wife and residing at Codnor Park, but a large piece is torn and missing).

THREE COALVILLE BROTHERS IN THE FORCES

BLIND FATHER PROUD OF HIS SONS

There are several instances in Coalville and District of two, three and even four members from one family serving in His Majesty's forces. A notable case is that of the three sons of Mr John Crooks, of Vaughan Street, Coalville. Mr Crooks was for over 20 years, foreman bricklayer for Messrs. Walter Moss and Son, builders, Coalville, but, unfortunately, about five years ago, his eyesight became affected and he is now totally blind. Despite his infirmity, Mr Crooks is wonderfully cheerful and is very proud of the fact that his three sons have responded to the call to stand in defence of their country. All are serving in Kitchener's Army.

Pte. Jack Crooks, who is 24 years of age, joined the 6th Leicesters, on August 15th last. Up to that period he was following in his father's footsteps, being a bricklayer in the employ of Messrs. W. Moss and Son, with whom he served his apprenticeship.

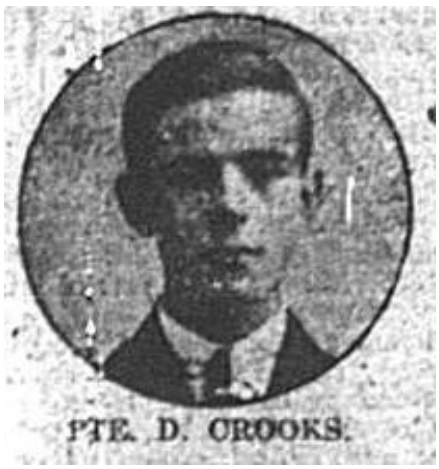
Not long after his elder brother – early in September – Pte. Arthur Crooks also donned the khaki, joining the 8th Leicesters. He is 21 years of age and before the war was employed in the warehouse at Messrs. Burgess and Son's factory, Belvoir Road, Coalville.

The third and youngest son, Pte. Douglas Crooks who is 19 years of age, enrolled in the 10th Leicesters about a month ago. He was apprenticed to the building trade with Mr P. G. McCarthy, of Whitwick.

Good luck to all of them.

PTE. J. CROOKS.

PTE. A. CROOKS.



COALVILLE SOLDER KILLED

ONE OF YOUR BROTHERS IN THE ARMY

The name of another Coalville soldier to be added to the roll of honour is that of Pte. Arthur Brownlow, of Margaret Street, who was killed in action on June 21st. He leaves a wife and one child, aged 3 years.

Mrs Brownlow, who resides at 79, Margaret Street, Coalville, received the sad news in a letter which reached her on Sunday morning from Pte. William Jackman (a comrade of the deceased) whose parents reside in Hermitage Road, Coalville.

The letter stated that Brownlow was struck by a bursting shell, and he did not live many seconds afterwards. He was hit in the head and neck. Jackman says he did all he could for him, and that he was buried the same night. Lance-Corporal Boleworth and Jackman carrying him to the grave, and Major Dunlop read the burial service. Jackman continues, *"I have his pocket knife and belt, his photo, a few cards, cap badge, two razors, a franc and half a franc and a French half-penny, which I will send to you as soon as we come out of the trenches. He was a very big chum of mine, and was in the cookhouse with me. I knew him before he was called up. I came from Coalville myself, and live at 21, Hermitage Road, so if you have time just let my mother and father know I am quite well. Lance-Corp. Boleworth wrote to Brownlow's brother, who is in the 2nd Battalion (Leicesters), and told him all about it. Don't let this upset you Mrs Brownlow, as he died for his country, which you know is a very great honour. As long as we are in this position I will look after his grave. The officer will have a cross put on, next time we come in the trenches."*

Before the war the deceased soldier worked as a collier at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He was formerly in the army, 1st Leicesters, and was called up as a reservist, being then drafted to the 2nd battalion. He was 38 years of age.

Brownlow's last letter home was only days before he was killed, and in it said he was "in the pink." He served in the 1st battalion in the South African War, where he wounded in the elbow, and gained Queen Victoria's medal and bars.

Three of his brothers are serving in the forces. One (Harry) is in France, in the 2nd Leicesters, another in Kitchener's Army, now stationed on Salisbury Plain, and the third enlisted recently in the Leicestershire Territorials, now at Loughborough.

Brownlow was a man of fine physique, a good soldier, and popular amongst a large circle of mates. The utmost sympathy is expressed towards the young widow. Mr George Taylor, Margaret Street, father of Mrs Brownlow, and himself an old soldier of the 2nd Cheshires, has two sons, two sons-in-law, a brother, and seven nephews now serving in the forces.

DAILY FACING DEATH

THRINGSTONE SOLDIER'S IMPRESSIVE LETTER

The Robinson family of Thringstone now has three representatives (brothers) serving in the forces and one of them, Pte. J. Robinson has this week sent an interesting letter to a friend at Whitwick in which he says he is at present doing his bit in the trenches and is in the best of health. He continues, *"The trenches are nice and dry now except when we get a good thunderstorm which makes things unpleasant for about 24 hours, but on the whole the weather is very nice. My name is Joseph Robinson, 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, Indian contingent, British Expeditionary Force, France. I don't know whether you would like any keepsakes from the German trenches, but if you would please let me know and I will do my best for you, as there are generally plenty of them knocking about. Although I have only been here about two months I shall indeed be very glad to come home just to join in with all the chaps who go to chapel and sing praises to our dear Master. Since I have been out here I have taken life very seriously, and I can assure you it makes one do so when day by day you are facing death in so many shapes and forms. I have at last found the only peace one gets is from the One above, and if ever I come safely through this awful war I shall certainly, God helping me, serve Him more fully in the future than what I have done in the past. On the whole we get on pretty well out here and the only thing we are short of is cigarettes. The majority of our time in the day is spent in reading and smoking. As you know, I come from Thringstone. My brother John wrote to me and told me of Pte. Barker's death and I was indeed very sorry to hear of it. Please let my brother know when you see him that I have written to you."*

SCHOOLGIRL'S MESSAGE

PICKED UP BY THRINGSTONE SOLDIER ON THE BATTLEFIELD

In a letter sent to a Whitwick friend, Pte. Robin Robinson, one of three Thringstone brothers serving in the forces, has enclosed a small piece of paper which he picked up on the battlefield and on which is written in a child's handwriting, the following:

Church Gate School, Loughborough, November 11th, 1914. Honoured soldier, I am only a little girl nine years old, but I have had the pleasure of make a pair of cuffs to ceep the frost off. I hope you will come home safely and will win the victory. I remain your little friend. G. Throne."

WHITWICK SOLDIER WOUNDED

FOUGHT AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

A rumour was current in Whitwick last week that Pte. Ernest Albert Sparks, of the 2nd Leicesters, had been killed in action, but his father, Mr Albert Sparks, who resides in Leicester Road, Whitwick, has now received an intimation from the War Office, that his son is wounded and lying at the base hospital in Boulogne. Another son of Mr Sparks, Pte. John F. Sparks, of the Warwicks, is sick in hospital in the Isle of Wight.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

FORMER SECRETARY OF THE WESLEYAN FOOTBALL CLUB

In our last issue we published a portrait of Lance-Corporal Fred Whitmore, of the Black Watch, whose home is at Hugglescote, with the intimation that he had been wounded in action and taken a prisoner. We regret to

state, however, that on Friday night, his mother received further information that her son had died while undergoing an operation, consequent on his injuries.

The deceased was a son of the late Mr Wm. Whitmore, and much sympathy is felt for his mother, who resides in Main Street. He was a much respected young man and before the war held a clerk's position at the Desford Collieries. He also acted as secretary of the Hugglescote Wesleyan Football Club, the club being disbanded soon after he gave up this position to join the Black Watch. He was an old scholar of Mr W. Fellows, head master of the Hugglescote Baptist School.

His companion, Mr E. Hunt, who was his fellow clerk at the same colliery, and enlisted in the same regiment, was also wounded, and is now at one of the English hospitals.

BAGWORTH SOLDIERS' LETTERS

Copy of a letter sent by Pte. Twigger to his mother at Bagworth.

"Dear Mother, Just a line in answer to your letter, which I was pleased to receive and to say I am alright, but for a bad cold, but you need not wonder at it for it has been awful in the trenches this time, it was wet for three days. We had some very heavy shell fire and I had some narrow escapes, the shells were dropping all around us, they were very big shells and they about shook us off our feet, my word we did have a hot time, I cannot tell you all what we went through, we were up to our knees in mud. I received the parcel safely. I shall be pleased when the war is over. You could not believe what it is like to hear the noise, but it would not do for me to tell you too much. I received a parcel from Mrs Emmerson, George Barker is alright, I saw him in the trench the other day. We are still keeping our spirits up. The old Germans are Wasters, we do not get much chance to see them for they never put their heads above the trench, they do plenty of shouting when they are shelling, but we give them some with interest after. But their time has got to come yet. They are using that gas, it is about time we used some. Remember me to all friends at home, and Mr Hubbard and the boys down the pit. This is murder and not war. Shall be glad when it is all over. Your loving son, William Twigger."

Copy of a letter from Trooper J. W. Dawson to a friend at Bagworth.

"Dear Mr J. _____, I was pleased to get your letter. I am pleased to say I am mending a little, I am up a little now after about a month in bed. This is a fine place and we are nursed well. There are hundreds of wounded soldiers here, but I do not know any of them so it is rather lonely, but I have had several visitors from home to see me, I expect you read of the Leicestershire Yeomanry getting cut up. We had a terrible time on May 13th. The Germans shelled our trenches for over two hours, it was an awful roar and then they charged us coming in droves. We held them back for some time, but we had to retire as our trenches had been blown in and I was hit by a piece of shell. I crawled into a trench which saved my life, after lying for nearly 24 hours on a drink of water, I was then taken to a hospital in France and operated upon twice to get the shell out of my back. I have been here two weeks. I am thankful to be alive, but where we were for weeks was a living hell. I shall be glad when it is all over. Kindest regards to you all. Yours sincerely, Trooper J. W. Dawson."

Friday July 9th 1915 (Issue 1218)

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LOCAL NEWS

Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick has sent 1035 eggs collected for wounded soldiers and is despatching another 130 this week.

Mrs J. J. Sharp has this week received 56 packets of cigarettes, 10 loose and 7 1/2d in money from the box at the Coalville Liberal Club and 24 packets from Mr Higgins' box, which are being sent to the 5th Leicesters at the front.

We regret to hear that Mr Highfield, a former assistant master at the Coalville Grammar School, who was very popular with his colleagues and the scholars, has been killed in action. He was a Lieut. in the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment and had been at the front eight weeks. His parents reside at Oakham and received the official news yesterday.

DO YOU KNOW

That there is to be a monster garden party at Gracedieu next Wednesday to provide comforts for the local soldiers and sailors?

That Markfield school children by singing patriotic songs in the street on Saturday realised nearly £3 to provide comforts for the soldiers and sailors from that district?

That there is no truth in the rumour extensively circulated in the district that the escaped German prisoner from Donington Hall has been recaptured on the Forest, near Coalville?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 34th collection from 8 districts realised £3 17s 6d.

COPT OAK ROLL OF HONOUR

Thirty-seven names appear on the roll of honour for Copt Oak (including Shaw Lane). The population is approximately 700.

Lt. L. H. Cripps, 4th Hussars (wounded)
Lt. W. D. Nicholson, Cameron Highlanders (killed)
Lt. C. Martin, R.F.A.
Lt. J. Turner, Army Remount
Rev. H. K. Bros, Chaplain, North Midland Mounted Brigade
H. A. V. Hull, 3rd Bedfords, (killed)
G. Wood, Coldstream Guards (wounded)
Sergt. B. H. Gibbons, J. Prime, F. S. Nix and J. H. Gibbons, all of the 1st Leicesters
E. Lewin, E. Holman, A. J. Windram, J. Wells, E. Bott, H. Bott and R. Irons, all of the 5th Leicesters
B. Hull, R.F.A.
H. Kelham, R.H.A.
E. Bowley, Derbyshire Yeomanry
F. Wilson, Coldstream Guards
A. H. Mason, 9th Leicesters
W. Shelton, Army Service Corps
H. Heggs, Royal Navy

E. Williamson, Hussars
S. Butler and J. Wood, Leicestershire Yeomanry
P. Tyers, recruiting sergeant
G. W. Staples, J. Brooks, J. Walton, F. G. Pearson, K. Kirk, E. Wyldes and H. Arnold, all of Kitchener's Army.

COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS NOTES

The Commandant thanks those who turned out last Sunday morning. Owing to the torrential downpour drill was out of the question – but to be there showed the right spirit.

Member of Volunteer Training Corps (reading National Registration Form): "What can I do? Ah, I'm glad they've asked me that one at last. I shall tell them I'm one of half a million volunteer soldiers who've been waiting for a job for the last six months." – From 'Punch'.

It is hoped that the drill after Church Parade on Sunday, the 11th inst., will take place in Coleorton Park. It will be a good day. Turn out strong. We shall welcome members of other local corps who may care to join us. The Garden Party at Gracedieu next Wednesday is for a good cause. Citizens who really want to do something will have an opportunity on that day. All men who can turn out are wanted for gate duty, guards, and picket duty.

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MOTOR AMBULANCES FOR THE FRONT

NOTTS AND DERBYSHIRE MINERS' HANDSOME GIFT

Through the efforts of Mr A. Dennis Bayley, of the Digby Colliery Co., Ltd, Nottingham, the owners of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire collieries are presenting to the joint committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society, two fully equipped field convoys of motor ambulances for work in France. The cost of the gift is nearly £70,000.

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THREE IN KHAKI

(The initial section of this article is torn and missing in parts and mentions W. V. Scott and his three sons in the army. It notes that Mr W. V. Scott is the Superintendent of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade.)

Pte. Leonard Geo. Scott is 26 years of age and is Mr Scott's second son. When war broke out he was in America and he arrived in England just before Christmas, subsequently joining the 3rd 5th Leicestershire Territorials, after he had undergone an operation to qualify for enlistment.

When war broke out, Mr Scott's third son, Fred, was in training for the scholastic profession at Cambridge University, and for 18 months had been in the University Officer's Training Corps. He was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in December last, having enlisted in Kitchener's Army, 9th Leicesters. When at home last week on a visit he was expecting to go abroad shortly. Lieutenant Scott is 22 years of age and was a former student at Ashby Grammar School, after which he was for a time pupil teacher in the Bridge Road Council School.

The fourth son of Mr Scott, Pte. Clifford Ernest Scott, is only 20 years of age, and has been at the front since last February. He was one of the first fifty Leicestershire Territorials to leave Coalville, and has been in several engagements. During one of these a few months ago, he was struck by a piece of shell and received a flesh wound in the thigh, and after being a few days at the dressing station he was able to take his place in the front line again. Before joining the army he was engaged as a clerk in the L. W. R. Railway goods shed at Whitwick.

Private L. G. Scott

2nd Lieut. F. Scott

Pte. C. E. Scott

(There is a final section which is too badly damaged and torn)

COALVILLE ARTILLERYMAN'S EXPERIENCES

Writing to friends at Coalville, driver Harry Challoner, 3842 42nd Battery, R.F.A., says he is in the best of health and continues: *"You have asked me about my experiences at the front, and I will tell you as far as I am allowed. I was called up on the reserve on August 4th and embarked at Southampton for France on*

September 9th. During our voyage we passed a French battleship. We made for the Belgian frontier, billeting at a place called Borne. We went into action on October 14th at Orstrum and left there on the 18th. After marching for about two miles we halted and during a short stay we saw a fine duel in the air between a British and German airman. The German was brought down about three miles from where we stood. We moved on again and passed through a place where we saw the remains of a church which had been fired by the Germans. We were at Armentierres on October 20th when the Germans began to shell the town very hard. They were dropping all around us. Cannonading by both sides continued and at ten p.m. a fierce attack was made by the enemy who were in overwhelming numbers, but our reinforcements came up and after about four hours' hard fighting, it seemed to slacken a bit." He goes on to describe other movements of the troops and says that they experienced some severe weather and saw many buildings which had been destroyed by the enemy. They were in action on the Aisne and he relates how the infantry were driven out of their trenches by the Germans, the trenches, however being retaken. At one town they saw 500 German prisoners pass through and were informed that in a recent engagement the enemy losses were 7,000. On another occasion, the Germans got the range of their trenches, doing some damage and it was found that the positions had been indicated by a spy who was caught and dealt with.

GIFTS TO STANTON SOLDIERS

LETTERS OF THANKS

The following letter has been sent to a Stanton-under-Bardon gentleman addressed to the parishioners of that place:

Many thanks for your parcel, which I received quite safely, and I think it is very kind and generous of all Stanton people to think about their soldiers who are away from home. I assure all of you, I enjoyed it very much, and shall treasure your book of prayer. I thank you all again. I am yours.

Pte. J. H. Smith 1670,
8th Northern Battalion, Leicestershire Company

The following letter from a Stanton soldier has also been sent to Mr. F. Gibson:

Dear Sir, I hope you will excuse me writing to you in this manner. The reason I am addressing my letter to you is that I believe you are at the head of a committee who have taken it upon themselves to send parcels of comforts to the lads who have gone from Stanton-under-Bardon to serve their country. I wish to express my deepest gratitude in this manner for the parcel of cake, etc., which I received this morning. You will be doing me a great favour if you will thank all the kind friends, on my behalf, who have helped in any way in this matter. You cannot realise what it means to us who are in camp, and other training centres (I cannot speak for the boys in the trenches) to receive these tokens of affection and to know that you are thinking of us and praying for us. I will not weary you by writing a long letter, but again I would thank you all from the depths of my heart and may we all meet again in the near future in happier circumstances. I remain yours sincerely.

W. H. Cave (Private)

35th Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C.
Farnham

HOW LANCE-CORP. F. WHITMORE DIED

Mrs Whitmore, of Main Street, Hugglescote, has received the following letter from a friend of her late son, Lance-Corpl. F. Whitmore, of the Black Watch, whose death from wounds received in action was reported last week:

Dear Madam, You will be surprised to receive this letter from me as I am unknown to you. I am writing to let you know that your son Fred arrived here on Sunday fortnight with four other men of the Black Watch. He was wounded in the right leg by shrapnel, which entered the thigh and broke the bone. An English comrade was in the same ward with him, whose name is H. Pardoe – Rifleman in the K.R.F.'s. I went to see and speak to him each morning and afternoon, and Rifleman Pardoe. He was always happy and well, except of course for his leg, which was painful. On Thursday, May 28th, the doctor told him it was absolutely necessary to amputate his leg, and he consented to have it off. So on Friday, at 12 o'clock, he was taken to the operating room, and the operation was quite successful, that is as far as amputating his leg was concerned, but, I am exceedingly sorry to say he died about a quarter of an hour afterwards, that would be about half-past one. Rifleman Pardoe was speaking with him after the operation, and poor Fred said to him, 'It's off all right, Harry,' meaning his leg. Pardoe then told him to have some sleep, which he did, but the poor chap never woke. He will be buried either today or tomorrow, and Pardoe and I will be allowed to go to the funeral. I am sincerely sorry for you and your family in this your time of trouble. He will be always remembered in our prayers. May he rest in peace. I trust you will receive this letter safe. I am, dear madam, a comrade of Fred's.

Lance-Corpl. J. Sharp
Royal Munster Fusiliers

Lance-Corpl. J. Sharp, 8488, is a British prisoner of war at Festungslazett, I Barracks, Wesil, Germany, and the above letter was written from there under date May 31st, 1915.

COALVILLE WOMEN AND THE WAR

BRANCH OF THE VOLUNTEER RESERVE FORMED

A patriotic meeting was held in the Christ Church School, Coalville, on Wednesday night with the object of starting a branch of the Women's Volunteer Reserve. The speaker was Mr Michel, of Leicester, and the Vicar (the Rev. S. Hosking), presided over a capital attendance.

Introducing the speaker, the vicar said all of them had to do something for their country in this crisis and Mr Michel was there that night to tell them what they could do. Mr Michel said one result of the enquiries which had been made as to what women could do had been the revelation that to a great extent, especially in the large towns, women were isolated, and there was a need for organisation to promote comradeship. In the first place women were invited to drills and it was marvellous how they had taken to it and the benefits they had derived from it. There were many things that a well-drilled body of women could do and so release men for the more strenuous work. They could act as signallers, drive motors, act as telegraphists, etc. He went on to explain how the movement was progressing in Leicester, remarking that they were fortunate in Leicester in having the support of the Mayor and Mayoress who were very enthusiastic in connection with the matter. The town had been divided into districts and the drills in the various schools had been very successful. The girls were very quick in learning the drills and were most energetic. After about a couple of months a company of them went to Wigston and had a march past, which they accomplished as smartly as any regiment in the line. It had done them a great deal of good. They had quite 300 active members in Leicester at the present time. A few fell out for various reasons, some leaving the town, while others found the uniform an objection. It was said to be too costly, but they found a draper in Leicester who supplied an excellent coat and skirt for £1 3s 6d and with 3s for a hat they had a complete uniform for £1 6s 6d. They had a march out last Saturday when over 200 were present in uniform and several without. They did not insist on uniform, though they all liked to wear the hats. He urged the ladies of Coalville to join the movement and said he was sure they would never regret it. If they could get a good instructor, he was sure they would enjoy it and that it would do them good. A feature of the work was the training in ambulance and home nursing, which was most useful, because a good many more women would doubtless be required to attend the wounded. At Leicester, 120 recently submitted themselves for the ambulance examination. He said there were also 50 ladies who wanted to learn riding. They only had ten horses, but arranged by taking the learners in sections.

They had a capable instructor in the riding school and the ladies were getting on well. He also spoke of the progress made in signalling which was a splendid exercise. The usefulness of the movement had manifested itself already in varying ways. He had several times been rung up by the manager of the Leicester Labour Exchange, asking whether he could get a few women quickly to do clerical work and he (Mr Michel) had never failed him yet. Other instances were given of the services of the women being utilised, one being that of two girls now working on a farm to liberate men who had gone to the front, while in others, women were doing clerical work whereby men had been liberated to join the army. That was the real object of the movement. One woman was driving a bread van. It was surprising how in their drills and gatherings class distinction was being lost sight of and they were all regarded as comrades. Some of the members who had taken situations had not been used to anything like such work, but were doing well. He explained that situations were only filled through the Labour Exchanges, because that was a Government department and would see that the women were well treated. Alluding to farm work, in which women were largely assisting, he pointed out that in Scotland and Ireland the milking of cows was done by women. If a branch was formed locally, he suggested that Coalville be the centre, with various districts. Those wishing to join at Coalville should apply to Miss Wynne, at Whitwick to Mrs J. J. Sharp, at Hugglescote to Mrs Meredith, at Ibstock to the Flood, and at Ravenstone to Miss Cresswell. They should drill in their own districts and it was only a question of finding instructors. The age suggested was 18 to 50 and as far as possible they should arrange the elder and younger women in sections.

Mrs J. J. Sharp said that by their presence they showed that they realised the gravity of the situation and were anxious to do all they could. The knowledge of that put heart into the men at the front. Many of them, she knew, were doing much individually, but they could do much more when well organised. The more determined they were to give their help the sooner would the war be ended. She hoped many would enrol that night and she said they could each chose the subject in which they wished to specialise – nursing, cooking or ambulance. It had been arranged so far that Miss Cresswell would meet her girls in the rector's room at Ravenstone on Monday evenings at 6 o'clock, Mrs Meredith would meet them at her home at 6.30 on Tuesday and at Whitwick, she (Mrs Sharp) would meet them in the Church School on Monday at 6.30. The other places had yet to be arranged.

Questions were invited and one was whether the uniform was optional to which Mr Michel replied in the affirmative. Everything was free and optional, but it was important that they should attend drills. Mrs Sharp said Coalville was included an ammunitions area and they might help in that connection.

Mr Michel said the entrance fee was 1s and they paid 1/2d or 1d per drill according to the number. They had to pay instructors. One lady asked whether they would be obliged to do any work they were called upon to do. Mr Michel said they would not.

The Questioner said that, for instance, they could not all leave their homes to do farm work. Mrs Sharp said that was only one branch.

The Vicar: *We are not going to ask you to be farm labourers.* (Laughter)

Mrs Sharp said there were plenty of ways they could help. Some might be motor drivers or cyclists and they might be asked to assist in tracking German prisoners. As they knew, two escaped from Donington Hall the other night. The question to be decided, she said, was whether they should form a branch. This was carried unanimously and many names were enrolled.

MEETING AT THE PROGRESSIVE HALLS

Miss Shaw, of London, representing the Women's National Liberal Association, addressed a meeting of the members of the Coalville branch in the Progressive Hall on Wednesday afternoon, when Mrs Holyoak presided over a fairly good attendance.

Miss Shaw said she was sorry that her first visit to the Coalville branch should be at such a serious time, but in connection with the war, women could do much to help their country and she pointed out that for the time being politics were dropped and the whole efforts of their organisation were being directed on lines thought to be most beneficial to the country in this great crisis. They were doing all they could to impress on the women of the land the need for thrift and that they must all do their best to help with the war loan, which she explained at some length. She also urged that women must take up munition work where it was possible so as to release the men for the more serious business which the war demanded of them. They should

economise in the use of food and it was important that they should use as few foreign things as possible, because they all had to be paid for, and they wanted to keep as much money in the country as they could. By acting on those lines the women of the land would be carrying out the best form of patriotism.

Mrs Bonser moved a vote of thanks to Miss Shaw for her interesting and instructive address. Mrs C. W. Brown, seconding, said the meeting would have been in the evening, but for the women's patriotic meeting being held that night at the Church School and of which they were not aware when arranging that meeting. She hoped as many as possible would attend the evening meeting. The vote of thanks was heartily accorded and Miss Shaw briefly replied. Miss Bott nicely sang a couple of solos, Miss Materson accompanying, and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Friday July 16th 1915 (Issue 1219)

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LEICESTERSHIRE SOLDIER'S WEDDING

FROM THE TRENCHES TO THE ALTAR AND BACK IN A WEEK

An interesting wedding took place at the Parish Church, Oadby, on Saturday, when Corporal G. Grainger, 1st Leicestershire Regiment, son of Mr Tom Grainger, Oadby, was married to Miss Edith E. Worley. The bridegroom was in the trenches with the 1st Leicesters less than a week ago and returned to Belgium on Sunday. Corporal Grainger has been in the thick of the fighting since September last, and has more than earned his few days rest. Being a reservist he was called up on the outbreak of hostilities, and shortly afterwards was promoted corporal.

MR WINSTON CHURCHILL

The meeting which Mr Winston Churchill was to have addressed in the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on Saturday, and which was postponed from the previous Saturday, was abandoned – for the present at any rate.

The reason for this step was that the right hon. gentleman had to attend another Cabinet meeting on Saturday afternoon.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

It is understood that the appeal issued in Leicester, in common with other districts, for skilled workmen to enrol as war munition workers has met with very considerable success, over 1,800 workers having given in their names since the opening of the Munitions Works Bureau at the Municipal Buildings.

Mr C. E. S. Hussey, of Market Street, Ashby, has been appointed recruiting officer for the parishes of Ashby and Packington. Mr Hussey was for ten years in the old 5th Leicestershire Volunteers, and attained the rank of Corporal. He was one of the best shots in the regiment and carried off many prizes. At present, Mr Hussey is also platoon sergeant in the Ashby Citizen Corps.

Mr J. J. Sharp reports having received this week 46 packets of cigarettes, 3 loose and 4d from the Coalville Liberal Club box and one box of 5d, and 23 packets, also 11 loose from Mr W. Higgins' box, to be sent to the 5th Leicesters at the front.

A public meeting at the Park Street Schools, Market Bosworth on Monday night decided to form a Citizen Corps for the district. The Rector (the Rev. P. H. Bowers) presided and an address was given on the aims and objects of the movement by the Rev. Dr. Fisher, of Norton. Thirty members were enrolled at the meeting and others have since joined.

As the result of an appeal to Mr H. Toon, of Vaughan Street, Coalville, chairman of the Ellistown Colliery Workmen's Accident Club, Mr John Taylor (secretary) has handed over to the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild the splendid sum of £10, voted by the workmen, for which the guild are very grateful.

Writing to a friend, from the Warrington hospital, Trooper J. W. Dawson, an Ibstock man in the Leicestershire Yeomanry who has been wounded at the front, says he is improving nicely and hopes to be discharged in about a fortnight or three weeks' time. It has been a rather long time with him, he adds, as his wounds were severe, and he has been at the hospital six weeks. It is a very nice place and he is able to get out now in the extensive grounds.

DO YOU KNOW

That nearly 150 wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester on Sunday night?

That an officer from the Garendon Park Camp wearing his khaki, occupied the pulpit at the Shepshed Baptist Chapel on Sunday night?

That a draft of 200 men and 5 officers of the 3/1st Leicestershire Yeomanry left Leicester on Wednesday morning?

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HUGE GARDEN PARTY AT GRACEDIEU

Splendid success attended a huge garden party held in the grounds at Gracedieu Manor on Wednesday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Coalville and District Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild. Such an animated scene in the vicinity of Gracedieu has probably not been witnessed since the Coronation festivities. It was calculated that there would be quite three thousand people present and they had an enjoyable time, the weather, with the exception of one brief shower, being beautifully fine. Though not in residence at the Manor the Right Hon. and Mrs Chas. Booth had kindly placed the picturesque grounds at the disposal of the promoters of the event, with instructions to the household staff to render all the help they could, and this, of course, contributed very largely to the success of the gathering.

On such a huge scale, a function of this sort took a good deal of organising, but the arrangements were admirably carried out by a large committee of which Mr B. B. Drewett, of Hugglescote, was chairman. The committee was divided into two sections forming a sports committee and an entertainments committee. Of the former, Mr L. J. Burge, of Ravenstone, was chairman and Mr Dixon, of Bardon Hill, secretary, assisted by Mr M. Downes, of Whitwick. Mr T. L. McCarthy, of Coalville, presided over the entertainments committee with Mr George Hay as secretary. There was a fine band of volunteer helpers, and prominent among these were the Coalville Citizens, under Commander C. W. H. Gutteridge, and the Whitwick Corps under Commander G. F. Burton. They all presented a very soldierly appearance and in gate keeping and patrol duty rendered valuable assistance, all their activities being carried out on military lines, which created a good deal of interest among many of the visitors. The Boy Scouts too, under Mr F. Goddard, of Coalville, made themselves very useful, and likewise much appreciated was the help given by a number of local recruits and by the members of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, under Supt. W. V. Scott. Mention should also be made of the assistance freely given by the Whitwick Holy Cross Band, who played during the afternoon, and by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band who relieved them in the evening, playing sections and for dancing.

Quite a leading feature of the programme was the dancing by the children from the Coalville Bridge Road Council School, under Mr J. H. Massey (headmaster) and the teachers. Four Morris dances were given, three round dances and a balloon dance. The latter by Misses. Hilda Vendy, Lily Bond, Florence Stevenson and Doris Bird, charmingly attired in white, and with pretty coloured balloons, on the fresh greensward, presenting a very pleasing picture.

There were half-hour concerts in which Mr F. T. Bellward, of Bardon Hill, took a prominent part, and much interest was shown in the exhibitions of palmistry by Mrs Snape and her son, Mr H. G. Evans, B.A., one of the assistant masters at the Coalville grammar school.

Remarkable success was achieved by Miss Drewett at her sweet stall, assisted by Mrs Husband, and others, over £20 being realised from this source alone and, perhaps, quite as noteworthy was the success of the bran tub at which £8 6s was taken, all in pennies, a result upon which the four young ladies responsible for it are to be heartily complimented. They were Misses Gough, E. Gray, Thirby and Newman, assistants in the

employ of Messrs. Drewett and Son, they supplied the tub entirely, having got together the money to furnish the hundreds of necessary articles. Boxes of chocolates were won by Mrs B. G. Hale and Miss Connie Scott.

A roaring trade was also done by Miss Hawthorn, assisted by Mrs Hale and others at the ice cream stall, while other things, all of which helped to bring “grist to the mill” were a captive football, electric battery, skittles, clock golf, weighing machine and bowls.

Messrs. J. Husband and J. Storr-Best acted as judges for the sports, with Mr A. L. Bertenshaw as starter, assisted by several stewards and the following were the prize winners:

Slow bicycle race – A. Geary, Coalville
Potato race – Gardner and Andrews, equal
Sack race – E. Mugglestone, Donnington
Obstacle race – Gardner
Egg and Spoon race – E. Mugglestone
Blindfold tandem cycle race – Geary and Williamson

The prizes were distributed by Mrs L. L. Baldwin. A good deal of work fell to the joint secretaries, but it was ably and cheerfully carried out by Mrs S. W. Briers, Mrs H. R. Brown, Mrs L. L. Baldwin, Miss Jamie and Mr F. J. Wainwright.

A large number of brakes and motors were engaged in conveying the people to and from Gracedieu and unfortunately, there was an accident in the evening, a horse attached to a Whitwick brake taking fright and bolting. Two women were thrown out, but not hurt, and a man had his shoulder dislocated in trying to stop the horse. Assistance was rendered by the police, in regulating the traffic.

We were pleased to hear on Thursday morning and excellent report from the gardeners at Gracedieu Manor. It was to the effect that practically no damage had been done to the shrubs, etc., and that never in their experience had they known such an orderly crowd. Doubtless this was due to patrol duty of the citizens, since in such a large body of people there are usually to be found a few mischievous persons, and the fact that everything went off so well in this respect is highly creditable to the members of the local corps.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 35th collection from 7 districts realised £3 12s 11d.

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LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

SATISFACTORY RECRUITING IN THE COUNTY

THE LOSSES AT THE FRONT

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester. His Grace the Duke of Rutland presided. Captain Serjeantson (secretary) read the report of the Emergency Committee which was as follows:

Since the last meeting of the Joint Committee, the Emergency Committee has met when required at the Magazine. It is with the greatest sorrow your Committee has to record a long list of casualties amongst the Territorial units of Leicestershire and Rutland now serving at the front. Particularly on the 13th May, the Leicestershire Yeomanry, which had been hurriedly rushed up to the front line was subjected to a very severe artillery fire as well as bayonet attacks and suffered very heavily. Out of the 12 officers who went up with the regiment, 7 were killed and 4 wounded, included amongst those killed being the Commanding Officer Colonel Freke.

The following officers are those who your committee has to record with deepest regret as having lost their lives in France during the last 2 months.

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

Lieut. Col. The Hon P. C. Evans-Freke, Major W. F. Martin, Major B. B. Liebert, Lieut. C. Peake, Lieut. S. D. Thomson, Lieut. A. F. Turner, 2nd Lieut. T. E. Brooks.

1/4th LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Capt. A. C. Cooper, Capt. H. Haylock, Lieut. H. C. Brice, 2nd Lieut. A. C. Clarke, 2nd Lieut. F. M. Waite.

1/5th LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Capt. J. Chapman, Lieut. C. Aked, and 2nd Lieut. C. W. Selwyn.

Amongst the rank and file your committee regret to report that official intimation has been received that the following N.C.O.'s and men have lost their lives.

Leicestershire Yeomanry	47
1/4 Leicestershire Regiment	42
1/5 Leicestershire Regiment	8
2/2/ North Midland Field Ambulance	1

In addition to the above, your Committee regret to report that a considerable number of Officers, N.C.O.'s and men have been wounded – in some cases dangerously. It is a matter of great difficulty to set forth at the present time any accurate or complete record of all the various units have done since they left this country, but it must be a matter of great pride to Associations to hear from all sides how splendidly the Territorial Forces have upheld the name of their regiments and their country.

In a supplement to the "London Gazette" dated 22nd instant, Sir John French commends for gallant and distinguished service in the field the following:

LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

Lieut. Col. the Hon. P. C. Evans-Freke, Acting Regt. Sergt.-Major G. C. Parker, Squadron-Sergt. Major J. H. Green, Sergt. J. H. S. Christian and Sergt. G. W. Cox. Lieut. Colonel W. A. Harrison having been invalided home, Major R. E. Martin, a member of this association has been appointed to the command of the 1/4th Leicestershire Regiment.

During the past quarter all the 3rd line units have reached their establishments as laid down at about 60 per cent of a full unit. Unfortunately, just when the reduced establishment had been reached permission was given for a further 50 per cent to be raised by those units whose first line regiments were with the Expeditionary Force, and the recruiting machinery which had been allowed to slacken had to be set in motion again.

The number of recruits for the 16 weeks ending 16th June, 1915, is 2,208, giving an average of 138 per week. Since war broke out the associations have had the administration of about 10,100 men as the men already belonging to the various units at the beginning of August had practically to be refitted. The numbers work out as follows:

Strength of Territorial Units at the beginning of August 1914, about	2,600
Recruits to June 16th, 1915	6,731
National Reserve Recruits	769
	10,106

The applications for commissions have also been very numerous and for the 8 vacancies for the junior officers for the 3/4 Leicestershire Regiment there have been well over 100 candidates, 9 personal applications being made in one day for this unit alone.

Since the last meeting of the association it has been decided that the 9th Line Units are to be under the officer commanding the grouped regimental district at Lichfield for discipline and training, who delegates his

authority to the officer commanding the regimental district. In the case of Leicestershire and Rutland to Colonel Mosse at Glen Parva Barracks.

The following letter has been received by the President from the General Officer Commanding the 3rd Army, with reference to the 2/4th and 2/5th Leicestershire Regiment.

Easton Lodge, Dunmow, Essex.
21st April, 1915

My Lord Duke, During the past week I have concluded my inspection of the 2/4th and 2/5th Leicestershire Regiment, and I write to inform your Lordship how greatly impressed I have been by the magnificent material which I have seen in the ranks. For one who did not know the true facts, it would seem inconceivable that the regiments I have seen on parade have only been in existence a few months. The greatest credit is due to all concerned that such a state of efficiency has been attained in such a short period. The clothing and equipment issued in both cases has been very good, and I wish, through you, to thank the secretary and members of your Territorial Force Association for having equipped and turned out the men so well, and express to them the gratitude of those who are responsible for the training of the troops. I am, your obedient servant.
(Signed) A. E. Codrington
Lieut. General, Comdg. 3rd Army
Central Force

As regards the clothing and equipping of the different units, the Association have been instructed not to purchase any more clothing or equipment, but to indent on the Ordinance Department for all supplies when the contracts already made have been completed. This is now being done and the deliveries from the department come in practically by return. The Association have very little to come in from their own contractors now, a certain amount of clothing and some equipment is being all that is outstanding. There are one or two points in connection with the supply of clothing and equipment which may be placed on record. After the first rush consequent of the extra strain entailed by mobilisation, practically all articles required were purchased locally, and the Association policy, which unhappily had hardly developed, of doing everything possible to encourage a local source of supply for clothing has been abundantly justified.

The mobilisation contract for boots which the Associations held with Adams Bros. for 4 or 5 years worked out very satisfactorily and in one case the boots of which the size roll was given from here on the telephone in the morning were delivered the same evening. There have been very few complaints as to the quality of the goods supplied, but as was unavoidable at times the demands outran the supply.

The North Evington Infirmary with a capacity of 600 beds, has been taken over as an adjunct to the 5th Northern General Hospital and is now in full working order. This, of course, has necessitated a large increase in the staff of the Base Hospital. This increase of accommodation has necessarily also increased the work of the County Director and his request that the Committee would sanction his appointing Mr Reginald Corah to act as his assistant was approved. Mr Faize has now opened refreshment rooms at each of the big Leicester stations for the benefit of soldiers passing through. These are staffed by members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments.

Your Committee has under consideration the building of accommodation for the orderlies at North Evington in place of the tents at present occupied. The extension at the Base Hospital was most excellently and speedily carried out, the accommodation for 500 beds, being finished in about eight weeks. These wards are constructed on the open air principle, one side of the hut being completely open except for the wood and canvas shutters.

The work of the Separation Allowance Pay Office continues to increase, about 6,500 cases now being dealt with. The Associations have raised up to the present, five companies of the National Reserve of a total strength 769 rank and file and it is probable that one more company can be raised if required. Four of the five companies have been allotted to duties.

An urgent appeal having been received from the General Officer commanding the North Midland Division for rifles with telescopic sights, your Committee approached the Mayor of Leicester, who most kindly consented to collect £80 to provide four rifles per battalion for the troops with the Expeditionary Force, thus enabling our

men to compete on terms of equality with the enemy's snipers. The thanks of the Associations are due to the Mayoress of Leicester, who, with her working party, has provided quantities of equipment for the hospitals, and comforts for the troops, and has now undertaken all the mending required for the hospital.

To the Mayor of Leicester for collecting £80 to provide four rifles with telescopic sights for each of the battalions at the front. Also to the Y.M.C.A. for having provided recreation and rest accommodation for the troops in Leicester and also for soldiers passing through.

In commenting on the report, the Duke of Rutland said:

"Gentlemen, There are several things I should like to say with respect to this report because it is a very important one, and I think we ought to consider it fully. I need hardly say that we all must feel the deepest sorrow at the terrible losses sustained by the various Territorial units, especially the Yeomanry, during the last few weeks. I do not think I need say more. I am confident that the most entire sympathy of this Association is felt with everybody whose relations have been killed. The only consolation is that I hear from those men that have come back from the front and who were engaged in this action that both officers and men showed the greatest gallantry. This applied to every Leicestershire unit now out at the front. With respect to the 3rd line units reaching their establishment as laid down by 60 per cent of the full unit, I should like to be allowed to say a word. With regard to numbers I do not think Leicester need be ashamed of the number of recruits that are coming forward, and have come forward for the various units. The paragraph with respect to the number of applications for commissions in the third fourth is extremely satisfactory. The letter of General Codrington is an equally gratifying testimony to the conduct, and the smart appearance of the 2nd, 4th and 5th Leicesters, and we ought to be proud of such a recommendation from such an officer of the rank and experience of General Codrington. I am gratified to find that the various equipments and clothing which we now have to get through the Ordinance Department are being supplied on requisition so quickly. That is satisfactory, and shows that things in that department are going on smoothly and well. With regard to the North Evington Infirmary, I think I said before that I never saw a building better fitted to take the place of a hospital at a moment's notice. Although I was unable to get up there on Tuesday and see what progress has been made, I am sure it is the best possibly equipped, and the best class of building of its kind I have come across. I was at the 5th Northern General Hospital on Tuesday for a short time, and went round the new outdoor beds and hospital buildings, and there is no doubt that the open air system as carried out there, is a most effective and satisfactory one."

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FELL INTO HIS COMRADE'S ARMS

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

News has been received by Mr John Wardle, collier at the Ellistown pit, who resides at Balmont Terrace, Main Street, Swannington, that his son, L-Corpl. William Wardle, of the 5th Leicesters (Territorials) was killed in action on Sunday, July 4th. He was 21 years of age and before the war was a collier employed at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He was a former scholar in the Wesleyan Sunday School at Swannington, teachers from which have called and expressed sympathy with the deceased's father. His mother died some years ago.

The last letter written home by Wardle was dated June 19th, in which he said he was going on all right. They were having some grand weather out there. Billy Jones and Jim Blyth were also quite well. He added:

"I have not much news to tell you, except that the Germans want to know how we like the Lusitania and when we are going back to London."

The sad news of Wardle's death was conveyed in a letter from Pte. Wm. Jones, son of Mr Charles Jones, of Primrose Hill, Swannington. Writing to his mother on Sunday, July 4th, he says:

"I want you to take what I have to tell you as calmly as you can, for I am in great trouble. Poor old William Wardle got killed this morning (Sunday) at 12.45. He was killed by a bullet which went straight through his hand and heart and the chap who was with him caught him in his arms as he fell dead. Keep it quiet till dad gets home and then tell him to go down to Jink's and break the news to the best of his ability. His death was instantaneous and his face looked quite comfortable as the stretcher bearers carried him down the trench in

a water-proof sheet. He now lies on the stretcher, covered over with a blanket, about 20 yards from my post. A letter came for him from his girl at Sawbridgeworth soon after he was killed. J. Blyth and myself are burying him tonight just behind the firing line and we are burying the letter with him. The Sergt-Major has promised me that his belongings will be sent home. I can hardly realise yet that the poor chap has gone. When we get out of the trenches I shall miss his company and then I shall begin to realise it. I am sorry it will be a poor funeral for we shall have to bury him under rifle fire. The grave will be within (censored) yards of the Germans and they shell round about there every day. We shall have to bury him in the middle of the night, so we can't be seen.

PS. Trench life is just about the same as when we started it, only William has this time proved to be an unlucky one. If any of his relatives wish to know anything more of how my old pal met his death I can tell them if they tell you to write and ask me."

When at Swannington, the deceased soldier lived with his sister, Mrs Henry Jinks, in the Main Street.

TERRITORIAL BUGLE BAND

The band of bugles and drums of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, under Sergt.-Drummer Crossley (who has trained the men), attended the Moira, Donisthorpe and District Hospital parade on Saturday. Their smart appearance and effective playing attracted considerable attention at Moira, and afterwards at Ashby, where they sounded the Retreat in the market-place.

CITIZEN'S CORPS

The members of this corps marched to Coleorton on Sunday, under the command of Mr G. F. German, were joined there by the Coalville Corps, under Commander C. W. H. Gutteridge, and attended service at the church. Afterwards there was a combined drill in the park, by permission of Mrs F. Abel-Smith. Both companies then marched home to Ashby and Coalville respectively, arriving at their destinations at about four o'clock after a pleasant outing.

A DESERTER

Lewis Tivey, a private of the 6th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, was at the Police Court on Tuesday before Mr G. Brown charged with being a deserter since 30th June, which he admitted. Prisoner was arrested by Police-Sergt. Woods at his home in Donisthorpe, and was remanded to await an escort.

MILITARY WEDDING AT COALVILLE

PTE. GEORGE SITDOWN AND MISS G. M. GREEN

Great interest was taken in a military wedding solemnised at the Coalville Parish Church on Thursday of last week. The contracting parties were Pte. George Sitdown, youngest son of Mr D. Sitdown, of Coalville, and Miss Gladys May Green, eldest daughter of Mr F. Green, watchmaker, of Jackson Street, Coalville. The Vicar, the Rev. S. Hosking, performed the ceremony in the presence of a good congregation. The

bridegroom is engaged in the mechanical transport of the Army Service Corps and came over from Belgium for the ceremony. He appeared in his khaki uniform and a local company of Territorials in khaki formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church. The bride, who was given away by her father, was becomingly attired in cream satin with an overdress of nilon, with wreath of orange blossom and veil, and she carried a handsome shower bouquets of white lilies and carnations. The bridesmaids were Misses Kathleen Green (sister of the bride) and Ruby Deacon who were attired in dresses of shantung silk and blue hats trimmed with pink roses and carnations, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr Frank Beadsmore, cousin of the bride, of Ashby, acted as best man. Mr A. Clarke officiated at the organ and played suitable wedding music.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at the Coalville Assembly Rooms, kindly lent by Mr and Mrs E. Tyler of the Engineer's Arms. The uncle of the bride, Mr F. Starkey, of Birmingham, supplied the bride cake. The happy couple were the recipients of many useful and valuable presents. The bridegroom has returned to the front.

EXPERIENCES IN THE DARDANELLES

RAVENSTONE SOLDIER'S INTERESTING LETTER

Writing to his aunt, Mrs A. Perkins, of Main Street, Ravenstone, on June 10th (the last letter received from him), Sergt. Dan Johnson, formerly employed as a lad at Ravenstone Post Office, and subsequently as chauffeur to Colonel Johnson, of Farnah Hall, near Duffield, and who is now with the Army Service Corps in the Dardanelles, expresses thanks for cake, etc., and says the lemonade was grand. He got the cook to make it and after they had been in the boiling sun all day was very acceptable. The socks would also come in very useful. He continues:

"Everybody is in the best of health. Of course, being camped on the seashore makes a lot of difference. Our first draft went across to the Dardanelles yesterday and I'd have given anything to have been in it, but I've got to wait a bit longer. We could not go across with the infantry, because it was a forced landing and they are making some new roads. We lost heavily at the landing and all things went rough for a few days. The Turks are well armed, having guns mounted on the hills and are up to all little tricks of war. Then to make matters worse, a couple of German submarines got down there, and sent the 'Goliath' and 'Triumph' to the bottom. The other warships were withdrawn, leaving nothing but destroyers and they soon found the submarines and sent them to a watery grave. So now we are sending troops across hard and fast again and it all depends on how things go on before the motor transport goes over. I am very anxiously waiting to get over. I think the English people ought to rise up about the extortionate prices the Post Office charge to send small parcels out to soldiers. I shall send the girls some postcards the next time I go to Alexandria."

Writing on June 11th he says: *"Another day's work done, but not a very pleasant one. I have been out to put eleven of the boys in a soldier's grave. Poor fellows! We generally get about 50 in one trench. We have a*

chaplain out here. We put a Union Jack over them for a few minutes and the bugler sounds the 'Last Post.' It is a solemn picture, no names nor dates; no mourners, just one solitary parson, who says a few words and away we go. We had a sort of field day last week. The Divisional Inspector complimented us upon our high state of efficiency. He stopped and had quite a little chat with me when he came to my lines. I am still riding the old motorbike, but it is very much battered now. Since I left England, I have been doing a bit of sight-seeing and I only want to finish up in France now to complete the tour."

Johnson joined the Army Service Corps at Christmas and was rapidly promoted to the rank of sergeant.

ONE OF THE COALVILLE FIRST FIFTY

ANOTHER TERRITORIAL KILLED

Another of the first fifty Territorials, 5th Leicestershire Regiment, to leave Coalville some months ago, has, unfortunately been killed in action. This is Pte. Harry Walker, of Ravenstone, who would have been 29 years of age in August. He is a son of Mr George Walker, who works for the Coalville Urban District Council on the Kelham Bridge sewage farm and resided in Main Street, Ravenstone, and before the war the deceased soldier was working for the South Leicestershire Colliery Co., with one of their carts. He was a former Sunday school scholar and chorister at Ravenstone Parish Church.

Pte. Walker was in Sergt.-Major Roland Hill's (Coalville) company, and the sad news that he was killed in action on July 2nd was conveyed in a letter from one of his comrades, Pte. Arthur Congrave, son of Thomas Congrave, also of Ravenstone. Writing to his parents on July 2nd, Congrave states:

"I am quite well and am writing today as I may not have a chance tomorrow, as we expect a big do on. We had a very heavy shelling last night and I am pleased to say that very little damage was done to our trenches, but I am sorry to say that one of the lads from Ravenstone, Harry Walker, got killed. He was shot at six o'clock this morning and died almost straightaway, thus suffering no pain. I expect it will put his mother about a lot, but it can't be helped. He died for his country. I am going to write to Mr Dowling today and let him know. I expect you have heard of the honour that our regiment has won out here. The Royal Leicesters now, Good old Tigers! The Germans don't like the Leicesters at all. One shouted over to us the other day that they were going to pull the Tiger's tail. But it was the other way about. They made a mistake that day. They have not pulled the Tiger's tail yet and don't look like doing so."

In the letter which Congrave wrote to the Rev. S. Dowling (rector of Ravenstone) he says they buried Walker in the battalion graveyard on the evening of July 2nd and he asked the rector to convey to Mrs Walker the sincere sympathy of himself and Pte. William Kendrick, another Ravenstone soldier. The homes of the two latter are both in Wash Lane.

Pte. Walker's last letter was written the day before he was killed, to his cousin at Ravenstone. He said, *"I received your welcome letter. We have not done anything the last fortnight. I expect they have something in store for us. This is our second day in the trenches. We are getting on fine, but we get shelled very heavily. Two of us went out on our hands and knees to see what we could find, when we ran into a German trench. We did scuttle. One chap let his horse run away the day we came here, so he had to come with us. He got*

killed the next day. We have a fresh lot to reinforce us. Girls who write letters out here have caused many a chap to get killed. They write asking for this and that and chaps go out to get them and many a one never comes back. We are about a thousand yards from the Germans now. We took this trench off them, so that they had to fall back into a wood."

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED

TOUCHING LETTERS FROM COMRADES

As briefly reported in our last issue, Corpl. William Barney, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, was killed in action on the night of Wednesday, June 30th. He would have been 21 years of age last Saturday. His father, Mr Arthur Barney, a South Leicestershire collier, resides in Cumberland Road, Ellistown. The parents received the sad news in letters written by comrades of the deceased at the front.

Lance-Corpl. W. E. Cave, in the same regiment, and also a former resident of Cumberland Road, Ellistown, only two doors from the home of the deceased wrote:

"I am writing to tell you the sad news that William was killed while on sentry at a quarter past nine on Wednesday night, June 30th. Alf Burton saw him, as he was in the same group and just before it happened he had been asking him how you were all getting on at home. He did not suffer much pain, as he died half an hour afterwards. His last words were, 'Thank you,' after they had bandaged him up. The night after, they asked me to bury him, as he was my mate, and I said I would. We made a grave, me and another chap, and lowered him into it. He was buried in his full equipment, nothing was pulled off. He was in a blanket, so that no dirt could touch his face. Capt. Hastings, of the same company, prayed over him, and I said a prayer too. Forty of us stood over his grave at the burial service. I filled the grave in and put a cross over it. I am quite sure he was buried respectably and as long as I am in this quarter, I will see to his grave. I am sure we shall all miss him, as he was liked by all in the company, and you can say that he died for his King and Country."

Another letter was Corpl. J. Hall, who wrote: *"I am sorry to tell you that your son William has been killed in action. He was with me at the time, just saying what we should do if we got leave, when he was shot through the head. We miss him and shall always miss him. He was a good soldier, willing to do anything that he was asked. I don't think there was a more popular N.C.O. in the company than Tim – we always called him by that name. We, therefore, deeply regret his loss in our platoon. I am writing to you on behalf of the rest of the boys. I know he was buried decently. W. E. Cave saw him buried. We are nearly all Coalville and District lads in this part of the trench. A. Burton was with me at the time. Again offering you our deepest sympathy."*

In a few lines written by A. Burton, he says: *"I have been along with him ever since I came here and not long before he had been asking me how you were getting on at home."*

A line is added by L.-Corpl. F. Smith, of Nailstone Wood, who says that he was with the deceased and deeply regrets his death. The late Corpl. Barney had been in the Territorials some months before the war broke out, having in fact nearly finished his term of service. He was a collier in the Ibstock pit.

FORMER COALVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL MASTER

KILLED IN ACTION

The news of the death of 2nd. Lieut. G. H. Highfield, killed in action on Sunday, July 4th, has occasioned much regret in Hugglescote, Coalville and district. The deceased officer was formerly an assistant master at the Coalville Grammar School and by his genial manner and painstaking efforts in his profession, he had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact.

Lieut. Highfield left Coalville just before the outbreak of war to take an appointment as assistant master at Whitley Bay, but he never entered upon his duties there, as when hostilities commenced in August, he immediately offered his services to his country, sacrificing his profession for the time being as thousands more gallant fellows have done. At first he failed to pass the army doctor on account of defective teeth, but he was determined and when he tried again a few weeks later he was accepted.

He was awarded a commission in the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment, and it is of local interest to note that he was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant by the late Col. Broughton (brother of the Hugglescote Vicar) just before he met with his unfortunate accident. The deceased had only been at the front eight weeks. Lieut. Highfield was about 25 years of age. He came to Coalville from West Bridgford, and at both places he acted as master of a troop of boy scouts raised at the school. He also threw himself heartily into the games of the school and was a great favourite with the boys. His sterling work also won for him the cordial approval of his superiors and no one regretted his removal from Coalville more than the head master, Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best. He was the youngest of three brothers, another of whom is with the forces in Egypt, while the eldest, who is married, is engaged in Government work in London. Much sympathy is felt for the widowed mother who resides at Oakham.

A memorial service for the deceased officer was held at Coalville Grammar School on Tuesday morning, Canon Broughton conducting.

It will be remembered that at the last prize day at the school, it was announced that Lieut. Highfield had been given a commission and it was decided to send a telegram of congratulations from that gathering.

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER WOUNDED

The friends of Pte. Walter Pettitt, of the Leicesters, whose home is at Ellistown, on Tuesday, had intimation that he had been wounded and was in hospital. His relatives have also received a small tin box which he had in his pocket at the time he received his wound. The box has a bullet hole through it and undoubtedly saved the soldier's life. Pettitt, in fact, seemed to have enjoyed a charmed life. A short time ago, we published an account of how his buckle was shot off his belt, leaving him uninjured. On another occasion he was near a bursting shell which caused him to fall into a hole, by which he escaped, and now at last when a bullet did find him, the tin box somewhat counteracted the effect.

We understand that Pettitt is going on well and trust that he will soon be taking his place again at the front, also that the luck which he has experienced up to now, will remain with him to the end.

Friday July 23rd 1915 (Issue 1220)

Page 3

GIFT TO LEICESTER'S V.C.

PRESENTATION OF £100 WAR LOAN STOCK

On Thursday at the annual entertainment given at the Countesthorpe Cottage Homes, near Leicester, Private Buckingham, V.C. of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment was presented with the script representing £100 of War Loan stock, the outcome of a subscription initiated by the Leicester Board of Guardians. The total amount of the subscription was £111 3s 9d, the balance being handed to Buckingham in gold.

The presentation was made by the Mayor of Leicester (Alderman J. North) who spoke eulogistically of Buckingham's heroic conduct in the field and of the manner in which he had upheld the glorious traditions of the Leicestershire Regiment. During convalescence from his wounds Private Buckingham had placed this country under further obligations by the splendid work he had done in Leicester and county in the furtherance of recruiting.

There were other speeches to which Buckingham made a modest reply.

Page 4

WEDDING

The marriage of Miss Evelyn Illsley, the youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Illsley, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, with Second-Lieut. Howard Brooker (Santos, Brazil), 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, took

place on Friday of last week at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby. The Rev. H. B. Mack, of Beeston, officiated at the ceremony, and Miss A. Pratt very kindly acted as organist, playing suitable music before and the Wedding March after the service. Owing to the severe illness of the bridegroom's mother, the wedding was a very quiet one, only the immediate relatives being invited. Many useful presents were received by the happy pair.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

If there are any local men and women who desire to help in any way the cause of our country, and her Allies, they will have the opportunity of doing their little bit in completing the National Register, which is to be taken on August 15th. The duty of obtaining the information required has been imposed upon the local authorities – municipal, urban and rural district councils – who are inviting volunteers for the work of distributing, collecting and filling up the registration forms wherever they may be, and forward them to the local authorities where they reside. Every person between the ages of 15 and 65 is compelled under a penalty to answer the questions. The majority are simple and straightforward. They deal mainly with name, age, occupation, dependants, and nationality. But the test is the question asking whether if skilled, one is able and willing to perform any war work, and if so to speak its nature. Many people have not the remotest idea what they can do beyond their present occupation. Still the National Register will enable each person to make his or her position clear, and form a reserve of volunteers who may be drawn upon for military or other service, as occasion demands.

Mr and Mrs Bennett have received an intimation, dated July 16th, that their son, Private William George Bennett, of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, has been severely wounded in the head. This information reached them on Saturday morning last, and no further information has yet been received. Private Bennett was one of the Coalville Fifty and left for Luton in October last, and for France in February.

Five sheep were driven along Hotel Street on Wednesday afternoon took it into their heads to go into the recruiting office and were with difficulty persuaded to go out again.

DO YOU KNOW

That 35 Naval Brigade reserves left Leicester on Monday afternoon for the Crystal Palace, London?

That the Coalville Urban District Council are inviting applications for voluntary enumerators for the various districts in their area in connection with the National Registration Act?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 36th collection from 6 districts realised £3 15s.

DEATH OF MR W TABERNER

We regret to announce that Mr W. Taberner, of Jackson Street, Coalville, died on Wednesday of last week and was buried in the Coalville Cemetery on Sunday last. Deceased was 50 years of age and had been ill a considerable time. He was a member of the Citizen Corps and scarcely missed attendance at drill. The funeral was attended by about 30 members of the Citizen Corps.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' COMFORTS GUILD

A meeting of the committee for the Gracedieu garden fete last week was held on Monday evening in the Council chamber. The chair was taken by Mr B. B. Drewett. Mr R. J. Brown, the treasurer, read out a rough statement of the accounts showed that there would probably be a balance of about £130 to hand over. This was considered most satisfactory. Votes of thanks were heartily accorded to the Right Hon. Charles Booth and Mrs Booth, and to others who had given help, the bands, Citizen Corps, Boy Scouts etc.

BLACKFORDBY

THE DEATH OF LIEUT. H. C. PICKERING

The Vicar, the Rev. B. Kenyon, made a special reference at Sunday morning's service to the great loss sustained by the death of Lieut. H. C. Pickering. Special hymns were sung and Mr Willshee played the Dead March. At the evening service Mrs Jenkins also played the Dead March.

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OPENING OF A NEW RIFLE RANGE

The members of the Volunteer Training Corps assembled at the Drill Hall, Kings Road, Shepshed, in good numbers on Thursday evening for the opening of new miniature shooting range by Mr Harriman. Commandant T. Bell welcomed Mr Harriman on behalf of the Corps, and said he thought accepting to fire the first shot, Mr Harriman had shown that he took an interest in the Corps. He regretted the absence of Mr H. H. Griggs, who had been most enthusiastic in working for the success of the Corps. Mr C. Mee welcomed Mr Harriman, and remarked that it might appear to some that in the past they had only been playing at soldiers, but the fact that they were learning to shoot gave it a proper serious aspect. Mr Harriman, who met with a cordial reception, said he considered it a great honour to be asked to open that range, and assured them that he would do everything in his power to help along the growing organisation, and was pleased to offer them five guineas towards the outlay. Mr Harriman was heartily thanked for his presence and handsome gift towards the cost of the range. The remainder of the evening was given to shooting practice by the members.

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

ABSENTEE

Benjamin Morley, of the 3rd Leicester Regiment, a Whitwick man, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since the 6th inst.

Defendant said he had 4 days leave and admitted extending it without permission. P.C. Jelley said the defendant told him it was on account of a bad arm. Defendant said he had been vaccinated. He was remanded to await an escort.

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COALVILLE MAN BURIED BY A SHELL

EXCITING EXPERIENCE

Pte. C. Reed, of the C. Co. 1st Leicesters, writing on July 15th to Mr Potter of Mammoth Street, Coalville, says he hopes that all are well. On June 19th he and Joe and a Pal were buried through a shell. *"We thought we were done, but we stuck to it. Well Dick, I can tell you we are in the place called the City of Hell and it is bombarded day and night. The towns all about here are smashed down to the ground. What with dead men and horses lying about etc., it is enough to kill anybody. This is murder, but I am going to do my best to kill some of the devils. I have killed a few already and hope to account for a few more."* He concludes by saying he would like to see his photo in the "Coalville Times."

APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN

We have received the following letter:

"Dear Sir, I now take the pleasure to write you a few lines, as it is the first time I have had the chance to write to you since we landed back in France, and we have this day sent some men up to dig some trenches. We are still at the back of the fighting line, training the men that came to fill the old places up. Well sir, to tell the truth I think it is a disgrace to see the young men walking about and us out here fighting for them. They ought to be fetched, it would do them good. The good old woolly backs (Leicestershire Yeomanry) have got a good name for themselves. Sir John French gives us a good word and said that it showed them that the cavalry could do the work in the trenches as well as on horseback. So the cavalry is some use after all. He said we held our position well after being shelled for so long, but it is harder to fight in the trenches than it is to make a charge. We have got some good horses out here with us. I think we ought to be thankful for the way the people thought of us last winter. The money they sent to us was spent in milk and potatoes. We are fed very well considering the difficulties of transit. We had a day trying how to cross the canal when the bridge is blown up. We make a boat of the timbers to take the saddles across and the men, and we send the horses across on an endless rope worked by four men. Some swam across naked on the horses' backs and we drag the guns across. It is fine sport for us. We all hope that the war will soon be over. At the place we are at there is an old moat and some tunnels, all under the place. We have made a boat and have some fun with it till it is dark. Well sir, I think I have told you all this time. I remain, yours sincerely."

1753 L. Rowlinson
C. Squad.

FIGHTING FOR OUR EXISTENCE

Corporal E. Corah, aged 24, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry (well-known in Whitwick and district as a traveller), who was killed in action on May 13th, in one of his last letters to his parents at Swing Bridge House, Loughborough, said:

"Remember me to all the friends, but I should rather have thought the young fellows would join some regiment before now. I'm sure I couldn't stay at home at a time like this because we are certainly fighting for our existence as a nation and that means our friends and homes as well. If the people of England could see the ruined homes and even whole villages laid bare to the ground as I have seen them, they would realise that this is no play but a terrible calamity, and should be the best of its kind while the world is in existence. We have even passed churchyards which have been shelled, with the tombstones all broken and the bodies torn from their resting place. Anyhow, after a storm comes a calm, so we must all hope for peace before long. I am in the best of health and hope you are the same."

PATRIOTIC COALVILLE FAMILY

FOUR SONS SERVING IN THE ARMY

Mr and Mrs W. F. Bradshaw, of No. 5, Gutteridge Street, Coalville, have four sons serving in the army, a fact upon which they are to be heartily congratulated. The father, whose photograph we are pleased to publish with those of the boys, is employed at Messrs. Stableford's works, Coalville, where three of his soldier sons were formerly engaged, and all were popular with their workmates. They all have the best wishes of many friends for a safe return.

The eldest of the four is Sapper W. H. Bradshaw, who joined the Royal Engineers at Chatham, last March. He is 31 years of age, married, and formerly worked as a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford and Co.'s works and also at the Ellistown colliery.

A month ago, Driver C. E. Bradshaw joined the Royal Artillery, at Leicester, in which town he was up to then working as a baker. He is also married and is 27 years of age.

Corpl. G. F. Bradshaw was called up on August 4th with the Mounted Transport Brigade, but four months ago was transferred to the Ammunition Column of the Army Service Corps. He is a single man, 25 years of age, and before leaving Coalville to take up his military duties was a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford's works.

The youngest of the four brothers, Pte. A. C. Bradshaw, has seen some months' service at the front. He is 20 years of age and joined the 5th Leicester Territorials in Coalville, soon after the war broke out being one of the first fifty to leave the town. For over four months now he has been taking his turn with his comrades in the trenches. He also was a blacksmith at Messrs. Stableford and Co.'s works before enlisting.

Mr. W. F. Bradshaw.

Sapper W. H. Bradshaw.

Corpl G. F. Bradshaw.

Driver C. E. Bradshaw.

Pte. A. C. Bradshaw.

IBSTOCK MINER IN THE TRENCHES

SETS THE TIMBER IN THE DUG-OUTS

Mrs Robertson, of Peat's Farm, Ibstock, has received an interesting letter dated June 29th from her son Joe at the front. He writes:

"I got the parcel alright and thank you very much. I have written thanking the ladies of Ibstock. I cannot tell you where I am but it is a place bigger than Leicester. There was a big cathedral and I have been close to it, but it is now levelled to the ground. Even the cemetery is ploughed up and not a building is whole, yet they are shelling it. Nobody would believe the amount of shot and shell which is exchanged in a day, but they send the most. I have seen their shells dropping and there are clouds of dirt and bricks flying everywhere. A

sniper is banging away at the sandbags over my head. . . . . Did you read in the 'Coalville Times' of the death of Frank Martin? He came out with me, and we made arrangements that if anything happened to me or him we were to let each others wife know. One of our men picked up a German shell that had not gone off, but it then exploded and, my God, I cannot tell you how it served him. I was not many yards away. I thought of you till last Sunday. It was the wake, but not a very good wake for me. I had to bury a chap just about the time they were all down at our house. If you wake up in the night any time you will know that your son is also awake and on the alert. I am pleased to know you talk so nice of my little children and I shall be proud of them if I return. We are fighting day and night and there are only twelve left that came out with me, so am I not going well? I think I have earned rest. We go out of the trenches on Saturday night and that will make us 18 days in. It is too long as this is the most terrible part of the British line. Did you read in the papers of the British advance the other day? I was not in it, but was close. I watched the bombardment and it was a grand sight. I am doing some good work here; it is pick and shovel all night long. The pit work has been very useful to me. The chaps ask me to set the timber in their dug-outs and I am pleased to do it for them." He concludes by asking to be remembered to all his friends.

"COALVILLE TIMES" AT THE FRONT

THE MEANS OF A HAPPY MEETING OF COALVILLE LADS

An interesting piece of news is contained in a recent letter home by Pte. P. Usherwood, of Coalville, one of the Leicestershire Territorials, now at the front. He writes:

"I was surprised the other day when Edgar Goulson came to our hut enquiring after me. He is in a Scotch regiment and is going on quite well. We spent a jolly evening together. He had seen our names and photos in the "Coalville Times" so he set out to find us. He said we were the first Coalville boys he had seen since he returned to the front after being wounded. Of course, we soon got him amongst the Coalville boys. Also some of the 1st Leicesters found us out. There are lots of Coalville boys among them and we saw Billy Eames out of James Street. I can tell you it was a meeting in a certain village in Belgium. There was not half some hand-shaking and smiles at meeting the old boys from our old town. What a meeting it will be if we all get back safe."

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED

"Sir, I write to ask if you will please publish in your paper that my son, Private E. H. Butler, is officially reported killed. Unfortunately the news I received that he was wounded was not true and as I meet so many friends who ask me how he is, it is painful to have to tell them he has passed away. Yours truly."

M. A. Butler
72, Midland Road, Ellistown.
July 20th, 1915.

Friday July 30th 1915 (Issue 1221)

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 37th collection from 8 districts realised £4 8s 5d.

WEDDING AT COALVILLE

The marriage took place yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at Christ Church, Coalville, of Miss Beatrice Marie Cockerill, youngest daughter of Mr J. Cockerill, of the Halfway House, Coalville, and Mr J. W. T. Robertson, now a gunner in the Howitzer Brigade, and formerly a police constable at Coalville. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. S. Hoskins (vicar). Local recruits in khaki formed a guard of honour at the church entrance.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a covert costume with a leghorn hat trimmed with a pink feather, and carried a pretty bouquet. The two chief bridesmaids were Misses Fanny and Margaret Robertson (sisters of the bridegroom) who were dressed in brown silk and hats to match and carried bouquets. There were also four little bridesmaids – Misses Elsie Robertson (sister of the bridegroom) Patty Green, Ethel Cockerill and Lottie Goacher (niece of the bride) who were all dressed in cream. Mr C. Robertson, also a gunner in the same regiment, acted as best man. The happy couple had a splendid lot of presents. After the ceremony a number of friends were entertained by the bride's parents at the Halfway House.

ABSENTEE

Before Mr George Brown at the Ashby Police Court on Wednesday, Alfred Homer, a private in the 7th Dorset Battalion, stationed in Dorsetshire, was charged with being a deserter since July 23rd. Sergt. Fox deposed to finding the accused at his father's house in Ashby and when asked what he had done with his uniform, he said he had returned it. Witness also said that Homer told him he wished to be transferred to the Notts and Derby Regiment. He was remanded to await an escort.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Lance-Corpl. Harmer, a bandsman of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, met with an accident at the Midland Railway Station on Saturday night, sustaining slight injuries to his head and bruised thigh. Harmer was returning from Bagworth, where he had attended a recruiting meeting, and was crossing the railway when the shunting engine knocked him down. He was subsequently removed to the Base Hospital, where he is making excellent progress. He has been residing with his sister at 29, Derwent Street, Leicester.

The membership returns of the Midland District Miners' Fatal Accident Relief Society for the March quarter show decreases of 11 at Coleorton Colliery, 94 at Donisthorpe Colliery, 410 at Moira Collieries, 14 at South Leicestershire Colliery. There was an increase of one from the Snibston Colliery. The decreases were attributed largely to many of the members having enlisted.

The following is a further list of eggs collected by Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick for wounded soldiers: Mr W. Farmer 20, Mr R. Besson 16, Mr R. Sharp 12, Mr G. Sheffield 12, Mr E. Wallam 8, Mr T. Ottey 8, Mr Palmer 8, Mr O. Burton 8, Mr G. Boam 8, Mr H. Underwood 10, Mrs Newbury 8, Mr H. Allgood 8, Mr Manstop 4, Mr J. W. Eagles 4, Mr H. Bastard 8, Mr T. Wyatt 8 and Mrs T. Hull 10. Previously acknowledged 1179.

Mrs Freer (widow), Charnwood Road, Shepshed, has four sons serving with the 5th Leicester (Territorials) viz., Privates Arthur, George, Ernest and Leonard Freer. The first named three are at the front, and Leonard has also been and returned to England wounded, but is now out of hospital.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports having received during the last two weeks for the 5th Leicesters at the front, 37 packets of cigarettes, 4 loose and one cigar from Mr Higgins' box, 52 packets, 9 loose and 4 1/2d from the Coalville Liberal Club box, and two packets, 11 loose and 1s from the Coalville Conservative Club box.

Mrs J. J. Sharp, of Whitwick, has received letters of thanks for cigarettes sent, from J. Hancock (1st Coldstream Guards) and J. M. Eaton and L. Hutchby (5th Leicesters), local men at the front. They say that they were getting short when the cigarettes arrived and they were very much appreciated by the men.

DO YOU KNOW

That next Wednesday is the first anniversary of the war?

That Lieut. A. T. Sharp, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, has been gazetted captain?

That a memorial service for two old scholars – Ptes. J. G. Bennett and J. Clibbery – who have been killed in action, is to be held next Sunday evening at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church?

That the Postmaster General, Mr Herbert Samuel, speaking at Rochdale on Monday night, stated that the number of subscribers to the War Loan, through the Post Office, now exceeded one million?

ABSENTEES

At the Coalville Police Court before Mr J. W. West, within the last few days, a number of soldiers have been charged with being absentees. They were Pte. Levi Robinson, of 3rd Battalion Sherwood Foresters; Pte. Isaac Wright Bancroft, of the 9th Leicesters; Michael Roach, of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserves; Pte. J. A. Moult, of the 8th Leicesters. All were remanded to await an escort.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr and Mrs J. R. Bennett tend their sincere thanks to the many friends who have expressed sympathy with them in their sad bereavement by the loss of their elder son recently in the war.

July 29th, 1915.

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OAKS IN CHARNWOOD

CHURCH PARADE

On Sunday morning the members of the Shepshed Volunteer Corps assembled in the Bull Ring, Shepshed, and under Commandant Thos. Bell paraded to the Oaks Church, where service was conducted by the Vicar, and in the course of the sermon, made reference to the European crisis and to the world-wide patriotism of the British. He gave the Shepshed V.T.C. a cordial welcome. The choir sang the anthem “O King of Kings” the solos being taken by Miss Holt (the Vicarage) and Mr Jonathan Parker (Shepshed).

MILITARY WEDDING AT HUGGLESCOTE

MISS LINDLEY AND PTE. ERIC YOUNG

At the Hugglescote Parish Church yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, the marriage was solemnised of Miss Ida Lindley, eldest daughter of Mr Walter Lindley J.P., and Mrs Lindley, of Hollydene, Coalville, and Private Eric Young, of the University and Public Schools Brigade Royal Fusiliers, son of the Rev. John and Mrs Young, of Blore Rectory, near Ashbourne. In view of the local popularity of the parties and of the prominent position held by the bride’s father in the public and commercial life of the district, the event occasioned a good deal of interest, and there was a large and fashionable congregation to witness the ceremony.

The bridegroom was formerly in Lloyds Bank at Coalville, whence he was removed to Burton and then to the Tamworth branch of the bank, a position which he has relinquished for the time being in order to serve his King and country. When at Coalville he took a great interest in the Boy Scout movement, being master of the local troop, the members of which yesterday, together with a number of local recruits in khaki, formed a guard of honour at the entrance to the church.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was becomingly attired in an ivory satin gown draped with lace and trimmed with seed pearls and she wore a Limerick lace veil and wreath of orange blossom and also carried a handsome shower bouquet. The two bridesmaids, Miss Doris Lindley (sister of the bride) and Miss Dolly Young (sister of the bridegroom), wore blue silk crepe dresses, trimmed with lace and ninon, their hats of white tegal being trimmed with feather daises, and they carried bouquets of pink sweet peas.

The bride’s mother was attired in a dress of elephant grey satin, trimmed with Dughesse lace and ninon, with a grey hat to match, and carried a bouquet of red roses. Mrs Young (mother of the bridegroom) wore a dress of black and silver grey satin brocade.

The Rev. John Young of Poulton (brother of the bridegroom) performed the ceremony; assisted by Canon Broughton, the Vicar of the parish. Pte. Cooper, of the same regiment as the bridegroom and who appeared in khaki, acted as best man.

Miss A. Howell, of Birmingham, aunt and grandmother of the bridegroom, officiated at the organ, and played suitable wedding music, including Mendelssohn's Wedding March at the close. During the service, the hymn, "Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us," was sung.

The boy scouts gave the happy couple a hearty reception as they returned to Hollydene after the ceremony. There, in a large marquee, erected on the lawn, the bride's parents entertained to luncheon a good number of friends. The following were among the guests:

Dr. and Mrs Meredith, Mr and Mrs T. I. McCarthy, Mrs Eames, Mr and Mrs Cave (Leicester), Mr and Mrs A. I. White, Mr and Mrs R. J. Brown, Mrs W. Hurst, Mr and Mrs J. J. Sharp, Surgeon-Major and Mrs Burkitt, Canon Broughton, Mr and Mrs J. Husband, Mrs and Miss Drewett, the Misses. Powell, Mr and Mrs W. T. Williams, Mr and Mrs Collings, Mr E. and Miss Hawthorn, Mr and Mrs Liddle (London), Miss Jamie, Mr and Mrs W. N. Jones, Mr and Mrs M. McCarthy, Mr and Mrs F. T. Bellward, Mrs Bastard, Miss Lander, Dr. and Mrs Wykes, Miss Hall, Mr and Mrs H. Lager, Mr and Mrs Whitehouse (Mansfield), Mrs Young, Rev. J. Young (Poulton), Rev. M. Young, Miss Young, Mrs Barnon, the Misses. Howell, Mrs Howell (Ashbourne), Mr Brierley, Dr. and Mrs Blakesley (Leicester), Dr. and Mrs Sinclair (Ellistown), Dr. J. Archibald, 2nd Lieut. G. A. Davies, Miss Lindley, Mr W. Brown, and Mr and Mrs F. A. Price.

Having submitted the toast of the King, Mr Lindley proposed "The forces of the British Empire," in doing which he said they were all proud to be members of that Empire. (Cheers). The war had brought out the manhood and the womanhood of the nation. A few years ago people were talking about national decadence, but they had been deceived. What the British were doing would be a credit to any nation and compared favourably with what had been done by any nation in the past. So they should not despair, but take courage, have confidence in their army and navy, and looked forward to the future with faith in their revered ally, God, for assistance. The name of Surgeon-Major Burkitt, who has for several months been on active service in France, was coupled with the toast, which was well received.

Surgeon-Major Burkitt, in reply, said they had a right to be proud of their navy. It might appear to the casual observer that the navy had not being doing much, but it was due to the efforts of the navy that the company that afternoon were able to sit down and enjoy such a sumptuous repast as had been provided for them. (Cheers) But for the navy, the people in England today would have been starving. When the German navy showed itself in the open sea, he was quite sure that the British would give a good account of themselves. (Cheers) He could not say that they were top dog on the land the same as they were on the sea. He had seen the Germans, Belgians and English people fight and could unhesitatingly say that there was no soldier in the world equal to our Tommies. (Applause) But the Germans were an organised force and we were up against something the like of which was never known before, so it was up to every person in this country to do his bit. He considered it a disgrace that 75 per cent of our soldiers, who were now risking their lives on the battlefield were married men, when there were plenty of single men yet available. He did not think that the English people fully realised yet the titanic struggle we were engaged in. He had seen it and he knew that the Germans were trying their hardest to conquer, not France, but England. And if they saw the devastation where the Germans had conquered they would pray that the enemy might never reach this country. If the Germans conquered France, England would follow, and it was up to the manhood of the nation to prevent it. (Cheers) He was pleased to be there that day to witness the marriage of Pte. Young. It was a credit to him, (the bridegroom) to come forward as he had, prepared to risk his life for the sake of his country. (Cheers) It was all very well to sit at home in their easy chairs and say that all was well. All was not well. Everyone must do his best. It was only by doing so that they would ultimately win, as he believed they would. He hoped the day was not far distant when we should be able to acclaim ourselves victors in this great struggle. (Cheers)

Canon Broughton submitted "The Health of the bride and bridegroom," congratulating them both heartily, and he said he hoped that Pte. Young would eventually return to a happy home and that he and his bride would long live happily together. (Applause).

Private Cooper jocularly responded to the toast of "The bridesmaids" proposed by Mr E. Hawthorn, and Mr J. M. Whitehouse submitted. "The host and hostess" to which Mr Lindley replied. The company were afterwards photographed on the lawn by Mr F. Ellis Mays, and after many congratulations, the happy couple left Coalville Station by the 6.35 pm train for Birmingham, en route for Llandudno, where the honeymoon is being spent. They were the recipients of a splendid lot of presents.

CADETS MARCH TO COLEORTON

The local company of the 1st Cadet Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, under the command of Lieut. C. Elliott, marched to Coleorton on Saturday. After drill in the Park the cadets were provided with tea at Coleorton Hall by Mrs F. Abel Smith.

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M. P. STRUCK

AT A LEICESTER "PEACE" MEETING

Mr Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., speaking at a meeting of the Union of Democratic Control (with which Mr J. R. Macdonald, M.P., is associated) at Leicester on Thursday night, was met with continuous interruptions, being called "Traitor" and "German" and told that he ought to be in the Tower.

Towards the end of his speech, a soldier went up to the platform, and asking, "Do you call yourself a man?" struck at Mr Ponsonby. The speaker and others put the man off the platform.

ASHBY

AN ABSENTEE

Alfred Bailey, a private of 9th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment was charged before Mr George Brown, on Monday with being an absentee from his regiment at Perham Down Camp since July 23rd. He was arrested by P.C. Holmes at his own house and remanded to await an escort.

FROM THE RANKS

FORMER SHEPSHED MEN GAZETTED

Wednesday's "London Gazette" was of special interest to Shepshed people from the fact that 3 local promotions were announced, namely:

Private Alexander Stanley Heffill, 23rd Service Battalion Royal Fusiliers, (First Sportsman's), brother of Mrs Bell, Brooklyn House, to be second-lieutenant in the 5th Leicesters.

Sergt.-Major E. C. Rossell, 22nd Royal Fusiliers, Kensington, son of the late Sergt. Joseph Rossell, of Nottingham, and whose mother resides at Bridge Street, Shepshed, to be second-lieutenant in the Cheshire Regiment.

Second-Lieut. J. H. H. Goodall, 5th Yorks and Lancaster Regiment, second son of the Rev. Canon Goodall, vicar of Rotherham, (former curate of Shepshed), and nephew of the Misses Goodall, of the Old Vicarage, Shepshed, to be lieutenant.

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ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION OF WAR.

A GREAT

Recruiting Rally

WILL BE HELD THROUGH THE DISTRICT

From Saturday, July 31st, to Friday, August 6th.

When the following places will be visited by

BAND, TROOPS AND SPEAKERS.

SATURDAY, JULY 31st.
Coalville Picture Palaces (Olympia and Electric Theatres.)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1st.
Coalville, Newbold Verdon, Kirkby Mallory, Earl Shilton, Barwell, Hinckley, Burbage, Wolvey, Sharnford, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2nd.
Coalville Ravenstone, Ashby, Blackfordby, Woodville, Moira, Overseal, Netherseal, Donisthorpe, Measham, Packington.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3rd.
Nailstone, Carlton, Market Bosworth, Stanton, Higham, Stoke Golding, Dadlington, Sutton Cheney, Cadeby, Osbaston.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th.
Hugglescote, Ellistown, Ibstock, Heather, Swepstone, Newton Burgoland, Shackerstone, Congerstone, Barton, Odstone.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th.
Whitwick, Thringstone, Peggs' Green, Worthington, Lount, Coleorton, Swannington, Coalville.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6th.
Picture Palaces, Hinckley, Earl Shilton, Barwell.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7th.
Picture Palace, Ashby.

A1708.

SEPARATE ALLOWANCE FRAUD

SOLDIER AND AGED MARKFIELD WIDOW CHARGED

At Leicester, on Wednesday, before J. B. Everard, Esq., (in the chair), and A. Corah, Esq., a soldier named William Shelton (32), attached to the Army Service Corps, Whelbeck Camp, Worksop, and Elizabeth Morrison, (77), widow, Markfield, were jointly charged with obtaining £10 19s 11d, the monies of the Postmaster General under false pretences at Markfield, between 15th August, 1914, and January 15th.

Mr W. F. Wallace (Freer and Co) prosecuted on behalf of the Leicestershire Territorial Association, for the War Office, and mentioned that there had been a good many similar cases.

Captain O. W. H. Briggs identified the prisoner as the man who signed the separation allowance form. Canon Broughton, Vicar of Hugglescote, said he searched the registers of the parish of Hugglescote, but was not able to find any trace of the marriage of the prisoner Shelton.

Florence Mary West, wife of a Markfield farmer, stated that she was doing the work at Markfield Post Office between August 1914 and March this year. She remembered the prisoner Morrison coming to the Post Office and signing forms and drawing certain moneys as separation allowance. She described herself as Ruth Shelton, wife of William Shelton. At the same time she received the moneys she signed a receipt. Later on, another woman came and claimed the allowance and signed a form.

The Rev. H. K. Bros, Vicar of Copt Oak, and Chaplain to the Leicestershire Yeomanry, stated that prisoner Morrison signed a “claim by defendant” form in his presence. P.S. Sanders said he visited prisoner Morrison, and she told him that the prisoner Shelton, lodged with her for 12 months previous to last August. She had known him from a boy. She admitted having received 12s or 12s 6d weekly from the War Office since August, including an allowance from Shelton, receiving the monies in the name of Shelton sometime about Christmas they had a bother and Shelton said he would not come again. He asked for his papers, and declared he would not let her have any more money. She signed the papers when she received the allowance at the Markfield Post Office. While she was ill another woman fetched the money for her. She was not the wife of Shelton.

Both prisoners pleaded guilty, Shelton said he had a bill sent in for the amount mentioned in the charge, and had paid off about £2. He was willing to pay back the whole of the money, and did not wish Morrison to get into trouble.

The Rev. H. K. Bros informed the Bench that he had known Morrison for about four years, and had found her honest and straightforward. Mr Wallace stated that the War Office intimated that they would not like the case pressed against the woman on account of her age.

The chairman said the Bench took a serious view in the case against Shelton, and but for the fact that he had been paying off some of the money fraudulently received from the War Office, he would have been more severely punished. He would have to go to prison for a month, with hard labour. As to Morrison, the offence she had committed was as bad as that of Shelton, and but for her age, she would have been sent to prison. She would be bound over in £5 to come up for judgement if called upon in twelve months.

SERVING KING AND COUNTRY

THREE BARDON BROTHERS IN FORCES

Mr George H. Grant, of No. 1, The Crescent, Bardon Hill, is the proud father of three sons serving their King and country.

One of the three, Driver H. Y. Grant, No. 1721, is at the front, being engaged with the transport there. He joined the 5th Leicesters on July 28th, 1914.

Lance-Corpl. J. T. Grant, No. 12149, joined the new army on September 1st last and has since been in training, being still in England.

Also still in this country is Pte. R. W. Grant of the 2/5th Leicesters, which he joined on September 24th. All the men are well-known in the Bardon district and they have the best wishes of many friends in the patriotic work they have undertaken.

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

ANOTHER OF THE FIRST FIFTY

It is with much regret that we record the death of Private George Bennett, of the 1/5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, who was killed in action on Thursday, July 15th. He was the eldest son of Mr Joseph R. Bennett, of Berrisford Street, Coalville, cashier at the Whitwick Colliery, one of the Coalville overseers and a former member of the Urban Council.

The sad news was conveyed in a letter dated July 23rd from the Territorial Forces Record Office, Lichfield, in which it was stated; *"It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of No. 2558, Pte. J. G. Bennett, of the 1/5th battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, which occurred in the field on July 15th, 1915, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council on your loss. The cause of death was wounds."*
Another letter received by Mr and Mrs Bennett is as follows:

"The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."

KITCHENER

Writing to his parents, Mr and Mrs Bradshaw, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, Pte. Cecil Bradshaw, a friend of the deceased in the same regiment says: *"I was pleased to hear of my pal, George Bennett. We heard here he was dead. I had been out with him sometime and we always shared together with our food and things. We were separated when we got to the trenches, but he asked the corporal to put him in the same place as me, which he did. Just as it was breaking day he got up to fire at a loop-hole (he was one of our best shots) and was taking aim for another shot when he was hit. I picked him up and did my best for him until they carried him away. The last I heard of him was that he was in hospital. Tell Mr and Mrs Bennett that all in the platoon miss George very much. He was a good chap and not a bit nervy."*

Apparently when writing this letter, Bradshaw was under the impression that the report that Bennett had died from his wounds was untrue.

Before joining the Territorials in August, Pte. Bennett was employed as a fitter at Messrs. Wootton Bros. Works and a nice letter has been written to his parents by Mr John Wootton, who says:

"Dear Mr Bennett, - I am very sorry to learn of the sad loss you have sustained in the death of your son and I deeply sympathise with you all. While the lad was with us in our shops we found him a good boy and always attentive to his duties and hoped in the near future to see him return. You have the satisfaction of knowing that he did his duty here, and as a man and a soldier, and I trust you will be able to let this console you. Kindest regards to all, yours sincerely."

John Wootton.

The deceased soldier spent his 20th birthday in trenches, being 20 years of age on April 3rd last. He had been at the front for about 4 1/2 months, having left England for France at the end of February. He was one of the first fifty to leave Coalville for Luton at the end of October.

In his last letter home, dated July 11th – four days before he was killed – Pte Bennett said he hoped they were all well and continued, *"I am writing to say that we are off to the trenches in all probability tonight. I don't feel very well, but if I land up there all right I think I shall be better. Thanks very much for the parcel, but I don't feel like eating much at present. In fact, I have not eaten much for three days, but am beginning to feel much better. The reason I don't eat is not because I feel very bad, but I can't keep anything down. Anyhow, one can't always feel up to the mark, but it makes it rather bad as you have to get along just the same unless you are absolutely done. The weather is dull here, and generally fair. We are not far from the 1st Leicesters and I have seen several Coalville chaps – William Eames, Sam Allen, Tom Palmer, etc. I can't tell*

you more as it is post time. So remember me to all neighbours, give my love to the kiddies, and wish me best of luck."

Pte. Bennett was an old scholar at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church and a member of the choir there.

COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT

WRITES CHEERFUL LETTERS HOME

One of the first fifty Territorials, (5th Leicesters) to leave Coalville was Gunner John William Lowe, son of Mr Edward Lowe, of 35, Oxford Street, engine driver at the Whitwick Colliery. Lowe joined the Territorials soon after the commencement of the war and in a short time was made a gunner. He was a pal of Ptes. Hart and Jewsbury, who have, unfortunately, been killed. Before joining the army he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery and was formerly in the Coalville Troop of Boy Scouts. He is 22 years of age. He has written several cheerful letters home, the last one being received on Thursday in last week, when he stated that he was 'in the pink'.

ANOTHER COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

The friends of Pte. Walter Gray, a Coalville man in the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, have received news that he was killed in action at 9.15 last Friday night. Pte. Victor Woolley writes that Gray was blown up by a mine and at the time of writing his body had not been found.

Pte. Gray is a son of Mr Samuel Gray, of Margaret Street, Coalville, but before the war had been living for some time with his aunt, Mrs Gray, 183, Belvoir Road.

The death was officially confirmed in a letter received by Mrs Gray yesterday, dated July 27th, from Capt. J. G. Griffiths, who wrote: *"It is with much regret that I have to write to tell you of the loss of your son, Pte. W. Gray, on Friday last, when the enemy exploded a mine under our trench immediately where your son was. Every search has been made for him, but, unfortunately, we have been unable to find him and I am afraid he will not be found. We shall erect a cross to his memory at the spot where the explosion occurred. Your son was much liked by his officers and comrades and he was always a good and cheerful worker and he will be much missed by his company. Kindly accept my sympathy and also that of my whole company in your sad bereavement."*

KILLED IN ACTION

CORPL. W. E. CORAH, OF LOUGHBOROUGH

Corpl. W. E. Corah, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action on May 13th. He went from Loughborough.

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

BY A BURSTING SHELL

Mr John Clibbery, Midland Railway engine-driver, of Park Road, Coalville, has received the following letter from Capt. Mosse, of the 1st Leicesters, dated 21st July:

"I regret to have to tell you that last night the enemy burst a shell over our transport while taking rations to the trenches. Your son was amongst those hit. He was so severely wounded that he died as he was taken out of the ambulance into the hospital. It will, I hope, be some consolation to you to know that he suffered very little pain, as he was unconscious most of the time. He is buried in a military cemetery not far from here. He was always one of the most cheerful and hard working men, and exceedingly fond of his horses, both of which were killed with him. I understand that your son was married. Unfortunately I am unable to find Mrs Clibbery's address, so am unable to write to her. Please accept my deepest sympathy in your loss."
The deceased, John Clibbery, who was called up as a reservist, was the elder of two sons serving at the front, and before the war worked at Ellistown Collieries. He was 27 years of age and married, with no family. His wife is living in Dover. Clibbery was well known at Wigston Barracks, where he was officers' mess servant before going out.

Mr Clibbery has had a letter from his other son, Ben (who has been erroneously reported killed) saying he was alright. Mr Ben Clibbery, writing from 'The Trenches,' under date July 21st to his father, asks him to bear up at the sad news, and says that Jack was hit in the neck and stomach, and lived only a few minutes, suffering no pain. *"The Germans were shelling some of our guns, and some of their shots going wide struck our transport, one or two men being killed outright, and Jack and some others wounded, as well as some horses killed. Jack was unconscious all the time. I have written to his wife to let her know the sad news. When we go out of the trenches I will find out where he is buried, and will let you know as soon as I can."*

WHITWICK TROOPER IN HOSPITAL

Trooper W. Adams, a Whitwick member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, who has been at the front, is now in Lord Derby's Hospital at Warrington, having been invalided home through sickness.

Trooper Adams, who is the only son of Mr W. Adams, saddler, Pares' Hill, was called up on August 4th and went to France in November, acting in the capacity of saddler to the C. Squadron. From hospital at Rouen he was sent to Warrington and was visited there a few days ago by his mother and father. Both were much impressed by the kindness and attention given to the sufferers in Lord Derby's Hospital. Everything possible is done and Mr and Mrs Adams think that the institution is deserving of great credit.

Friday August 6th 1915 (Issue 1222)

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WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT COLEORTON HALL

V.C.'S DRAMATIC MEETING WITH RESCUED MAN

About 400 wounded soldiers in Leicester and county hospitals had an outing on Saturday, arranged by the Leicestershire Automobile Association. It was intended to visit Beaumanor, but the death of Mrs Perry Herrick necessitated a change in the arrangements and Mrs F. Abel-Smith, of Coleorton Hall, placed her grounds at the disposal of the promoters. Over a hundred cars, several of which were driven by ladies, were lent for the occasion and the route taken was via Loughborough and Gracedieu. The villagers of Coleorton gave the wounded soldiers a splendid reception, many displaying flags and cheering the men as they passed, while some ladies threw cigarettes to the Tommies. In the beautiful grounds of Coleorton Hall, associated with Wordsworth, the company spent a most enjoyable afternoon, the weather being beautifully fine.

Amongst those present at Coleorton were Mrs Abel-Smith, Countess Ferrers, Lady Joan Shirley, Lady Maude Hastings, Lady Hon. Mrs Skipworth, the Hon. Dorothy Maude, Miss Violet Abel-Smith, Miss Isabel Hastings, Mr and Mrs Evelyn Seymour, Mr and Mrs Radford, Mr and Mrs St. Quentin, the Rev. and Mrs H. Robinson, the L. H. Wellesley Wesley, Mr Michael Wesley, Mr Henry Abel-Smith, and Mr Alex Abel-Smith.

Whilst the men were recalling their exploits of the past few months a dramatic meeting occurred. Private Buckingham, V.C., the modest and fearless life saver of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, unexpectedly saw for the first time since he performed his deed of bravery at Neuve Chapelle on March 12th, one of the men he rescued under fire. It was his gallantry in regard to this particular man that was so much taken into consideration when it was decided to award the former Countesthorpe Cottage Homes boy the coveted V.C.

The rescued soldier, Corporal W. Tarry, "A" Company, 2nd Leicesters, had for a long time keenly desired to express his deep sense of obligation to the V.C. hero, and to whole heartedly congratulate him on the King's high recognition of the service rendered, but it had hitherto been impossible for him to do so. Corpl. Tarry was taken from the Base Hospital to Coleorton from the Charnwood Convalescent Home on Saturday, and he had not the slightest idea that Private Buckingham would be included in the company. It was whilst Tarry was making the best use of a pair of crutches – he was shot through the thigh – that the men met. Immediately they recognised each other, but for the moment neither spoke. Their vivid memories had temporarily got the better of them, but when they did speak it was one long stream of mutual congratulation.

Tea was served in a marquee on the grounds, and a concert, arranged by Mr G. W. Appleby, was gone through, the artists being Miss Edith Holloway, Mrs M. E. Wood, Mr J. Goddard, Mr H. Appleby, and Mr Ian McKensie. The Borough of Leicester Club and Institute Silver Prize Band, conducted by Mr S. Brown, also rendered a number of items.

At the close Councillor P. L. Baker expressed the thanks of all concerned to Mrs Abel-Smith for entertaining them. He mentioned that it was originally intended to go to Mrs Percy Herrick's at Beaumanor, but unfortunately owing to that lady's illness and subsequent death, the idea had to be abandoned. Whilst they deplored Mrs Perry Herrick's death, they admired the spirit of Mrs Abel-Smith, who, when told of the dilemma they were all in, said, *"Bring them all here."*

Cheers and musical honours were accorded Mrs Abel-Smith, who, in reply, said she needed no thanks. Mrs Perry Herrick was dreadfully distressed when she found that she could not entertain them, but she was so pleased when she knew they were going to Coleorton. Mrs Perry Herrick was a very charitable lady and she knew of no one who would be more missed.

The return journey was via Whitwick, Copt Oak and Bradgate.

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SOLDIER'S THANKS

Copy of a letter sent to Bagworth by Private Jackson who was wounded and is now in hospital at Leicester:

"I take this opportunity of thanking the people of Bagworth (through Mesdames Jebbett and Webster) for the kindness shown to me and my colleagues. I feel I cannot find words to thank them enough, but would like them to know how much I appreciate their goodness and trust they will believe me to be ever grateful. Yours truly."

Jas. H. Jackson

IBSTOCK MAN KILLED

Mr William Badcock, of Leicester Road, Ibstock, has received information that his son Harry was killed in France on Saturday night. He was a private in the 5th Leicesters, and had been at the front nearly two months. A letter written by a comrade stated the young soldier was shot in the stomach and lived but a few minutes after. Before going to the front he was a member of the Ibstock Church Lads Brigade, and was educated at Coalville Grammar School. Rev. S. Flood, M.A., rector, will conduct a memorial service at the Parish Church on Sunday evening. Mr Badcock has another son in training in the Yorkshire Light Infantry (King's Own). Although other Ibstock men have been seriously wounded and at least one is a prisoner in Germany, this is the first death of one whose home is at Ibstock.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The members of the Citizen Corps of Coalville and district had an interesting day on the Forest on Monday, notwithstanding that the rain somewhat interfered with the arrangements. A good number of Nottingham citizens are encamped on the Greenhill Lodge Farm and they were joined by the local men on Monday for various operations. They consisted on an attack upon the heights behind which lay the camp. But the defending force proved too numerous and too strongly placed for the attack to succeed. The whole scheme was excellently planned and executed, and was creditable not only to the officers, but also to all concerned for the skill and enthusiasm with which in the midst of drenching showers, they performed their evolutions. Such a performance shows that our civilian volunteers are taking every pains to qualify themselves to serve their country if needed, and that they are likely to be a nucleus for home defence if the occasion should arise. There was a drumhead service in camp on Sunday evening, conducted by the Rev. A. W. F. Blunt, vicar of Carrington, chaplain to the company, who gave an address on the meaning of citizenship, and its place in a scheme of Christian life.

For the purpose of taking the National Register the parish of Ibstock has been divided into six districts and the voluntary enumerators for these districts are: Messrs. W. M. Sykes, F. J. Rose, F. Holmes, W. Dunstan, T. Wright and J. A. Hume. The last named is for the Ellistown and Battram portion of the parish. The enumerators will receive the papers on August 9th and by the 14th all have to be distributed. The papers will be collected again on Monday August 16th and have to be delivered by the 21st.

With the absence of railway excursions, there would doubtless have been many more visitors to the Forest on Monday but for the wet weather, though there was a good number as it was. The presence of the Nottingham Citizens in camp and the operations in which they were joined by members of the local corps were an attraction and passed off successfully in spite of the opposition of the clerk of the weather.

The arrangements for the taking of the National Register in the Coalville Urban District are now complete. The Coalville Ward has been divided into fourteen districts, and the voluntary enumerators allocated to these

districts are: Mr J. J. Brown and Miss Lindley; Messrs. G. F. Hurst and W. Serres; Mrs Belcher and Miss Dean; Messrs. D. Hooper and F. Pickering; S. C. Goacher and R. Williams; J. Haywood; Misses. Berrisford and Nicholls; Messrs. W. A. Clarke and W. Sharpe; E. Fisher and A. W. Clarke; T. Frith and Miss Hillyard; Messrs. S. C. Hale and G. Cresswell; R. J. Biddle and A. Harrison; J. E. Goodman and W. Tongue; and A. G. Ball.

Hugglescote is divided into six districts and the enumerators are: Messrs. A Choyce, J. Garratt, H. Freeman, Misses. M. J. Middleton, W. Mee and Hatchett. There are four districts at Ellistown for which the enumerators are: Messrs A. James, J. A. Hume, A. Bellamy, the Rev. J. Hayhoe, J. Taylor, G. Lagoe, S. Hemsley, R. Blower and S. Armson.

The Whitwick Ward has been divided into six districts and the work and distribution and collection of the papers has here been undertaken by Misses. F. West and Carr; Misses Henson and Amy Henson; Messrs. J. T. Briers and F. Ducker; J. W. Eagles and A. Pegg; John Pegg and George West, and F. E. Needham and S. Turner.

The papers will be delivered between the 9th and 14th inst., and must be filled up by the 15th, all persons between the ages of 16 65 years, being required to sign the forms which will be called for on the 16th to the 18th. The enumerators are sworn to secrecy and if they communicate without lawful authority any information acquired from the forms, they are liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or a fine not exceeding £20, or both. The Coalville Urban Council have appointed a sub-committee to carry out all the necessary details, consisting of Messrs. W. Fellows and S. Armson (Hugglescote), A. Lockwood and C. W. Brown (Coalville) and M. McCarthy and T. Kelly (Whitwick).

Mr J. Andrews, of Ravenstone, yesterday received a letter from Capt. Griffiths, stating that the body of his son, Pte. George Andrews, (whose death is reported on page 8) has been found and decently buried by an officer.

WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZEN CORPS

Sunday August 8th: Company drill at Headquarters at 10.30 am. Sunday Evening – Memorial Service, Company will assemble at Headquarters at 5.45 sharp, and march to Thringstone Church for Memorial Service to the late Private Hall, killed in action.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED

We regret the sad news received in a letter from the front on Wednesday morning by Mr Charles Badcock, that his youngest brother, Harry, had been killed in action on Sunday last. Harry Badcock was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. Badcock, of Leicester Road, Ibstock, and joined the 5th Leicesters in November last. He was a very promising young man, having gained a scholarship under the County Council entitling him to instruction at the Coalville Grammar School, a school he attended for a number of years. He was a member of the Ibstock Church Lads' Brigade and was employed at the Ibstock Collieries Ltd. There has been no official confirmation of the death as yet and there remains the slender hope that it is not true.

DO YOU KNOW

That efforts are being made to secure a big batch of recruits locally to celebrate the anniversary of the war?

That seven more enemy aliens were dispatched from the county of Leicester to internment camps on Tuesday?

That a great patriotic meeting is to be held at the Whitwick Picture Palace next Thursday night?

That a memorial service for Pte. I. Hall, killed in action is to be held at Thringstone Church next Sunday night?

That there are over 30 lads who formerly belonged to the Hugglescote Church Lads' Brigade now serving in the forces?

That sixty-five former scholars of the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church are serving in His Majesty's forces in addition to five who have fallen?

That the Hugglescote Church Lads' Brigade has been recognised by the Government as a Cadet Company and the members will appear in khaki as soon as matters can be arranged?

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COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT, 1915.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Registration Forms under the above Act will be delivered to all persons between the ages of 15 and 65 from August 9th to 14th. Each person is required to fill in the Forms ready to hand to the Enumerators appointed, by August 16th.

Any person liable to Registration who may not have received a form, or who may have lost or destroyed it, or may have been otherwise prevented from filling up the form within the prescribed time can procure one within the Urban District at the following places:

COALVILLE: The Council Chambers.

HUGGLESCOTE: Mr. W. Fellows, Main Street.

WHITWICK: Mr. T. Kelly, The Railway Hotel.

Severe penalties are provided in the Act for persons failing to register.

J. FISHER JESSON,
Clerk to the Council.

Council Chambers, Coalville,
July 28th ,1915. A1706.

THRINGSTONE BROTHERS KILLED

News has been received of the death of Pte. Isaac Hall, of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorial Regiment who was killed in action on July 23rd by the enemy exploding a mine under a British trench. He was 20 years of age and brother of Pte. Ernest Hall, whose death we reported a few months ago. They are sons of Mr J. Hall, of Thringstone and were formerly engaged as colliers. A photo of Pte. E. Hall has already appeared in our columns and one of Pte. I. Hall, with further details will be published in our next issue.

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

SUCCESSFUL SERIES OF MEETINGS

In commemoration of the anniversary of the war the Coalville and Hinckley District Recruiting Committee – Capt. Stevenson and two political agents for the Bosworth Division, Mr R. Blower and Mr W. Baldwin, with several helpers have been carrying on a vigorous recruiting campaign in the district this week and a successful series of meetings have been held.

Splendid assistance has been rendered by the Coalville Boy Scouts, who with their bugle band have helped to “draw crowds together” in the villages visited.

On Saturday, Sergt.-Major Dye spoke at both the picture houses in Coalville and on Sunday, meetings were held at Coalville, Newbold Verdon, Kirkby Mallory, Earl Shilton, Barwell, Hinckley, Burbage, Wolvey, Sharnford, Sapcote and Stoney Stanton, the scouts and speakers making the journey in a brake and holding meetings in the open.

On Monday, the places visited were Coalville, Ashby, Blackfordby, Woodville, Moira, Overseal, Netherseal, Donisthorpe, Measham and Packington.

The places at which meetings were held on Tuesday were Nailstone, Carlton, Market-Bosworth, Shenton, Highton, Stoke, Dadlington, Sutton Cheney, Cadeby and Osbaston.

Wednesday’s list was Huncote, Ellistown, Ibstock, Heather, Swepstone, Newton Burgoland, Shackerstone, Congerstone, Barton and Odstone.

The principal speakers were Lieut. Dawes (Hugglescote), Capt. Stevenson, Mr W. Baldwin, Sergt.-Maj. Dye and Mr A. W. Waldron (Hinckley).

Up to Wednesday night 45 recruits had been enrolled as a result of the meetings.

Yesterday, the places visited were Whitwick, Thringstone, Peggs Green, Worthington, Lount, Coleorton and Swannington.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT COALVILLE

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH ROLL OF HONOUR

A special war service was held at the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church on Sunday evening in memoriam of those who have died for their country in the first year of the great war and in intercession for those who are now serving with the forces. There was a crowded congregation including several members of the Coalville Citizen Corps, who prior to the service paraded in Marlborough Square.

The service was conducted by the Rev. T. Johns Martin and was of an impressive character. At the commencement the congregation sang the National Anthem, followed by the hymn, “Lord God of hosts.” Other hymns were, “Hark, hark, my soul,” “For all thy saints,” “O God our help in ages past,” and “A few more years shall roll.”

After the reading from 1 Cor. 15c, the minister said the Committal, the congregation meanwhile standing and were asked to imagine themselves by the graves of the fallen formerly connected with that church, whose names were then read out as follows:

William Chambers, on H.M.S. ‘Pathfinder’, sunk on September 5th.
John Williamson, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action March 10th (not yet confirmed by the War Office).
Arthur Brownlow, 1st Leicesters, killed in action, June 21st.
John George Bennett, 5th Leicesters, died of wounds, July 15th.
John Clibbery, 1st Leicesters, killed in action, July 20th.
Also William Osborne Tabberner, of the Coalville Citizen Corps, died July 15th.

The names of the following were also read as having been invalided home:

Henry W. Hacker, Royal Engineers.
Thomas Holyoake, 1st Leicesters.
L-Corpl. Lee, Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
Wilfred Lilley, 5th Leicesters.

In addition the preacher read a list of 63 men on service in the forces, these being:

In the Navy

Edwin Finch, H.M.S. ‘Adamant’.
John Henry Finch, H.M.S. ‘Benbow’.
Dennis Hodgkinson, H.M.S. ‘Zeelandia’.
John Measures, Royal Marines.
Samuel Clifford, H.M.S. ‘Roxburg’.

On Foreign Service

Sam Allen, 3rd Leicesters.
Harold Booth, R.A.M.C.
Harry Brownlow, 1st Leicesters.
Alfred Castle, 5th Leicesters.
Herbert Cato, 5th Leicesters.
Ben Clibbery, 1st Leicesters.
Alfred Dale, 1st Leicesters.
Douglas William Drinkwater, A.S.C.
John Eaton, 5th Leicesters.
Joseph Eaton, 5th Leicesters.
William Essex, R.A.M.C.
Charles R. Frearson.
John William Harper, 5th Leicesters.
John Henry Hirons, Royal Engineers.
William Henry Holyoake, 1st Leicesters.
Alfred Platts, 2nd Northants.
Everard Victor Woolley, 5th Leicesters.
Frank Williamson, 5th Leicesters.
John Williamson, 5th Leicesters.
Corpl. William Henry Leech, 9th Leicesters.
Charles Leech, 9th Leicesters.
George Lilley, 5th Leicesters.
William Lycett, 7th Leicesters.
Frank Middleton.
Samuel Moore, 5th Leicesters.
Ernest Nicholls.
Joseph R. Owen, 2nd Canadian Contingent.
Sidney Payne, 3rd Leicesters.
Arthur Poole, 5th Leicesters.
William Presland, 5th Leicesters.
Percy Savage, A.S.C.
George Taylor, 5th Leicesters.
Thomas Taylor, 5th Leicesters.
George Wilton, 5th Leicesters.
Corpl. Walter Wright, Royal Warwicks.
Herbert Wright, 5th Leicesters.
Arthur Wright, 5th Leicesters.
Henry Wright, 5th Leicesters.

In Training

Frank Beesley, Royal Engineers.
Ernest Bolton.
Alfred Bolton, Royal Engineers.
Christopher W. Booth, Grenadier Guards.
L.Corpl. Bourne, 5th Leicesters.
Ambrose Brownlow, 6th Leicesters.
Ernest Brownlow, 5th Leicesters.
Sidney Dodd, 5th Leicesters.
Alfred Deakin, 5th Leicesters.
Percy Ecob, 2nd Canadian Contingent.

Moffatt Ecob.
Horace Ecob.
Harold Finch, 5th Leicesters.
Joseph Grew, 10th Leicesters.
Albert Hall, 5th Leicesters.
John Harold Hall, Sherwood Foresters.
Sam Holmes, 5th Leicesters.
Wilfred Jones.
Lawrence Jones, Sherwood Foresters.
Victor Kelham, 5th Leicesters.
George Henry Laywood, 5th Leicesters.
Aubrey Kirk, 5th Leicesters.

An appropriate sermon was preached from the text Iss. Xi, 1. "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith you; God" by the Rev. T. J. Martin, in the course of which he said they had the certain hope that the sacrifice they were making was not in vain. If not another battle was fought, they had won one great victory and that was that they had freed the world from the domination of Prussianism. Already the world was emancipated from the worst scourge that threatened it for centuries. The mailed fist had had its day and instead of overcoming the world by brutal aggression and violence, even its best friends would be ashamed that they ever responded to its sway. Under its rule, in Germany – its home – Christianity had withered as a tender plant before the blast of an east wind, the foundation of morality had been changed from right to might, and science and education were instruments it used simply to bolster up its wickedness. The world Prussianised was a picture that none could look upon, even in imagination, without making a supreme sacrifice to avert such a calamity. There was much comfort in the fact that the cause for which their friends had given their lives was worthy, and that its success, thanks to their devotion and skill, was secured. They now knew that:

No multitude is mighty that has made all league with sin,
Nor wealth nor wisdom can defend when evil rules within,
For the meek shall overcome them, and the right this day must win,
Since God is marching on.

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PRISONERS OF WAR

WHERE ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED

The Press Bureau on Thursday issued the following:

"Inquiries as to officers and men of the British army or navy who are reported as missing or who are believed to be prisoners of war in an enemy country should not be addressed to the Foreign Office, who can only undertake to make inquiries as to these classes through the United States Ambassador at the request of the War Office or Admiralty, to whom all such applications should therefore be made. The Foreign Office should only be addressed direct as to the welfare or whereabouts of British civilians or as to British interests or property in enemy countries. It should be noted that inquiries cannot be undertaken as to persons other than British nationality, though an exception may be made in the case of British born women who have married foreigners."

GERMANY AND THE DELAY OF PRISONERS' LETTERS

The Press Bureau on Thursday night announced that His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has received from the United States Ambassador a translation of a note verbale from the German Foreign Office, which runs as follows:

"The Foreign Office has the honour to inform the Embassy of the United States of America, in reply to their Note verbale of May 6th, that for military reasons it is impossible to make any departure from the regulation fixing at ten days the period for which prisoners' letters are (or may be) detained. The Foreign Office ventures to point out at the same time that everything possible is done by the military authorities to accelerate in other ways the correspondence of prisoners of war. – Berlin, July 19th, 1915."

PATRIOTIC BELPER FAMILY

Mr Jabez Walker, member of the Belper Board of Guardians, has six sons and a grandson with the colours, and he himself is a member of the Home Guard.

They are Private Alfred, 5th Notts and Derbyshires, wounded and in hospital, Private William H., Notts and Derbyshires in Egypt, Private Arthur, Sherwood Foresters, in training, Private John, 13th Sherwoods, in training, Gunner Herbert, R.F.A., in training, Pte. Edward, 13th Sherwoods, in training. Pte. Arthur (grandson), 12th Sherwoods, in training. This splendid example of patriotism has been brought to the notice of the King, who has sent an acknowledgement.

THANKS

"Sir, Please thank the Tradesmen of Coalville who so kindly subscribed the sum of 18s towards the purchase of 1 set of boxing gloves and 1 football, also the gentleman who gave the cricket outfit; my men appreciate these gifts exceedingly. Thanking you on their behalf, Believe me, yours truly."

E. J. D. Stevens, 2nd Lieut.
3/4 Super Com. Leicestershire Regiment.

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ASHBY CITIZEN'S CORPS

Members of this Corps marched to Boundary on Sunday afternoon, under the command of Mr G. J. German, where they met the Woodville Corps, in charge of Mr Osborne, and the combined company drilled in a large field.

TERRITORIALS MINED

FIVE MELTON MEN KILLED

By the explosion of a mine B. Company 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (Territorials) has sustained 38 casualties in killed, wounded and missing. They were defending an important position within 300 yards of the German firing line, and exploded two mines which blew up 100 yards of the enemy's trenches. *"In revenge for that,"* writes a Melton Territorial, *"they blew up our trench. The mine was short, but it buried nearly all of us, our platoon suffering the worst. I am afraid there are over a dozen of our platoon killed and several injured. I was buried about four feet, and it took over an hour to get me out. I am now in hospital, having been shaken up a great deal."*

The parents of five Melton Territorials – Privates J. A. Rogers, A. Pick, Simpson, Ibbotson, and P. Pennington – have received letters from an officer commanding B. Company, announcing that their sons have been killed, and they were buried behind the firing line.

Another letter states that the battalion were heartily congratulated by the general on the way in which the men acted when the mine exploded. The men worked their hardest to release their comrades who were buried beneath the debris, and also held the position until supports came to their assistance.

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RAVENSTONE BROTHERS KILLED

Much sympathy is felt for Mr J. Andrews, painter, of Ravenstone, and Mrs Andrews, on the death of their son, Pte. Geo. Andrews, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, who was killed in action on July 23rd and is the second son they have lost in the war.

The news was conveyed in the following letter dated July 27th from Capt. J. G. Griffiths, commanding B. Company, of the 5th Leicestershire Regiment.

"It is with much regret that I have to write to tell you of the loss of your son, Pte. G. Andrews, on Friday night last, when the enemy exploded a mine immediately under the trench where your son was standing. Every search has been made for him, but unfortunately, we have been unable to find him and I am afraid he will not now be found. We shall erect a cross to his memory at the spot where he was last seen. Your son was always a good and cheerful soldier and will be much missed by his officers and comrades. Kindly accept my sincere sympathy and also that of the whole of my company in your sad bereavement."

Pte. G. Andrews enlisted in August last, and went to the front in February last. That was subsequent to his brother, L. Corpl. J. C. Andrews being killed and almost his last words on leaving were that he hoped to be able to avenge his brother's death.

In his last letter home, the deceased soldier related how he had been confirmed on the battlefield by the Bishop of Pretoria and attended his first communion service there on Whit Sunday. He made a request for a prayer and hymn book which was being sent to him by his aunt.

Before joining the forces, he worked in the Ibstock Colliery. He was 20 years of age last December. As a former member of the Ravenstone Church Sunday School and later the Bible Class, his death is much regretted by the church people and other parishioners.

Pte. George Andrews' elder brother, Lance-Corpl. J. C. Andrews, who was 24 years of age, was in the 1st Bedfords and was shot through the head by a German sniper on November 7th. This soldier was himself, also a sniper, having fired in the team which won the gold cup at Aldershot a few years ago.

PTE. GEORGE ANDREWS.

LANCE-CORPL. J. C. ANDREWS.

BAGWORTH SOLDIERS PROMOTED

Hearty congratulations are offered to Bagworth soldiers – Messrs. E. Cureton and C. Hubbard – on their promotion to sergeants of their respective regiments. Both enlisted at Coalville last November and previous to this were employed as clerks at the Desford and Nailstone Collieries. Sergeant Cureton was quite a useful man in the village previous to enlisting, having held a large number of offices in the district. He was instigator

of the Infirmary parade at Bagworth. He is now assistant brigade signaller. Sergt. Hubbard is a son of Mr Harry Hubbard, of Bagworth, and is indeed a son to be proud of. We wish the new officers success. At present they are billeted in England.

SERGEANT E. CURETON.

SERGEANT C. HUBBARD.

Friday August 13th 1915 (Issue 1223)

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ASHBY POLICE COURT

SOLDIER'S WIFE SUMMONED

Georgina Saunders, (27), married woman, Measham, was summoned by William Trigg, beerhouse keeper, for being disorderly and refusing to quit his licensed premises at Measham, on August 3rd.

Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) was for the complainant and the defendant pleaded guilty. Complainant said he kept the Red Lion Inn, Measham. The conduct of the defendant, in his house lately had not been what it should be. On this occasion she came in after he had put her out, and she took up a glass and threatened him with it. One glass was broken. She kicked the door after he put her out the second time.

Defendant who said she was sorry, was fined £1 1s inclusive.

Her husband, who appeared in khaki, stated that he was in the Coldstreams and had been wounded. He would try to prevent his wife from going into a public house in future. He asked for time to pay. A fortnight was allowed.

CAPT. H. WRIGHT WOUNDED

HIT WHILE LEADING HIS MEN

Mr William Wright, of One Ash, near Loughborough, has learned that his son, Captain Harold Wright, of the 6th Royal North Lancashires, who was officially reported wounded a few days ago, is now lying at the General Hospital, No. 19, Alexandria, and it is feared, in a somewhat critical condition. It appears that he was wounded on the 28th July while leading his men, a shrapnel shell bursting near him and inflicting injuries of a grave character. This occurred somewhere in the Dardanelles, and Captain Wright was subsequently moved to Alexandria.

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WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZEN CORPS

A public meeting was held in the Whitwick Picture Palace last night presided over by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. There was a good attendance. The chairman regretted that Whitwick had not responded enthusiastically to the opportunity of joining the corps. He hoped the men present who were not eligible for the army would join the local corps and put their heart and soul into it.

Major Stanhope Rolleston (Commandant of Leicester V.T.C.) addressed the meeting at some length on the value of the Citizen Corps and Major Burkitt, M.D., made a stirring appeal for recruits. A vote of thanks to Major Rolleston was heartily accorded. Previous to the addresses being given the proprietors of the Picture House gave a good show of pictures and the star artistes engaged gave a special turn which was much enjoyed. At the conclusion the members of the Citizen Corps appeared on the stage and led the singing of the National Anthem.

IBSTOCK SAILOR KILLED

An intimation has been received that Petty Officer Harry Smith, of the Royal Naval Brigade, was killed in action at the Dardanelles on July 14th. Earlier in the war he was with the Naval Brigade in Belgium. He has served in the navy 9 years and before joining the navy lived at Ibstock with his sister, Mrs P. Wright, on Leicester Road, and was well respected in Ibstock.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Pte. Harry Badcock, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, as reported in our last issue before enlisting worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery and not at the Ibstock Colliery as stated. We hope to be able to publish a photograph of the deceased in our next issue.

The work of distributing the National Register forms is proceeding this week, the forms are to be filled in on Sunday next, the 15th, when every man or woman will be required to answer the following questions:

Age last birthday.
If born abroad and not British, state nationality.
State whether single, married or widower.
How many children are dependent on you.
How many other persons are dependent on you excluding employees.
Profession or occupation.
Are you employed for or under any Government Department.
Are you skilled in any work other than that upon which you are at present employed, and if so, what.
Are you able and willing to undertake such work.

Penalties can be imposed under the Act for refusing to give information up to a sum not exceeding £5, and £1 for every day such refusal is maintained. Fines not exceeding £5 can also be imposed for giving false returns. Any enumerator or other official who communicates the contents of the forms to anyone without lawful authority is liable, on conviction, to hard labour for 3 months, and fines not exceeding £20, and it is intended to enforce the penalty strictly.

There will be about 100,000 enumerators, for the most part, residents in the districts who have volunteered their services. The maximum number of forms to be dealt with by one enumerator has been fixed at a

thousand. Each enumerator is supplied with a memorandum book, in which he enters names, addresses and dates of leaving and collecting the forms. At each house he will enquire how many occupants there are between the ages of 15 and 65, and leave a form for every such person. About 23,000,000 forms have already been delivered to the municipal authorities in England and Wales. The registration in Scotland will be carried out at the same time, but under its own Registrar-General. The collection of the forms, which is expected to occupy about three days, will begin on Monday, August 16th. Each enumerator then has to see that every form he or she has left at a house is properly filled in, and if it is not to get the point specified.

We have received from the Coalville Urban Council office, the following names, in addition to those published in our last issue, of ladies and gentlemen who have volunteered their services in connection with the National Registration and are assisting as enumerators at Hugglescote: Miss Whitmore, Miss Fellows and Miss G. Fellows, Messrs. W. Gimson, W. Gowdridge and H. Glover.

News has been received that Lance-Corporal Harry Cramp, of Ellistown, has been wounded in France, and is now in hospital at Boulogne. Before enlisting in the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, he carried on the business of a hairdresser at Ellistown. He was one of the first fifty to leave Coalville.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER'S DEATH

Mr and Mrs William Badcock, of Leicester Road, Ibstock, have now received official confirmation of their son, Harry's death while on active service and they have been the recipients of many expressions of sympathy with them in their sad bereavement.

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

News has been received that Pte. H. Ing, of the 5th Leicesters, son of Mr Jonah Ing, of Waterworks Road, Coalville, was killed in action on July 30th. Further particulars and a photo will appear next week.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

Just as we go to press we regret to hear that another local soldier, the son of Mr Massey, of the Hugglescote Botanical Brewery, has been killed in action, he having been shot through the head while doing sentry duty on Monday night. Further particulars will be given next week.

DESERTER

Before Mr J. W. West, at the Coalville Police Court on Wednesday, Pte. Patrick Michael was charged with being a deserter from the Royal Engineers, Smethwick. He was apprehended in the Whitwick lodging house by P.C. Grewcock. Defendant said he enlisted in this name, but his true name was Percy Ball, and his home was at Ratby. He was remanded to await an escort.

DO YOU KNOW

That Pte. Walter Adams, of the Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry, has been on a visit to his home in Whitwick after being in hospital after a good spell in the trenches?

That Mr A. D. Orchard, of the Hinckley Volunteer Training Corps, won Mr A. E. Hawley's cup in the shooting competition for August with a score of 34 out of a possible 35?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 38th collection from 10 districts realised £9 11s 1d.

LOYAL CANADIANS

FORMER COALVILLE MAN AND SONS AT THE FRONT

Mrs Underwood, wife of Mr H. Underwood, hairdresser, of Jackson Street, Coalville, has received the following cutting from a Montreal newspaper, which reveals splendid patriotism on the part of a former Coalville resident and his sons. The cutting is as follows:

"When the war started the family of Mr and Mrs William Owen, 1003 Greene Avenue, consisted of four sons and one small daughter. The eldest boy resigned a good position with R. G. Dunn and Co. to go with the 13th Battalion of the first contingent. Today, Pte. William Ernest Owen lies in an English hospital with an eye gone and other serious wounds. When the call came for the second contingent the father gave up his position as foreman plasterer, and with the next eldest son, Joseph Richard, enlisted in the 24th Battalion. He is now orderly for Capt. the Rev. A. P. Shatford. George the next in line, joined the 5th Royal Highlanders and Harry 18 years old is doing guard duty at the camp for aliens at Spirit Lake. In addition, Mr Owen's brother, although 58 years of age, is at the front with his only son, and Mrs Owen's brother is also in the trenches."

Accompanying it was a letter from Mrs Owen in which she says the war is awful and she misses her boys very much. She has not had a letter from Willie for some time and is afraid that he has lost his sight. She continues: *"But I expect I shall have to be patient. A mother has to have lots of patience. I feel grieved for poor Mrs Wardle. Kindly remember me to her. I feel it most in the evening when I am all alone, then I miss my dear boys and my husband very much. Dolly and me hardly know what to do with ourselves. First I try to sew and then I have to put it down. Then I try letter-writing and that is as bad. I shall be glad when it is all over. I wonder if you have seen my old neighbour, George Wilton, who lived on Belvoir Road, nearly opposite Jack Shaw's, also Mrs Lawrence. And how is Jack Topliss getting on. When I come home I shall certainly have a day or two with you, as I shall have a few old friends to see. I expect I shall see many changes. I wish everything would settle down, but they seem to think here it will last years yet. There are a lot of strange aeroplanes coming over Montreal and some seem to think that they are for no good. My boy has taught me how to shoot and has loaded me a gun. It hangs over the door. I pity the first German that comes into my place. I do hope the States don't go to war. It will make it bad for us."*

ASHBY

YOUNG OFFICER'S DEATH AT THE FRONT

Second-Lieut. Bryan Osmond Dewes, 1st Middlesex Regiment, killed in France on 30th July, was the elder son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Dewes, of 32, Harley Street, London, and Glebelands, Blackheath. He was educated at Eastbourne and Repton. The gallant young and promising officer was the grandson of Mrs Dewes, of Rawdon Terrace, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He was 20 years of age.

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DESERTED SINCE RETURNING FROM FRANCE

At Hinckley on Tuesday, Josiah Corfield was charged with being a deserter from the Desford Convalescent Home since the 3rd last. He was arrested by P.C. Screaton, Bagworth, and when challenged said, *"I absented myself from Desford Convalescent Home, where I have been since coming back to England from France, where I was wounded."* He was wearing a military undervest, and had hidden his uniform in a field. He was detained pending the arrival of an escort.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SOLDIERS

MEETING AT SHEPSHED

The inauguration of a scheme to provide comforts at Christmas for all soldiers and sailors in the Shepshed and Charley district has been very cordially welcomed. A meeting was held at the Council schools to which all factories, workplaces, schools, etc., had been invited to send representatives. Mr J. Harriman, J.P., presided and there were also present Miss Goodall, the Rev. Canon Martens, the Rev. A. E. Pope, the Rev. A. Holt, B.A., (The Oaks), Messrs. C. Mee, J.P., A. E. Frost, M. Smith, T. G. Whyte, J. G. Foston, I. Hall, W. Pendleton, W. Coup, etc.

An interesting discussion took place, and on the motion of Mr Mee, seconded by Mr Pendleton, it was unanimously resolved to use every effort to make the scheme a success. It was stated that a number of

factories, etc., were already taking the matter up with enthusiasm, and several expressions of regret for unavoidable absence that night had been received.

On the motion of Mr M. Smith, seconded by the Rev. A. Holt, it was resolved that those present form the committee, together with representatives from workplaces, schools, etc., with power to add to the number. The Rev. A. Holt and Miss Martin (Charley Hall) were appointed to obtain what funds possible in The Oaks district, and the further consideration was adjourned to Friday, the 27th inst.

FOR GALLANT DEEDS

THREE LOCAL SOLDIERS AWARDED THE D.C.M.

A supplement to the "London Gazette" issued by the Press Bureau on Thursday states that the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to a long list of men for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with the expeditionary forces in France and Flanders, the Dardanelles and Turkey-in-Aden.

The list includes the names of two men – Private T. Newcombe and Private H. W. Page – of the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, and that of the Squadron Sergeant-Major, J. P. Swain, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry.

S.S.M. Swain, who was formerly a farmer at Kirkby Mallory, joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry on June 2nd, 1902, and served in the South African War. He was a member of the "B" Squadron. He is described by Capt. Kaye as a fine soldier, and one of the smartest non-commissioned officers who trained under him. He was offered a commission in his regiment, but with a view to making the Army his permanent profession, decided to take a commission in the 2nd Leicesters, with whom he is now serving in France. The deeds which won for the three local men the D.C.M. will be found below.

Private T. Newcombe, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

For conspicuous gallantry on the night of the 15th and the 16th May, 1915, near Richebourg, l'Avoue. An officer was severely wounded during a night attack, about 20 yards from the German parapet, and at 1.30 am, Private Newcombe voluntarily went out, under fire of rifles, machine guns, shrapnel, and trench mortars to bring him in. The officer was too badly wounded to move, and Private Newcombe remained with him all night, and until he died on the evening of the 16th, doing what he could for him. He crawled back to our lines after dark, exhausted with strain and exposure.

Private H. W. Page, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

For conspicuous gallantry on the night of 14 – 15th June, 1915, near Richebourg, l'Avoue. A few men, under an officer, were putting out wire in a very exposed place in our front. The position was given by flares and the enemy opened a heavy rifle and machine gun fire, seriously wounding the officer. Private Page at once followed another officer over the parapet, and assisted to carry the wounded officer to safety under a heavy fire and continuous flares. He was always ready to undertake any hazardous work, and set a splendid example of great courage and devotion to duty.

Squadron Sergeant-Major J. P. Swain, Leicestershire Yeomanry (T.F.)

For gallant conduct and great coolness on the 13th May, 1915, at Ypres, in supporting and rendering valuable assistance to his officer, and giving a fine example of devotion to duty to his men.

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MILITARY FUNERAL AT HINCKLEY

On Saturday afternoon the funeral took place with military honours at Hinckley of Lance-Corp. Arthur Harris, 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, who died on August 1st in King George's Hospital, London, from wounds received in action. The Rev. J. Griffiths conducted the service, and the coffin, which was enshrouded in the Union Jack, was borne to the grave by eight of the Leicestershire Regiment, a company of the same

regiment forming a guard. A party of 14 from the same regiment fired three volleys over the grave and the "Last Post" was sounded by the bugler.

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OUTWITTING THE GERMANS

ELLISTOWN AND APPLEBY SOLDIERS' SMARTNESS

RECOMMENDED TO THE GENERAL

Pte. H. G. Starbuck, who was drafted from the 5th Leicesters to the Engineers, has written to his parents at Appleby Magna, saying: *"I have a little comforting news to tell you. They sent us up to work in a crater that the Germans made when they exploded a trench. We ran into one of their mines that was ready for going up, so I got a pair of cutters and disconnected the battery wire. We then followed the sap up, and took out many explosives. It was a dangerous job, I can tell you, but we did it, and got out all the explosive and saved a good many from getting blown up. Lieut. Moore has recommended us to the general, so I expect we shall get a bit of praise for it. There were five of us engaged in the work. I was in the sap head getting out the explosive, and a chap from Donisthorpe, named Hurley, was behind me, while the Leicester chaps and Corporal Emmerson from Ellistown, were taking it out as we got it from the sap head. The Germans will be _____ when they press the button and find there is no explosion, and that we have 'plucked their explosives'."*

COALVILLE LOSSES

SYMPATHY WITH RELATIVES FROM COMRADES AT THE FRONT

We have received the following letter from the front:

"Dear Sir, the N.C.O.'s and men of No. 5 Platoon, B Company, desire me to express through your valued paper their deepest sympathy with the relatives and friends belonging to Coalville and district who were killed in action on July 23rd inst. (Friday), by a mine exploding under the trench they were holding. They wish to assure you that their loss will be ours as they had a great respect for the Coalville boys. They think it would help them to bear the loss by knowing that they were killed doing their duty. On behalf of the N.C.O.'s and men, B. Company, I am, yours faithfully."

Pte. J. F. Spriggs
B. Company, 5th Leicestershire Regiment
Saturday, August 7th, 1915

THRINGSTONE BROTHERS KILLED

Mr John Hall, of Thringstone, has received news that his son, Pte. Isaac Hall, 2521, 5th Battalion, B. Co. Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action on July 23rd, through the mining of a British trench by the enemy. He was 20 years of age, single, and employed as a collier before the war, and is the second son that Mr Hall has lost in the war. The other was Pte. Ernest Hall, killed in action, as reported a few months ago, and who left a wife and three children residing in Talbot Street, Whitwick.

The sad news was conveyed in the following letter from Capt. J. G. Griffiths, commanding B. Co. Leicestershire Regiment, dated July 26th:

"It is with the deepest regret that I have to write to inform you of the death of your son, Pte. I. Hall, on Friday night last. The loss of your son is quite a blow to his company. Both I and the whole of my company liked him, he being always cheerful and ready to do his duty. He was at the time nobly defending his trench when the enemy exploded a mine under our parapet and your son was, I believe, killed instantly and could not have suffered any pain. He was buried by his comrades behind the firing line and I am sure as long as we are in this district his comrades will tend his grave carefully. The only consolation we have for his loss is that he died nobly defending his trench. Kindly accept my sympathy and also that of the whole of my company at the loss of your son."

In his last letter home, dated Friday, July 16th, Pte. Isaac Hall wrote:

"My Dear Mother and Dad, - I now have the pleasure of writing these few lines to you to let you know I have received your letter, parcel and "Coalville Times", and I was very pleased with the contents of the parcel and enjoyed them very much. I got your parcel on Tuesday a few hours before we set off for the trenches the same night. I am writing this letter from the trenches the second night in. We had it a bit rough. It tumbled down in rain and was raining about all night. Such nights as these make you think of the dear old home. We cannot say when it starts to rain. 'I think I will get in home out of the wet.' It is no use saying that, no matter whether it rains, blows or snows. It makes no difference, you have got to stick it, but we are well used to it now, no matter what sort of weather it is. Well, I am pleased to tell you I am still in the pink and best of health, hoping this letter will find you all the same at home. You say you would be pleased to see me at home on Bank holiday, not half so pleased as I should be to see you. Dear Mother, there was a bit of rumour about us having four or five days' leave after we had been out here for so long, but I don't hear much about it now. But never mind, I hope I shall be able to come home and see you all one of these fine days. Time and patience. We never, never know our luck. I am very pleased to see dad is doing alright with the old pony and hope he will remain so. We get all our letters and parcels come to us in the trenches now, and it seems so nice to get a letter to read from dear old England as soon as it gets light in the morning. Tell Rud I thank him very much for helping you with the parcel. Is Emma still going on alright? Does the little watch that I gave her still go and how is the old bike going on? Keep my corduroy trousers well aired because I don't think the was will last much longer, I hope not at least. Well, I think this is all I have got to say this time, so I close my letter with best love to you all, from your loving son.

Isaac.

Good morning. Cheer up mother, better days in store, I hope. I think I will go down for an hour or two's sleep now."

A memorial service was held at Thringstone Parish Church on Sunday night for four soldiers from the parish who have been killed in the war – Pte. T. Jones (schoolmaster), Corporal Moore, and Privates Ernest and Isaac Hall, (brothers). There was a crowded congregation, many people being unable to obtain admission. Among those present were the Right Hon. Charles and Mrs Booth, the members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps under Commander G. F. Burton, and the boy scouts. The bugle band of the latter headed the Citizens as they marched from Whitwick. The service was impressively conducted by the vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, M.A., who preached an appropriate sermon from the text "Men that hazarded their lives for Christ's sake." A special form of service was gone through and the hymns sung included, "On the resurrection morning," and "Holy Father, in thy mercy." It is proposed to erect a stained glass window in the church to the memory of all men from the parish who have fallen, when the war is over, and the offertory for this object realised a good sum.

At the close of the service Miss Crane (organist) played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, and one of the Whitwick Boy Scouts, James Richards, sounded the "Last Post." The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

BAGWORTH SOLDIER'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

SHELLED BY THE ENEMY

Writing to his sister, Miss Smith, of Little Bagworth, Gunner P. Smith, who went to the front last November, says:

"Just a few lines, hoping this will find you all well, as it leaves me in good health at present. I expect by now you have safely landed at home, and there is only one thing I wish, and that is that I could be there with you for a few days. I think it would be better if we could get a decent move on, something like they are getting on the Russians. I think they are getting the upper hand of them, and will soon be in Warsaw, and here we are still sticking at the same old line as before Christmas. I am sorry to tell you that they shelled our battery.

We were not all together, or there might have been a bigger list of names to look at in the paper. One of our men was killed outright by a piece that hit him at the back of the head, breaking his neck, and there were three wounded. One poor sergeant had a piece go right through him, passing through one of his lungs, but still they say there is a chance for him. The other two were not so badly hurt. On the last day of July, they put seven shells over in the same position, killing one Frenchman, and a bloke belonging to us. Still, I think we were lucky that there are no more, for you can just fancy waking up in a morning and seeing the shells falling on your four other guns. Our sergeant was lying in bed at the time and he got wounded. So you see what they will do if they have any idea you are there. They have so many spies they are all over the place. They have blown up the farm house close to us, two people only went out of it the day before. I hope this will soon be over."

Friday August 20th 1915 (Issue 1224)

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A WOUNDED SOLDIER'S THANKS

Many eggs have been collected by the Ibstock school children, and sent to hospitals for wounded soldiers, and in some cases the address of the sender has been written on the egg shell. A little girl, Phyliss Wheatcroft, daughter of Mr W. Wheatcroft, Melbourne Road, Ibstock, has received an interesting letter of thanks, for an egg on which her address was written, from Pte. F. Powell, 2nd Grenadier Guards, who wrote from Northumberland War Hospital, Gosforth, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne.

ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

A letter was received from the Glen Parva Barracks giving notice of the removal of a soldier to the workhouse. The chairman asked whether the soldier's maintenance would be a charge on the rates. The clerk said it would. According to the Army Discharge Act, the man came back to his place of settlement. It was a case of a man who ought not to have enlisted.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Among the recent awards for bravery in the Dardanelles, the list of naval men upon whom the D.S.O. was conferred, includes the name of Engineer-Commander H. Lashmore, C.B., R.N., who is a cousin of Mr T. Lashmore, jeweller, of High Street, Coalville. The record states that during the time H.M.S. Inflexible was steaming to Tenedos – after having struck a mine – the engine-room being in semi darkness and great heat, the ship in possible danger of sinking on passage, a high standard of discipline was called for in the Engineer Department, a call which was more than met. Engineer-Commander H. Lashmore, responsible for the discipline of the engine-room department, was in the starboard engine-room throughout the passage, and set a fine example to his men.

During the past two weeks, Mrs J. J. Sharp, has received 29 packets of cigarettes from Mr W. Higgins' box, and 16 packets, 13 loose, and 4d from Coalville Liberal Club box, which have been sent to the 5th Leicesters at the front. Letters of thanks have been received from Major Toller and Capt. Sharp, as well as from many of the soldiers. Up to date, 851 packets and 173 loose have been sent out.

The balance sheet of the garden party recently held at Gracedieu for the Soldiers' Comforts Guild shows a profit of £134 17s 11d. The following were the items: Receipts: Gate money £43 11s 3d, tickets sold £46 17s 6d, sweet stall and bran tub, per Mrs and Miss Drewett £30 6s 3d; ice cream per Miss Hawthorn £3 5s 8d; sale of badges 5s 10d, subscription per Mrs S. W. Brown 2s 6d; concert per Messrs. Hay and Garrett £4 7s 11d, weighing machine per G. Hay £1 3s 6d, fortunes per Misses Hay and Jamie £1 9s 11d, fortune telling £3, clock golf 6s, skittles £1 17s 9d, captive football £1 1s 9d, bowling competition £1 14s 4d, bicycles £3 3s, motors 9s 6d, chairs £1 7s 9d, cloak room £1 0s 2d, total £145 10s 7d. Payments: Moss prizes 18s, Lashmore prizes 13s, nuts 6s, 3/5 Leicesters clearing grounds 5s, Mr Hill, cloak room attendant 3s, boy scouts £1, dancers 12s 8d, Hatter, carriage hire 12s 6d, Windebank conveyance of band £1, Ross bandsman's teas 11s, Briers brake hire and carting £3 3s, Wilkins printing and tickets £1 4s, Holmes printing 4s 6d, balance in hand £134 17s 11d, total £145 10s 7d.

R. J. Brown, treasurer.

1st (OR LEICESTERSHIRE) BATTALION

PETERBOROUGH REGIMENT

LOUGHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT COMPANIES

19th August, 1915. Dear Mr Chaplain Flood, - It is with the deepest regret I hear of the death at the front of Private Harry Badcock. Will you convey to his parents and friends my sincere sympathy in the loss they have sustained, the only consolation we have is that he laid down his life for the King, country and for you and me. Let us hope that at the last Grand Roll Call we may be permitted to thank the brave lad personally for what he has done for us. – I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

C. H. Adams, Major C.L.B. (Second in Command).
50 Frederick Street, Loughborough.

DO YOU KNOW

That a hundred wounded soldiers arrived at Leicester on Wednesday night?

That the Citizen Corps attended Coalville Church on Sunday morning?

That three men of Ellistown Church – J. Robson, G. Browne, and A. Neville – are now at the front?

That another train load of wounded from the front reached Leicester on Saturday night, and the men, 179 in all, were taken to the Base Hospital?

That about 200 wounded soldiers were entertained by Lord Braye, at Stamford Park, on Saturday, the outing being arranged by the Leicestershire Automobile Club?

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 39th collection from 8 districts realised £3 7s 9d.

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

BURIED IN A DUG OUT

Mr and Mrs C. Allen, of Margaret Street, Coalville, have received a letter from their son, Pte. S. E. Allen, of the 1st Leicesters, formerly employed at Messrs. Stableford's Works, intimating that he has been wounded. Writing from King George's Hospital, London, on the 13th inst., he states:

"I dare say you have heard about me being wounded again, if not I will try and give you an account of how it occurred. We had just returned from the firing line after having taken rations to the King's Royal Rifles, and were in the dugout, when a shell visited us, wounding seven and killing two of the nine of us who were there. We were buried with earth and timber so you will see what a miraculous escape I had from death. After being unearthed, which I know nothing of, because I had lost unconsciousness, it was found that I had been hit in both legs, which were soon attended to by the regimental doctor. I dare say I shall be in hospital for a month or two, as my left leg is very bad. I hope this will find you all well. I am in the best of spirits and longing to be with you once more. It is a most delightful hospital that I am in, there being everything that you could desire, which is not surprising seeing that it is a new one just opened. I wrote to Uncle Bill and Aunt Lizzie and have had a reply to say that they lost Cousin Fred on the 24th July, so my heart is with them in their sad bereavement."

We are pleased to hear that Pte. Allen is making good progress.

WHITWICK QUARRYMAN IN THE TRENCHES

INTERESTING LETTER

The manager of the Whitwick Granite Co., Mr J. H. Robinson, has received an interesting letter from one of the quarrymen, Pte. E. Freer, now at the front. He is a Shepshed man, one of four brothers serving in the army, two of whom have been wounded. One of the latter, George, is also employed at the Whitwick quarry. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Sir, - Just a few lines hoping it finds you quite well as it leaves me at present. I wish to thank you for the parcel and letter which I received quite safe. I am sure it will give you much pleasure to know I got it at the right time. It was fairly a livener for not one of us had a cigarette, and we could not get any. We are in the trenches and have been in 16 days. We don't know when we shall get out. I am sorry to say it was my brother that got wounded and I was talking to him at the time. When the shell burst over us there were nine or ten wounded with it. So we are not having it all honey, as a good many in England think. We shall soon have had six months of it now. I think it will not last much longer, as we are getting plenty of shells for them now. We have not been in a charge yet, but we have held some good positions. We are holding one of the most important parts in the line now. I think we shall soon be getting a rest; its about time. We have had a rough six months of it.

We have found one D.C.M. hero in the 5th Battalion, a chap from Measham, named Starbuck, and he was worth it. They found a German mine under our trench ready for blowing up, and they got over a thousand pounds of stuff out which was a risky job but it saved many a man's life as I think it would have soon gone up. It is terrible when they blow the trench up. I helped dig that other poor lot of chaps out the last time they blew us up. There were Melton and Coalville chaps in it.

I think this is all I can tell you at present, hoping to more good news for you next time."

TO COALVILLE AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT

We understand that some of our men out at the front are feeling neglected because they have not received a gift from the Coalville and District women. If this is so in your case the reason is that we have not received your address or any application. We are only too anxious to do what we can for each one of you to show our appreciation of what you are doing. So send your home address and your present address to Mrs L. L. Baldwin, hon. secretary, 88, London Road, Coalville. When sending for socks state the size of boots.

ASHBY

WOUNDED

Mr C. Elliott, M.A., headmaster of the Boys Grammar School, has received information that his son, Private C. W. Elliott, 2nd Sherwood Foresters, has been wounded in action. Following six weeks in hospital, Pte. Elliott again went to the trenches on 7th August, and on the 9th a shell burst close to him and he was wounded in the right side and thigh. He is now again in hospital. His comrade next to him was killed outright.

CITIZEN'S CORPS

A field day was held at Willesley on Sunday, when the following companies took part: Ashby-de-la-Zouch, under Commandant G. J. German; Gresley, under Commandant Beaumont; Linton, under Commandant Dickinson; Woodville, under Sergt. Osborne. The officers and men numbered 110. Drills and exercises were performed, which included an attack by Gresley, Linton and Ashby. Woodville defending the position. Fortunately the weather kept fine.

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HUGGLESCOTE TERRITORIAL KILLED

COMRADE'S TOUCHING LETTER

After being at the front for six weeks, Pte. William Massey, of the 5th Battalion, Leicestershire Territorials, was killed in action on Monday, August 9th. He was 19 years of age, and a son of Mr Richard Massey, mineral water manufacturer, of Hugglescote, whom he assisted in the business before joining the forces. He was included in the second batch of Territorials which left Coalville and received his training at Luton.

The sad news was conveyed in a letter dated August 10th from a comrade of the deceased, Pte. S. Summers, whose home is in Ashby Road, Hugglescote. The letter ran as follows:

"I am writing a few lines to tell you the sad news about your son, Will, who was killed on Monday morning, August 9th. He was shot through the head when on sentry and I hope it will be some consolation to you to know that he died without any pain. I was not far off at the time, but did not know he was shot till some time after. It was about four o'clock in the morning. I went to see him when they told me that the poor chap had been shot, but they had covered him over so that I could not see his face. When they told me it was Bill, I thought I should have dropped. He was like a brother to me. We always got on well together and he has been in my thoughts ever since. I saw him the night before and we had a chat together. He was just as cheerful as ever and I little thought that that would be the last time I should speak to him. Poor old chap! But we never know whose turn it is next, and we can only trust in Him who holds our lives in His hands. He died like a soldier, doing his duty for King and country. I will find out where he is buried and let you know. Break the news quietly to his mother because I know it will be hard to bear. With deepest sympathy with you in his loss, from his pal."

Sid Summers

On Monday last, Mr and Mrs Massey were visited by Mrs Wright, of Limby Hall, Swannington, who had received a letter from her boy in the trenches, telling her of Massey's death. In this letter the writer stated that Massey was killed just after they had made a charge. They had got into the trenches and the unfortunate soldier put his head up to look over and was immediately shot. At the time of writing (Tuesday) Mr and Mrs Massey had received no official intimation of the death.

The last letter they received from their son was written on Sunday, the day before he was killed, and was received by them on the Tuesday. He wrote:

"Dear Mother and Father – Just a few lines in answer to your welcome letter, which I got yesterday. I was pleased to hear from you and that you are all well as I am at present. It is rather rough weather here just now, plenty of rain and mud about. As I write this, I am in my dug-out with a pair of sandbags piled over my shoes and trousers, and they have got about half an inch of caked mud on them, which keeps me very warm and comfortable. We don't bother about dirt here. We are happy enough and keep smiling. We expect to be relieved tomorrow night, if all is quiet, and I hope it is. We are going in dug-outs about three miles away for six days in reserve for anything that might come and then we go back to the trenches again for six days when we shall have done our share as we shall have had 22 days of it. . . . . I received the 'Coalville Times'. You must not have any hope of me being able to get over, as I expect it will be a good while yet. I suppose you have got a letter by this time saying that Charlie Hatter (another Hugglescote soldier) was wounded. I have not heard from him yet. We are in the same trench that was blown up the other week and we can't help but think about it. I expect we shall be having some lively times here, but we shall be well prepared for them."

IBSTOCK NAVAL HERO

KILLED IN THE DARDANELLES

Petty Officer Harry Smith, of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in action in the Dardanelles on July 14th. He was in the navy for nine years and was with the gallant tars who tried to save Antwerp before being transferred to another theatre of war. He formerly lived at Ibstock with his sister, Mrs P. Wright, of Leicester Road, and leaves a wife and two children.

FORMER COALVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOY

KILLED IN ACTION

Pte. Harry Badcock, of the 5th Leicesters, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W. Badcock, of Leicester Road, Ibstock, killed in action on Sunday August 1st. He formerly attended the Coalville Grammar School having won a scholarship, and had also been a member of the Ibstock Church Lads' Brigade. He was the first soldier from Ibstock reported killed, though, unfortunately, there have been one or two others since.

A letter from a comrade states that deceased was shot in the stomach and expired in a few minutes. He enlisted in November and had been at the front nearly two months.

DIED FOR A RIGHTEOUS CAUSE

COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED IN ACTION

As briefly reported in our last issue, Pte. H. Ing, of the 1/5th Battalion, Leicestershire Territorials, son of Mr Jonah Ing, of Waterworks Road, Coalville, was killed in action on July 30th. The official letter, dated August 9th, from the Territorial Force Record Office, Lichfield, states:

"It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of No. 1242, Pte. H. Ing, of the 1/5 Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, which occurred in the field on the 30th July, 1915, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss."

Mr Ing has also received the following letter:

"The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."

Kitchener.

News of the sad event was earlier received in a letter, bearing the same date that the death occurred, from Lance-Corpl. Alfred Emmenson, of the D Co. 1/4th Leicesters, who writing from the front says:

"Dear Mrs Ing, - I am more than sorry that it has fallen to my lot to send you some very bad news indeed. Your son Harry, who belonged to the mining company attached to the Royal Engineers, was killed to-day in the trenches. A trench mortar fell near him and death was instantaneous. The shock to his company was very great indeed, for he was a popular member of the mining company. I myself have seen him prepared for burial and his effects packed up to be sent home. He will be buried to-night among his fallen comrades of the 5th Leicesters and two of his pals will attend the ceremony on behalf of the mining company. I should do so myself but have met with a slight injury and am going into hospital to-night. Believe me, we are all deeply grieved for you and yours in this great trouble. You may, however, find some consolation in knowing that he did his duty bravely and well, never shirking work in any form, but always ready and willing for anything. His loss to us we cannot yet realise. May God give you strength to bear up against this awful trouble and remember that your boy died for a just and righteous cause."

LATE MAJOR MARTIN'S WILL

WITNESSES KILLED IN SAME ACTION AS TESTATOR

Major William Francis Martin, Leicestershire Yeomanry, of Mountsorrel, who was killed in action near Ypres on the 13th May last, and who had seen service in the South African War, left unsettled property of the gross value of £5,320 3s 11d, with net personally £5,135 18s 10d. Probate of his will, dated 28th October last, has been granted to his widow, Mrs Violet Anne Philippa Martin, of the same address.

The testator left all of his property to his wife for life, with remainder equally between his two children, until the share of his daughter, Diana Violet Anne, shall amount to £200 per annum, and subject thereto all to his son, Robert Andrew St. George.

An affidavit filed with the will states that the two witnesses thereto, Lieut. Colin Peake, solicitor of London, and Lieut. S. P. D. Thomson, of Groby, Leicestershire, both of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, were killed in the same action as the testator.

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SHIRKERS' INQUISITION

PLAN TO SHAME THE MAN WHO HANGS BACK

A systematic plan for bringing the shirker into line has been arranged in Derbyshire, says a contemporary.

After the National Register forms have been tabulated, a civilian and a soldier will visit every man of military age, and ask him to join the Army or Navy. If he says "No," he will be asked to state his reasons. His answer will be taken down and reported to a local committee. Later a second visit will be paid to the man. If he still refuses his "reasons" will be published. It is argued that if this will not shame the shirker nothing will.

DESFORD WOUNDED SOLDIERS

OUTING TO LEAMINGTON

Favoured with fine weather, the wounded soldiers stationed at the Convalescent Home, Desford, were taken to Leamington on Thursday afternoon by the Earl Shilton and Barwell Motor Association. The arrangements were admirably carried out by the organising secretary, Mr L. M. P. Ney. A start was made from the hall at 2.45, and the cars, headed by Mr L. M. P. Ney's "pilot car," proceeded through Earl Shilton, Barwell, Hinckley, Wolvey, Walsgrave, Coventry, Kenilworth, and Warwick, arriving at Leamington about 4.45. The ruins at Kenilworth were inspected, and a halt was made on the bridge at Warwick for a view of the castle. In most of the villages people turned out in large numbers to give the soldiers a good cheer as they went along.

This was particularly noticeable at Wolvey, where on the return the cars were signalled to stop in the village square. Nearly all the inhabitants must have turned out, including the Vicar, to greet the men, and cigarettes, chocolates, plums, apples, bananas, and flowers in abundance, were thrown into the vehicles. In one car alone 52 packets of cigarettes were collected. As the cars were about to leave three hearty cheers were given for the people of Wolvey in appreciation of their generosity. Tea was provided at the Café Royal, Leamington, and was given by Mr Ney, secretary of the Association. After repast, cigars were handed round and before leaving a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr Ney, with the usual three cheers, proposed by Sergt. Everett. Mr Ney suitably responded, and spoke of the generous spirit displayed by the car owners in lending their vehicles for these outings. He hoped before the fine weather was over many more outings would be arranged. The return journey was made via Stoneleigh and Coventry and enthusiasm was at a very high pitch en route for the halt at Wolvey (as already mentioned), Hinckley and Earl Shilton. The Home was reached at 7.45, after a run of 75 miles in all. Those lending cars were Messrs. L. M. P. Ney, A. V. Hopecroft, C.C., W. H. Bird, S. Norton, H. Orion and George Geary.

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PATRIOTIC HINCKLEY FAMILY

Mr and Mrs J. S. Holden, of the Queen's Road Nurseries, Hinckley, have four sons and two son-in-laws serving in the army.

MARKFIELD SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs Dowell received a letter on Friday morning informing her that her husband (Pte. W. Dowell) had been killed while performing his postal duties "somewhere in France" on Tuesday afternoon. Photographs of his wife and four children, received that morning, were found in his pocket. Pte. Dowell was for some years at Markfield, and was very much respected.

RECRUITS FOR 10TH LEICESTERS

ANOTHER BATCH LEAVES LEICESTER

Recruits for the 10th Leicesters, to the number of 34, left Leicester on Friday for their training ground in the north of England, and were given a hearty send-off. The men assembled in front of the recruiting office, in Humberstone Gate, and, headed by the band of the Battalion, marched along Granby Street to the station, where a large crowd had assembled.

The men and their friends and relatives were in the best of spirits and the leave-takings on the station platform were of a hearty character. The train glided out of the station to the strains of a rousing march.

NORTON-JUXTA-TWYCROSS

CHURCH PARADE

The Gopsall and District Volunteer Home Guards held a church parade here on Sunday evening. They paraded at the Rectory with Captain Dr. T. J. Williams-Fisher in command, and Lieutenants J. Bennett, W. Hammersley, and J. Kirby. About 100 men answered the roll call. They marched to the church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. C. T. Moore, M.A., Appleby Magna. The Rev. H. R. Brigg, Orton-on-the-Hill, read the lessons, and the Rev. T. J. Williams-Fisher, I.L.D., preached an eloquent sermon on the supreme importance of self-sacrifice and everyone doing his share in the national crisis. The National Anthem was sung at the conclusion. The church was packed, many being unable to obtain admission.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Private Harry Lacey, of the Leicesters, has arrived for a short stay at his home in Highfields Street, Coalville, being convalescent after being in hospital from wounds received in action.

There will be very little football in Coalville and District this winter, it being realised that there is a sterner task for the young men to perform. The Coalville League has been abandoned for the season and there will be no cup or medal competitions. The Leicestershire Senior League is being continued as a combination, with six clubs, two of which are in Coalville (Town and Swifts) and one at Whitwick, and these will afford a little relaxation for those whose duties are at home and others who are too old for military service. There are, of course, many young men in this district who are rendering their country good service in the coal mines and other necessary works, and there can be no harm whatever in these indulging in a game of football on Saturday afternoons, providing a little recreation for themselves and some diversion for spectators who during the week and engaged in a matter which helps to keep the old flag flying.

Mr Wilfred Smith, son of Mr William Smith, of the Farm, Donington-le-Heath, is spending a few days' leave with his parents at Donington this week. He came straight from the front, where he has been for some months, having had some exciting experiences in the trenches. Before joining the army Mr Smith was a clerk in Lloyd's Bank at Leicester.

We are asked to state that the home of Petty Officer Harry Smith, killed in action in the Dardanelles on July 14th, whose photo appeared in our last issue, under the heading 'Ibstock naval hero,' was at 23 1/2 New Bridge Street, Leicester, where his widow and two children now reside. He lived with his sister, Mrs P. Wright, of Ibstock, for a short time whilst working there.

We regret to hear that some person or persons were mean enough on Sunday last to break open and steal the contents of a box outside the Coalville railway station which was given by Mr John Whootton for the reception of cigarettes, which Mrs J. J. Sharp is sending to local soldiers at the front. A reward is offered to anyone who will give information leading to the identity of the offenders and they would be rendering a public service.

DO YOU KNOW

That it is expected that the Leicester Howitzer Brigade will leave Leicester early next week to go into camp?

That the band of the 10th Leicesters, members of which have been recruiting in the district, gave a concert in Coalville Park on Sunday afternoon?

That Second-Lieut. G. M. Hewart, elder son of Mr Gordon Hewart, M.P., for Leicester, was killed in action at the Dardanelles between the 7th and the 11th August?

That "Union Jack" Day in Leicester, on Saturday, organised to raise funds with the object of providing games and comforts for the wounded soldiers, was a great success, £861 being realised?

That the members of the Shepshed Volunteer Training Corps have guaranteed a full military guard – two N.C.O.'s and 15 men – for one night per week at the Brush Works, Loughborough?

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

Pte. F. Clay, son of Mr Albert Clay, of Park Road, is in hospital in France having been wounded through a grenade exploding in his hand. He is in the 5th Leicester Territorials and was among the Coalville first 50.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 40th collection from 7 districts realised £2 19s 7d.

ABSENTEE

Michael Roach, of Whitwick, was brought before Mr B. G. Hale, at the Coalville Police Court on Saturday, charge with being an absentee from the Royal Naval Reserves, stationed at the Crystal Palace, London. He

had been apprehended by Inspector Dobney, at Whitwick, on the previous day. The magistrate ordered him to be handed over to the custody of the naval authorities.

WHITWICK QUARRYMEN IN THE FORCES

The following is a list of employees serving with the colours from the Whitwick Granite Co., Ltd., Whitwick.

Thomas Crowson, Leicestershire Yeomanry.
Lakin Manderfield, 8th Leicesters.
Fred Harrington, 5th Leicesters.
George Freer, 5th Leicesters.
William Thorpe, 5th Leicesters.
George Walker, jun., 5th Leicesters.
Charles Stanford, 5th Leicesters.
Ernest Laundon, Royal Marine Artillery.
F. Spurr.
W. Hurst, 5th Leicesters.
L. Martin, 5th Leicesters.
Allen Lucas, 5th Leicesters.
Charles Milward, 1st Leicesters.
Ernest W. Hicklin, 5th Leicesters.
Allen Rose, 8th Leicesters.
James Hickling, 8th Leicesters.
John Rodgers, 8th Leicesters.
George Walker, sen., 5th Leicesters.
Ernest Freer, 5th Leicesters.
William Gibson, 5th Leicesters.
James Cotterill, 5th Leicesters.
S. Unwin, 5th Leicesters.
G. Harry Bexon, 5th Leicesters.
George H. Clarke, Army Service Corps.
A. Bowley, 5th Leicesters.
John Heighton, Royal Naval Division.
Harry Chapman, 10th Leicesters.
J. Waterfield, 5th Leicesters.
Percy Whittaker, 5th Leicesters.
J. Bramley, 10th Leicesters.
G. J. Hudson, Royal Navy.

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WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT SILEBY

ENJOYABLE OUTING

In its patriotism the Leicestershire village of Sileby has given of its best, manhood, and it was not surprising on Saturday afternoon to see the villagers give an enthusiastic welcome to 150 soldiers from the Royal Infirmary, Gilroes, and North Evington Hospitals. As the motor cars of private gentlemen and members of the Leicestershire Automobile Club arrived, the people cheered again and again. Particular interest centred around Corporal Cottingham, of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, who was having his first airing since he was admitted to hospital on June 25th. His was the worst case of the lot, and although he had lost his left leg, and had his right shoulder badly shattered, he seemed bright and chatted freely to kindly sympathisers. He is a Londoner, and when asked how he met with his terrible injuries, he jocularly remarked, *"Oh, on May 23rd an 80lb shell struck our gun, and the compression cap severed my thigh, and put my right arm out of action."* This was not the only soldier minus a limb, for there were several without an arm or a leg, but they had recovered sufficiently to be able to knock about as nimbly as many ordinary men. There were among them, Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotsmen, but only one Leicester soldier was noticed. The rendezvous was The Grange, the charming residence of Mr C. H. Martin.

The games provided there were bowls, clock golf, croquet and billiards. The whole affair was under the auspices of the Leicestershire Automobile Club, and the arrangements were carried out by Mr C. G.

Barradale, a Leicestershire solicitor. The Sileby Imperial Band was in attendance and under Bandmaster W. Freer, played selections. Tea was provided in a marquee, and while this was in progress the band played the National Anthems of England, Russia, and France. A capital concert was given by artistes from Leicester. Two duets, “The moon hath raised her lamp above,” and “Somewhere a voice is calling,” were rendered by Messrs. W. Payne and T. Hanson. Miss Annie Johnson gave two songs, including “Till the boys come home.” Mr Albert created much merriment with his humorous songs, particularly “Sophy’s Sweetheart.” Mr Hanson’s singing of “The Trumpeter” was immensely pleasing, and Mr Payne contributed some capital songs. The Rev. W. Tunley, Primitive Methodist minister, presided.

At intervals, cigarettes, fruit and minerals were distributed among the soldiers, who thanked Mr and Mrs Martin for their hospitality.

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HUGGLESCOTE AND WHITWICK LADS AT THE FRONT

INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE TRENCHES

We have received the following letter, addressed to the Editor, dated August 14th:

“Dear Sir, - I now take the pleasure of writing these few lines to you to let the people of the Coalville district know how we are getting on at the front. We are now out for a little rest after three weeks in the trenches, but it was pretty easy all but for one place, and they sent three bombs before we had been there five minutes. We had the luck to have our August holidays in the trenches, but did not mind because we hardly thought of it until we got out into the billets. During the first week we had three casualties by one of their bombs, the sort of bombs they call sausage bombs. They look about three feet long and turn over and over in the air until they reach the ground and then they make a noise like the bursting of a big shell. I expect we shall soon be back in the trenches again and we are ready after having a bath and change of clothing. I am pleased to say that there is a good many men from Coalville and roundabout answered the call of the country and although there is a lot gone west, there is still some left to share the fighting against the Huns. We have seen a few sights out here, some that we should not like to see in England. We will now bring our short letter to a close with best respects to all in Coalville and District.”

J. B. (Hugglescote)
W. H. B. (Whitwick)

THE LATE PTE. MASSEY, OF HUGGLESCOTE

LETTER FROM HIS PLATOON COMMANDER

Mr and Mrs R. Massey, of Hugglescote, have received the following letter in reference to the death of their son, Pte. Wm. Massey, killed in action which arrived too late for insertion in our last issue:

“Dear Mr and Mrs Massey, - No doubt by the time you get this, you will have heard from our Company Officer about the sad death of your son. It came as a big shock to all his friends, and they have asked me to express their sympathy to you in your sad loss. Perhaps it may comfort you a little to know that he died doing his duty, and that he was laid to rest by four friends, at the back of the firing line. His death came as a great loss to his company. Although he had been with us only a short time, he had many friends, and I know he could always be depended upon to do everything he was told. We had several parcels, but I divided them up between the platoon, knowing it was his wish and we are returning the letter. I also got a letter from his cousin, but have sent it back to her. Must conclude now, hoping you will not take your loss too much to heart. – I remain, yours truly.”

Sergeant Dobson, 1374.
His Platoon Commander.

THE LATE PTE. BADCOCK, OF IBSTOCK

LETTER OF SYMPATHY FROM HIS COMRADES

Mr and Mrs W. Badcock, of Ibstock, have received the following letter:

"Dear Sir, - I am returning herewith, letter received today. You must excuse me opening it but it is part of my duty to open letters sent to men of my company, who have, unfortunately, got killed. No doubt you know before now that your son has been killed and I want to express the sympathy of every officer and man of my company, in the irreparable loss you and your family have sustained by his death. It may be some little consolation to you to know that he died a soldier, doing his duty to King and Country, and although he has fallen, his name must live in the village from whence he came, to fight side by side with those already here, for one common cause. He is buried in a little cemetery behind the scene of action and a cross marks the spot where he lies in peace. Again, assuring you of the greatest and deepest sympathy of us all, - I remain, yours respectfully."

R. Gorse. C. Qr.-M. Sergt.
A. Company, 1/5th Leicestershire Regiment

SOLDIER CHARGED WITH STEALING A BICYCLE

REMANDED AT COALVILLE

Before Major Hatchett, at the Coalville Police Court, on Monday, Edward Clarke, a private in the 3rd Leicesters, who appeared in khaki, was charged with stealing a bicycle, value £5, the property of Archibald William Lee, at Whitwick, on August 3rd last.

Police Inspector Dobney deposed to receiving information of the theft of a bicycle at High Tor on the date named and from his enquiries ascertained that the defendant had been in the neighbourhood. He traced him to 177, Trafalgar Street, London, and saw him there on Sunday morning with the bicycle in his possession. He told the prisoner he should arrest him on a charge of stealing the bicycle and he made no reply. Witness took him to Rodney Street Police Station, Wandsworth, where he was detained until being brought to Coalville. On his arrival at Coalville after being cautioned, the prisoner made and signed a statement in which he admitted stealing the bicycle.

Asked whether he had any question to put to the witness, prisoner made no reply.

Supt. Lockton asked for a remand to the Coalville Petty Sessions on Friday and the accused was accordingly remanded in custody.

Friday September 3rd 1915 (Issue 1226)

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CONSCRIPTION

LORD KITCHENER REFUSES TO BE DRAWN

In December, 1910, Mr C. Morle, of West Butterwick, near Gainsborough, received a letter from the late Lord Roberts containing the following sentence:

"I have never advocated conscription, but universal military training for home defence, which is quite a different thing. Enlistment for the regular army and for service abroad must always remain voluntary as heretofore."

This week, Mr Morle forwarded Lord Roberts's letter to Lord Kitchener, and respectfully asked if he could add anything to Lord Roberts's views. Lord Kitchener has replied thanking Mr Morle, and has returned the letter as requested, but minus any comment as to the views expressed.

ALIENS RESTRICTION ORDER

PROSECUTION AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Annie Green, a Loughborough widow, who lost her husband in the Boer War and a son in the present war, on Wednesday, at Loughborough, pleaded guilty to not keeping a register of aliens at her boarding house in Clarence Street.

P.C. Mee spoke of visiting the house with respect to a Belgian engaged at the Brush Electrical Engineering Works, and lodging on the premises. She produced a number of papers containing the names of several lodgers but she had not got a register of aliens. A Portuguese gentleman had been living in the house for about two years, and the Belgian only a few days. Defendant admitted having received printed instructions, but she had not read the same carefully.

Supt. Agar said the defendant seemed to be trying to get an honest living. She had two sons in the army, but one, a member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, was killed. She attributed worry consequent upon the war to her neglecting the orders. This was the first case of the kind in the division, and the Chief Constable did not wish to press the case.

The Chairman said they would allow the case to be withdrawn on payment of costs, but the defendant and others must understand that such offenders had been severely punished about the country. For the benefit of all he hoped it would be remembered that future defenders would not be so leniently treated as had been the defendant.

WAR MUNITIONS

TRIBUNAL AT LEICESTER

The first sitting of the Leicester District War Munitions Tribunal was held at Leicester on Friday, under the presidency of Ald. Thomas Smith. Two cases were set down, but one of them was referred elsewhere for consideration, the applicant having refused work in the Leicester district.

The other case was an application by George Ford, a general inspector of machine work, employed by a firm in the district, against Herbert Morris, for a discharge certificate, which he alleged had been unreasonably withheld by the firm.

Ford said he was discharged on August 17th for beginning his tea before the proper time, which was a 'slight' breach of the rules. The works manager subsequently told him he could go back to work if he liked, but he declined.

Mr J. H. Tuck, who was present on behalf of the works manager, said the job was still open to complainant, who was engaged on munitions work. By leaving, Ford disorganised the particular department which was engaged on very important work. Ford agreed to return to work at the firm, and the Court made no order.

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

SOLDIER SENT TO PRISON

Edward Clarke, a private in the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with stealing a gentleman's bicycle, at Whitwick, on August 3rd. He pleaded guilty.

Inspector Dobney stated that having received information of a bicycle having been stolen from High Tor, he traced the defendant to 177, Trafalgar Street, Walworth, London, and watched the house from 9 pm till 10 am the next morning when he saw the prisoner enter the house with the stolen bicycle in his possession. He was dressed in civilian clothes. Witness followed him to the house and charged him with stealing a bicycle from High Tor Farm on the 3rd inst., the property of Archibald W. Lee. He replied, *"All right."* After being brought to Coalville he made a statement admitting having stolen the bicycle and riding it to London, sleeping one night under a stack. He also admitted being a deserter from the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment and witness found his uniform under the bed. The prosecutor had identified the bicycle.

Defendant said he had no intention to steal the bicycle. He thought it belonged to the waggoner and borrowed it because he had had a letter to say his father was dying. Inspector Dobney said the defendant

used to work as a labourer at High Tor Farm and when he went there on August Bank Holiday he said he had been to the front and had a fortnight's leave and they allowed him to stay a few days.

The Chairman: *Has he been to the front?*
Inspector Dobney: *No sir.*

Prisoner was sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

The Inspector having stated that the defendant was suffering from rupture and would probably be discharged from the army, the Chairman asked that this be pointed out to the prison authorities.

PREFERRED FARM WORK TO SOLDIERING

George Wilson, a private, was summoned for being an absentee from the 3rd Leicesters. P.C. Higgs said he found the defendant at work on Mr Blackett's mowing machine at Heather. He had his soldier's trousers on. He told witness he did not like soldiering and would sooner work on a farm.

He was remanded to await an escort.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The manager of the Bagworth Colliery, Mr J. Emmerson, has three sons – Joseph, William and Alfred – serving at the front, and Joseph has arrived home this week on seven days' leave, having come straight from the trenches. He returns today (Friday). He has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

A second birth among the Belgian refugees at Coalville took place on Wednesday in last week, a little girl being born to M. and Mme. Willems. The event took place in Broom Leys house and it is believed that a birth has not taken place there for nearly 50 years previously. The birth of the first Belgian baby in Coalville took place at the Broom Leys Lodge.

Mr and Mrs J. S. Thompson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, have just received an intimation that their son, Pte. Joseph Gregory Thompson, of the Portsmouth Battalion, Royal Marines, who was wounded in the Dardanelles in May last, has now lost the use of his right arm. The letter written for him by a comrade stated that he was in the convalescent camp at Cyprus and was about to be removed to Alexandria. He has a wife and one child who have been staying with his parents since he went to the war.

Mr Walter Brownlow, late of 'The Laurels,' Whitwick, has received an intimation from the War Office that his youngest son, George Harry Toon Brownlow, of the 7th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, was twice wounded in actions at the Dardanelles on August 9th and was removed to the Base Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt, where he is going on as favourably as can be expected. The injuries are to his side and under his arm and it is not stated whether they are severe or otherwise dangerous.

The 'Hugglescote Parish Magazine' says: *"Mr Davies has now left us finally and is at present with the Officer's Training Corps at Cambridge. His place after the Advent ordinations, will be taken by Mr H. V. Williams, who was most successful as the Captain of the Peterborough No. 2 Church Army Van, and promises to make a most excellent clergyman. In the interval the Rev. F. Ellis has kindly undertaken to assist the parochial clergy."*

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports having received for the 5th Leicesters at the front during the past fortnight, 64 packets of cigarettes and 241 loose from Mr Tyler's box, Engineer's Arms, Coalville; 28 packets and 11 1/2d cash from Mr W. Higgins' box; 35 packets, 5 loose and 5 1/2d from the Coalville Liberal Club box; 15 packets, 4 loose and 3d from the Coalville West End Club box; and 45 packets, 40 loose and 1d from the Whitwick Liberal Club box.

DO YOU KNOW

That tomorrow is Belgian Flag Day in the Coalville Urban District, the proceeds for the Belgian Soldiers' Fund?

That the Markfield Belgian Relief Committee have forwarded to the Coalville Committee in cash £101 5s 4 1/2d since November 1914?

That as a result of the visit to Hinckley, Barwell, Earl Shilton and district of the Leicestershire Regimental Band, with recruiting officers, 159 men have been obtained for the army during the last ten days?

That P.C. Robertson, late of the county constabulary, stationed at Coalville and Newtown Linford, and now of the Howitzer Brigade, has been presented with a wrist watch by the inhabitants of Newtown Linford where he was stationed for 18 months?

That Mr Frank Poxon, son of Mr Poxon, of Meadow Lane, Coalville, an employee of the Whitwick Colliery Co., who is now a Metropolitan policeman, was one of the officers engaged in the recent 'Brides in the Bath' case and also had the honour last week of escorting his friend Pte. Buckingham, V.C., around London?

HONOURED BY THE CZAR

REWARD FOR LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIAL

FORMER CLERK AT COALVILLE POST OFFICE

A special supplement to the 'London Gazette' states that his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, has been graciously pleased to confer, with the approval of His Majesty the King, the under-mentioned reward for gallantry and distinguished service in the field.

1296 Sergt. John Harold Smith Christian, Leicestershire Yeomanry (T.F.)

Sergeant Christian was a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Leicester G.P.O., is still at the front, and was mentioned in dispatches, early in June for conspicuous bravery. At present he holds the position of staff-signaller at headquarters in the field.

For some time previous to outbreak of war he had been performing relief duties at Coalville Post Office and was well known to many local residents, and during a short leave from the trenches he paid a visit to Mr T. Tressider, postmaster, Coalville.

The decorations which the Emperor of Russia has conferred on British heroes are the equivalent to the Victoria Cross. They comprise the four Orders which are given for military or naval services – the St. George, St. Vladimir, St. Anne, and St. Stanislas. Comparatively, four recipients of the Order of St. George are listed in the 'Gazette;' it is the most highly prized of Russian decorations, and the majority of the awards are in the fourth class of the Order. The first, second and third class are reserved for generals in command of armies, chiefs and staff, and for commanders of corps which contribute vitally to victories. The fourth class is given to officers of any grade for extraordinary heroism. The decoration (the London correspondent of the 'Daily Despatch' states) is a brown enamel cross, supported by black and red ribbon, and it has crossed swords when given for gallantry in battle. Both the St. George and St. Vladimir were founded by Catherine the Great.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 41st collection from 8 districts realised £4 3s 3d.

SHEPSHED

PRESENTS TO SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

A meeting in connection with the scheme for making Christmas presents to Shepshed and the Oaks-in-Charnwood soldiers and sailors was held in the Council Schools, on Friday evening, and was presided over by Mr J. Harriman. Mr G. F. Bottrill accepted the treasurership. Good progress had been made with the fund.

The Chairman, Mr Brewill and Mr Smith undertook to see one or two heads of factories and schools who had not yet joined in with a view to making the effort a united one, and the meeting was adjourned for a week.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT MARKFIELD

Between 50 and 60 wounded soldiers from the Base Hospital, the Royal Infirmary and Charnwood Hospital were entertained at the Manor House, Markfield, on Tuesday afternoon by Mr Dally Birchnall; the men being conveyed to Markfield in motor cars lent by Mrs Lillingstone (Ulverscroft), Messrs. J. H. Holmes (Wigston), F. W. Preston (Kirby), B. Toone (Glen Parva), J. G. Pickard, A. E. Pudan, W. H. Herbert, F. S. Green (Whetstone), E. H. Warner, J.P., (Quorn Hall), C. A. Games, F. Chenry, J. Leeson, Allan Moss (Loughborough), H. G. Raven, William Evans, E. Bentley, Preston, and A. Boulter.

On Friday, a similar number from the Base Hospital will be entertained by Lady Palmer at Wanlip Hall; on the following day Lord Braye, of Stamford Park will again entertain about 200, and on Monday the congregation of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wigston, will entertain a number of soldiers. Further outings have been arranged for the 11th, 18th and 25th September, and the 30th September, by the permission of Mr Oswald Stoll, a matinee will be given at the Palace for the benefit of the wounded soldiers in the hospitals in the borough in the county, and in Rutland.

WOUNDED SOLDIERS' OUTING

FROM DESFORD HALL TO COOMBE ABBEY AND RUGBY

Favoured with glorious weather, the wounded soldiers from Desford Hall Auxiliary Hospital had a most delightful outing to Coombe Abbey and Rugby, on Thursday. Motor cars for the journey were kindly lent by the following Earl Shilton and Barwell gentlemen: Messrs. A. V. Hopcroft, C.C., J. R. Ney, Wm. Smith, H. Orton, H. Bradbury, W. H. Cotton (two), George Ward, G. Geary, and A. C. Toon. The route was via Earl Shilton, Hinckley, Wolvey, Shilton, Coombe Abbey, Brinklow and Newbold.

At Coombe Abbey the soldiers greatly enjoyed being shown round the beautiful grounds and park, and before leaving three hearty cheers were given to the Earl of Craven for his kindness, and Mr Chandler (the head gardener) was also heartily thanked for conducting the party round.

Upon arriving at Rugby tea was served at Hobley's Café, through the kindness of Mr J. R. Ney. Owing to the lack of time the 'Tommies' were unable to accept the kind invitation of the manager of the Picture House to attend the first performance, and the return journey was commenced with a very enthusiastic send-off from crowds of people. The inhabitants of Wolvey again showed their kindness by providing cigarettes, chocolates and fruit on route, and the keen enjoyment of the soldiers proved how thoroughly they enjoyed the whole outing.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

In affectionate remembrance of William Chambers, aged 22 years, who died in the defence of his country, September 5th, 1914, being on board H.M.S. 'Pathfinder,' sunk in the North Sea.

The parting was sad, the shock severe;
We little thought his end so near
'Tis only those that have lost can tell,
The sudden grief of the last farewell.

From his mother, brothers and sisters.
Margaret Street, Coalville.

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ALL THREE SONS KILLED

SAD BEREAVEMENT OF A BURTON SCHOOLMASTER

News reached Burton-on-Trent on Friday that Mr A. Knight, had lost his third and only surviving son in the Dardanelles. All three sons have fallen in the service of their country, two in the Dardanelles and one in France.

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FROM THE TRENCHES TO THE ALTAR

SOLDIER'S WEDDING AT HUGGLESCOTE

An interesting wedding took place yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at the Hugglescote Parish Church in which the contracting parties were Miss Ruth Harper, youngest daughter of Mr E. Harper, of Ellistown, and Pte. James Edward Curwood, formerly of the 1st Leicesters, and now of the Cycle Corps.

The bridegroom, who was dressed in his khaki uniform, arrived from France on Monday, and is returning to the front to-day (Friday). The bride was given away by her father and wore a cream dress and hat to match. Her sister, Mrs Randle, of Ellistown, was the chief bridesmaid and there were two little girls, Ellen and Teresa Bishop (nieces of the bridegroom), who were dressed in blue and carried baskets of flowers, also the two little nephews of the bride, Willie and Silas Harper, wearing brown velvet suits and carrying shepherd's crooks, prettily decorated with flowers and ribbons of the national colours. Mr William Bishop, of Hugglescote, acted as best man and also present in khaki were Sergt.-Major J. Bishop and Pte. I. Harper, of the Midland Mounted Brigade.

The Rev. F. Ellis performed the ceremony. The wedding party were conveyed to and from the Church in Mr Blythe's motor car and a number of friends were afterwards entertained by the bride's parents. The bridegroom is the son of a soldier, being born at Wigston Barracks. He had served some years in the army before war broke out and was called up as a reservist. He has been at the front just a year, going to France on September 1st, 1914.

The newly married couple received hearty congratulations and the wishes of many friends for a happy reunion after the war.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED

We regret to announce that Cyril Ernest Baxter, one of the recruits who responded to the call made at the Coalville Olympia meeting last November, was killed in action on July 29th last. He was a strong well-built young man standing 6ft in height and had joined the First Coldstream Guards. As an orphan boy he lived for some years with Mr Ball who kept the Conservative Club at Coalville, and later with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, of Ibstock. He was 21 years of age and at the time of enlistment was working at the Ibstock Collieries.

IBSTOCK

Trooper John W. Dawson who was so badly wounded in the famous Leicester Yeomanry charge some months ago, returned home for a few days last week-end. He has been in Warrington Hospital for three months suffering from severe shrapnel wounds in the back, but he is now convalescent and making good progress towards being able to take on light duties. He is very cheerful after the terrible ordeal he had to go through and looks forward to again "doing his bit" somewhere in France against the enemy.

LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER DECORATED BY THE CZAR

RECEIVES THE CROSS OF ST. GEORGE

Sergeant Ernest Davison, Sherwood Foresters' Machine Gun Section, has been decorated by the Czar with the Cross of St. George, Fourth Class. Sergt. Davison's parents live at 38, Paget Street, Loughborough. He is 26 years of age and has been in the army seven years.

LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER PROMOTED

Sergt. Walter Tyler, of the 2/5th Leicesters, and second son of Mr Harry Tyler, late of the Black Lion Inn, The Rushes, has obtained a commission as lieutenant in the 3/5th Yorkshire Light Infantry. Lieutenant Tyler was employed at the Loughborough Gas Office as clerk up to two years ago, when he went to Lisbon, Ireland, where he latterly held the position of assistant gas manager. He enlisted last November.

LEICESTER JOURNALIST AS AIRMAN

COMMISSION FOR MR W. P. CORT

Having exchanged the pen for the flying machine, and obtained a pilot's certificate after three weeks' training, Mr W. Percy Cort, a well-known Leicester journalist, has been gazetted Second-Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps. To become an officer in this corps, particular qualifications are required, including a sound mechanical knowledge, and it is necessary to pass a fairly stiff examination before a coveted position in its ranks can be obtained.

Those who know Mr Cort – and he has a wide circle of friends – will offer him their congratulations on this distinction. Until lately he was a registered member of the reporting staff of the 'Leicester Daily Post' and 'Leicester Daily Mercury.' As a young journalist he showed exceptional promise. He has the gift of a ready writer, combined with a bright, attractive style, which would undoubtedly have carried him far in his profession.

Friday September 10th 1915 (Issue 1227)

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CROSSES FOR THE FALLEN

NO MORE MEMORIALS TO BE SENT TO THE FRONT

No crosses or memorials of any description to mark the graves of those who have died overseas can be accepted or transit, announced the War Office.

Durable wooden crosses, treated with creosote and legibly marked, are already in position on, or in preparation for, all known graves, and in addition, all known graves are carefully registered. A number of graves are well within the range of hostile shell fire which would as effectively destroy iron as well as wooden crosses. The former could not rapidly be replaced, whereas the latter could be re-erected immediately approach were possible.

Further, many graves are close to the enemy, and can only be approached at night, therefore the weight of the cross to be erected is an important factor. These reasons, and the difficulty which would be experienced in the delivery of crosses if general permission were granted, render it necessary that during the war only the regulation wooden crosses should be erected over graves.

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THREE SONS KILLED

KING'S SYMPATHY WITH A BURTON SCHOOLMASTER

On Saturday morning, Mr A. Knight, the headmaster of the Guild Street Council School, Burton-on-Trent, who within two months has lost his three sons at the front, received the following letter from Lord Stamfordham:

"It has been brought to the King's notice that your three sons have been killed in action. His Majesty is grieved to hear of the terrible sorrow which you are thus called upon to bear, and commands me to assure you of his deep sympathy. At the same time the King regards with great admiration this splendid sacrifice which your gallant sons have made in this great struggle, wherever the Empire is now engaged."

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

About 400 soldiers, billeted at Loughborough on Sunday morning attended divine service at the Parish Church. The band was in attendance and Major Goward was in command of the three companies. The Rev. G. Wilson preached a powerful sermon on manliness and duty.

We regret to hear that Capt. A. T. Sharp, son of Mr and Mrs J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, has been injured at the front and is now in hospital in France. Happily the last letter received stated that he was progressing satisfactorily.

Another Coalville soldier, Pte. T. Usherwood, of the 5th Leicesters, a former employee of Messrs. Wooton Bros. and whose parents reside at Highfield Street, Coalville, is also in hospital.

Another train load of wounded soldiers came to Leicester about 2 o'clock on Monday morning. It was No. 4 train from Dover, in charge of Lieutenant Martin, and contained 5 officers, and 172 men, 50 of the latter being cot cases. Fifty cases were taken to Base Hospital, and the remainder were conveyed to the North Evington Hospital. There was an ample supply of motor vehicles, and it speaks volumes for the excellence of the arrangements made when it is stated that the train was cleared in 63 minutes. Major Henry represented the Base Hospital, and Mr A. W. Faire, County Director, carried out the customary arrangements for the V.A.D.

Mr George Straw, formerly one of the Coalville members of the Ashby Board of Guardians, who now resides at 16 Midland Terrace, Ellistown, has received a letter intimating that his son, Sergt. George Straw, of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, has been wounded in action in the Dardanelles, being struck with a piece of shrapnel which passed through his thigh and right through the man next to him. This happened on August 21st, two days before his birthday. It was 12 months ago, last Monday, that Sergt. Straw enlisted.

Another party of wounded soldiers were, by the kindness of Mrs F. Abel-Smith, entertained at Coleorton Hall, near Ashby, on Tuesday, the visitors on this occasion being from Birmingham, whence they travelled in a fleet of 30 motor cars, a distance of about 32 miles. They were accompanied by a Boys Band, and on arriving, were provided with tea, and amusements at the Hall, the beautiful flower garden and walls being thrown open to them. The weather was fine and the return journey was begun before dusk.

Among the 144 new D.C.M.'s which have been awarded for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty is the name of Sergt.-Major C. H. Hall, of the 97th Batt. Royal Field Artillery. He has been in the army for a number of years, and is at present at the Dardanelles. He was born at Shepshed, where his mother and several brothers reside.

Sapper George Miller Chamberlain of the 176th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, has been awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to service whilst on the field. His home is in Melbourne Road, Ibstock, and prior to enlistment he was employed by the Nailstone Colliery Company. He was one who responded to an invitation given some three months ago to members of the Ashby rescue

teams to join and assist in mining operations against the enemy trenches. It is understood that whilst engaged in driving a mine they heard Germans countermining and succeeded in frustrating their attempts to charge the explosives laid.

A detachment of the Loughborough National Reserve left the town on Saturday night. They were accompanied to the Midland Station by the band of the 3/5th Leicesters, which played selections. Several hundreds of people joined in the procession, and the old soldiers had a great send off.

DO YOU KNOW

That Pte. Starbuck, who has been awarded the D.C.M., is an Appleby Magna man?

That the Leicester Citizens' Volunteer Corps were inspected on Sunday on the County Cricket Ground by Lord Ranksborough?

That Mr J. Cole, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, is in possession of a Ghurkha knife sent from the front?

That two members of the Thringstone Cycling Club have been killed in action and there are 14 others now at the front?

That on Monday afternoon over 60 recruits from the Leicester district for the Royal Naval Division left Leicester to commence their training at the Crystal Palace?

That the Coalville Trades Council on Monday night (Mr T. G. Marson in the chair) discussed and passed a resolution strongly opposing compulsory military service?

That Earl Howe was among those present at a memorial service for Lieut. Colonel J. P. Milbanke, V.C., at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on Tuesday?

That Sergt. J. Emmerson, one of the three soldier sons of the Bagworth Colliery manager (Mr J. Emmerson) has been granted a commission, having been gazetted a lieutenant?

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GALLANTRY OF LEICESTER SOLDIERS

RECOGNISED BY THE KING

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER AWARDS

A supplement to the 'London Gazette' on Monday night states that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the under-mentioned officer to be Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:

"Captain Hugh Berrington Brown, 1st Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.

For conspicuous gallantry and good service in the trenches at Hooge between 2nd and 5th August, 1915, when in charge of a brigade bombing party. He got his party up to the trenches by day under shell fire, and remained in them three days during a heavy bombardment. All his bombs were exploded by shell fire, and his party was several times buried and had to be dug out. He has brought his battalion bombers to a high state of efficiency.

Captain Brown, whose home is Kingsbury Lodge, Ditton, Salisbury, was born on July 24th, 1886. He was appointed a second lieutenant in the Leicestershire Regiment (from the Special Reserve) on May 22nd, 1909, and was promoted to a lieutenancy on September 18th, 1911, and temporary captain November 15th, 1914. He is now staff captain in the 16th Brigade, 6th Division."

The King has also been graciously pleased to award the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Pte. H. S. Starbuck, 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (attached to the 138th Infantry Brigade Mining Section).

"For great gallantry and resources on 31st July, near Ypres. When working in a gallery near a mine crater he discovered a German mine, charged with 1,400 lbs of Westphalite and tamped ready for explosion. He immediately cut the leads, and did not leave the chamber until all the explosive had been removed. This curtailed four hours of difficult and continuous labour."

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WOUNDED SOLDIERS' OUTING FROM LEICESTER

On Saturday afternoon about 200 convalescent wounded soldiers from several of the Leicestershire and district hospitals enjoyed an outing to Stamford Park, near Lutterworth, where they were entertained by Lord Braye, a former colonel of the Leicestershire Regiment.

Some sixty motor cars, organised by the Leicestershire Automobile Club, were requisitioned for the purpose, and favoured by beautiful weather, the picnic proved a great success, the men appreciated the efforts made for their pleasure and entertainment. The arrangements were carried out by Mr Geoffrey Barisdale on behalf of the club.

MARKFIELD SOLDIER KILLED

Pte. E. Dowell, aged 34, of Markfield, was killed in action somewhere in France, on August 17th. He leaves a wife and four young children.

HINCKLEY SOLDIER'S TWO FAMILIES

STRANGE DISCLOSURE IN WIFE MAINTENANCE CASE

SEPARATION ALLOWANCE TO ANOTHER WOMAN

At Hinckley, on Monday, Private George Lucas, of the King's Royal Rifles, was charged with neglecting to pay £13 4s 6d arrears due to his wife under a maintenance order made in 1909. The clerk ascertained from Mrs Lucas who was in court with two children, that she had drawn no separation allowance.

Lucas stated that he had allotted that to the woman at Sheffield with whom he had been living and who had made him very comfortable. He added that it was impossible to live with his wife. The War Office knew about it.

Mr Kinton (magistrate): *It seems very strange that they should allow you to allot money in that way.*

It was arranged that the facts of the case should be communicated to the War Office. It transpired that there were two illegitimate children. Mr Payne (in the chair) told Lucas that until the order against him was cancelled he was responsible for his wife's maintenance. They did not want to send him to prison.

Lucas: *You can do so if you like.*

The wife said if she could not get separation allowance she would forego the arrears. She did not wish her husband to go to prison. Police Sergeant Clements said the man was willing to allow 7s a week for his children at Hinckley and 7s to those at Sheffield.

The clerk drew up a statement, which Lucas signed, and the police undertook to approach the War Office on the matter. The warrant was allowed to lapse, and Lucas left to report himself to his regiment, he intended to sail from _____ immediately.

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

ROLL OF HONOUR

LOCAL MEN WHO HAVE DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

OVER SIXTY NAMES

(Starting with this edition, most weeks carried the list of the fallen, with the numbers slowly increasing as the weeks went by. The list produced in the final week of each month will be reproduced in full, rather than week by week. Also, the list will be in alphabetical order, rather than in the date order as originally produced.)

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DEAD "LEICESTER'S" MESSAGE

"THE GREATEST SACRIFICE A LAD CAN MAKE"

"To be sent to my father and mother in the event of my death," was inscribed on a letter written in the trenches by Private Marriott of the 4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. The letter has been delivered.

The September issue of the St. George's Parish Magazine says that Pte. Marriott formed one of a party of four who volunteered to go out to bring in Lance-Corporal Tebbs, who was severely wounded. When the object was accomplished, two of the volunteers were killed by a shell, and in the tunic pocket of one of them the letter was found. It says:

"My Dear Mother and Father, - Should this letter reach you, you will know that I have made the greatest sacrifice that it is possible for a lad to make for his country in her time of need, and in the struggle to free the world of its greatest curse – German militarism. I do not for a moment begrudge the price which has been demanded of me, as to serve in the Great Cause is indeed worth while.

I hope you will not grudge the offering which this means you must make. But, freed from the bonds of flesh, I shall forever embrace you with my love.

I pray that God may bless you, make up to you the sacrifice you have made, and keep you under His loving care, and may you enjoy many years of happiness together in your quiet, homely way. I do indeed thank you both for all the love and care that you have shown for me, and the very happy time you have given me. – With fondest love to both of you, your loving son."

Ray.

Private Marriott was a member of the St. George's Church.

LEICESTER MINISTER'S SON KILLED

The Rev. John R. Legge, M.A., pastor of Gallowtree Gate Chapel, Leicester, has received information that his son, Corporal Legge, of the Sherwood Foresters, was killed in an engagement at the Dardanelles about the middle of August.

Corporal Legge, who was 25 years of age, was educated at Chigwell School, Essex, and up to the time of enlistment a year ago was engaged in the offices of the Phoenix Insurance Company, London.

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COALVILLE SOLDIERS AT HOME ON LEAVE

SOME MONTHS IN THE TRENCHES

This week, Lance-Corporal A. W. Hanson, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorials, is on leave from the front. He is a son of Mr E. Hanson, cashier at Messrs. Wootton Bros. engineering works, and arrived on seven days' leave on Monday, having come straight from the trenches, where he has been out and in, for some months. He looks well, and to a representative of this paper spoke in an optimistic manner regarding the operations and the luck of the 5th Leicesters, whose losses, he says, have not been so heavy as those of some of the other regiments. At present the war is largely confined to artillery duels in which the British excel, and there is now no shortage of ammunition.

Referring to Private Scott and other local men killed he says they are buried in the soldier's cemetery, the spot being marked by a cross bearing the name, and so long as they remain in the locality, comrades are attending to the graves.

TOOK PART IN THE FIRST BATTLE

Another Coalville soldier who has been home on leave this week is Private Edgar Goulson, son of Mr J. Goulson, of Belvoir Road. Goulson is in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, having been called up as a reservist when war broke out and went to France with the first British Expeditionary Force. He was in the famous retreat from Mons, in which he had some thrilling experiences, and received a gunshot wound in the arm. He returned to the trenches after recovering and was again sent to hospital on Boxing Day with frost-bitten feet. Getting well again he went into the trenches for the third time and has had a good spell, well earning the leave which he has been enjoying this week. He arrived in Coalville on Friday and returned to the front on Wednesday last.

ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

An intimation has been received that Private Fred Pringle, 5th Leicesters, son of Mr and Mrs Walter Pringle, of Ashby, has been killed in the trenches by the explosion of a mine. Mr and Mrs Pringle have two other sons in the Ashby Company, which is under the command of Captain Reginald Rawdon Hastings, to whom the deceased was servant at the time he was killed.

"COALVILLE TIMES" APPRECIATED AT THE FRONT

LETTER FROM COALVILLE BOYS

Lance-Corporal Edwards and Private Hammersley, both of the 'B' Company, 8th Leicestershire Regiment, British Expeditionary Force, writing to us from the front on August 31st, state that they are both readers of the "Coalville Times" which is sent regularly to them every week and it very nice to see how matters are progressing at home. It seems to revive one and make trench life pleasant. It is explained that they are short of writing paper and cannot write a long letter and they conclude by saying:

"The majority of the boys are in the best of health and making good progress."

Edwards and Hammersley are both Coalville boys.

ANOTHER COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED

SON OF COALVILLE EAST STATION MASTER

SHELL FALLS ON HIS DUG-OUT

We regret to record the death of another Coalville soldier, Pte. Clifford Ernest Scott, son of Mr W. V. Scott, stationmaster at Coalville East L & N.W.R. station, who was killed in action on September 1st. He was in the 5th Leicestershire Territorials, joining the army soon after the outbreak of war and received most of his training at Luton. He was one of the first fifty territorials to leave Coalville and was 20 years of age.

The sad news was conveyed in the following letter from the deceased's officer:

In the Trenches, September 2nd.

"Dear Mr Scott, - I am in command of No. 2 Platoon of the 5th Leicesters, in which your son was a private, and I am extremely sorry to have to be the bearer of the sad news that he was killed yesterday morning by a shell which fell on the roof of his dug-out. He was unconscious when taken out and only survived a few seconds and you will be relieved to hear that he suffered no pain. He was one of the two best men in my platoon and his death is a great loss not only to me but also to the platoon, to which he always set a good example by the willingness with which he did anything you wanted and his cheery spirit. Only recently he had undertaken the duties of acting as my servant and a perfect one he made. I shall miss him very much indeed, as he always anticipated every wish and I shall never be able to replace his loss. I would give anything if I could only see him back again among us all. He was buried last night close behind the firing line

and as a last respect to him, his friends in the platoon, Tovell and Robson, dug the grave. The rest of the platoon have asked me to convey to you their deepest sympathy in your great loss and please accept the same from me. – Yours very sincerely."

J. Wyndham Tomson
2nd Lieut. 5th Leicestershire Regiment.

Pte. A. G. Tovell, referred to in the letter is a Hugglescote lad, and Pte. Robson, the other mentioned, hails from Ellistown. Mr Scott also received a letter from Tovell in which he says that he and Robson asked permission to dig Scott's grave and bury him, and this was granted.

The deceased soldier wrote a cheery letter home dated two days before he was killed, in which he referred to them being shelled by the Germans as they were going into the trenches and for a time had to take cover in a ditch.

On Monday morning, Lance-Corpl. A. W. Hanson, son of Mr E. Hanson, cashier at Messrs. Wootton Bros' engineering works, arrived home on 7 days' leave and brought with him the personal belongings of Scott including a few trophies which had been picked up on the battlefield by the deceased soldier and these have been handed to Mr Scott.

Clifford Scott was a nice lad, and the affectionate regard shown for him by his officer in the letter above recorded was shared by all who knew him. Before the war he was engaged as a clerk at the L & N.W. Railway goods shed at Whitwick. His father is well known and highly respected as the superintendent of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade and as the indefatigable secretary of the Coalville Charity Parade. Much sympathy is felt for him, Mrs Scott and the family. Two other sons are serving in the forces, and one of those, Fred, who before the war was studying for the teaching profession, has been awarded a commission and is now in the trenches.

Friday September 17th 1915 (Issue 1228)

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SOLDIER'S WEDDING AT WHITWICK

A military wedding was solemnised at Whitwick Roman Catholic Church on Saturday by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. The contracting parties were Arthur Concannon, 1st Sherwood Foresters and Miss H. Perry. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a very pretty dress of voile, with wreath and veil and carried a bouquet of white sweet peas. The bridesmaids were the Misses Chrissie and Nellie Concannon, in pale blue crepe de chene, and Miss E. Perry and Miss L. Concannon in pale pink crepe de chene and the little trainbearer, Miss Mary Collin (niece of the bridegroom) wore a pretty dress of pale mauve crepe de chene and carried a basket of mauve sweet peas. The bridesmaids carried bouquets of sweet peas and roses, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr Joseph Concannon was best man. After the ceremony the happy pair left by motor for their short honeymoon, as the bridegroom is only home from 'Somewhere in France' on 7 days' leave. He

is to be congratulated on passing through 10 months of warfare as a bomb-thrower and his many friends will wish him a safe and speedy return home.

Soldier's Wedding at Whitwick.

Pte. A. Concannon and Miss H. Perry.

See Page 3.

RECRUITING IN HINCKLEY DISTRICT

SOLDIERS AS HARVESTERS AT BARWELL

Recruiting has been very satisfactory in the Hinckley district, notably at Barwell and Earl Shilton. In ten days, from August 15th to 25th, 98 enlisted. A correspondent writes that the black spot of the whole district is Burbage, where the young men are simply apathetic, and openly aver their intention of 'waiting till they are fetched.'

The agriculturists as well as the manufacturers have suffered considerably. Mr John Bowers, farmer, of Barwell, finding that harvesting operations were likely to be seriously interfered with on account of the lack of labour, communicated his desires to Capt. Fry, of Leicester, who immediately sent over a squad of 12 men and a corporal to assist in the work.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

We are pleased to hear that Capt. A. T. Sharp, who is now in hospital in London, is making good progress.

Lance-Corporal A. E. Beadsmoore, of the Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr Walter Beadsmoore, of Ashby, has been wounded during the fighting near Gallipoli. He was shot through the right arm, and is now in hospital in London. The nature of his wound, however, is not very serious.

Further particulars are to hand concerning the injury to Lance-Corporal Fred Clay, of D Company, 5th Leicesters (Territorials), son of Mr Albert E. Clay, colliery checkweighman, of Whitwick Colliery, living in Albert Road, Coalville. It appears that he has lost a finger of his right hand, and sustained other injuries, through a bomb prematurely exploding when he was throwing it towards the enemy trenches. Clay is in the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, where he is making good progress. Before the war he was a clerk at Burgess's factory, and was one of Coalville's first fifty to join the battalion.

'We regret to hear' says the Ellistown Parish Magazine, *"in a letter received from the Vicar, of the loss of his nephew, 2nd Lieut. R. Blagrove, who has fallen in action in Flanders. Along with his Major he was trying to rescue some of his men who had buried by an explosion, when he and his commanding officer were killed by a shell. Another nephew, Evelyn Blagrove, brother of the lieutenant, has had to undergo a serious operation on board ship and we are glad to learn from the latest news that he is making good progress."*

Mr J. Emmerson, manager of the Bagworth Colliery, has received news from William, one of his three soldier sons who have been fighting the Germans, but who is now a prisoner in the hands of the enemy. He is a private in the Liverpool Scottish and was engaged in the severe fighting round Hooge, where he was taken prisoner. For some weeks nothing was heard of him, but on Wednesday his father informed the writer that he had heard from him and that the letter was written in quite a cheerful strain. It appears that Emmerson has been removed from the prisoners' camp and with other prisoners is engaged in road making through a German forest, but he likes this much better than being in camp and makes no complaint.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports having received cigarettes for the last fortnight to be sent to local soldiers at the front as follows: Coalville Liberal Club box, 58 packets and 14 loose; West End Club, 21 packets and 6 loose; Mr W. Higgins' box, 37 packets and 2 1/2d; Whitwick Liberal Club, 60 packets and 7 loose; Coalville M.R. station box, 17 packets and 23 loose; and Mr Smith's (Fountain Inn) box, 28 packets and 28 loose.

DO YOU KNOW

That a muffled peal was rung on the bells at the Markfield Parish Church, on Sunday afternoon in memory of Pte. E. Dowell, who was killed in action last month?

That Lieut. R. D. Farmer, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorials, son of Mr George Farmer, clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians, returned to the trenches on Sunday after seven days' leave of absence, during which he attended the meeting of the Guardians last Saturday, and was cordially received by the members?

That a number of wounded soldiers from the Leicester Base Hospital were taken to High Tor yesterday?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 42nd collection from 7 districts realised £8 2s 4d.

ASHBY CITIZEN CORPS

By invitation of Mr C. H. Stewart, the Public Trustee, the Citizens' Corps, under the command of Mr G. J. German, marched to Cliftonthorpe, on Sunday. Tea was served on the grounds and a short service was conducted by the rector of Blackfordby-with-Smisby. The men were afterwards put through a number of drills and exercises and before returning home were congratulated on their smart appearance and drill.

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WOUNDED SOLDIERS FROM DESFORD

ENTERTAINED AT BARWELL

Forty wounded soldiers were entertained at Barwell on Wednesday by local tradesmen. They were conveyed from Desford Hall by the Earl Shilton and Barwell Association of motor car proprietors, who from time to time cater for the enjoyment of the wounded billeted at Desford. Cars were lent by Messrs. W. Smith, G. Geary, G. Ward, G. Bonser, S. Bonser, S. Whitmore, S. W. Norton, W. H. Cotton, A. C. Toon, and A. H. Bradbury. The men received a hearty welcome from a large crowd. An excellent meat tea was provided at the National Schools, at which also tradesmen, their wives, and families were present. Later on the rectory lawn, placed at their disposal by Mrs Titley, sen., the men played bowls, croquet, and miniature golf, useful prizes being offered. The local brass band played, and each soldier was provided with six pennyworth of either cigarettes, tobacco or chocolates. Their departure was notable. Loaded up in the cars they proceeded at walking pace, headed by the band, and followed by 32 of the Church Lads' Brigade. This was supplemented on the route by 36 of the Church Lads' Brigade and Boy Scouts. On the outskirts of the town the boys filed on either side of the road, the band struck up the National Anthem, and the cars then left to pass through Earl Shilton to Desford amidst the cheers of a large crowd.

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LOCAL RECRUITING

LEICESTER TO RAISE MORE ARTILLERY

The great success which attended the raising of a howitzer brigade in Leicester has induced the authorities to accept an offer made through the local Recruiting Committee to raise three batteries of heavy artillery. Mr T. H. Crumbie, who so efficiently fulfilled the duties of hon. secretary to the howitzer brigade, has been appointed in a similar capacity, and there is every prospect that the new unit will be very quickly recruited. Each battery will consist of four 60 pounder guns, together with 200 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, making a total of 600.

TERRITORIAL'S LEAVE LOUGHBOROUGH

MAJOR GOWARD'S THANKS TO THE TOWN

On Saturday morning the 3/5th battalion, numbering 797, left Loughborough for training further south. There were thousands of people astir, and the route from the Drill Hall to the Great Central Railway Station was densely packed, there being many touching incidents. Cheer after cheer was given, and the people shouted till they were hoarse. While the men were parading in Granby Street the band played "Prairie Flower" and en route to the station "Are we downhearted?" The bugle band afterwards played "Lord Roberts," and as the men were entraining the band struck up the regimental march.

Major R. S. Goward, who was in command, wrote thanking the Mayor and Mayoress for the kindness they had shown to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men. *"Through your kindness and consideration,"* wrote the Major, *"our stay in Loughborough has been most pleasant, and I am quite sure all are very sorry to leave. I only hope our departure will cause some passing regret to the inhabitants of Loughborough. I especially wish to thank the ladies of the Institute Committee for the great trouble they have taken in providing refreshments and entertainments for the men, and for looking so carefully after their welfare. I need scarcely say that what they have done has been fully appreciated. I also wish to thank the Corporation for so kindly allowing the battalion the use of the swimming baths, which has proved a great boon and benefit, and also for the use of Radmoor Road Recreation Ground. May I, through you, thank the following gentlemen and committee for placing their fields at our disposal for drill and other purposes: Mr John Moss, Mr W. Porter, Messrs. G. Tucker and Sons, Mr Lowe, Mr H. H. Coltman, and the Loughborough Cricket Club, and all who have in any way helped to make our stay in Loughborough so pleasant."*

LIEUT. HASTINGS IN HOSPITAL

EXTREMELY GRAVE CONDITION

Lieutenant Edward Hugh Hastings Rawdon-Hastings, of the Black Watch, second son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby, is in hospital near Boulogne, ill with enteric. It was at first stated that the attack was mild, but on Friday a serious report of his condition was received, and Lady Hastings left immediately for France, learning on arrival that an operation had been found necessary, and that her son's condition was extremely grave.

Lieut. Hastings is only 20, having been granted a commission when the war began. His elder brother, Captain Reginald Hastings, is serving with the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, now at the front.

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THE DEATH OF AN IBSTOCK SOLDIER

We have received the following letter:

"Dear Sir, - Will you kindly allow us through the medium of your paper to convey our heart-felt sympathy to the relations and friends of our late comrade, Pte. Cyril. E. Briers, late of Ibstock, whose photo appeared in your issue of September 3rd. Although it was published in the name of C. E. Baxter, as soon as I received the paper from home I showed it round my platoon and they all at once recognised him as our late comrade who fell in action on July 29th last, at a place in the north of France. Having had the pleasure of working with him

in civil life, I can truthfully say that he was a good workman with a pleasant word for everybody that he came in conversation with, and always willing to do anything that he could to benefit others. As to him as a soldier, standing as your paper states, a full 6 ft in height, and of fine physique, he was every inch a Guardsman, although his career as to trench work was very short. It was only his second experience at it when he met his death. He had every sign of making a good soldier.

I might here state for the benefit of relatives and friends that his death was almost instantaneous as he was struck by a grenade while he was having his breakfast and did not suffer any pain as he was unconscious the whole time and was buried in a cemetery has been made by the English troops not far from where he fell. I should have liked to have written these few lines to his relations, but through the absence of their address I cannot do so myself, but I expect that they have received a letter from the Regimental Headquarters, and with my comrades' consent, as they knew we both came from the same district, I have been asked to write these few lines to the local newspaper as we knew that it was the best way to convey our sympathy to the relations of such a good comrade whom I can assure you we all are sorry to have lost."

Thanking you for an early insertion if possible.

Yours sincerely

5269 G. Jones, Corporal
No. 1 Company, 1st Battalion
Coldstream Guards
British Expeditionary Force

The letter is also signed by two of the same battalion

P. O. R. Bindle, Private
P. E. W. Martin, Private

September 9th, 1915

DEATH OF CAPT. WRIGHT

SUCCOMBS TO WOUNDS RECEIVED AT DARDANELLES

A well-known Leicestershire cricketer has succumbed to wounds received at the Dardanelles in the person of Captain Harold Wright, who was gazetted a temporary captain in the Royal North Lancashire Regiment, on February 17th this year. After being wounded in the Dardanelles on July 28th, he was taken to Alexandria Hospital.

Here he was visited by his parents, Mr and Mrs Wm. Wright, of One Ash, Quorn, and they brought him home. He reached England only a few days ago, but became worse and his death was announced on Tuesday morning.

Captain Wright was born on February 19, 1884. As a cricketer, and especially a left-handed batsman, he was well-known, chiefly with the Leicestershire Ivanhoe Club. In the season 1913, he assisted the Leicestershire County Cricket Club in four matches. He made a total of 107 runs, his highest score being 44. In 1914, too, against Hampshire at Southampton, he batted all through the second innings for 26. He also played cricket for his school, Mill Hill.

SOLDIER AND MOTHER SUMMONED

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES

At Melton Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Private E. Shelton, of the 3/5 Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, and his mother, who lives at Hoby, pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to obtain a separation allowance by making false declarations. There being extenuating circumstances, defendants were bound over for 12 months, but the Chairman of the Bench said if anything of the kind occurred again in the district, the magistrates would deal severely with the offenders.

A YEAR OF WAR

381,000 BRITISH CASUALTIES

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr Tennant said the casualties for the past year of war, ending August 31st, was as follows:

Officers

Killed or died from wounds	4,965
Wounded	9,973
Missing	1,501

Men

Killed or died from wounds	70,999
Wounded	241,086
Missing	53,455

SHEPSHED SOLDIERS KILLED

Sergeant P. R. B. Harris, of the King's Royal Rifles, son of Mr H. Harris, Leicester Road, Shepshed, has been wounded and is now in hospital.

Information has been received of the death in France of Drummer Horace W. Miller, of Shepshed, of G. Company, 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.). Private William Richmond, of the Sherwood Foresters, another Shepshed man, was killed in action at Hooge.

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

John Fielding, a private of the 4th Leicesters, was charged with being a deserter. Supt. Smith said the man gave himself up at Hinckley on the previous day. He was remanded to await an escort.

Friday September 24th 1915 (Issue 1229)

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COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

ROLL OF HONOUR

Local Men who have died for their country.

Sixty-six 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 5th, 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 25th, 1914.

William Ogden Hoden

Private, of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13th, 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 1st, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

J. C. Andrews
Lance-Corporal, of the 1st Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7th, 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 1st 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 16th, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

Frederick Kirby
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9th, 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 6th, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

John Manders
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died wounds, 15th 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, 20th March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

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

John Williamson
Private of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action, March 10th. A Coalville man.

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

Ernest Hall
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10th and 14th 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 3rd Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11th, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

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

Thomas Dooley D.C.M.
2nd Lieutenant, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1st, 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 1st Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16th. A native of Swannington.

Harry Spence
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13th, 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 13th, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

George Barker
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 14th, 1915. A young farmer of Onebarrow, Whitwick.

C. Avins
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in May 1915. He was an Ashby man.

William Moore
Private, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action May 1st, 1915. He belonged to Thringstone.

A. Heathcote
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds on April 23rd, 1915. A Bagworth collier.

J. G. Poyser
Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915. He left a widow and three children at Ashby.

Timothy Betteridge
Lance-corporal, of the 2nd Leicesters. An Ashby man killed at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915.

John Gadsby
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. A Breedon man.

George Henry Wesson
Sergeant, of the Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on May 9th, 1915. Formerly of Margaret Street, Coalville.

Cecil Thomas Beadman
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on May 19th, 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 13th, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

Charles William Dewsbury
Gunner, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 6th, 1915. He was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., and resided at Bakewell Street, Coalville.

Frederick Wilfred Hart
5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 8th, 1915. A railwayman, of London Road, Coalville.

Francis Frederick Martin
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, died in England, on June 11th, 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 23rd London Regiment, killed in action on May 25th, 1915. A Whitwick man.

Ernest Tugby
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action on June 7th. He resided in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

Harold G. Blackham
Private, of the 5th 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 23rd, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

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

John Ison
Private, of the 1st 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action on June 30th, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

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

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

G. H. Highfield
2nd Lieutenant, of the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action, July 4th, 1915. A former master at Coalville Grammar School.

John George Bennett
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 15th. He resided in Beresford Street, and formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville.

Walter Gray

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

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

George Andrews
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. A Ravenstone man who worked at Ibstock colliery.

Harry Smith
Petty officer of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in the Dardanelles, on July 14th, 1915. Formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

Isaac Hall
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 23rd, 1915. A Whitwick collier whose home was at Thringstone.

William Massey
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 9th, 1915. A Hugglescote man.

Harry Badcock
Private, 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 1st, 1915. A former Coalville Grammar School boy who resided at Ibstock.

H. Ing
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 30th, 1915. Resided at Waterworks Road, Coalville.

Cyril Ernest Briers
Of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action, July 29th, 1915. He lived with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, Ibstock.

Fred Pringle
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in August, 1915. An Ashby man.

E. Dowell
Private, killed in action in France, August 17th, 1915. His wife and four children reside at Markfield.

Clifford E. Scott
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1st, 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action, August 31st, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Arthur Charles Johnstone
Private, of the 8th Leicesters, died September 1st, 1915, from wounds received in action the previous day. A collier of Castle Hill, Whitwick.

Alfred Clifford
Private, in the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in September, 1915, in France. He was a Coleorton collier.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The news has reached Mr and Mrs Arthur Newbold, Church Side, Shepshed, that their son, Arthur, was wounded last week whilst in the trenches. Private Newbold joined Lord Kitchener's Army, and was attached

to the 8th Leicesters. Information was received on Tuesday that Private Thomas Wardle, also in Lord Kitchener's Army, and whose home is at Shepshed, was wounded last week.

A gloom was cast over the town of Ashby and once more the grim reality of war was brought home to all on Thursday morning, when it became known that Lieutenant Edward Hastings had succumbed to enteric at the Stationary Hospital, Wamereux, near Boulogne. The sad occurrence, was the one topic of conversation, and among all classes throughout the community were heard expressions of sympathy for Lady Maud Hastings and the family in their bereavement. Lieut. Hastings, who was within a year of his coming of age, was greatly liked by those who knew him. He had a pleasing, aggregable manner, and his genial good nature found him many friends. He had a high conception of duty, to which must be added a zeal and energy that was very marked. All these qualities won for him the confidence of others. Unfortunately, his military career was of short duration, and the opportunity to show those finer, inherent qualities of his ancestors, and which have made the name of Hastings honoured through the centuries, was denied him, yet in the twelve months' training he had proved himself worthy of the position he held, and had endeared himself to his fellow officers and men.

The military authorities for the 17th recruiting area, which comprises Leicestershire and Rutland, have now received from the various local authorities the pink forms relating to men of military age. There are upwards of 60,000 of these forms, and, in accordance with the instructions of the Post Office, they are first entered three times in what are called register sheets, and then upon cards of various columns, for filing and sorting purposes.

DO YOU KNOW

That letters are being delivered in Coalville this week for the first time by a lady?

That under the auspices of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild, the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys have knitted 220 pairs of socks for local soldiers at the front within the last two or three months?

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ABSENTEE

At the Coalville Police Court, before Mr B. G. Hale on Wednesday morning, Reginald W. Beadsmore, No. 95296, private of the 131st Field Company of the Royal Engineers, late of Coleorton, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment, at present in England, since September 14th. P.C. Sibson gave evidence as to apprehending the defendant, who was remanded to await an escort.

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Tuesday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 43rd collection from 5 districts realised £3 5s 6d.

COMMISSION FOR HINCKLEY'S SURVEYOR

Mr E. H. Crump, the surveyor and engineer to the Hinckley Urban District Council, has been honoured with a commission carrying the rank of captain in the Royal Engineers for service abroad. Mr Crump recently visited the War Office, and passed the necessary tests, and has now received an intimation that the King has granted him his commission.

The Urban Council have decided to make Mr Crump an allowance on the same basis as that of other towns. He will, it is understood, be engaged on camp establishment work and the provision of drainage and water supply in connection therewith. Mr Crump has been in the employ of the Hinckley Council for the past 12 years.

ADVISED TO ENLIST

CHARGE OF ARSON FAILS AT LEICESTER

On Wednesday at the Leicester County Police, Albert Riddington and William Johnson, both of Countesthorpe, were charged with feloniously setting fire to a stack of hay on the 14th inst., the property of John Page, farmer, Countesthorpe. Mr C. S. Biggs appeared for defendants, who pleaded not guilty.

Evidence was given to the effect that defendants were seen coming from the direction of the stack, which a short time afterwards, was observed to be on fire. When arrested, defendants stated that they knew nothing about the fire, and Johnson said they were never within three fields of the stack. They had apparently been drinking, though they were not drunk. Riddington afterwards made a statement to the effect that they rested on the straw at one end of the stack and that he smoked a cigarette there. If they set fire to the stack it was done accidentally.

For the defence, Mr Biggs urged that there was no evidence whatever of malicious intent, and the magistrates taking this view, discharging the defendants, suggesting that they should make reparation for the damage they had caused by enlisting in the army.

DETECTIVE AS BEST MAN

DERBY SOLDIER DESERTS TO WED

After James Hill of the Army Service Corps, had been remanded by the Derby magistrates on Wednesday to await an escort to take him back to his unit, it was stated that he had deserted in order to get married. A special licence had been obtained and arrangements made for the wedding to take place at the registrar's office during the day.

The Bench thereupon suggested that the police should grant facilities for the purpose, and the Chief Constable (Capt. H. M. Haywood) said he would have objection to Detective-Sergeant Dakin, who arrested the man, acting as best man. (Laughter).

The office was accordingly detailed for this unusual duty.

NEW BATTALION FOR LEICESTER

The Mayor of Leicester (Ald. North) has received the permission of the War Office to raise a Pioneer Battalion in Leicester. The new regiment will be called the Leicestershire Pioneer (Tigers) Battalion, and recruiting will be done in conjunction with the raising of two batteries of heavy artillery. Mr T. H. Crummie, hon. secretary of the Leicester Football Club has been appointed hon. secretary to the committee.

EXCESSIVE DRINKING AT DERBY

It was stated at Derby Police Court on Wednesday morning that excessive drinking is prevalent among munition workers in the town, and the Bench were asked to assist in suppressing it.

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WOUNDED SOLDIERS

ANOTHER BATCH ARRIVES AT LEICESTER

In the early hours of Tuesday morning about 170 wounded arrived in Leicester from the Continent. There were 76 cot cases, 88 'sitting' cases, and six officers. Included among the last named was Second-Lieut. C. F. Wright, of the 4th Leicesters, son of Mr Harvey Wright, the Leicester Magistrates Clerk. Lieutenant Wright was wounded in the face on Monday last by a fragment of shrapnel. The injury, fortunately, does not appear to be serious. There were three other Leicester men among the wounded so far as could be ascertained: Privates E. Richardson, Munday and Cragg. All three were wounded about the head or face, Private Cragg by shrapnel and the others by bullets. All kinds of regiments were represented among the wounded, including several of the Australian contingent.

The men were accommodated on the train journey by Mr A. W. Favre, County Director of the V.A.D., who related an amusing episode. One of the wounded soldiers was provided by a nurse with a pipe, and acknowledged the boon by observing, *"I did not see the angels of Mons, but at any rate I can see I have*

seen an angel." The men were divided between the Infirmary and the Base Hospital, and the North Evington Hospital.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A LEICESTERSHIRE TROOPER

THROWN FROM HIS HORSE

FAMILY'S THIRD BEREAVEMENT

Early on Sunday morning Trooper Herbert Cooper, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, who are encamped at Garendon, was riding a horse in the drive leading to the park from Derby Road, when the animal stumbled and fell, and Cooper was thrown on his head. He was taken to Loughborough Hospital, where he died about 11 o'clock on Sunday night. His injuries were a fractured skull and probably fracture of the base of the skull.

His home was at Faltringham, Lincs, and he was one of four brothers, two of whom have been killed on active service, one in Flanders, and the other in the Dardanelles.

LEICESTER CURATE'S BRAVERY

WINS THE MILITARY CROSS

RESCUED MEN UNDER HEAVY FIRE

Second-Lieut. Bernard William Vann, 8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, who has been awarded the Military Cross for rescuing buried men under heavy fire, was formerly curate of St. Barnabas Church, Leicester. He is the son of a former headmaster of Higham Ferrers Grammar School, where he was educated prior to proceeding to Jesus College, Cambridge.

Some years ago he visited the town with a body of Cambridge missionary campaigners. On being ordained in 1911, he took up the curacy of St. Barnabas Church, filling that position until 1913, when he was appointed Chaplain and Form Master of Wellingborough Grammar School.

At the beginning of the war Second-Lieut. Vann enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment, and subsequently obtained a commission in the Sherwood Foresters. On enlisting he did not renounce his priesthood, and has also taken part in religious work at the front. He has been previously mentioned in despatches.

GERMAN PRISONERS

ANOTHER ESCAPE FROM DONINGTON HALL

£100 REWARD

Between 10.15 on Friday and early on Saturday morning two German prisoners of war escaped from Donington Hall. They are Otto Thelen, 25, aviator, and Hans Keilhach, 23, naval officer, and the descriptions furnished by the authorities are as follows:

Otto Thelen: German Flying Corps. Age 25 years, height 5ft. 7ins, stiff build, weather beaten features, somewhat sallow complexion, grey eyes, fair hair. Slight scar on left part of forehead caused by a burn, clean shaven. Believed wearing knickers and stockings, or greyish trousers. Speaks English with a foreign accent.

Hans Keilhach: Naval Lieutenant. Age 23 years, height 5ft. 10ins, stiff build, black hair, very large piercing blue eyes and prominent cheek bones. Third finger missing from left hand. Clean shaven. Believed wearing knickers and stockings. Speaks English with a foreign accent.

A reward of £100 is offered to any person who gives information which may lead to their arrest.

The Grimsby police were engaged on Sunday in searching actively for the missing officers. There are reasons to believe that the fugitives have travelled to Grimsby, but though a train was searched and the tickets, which the Germans were believed to have used, were recovered, the men were not found.

WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZEN CORPS

SHOOTING MATCH

An interesting shooting match was held on the range at Whitwick, on Saturday, between teams representing the above corps and the Hugglescote and Ellistown Citizen Corps. Ten rounds at deliberate and ten at rapid firing was the test at 25 yards N.R.A. target. Hugglescote by some very good shooting proved the betters in each section scoring 222 and 175 to their opponents 213 and 156.

Mr Blow, of Whitwick, was the top scorer with 68, followed closely by Mr Woods, of Hugglescote, with 66. Following are details of the scoring:

Whitwick

	Deliberate	Rapid	Total
Mr Burton	28	17	45
Mr Millership	2	27	29
Mr Hull	29	23	52
Mr Storer	17	17	34
Mr Blow	32	36	68
Mr Pegg	21	29	50
Mr Geary	12	28	40
Mr Irons	15	36	51
	156	213	369

Hugglescote

Mr Woods	31	35	66
Mr Millership	2	27	29
Mr Dixon	28	29	57
Mr Canner	16	10	26
Mr Langley	18	36	54
Mr T. Weston	15	23	38
Mr Lander	26	36	62
Mr W. Weston	28	27	55
	175	222	397

ANOTHER SPY SHOT

SENTENCE CARRIED OUT ON FRIDAY MORNING

The Press Bureau states that a prisoner who was charged with espionage and tried by court martial at Westminster Guildhall on the 20th August, was found guilty and sentenced to death.

The sentence was duly confirmed, and was carried out on Friday morning.

LEICESTER SOLDIER'S PERILOUS JUMP

POLICE COURT SEQUEL

Private Handley, the Leicester soldier who jumped from a bedroom window in an endeavour to evade arrest by the Borough Police Court on Friday was charged with being a deserter since August 19th from the 3rd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.

The Head Constable said the defendant made an excuse to the police officers who had called to effect his arrest, saying he wanted an overcoat. He went upstairs and jumped out of the window, injuring his foot. The Head Constable asked that the man might be remanded to await an escort. This was granted.

Handley was described on the police charge sheet as suffering from fracture of a bone of the metatarsus of the left foot.

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COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION

Official intimation has been received this week from the Lichfield Territorial Record Office, of the death of Pte. Walter Gray, No. 2528, of the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, which occurred while he was in action on July 23rd. News had been received of the sad event from comrades of the deceased and was published a few weeks ago. Pte. Gray was a driller at Messrs. Stableford's works. He was a son of Mr Samuel Gray, of Margaret Street, Coalville, who has received a letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER WOUNDED

Sapper J. Gray, an Ibstock soldier, who enlisted in the Royal Engineers, received a gunshot wound in the abdomen on the 11th of this month, and has been removed this weekend to the Great Northern Central Hospital, London. It is be hoped he will soon recover.

COLEORTON SOLDIER KILLED

News was received on Tuesday that Private Alfred Clifford, of the 1st Leicesters, had been killed in action, being struck by a piece of shell. The information was contained in a letter from Private Chandler, to his parents at Coleorton, the writer stating that he saw Clifford injured and asking them to inform his parents. He states that the deceased soldier was given a proper funeral.

Pte. Clifford was a collier at the Coleorton pit and was only 18 years of age. He enlisted just before Christmas. His father is Mr James Clifford, who at that time was residing at Coleorton, but now lives in Ashby Road, Coalville, and works at the Desford Colliery. A sister of the deceased is Mrs J. Smith of Owen Street, Coalville.

A photo of Clifford will appear in our next issue.

SHEPSHED SOLDIER KILLED

Private Elijah Newton, "G", (Shepshed) Company, 5th Leicesters, was killed on Monday evening, September 13th in France, whilst carrying rations up to the trenches. He was 25 years of age, and his parents, Mr and

Mrs Allen Newton, live at Lant Street, Shepshed. Lieut. Shields, in conveying the sad intelligence, expresses his deep sympathy with the parents who have lost ‘a good son, and the country a free soldier’.

DEATH OF LIEUT. HASTINGS

FATAL ATTACK OF ENTERIC

It is with deep regret we record the death of Lieutenant Edward Hugh Hastings Rawdon-Hastings, which took place on Wednesday at the Base Hospital, Boulogne, following an attack of enteric, and an operation performed about a week before.

Lieutenant Hastings was the younger son of the late Hon. Paulyn Rawdon-Hastings and Lady Maud Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby. He was the grandson of Baron Donington and Lady Edith Maud Hastings, and a nephew of the Earl of Loudoun and the Duke of Norfolk. Born at the old park, Ashby, in 1895, he was educated at Eton and afterwards at Oxford, and was still at Magdalene College, at the outbreak of war, when he was granted a commission in the Black Watch, with which regiment, several of his distinguished ancestors have been associated.

He left England with his regiment for France early in the year and about a fortnight ago, news was received that he was in hospital suffering from enteric. It was first stated that the attack was a mild one. Afterwards, however, more serious symptoms developed, and from the first intimation of the grave nature of his condition little hope was entertained of his recovery.

Immediately on receipt of news of his relapse, Lady Hastings journeyed to France, and remained with him till the end. Widespread sympathy is felt for her ladyship and the family in their sad bereavement.

TWO WHITWICK SOLDIERS KILLED

THE RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT

HAND GRENADE PREMATURELY EXPLODES

We regret to report this week the deaths of two Whitwick soldiers, at the front, as a result of an accident. They were Private H. Smith Hurst, No 13172, whose parents, Mr and Mrs Bowley Hurst, reside at Parsonwood Hill, and Pte. Arthur Charles Johnstone, No. 12435, whose home was at Castle Hill, his father being Mr Robert Johnstone, who is employed at Messrs. Brown and Sons’ boot factory in Whitwick. Both men were in the ‘B’ company of the 8th Leicesters and the official notice received by their parents from the military authorities state that on August 31st, Pte. Hurst was accidentally killed by the exploding of a hand grenade and from the same cause Pte. Johnstone received wounds to which he succumbed the next day, September 1st. Hurst had gained a good reputation as a bomb-thrower and from letters received from other sources, it was learned that he was preparing to throw the grenade towards the German lines when it prematurely exploded.

WESLEYAN CHAPLAIN’S SYMPATHY

Mr and Mrs Hurst, a few days ago, received the following letter:

“Dear Mrs Hurst, - I expect by this time that the sad news of the death of your son has reached you and I hasten to assure you of my sincere sympathy in this time of trial and loss. As Wesleyan Chaplain, it was my duty to perform the last solemn rites. Side by side with the other brave comrades we laid him to rest in the corner of a quiet cemetery confident that by his willingness to die for the cause of right, he has proved his title to that unending life where eternal mercy shall arise and shadows end. Again, assuring you of my sympathy and prayers, I remain, yours sincerely.”

S. Morgan
Wesleyan Chaplain

BEST BOMB-THROWER IN THE REGIMENT

The Chaplain of Hurst's company wrote as follows:

"Dear Madam, - Please accept on behalf of myself and my brother officers of the 'B' Co., our deepest sympathy in the great loss you have had. I cannot speak too highly of your boy, who had shown himself to be so full of pluck and grit as to have earned the reputation of being the best bomb-thrower in our brigade. Always cheerful and conscientious, he will be sadly missed by all ranks. Had he been spared, I feel sure he would have added to his already well-earned reputation. He met his death by doing his duty and that is the consolation I can offer you in your great trouble and the knowledge that it is the grandest way of passing into the happier life. – Believe me, yours in all sincerity."

H. L. Beardsley, Captain.

Pte. Hurst was 23 years of age and single. Before the war, he worked, like his father, at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He enlisted in August, 1914, but had only been at the front about five weeks. He was at Whitwick at the wake on leave.

PRIVATE JOHNSTONE'S LAST LETTER

In his last letter to his mother and father, written only about two days before he died, Johnstone said he was quite well and hoped they were all were at home. *"I will send M____ a soldier's button to make a hat pin of and also one for F_____ and some other souvenirs if possible. I have got a ring made out of the aluminium nose-piece of a German shell. While I am writing this letter shells are bursting about a hundred yards away. W. Wright has had a letter asking if it right that I have been killed. I don't know who circulated the news, but you can tell them from me that I am as much alive as any of them. They wanted to know if 'Rabbit' had gone under, but he wishes them to know that he is very much alive yet."*

OLD PLAYMATES

Asked by the writer to whom 'Rabbit' referred, Mrs Johnstone, the deceased soldier's mother, said it was Pte. Hurst who used to go to school with her boy and they were playmates together. Hurst was known by the nickname of 'Rabbit' and her boy as 'Bunny'.

Pte. A. C. Johnstone was only 21 years of age and was a widower. His wife died about a month before he enlisted in August last year. He went to the front on July 30th, last, so had only been there a few weeks.

OFFICER'S TRIBUTES

Mr and Mrs Johnstone have received letters both from the captain and lieutenant of the deceased's soldier's company, in which they both testify to Johnstone's excellent character as a soldier and a man. The lieutenant said he was one of the finest men in his platoon, a conscientious worker and always willing and the men all miss him very much.

ROYAL SYMPATHY

To the parents of both soldiers, Lord Kitchener has forwarded a letter as follows:

"The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow."

MEMORIAL SERVICES

On Sunday evening a memorial service for Pte. Johnstone was held in the Whitwick Holy Cross Church, being impressively conducted by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. There was a large congregation. The priest read extracts from the officer's letters testifying to the deceased's worth and spoke of the righteousness of the cause in which he had died.

A memorial service for Pte. Hurst is to be held at the Whitwick Wesleyan Church next Sunday.

WHITWICK SOLDIER WOUNDED

PRESENT AT HIS BROTHER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Pte. George Johnstone, of the 1/5th Leicestershire Regiment, brother of the deceased soldier above referred to, was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, on August 10th last, suffering from a severe gunshot wound in his right thigh. Happily, this soldier is now convalescent and is assisting in recruiting at Loughborough. He visited Whitwick on Sunday and attended his brother's memorial service in the evening at the Holy Cross Church.

PTE H. S. HURST.

PTE. A. C. JOHNSTONE.

BOXING GLOVES WANTED AT THE FRONT

Sir, - I have great pleasure in writing to you on behalf of several of the Coalville lads who are in my company. They have suggested me writing, asking if you would get someone to kindly send them a set of boxing gloves for their use when out of the trenches. Hoping this will meet with your approval, I remain yours truly.

C.S.M. Sharpe

Some of the Coalville lads who are doing their bit: Lance-Corpl. Brotherhood, Pte. A. Lester, Pte. H. W. Swain, Pte. E. Roome, Pte. J. Smith, Pte. W. King and Lance-Corpl. Perry.

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ASHBY

CITIZENS' CORPS INSPECTION

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

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WOUNDED SOLDIER'S OUTING

A JOLLY PARTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SHEPSHED

MENS ADULT SCHOOL

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

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

SOLDIERS CHARGED WITH POACHING

A LOUGHBOROUGH PROSECTION

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

That Sir John French was 63 on Tuesday?

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

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

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

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 44th collection from 6 districts realised £4 5s 2d.

THORNTON

COMFORTS FOR THE SOLDIERS

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

AMBULANCE CARS FOR THE FRONT

COMING TO ASHBY AND COALVILLE

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

HUGGLESCOTE OFFICER KILLED

LIEUT. B. HATTER

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

War Office, London

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

Secretary, War Office.

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

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

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

"Don't be surprised if you don't hear from me for a few days, as we are expecting great things."

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

WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZEN CORPS

SHOOTING HANDICAP

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

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

1st Prize, Mr Blow, 2nd Mr Hull, 3rd, Mr Robinson.

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DONINGTON HALL FUGITIVES

GERMAN OFFICERS CAPTURED AT CHATHAM

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

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

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

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

They have been taken back to Donington Hall.

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SHEPSHED MEN KILLED

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

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

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

LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTARY AID DETATCHMENTS AND THE NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL

INTERESTING REPORT

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

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

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

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

Leicestershire Yeomanry	1
4th Leicestershire Regiment	24
5th Leicestershire Regiment	32

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

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

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

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

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

During the first week in August, a splendid week's recruiting campaign was held in Leicester and Leicestershire, being part of a recruiting week held throughout the Northern Command. During the week,

meetings were held daily at different places in the town and county, and were combined with marches of regular and territorial units, short addresses being given at each halting place. Your Committee voted the sum of £100 towards the expenses of this week. £20 has also been voted to the officer commanding 5th Leicestershire Regiment Administrative Centre towards recruiting for that unit, which has been very poor just lately.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Voluntary Aid Detachments

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

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

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

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

(Signed) Arthur W. Faire.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Friday October 8th 1915 (Issue 1231)

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 45th collection from 5 districts realised £2 15s 8d.

LOUGHBOROUGH DOCTOR KILLED

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Tyler, Engineer's Arms, 83 packets; 136 loose.

Coalville Liberal Club, 13 packets, 3 loose and 6d.
West End Club, 2 packets, 7 loose and 1d.
Whitwick Liberal Club, 76 packets
Mr Higgins, 26 packets.
Mr Smith, Fountain Inn, 5 packets, 28 loose and 1 1/2d.

MR KIPLING'S SON

"MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED"

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ABSENTEE

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

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ASHBY

CITIZEN CORPS INSPECTION

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

AMBULANCE CONVOYS

COAL INDUSTRYS SPLENDID GIFT

FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ASHBY AND COALVILLE

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

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

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

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

RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

OFFICERS BUSY AT LEICESTER

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

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

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

LOUGHBOROUGH

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

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

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BILLETING HOAX

SOLDIER'S "GOOD TIME" IN LEICESTER

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

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

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

COALVILLE FARMERS AND THE WAR

LORD SELBORNE'S SCHEME

LOCAL COMMITTEE FORMED

REMARKABLE LEICESTERSHIRE STATISTICS

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

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

The Chairman explained the origin of the movement, which, he said, was a conference in London called by Lord Selborne, at which he met the chairman of the various county councils and laid his proposals before them. As a result of that conference, the Leicestershire County Council Agricultural Committee met a week last Saturday and divided the county into nine districts: - Market Bosworth, Hinckley, Ashby, Coalville,

Loughborough, Leicester, Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough and Lutterworth. He was deputed to convene the meeting in the Coalville district. Introducing Mr Hacking, he said the county organiser had now been with them for two years and had done useful work. He was anxious to help the farmers and would do so if they would only take him into their confidence. (Hear, hear).

Mr Hacking said they were all of the opinion that the Board of Agriculture had not been of much use to farmers in the past, and Lord Selborne had apparently realised that if the Board was to be of use to farmers in the future, it must be brought into closer contact with them. It was all very well to tell farmers that they must do this and that and produce more from the land, but nothing was said as to where they were to get the labour from. It was necessary that something should be done to organise the labour of the district. He hoped they would talk these matters over freely. If these committees were to be of any use there must be outspoken reference in every detail to the difficulties they were experiencing every day. Could they increase food production and the output of their farms? Let them regard Leicestershire as one large farm. Roughly, they had 100,000 acres of arable land and 376,000 acres of grassland. Was the arable land doing all it ought to do and all it could do? He had prepared statistics showing the average yield in Leicestershire for the ten years 1904 – 1913, compared with the average for the rest of England. They would perhaps be surprised to hear that in the production of wheat, the Leicestershire average was one bushel per acre below the average for the rest of England, barley was a little over a bushel below, which was not surprising, theirs was not a barley growing county, but as to oats, Leicestershire was 6 ¼ bushels per acre below the rest of the country. Was that satisfactory? He knew they had difficulties to contend with, but that applied also to the rest of the country, and so did not affect the average. Beans in Leicestershire were one bushel below the rest of England, though they could have nothing better or cheaper than bean meal for producing milk; turnips and swedes were two tons per acre below the average for the rest of the country, mangolds were also two tons below, while their permanent grassland yielded crops 3 cwt per acre less than the average for the rest of England. He asked them to be perfectly frank and recognise their shortcomings. He thought a lot of the crops could be brought up to the average conditions by the judicious use of manure. What that particular manure should be depended entirely on their circumstances. There was not enough farmyard manure to go all round and he suggested that they spin it out as much as they could and where they could not use it, they should use artificial manure. If he had the time he could show that artificial manure could be used to advantage on the land in the county. They had excellent grassland in the county and could not that be improved? They knew there had been wonderful effects from slag on some of this land. Referring to stock, he said the number of horses in the county had been reduced very largely through the demands of the War Office, but there had been a great reduction apart from that. As to cattle, from 1911 to 1913 there was a reduction of 5,000 head in Leicestershire, though he was glad to say that from 1913 to 1914, there was as large an increase as there had been decrease in the previous two years. There had been a reduction of 72,000 head of sheep in the county since 1909. That was a serious reduction in the food producing part of the land. But there had been an increase in the number of other stock and it had taken place chiefly in dairy cows and heifers in milk. So grazing sheep had given way to the production of milk. That no doubt was the reason why they had a reduction in their arable land during the last three years of nearly 6,000 acres. Instead of ploughing up more land, as people talked so easily about, the movement had been more in the other direction and probably would be so in the coming years, as it was chiefly owing to the labour difficulty. These were some of the things that had prompted Lord Selborne to suggest the formation of these committees to see what could be done.

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

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

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

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

LORD RANKSBOROUGH AT COALVILLE

INSPECTION OF THE CITIZEN CORPS

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

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

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

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

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

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FORMER COALVILLE MAN WOUNDED

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

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER KILLED

PRIVATE WALTER SHAW

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

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

SHAW LANE SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

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

HEATHER SOLDIER KILLED

PRIVATE W. L. PEARSON

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

COLEORTON SOLDIER KILLED

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

SHACKERSTONE SOLDIER WOUNDED

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

NEWTON BURGOLAND SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS

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

IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED

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

THE LATE LIEUT. B. HATTER

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HUGGLESCOTE CHURCH

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

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

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

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ESCAPED GERMANS TRIED

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Last week the War Office issued instructions to the recruiting authorities in reference to an immediate canvas of men eligible for military service, who have not been “starred.” The word presumably alludes to those men of enlisting age who, though their names on the pink forms, are exempt because they are engaged in one of the scheduled war trades.

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

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

SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LOCAL NEWS

FARMERS AND THE WAR

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

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BELTON

SOLDIER'S PROMOTION

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

DESFORD COLLIER KILLED IN ACTION

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

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ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

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

ASHBY SOLDIER AND THE GREAT BATTLE

TOMMIES COOL AND COLLECTED

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

COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES

Writing to his sister, Mrs Hill, of Margaret Street, Coalville, Mr Herbert Gardner, of the C Squadron, 10th Royal Hussars, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, says that he is *"in the pink"* at present. They have been having a lot of wet lately, which makes it awkward for getting about, and he wishes it was the summer coming on instead of the winter. But they must not grumble as they had had a good summer. When they went to the trenches last week the Germans started shelling them, but they made it hot for the enemy, killing thousands. They got into a place something like Coalville, only there was hardly a house standing whole. The letter continues; *"The Germans have been there for twelve months, but when they saw us coming they ran like – hades – and us after them. We had plenty of prisoners and you could hardly get about for dead Germans. We had to go round all the cellars looking for the 'dogs' and we got 13 prisoners. I went into one place and saw about a dozen sitting as if they were playing cards. I began to look up, but when I got up to them I found they were all dead. It was a sight. One day I was getting a cup of tea when a shell came right through the roof into the fire. I left the tea and we had to go without. I see that some of the Coalville lads have been under shell fire. So have we, and I hardly thought I should be alive to tell the tale, but I tell them to cheer up, and that we shall get through. They call me Joe out here. I have had my watch smashed from shell fire, but have still got it. Remember me to all."*

COALVILLE SOLDIER HONOURED

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

One of the honours lists recently published contained the following:

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

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

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

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

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

TWO WHITWICK SOLDIERS KILLED

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

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

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

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

A memorial service for Cairns was held at the Whitwick Holy Cross Church on Sunday evening, when there was a large congregation. The requiem service was conducted by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly and Father

Commons, professor of Ratcliffe College, preached an impressive sermon and gave the benediction. The members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps were present and also the Whitwick Boy Scouts. Four soldiers, with reversed arms, were guards of the catafalque. After the requiem service, the organist, Mrs Carter, played the Dead March, and one of the Boy Scout buglers sounded the "Last Post." The service concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

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

Private J. CAIRNS.

BARDON HALL

MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

Miss Doris Moore, elder daughter of Mr D. S. Moore, a well-known and highly esteemed resident of Hugglescote, left home for London on Wednesday morning and is proceeding to Egypt, having offered her services as a nurse to the military authorities. Miss Moore is one of the ladies who have attended ambulance classes in the district and has passed the necessary examinations. She will have the good wishes of many friends in her patriotic undertaking. At her home on Tuesday evening some of the members of the Charnwood V.A.D. presented Miss Moore with a dressing case. She is the first member of the detachment to go abroad, though there are eleven members now on active service in different parts of England.

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

An enthusiastic send-off was given to about 30 Leicestershire miners, who left by the 11.43 am train from Coalville on Wednesday morning en route for France, where they will be engaged in special mining work. The men had responded to an appeal recently made for thirty skilled miners from Leicestershire. A large

crowd cheered them as the train moved out of the station and the men were in the best of spirits, some of them singing and others playing mouth organs. To the customary question, *"Are we down hearted?"* several times came a vociferous *"No!"* from the group of sturdy-looking miners as they stood on the platform just before their departure.

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

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

LIEUT. J. EMMERSON WOUNDED

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

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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 47th collection from 5 districts realised £4 10s 1d.

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COMFORTS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

£1,600 RAISED IN LEICESTER

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

A FIVE MINUTES' TRUCE

BRITISH SERGEANT SAYS "THE GERMANS ARE NOT ALL BAD"

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

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COALVILLE SOLDIERS IN A BAYONET CHARGE

LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS EXPERIENCE

TWO GERMAN TRENCHES CAPTURED

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

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

CAPT. REGINALD HASTINGS

HEIR TO THE EARLDOM OF LOUDOUN KILLED IN ACTION

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

Capt. Reginald Hastings was the son of the late Hon. Paulyn Hastings and Lady Maude Hastings, and heir to the Donington estates, and attained his majority on November 27th, 1910, the event having been celebrated by a public presentation and rejoicings. Captain Hastings who was a fine looking man and a keen soldier, went to the front with his battalion in February. He came home on leave a few weeks ago after the death of his brother, and one of his last acts at home was the erection of a large crucifix in the family mausoleum in

the chapel of Ashby Castle, where his father lies. His uncle, the Duke of Norfolk, was much attached to him, as was also the Earl of Loudoun, who was recently on a visit to Lady Maude Hastings, his sister-in-law. Captain Hastings was the patron of the living of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and also heir to the Earldom of the Loudoun and the old English baronies of Batreaux, Molines, Hungerford and Hastings, and also to the Barony of Donington, peerage of the United Kingdom.

DEATH OF LIEUT. MOSS

KILLED LEADING HIS MEN

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

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

LIEUT. LAWTON WOUNDED

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

SHEPSHED CASUALTIES

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

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

LEICESTER CRICKETER SEVERELY WOUNDED

LIEUT. W. N. RILEY

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

COALVILLE AND HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIERS WOUNDED

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

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

KILLED

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

WOUNDED

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

MISSING AND REPORTED WOUNDED

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

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

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

TWO ASHBY SOLDIERS KILLED

Trooper Walter Woodward, of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, died on the 9th inst., of wounds received in action the previous day. Trooper Woodward was the second son of the late William Wilder Woodward, of Smisby, and of Mrs Woodward of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He went through the Boer War in Strathcona's Horse, for which service he was presented by the King, then Prince of Wales, with a medal. After the Boer War, he joined the Legion of Frontiersmen and at the commencement of the present war he enlisted in the Canadian Mounted Rifles, and went with the first contingent to France. He was 36 years of age and much sympathy is felt for Mrs Woodard and family in their bereavement.

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

LEICESTER CHIEF MAGISTRATE'S TRIBUTE

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

In doing their duty for King and country it so happened that one of their local battalions had the honour to lead the attack and were consequently exposed to a great amount of danger. It would be a source of great pride to Leicester that they nobly responded to the call of duty, and it was also gratifying that the attack was victorious, but unfortunately it was an expensive victory, as often happened under modern conditions of warfare. They rejoiced in the bravery of their fellow townsmen. They equally rejoiced in the sense of duty which led them without exception, officers and men, to lay down their lives for their King and country during

that terrible time. Heartfelt sympathy would be felt with those who had suffered bereavement, but there remained the thought of satisfaction in the glory which was attached to this great action. The casualties of the officers had come to hand, and the names of the men would no doubt speedily follow. They must be prepared for a sad time, but their sadness was tempered with pride and gratitude to Almighty God that the Leicester men were permitted to act so courageously in their first attack. They expressed congratulation to those who were left and their reverence and regard for those who had died.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR SOLDIERS

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

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

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

Pte. J. A. Moult
Saturday, October 16th

HUGGLESCOTE OFFICER'S NOBLE DEATH

"COME ON BOYS!"

HOW LIEUT. B. HATTER DIED

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

"62nd Trench Mortar Battery, 1st Corps, 7th Division.

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

A. V. Nicholson. Lieut.

A similar letter has also been received by Mrs Hatter from Gunner R. Mercer, R.G.A., who states that he acted as the deceased's servant after he arrived in France. He expressed deep regret at Lieut. Hatter's

death, and states that he covered the body over after the fatal shot and then had to take refuge in a shell hole until he was relieved.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S FRIEND

TOCHING LETTER TO THE WIDOW

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

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER REPORTED KILLED

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

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

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

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED

News has been received that Pte. George Fletcher, of the 5th Leicesters, son of Mr George Fletcher, collier, of 9, Ibstock Road, Ellistown, has been killed in action. The information is conveyed in a letter from another Ellistown soldier. Fletcher took part in the fighting last week, in which the Leicestershire Territorials so distinguished themselves though at heavy loss.

COALVILLE EX-POLICEMAN IN FRANCE

LIKES WOODBINES THE BEST

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

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

Friday October 29th 1915 (Issue 1234)

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GERMAN HELMET BROUGHT TO COALVILLE

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S TROPHY

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

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

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

Harper leaves Coalville again for France today.

FORMER BAGWORTH COLLIER CONVALESCENT

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

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COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

ROLL OF HONOUR

Local Men who have died for their country.

Eighty-nine Names

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

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

William Chambers
Private, of Royal Marines, on board H.M.S. "Pathfinder," sunk in the North Sea, September 5th, 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 25th, 1914.

William Ogden Hoden
Private, of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13th, 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 1st, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

J. C. Andrews
Lance-Corporal, of the 1st Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7th, 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 1st 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 16th, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

Frederick Kirby
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9th, 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 6th, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

John Manders
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died wounds, 15th 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, 20th March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

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

John Williamson
Private of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action, March 10th. A Coalville man.

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

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

Ernest Hall
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10th and 14th 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 3rd Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11th, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

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

Thomas Dooley D.C.M.
2nd Lieutenant, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1st, 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 1st Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16th. A native of Swannington.

Harry Spence
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13th, 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 13th, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

George Barker
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 14th, 1915. A young farmer of Onebarrow, Whitwick.

C. Avins
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in May 1915. He was an Ashby man.

William Moore
Private, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action May 1st, 1915. He belonged to Thringstone.

A. Heathcote
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds on April 23rd, 1915. A Bagworth collier.

J. G. Poyser
Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915. He left a widow and three children at Ashby.

Timothy Betteridge
Lance-corporal, of the 2nd Leicesters. An Ashby man killed at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915.

John Gadsby
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. A Breedon man.

George Henry Wesson
Sergeant, of the Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on May 9th, 1915. Formerly of Margaret Street, Coalville.

Cecil Thomas Beadman
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on May 19th, 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 13th, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

Charles William Jewsbury
Gunner, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 6th, 1915. He was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., and resided at Bakewell Street, Coalville.

Frederick Wilfred Hart
5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 8th, 1915. A railwayman, of London Road, Coalville.

Francis Frederick Martin
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, died in England, on June 11th, 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 23rd London Regiment, killed in action on May 25th, 1915. A Whitwick man.

Ernest Tugby
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action on June 7th. He resided in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

Harold G. Blackham
Private, of the 5th 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 23rd, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

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

John Ison
Private, of the 1st 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action on June 30th, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

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

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

G. H. Highfield
2nd Lieutenant, of the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action, July 4th, 1915. A former master at Coalville Grammar School.

John George Bennett
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 15th. He resided in Beresford Street, and formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville.

Walter Gray

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

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

George Andrews
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. A Ravenstone man who worked at Ibstock colliery.

Harry Smith
Petty officer of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in the Dardanelles, on July 14th, 1915. Formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

William Massey
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 9th, 1915. A Hugglescote man.

Harry Badcock
Private, 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 1st, 1915. A former Coalville Grammar School boy who resided at Ibstock.

Isaac Hall
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 23rd, 1915. A Whitwick collier whose home was at Thringstone.

H. Ing
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 30th, 1915. Resided at Waterworks Road, Coalville.

Cyril Ernest Briers
Of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action, July 29th, 1915. He lived with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, Ibstock.

Fred Pringle
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in August, 1915. An Ashby man.

E. Dowell
Private, killed in action in France, August 17th, 1915. His wife and four children reside at Markfield.

Clifford E. Scott
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1st, 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action, August 31st, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Arthur Charles Johnstone
Private, of the 8th Leicesters, died September 1st, 1915, from wounds received in action the previous day. A collier of Castle Hill, Whitwick.

Alfred Clifford
Private, in the 1st 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 15th. Son of Lady Maude Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby.

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

Walter Irons
Private in the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France, September 28th. 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 28th. He was a Heather man and formerly worked at the Ibstock Colliery.

Walter Shaw
Private in the 9th Leicesters, killed in action September 9th. He was a widower, formerly residing at Swannington and was a labourer.

J. H. Pepper
Private of the 9th 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 3rd Leicesters, killed in action on September 17th, 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 21st, 1915. Formerly a Whitwick collier, who leaves a widow and three children.

Frank Underwood
Private in 8th 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, 5th Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action, October, 1915. Son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby.

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

George Gadsby
Private of the 5th 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 1st Hants Regiment, killed in action. He was a Ravenstone man.

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

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

George Fletcher

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

R. C. Lawton
Lieutenant, 5th 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 15th, 1915. A former Coalville policeman.

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

Frank William Woolhouse
Private in the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. A Whitwick collier, who resided at Albert Street, Coalville.

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LOCAL NEWS

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

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

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

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

BAGWORTH

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' COMFORTS

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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IN MEMORIAM

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

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

"He did his duty"

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

Jackson Street, Coalville.

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LEICESTERSHIRE V.T.C.'S BUSY DAY

SHAM FIGHT IN THE FOREST

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

In the field operations the Leicester Battalion were given the task of endeavouring to cut the Charnwood Forest Railway between Shepshed and Whitwick Station and it was the object of the other forces to prevent by holding back the attack from 12.30 to the 'cease fire' at 3pm. The Leicester Battalion, under the command of Major W. G. Stanhope Rolleston, was divided into three columns. A general advance was made along the

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

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

THE TWO O'CLOCK TRAIN

LEICESTER SOLDIERS RETURN TO THE FRONT

PATHETIC PLATFORM SCENES

Practically every day of the week Leicester warriors are to be seen walking through the street on their way to the station to return to France. Monday is the day of the week when the number of men returning to the trenches is the largest, and last Monday there was an exceptional lot of men for the 2.2 pm train to London, which is now familiarly known as the "two o'clock train." Most of the men who returned on Monday belonged to the 4th Leicesters. They had been given two or three days' leave after their great fight at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, and many touching scenes were witnessed on No. 3 platform from which the train departed.

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

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

ELLISTOWN

MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

THE LATE LIEUT. R. C. LAWTON

ASHBY GUARDIANS' SYMPATHY WITH PARENTS

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

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

The resolution was carried by the members standing.

HARTSHORNE COUNCILLORS' TRIBUTE

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

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

LIEUT. DE LISLE WOUNDED

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

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

ASHBY MAN'S 'SORRY CAREER'

APPEAL TO BE SENT TO THE FIRING LINE

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

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

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

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

one occasion, he called on a nobleman, and obtained money on the representation that his mother was dying near the nobleman's estate.

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

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

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 48th collection from 5 districts realised £4 18s 10d.

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

TO MY PEOPLE.

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

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

I ask you to make good these sacrifices.

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

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

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

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

George R.I.

THE LATE CAPTAIN HASTINGS

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ASHBY CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CHARGE OF THE 5TH LEICESTERS

COALVILLE SOLDIER’S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

HOW TWO GERMAN TRENCHES WERE TAKEN

DYING OFFICERS’ LAST WORDS

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

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

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

COALVILLE MAGISTRATES' TRIBUTE

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

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

MAGISTERIAL TRIBUTE

At the Leicester County Petty Sessions on Saturday, Mr J. B. Everard, the presiding magistrate, said he desired to refer to the grief that had fallen on the town and county through the losses involved in the glorious

action of the 4th and 5th Leicester Territorials. It was a grief that had affected all classes from the highest to the lowest. From the head of the Hastings family to the youngest private all had given their best. The magistrates of the county had been among the greatest sufferers. The colonel of the battalion set a noble example which was followed by all others. They had covered themselves with glory, and had enhanced the lustre attaching to the traditions of the Leicestershire Regiment.

COALVILLE EX-POLICEMAN SHOT

WHILE PERFORMING A BRAVE DEED

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

The "Police Review" of October 22nd contains the following paragraph:

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

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

On Wednesday morning, Mrs Page received an official notice of the death from the Infantry Record Office, Warwick, stating that her husband was killed in action in France between May 15th and 16th. Accompanying the notice was a letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen.

NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION

DISTINGUISHED GALLANTRY

The following letter has been forwarded to us for publication:

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

I trust that their example may arouse enthusiasm in their various counties, and that the result of their gallant efforts may be to bring every able bodied man into the ranks. I am proud to command a division composed of officers and other ranks who, for love of King and Country have sacrificed private interests and whose

example should be widely bellowed by every man imbued with patriotic sentiments. I should be glad if everyone could be informed of this. – Yours sincerely

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

WHITWICK NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER ON CONSCRIPTION

INTERESTING LETTER FROM SERGT. S. E. PERRY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

S. E. Perry

BOXING GLOVES FOR COALVILLE SOLDIERS

Dear Sir, - I have great pleasure in writing and letting you know that I received the boxing gloves on behalf of the Coalville Boys which I assure you we are greatly pleased with and there is no doubt as to the sport they will cause amongst us, when out of the trenches. I am pleased to say we are all in good health and spirits,

considering the circumstances we are in out here. Please accept our best wishes and heartiest thanks for so good a gift. – I remain, yours sincerely.

W. Sharp, C.M.S.
B. Company, 8th Leicesters, B.E.F.

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

SWANNINGTON GRENADIER GUARD KILLED

FORMER EMPLOYEE OF MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.

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

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

ONE OF FIVE FROM A FAMILY IN THE FORCES

Mrs Warren, of 79, Albert Street, Coalville, has received news of the death of her son, Pte. Frank William Woolhouse, of the B. Co. 5th Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action during the recent severe fighting when the fifths took two German trenches at the point of the bayonet. The news is not official, but has arrived from two separate sources – in letters from friends of the deceased soldier, Pte. Cato, of Park Road, Coalville, and Pte. Cross, of Hugglescote. Woolhouse was only 20 years of age and before enlisting worked at the Whitwick Colliery. He was a popular member of the Coalville Swift's F.C., being a very capable forward. His father, Edward Woolhouse was accidently killed in the Whitwick Colliery about 8 years ago.

The last time Mrs Warren heard from her boy was the receipt of a letter dated, Saturday, October 9th, in which he wrote acknowledging receipt of a parcel and letter and a photo and stating that he was quite well.

Woolhouse was one of five members from the same family serving in the forces. His step-father, Pte. Thomas Warren, of the 2nd Leicesters, was wounded in the battle of Neuve Chapelle, being close behind Corpl. Jack Sheffield, when the latter received his fatal shot, and Warren is now in camp near Hull. He was formerly a miner engaged at the Snibston pit. His son Pte. Walter Warren, in the Norfolk Regiment, was also wounded about a month ago, and is now at a convalescent home in Norfolk. He was a young miner at the Whitwick pit. Another son, Thomas Edmund Warren, is in the Royal Marines and Gunner Joseph Hall, another step-son of Warren, is in the R.F.A.

Friday November 5th 1915 (Issue 1235)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Collected by Mr R. Sharpe, Whitwick: Eggs previously acknowledged, 2,094. Mr John Wardle 1s, Mr Tom Irons company 3s, Liberal Club company 2s 6d, Mr Potter's company 2s, Mr Wakefield's company 2s, Mr M. Noon company 2s, Mr H. Ward 1s, Mr Tom Noon company 2s, H. Baker 6 eggs. Total number of eggs collected 2,187.

Pte. Harry Sharp, 10207, of the B Co. 6th Leicestershire Regiment, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, writes expressing thanks to Mrs L. L. Baldwin and the ladies of Coalville and District for socks and other things received just before going into the trenches. He says he is sure they are all doing their best for the Coalville boys at the front, who very much appreciate their kindness. Sharp also states how pleased they have been to receive the two sets of boxing gloves given by Mr R. Tebbett, saddler, Hotel Street.

"Health and Strength" weekly for Saturday, October 30th, contained the following under the Roll of Honour of noted physical culturists who are fighting at the front:

"Pte. L. D. Brown (16132), Signal Section, 8th Batt. Leicester Regt. B.E.F., France. Joined November 18th, 1914. Successor to 'Astro', late instructor Coalville School of Physical Culture and Christ Church Physical Culture Classes, Coalville; treasurer Astro Institute of P.C., and British Institute of P.C., Kettering: former pupil of Astro, now of the Astro and American Physical Training Company, Chicago, U.S.A."

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S GALLANTRY

A GENERAL'S PRAISE

Corpl. E. J. Collier, No. 85523, 176th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, late 2nd Leicesters, whose wife and children reside at 56, Melbourne Street, Coalville, has written home from France, enclosing an official communication to him from the General commanding the 1st Corps, in the following terms:

"Your commanding officer has informed me that you have distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field on the 16th June. I have read the reports and although promotions and decorations cannot be given in every case, I should like you to know your gallant action is recognised, and how greatly it is appreciated."

Corpl. Collier was a miner before the war, working at South Leicestershire Colliery. He enlisted in the 2nd Leicesters from the Ashby and Coalville Company on National Reserves in August 1914, and went through the Neuve Chapelle engagement unscathed. He was formerly secretary of the now defunct Coalville Excelsior F.C.

IBSTOCK SOLDIER'S WEDDING

Sergt. Lockton, D.C.M., of the Coldstream Guards, paid a surprise visit to Ibstock on Monday evening. He came into the National Schools, where he had a rousing reception from the Church Lads' Brigade, who were at drill, and for whom he acted as drill sergeant prior to the war.

On Tuesday, he was married to Miss Mary A. Watts, of Leicester, at the Ibstock Parish Church by special licence. The Rev. S. Flood, M.A., conducted the service which was choral. Mr W. Dunstan officiated at the organ. There was a large number of interested friends present and the Church Lads' Brigade formed a guard of honour. The bride wore a travelling costume and the happy couple were the recipients of a nice lot of presents which included a silver tea set from the Church Brigade Boys.

The sergeant was awarded the D.C.M. some time ago for accounting for five Germans single-handed. Mrs Flood gave a gold brooch to the bride and the Rector, a safety cigarette case to the bridegroom. Sergt. Lockton left for France the next morning (Wednesday).

PARISH CHURCH

A small polished brass tablet has been placed on the wall at the west end of the church, to the memory of Private Ernest Tugby, who was killed in action June 7th, 1915. The inscription is as follows:

"In loving memory of Private Ernest Tugby, of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, who was killed in action in France, June 7th, 1915. Greater love hath no man than this."

The tablet has been made and engraved by Mr R. E. Swinfen of Nottingham, an old Whitwick resident, the expense being defrayed by the members of the Men's and Women's Service at the above church of which the deceased soldier was a highly respected member. At both morning and afternoon service on Sunday last the Vicar made most appropriate reference to the tablet and the hero soldier in whose memory it has been erected.

A handsomely arranged and massively framed Roll of Honour has also been hung in the Whitwick Church during the past week. It contains the names, etc., of over 160 Whitwick men who are now serving the country either at home or abroad. Another list in is the course of preparation which will contain the names, etc., of all Whitwick men who have made the supreme sacrifice (their lives) for their King and Country.

DO YOU KNOW

That according to military order, there should be no bonfire or firework displays after 6 o'clock tonight?

That a grand whist drive and social will be held in the Council Schools, Bridge Road, on January 5th, 1916, in aid of funds for the Soldiers' Comforts Guild?

That since the institution of Lord Denby's recruiting scheme the number of recruits who have come forward is splendid, and the quality remarkable?

That fifty recruits for the Royal Naval Division and four boys for the Royal Navy left Leicester on Monday afternoon for London?

That the work of canvassing in Leicester under Lord Danby's recruiting scheme has been undertaken by a joint committee representative of all political parties in the borough, and was commenced on Monday?

IBSTOCK

A memorial service was held at Ibstock Parish Church on Sunday last in connection with Pte. Cyril Briers of the Coldstream Guards and Pte. Victor Dolman, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were killed in action. The bugle band of the Church Lads' Brigade attended and played the "Last Post." The Rev. S. Flood conducted the service.

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WHITWICK SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

LETTERS FROM OFFICER AND CHAPLAIN

Mr Underwood, of Pare's Hill, Whitwick, has received a letter from Lord Kitchener expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen with him on the death of his son, Lance-Corpl. F. Underwood, of the 9th Leicesters, resulting from wounds received in action.

The chaplain, R. N. Shelton, writes that he buried the deceased who died from wounds received in the trenches. He adds, *"I did my best to comfort and cheer him in his last moments. Everything was done for him that could be done and he passed peacefully away on Sunday evening (October 3rd) at 9 pm. My sincere love and sympathy is with you in your trouble and bereavement. May God comfort and bless you."*

Another letter received is from 2nd Lieut. H. S. Rosen, who says, *"It is with the utmost regret that I have to inform you that your son was killed in action on October 3rd. He was on duty in the trenches when a shrapnel shell suddenly burst near him, inflicting a severe wound in his head, which resulted in his death shortly after reaching his dressing station. I feel his loss very keenly, and he was not only a thoroughly good soldier but an excellent worker and he had recently been mentioned in the company commander's report to the Colonel for especially good work in helping to repair a trench destroyed by an enemy trench mortar bomb, in which he showed exceptional coolness and energy. He will be sadly missed, not only by myself and my platoon, but also by the regiment as a whole. I should like to convey to you the heart-felt sympathy of the company officers and your son's comrades in your sad bereavement."*

An impressive memorial service was held at the Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday for Lance-Corpl. Frank Underwood, of Pare's Hill, Whitwick, recently killed in action. The Vicar (the Rev. T. W. Walters, M.A.) preached to a good congregation which included the members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps under Commander G. F. Burton, and the Boy Scouts. The organist (Mr R. West) played Chopin's Funeral March at the commencement and the Dead March at the close, when the National Anthem was also sung and Scout Richards (bugler) sounded the "Last Post." Muffled peals were rung on the bells.

A photo of Underwood appears next week.

NOTIFICATION

Mr and Mrs G. Fletcher and family desire to tender their sincere thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them on the occasion of the death of their son, Pte. George Fletcher, killed in action, October 13th, 1915.

9 Ibstock Road, Ellistown

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LEICESTER SOLDIER – FAMILY RECORD

A SON KILLED IN FRANCE

The parents of Private N. H. Hulls, 2nd Leicesters, have received an intimation that their son was killed in action in France on the 16th October. He was 22 years of age and before enlisting worked for Mr Chitham, builder and contractor, Welford Road. He had previously been wounded.

The record of the deceased soldier's family is a somewhat remarkable one. His great-grandfather fought at Waterloo, his grandfather was a soldier of long experience and good conduct, as is testified by the fact that for many years he was a Chelsea pensioner.

Private Hulls father and three brothers are now serving with the colours. There are also an uncle and five nephews fighting. One of the latter, Pte. John Clarkson, of the 1st Leicesters, was recently awarded the D.C.M. for conspicuous bravery in rescuing an officer. The family has an army record extending over 200 years.

HUSBAND NOT KILLED

BETTER NEWS FOR BURTON WOMAN

Mrs Poxon, of Uxbridge Street, Burton-on-Trent, who, some time ago, was officially notified that her husband, Pte. H. Poxon, 2nd Leicesters, had been killed, received a letter from him, on Saturday, stating that he is a prisoner, and is making good progress.

A POPULAR INNOVATION

STEEL HELMETS FOR BRITISH TROOPS

The Press Association's special correspondent with the British Headquarters in France sends the following despatch, under date October 30th:

"Following the example of our ally, the French, we have now equipped a certain number of men with light steel helmets as a protection against shrapnel and shell or bomb splinters. Should the innovation prove successful the issue will doubtless be largely increased.

In bombing work which now plays such an important part in modern warfare, the new helmets should be especially valuable. All the bombers in the British Army go through a special course of training at schools inaugurated for the purpose, and therefore their lives are from a military standpoint more important than those of the ordinary infantry man. The fighting of the past few weeks in the vicinity of our recent advances in the Loos sector has already demonstrated the utility of the new headgear, which has been instrumental in saving many lives.

Fitted with a chin strap and lined with leather, the helmets are very comfortable to wear, and are, needless to say, very popular with troops, officers and men alike."

493,294 CASUALTIES

THE BRITISH LOSSES UP TO OCTOBER 9TH

In a written reply to Mr Molteno, who asked the Prime Minister what were the total casualties in the western area of operations, distinguishing between killed and wounded and missing, up to the 9th October, as well as the total casualties in all fields of operations. Mr Asquith says:

Western Area

Killed

Officers	4,401
Other ranks	63,059

Wounded

Officers	9,169
Other ranks	225,746

Missing

Officers	1,567
Other ranks	61,434
Total Casualties	355,945

Casualties in all fields of Operations

Killed

Officers	6,660
Other ranks	94,992

Wounded

Officers	12,633
Other ranks	304,832

Missing

Officers	2,000
Other ranks	72,177
Total Casualties	493,294

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ASHBY POLICE COURT

Ernest Henry Taylor (19), private in the 2/5th battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, St. Albans, was summoned by Eliza E. Bentley, single woman, Snibston, to show good cause, etc. Mr W. P. Musson (Ashby) was for the complainant and Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) for the defendant, who denied the paternity.

Complainant said she was only 16 years of age – 15 when the child was born. She used to live at Heather and had known the defendant for ten years.

After the lengthy hearing the Bench made an order for the payment of 2s 6d a week until the child is 14, and also the costs £2 7s.

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ELLISTOWN SOLDIER'S DEATH

OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED

Mr George Fletcher, banksman at the South Leicestershire Colliery, who resides at 9, Ibstock Road, Ellistown, has been officially notified of the death of his son, Pte. George Fletcher of the 1/5th battalion Leicestershire Regiment. The notice, dated October 28th, received from the Territorial Record Office, Lichfield, states that the deceased was killed in action on October 13th.

Mr and Mrs Fletcher have also received a letter from Pte. E. Dowell (Donington-le-Heath) who since the 13th has re-joined the battalion at the front, stating that he had heard of George's death and expresses deep sympathy with his parents and friends. He says, *"He was a very dear pal and I miss him very much. I am sure you have lost a noble son. When he was asked to do anything by the officer or non-commissioned officer he was always willing to do it without a murmur. He died a hero's death and did his duty to God, King and Country."*

Before the war, Pte. G. Fletcher worked at the Bagworth Colliery. He was 31 years of age and single. For some years being in the Hugglescote Church choir and a teacher in the Sunday School. Much sympathy is felt for his parents and other members of the family. A photo of Pte. Fletcher will appear in our next issue.

A PROUD THRINGSTONE MOTHER

FIVE SONS IN THE FORCES

Mrs Griffin, of Thringstone, is the proud mother of five sons serving in H.M. Forces. Their photographs are here reproduced. One of them, Pte. Tom Griffin, No. 1884 is in the 2nd section of the 175th Co. Royal Engineers in France and in a recent letter home he states:

"Just a few lines in answer to your last letter. I am sorry that I have not written before now but I am pleased to tell you that I am going on alright up to now and am in the best of health. I hope you are the same. I wish the war was all over. I have had enough of it out here but it looks like being a long time yet. Remember me to all I know. If the Lord spares me a bit longer I think I shall get home on leave. Is it right that Joe and Jack have enlisted? If so, it is the best day's work they have done in their lives. I think I have told you all this time, from your loving son."

Pte. Thomas Griffin.

Pte. Walter Griffin.

Pte. Amos Griffin.

Pte. Joseph White.

Pte. John White.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S DEATH

HIS LAST LETTER TO HIS WIFE

Further particulars are to hand concerning the death of Pte. George Gadsby, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action about October 13th. Gadsby's wife, who lives with her little two year old girl at 30, Mill Row, Hugglescote, has received the following letter from George Daft, formerly of Margaret Street, Coalville, who was in the same regiment as her husband.

"Dear Mrs Gadsby, - It is with deep sympathy for you that I write these few lines. The reason I write is because George and I were such big pals and his death has grieved me to the heart, and I know it is a big loss to you. He was respected by all the men and officers of his platoon, who will feel his loss keenly. It was with a fearless heart that he advanced towards the enemy trenches, when he was hit by a bullet. His death

was instantaneous and he suffered no pain. I was by his side at the time. I hope that the knowledge that he had such a good character and died doing his duty will comfort you in your deep sorrow. I wish to express the deep sympathy of his platoon, I remain, yours faithfully."

George Daft

Mrs Gadsby has also received a memorial card from Lord Aberconway containing lines of consolation to the widow. The card is as follows:

"In memory of George Gadsby, 5th Leicesters. A gallant soldier who gave his life for his country in the Great War. Lord Aberconway ventures to send these lines of consolation to those left behind:

If I should die, think only this of me
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam.
A body of England's breathing English air
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brook

The last letter received by Mrs Gadsby from her husband was dated October 10th, only two days before the great British advance, and it seemed that Gadsby knew of this at the time of writing. He stated:

"I expect you will be a bit surprised at me writing before having another letter from you but I thought it my duty as a husband to write, as by the time you get this letter I shall perhaps be in a tight corner. I hope the Lord will spare me to get through it, to write to you and see you again. I hope that you will pray to God above to spare all of us out here, because we need the prayers of every one. But if I don't get through it, you will know that I did my duty. Bless Hilda for me. If I land through it, I will write as soon as I can, if only a postcard. I am in the best of health at the time of writing this and hope you are the same. I received Hilda's photo and it took me all the time to know who it was. I think she has grown a lot and I wish I was at home to see her. Well, dear wife, don't write again until you hear from me and then I shall await a reply. It might be a postcard I shall send you. Well, good-bye for the present. I trust that my prayers will be heard and that God will spare me to see you again."

Hilda referred to in the letter is the deceased soldier's baby girl, who was only a few months old when Gadsby was called up as a reservist at the commencement of the war and he had never been home since. Gadsby formerly worked at the Ibstock Colliery. Mrs Gadsby has also received a letter from her husband's brother, Harry, who is in the 5th Leicesters, France. Writing on October 25th, he says:

"Just a few lines hoping to find you well, as it leaves me in good health, although I am worried about George. I saw it in the "Coalville Times" that he was reported killed but I hope you don't worry about it too much, though I know how hard it is for you and little Hilda. I would sooner it had been me a thousand times than him. When I last saw him, he was in a shell hole between the lines and I should have stopped with him only there was several chaps in there with him, including Daft. A lot of bullets were flying about at the time, so I went on till I got in a trench. I gave him Hilda's photo the day before we went into the trenches, so that he would have it on him when he died. Try to cheer up a bit and try to cheer mother and dad, because they will be put about a lot. The last words he said to me before the attack were, "If I get killed and you get out of it alright, tell Lily that I died doing my duty for home, King and country, and tell her not to worry herself, for I am in God's hands and I shall meet her in the other world." So cheer up and God bless you and Hilda and mother and dad.

P.S. Show this letter to mother and tell her not to worry."

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

INTERESTING LETTER

A FOOTBALL WANTED

The following letter has been received from a Coalville soldier in France:

"I take the pleasure of writing these few lines for the "Coalville Times." You would be surprised how it brightens our spirits up when we look to see how things are going on around Coalville and district. I have the papers sent to me every fortnight, and you can bet that I am always eager to get a look at it, and so are my comrades. I am very pleased to hear of the good recruiting that is going on around Coalville and I am sure if the young men rally to the flag it will bring this terrible war to a speedy end. I am quite sure we do not want conscription in dear old England. I hope and pray to the Lord that we do not have another winter the same as we had last, because it was so horrible to stand in the trenches, wet through and starved to death. God only knows what us poor devils went through. I might say that I went through the battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 10th with the 2nd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, and that is where a lot of my Coalville mates went under. I shall always remember that battle the longest day I live. We went into the firing line between five and six in the morning, although it was cold and it rained a little, and when we had been in the trench about an hour or so, all of a sudden our artillery opened a tremendous rapid fire on the German trenches and played havoc with them for about half an hour. And then the order came along to get ready. All of a sudden the word came, "Charge, Boys!" We were gone like a shot out of a gun. We were like a lot of running madmen going in at the boches and in the first trench we had a tussle with some of them and we soon put them out of danger. There were three women in the first trench, two had been killed and one was alive. About two days after we had made the charge, you would have wondered where they had come if you'd have seen how they came upon us when they made their counter attack. They seemed to have come in thousands. I don't think many of them got back to their diggings because they simply walked into their death trap. I would be very pleased if some kind person would be so kind as to send me a football here, as I am sure I could do with something to keep my feet warm, and also my comrades. I have met several of my Coalville chums and they have asked me whether I have received a parcel from Coalville, but I have received no parcel since I have been out here. I am just getting ready for duty in the trenches, so will close.- I remain, yours sincerely."

Sapper E. A. Sparks
No. 11165, 172 Coy. Royal Engineers, B.E.F.

In a postscript he adds: *"England expects every man to do his duty."*

Before the war Sparks worked in the Whitwick new pit and lived in Margaret Street, Coalville.

Friday November 12th 1915 (Issue 1236)

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SOLDIERS WHO HAVE HAD NO LEAVE

A MATTER FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Mr Horner having asked if arrangements can now be made for allowing all soldiers who have been continuously on service at the front since the beginning of the war to return home for a spell of rest. Mr Tennant replies in Parliamentary papers:

"As I have previously stated, the granting of leave to soldiers at the front is a matter for the Commander-in-Chief. I cannot therefore, give any pledge in the sense of the hon. gentlemen's question, but I certainly assure him that the Commander-in-Chief will lose no opportunity of giving leave to any men who have not yet had leave since the beginning of the war. I do not believe that there are many such cases, and I am sure that where leave has not yet been given it has been due to special circumstances connected with the military situation as it affects the men in question."

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

We notice that Major General E. Stuart Wortley, commanding North Midland Division has intimated to Sergt. E. W. Hurst, R.E., (son of Mr William Hurst, of Forest Road, Coalville), that the commanding officer and brigade commander have reported Sergeant Hurst as having distinguished himself by conspicuous bravery in the field, "somewhere in France."

Mr P. L. Preston, Cliffe Hill, who fourteen months ago joined the Staffords Signalling Department, and was early on promoted, has been gazetted as temporary second-lieutenant of the Cheshires. He is 21 years of age, and previous to his recall was at the front in France. He proceeded on Saturday to take up his new appointment.

In a letter to his mother, at Ulverscroft, Markfield, Sergt. T. S. Roe, informed her that he had won the D.C.M. He is in the Royal Field Artillery and is brother to Mr J. Roe, Ellistown.

HOW CORPORAL KING WON THE D.C.M.

In a conversation with our reporter, Corpl. King related how he won the D.C.M. As a practical miner, he, with others of his company were attached to the Royal Engineers and were engaged in sapping work. On that memorable day in September they had been working on a sap towards the German trenches which was practically ready for exploding, and about 5.45 pm they were to be relieved. But the work on which they had been engaged was observed from a German 'sausage' – a kind of captive balloon, of the shape of a

sausage – and just as the relief party came up, the enemy started bombing the position. Several of the relief party were killed and wounded and five were buried in a trench communicating with the sap. King liberated these five and one by one carried them to the dressing station some 400 yards away. This was done while high explosives were dropping all round him and notwithstanding the danger he returned to the trench the sixth time to make sure no others were there, and he was the last man out of the sap. King modestly added that there were plenty of braver deeds being accomplished every day only they don't happen to come under the eye of the Colonel as his did. The shells sent over by the Germans he said, made holes in which one could bury a house. Sometimes they could be heard coming and then one could dodge them, but it was rather exciting.

DO YOU KNOW

That Corpl. E. King, D.C.M. of Ashby Road, Coalville, is on leave here from France till Sunday next?

That the wife of Lieut. the Hon. Francis McLaren, M.P., gave birth to a son on Tuesday, at 8, Little College Street, Westminster?

That khaki armlets are to be issued to men ineligible for military service and those who have volunteered but are waiting to be called up?

That Sergt.-Major Roland Hill, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorials, who has been on six weeks' sick leave at his home at Coalville after being several months at the front, returns to duty on Monday next?

That on Monday afternoon 38 youths left Leicester to undergo their training at the Crystal Palace in connection with the Royal Naval Division?

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IBSTOCK RECRUITING MEETING

On Tuesday evening at the Council Schools, Mr J. Newman presided at a meeting in connection with recruiting. Mr F. Holmes was appointed clerk to the committee and read correspondence relating to the duties of canvassers. He said he had received cards for 178 unstarred men to be visited. The area did not include Battram, but apparently was Ibstock postal area as Ravenstone Road men and Upper Ibstock men were included. The following gentlemen volunteered to act as canvassers: Messrs. W. Eggington, J. T. Jaques, W. T. Williams, W. M. Sykes, J. Rose, J. Lawrence, Jabez Newman, F. Holmes, R. Safford and George Foreman and were appointed.

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THE GALLANT 5TH LEICESTERS

In view of the recent encouragement which has been given to recruiting, a Press representative called upon Captain Woods at the Loughborough Drill Hall, who is in charge of recruiting for 3/5th Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment Territorial Force, in order to ascertain how the returns were progressing. Capt. Woods received us very cordially, and we quickly discovered he was most anxious that the honour and prestige of the 5th should be maintained.

"During the past few weeks, recruiting has fallen off somewhat but there has been a slight improvement within the last ten days. The only reason I can attribute to the falling off is that the men in the county do not realise the glorious work which has been done by the gallant 5th at the front, and the necessity there is for keeping up their strength. Possibly some districts may not be fully aware that recruits are still required for the purpose, and that enlisting for the 5th Battalion is very necessary. Men may not have realised that the wastages caused by the casualties have to be made good by drafts sent from the feeding battalion, and it is necessary that this feeding battalion should be up to full strength in order to supply any calls made to fill up the gaps. The increase within the past few days no doubt arises from the glorious deeds by the 5th in their last charge, which appeals to the patriotism of the men, and prompts them to come forward to keep up their county Territorial Battalion, in which there are so many of their friends fighting."

Appropriate to this sentiment was a letter which the Duke of Portland sent to Lord Derby the other day when speaking of the Territorial infantry units. He said he was extremely desirous to support the voluntary recruiting scheme, but felt that the filling up of the county units should be given the first consideration, before men were taken from their county for outside units. In reply to this Lord Derby wrote: *"Naturally, men enlisted in the county, will, it is hoped, go into the county units and I am relying very much upon county patriotism to provide the men who are needed."*

We also quote the letter which Major General Stuart Wortley, commander of the North Midland Division in France, wrote a short time ago, in respect to the Leicestershire T.F. : *"I should be obliged if you would inform the President and members of your Associations that in a recent attack on the enemy's position, the North Midland Division behaved with distinguished gallantry, worthy of the best traditions of the British Army, I trust that their example may arouse enthusiasm in their various counties and that the result of their gallant efforts may be to bring every able-bodied man into the ranks. I am proud to command a division composed of officers and other ranks who, for love of King and country have sacrificed private interests and whose example should be widely followed by every man imbued with patriotic sentiment. I should be glad if everyone could be informed of this."*

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COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

HOW HE AVENGED A GERMAN'S TREACHERY

Pte. S. Moore, writing to his father and mother, Mr and Mrs J. Moore, of 31, Margaret Street, Coalville, on October 24th, says: *"Was glad to hear you were all well, as it leaves me in the pink. I am going to tell you how we went on in the charge. It was six o'clock when we got to the trenches and it was not long before our artillery started and was on for 2 ½ hours. It was awful, the ground seemed to be fair shaking. Jack and I were in the trench together and we felt a bit nervous at first. I asked the officer if there was a rum ration. He said there was and I felt alright after that. As time went on we could hardly see the German trenches for smoke and it made you feel sorry for the poor beggars under those bursting shells. Then the officer came along and told us to get ready and I was told to get the bombs ready. Then off we went. You could see the Germans running like hell, and our chaps after them, while I followed up with the bombs. It was a sight I can tell you to see your pals fall, made your blood boil. I felt mad and started bombing them as soon as we got up. The dead lay about us in heaps. A bomb dropped between me and Jack, but I sent about half a dozen back. When I got back to our fire trench, two Germans were in the front and I finished them off. Then I saw eight more Germans coming with two of our chaps. I shouted, "Who are you?" and they replied, "Fifth Leicesters bringing in prisoners." The Germans were shouting, "Mercy, English" I felt sorry for one of them who had been hit by a shell and lifted him over into our trench. I went out bombing again and saw sights enough to turn you over, but I was out for blood and I felt like it. In one dug-out, 4ft under the ground, I saw four Germans and put a bomb into them. In another place I saw four more bald-headed Germans and gave them some more bombs. We held the place till we were relieved."*

Continuing Moore says, *"I saw a German buried and I saw a Leicester went and dug him out, when the German turned round and shot him. I tried to get at the German with my bayonet but could not catch him, so I pulled the trigger and he fell dead. When I was in a trench an officer came up and said some of our chaps were dying because they could not get to them and the telephone was broken. I volunteered to go and see where the wire was broken. As soon as I got over their artillery started and I fell and dropped the wire, but I was able to get back and report and they put a wire across. I should have got the D.C.M. if the officer who saw me do it had he not been killed. I don't want to be in another mess like that, though they say we shall be in another before long.*

We are in a barn now resting for a few days. We get frozen at nights and I think we shall not be long without snow. It is so cold at nights. God help us if we are to be here another winter. I'd sooner be up Margaret Street. Tell them to send me some mittens."

CONDITIONS IN THE TRENCHES

WITH THE LEICESTERS AT THE FRONT

Mr D. Marston, of Vaughan Street, Coalville, has recently received two letters from his nephew, Co. Quartermaster Sergt. A. Cave, of C Co. 7th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, whose home is in Leicester. In the first letter the writer stated that he was in a comfortable billet in a French village and had charge of a party conveying rations to the troops in the trenches. Occasionally, times were a little exciting and he narrated how one day they had to pass through a village which was being bombarded. *"One can hear the shells whizzing through the air,"* he says, before they are seen, and this gives them time to run to cover if such is handy. In this instance they succeeded in getting into a cellar while neighbouring houses and a church were partially demolished. Luckily only one of his men was wounded. In a letter dated October 28th, received on Monday last, Quartermaster Cave says:

"We have come three miles back from the firing line for six days' rest, and have the rottenest billets you could imagine. Immediately we put our feet outside our billet we sink into mud over boot tops, and it is the same in what I suppose is the main street. It is not half so muddy in the trenches. The trenches are being paved with wood, the slats of wood being placed at intervals of about two inches. Underneath the wood runs a drain of about a foot wide and deep, and at intervals large holes are dug in the bottom and sides of the trench. As the trench is of sand, this water is filtered to a certain extent, and is used by the men for washing purposes. The effect of this system of drainage is to make the trench perfectly dry, and there is not the slightest trace of mud.

It is raining hard now. In answer to a letter, I received over 400 books of all kinds and continue to receive them at a rate of 50 per day. The men are thus enabled to pass away what would be many a dreary hour in billets and by exchanging these books with one another, have enough reading to last months. As you say, the Leicester Terriers were in the big advance and suffered heavily. They charged the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

I am glad to hear you are all well, and pleased to say I am in the pink, with the exception of a slight cold. Needless to say I shall be pleased to hear from you at any time, and if there is particularly interesting in my letters, I do not object to any part of them being used for the "Coalville Times."

ASHBY SOLDIER'S OPTIMISM

An Ashby soldier, belonging to the 2nd Border Regiment, writing to his father from the trenches in France in a cheery letter says:

"I have had enough of trenches this month to last me a life time, but as I said before, its war, and I take it as such without grumbling. It's something to be alive. I shall have to come over if I am spared to come out of this, and I have faith that I shall. Yes, we are top dog now, and never mind what the pessimistic papers say. I can see the difference myself, and we don't care how often the Germans attack, as we have got them beaten, and they know it. It's one thing making a charge and quite another altogether stopping one. Mr German finds it doesn't pay now, and he is up against the Bank of England as well, so never despair.

Everything is in our favour now. You say you are sending me some fags. Well I can do with them. I am glad that someone has thought of me, as I always smoke as many as I can get, for when you are in the trenches at night they are a great comfort, as good as a feel when you are hungry."

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S ADVICE

"DON'T WAIT TO BE FETCHED"

Lance-Corpl. G. A. F. Walden, R.A.M.C., who in civil life is caretaker of the Swannington Isolation Hospital, writes:

"On my recent visit to Swannington I had the pleasure of meeting a large number of young men of my acquaintance who have not yet seen their way clear to report to the many calls for recruits. Several openly avowed their intention to remain at home until they were 'forced to enlist,' and I regretted greatly to find such an opinion existing, even with a few. There is a place in His Majesty's service for every able-bodied young man. The work may not be as congenial as one might desire, but there would be sufficient interest in the new mode of living, the inspiring aim of the men who are engaged in the great struggle, and the actual joys of participation to outweigh any such objection.

For instance, I would like to ask the young men of Swannington how they are going to explain their lack of patriotism when the war is finished. It is all very well to stay at home and cheer when news of a victory arrives, it is nice to remember the boys in the trenches and send out occasional packages of cigarettes – but there is another side to the question. Those lads out in the trenches are offering their lives to preserve your happiness. And you are giving – call it 'recompense' if you will – a few packages of Woodbines or Cold Flakes. Why not face the question squarely? Why not admit today that you are not doing your share? Why not enlist and take a man's stand beside the men in the trenches?

There may be reasons why infantry regiments hold no encouragement for you to enlist. Surely there is some branch of the service in which you can do your work, the R.A.M.C., the Ordinance of Pay Corps, Army Service Corps. These have plenty of vacancies in which young men not physically capable of withstanding the trials of damp trenches and long marches might find congenial employment. The Government is making unusually beneficent provision for the families of the men who engage in the contest against Prussian militarism, so there can be no refusal because of a desire to maintain the family circle.

In short, I should like to extend my personal invitation to every young man, or middle-aged man, reading this paper, to offer himself as a recruit, ready to 'do a man's share,' in the most gigantic struggle the world has ever known."

FALLEN WHITWICK SOLDIERS

Lance-Corporal F. Underwood. He was in the 9th Leicesters, and as stated in our last issue, died on October 3rd, of wounds received in action a day or so earlier. His home was at Pare's Hill, Whitwick.

Another Whitwick soldier who has made the supreme sacrifice is Pte. Edward Jarvis, of the 1st Grenadier Guards, whose parents live at 88, Hermitage Road. His father, Mr Thomas Jarvis, is a collier at the Whitwick pit, but for about 12 months has been at home ill. The deceased soldier formerly worked at the Snibston Colliery and was a single man, 27 years of age. He joined the army about 13 months ago and had been four months at the front.

The official news of his death was received from the War Office on Thursday, this stating that he was killed in action on October 17th. The bereaved relatives had been prepared for this by a letter dated October 20th, received from Pte. B. Barker, of the same regiment, who wrote:

"Dear Friend – It is with deep regret that I have to write this letter to you. I am writing on behalf of myself and the section to let you know that Ted Jarvis was killed in action last Sunday morning in an attack we made. Dear friend, believe me, you have the deepest respect of the whole platoon. Poor chap, he was liked by us all, but you all have one consolation, he died like a true Englishman fighting for his country. Will you please inform his parents of this painful fact. I don't know your name, but I think this will find you. Will you let me know if this reaches you. – Believe me, yours sincerely."

B. Barker

The letter was addressed to *'Harry, 155, Brooks Lane, Whitwick, Leicestershire,'* this being the address of a friend of the deceased which his comrade apparently found upon him.

Lance-Corpl. F. Underwood.

Private Edward Jarvis.

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

As reported fully in our last issue, official news has been received by Mr and Mrs George Fletcher, of 9, Ibstock Road, Ellistown, that their son, Pte. George Fletcher, of the 1/5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action on October 18th.

WHITWICK SOLDIER ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED KILLED

PARENTS RECEIVE A WELCOME LETTER

Happily, a report that Pte. William Beasley, of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, had been killed in action has proved to be untrue. It originated from a statement by a man who said he had seen it in a letter from a soldier at the front that Beasley fell in the recent fighting. The news came to the knowledge of his parents, Mr and Mrs Beasley, of the Hermitage Hotel, Whitwick, who were naturally much distressed.

Their joy on receiving a letter which disproved the rumour can be better imagined than described. The letter is dated November 8th, several days after that on which the soldier was said to have been killed, and in it the writer says he is in the front line of trenches and had had a very near shave, but came through all right. He had had a big shock, but was all right now and doing well. This is Pte. Beasley's second time at the front. After being in France for a time, he was invalided home with rheumatic fever and having recovered is now back again in the trenches.

AN APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN

"Sir, - Through the medium of your paper I should like to express myself, regarding the young men who are still at home and have not yet answered their country's call. I should like to bring to your notice that I have seen some very inhuman acts of cruelty committed by people who call themselves Christians. I refer to these German beasts whom we are now fighting against for freedom, and I think that every young men at the present time who has not enlisted should do so to protect his own wife and children if he be married, or his mother or father if single, as our forefathers did in the old country. I am now in the trenches about ___ yards from the Germans, and I can tell you we are having very bad weather, but still the boys are happy as they know they are doing their duty for their King and Country which they love. I should like you to refer to the heroic death of Nurse Cavell which I think was noble, and I think that any man should try and avenge her death by doing his bit. I think Nurse Cavell's death should stir men's blood to think one of the weaker sex should give her life for her country, and if they take her as their pattern I am sure the men of England will come forward without being fetched by conscription. Hoping sir, I am not asking too much of you, as I am a Tommy from Coalville, yours."

Lance-Corpl. W. Bartram
Leicestershire Regiment, France.

Another letter in which an appeal to the young men of Coalville and District to join the colours is made comes from Pte W. H. Davis, of Coalville, who calls attention to Corporal F. King. He says there is plenty of chance for the young fellows and out of consideration for their comrades who have been at the front they should come forward. He says he has been in the army for three years and left a widowed mother and five sisters.

COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

Writing from Derby Road, Hayton, near Liverpool, on November 8th, Mrs Massey, formerly of 154, Ashby Road, Coalville, states that her brother, Private Fred Davis, No. 9923, of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, was killed at Neuve Chapelle between March 10th and 13th inst. He was a single man, 26 years of age and resided with Mrs Massey when she lived in Ashby Road. He formerly worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery, and was among the first to enlist on the outbreak of war. Davis's name has been added to our Roll of Honour.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The treasurer of the Coalville and District Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £13 from the Coalville and District Cottagers' Horticultural Society and £1 from the "Coalville Times" Charity Cricket Cup Competition.

In the official casualty lists published under date November 8th appears the name of Second Lieutenant J. Emmerson, of the 4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who is reported as missing. He had previously been reported as wounded. Lieut. Emmerson is one of the three soldier sons of Mr J. Emmerson, manager of the Bagworth Colliery.

The men employed at the Ellistown Collieries are to be heartily congratulated on their generosity. Recently they sent £10 to the Coalville and District Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild and on Friday last another collection for the "Leicester Post" Soldiers Christmas Present Fund realised the splendid sum of £22 8s. The action of the Ellistown colliers is worthy of emulation.

During the last few days, in fact since the statement issued by Lord Derby with reference to the enrolment of single men, the recruiting office at Leicester has been the centre of remarkable activity. On Tuesday the recruiting officers were kept exceedingly busy all day, the great percentage of the recruits being unmarried men, offering themselves under the group system. A considerable number of married men have also attested for their groups as the outcome of the canvassing, which is now being carried on in all parts of the town.

Company Sergeant-Major W. Sharpe, an old Hugglescote Baptist schoolboy, who is home on leave from the trenches paid a visit to the school. He was received with cheers by the children whom he thanked for the parcel they had sent him a few weeks' previous, stating that he received it when returning tired out from the trenches. He showed several interesting souvenirs and presented one to the school museum.

Information has reached their parents that Sergt. Frank Warren and Lance-Corpl. S. W. Warren, both of the 1/4th Leicester Territorials, sons of Mr and Mrs Warren, of Western Road, Leicester, were killed in the famous Midland Territorial charge on the Hohenzollern Redoubt on October 13th. There are two other brothers serving in the army, one in Serbia and the other in France.

DO YOU KNOW

That there is to be a military funeral at Hugglescote tomorrow afternoon?

That another train containing 221 wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester on Wednesday night?

That there has lately been a great improvement in Leicester and Leicestershire?

That the men and officials of the Snibston Colliery have sent 25s to the "Leicester Post" Soldiers' Christmas Present Fund?

That 135 more wounded and sick soldiers arrived at Leicester on Sunday night and were conveyed in motor cars and ambulances in the North Evington Hospital?

That Pte. Tom Palmer, of the 1st Leicesters who was twice wounded in the early part of the war is now on a few days' leave from the Front, staying with his parents in Bridge Road, Coalville?

That Corpl. A. W. Hanson, son of Mr E. Hanson, cashier at Messrs. Wootton Bros. Works, Coalville, who is in the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Territorials, now in France has recently been made sergeant?

That the wounded soldiers, now at the Ashby Cottage Hospital have been granted the free use of the Parsons Institute, in Lower Church Street, and daily avail themselves of the recreation and reading-rooms?

That Corpl. L. A. Williams, son of Mr T. Williams, colliery engine-driver of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, who before the war was in the Coventry City Police Force and is now at the Dardanelles, has just been promoted to the rank of sergeant?

That Mr Leonard Coleman, son of Mr Chas. Coleman, of the firm of Coleman and Sons, ironmongers and furnishers, Coalville, has this week joined the Royal Flying Corps?

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

The Hugglescote Women Unionists organised a successful dance and whist drive at the Hawley Institute on Wednesday night, there being a company of about 350. Mr W. Gimson was the pianist for dancing and the M.C.'s were Messrs. A. N. Choyce and George Lander, while Messrs. E. Darby and E. Moore acted in a similar capacity for whist. Refreshments were nicely served by a number of ladies. Handsome whist prizes were awarded. The proceeds were to provide Christmas presents for local soldiers. Miss Moseley (secretary) took an active share in the general arrangements.

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ASHBY

BELGIAN REFUGEES

A meeting of the subscribers to the Belgian Refugee Fund was held at the Town Hall last Thursday evening, when Mr John German, J.P., presided over a good attendance. The balance sheet for the past six months was presented and passed. It showed that on the current account there was a balance in the bank of £102. On the donation account the balance was £60 6s 4d. Mr H. W. Joyce reported on several properties in the town which the committee considered might be for Belgian refugees. – After some discussion it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance until after a town's meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the question of accommodation for wounded soldiers. – It was agreed that Mr W. F. Illsey (Parr's Bank) be asked to take on the secretary ship of the Belgian Relief Committee.

BARWELL MAN'S GALLANT CONDUCT

Major General V. Cooper, commanding the 14th Division Light Infantry, has noted with pleasure the distinguished and gallant conduct of Private H. W. Lockwood, a Barwell man, who is in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Lockwood enlisted in the regiment in February last, and has since seen a good deal of fighting. On October 25th last, at great personal risk he rescued his wounded officer, and on the morning following was warmly congratulated by the officers for his conduct. He is a married man, 28 years of age, and has four children.

A DESERTER

Before Mr J. W. West, at the Coalville Police Court, on Friday. Thomas Cooke, a private of the 10th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with being a deserter from his regiment at the Cannock Chase Camp. Sergt. Kirkland deposed to apprehend Cooke who was in plain clothes at Coalville. He was remanded to await an escort which arrived on Saturday.

PRESENTATION TO BELGIAN SOLDIERS

An interesting event took place at the Coalville Liberal Club on Saturday night, when a presentation was made by two Belgian soldiers who had just arrived in the town after being 14 months at the front. One of

them is a brother-in-law of Mr Philip Noel, a Belgian now residing in the district, and they had come to stay with him for a short time. – Councillor A. Lockwood was voted to the chair and he asked Mr Noel on behalf of the members to present the soldiers each with a pair of gloves and a muffler. A collection made in the company realised 13s and this was also handed to the Belgians, 6/6 each. – Through Mr Noel as an interpreter, the recipients expressed their thanks and stated that that was the largest sum of money they had possessed at any time since the war began. They were greatly indebted to the English people for their kindness and especially to the English soldiers in the trenches, who had shared their food with them giving them even the last bit. They said the Belgians' admiration of the British Tommy was very great. The two soldiers have now returned to the front.

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DEATH OF CAPTAIN CORAH

Captain Leslie Corah, of the 4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who was officially reported missing, believed wounded on November 1st, is now known to have been killed on October 18th. Born in 1887, he was educated first at Stoneygate School, Leicester, and afterwards at Marlborough College. He joined the Territorial Force in 1910, and retired in the Spring of 1914. When war was declared he immediately re-joined his company. He belonged to the firm of Messrs. N. Corah and Sons, Leicester, and was second son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Corah, of Scraptoft Hall, near Leicester.

THE ISSUE OF ARMLETS

OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS TO ALTERED CONDITIONS

It has been decided (says a Press Bureau communique) to alter somewhat the conditions under which armlets will be issued.

The same armlet – one with a red crown – will be given to all men who are attested under the group system, it will be issued also to all men of not less than 'good' character who have been discharged from his Majesty's army since the beginning of the war for 'medical unfitness'. This applies equally to men discharged from the Territorial Force except those who only undertook home service. The question of the issue to men who offered themselves for enlistment, and are rejected on medical grounds, is receiving further consideration as in the considerations, etc., and will not be proceeded with at present.

PECKLETON SOLDIER KILLED

Official intimation has been received that Pte. J. Wardle, of the 11th Hussars, attached to the 2nd Hants, died of wounds received in Gallipoli. Private Wardle was a native of Peckleton, and previous to enlisting was employed by Mr Cart, farmer, of Peckleton.

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LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

DUKE OF RUTLAND ON THE GREAT CHARGE

A CREDIT TO THE COUNTY

A quarterly meeting of the Joint Committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held recently at the County Assembly Rooms, Leicester, His Grace, the Duke of Rutland presiding. Captain Serjeantson, the secretary presented the report of the Emergency Committee as follows:

In presenting their report for the last five weeks to the Joint Committee of the Association, your Committee has to record a feat of arms which carried through as it was, by our Territorial Units, has brought great honour to the Town and County of Leicester, and to the County of Rutland.

Between the 11th and 13th of October, the North Midland Division received orders to prepare for the attack of the strongly defended Hohenzollern Redoubt which after a preliminary bombardment, was assaulted by the infantry of the division. To the 4th Leicestershire Regiment, from accounts received, fell the honour of being included in the leading line with the county battalion close up in support, and from a letter written by the

Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, Col. Martin – the following lines may be quoted, *"I don't believe that any troops could have shown a finer dash and spirit, in face of heavy rifle and heavy machine-gun fire. I saw no one hesitate, the trouble was to steady them into line as they shoved off."*

From letters received, and by the description of men home on a few days' leave, this result was carried out with a steadiness and dash equal to the best tradition of the service, the attack was pushed home, and everything done to consolidate the ground won.

A letter received from Major General Stuart Wortley expressing his appreciation of what was done that day (which has already been published) was then read. But the price paid, more especially in the case of the 4th Battalion, was great. Here follows a list of the fallen officers (which has been published). The report continues: The full returns of the casualties amongst the rank and file have not yet been received, and there is reason to hope that the losses, though heavy, may not be as severe as at first reported.

The whole history of the battle is yet to be received, and when it is all known to us the Town and County will realise how splendidly they have been represented by their Territorial Battalions, and the Territorial Associations will be prouder than ever to feel how well the Regiments associated with them have lived up to the very best and highest traditions of the army and the regiment to which they belong.

Your Committee regrets to report that news has been received that Lieut.-Col. R. Milbourne West, commanding 2 N.M.F.A. has been wounded by shrapnel, the latest report being received that he was going on as well as could be expected.

As the time which has elapsed since the last meeting is so short your Committee has little to report, but is glad to be able to note a distinct improvement to recruiting, the figures for the last 5 weeks being: 28, 50, 79, 146 and 120, the numbers presenting themselves for the Yeomanry and 4th Leicestershire Regiment being distinctly good.

Your Committee regrets to see that the recruiting for the 5th Battalion in the County is very poor indeed and that at the moment there does not appear much sign of improvement. There is no doubt that Lord Derby's letter to individual men has produced a very great effect in Leicester. The secretary represented the Associations at a conference held at York on October 29th when the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief impressed on the conference the necessity of increasing the numbers of officers with third line units, and said he should like to see at least 40 or 50 with each 3rd Line Infantry Battalion.

The possibility of raising an extra R.E. Company, to be administered by Staffordshire, but to be recruited partly in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire was also on the agenda but the matter was postponed. (NB. This scheme has since been sanctioned and the County of Leicester has been asked to provide 50 qualified men.)

After some discussion, Major Freer moved a resolution approving generally of the suggestions from York with two suggestions he had put forward, namely, that an agenda accompany the notice of meeting, and that a duly accredited representative be sent by each association providing the chairman and secretary could not attend. The Earl of Gainsborough seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

The Chairman: *You have heard the report of the Emergency Committee, and the reason I asked you gentlemen to come here today was because I thought under the particular circumstances it would be well to have a meeting of the association at once, believing that in all probability it would chime in with your views that we should express our admiration of the gallant conduct of the 4th and 5th Leicesters on this occasion. I also thought that at the end of the report you might wish to have a resolution to that effect. I would like to say something of the sympathy we all feel with those who have sustained losses in this action. The conduct of the 4th and 5th Leicesters is a matter about which this Association may feel very proud. It is not the first time the units administered in the first instance by this Territorial Association have done magnificently in the present war, the Leicestershire Yeomanry to wit, and others. On this particular occasion great significance has been attached to the performance of the First 4th and the First 5th Leicesters, and the letter from Major General Stuart Wortley, which you have heard read confirms to the full that view. I have no words which would enable me to enlarge upon the simple and plain language, with respect to the gallantry of all ranks of the two battalions I have mentioned, used in the report of the Emergency Committee. Every Leicestershire man and every Leicestershire woman must feel proud to the marrow of their bones at the way the representatives of Leicester and Leicestershire have behaved on this occasion, I mean the action of the 13th*

of October. In addition to the generous words which have been written to the whole of the North Midland Division by Major General Stuart Wortley with report to the conduct of that division, one is enable to state that on all sides admiration of the conduct, gallantry, and discipline of the two Leicestershire Battalions is common knowledge throughout the army at the present moment. It should be a source of pride and gratification even to those who have suffered so severely that this should be the case. I have had communications of a private nature which I am not able to put into detail before you because I am prevented by military reasons, but I can say that in all respects the conduct of every officer and man in the First 4th and the First 5th Leicesters engaged on the 13th October was as fine as anything recorded in the annals of the British Army. You will be gratified to know that as far as one can see Colonel Martin is going on more or less satisfactory. I had a letter from him this morning in which he goes further into details. There is one little item in it which is painful reading. After alluding to the consolidation of the results of the action in which the two battalions were engaged he says, "Even so the loss of the whole mess and more than two thirds of the men is a hefty price to pay." That looks as if the casualty list is to be tremendously heavy. In talking of the gallant conduct of the First 4th and First 5th Leicesters, we ought not to forget that Major General Stuart Wortley alludes to the gallant conduct of the whole of the North Midland Division. Therefore we ought not to forget the Lincolns, the Staffords and the Sherwood Foresters who behaved magnificently on the occasion in question in effecting good results obtained. I am not going to allude to any losses – it comes a bit too near home to do so. As members of this Association we feel the grievous blows which have fallen upon so many families in Leicester and Leicestershire. The letters I get in answer to my feeble efforts at consolation breathe such a wholesome spirit of resignation and determination to carry on that it gives not only hope for the future of the war but for the future of the inhabitants of this country.

The report was adopted.

The chairman moved the following resolution: *"The members of the Joint Committee of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association wish to place on record their deep sense of the distinguished gallantry displayed by all ranks of the 1/4th and 1/5th Battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt on October 13th, 1915, and also desire to convey their heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of those who have fallen in that action."*

The Earl of Gainsborough seconded and the resolution was carried.

YORKSHIRE FATALITIES

TWO LEICESTER MEN KILLED

By a curious coincidence, two men belonging to Leicester, met with their deaths at Hull, on Saturday. In the first case, Arthur James Holmes, 18, an ordinary seaman, of 22, Grafton Street, Leicester, who was attached to a vessel lying in the new King George Dock at Hull, was discovered at 6.15 on Saturday morning, lying dead at the bottom of the dock. Deceased was last seen alive by a comrade, Fred John Thomason, who was on sentry duty near the ship, on the jetty, and to whom the deceased, at about eight o'clock on Friday night, bought a cup of tea. After that, Holmes returned to the ship, and Thomason never saw him again until he discovered the dead body at dawn. Apparently, Holmes had been about again, and as a terrible gale was blowing all night, it is surmised he was blown over the edge of the jetty to the bottom of the dock, a drop of 38 feet.

In the second case, Lance-Corporal Grainger, of the Leicester Regiment, who belonged to Oadby, in Leicestershire, was crossing a country road, at Patrington, in East Yorkshire, when he was knocked down by a motor car. The injured soldier was removed to Patrington Hospital, where he expired.

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COALVILLE EX-POLICEMAN KILLED

RUN OVER BY A MOTOR CAR IN YORKSHIRE

ON LEAVE FROM THE FRONT

We regret to record that a former Coalville policeman, Mr Thos. Grainger, who was recuperating in this country after having been wounded at the front, met with a fatal accident at Patrington, near Hull, on Saturday, being knocked down by a motor car. The deceased was an Oadby man, 26 years of age and single, and when war broke out was stationed at Coalville, lodging in Gutteridge Street. He joined the Leicester Regiment as a reservist and was a Lance-Corporal. In April last, he wrote us a cheery letter from the trenches where he was engaged for about 14 months, and was wounded about six weeks' ago by a bomb. He was sent back to England and recently visited Coalville, having practically recovered from his wounds.

A sad feature of the case was that his mother received a postcard from him on Saturday to say that he would probably be home for the weekend, and a few minutes later received a telegram informing her of his death. At the inquest on Monday, the evidence showed that on account of the gale, Grainger and his companion, Private Wright, did not hear the approach of the car, which was being driven carefully. A verdict of 'accidental death' was returned. Sympathy was expressed by Lieut. Jennings and Mr Dixon, a farmer (the driver of the car) to the deceased's relatives.

The funeral took place with military honours, at Oadby, on Wednesday afternoon. A detachment of the Leicestershire Regiment from Glen Parva Barracks, with full military band and firing party, attended the ceremony. Sergt.-Major Guerr was in command of the men, amongst whom was Private Buckingham V.C. Large crowds of people witnessed the procession as it passed along the village street, the band playing funeral marches. The Rev. J. Raine officiated at the service, the first portion of which was held in the Parish Church. A large number of residents attended at the graveside to pay their last respects to a brave Oadby lad. After the coffin, which bore the inscription: 'Lance-Corporal T. Grainger, aged 26 years', had been lowered into the grave, three volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded.

The chief mourners were the deceased's mother and father, Mr and Mrs Tom Grainger, Gunner and Mrs Walter Davis, Mr and Mrs George Grainger, Mr and Mrs Jeffries, Sergt. Ted and Miss Doris Grainger, Corporal and Mrs Will Grainger, Leslie Grainger and Mrs S. Norman. Councillors L. Matthews and G. Wall. Floral emblems were sent by the deceased's mother, father and family, comrades and band of the 2nd Leicesters, officers and comrades of the 3rd Leicesters, Oadby Adult School, Mrs Illston, and Mr and Mrs England. Mrs Annetts of 35, Gutteridge Street, Coalville, with whom the deceased lodged before the war, attended the funeral.

LEICESTER SOLDIER'S DEATH

MILITARY FUNERAL AT HUGGLESCOTE TOMMORROW

The death has occurred in hospital at Torquay, after an operation, of Pte. Thomas Sleath, a Belgrave man, who is in the Leicesters, and was living at Belgrave when the war broke out. He was 45 years of age and leaves a widow and three children who are now lodging in rooms at Stone Row, Coalville. A sister of the deceased is Mrs W. Cooper, of 98, Crescent Road, Hugglescote, and the body has been removed there preparatory to the funeral, which is to take place with military honours at the new cemetery, Hugglescote, on Saturday afternoon, leaving Crescent Road at 2.30 pm. Deceased was formerly in the regular army and had

just completed his term in the Reserve when war broke out, but he volunteered, and had been at the front for 13 months when he was taken ill and was invalided to England for the operation.

RAVENSTONE HERO'S DEATH

KILLED WHILE TRYING TO SAVE A WOUNDED COMRADE

Further details concerning the death of Corpl. Percy Lawrence Smith, of the 1st Hampshire Regiment, killed in action, show that he was shot when trying to rescue a wounded comrade.

In a letter written to the deceased soldier's wife, who is residing with her mother, Mrs Prew, of the Home Farm, Ravenstone, a comrade of the deceased, a stranger to Mrs Smith, who attaches the signature of E. Allen, states that Corpl. Smith was very popular with all ranks and all his friends were grieved very much at his death. He would be sadly missed. The writer continues, *"But it may be some consolation to you to know that he died a hero's death whilst trying to save the life of a comrade who had been buried through the blowing in of a portion of the trench. You will also be relieved to know that his death was practically instantaneous and that he suffered no pain."*

All the men of the deceased's platoon expressed sincere sympathy with the widow. Another letter written to the deceased's sister by Quarter-Master Sergeant E. Hindley, also states that Corpl. Smith was nobly doing his duty at the time that he was struck. *"He was liked by all in the company,"* the writer continues, *"and I have lost a good comrade, for if anything required doing at the time he always volunteered to do it. He was always very cheerful and hopeful of returning to his home and friends some day. He was as peacefully buried as the circumstances would permit and he still had a smile on his face. I can assure you the whole company feel the loss of such a good comrade, especially to lose one who was doing his best to help a fallen comrade."*

Corpl. Smith was 30 years of age and leaves a widow a child, 18 months old, the former being a daughter of the late ex-P.C. Prew, of the Home Farm, Ravenstone, who when in the County Constabulary was stationed for many years of Hugglescote. The deceased soldier was a reservist and was called up on the outbreak of war, having served a number of years in the regular army after the South African War, through which he served as a volunteer. When called up he was working at the Ellistown Colliery and resided on the Swannington Road, Ravenstone.

DESFORD

CONCERT

A concert arranged by Mr Claude Munton, was given on Monday evening for the wounded soldiers at the Convalescent Home. The following kindly gave their services: Misses Beatrice Wells, Kitty Rayns, and Messrs Claude Munton, J. McRobie, William Beal. Miss E. M. Harvey at the piano. Cars were kindly lent by Mrs Hewitt and Mr Brown for the use of the artistes.

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN EGYPT

THE VOYAGE DESCRIBED

INTERESTING LETTER FROM LANCE-CORPORAL C. BRADSHAW

Writing from the Orderly Room, British Barracks, Khartoum, Sudan, on October 22nd, Lance-Corporal C. Bradshaw, of the 1st Garrison Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, formerly of Coalville, (brother of Mr R. T. Bradshaw), states that it is very hot there, but as the winter would soon begin, the climate, until about the end of January, would, he believed, be about the best in the world. *"It is already beginning to get cooler at night and in the early morning" he continues, "but at midday it is something terrible. I can well understand how the song, 'Over the burning plains of Egypt, under the scorching sun'. The sand, too, is awfully hot. I have seen one or two sandstorms since I have been here. I am close to where the white and blue Niles meet and close to where the Sirdar (Sir Francis Wingate) lives at the Palace."*

L.-Corpl. Bradshaw adds that he is "impress clerk" in the Orderly Room for the whole garrison – a miniature Chancellor of the Exchequer. We have a sergeant here – Sergt. Wheatley – who used to know Charles and David Marston of Coalville, when they used to live at Nuneaton, and he wishes to be remembered to them. Also enclosed with the letter was a diary describing the voyage to Egypt, which contained the following:

"Left Weymouth at 5 a.m., August 20th, 1915 for Plymouth, arrived there 11 a.m. same date. Left Keysham Harbour, Plymouth, with the 1st Newfoundland Regiment, who were the same strength as we of the 1st Garrison Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The sleeping quarters were very good and the rations very fair. Our destination was Khartoum, and that of the Newfoundland Regiment, the Dardanelles. We proceeded on our voyage through the English Channel, passing the French and Spanish coasts, through the Bay of Biscay and on through the Straights of Gibraltar, passing Gibraltar at 10 p.m., August 23rd, on our way to Malta. We passed the Moroccan coast and Cirilian Isles, reaching Malta at noon on the 26th August, where we stayed until 7 a.m. next day, when we left for Lemnos, the base of the Dardanelles. We reached Lemnos safely on the 29th, and left at 6 p.m. the same day for Alexandria, where we duly arrived at 5 p.m., August 31st. We disembarked at 9 a.m. September 1st and took the Egyptian State Railway to Port Suez, passing through Kandahar and Tel-el-Kebir. We arrived at Port Sudan by way of the Suez Canal and Red Sea at 6.30 p.m., September 2nd, reaching our destination at 5 p.m. on the 6th, after four days' voyage of the most miserable character that one could ever experience. There was a heat wave of over 100 degrees in the shade and between the 7th and 10th September three of our men died from the effects of heat apoplexy, while about 50 others suffered very much from it. We left Port Sudan at 10 a.m. for Khartoum by the Sudan State Railway arriving there (via Suakat and Atbara) at 2 p.m. on the 7th after a ride of 28 hours duration. This was truly an eventful journey of over 4,000 miles by sea and land, lasting 21 days."

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COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

ROLL OF HONOUR

Local Men who have died for their country.

Eighty-nine Names

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

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

William Chambers
Private, of Royal Marines, on board H.M.S. "Pathfinder," sunk in the North Sea, September 5th, 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 25th, 1914.

William Ogden Hoden
Private, of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13th, 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 1st, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

J. C. Andrews
Lance-Corporal, of the 1st Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7th, 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 1st 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 16th, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

Frederick Kirby
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9th, 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 6th, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

John Manders
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died wounds, 15th 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, 20th March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

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

John Williamson
Private of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action, March 10th. A Coalville man.

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

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

Ernest Hall
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10th and 14th 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 3rd Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11th, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

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

Thomas Dooley D.C.M.
2nd Lieutenant, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1st, 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 1st Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16th. A native of Swannington.

Harry Spence
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13th, 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 13th, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

George Barker
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 14th, 1915. A young farmer of Onebarrow, Whitwick.

C. Avins
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in May 1915. He was an Ashby man.

William Moore
Private, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action May 1st, 1915. He belonged to Thringstone.

A. Heathcote
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds on April 23rd, 1915. A Bagworth collier.

J. G. Poyser
Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915. He left a widow and three children at Ashby.

Timothy Betteridge
Lance-corporal, of the 2nd Leicesters. An Ashby man killed at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915.

John Gadsby
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. A Breedon man.

George Henry Wesson

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

Cecil Thomas Beadman
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on May 19th, 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 13th, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

Charles William Jewsbury
Gunner, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 6th, 1915. He was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., and resided at Bakewell Street, Coalville.

Frederick Wilfred Hart
5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 8th, 1915. A railwayman, of London Road, Coalville.

Francis Frederick Martin
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, died in England, on June 11th, 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 23rd London Regiment, killed in action on May 25th, 1915. A Whitwick man.

Ernest Tugby
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action on June 7th. He resided in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

Harold G. Blackham
Private, of the 5th 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 23rd, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

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

John Ison
Private, of the 1st 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action on June 30th, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

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

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

G. H. Highfield

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

John George Bennett
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 15th. He resided in Beresford Street, and formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville.

Walter Gray
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. He formerly lived in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

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

George Andrews
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. A Ravenstone man who worked at Ibstock colliery.

Harry Smith
Petty officer of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in the Dardanelles, on July 14th, 1915. Formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

William Massey
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 9th, 1915. A Hugglescote man.

Harry Badcock
Private, 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 1st, 1915. A former Coalville Grammar School boy who resided at Ibstock.

Isaac Hall
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 23rd, 1915. A Whitwick collier whose home was at Thringstone.

H. Ing
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 30th, 1915. Resided at Waterworks Road, Coalville.

Cyril Ernest Briers
Of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action, July 29th, 1915. He lived with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, Ibstock.

Fred Pringle
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in August, 1915. An Ashby man.

E. Dowell
Private, killed in action in France, August 17th, 1915. His wife and four children reside at Markfield.

Clifford E. Scott
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1st, 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action, August 31st, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Arthur Charles Johnstone
Private, of the 8th Leicesters, died September 1st, 1915, from wounds received in action the previous day. A collier of Castle Hill, Whitwick.

Alfred Clifford
Private, in the 1st 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 15th. Son of Lady Maude Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby.

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

Walter Irons
Private in the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France, September 28th. 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 28th. He was a Heather man and formerly worked at the Ibstock Colliery.

Walter Shaw
Private in the 9th Leicesters, killed in action September 9th. He was a widower, formerly residing at Swannington and was a labourer.

J. H. Pepper
Private of the 9th 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 3rd Leicesters, killed in action on September 17th, 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 21st, 1915. Formerly a Whitwick collier, who leaves a widow and three children.

Frank Underwood
Private in 8th 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, 5th Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action, October, 1915. Son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby.

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

George Gadsby
Private of the 5th 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 1st Hants Regiment, killed in action. He was a Ravenstone man.

Walter Woodward

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

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

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

R. C. Lawton
Lieutenant, 5th 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 15th, 1915. A former Coalville policeman.

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

Frank William Woolhouse
Private in the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. A Whitwick collier, who resided at Albert Street, Coalville.

Gerald Stewart
Captain, 10th 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 2nd 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 1st Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 17th, 1915. He formerly resided at 88, Hermitage Road, Whitwick, and worked at the Snibston Colliery.

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IBSTOCK

CHURCH LAD'S BRIGADE

A whist drive and dance was held at the National School on Wednesday evening to provide funds towards a khaki outfit for the brigade. There was a good attendance. The M.C.'s were Messrs. W. Dunstan and I. Humble for the whist, and Messrs. D. Mee and A. Johnson for the dance.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Police-Inspector Dobney, of Coalville, yesterday received a post card photo of a group of British soldiers who are prisoners in Germany. It was sent by Pte. W. T. Durrands, No. 8079, 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards, from block 1/9 Gefangenen-Lager, Doeberitz, Germany, who is one of the group. Before the war Durrands was a policeman at Coalville.

All the school teachers of military age in Whitwick, four in number, have joined the forces. Mr M. Downes, the head master of the Holy Cross School, is expecting to be called up after Christmas and Mr E. Needham, one of the assistant teachers of the same school, left for Wigston on Tuesday. The other two who have enlisted are H. Gilliver and Mr R. P. Rice, both assistants at the National School.

A letter received on Tuesday morning from a Coalville Territorial states that things are now very quiet on the part of the front where they are. The condition in the trenches are very trying owing to the water, though they are supplied with good rubber boots and plenty of warm clothing, but the cold is intense and they are being relieved now at much more frequent intervals. They are so close to the German trenches, the writer says, that they have several times heard the Boches singing, *"Home, sweet home." "Why don't you go,"* shout the English boys sometimes, and the reply comes, "We should only like to." The letter is written in a very cheery strain and shows that the Coalville lads are in excellent spirits.

It is gratifying to know what a great part the "Coalville Times" is playing in helping to keep up the spirits of the lads from this district who are fighting in the trenches. Several times lately, Coalville soldiers who have been at home on leave have informed us to this effect and it is borne out again this week by the testimony of Pte. T. Palmer, who returned to the trenches on Tuesday last after eight days' leave. Most of the local lads receive a copy of the paper every week and their friends who dispatch them will also be glad to know how greatly they are appreciated. No doubt time drags somewhat heavily at times, especially now the winter is setting in, and it may easily be imagined how welcome is any news received from home to the brave boys who are struggling under such trying conditions in a foreign land.

We should like to emphasise a remark made by Mr B. B. Drewett at the Coalville Men's Adult School on Sunday morning. It was to the effect that some people are very erroneously saying the soldiers at the front are getting so many comforts sent to them that there is not now the need to keep this up. Mr Drewett is in correspondence with several Adult School men and others who are at the front and from statements made in their letters said he could urge the need for people at home to continue their efforts for the brave lads who are doing so much for us. Fancy standing knee deep in water in the trenches! The boys are provided with rubber boots to counteract this, but they say it is a Godsend to have nice dry warm socks to wear on coming out of the trenches. In another column we give testimony of a Coalville soldier as to how efforts of the ladies of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild are appreciated and this should be an encouragement to them to work with renewed vigour. Says this soldier, *"No lads at the front are being looked after better than those from Coalville."* This should make the hearts of the ladies swell with pride. The conditions of winter campaigning are most trying. The need for comforts continue as urgent as ever. Ladies, do not relax your efforts!

Some of our brave boys will shortly be spending their second Christmas in the trenches – others their first. It behoves us at home to do all in our power to brighten this festive season for those who are fighting for us. No gift can possibly be more welcome than a large parcel of cigarettes. Our boys long for them more than anything else, and as the army increases so the need for cigarettes grows.

We shall all feel happier as we light our own Christmas smokes, if we have 'done our bit' by sending some cigarettes to the front. Special parcels of favourite brands – Woodbines, Gold Flake, Player's Navy Cut – are being prepared at duty-free prices by the British American Tobacco, Ltd., who are putting a reasonable Christmas greeting in each parcel. Full particulars are given in another part of our paper and readers should send orders in early to ensure delivery in good time.

There are about 66 men from Ellistown serving in the forces, and with the object of sending them Christmas gifts, a number of gentlemen undertook a collection on Saturday. A collection in the Parish Church yielded £5, a similar sum was collected at Battram, £4 at the top end of Ellistown and £16 in the remainder of the parish – the splendid total of £30.

Patriotic little Bardon has 75 men serving with the forces and all these are to receive a Christmas box from their native village. The church and chapel people having united in the effort and jointly by a series of events for the object have succeeded in raising the splendid sum of £32.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

Nearly 600 members of the Adult Schools are serving in the forces?

Recruits are still coming well in Leicester and the reports of canvassers are encouraging?

Private Horace Briers, of the 1st Leicesters, a Coalville man, whose home is in Highfields Street, is here on leave from France this week?

WHILE MOTOR CYCLING

OFFICER OF LEICESTERS FATALLY INJURED

Second-Lieut. Clement Thomas Groombridge, of the Leicestershire Regiment, died at the Glen Hospital, Southend, on Tuesday afternoon as the result of a motor cycle accident. He came into collision with another cyclist on Tuesday morning near the hospital, and as consequences of his injuries was taken to that institution. He was 20 years of age, and the son of Mr and Mrs Groombridge, of St. Helens Road, Southend.

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NATIONAL AND BELGIAN RELIEF FUNDS

On Monday evening a public meeting was held in the Church School in connection with these funds. The Vicar (the Rev. T. W. Walters) presided and those present included Messrs. R. Blower, C.C. (Ellistown), J. Husband (Coalville, treasurer), E. Hawthorn (secretary Belgian Fund), Mrs Walters, Mr and Mrs T. W. Bourne, Mrs J. Stinson and Miss Howson. Mr R. Blower was the speaker and he urged the need for the public contributions – which had fallen off considerably in the locality – to be continued. Reports, which were recently published in this paper dealing with the position of the two funds locally, were given, and it was explained that the weekly expenditure at Broom Leys was now exceeding the income and would soon absorb the balance. It was decided to arrange a lantern lecture giving views of devastated Belgium, with the object of reviving public interest in the matter.

FOUGHT AT LOOS

Before Major Hatchett, at the Coalville Police Office, on Monday, Walter Warren, of the 2nd Leicesters, admitted being an absentee since the 15th inst., and was remanded to await an escort from Wigston Barracks. – P.C. Percival said that in consequence of a communication from an adjutant he went to 79, Albert Road, Coalville, and saw the defendant, who said he was an absentee. Inspector Dobney informed the magistrate that Warren had been wounded at Loos, and had been in hospital at Epsom. Acting on the instructions of the Military Authorities, who had been very considerate towards Warren, he put the soldier in a train on Tuesday, the 16th inst., to proceed back to hospital, but he got only as far as Leicester. An escort would arrive that day and take him to Wigston Depot. Warren said that he was on leave from the Epsom Hospital, and should have returned to Hull, but overstayed his leave. He was remanded as stated.

COALVILLE CITIZENS

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Coalville Citizen Corps was held on Wednesday night at the Snibston New Inn, Commander C. W. H. Gutteridge presiding over a good attendance. The principal business was the election of officers for the ensuing year.

The chairman moved the re-election of Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., as president of the Corps, remarking that Mr Hale was deeply interested in the movement and had done much to help them. The resolution was unanimously carried. The following were elected on the Committee:

Messrs. J. W. Farmer, J. S. Turner, R. J. Brown, S. W. Brown, J. Gutteridge, L. L. Baldwin, G. H. Grant, G. Harrison, and E. Holmes. The only alteration was that the latter took the place of Dr. Atkinson. The chairman spoke of the excellent manner in which Mr H. Swanwick had performed the duties of secretary during the year and he was unanimously re-elected on the motion of Mr J. W. Farmer, seconded by Mr C. Coleman.

Mr Swanwick said he would do his best. Mr R. J. Brown was appointed treasurer. The question of providing uniform was discussed. The chairman said that there was no doubt that uniform would help to keep the Corps together. The funds received up to now showed a total of £18. He suggested that members where possible, provide their own. If they could get 30 or so members with uniform it would be a help. Others might pay weekly sums towards a uniform.

Replying to a question, the chairman said they had about 70 members on the books, but they could not altogether go by that. Mr Farmer said they had a live membership of about 50. The question was asked how the matter of uniform would be affected if the Government decided to recognise the Corps. Would the Government provide another uniform. The chairman thought not and that the Government would acknowledge the uniform already provided.

Mr Coleman said several of the members were prepared to buy their own uniform, but there was a minute preventing any of them having uniform until the whole corps was supplied. The chairman said he had been told by the Commandants of the Ashby and Market Harborough Corps what a great difference it had made for the good of the Corps since they had had uniform. He had also heard the same thing at Birmingham that day. Mr Farmer moved the rescinding of the previous minute and that the whole question be discussed at a general meeting a week hence, the members to have notice.

PATRIOTIC SOCIAL

The members of the Vorley Lodge (I.O.G.T.) held a social in the London Road Baptist School on Wednesday night with the object of providing funds to send Christmas presents to those of their members serving in the forces. There was a capital attendance and Mr J. Cooper, D.G., presided. Songs were given by Mr J. Massey, recitations by Mr Jack Wright, and a sketch by Baptist friends. Refreshments were provided and games indulged in.

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MILITARY FUNERAL AT HUGGLESCOTE

SOLDIER'S DEATH IN HOSPITAL

The funeral took place with military honours at Hugglescote Cemetery on Saturday afternoon of Pte. Thomas Sleath, of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, who had been 14 months at the front in France and died after an operation in a military hospital at Torquay. He was 45 years of age and leaves a widow and three children who reside at Stone Row, Coalville, while several of his relatives are at Hugglescote. He was a Leicester man employed as a carter, having resided at Belgrave practically all his life except when in the army. He was 7 ½ years in the 17th Leicester Regiment, of which 5 ½ years were spent abroad, in India and elsewhere and he served 1 ½ years in the Reserve, completing 12 years, leaving the army with an excellent character. He had just finished his time as a reservist when the war broke out and he volunteered.

The funeral took place from the residence of his sister, Mrs W. Cooper, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, and was witnessed by a large concourse of people. At most of the houses en route blinds were drawn. The service, the first portion of which was held in the parish church was conducted by the Rev. R. P. Farrow (curate).

The chief mourners present were the widow and three children; Mrs Cooper (Hugglescote) Mrs Chapman (Coalville) and Mrs Hubbard (Desford), sisters, and their husbands; Mr W. Sleath (Belgrave), brother and wife; Mr and Mrs Thorpe (Leicester), Mr A. Sleath and Miss E. Bishop (Belgrave), Mr M. Cooper (Hugglescote) and Mrs Finney (Belgrave).

The cortege was headed by a firing party of Leicesters from Wigston Barracks, marching with arms reversed, and Capt. Stevenson (recruiting officer) Sergt-Major Dye and Police-Inspector Dobney (Coalville) were also in the procession. Half a dozen soldiers in khaki uniform acted as bearers. The coffin was covered with Union Jack and on the breastplate was the inscription: *"Private T. Sleath, died November 14th, 1915, aged 45 years."* At the conclusion of the ceremony in the cemetery, the firing party fired three volleys over the grave, and a bugler sounded *"The Last Post."*

Handsome floral tributes were sent by the widow and family, Mr and Mrs W. Sleath, Mr and Mrs W. Cooper, Mr and Mrs Hubbard, Mr and Mrs A. Chapman, Mr and Mrs Thorpe, Mr M. Cooper and Miss Davenport, and Mr A. Sleath and Misses E. Bishop.

PATRIOTIC ASHBY

PREPARING TO RECEIVE WOUNDED SOLDIERS

A public meeting called by the chairman of the Urban Council, Mr G. D. Orchard, J.P., was held in the Ashby Town Hall, on Monday, to consider what steps should be taken to provide for wounded soldiers.

The chairman said the Cottage Hospital, where a number of wounded are at present, was erected to provide for sick and surgical cases from the town, and it was thought it would be difficult to accommodate the wounded soldiers and to provide for other cases that might arise, but an opportunity now presented itself for getting over the difficulty, the Belgian Refugee Committee having offered St. Helens which he thought was an ideal place for the purpose.

Mr John German J.P., said he was sure they wished to provide for their wounded soldiers. They might go on the lines on which they started, or develop and offer a hospital to accommodate more soldiers. If however, they enlarged their powers they must be prepared to enlarge their subscribers.

Mr W. A. Musson said he was in favour of taking St. Helens for the purpose. If they did that they would have to provide money to put in order and maintain the soldiers. Mrs Pratt supported the proposal, and ultimately on the proposition of Mr H. W. Joyce, C.C., seconded by Mr W. M. Slater, it was unanimously decided to appoint a committee to invite a deputation from headquarters in Leicester to inspect St. Helens, and state what arrangements were necessary for accommodating wounded soldiers there. It was also decided not to receive more soldiers at the Cottage Hospital. The chairman, Mr John German, Mr W. H. Joyce, and Mr W. M. Slater form the committee.

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CHARGE AGAINST A SOLDIER AT LEICESTER

At the Leicester Borough Police Court on Saturday, James Walden, 22, soldier, was charged with stealing 4/9 from a slot meter at a house in Argyle Street, on November 19th. There was a further charge of stealing from the same house two gold lockets and gold chains, value £1 8s, the property of Mrs Leedham.

Prosecutrix said defendant came to her home and on the 18th and asked for the address of some person. He looked cold, and she asked him to have a cup of tea. He did so, and then left. Next morning she went out for a time, and returning found prisoner in the living room with his coat off. He left the house at once. Looking round she saw that the slot meter had been opened. She also missed other articles. She informed the police.

Prisoner, who said he committed the crime on the impulse of the moment, was remanded for a week.

SOLDIER'S WIFE SENT TO PRISON

At Leicester Borough Police Court on Saturday, Emma Sibson, 36, wife of a soldier, was charged with the neglect of her four children. It was stated that until the end of October, defendant received 27s 6d a week separation allowance. This was stopped in consequence of her drinking and immoral habits. She frequently left the children without food, and they were found in a filthy, ragged condition.

Defendant who said she had done her best since the money was stopped, was sent to prison for three months.

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HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S RAPID PROMOTION

AN OLD BAPTIST SCHOOL BOY

An interesting local case of rapid promotion in the army is that of Co. Sergt-Major W. Sharpe, a Hugglescote man. He enlisted in Kitchener's Army, 8th Leicesters, on September 5th, 1914, and after a month, on October 5th, he received his first stripe. On November 5th he was made a corporal and just a month after that (December 5th) he became a sergeant. On February 14th, Sharpe was promoted to the position of Acting Company Sergt. Major and this was confirmed on September 15th last. Since he has been in France, he has been offered a commission, but declined.

Sharpe is a smart non-commissioned officer and popular with all his comrades. He holds a 2nd class warrant officer's certificate and is a first-class instructor of musketry. His wife and only child reside on The Green, Hugglescote.

Before the war, Sergt-Major Sharpe was employed as a miner at the Nailstone Colliery. He was formerly joint-secretary with the late Fred Whitmore (killed in action) of the Hugglescote Wesleyan Football Club and was a teacher in the Hugglescote Wesleyan Sunday School. He is an old Baptist school boy, and while on leave last week visited his old master, Mr W. Fellows, in the new Council Schools at Hugglescote.

ANOTHER SOLDIER PROMOTED

ANOTHER STRIPE FOR GALLANTRY IN THE FIELD

Corpl. E. J. Collier, No. 86523, 176th Tunnelling Co. Royal Engineers, late 2nd Leicesters, who recently distinguished himself in the field and received the congratulations of his commanding officer, has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant for the gallant conduct. His wife and family reside at 56, Melbourne Street, Coalville. Sergt. Collier was formerly the secretary of the now defunct Coalville Excelsior Football Club and before the war he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery.

BURIED WITH MILITARY HONOURS AT HUGGLESCOTE

Private T. Sleath, buried with military honours at Hugglescote, on Saturday. See report on Page 6.

BARDON HILL

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR SOLDIERS

A public tea and entertainment were held at the Bardon Park Congregational schoolroom to provide Christmas boxes for those away from the district now serving with His Majesty's forces. The tea was given by the gentlemen of the church and the entertainment was given by the choir, following was the programme:

Chorus, "Away in the west" choir; song "Dear old England," Mrs J. W. Irons; song "Sentenced to death," Mr W. H. Smith; recitation, "How affliction should be received," Mr J. Murtaug; quartet, "All's well," party; song, "Just before the battle mother," Miss M. Smith, song, "It's sunshine all the time in Loveland," Mr A. Bevin, song, "If the waters could speak as they flow," Miss E. Read. Chorus; song, "Tat for Tat," Mrs W. Maunder, song, "Wonderful rose of love," Miss S. M. Partner; song, "Follow the drum," Mr J. Clarke; song, "Your King and country need you," Miss D. Foukes; quartet, "Away we go," party; recitation, "Mr Claudel's bachelor party," Mrs Outtram; song, "The death of Nelson," Mr G. King; song, "Come back to Eoin," Mrs R. Cooper; quartet, "The queen of the night is rising," party; song, "God bless my soldier daddy," Miss T. Clarke; chorus, "Song of the gypsies," choir; action song, "Glory, glory Hallelujah," (in honour of the men in khaki, and the Allies fight for freedom), party; dialogue, "Coaxed and hoaxed," Mrs R. Cooper, Misses K. Willett, and B. Smith, and Messrs. W. H. Smith, A. Brewin and H. Read, "God save the King." – the total proceeds of the tea and entertainment, and a cake guessing competition were £6 19s. The cake was made and presented to Miss E. Read.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

TWICE WOUNDED

TRIBUTE TO THE COALVILLE LADIES

One of the Coalville soldiers who has been at the front almost from the commencement of the war is Private Tom Palmer, of the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, who has been over on a few days' leave, staying with his parents in Bridge Road, Coalville, his father Mr J. Palmer, being an engine driver on the Midland Railway.

Palmer was in the regular army and had served a year and nine months when war broke out, being then stationed at Fermoy, in Ireland. He went to France with the first contingents of the British Expeditionary Force, crossing the channel in the early days of September of last year and proceeded straight to the trenches. The first battle in which he participated was that on the Marne, when the Germans were checked in their rush on Paris and were utterly routed. Then his regiment proceeded to the Aisne and were there for three weeks, fighting practically all the time. Subsequently they proceeded to Cassel, over the Belgian border, and afterwards marched to Armentieres. It was in this neighbourhood, on October 24th last year that Palmer was first wounded. A shell burst near them, and he and six of his comrades were buried by the debris, the Coalville soldier receiving a wound on his back. This resulted in him being at hospital at Rouen for a month. Having recovered, he went straight back to Armentieres and joined his regiment in the firing line. That was at the end of November last year and they remained in that neighbourhood all the winter. On

March 19th last, Palmer was wounded for the second time, pieces of shell piercing his thigh and heel, in consequence of which an operation had to be performed and he was five weeks in hospital at Versailles.

Referring to the latter place, the soldier spoke in terms of praise of the splendid hospital arrangements which have been made near the palaces which formerly were the home of the Kings of France, amid the lovely gardens and scenery which have formed such a great attraction to English visitors to France in happier times.

After Versailles, Pte. Palmer once more took his place in the firing line, still in the neighbourhood of Armentieres, and at the end of April they proceeded to Ypres. *"We have had two doses of gas,"* he said, *"but we got over it alright."* The respirators worn by the British troops, he added, are very effective. Answering further questions, Palmer informed the writer that one of the liveliest engagements in which he has taken part was that at Hooge. One thrilling incident was when the bombing party of his regiment were ordered to advance with bombs to the trenches in the daytime. They were led by Lieut. Pickbourne (son of the Rev. F. Pickbourne, pastor of the Coalville London Road Baptist Church) and returned to their starting point, having accomplished their mission with only one casualty, though they had several narrow escapes.

Asked to the conditions in the trenches, he said there was plenty of water and occasionally the parapets fell in, but they were all very happy and cheerful, particularly the Coalville boys, who, he said were fairing as well as any of the lads at the front, thanks to the kindness of Mrs L. L. Baldwin and the ladies of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild.

"We are well looked after," said Palmer, *"we have good food and plenty of it, and are having plenty of warm clothing."* Palmer's appearance seemed to bear this out for he was looking very fit. He emphasised the fact that none were in better spirits than the Coalville boys and as to the position generally they were all confident of winning. Palmer is an old Wesleyan schoolboy and it is a matter of regret to him that he could not see his old schoolmaster while at home on leave, Mr Frith being away in consequence of his illness. Another interesting statement of the soldier's was that a large number of copies of the "Coalville Times" find their way into the trenches and are eagerly looked forward to by the lads from this district week by week. *"Have you had your 'Times' yet?"* is a remark commonly heard among the Coalville boys and, as we were informed by another soldier on leave a few weeks' ago. *"Do you know"* has become quite a by-word in the trenches.

Palmer brought a few interesting souvenirs home with him, one of them being a pair of coal-boxes made from the cases of German shells. He left Coalville to return to France on Tuesday morning.

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FUNERAL OF LEICESTER TERRITORIAL OFFICER

The remains of Second-Lieut. Clement Groombridge, of the Leicestershire Regiment, (T.F.) were interred at Southend-on-Sea on Saturday afternoon. The deceased, who was only 20 years of age and was wounded in France, was a popular young officer, and was killed by being thrown from his motorcycle while

acknowledging the salute of a sentry outside the headquarters of the 29th Provisional Battalion. He is the second officer of the battalion accidently killed at Southend during the past three months.

The funeral was attended by hundreds of soldiers from the Royal Artillery, Border, (Cumberland and Westmorland), Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, South Staffordshire, Notts and Derby, and Essex regiments.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

From the fact that inquiries are being made for the military authorities (Northern Command) by officers as to accommodation which could be afforded by the town for the billeting of troops, it is expected that twelve hundred soldiers will shortly be quartered at Ashby and much satisfaction has been expressed at the prospect. A special meeting of the Urban Council to consider the matter, including the terms for the letting of the Town Hall etc, was held on Saturday night.

Largely owning to the generosity of subscribers, the Ashby Citizens' Corps have been furnished with uniforms, and the first parade of the members in the outfit was held last night.

The treasurer of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild, Mrs J. W. Farmer, acknowledges with thanks the receipt of 12s 4d, per Mr J. Margetts, being the proceeds of a collection among the Coalville staff of the Refuge Assurance Company.

Writing from the Orderly Room, British Barracks, Khartoum, Mr Charles Bradshaw, late of Coalville, informs us that he has recently been appointed as traffic managers' clerk and assistant at Atbara, on the Sudan Government railways. He succeeded in passing an examination for the post, to which a good salary is attached in addition to his military pay. Atbara, he says, is about 600 miles from Khartoum. It is winter out there now, though it is like July in England, multiplied by 2,000. It is cooler at Atbara than Khartoum. He adds that he will wear white drill clothes (civilian style), white hat, civilian boots, shirt and tie, which will be quite a change. He is quite well and has now completed his first year of soldiering, having enlisted on November 4th last year.

DO YOU KNOW

The Pope has expressed a desire again to try and obtain a truce between the belligerents during Christmas in Roman Catholic and Orthodox countries?

The concert organised by Messrs. Stableford and Co's. workmen to provide Christmas gifts for the soldiers who have gone from the works, is to be held in the Coalville Adult School Hall tomorrow night?

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SWANNINGTON

SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE

A social and whist drive were held in the St. George's School on Tuesday night, the proceeds being to purchase gifts for men from Swannington who are serving with the colours.

SHAW LANE

DANCE AND SOCIAL

There was a crowded attendance at the above on Wednesday evening when the proceeds were devoted to a fund for Christmas presents for those at the front from Shaw Lane. An excellent programme of music was given and Mr A. Maunders officiated as the M.C. The arrangement of the singing and competitions at the social was in charge of Mr W. Boswell. The winner of the cake guessing competition was Miss E. Gill and of that of the doll, Mr Walter Chapman. The following contributed songs, Mr Heward, senr; Mr Heward, jun; Mr J. Clark, Miss Thorneycroft, Miss Freeman, Mr Lynch and Mr B. Brown (comic).

BARLESTONE

CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR SOLDIERS

Mr W.C. Kirkman, J.P., presided at a concert in the National Schools on Saturday night in aid of the Local Soldiers' Christmas Parcels Fund. The Coalville Mixed Concert Party assisted with several capital contributions, Mr O. Ratcliffe being the accompanist, whilst Mr F. Clay conducted. The National Anthem was sung at the opening and the close of the concert.

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LEICESTER SOLDIER SENT TO PRISON

On Saturday at the Leicester Borough Police Court, James Walden, 22, soldier, was again brought up on a charge of stealing 4/9 in coppers from a slot meter in Argyle Street, and also of stealing two gold lockets and chains, the property of Mrs Emma Needham. Defendant called at the house and made an inquiry, and Mrs Needham, thinking he looked cold, got him some tea. He went away but came back, and in prosecutrix's absence got into the house, breaking open the slot meter and stealing the contents as well as the lockets and chains.

As there were two previous convictions against prisoner for house breaking he was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

THREE SONS KILLED

Mrs Hewitt, of 50, Parry Street, Leicester, has lost three sons in the war. She has been officially informed that Private Albert Hewitt, of the 1st Northants Regiment, was killed in action in France on October 13th last. Private George Hewitt, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry, was killed on October 27th, 1914, and Private Herbert B. Hewitt, of the 2nd Leicester Regiment, was killed on December 19th last. Albert, who had been wounded on two previous occasions, was called up with his brother George, at the outbreak of war as reservists, while Herbert went to France with the Indian Expeditionary Force.

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COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH

VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER AGAINST A COMRADE

An inquest was held at Hull on Monday, concerning the death of Private George Spencer, of the 3rd Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment at Patrington. A verdict of manslaughter was returned against Private Bolesworth of the 3rd Leicesters.

From the evidence it appeared that Privates Spencer, Fitchett, Flamson, and Daniels, of the same regiment, on Saturday night were returning from Patrington. After visiting a public house they met Bolesworth, when Spencer in reply to Bolesworth, said they were a picket which they were not. This seemed to irritate Bolesworth who struck Spencer in the face, knocking him down. He was picked up and taken to camp. Next morning he was found dead in bed.

Private George Spencer was a Coalville man, being the son of the late Mr Nat. Spencer, a railway engine-driver, who lived in Belvoir Road, and died about three years ago. Spencer enlisted about last Whitsuntide and was in military training in Hull. Prior to joining the army he was working at the Whitwick Colliery and lodged with his sister, Mrs Plowman, of Church Lane, Ravenstone, the wife of Driver Plowman of the Royal Artillery. Another sister of the deceased, Mrs Brewin Lakin, also resides at Ravenstone and he had other sisters who reside at Coalville and a brother who is serving in the navy. For a time after his father died, Spencer worked at a colliery in Yorkshire. He was a single man, 24 years of age.

GRIFFYDAM SOLDIER KILLED

A FORMER MINER AT COLEORTON COLLIERY

Mr and Mrs Thomas Toon, of Griffydam, have received information that their son, Pte. Harry Toon, 14853, 16th Platoon, D. Company, 8th Leicester Regiment, has been killed in action at a place not stated. The sad news was first received in a letter from Second-Lieut. V. W. Sheldon, who states that Toon was killed on November 15th. Pte. Toon was aged 25, and resided with his parents at Griffydam and worked at Coleorton Colliery. He and his two pals, Ptes. C. Platts and S. Johnson, enlisted at Coleorton Hall, on September 5th, 1914, and after training in various camps in England, landed "somewhere in France" on July 29th last.

COALVILLE SOLDIERS ENTERTAINED AT GRANTHAM

AN INTERESTING GATHERING

Mr Ivy White, accountant, of Grantham, 3rd son of Mr and Mrs Arthur I. White, of "The Chestnuts" Coalville, sent an invitation to all the Coalville soldiers at present in camp at Belton Park, to a supper held at Cook's Café, Market Place, Grantham, last Tuesday night. Forty-eight accepted the kind invitation and these sat down to supper at 7.30. After an excellent spread a musical programme was enjoyed.

The services of Mr Tom Warner, comedian, were secured with Miss Hatfield as accompanist. Several songs and recitations were given by him including encores. The following Coalville soldiers contributed to a very enjoyable programme:

Private Chapman, song; Private Bailey, piano solo; Corp. Catlow, chorus song, which the soldiers sang heartily (encored); Private Brownlow, song; Private Haggar, song, "He used to court me, little Mary Ann." Mr Newbold, of Loughborough, also gave comic recitations, which were much appreciated.

After the concert Quarter-Master Sergeant Hill spoke a few well-chosen words on behalf of the men and thanked Mr White very much for his kindness and he said they all thought a great deal of this kind invitation, as Mr White was from their own town of Coalville, and he asked them all to sing, "For he's a jolly good fellow." After this had been sung three cheers were given for Mr and Mrs White.

Mr Ivy White thanked the Quartermaster-Sergeant and men for their kind words and said he felt it was not only a pleasure but an honour to see so many Coalville men in khaki there that evening, and he hoped they would all come through the war safely. He said he understood about fifteen men present had been to the front, and some had come home wounded, and he trusted they would soon be fit again. It was 10:30 and as leave had been granted to this time, the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and "God Save the King" brought to a close a very pleasant evening and one which will be long remembered by those present. The men under Quarter-Master Sergeant Hill marched to their quarters at Belton Park.

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED AT GALLIPOLI

THRILLING EXPERIENCES

SHOT FIVE TURKS WITH DEAD OFFICER'S REVOLVER

A thrilling account of his experiences during the famous landing of British troops on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and in the operations since then, has been given to our reporter by Pte. J. G. Thompson, of the Royal Marines, who before the war was working as a coalminer at Shirebrook, and is now on sick leave with his parents, Mr and Mrs J. S. Thompson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, with whom his wife and child have been staying during his absence.

Pte. Thompson volunteered for service on September 5th, 1914, and after a few months in the Notts. and Derbys Regiment, was transferred to the Royal Marines at Portsmouth. They sailed for the Dardanelles on February 28th and landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula when the famous landing was taking place on April 28th. The first troops were disembarked on April 25th, and for three days the Marines acted as a covering army. The heavy losses sustained by our troops during this trying time has now become a matter of history and Thompson says that terrible as our casualties were, they might have been much heavier had the Turks possessed a quarter of the pluck displayed by the British forces.

It was only about a fortnight later that Thompson received his wound which has since incapacitated him, but it was a fortnight crammed with thrilling incidents and in which he had several hairbreadth escapes. He said

they had a pretty rough job on hand at Quinn's Post on May 3rd. The Turks were that day trying to bomb the Australians out of their trenches and the Marines went up in support and succeeded in their object, but their ranks were terribly thinned.

"There was a good deal of hand to hand fighting," said Thompson in reply to another question. *"I have been in 3 bayonet charges, and we routed the Turks every time. During one of these charges I was on the point of jumping into an enemy trench on one occasion, when a Turk, in trying to bayonet me, tore the puttee from my leg without injuring me at all. I had 19 bullet holes in my clothes at different times before I was shot."*

Another exciting incident related by the soldier was that during another charge his officer fell mortally wounded, and his last act just before he expired, was to hand Thompson his revolver. *"This came in very handy,"* added the soldier, *"for we were in the thick of it and I shot five Turks with the revolver."* During the first days of the landing they had a very trying time according to Thompson's account. He and two companions only had six biscuits and a small tin of bully beef between them for three days and half a pint of water per man per day. That was owing to the shelling of the transports, but things have improved very much since, he said.

Thompson received his wound, a severe one, on May 13th. He was in the act of carrying water to some wounded comrades when he was shot in the back of the neck. The bullet entered just above the spine and came out under the right ear and though the wound has healed well, some ugly marks are still there to show what a marvellous escape the soldier had. He was in hospital in Alexandria till June 23rd and was afterwards transferred to Cyprus, landing there on June 27th and he remained till August 16th when he came to England and has since been in hospital at Portsmouth and in London. While at Cyprus, a distressing effect of the wound was that he lost the use of his right arm, but happily this has now much improved. The gallant soldier is now on sick furlough till December 15th, when he has to report himself at Portsmouth. When living in the Coalville district, before going to Shirebrook, Thompson worked at the Whitwick and Ellistown Collieries.

TWO ASHBY SOLDIERS KILLED

Unofficial news has been received at Ashby that Private C. H. Smith, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, has been killed in France. The news was received on Saturday by his father, Mr T. H. Smith, of Old Park Villas, Nottingham Road, in a letter from a comrade of the dead soldier who was probably the youngest Ashby man serving, being barely 16. He was amongst the first to enlist when the war began. Private A. Litherland, of Chapel Yard, belonging to the 1/5th Leicestershire Regiment, has also been killed in action.

KHAKI ARMLET DAY

LONDON SEES THE NEW BADGE FOR PATRIOTS

The new khaki armlet is out. Here and there a civilian sleeve adorned with the strip of khaki embroidered with the royal crown in red, was to be seen on Saturday in the streets of London. The armlets are for:

1 Men attested under the group system
2 Men of good character who have been discharged from the army for medical unfitness

The authorities are considering whether they should issue it also to men who offer themselves for enlistment and are rejected on medical grounds.

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN BELGIUM

SIGHTS THE SLACKER OUGHT TO SEE

AN APPEAL TO THE YOUNG MEN

Writing from Belgium to his Coalville relatives, Mr Arthur Hardy, of the R.A.M.C. states: *"From what I can see in the papers, things are beginning to stir up a bit in England and about time too. I'm speaking of the recruiting. I think it's a shame that so many young men in England should be holding back and if they would join the forces it would make such a difference out here. I said at first that I would not join, but as time went on my mind did not seem settled, for I had had experience in the army and I thought I was one that ought to do my bit. It was a hard pull to leave my wife and children, but here I am and I am not sorry, for I would much rather been in here than at home to have people tell me that I ought to join. It was very hard to leave the wife and children, but still my trouble is nothing to what the poor beggars here had to go through in Belgium. I have seen poor old women and men and little children hurrying out of their homes leaving everything behind them, excepting a small bundle of clothes, and cripples that could not walk, being pushed along in barrows and other conveyances that they could get hold of. It makes one blood's boil when you see such sights. There are towns here that were lovely places before the war; they are now nothing but a heap of ruins, whole towns smashed up with German shells. I often wonder what the slackers would do if they lived over here in Belgium instead of in England along with the old people and children to try and save their skins. I know there are some of them that would like to join, but they are thinking of their parents who are not able to do anything for themselves, but there is a good many that have nothing like that to think of. If I had the power I should claim every single young man fit for service, and unless he could give some reasonable excuse, I should compel him to join.*

There are men out here that have sacrificed good positions and everything they hold dear to try and do their bit, and it is an insult to the men out here that there are so many able-bodied men hanging back when it would mean so much towards this war if they would join. I saw a few men marched through a town a few days ago just behind the firing line, I will not mention the regiment, but the day before they charged the German trenches and gained three lines of trenches. There were several hundreds of them when they first made the charge, but later on they had to retire from these trenches because they were not strong enough to hold the position against the German forces, and by the time they got back to safety there were only about a hundred left of them. I am telling this to point out what a big difference it would make if only some of those young men that are holding back would only join the lads out here. It would mean the war being finished sooner for their help."

Arthur Hardy, R.A.M.C.
Belgium

LETTER FROM TWO COALVILLE BOYS IN THE TRENCHES

MEAN TO AVENGE THEIR COMRADES' DEATHS

Pte. William Beasley and Pte. J. Hart, both of the Leicestershire Regiment, writes from the front in France stating that they are in the best of health, and continue: *"We are sorry to see in the "Coalville Times" the lot of Coalville boys that are getting killed, but we are trying our best to avenge their deaths, and we will do so before we finish. We have just come out of the trenches after a very strenuous 14 days. I reckon it is a well-earned rest. What do you say? We have been fighting where the last big attack was at Hooge. We think the Germans know it is quite impossible to advance round this part, but we keep on giving it to them thick and heavy. I should like you to contradict the rumour that people have got in Coalville and Whitwick about me (Beasley) being dead. For as you can see I am well alive and mean to be for I have not done with those devils the other side yet. Me and my friend Joseph Hart, have had more than one narrow escape, but they have not caught us bending yet and I'm sure they are not likely to just yet, not before we give them another good tying up and they won't be long before they get that. It is the second time out for both me and my chum. We have both been to the second battalion and now we are with the first battalion. I am sending this*

letter with a chum of mine from Coalville, another of the boys is coming on furlough. I don't suppose we shall be long before we come too. I am sorry to tell you that Mick Reed, one of my chums from Coalville, was accidently shot. I suppose you know him. His brother Joe has been with me, but he is now mining.

We hope the remainder of the Coalville boys will answer their country's call and come and help us to avenge the deaths of their friends, for the quicker they come up, the sooner the end will be in sight. I don't think it is in sight yet. We both wish the people of Coalville a merry Christmas – Yours faithfully, Pte. W. Beasley, 16531, B. Co., 1st Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, B.E.F., France, and Pte. J. Hart, 10650, A. Co., same regiment."

Beasley is a son of Mr and Mrs C. Beasley of the Hermitage Hotel, Whitwick.

MORE THANKS TO COALVILLE LADIES

LETTER FROM TWO LOCAL LADS IN THE TRENCHES

We have received the following letter from France:

"Sir – Will you please express through your paper thanks for the parcel received from Mrs Baldwin and Women of Coalville, containing sleeping helmet, mits and socks. The residences out here for Tommy are both open and airy. Severe frost by night and seas of mud by day, so they will come in most useful during the coming winter. Thanking you in anticipation. We are, sir, your obedient servants."

Rowland Smith and Corpl. Wheeler,
14th Heavy Battery,
Expeditionary Force, France.

A COALVILLE ABSENTEE

PROMISED TO GO STRAIGHT BACK TO HIS REGIMENT

Pte. Thomas Warren, of Albert Street, Coalville, was brought before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court on Monday charged with being an absentee from his regiment, the 2nd Leicesters since November 19th. Defendant said his wife had been poorly having had a son killed in the war and she asked him to stop with her a bit. He promised to go straight back to Hull if the magistrate would liberate him.

Inspector Dobney said the military authorities had not notified the soldier's absence but the police brought him in knowing him to be an absentee. On promising to leave for Hull by the next train, the magistrates allowed the defendant to go. Warren was wounded at Neuve Chapelle.

Friday December 10th 1915 (Issue 1240)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

A Red Cross train arrived in Leicester on Sunday evening from the south coast, containing 126 wounded British soldiers, including 30 stretcher cases. This was the third train load of wounded in the last 10 days, the total number of cases being close upon 300.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

The staff at the Coalville Recruiting Office have had a busy time this week?

There is abundant evidence of a great boom in recruiting having set in in Leicester?

Men who have attested are invited to join Coalville Citizen Corps parade at Mantle Lane on Sunday morning?

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AN ABSENTEE

Before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court on Monday, John W. Kinton, a private in the 3/5th Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since November 29th. P.C. Jelley deposed to seeing the soldier in Talbot Street, Whitwick, and accused him of being an absentee, which he admitted, and said he was going back to his battalion on the next day – Inspector Dobney said the accused was discharged from hospital on November 29th and should have reported himself. – Asked his reason for not re-joining his regiment Kinton said he had been away from home for 16 weeks and wanted to see his wife. He was remanded to await an escort.

MESSRS STABLEFORD'S AND CO'S WORKMEN'S CONCERT

The employees of Messrs. Stableford and Co's works gave an excellent concert in the Adult School Hall on Saturday night when despite the heavy downpour there was a capital attendance, the hall being full. The proceeds were for providing gifts for men from the works serving with the forces and the event was a great success, financially as well as musically, about £45 being realised. Excellent selections were given by a choir and orchestra composed entirely of the workmen, while the individual contributions were also much appreciated, there being several encores. Mr J. W. Burton was the conductor, and Mrs J. W. Burton the pianist. Mr Sidney Allen acted as hon. secretary for the event and carried out the arrangements admirably. Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., presided and the following was the programme: The King; overture, "Tancredi," band; glee, "Comrades," choir; song, "Yeoman of England," Mr W. Reece; quartet, "The Bulldog," Messrs. G. Clay, W. Shaw, F. Clay and H. Finch (encored); glee, "Martyrs," choir; song, "Trooper Johnny Ludlow," Mr W. Shaw; selection, "Rosemary," band; humorous song, "PC 49," Mr C. Massey; glee, "England's King," choir; overture, "Italiana," band; duet, "By jove," (encored), Mr F. Clay and Mr H. Finch; glee, "Liberty," choir; song and chorus, "Two little heads," Mr R. Harris; selection, "Premier Bonhour," band; solo, "There is a land," (encore, "When the ebb tide flows,"); Mr E. Briers; quartet, "Call John," (encore "Beware"), Messrs. G. Clay, W. Shaw, F. Clay and H. Finch; humorous song, "John, James Henry," (encore, "I think we shall have some rain") Mr S. Massey, glee, "Good night," choir.

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AN ABSENTEE

George Henry Bennett, private, of the 3rd Leicesters was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since the 27th ult. P.C. Grewcock deposed to apprehending the defendant in Whitwick and Bennett admitted the offence. Defendant said he was sorry, but he left because his boy was ill. He had had nothing else against him since he had been in the army. He was remanded to await an escort.

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MORE WOUNDED ARRIVE AT LEICESTER

MEN SUFFERING FROM "TRENCH" FEET

100 wounded soldiers, comprising 75 'cot' cases and 85 sitting cases arrived at the Midland Station from Dover on Saturday night, and were taken to the North Evington War Hospital. Several of the men were suffering from "trench" feet caused by the water in the trenches and the cold weather. The solders are provided with rubber boots, but the water in the trenches is so deep that they do not suffice to keep out the wet. Mr A. W. Faire, Mr A. Reginald Corah, Colonel Harrison, and Major Henry superintended the arrangements for the removal of the men from the train to the motor cars and ambulances. Motor cars were lent by the following: Mr F. S. S. Brice, Mr T. Cawdell, Mr A. Corah, Mrs J. H. Ellis, Mr W. Evans, Mr J. Frisby, Sir M. Levy, Mr J. Lulham, Mr J. Palfreyman, Mrs Raven, Mr W. H. Turner, Mr A. Tyler, Mr T. S. Thorneloe, and Mr T. Wright.

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THANKS TO COALVILLE LADIES

INTERESTING LETTERS FROM "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE"

Mrs L. L. Baldwin, secretary of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild, has received the following interesting letter from 'Somewhere in France.'

"I hope you will pardon the liberty I have taken in writing to you, but I feel I must write and express my thanks for the parcel I have just received from you. The articles received are quite a boon to me, the most useful I could have had. The weather conditions out here are very trying, but with plenty of warm clothing, one is able to brave the elements far better, I am in a company of 350 men from all parts of the country, and this is the first parcel of its kind to arrive amongst us, so I am sure you will know how proud I felt when explaining the way the ladies and yourself work to provide comforts for the local lads in the forces. I must congratulate you all on the good work you have done, and are doing, and I should not think there is a place throughout the country doing more for us in one way and another than Coalville and District. I have no complaints of any kind and am happy and contented the whole day long. Again thanking you most heartily with kind regards to all who are helping in the good cause. I will now conclude hoping I have not taken up too much of your valuable time, I remain yours sincerely."

Edward V. Griffin, 093644

STANTON-UNDER-BARDON

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

Under the auspices of the Patriotic Committee of whom Mr F. Gibson was secretary, a very pleasant time was spent in the Council Schools on Saturday evening of last week, when upwards of 150 were present from Stanton and the surrounding villages. The object of the whist drive and dance was to obtain funds for Christmas presents to those serving at the front from Stanton parish. The inhabitants were most enthusiastic in the matter and an abundant supply of refreshments were gratuitously given for the deserving and worthy object and a sum of £18 6s 6d was realised for the purposes required. Much credit is due to the committee for the energy and trouble displayed whose efforts were crowned with a brilliant success. Mr Gibson, the secretary, was most assiduous in his endeavours for the comfort and convenience of the large company present. The following were the winners of the prizes at the whist drive:

Gents, 1 Mr Percy Pearson; 2 Mr Irons; 3 Mr Warner.
Ladies, 1 Mrs A. Shipley; 2 Mrs A. Farmer; 3 Mrs S. Wardle.

Mr Love officiated as M.C. and at the unanimous request of the committee Mrs Boswell distributed the prizes at the conclusion of which Mr Boswell made a short speech. Mr Herbert Ball was M.C. at the dance and a first class programme of music was kindly provided by Miss Cramp and Mr Neville Dilks. The catering of a willing band of ladies gave every satisfaction, being done in first-class style. A cake guessing competition caused great amusement, Miss L. Orton being the winner. The affair was an unqualified success in every way. Mr Isaac Brown kindly presented the cake which made 7s 6d.

ONE OF THE COALVILLE FIFTY

LOCAL TERRITORIAL KILLED

Information has reached us from the relatives of Pte. Frederick Bartlam, No. 2561, of the 1/5th Leicestershire Territorials, to the effect that this soldier was killed in action in the great battle on October 13th. He was a native of Osbastone, where his widowed mother now resides, his father having died on July 8th last. Pte. Bartlam was well-known in Coalville, being one of the first 50 territorials to leave the town and was very popular with all his associates.

A HUGGLESCOTE ARTILLERYMAN

GUNNER NORTON WILLIAMS

Gunner Norton Williams, 62329, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, who enlisted on November 1st, was up to that time one of the most popular employees of the Coalville Co-Operative Society, being an assistant in the clothing department. He is a son of Mr and Mrs T. Williams, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, whose other son, Sergt. A. Williams, formerly in the Coventry City Police, is now at the Dardanelles, his regiment being

the Royal Warwicks. Gunner Norton Williams is now in training somewhere on the south coast of England and his letters home are very cheerful and show that he is getting on splendidly.

PTE. GEORGE SPENCER

Pte. G. Spencer, of the 3rd Leicestershire Regiment, whose death occurred at Patrington, Hull, under circumstances reported in our last issue. He formerly lived in Belvoir Road, Coalville, with his father the late Mr Nat Spencer, and before the war was lodging with his sister Mrs Plowman, of Church Lane, Ravenstone, and worked at the Whitwick new pit.

CADEBY SOLDIER KILLED

Private W. Hadland, of the 5th Leicesters (T.F.), son of Mr and Mrs Hadland, of Cadeby, Market Bosworth, has died of wounds in hospital at Rouen. He was attached to a grenade party and was badly wounded in the knee, and back on his twentieth birthday, it was necessary to amputate the leg, from which he never rallied. For eight years he was a member of Cadeby Church choir. He was employed on the Cadeby estate of Messrs. Scott and Brown.

Friday December 17th 1915 (Issue 1241)

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TERRITORIAL DECORATION

HONOUR BESTOWED ON LEIUT. COL. PEAKE

The “London Gazette” on Friday night contained the following:

"The King has been graciously pleased to confer the territorial decoration upon the under-mentioned officer of the territorial force, who has been duly recommended for the same under the terms of the Royal Warrant, dated August 17th, 1908:

North Midland Casualty Clearing Station.
Lieutenant-Colonel William P. Peake"

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AID TO THE WOUNDED

SPLENDID WORK OF THE LEICESTER V.A.D.

On Saturday evening Mr A. W. Faire, county director of the Leicester Voluntary Aid Detachment, entertained the members of that body and of the transport to tea at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, in recognition of the devoted services they have rendered to the wounded soldiers brought to Leicester. The gathering was an exceedingly interesting one, some 600 ladies of the V.A.D. and members of the Transport Section sitting down to an excellent tea. The Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs North), Lieut-Colonel Harrison (base hospital), Captain Stevenson, Capt. Luxmore and Major Henry were among those present.

The Mayor spoke in the highest terms of the splendid services rendered by the members of the V.A.D. since the outbreak of war, and of the fine lead given them by the county director, Mr A. W. Faire. The town and country would long remember the obligation it owed them. Lieut.-Colonel Harrison also acknowledged in generous terms the invaluable assistance he had received at the hands of the V.A.D. and Transport in connection with the reception of the wounded. Mr Faire mentioned that since the outbreak of war they had had 68 convoys of wounded in Leicester, representing 10,557 wounded men who had been dealt with by the V.A.D. and Transport. In addition to this some 7,000 to 8,000 had passed through their rest rooms at the Midland Station, while some 80,000 men on troop trains had been served with refreshments at the Great Central Station.

Later in the evening an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was gone through and greatly enjoyed.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Mr William Haggar, sexton, of London Road, Coalville, enjoys the unique distinction in the colliery district of contributing seven sons to the army. The eldest, Percy, enlisted in the Post Office Rifles (Rifle Brigade), William joined the Canadian Force and is completing his training in England. Walter went into the Second 5th Leicestershire Territorials, and was injured whilst serving in France when several sandbags fell onto him, in the trenches, necessitating amputation of a toe from each foot, and Ernest, Frank, Fred and Arthur have enlisted under the group system.

Mr T. Kelly, of the Railway Hotel, Whitwick, has received a letter from his brother, Pte. J. Kelly, 16640, 2nd Corps Headquarters, Bath section, Field Post Office, British Expeditionary Force, in which he says he is going on alright. He has been in France over six months now, he adds, and is getting used to it. Things are quiet where he is now, but it is raining nearly every day and there is plenty of mud. He hopes to be home soon on eight days' leave and wishes to be remembered to all old friends.

At the end of last week about 340 parcels were despatched to soldiers at home and abroad on behalf of the Shepshed, Charley, and Oaks-in-Charnwood Committee, each parcel containing a card with Christmas and New Year's greetings. The Shepshed Co-Operative Society have also despatched especially prepared parcels to Shepshed and Belton men who belong to the colours. An exhibition and sale at the Richmond Arms Inn, Shepshed, for which Mr Albert Newman acted as secretary, realised £3 0s 7d, and other contributions made up a goodly sum which enabled the committee to send 750 packets of cigarettes and 12 ounces of tobacco to the Shepshed soldiers at the front. On Saturday last, exhibitions were held at the Lifeguardsmen Inn and the Railway Inn for a similar object.

As a result of the concert organised by Miss Redfern held at the Ashby Town Hall, on Wednesday in last week, a sum of £25 was cleared. Of this sum, £5 was sent to Lord Roberts' memorial fund and £20 was expended among tradesman of the town on gifts for local soldiers and sailors on active service. The gifts were sent to France in six packing cases, containing 56 lbs in each, including tinned peaches, peppermints, lump sugar, candles, sardines, salmon, cheese, cocoa, box of kippers, chocolates, butter-scotch, oxo, biscuits, cakes, polonies, fish paste, paper and envelopes, powders, tobacco, pipes, cigarettes, pipe lighters, purses, cards, etc, etc.

Fifteen local policemen, under Inspector Dobney, marched to the Coalville Recruiting Office and were attested on Saturday. They were P.C.'s Holmes (Measham), Higgs (Heather), Dray (Osgathorpe), Smith (Albert Village), Hawkins (Appleby), Cobley and Norton (Ashby), Bowns (Breedon), Jelley (Whitwick), Jones (Thringstone), Sibson (Ravenstone), Percival, Spiby, Bursnall and Mason (Coalville).

DO YOU KNOW THAT

All over the country during the week-end there were remarkable scenes in connection with the great final rush to attest under Lord Derby's recruiting scheme?

Several Coalville men who attested last week have been heard to declare that it not their intention to cash the cheque received for 2/9 but have it framed?

Mrs Stockdale, of Ibstock, has received a letter of thanks from the "Daily Chronicle", London, for having collected £1 10s for the fund for sending Christmas gifts to the troops?

IBSTOCK

The Wesley Guild lady workers have this week completed the despatch of Christmas parcels to the boys who belonged to that place of worship and are now serving with the forces.

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SOLDIER'S THANKS

Dear Friends – I beg to acknowledge the receipt of parcel, for which receive my sincere thanks. I should esteem it a great favour if you would kindly insert the same in your valuable paper. – Allow me to remain yours sincerely.

Pte. I. Chapman, 14169
Coldstream Guards.

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ARMLETS

LORD DERBY REQUESTS OWNERS TO WEAR THEM

The following announcement has been received from the War Office for publication:

"The supply of armlets has not been equal to the demand, but it is hoped that in a very short time there will be plenty available. Lord Derby sincerely hopes that all men who have armlets in their possession will wear them, though no order to this effect is being issued."

LORD DERBY'S SCHEME

MARRIED RECRUITS UNITE TO RESIST EXPLOITATION

The married men in the large engineering works in Rugby, who have enrolled under Lord Derby's scheme, are forming a society with a view of securing, by weight of numbers, what they regard as equitable treatment under the recruiting scheme, and especially in regard to all single men being called up before the married. Already many hundreds of men have signed the register.

The scheme, it is understood, is intended to be a national one, and steps are being taken to ensure its growth in every corner of the country. It will be centralised, no entrance fee and no subscription is asked. The sole qualification is that a member shall be a married recruit in a Derby group. The scheme is to rely entirely upon its numerical strength to secure its aims. Its great determination is to see that the single men of the country shall be called up before demands are made upon the married groups.

Extensions of the work of the society in many ways have already been suggested. One is that a fund shall be started to provide assistance for the dependants of members called up for service. This will be entirely provided by the members themselves.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

There was a large company at the Ashby Town Hall on Wednesday evening on the occasion of a very successful patriotic concert, the proceeds of which were to provide extra comforts for local soldiers at Christmas and for Lord Roberts' Memorial Fund for disabled soldiers and sailors. An excellent programme had been arranged, including contributions by the following artistes: Miss Burkitt, soprano, of Whitwick; Miss Lathbury, contralto, of Burton; Mr Thomms, tenor, of Ashby; Mr R. Jacques, base, of Sheffield; Mrs Way, violinist, Burton; and Mr J. Goddard, humourist, of Queen's Hall, London. Miss Holbrooke, L.R.A.M., was the accompanist. The arrangements for the concert were ably carried out by Miss A. W. Redfern.

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DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDALS

PRESENTATION AT LEICESTER

On Sunday, in the presence of a large gathering of soldiers and civilians, Colonel Thorold, commanding the 6th District, presented the Distinguished Conduct medals awarded by the King to Second-Lieutenant Wilson, of the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, and Lance-Corporal T. Newcombe of the 2nd Battalion, for gallantry in the field.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mosse (Glen Parva) read the extracts from Army Orders showing that Lieutenant Wilson (then Corporal) went out under a heavy fire from rifles, machine-guns, and trench mortars, and dug out a man who had been buried by a bursting shell. He had also done consistently good work as a platoon commander. Lance-Corporal Newcombe voluntarily went out to the succour of a wounded officer under heavy fire, and finding him too severely wounded to be moved, remained with him till he died, crawling back to his own trench exhausted by the strain and exposure. Corporal Newcombe had also been awarded the Order of St. George by the Czar of Russia.

Sir Samuel Faire, introducing the lieutenant and corporal to the assembly, said they had done deeds of gallantry which had placed the country under a great obligation to them, and the town and county of Leicester were proud of them.

Colonel Thorold, after pinning on the medals, paid a high tribute to the men's gallantry, and said he hoped he would live long enough to see men who had risen from the ranks in the war commanding their regiments. He trusted that the country would never forget the debt of gratitude it owed to these men. The depot band was in attendance, and played a number of national airs.

NAVAL RECRUITS LEAVE LEICESTER

Early on Monday afternoon a considerable batch of naval recruits from Leicester, Nottingham and Derby left Leicester to commence their training at the Crystal Palace. Mr Evan Barlow giving the men a hearty send-off in the name of the town, wished them good luck and good cheer. They had the priceless privilege of youth, and in years to come they would always look back with pride to the fact that they joined the service in the years of the great war – the greatest war for civilisation ever fought in the world's history.

Friday December 24th 1915 (Issue 1242)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The children of the Ellistown Infants Church School, of which Mrs G. B. Lagoe is the headmistress, have sent 31 boxes of chocolates to soldiers from Ellistown serving in France and 27 boxes to those training in England. Several of them have replied expressing their thanks for, and appreciation of, the gifts.

Sapper E. Bettison, of the Royal Engineers in France, son of Mr S. Bettison, North Street, Hugglescote, writes: *"Allow me through your paper, to thank the Hugglescote Women's Unionist Association for their gift which I have received. All credit is due both to the secretary and all those who have made this effort a success. I am sure Tommy is pleased with all gifts forwarded from the homeland and they cheer him up, making him feel brighter and cheery. We are right at the front in the Tunnelling Company, having answered the call made outside the Miner's Agent's office. May all your readers have a happy Christmas and the New Year bring peace to all."*

DO YOU KNOW THAT

The Recruiting Office at Coalville will be closed from 5 o'clock tonight (Friday) until 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning?

The Coalville and District Roll of Honour of men who have died for their country, now reaches one hundred names?

Preparations are being made by the German officers imprisoned at Donington Hall for the Christmas festivities, and bags of Christmas presents are arriving almost daily from Germany?
Official information was received in Burton-on-Trent on Wednesday morning that Capt. Rupert Gretton had been killed in action?

There was an interesting military parade in Leicester on Wednesday in connection with the public reception of a captured German gun?

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LOCAL NEWS

ABSENTEE

Before Mr W. Lindley, at the Coalville Police Court, on Wednesday, Pte. Joseph Read, an absentee from the 1st Leicesters, was remanded to await an escort. P.C. Jelley said the defendant told him he had been ill.

TEA TO SOLDIER'S WIVES AND CHILDREN

Miss Black, mistress at All Saints School, and the teachers, on Saturday, kindly gave a tea in the school to the soldier's wives and children residing in the Coalville west end district. A good number was present and greatly enjoyed the tea and social evening which followed.

BOY SCOUT'S EFFORT

The Beaumont Troop of Boy Scouts have made a successful effort to provide new year gifts for Swannington men in the forces. A football match with the Coalville Troop in a field kindly lent by Mrs W. Moss, resulted in a win for Swannington by two goals to one and in a prize-drawing for a gold wristlet watch given by Mr J. H. Land, the winner was Mrs F. Goddard, of Coalville. An exhibition of war trophies, consisting of German helmets, bullets, bayonets, clothing and various German utensils, was held in the Scout's room, where a tea was also given by Lady Beaumont. The splendid sum of £6 was realised from the effort.

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MARKFIELD CHRISTMAS EFFORT

The effort on Saturday to provide comforts for the local troops was a most gratifying success, the total proceeds approximating £35. The collections and sale of tickets exceeded £20, and the money taken at the door with the competitions and sale of refreshments totalled nearly £15. There were 106 present for whist and an additional 106 for dancing. The M.C.'s were Messrs. H. Murby and C. Crooks. Whist prizes were won by Misses. H. Boulds, S. Wardle and E. Whetstone, Messrs. A. Marlow, R. Swain and W. Harper. The competitions were won by Mr A. Whitty (a pig given by Mrs Chambers), Mr H. Murby (a fowl given by Mr Biggs) and Mr A. White (a cake given by Mrs Spence). The donors of the whist prizes were Mr and Mrs Preston, Mrs Birchnall, The Choir, Mr Bradley and Mr Gibson. Miss Noble played for dancing. At the conclusion hearty thanks were accorded to all who had contributed to the success of the effort.

SHAW LANE

RUMMAGE SALE AND SOCIAL

A very successful rummage sale and social organised by Mrs Elliott, of Hammercliffe, was held in the Church Institute at Shaw Lane, on Wednesday of last week for the purpose of raising funds for providing sandbags for the soldiers at the front. There was a good attendance at the opening, performed by Mr Elliott, who fully explained its objects. Mr W. Boswell read the statement of accounts of the working party which showed a small balance in hand. He also expressed regret at the enforced absence of Mrs Elliott, through indisposition, Mr Maunder officiated as M.C. at the dance, the musicians being Mr and Miss Clarke. Mr Boswell took charge of the social at which Mr and Mrs Page pleased the company by contributing songs. Great credit was due to the ladies who worked hard for the success of the effort for which they were well rewarded, everything being sold, including the refreshments where the catering of those in charge gave every satisfaction. The kind assistance of the gentlemen's committee was also much appreciated. A good round sum was realised. The proceedings closed by the singing of the National Anthem.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S TRAGIC DEATH

COMRADE COMMITTED FOR TRIAL

At Withernsea Police Court, on Monday afternoon, Sydney Bolesworth, a private in the 3rd Leicesters, was charged with the manslaughter of another soldier of the same regiment, named George Spencer.

From the evidence it appeared that prisoner struck Spencer with his fist on Saturday night on their return to camp after exchanging a few words. Spencer, who fell with his head on the road, was assisted to camp, but was found dead next morning. Bolesworth was committed to the next Assizes, reserving his defence.

Spencer was a Coalville man, formerly residing in Belvoir Road. Immediately before enlisting, he lodged with his sister, Mrs Plowman, of Church Lane, Ravenstone, and worked at the Whitwick colliery.

THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

There was a large company at the Village Hall on Monday night to hear a lecture on the European War by the Vicar of Whitwick, the Rev. T. W. Walters, which was illustrated by lantern slides and proved very interesting. The Vicar of Thringstone, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, presided, and there were songs by Messrs. J. Lawrence, A. Waterfield, and Pte. J. W. Brotherhood, of the 5th Leicesters, on leave and who appeared in khaki. Miss Crane was the pianist. The proceeds were for the Thringstone House Club funds.

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ASHBY

DEATH OF "JEAN LOUIS"

A telegram received by Mr Chas. Hussey, from France intimates that Jean Louis Collet, one of the Belgian refugees who came to Ashby a year ago (the brother of Herbert Collet, a scholar at Ashby Grammar School) was numbered amongst the victims of the explosion at a munitions factory at Granville. A further telegram received on Wednesday stated that Jean Louis was dead. He was not yet 20 years of age, and went back to

France to enlist in the Belgian Army. His father and mother also left Ashby and went to Granville. The young Belgian was extremely popular in the town.

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COALVILLE SOLDIER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

SON OF ALL SAINTS' SCHOOLMASTER

Mr J. J. Brown, of Oxford Street, Coalville, headmaster of All Saints' School, has been notified by the War Office that his son Pte. C. Esmond Brown, has been severely wounded in action. Mr Brown only received the notice a day or so ago, but it states that the wounds were received between November 22nd and 24th in the battle of Ctesiphon, Pte. Brown being with the troops which were then marching on Baghdad. On the same day that Mr Brown received the official notice, he also received a letter from his son, dated a fortnight before, saying they need not expect a letter from him for some time, as they were going to move forward and they might not hear from him for a month. No further news has been received from him.

When war broke out, Pte. Brown, who is 24 years of age, was at the Battersea Training College and by this time would have completed his training for the teaching profession. He joined the College Training Corps and was afterwards attached to the 10th Middlesex Territorials.

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COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

ROLL OF HONOUR

Local Men who have died for their country.

One Hundred 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 5th, 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 25th, 1914.

William Ogden Hoden
Private, of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13th, 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 1st, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

J. C. Andrews
Lance-Corporal, of the 1st Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7th, 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 1st 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 16th, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

Frederick Kirby
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9th, 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 6th, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

John Manders
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died wounds, 15th 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, 20th March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

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

John Williamson
Private of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action, March 10th. A Coalville man.

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

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

Ernest Hall
Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10th and 14th 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 3rd Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11th, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

Ernest Samuel Boot

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

Thomas Dooley D.C.M.
2nd Lieutenant, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1st, 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 1st Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16th. A native of Swannington.

Harry Spence
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13th, 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 13th, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

George Barker
Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 14th, 1915. A young farmer of Onebarrow, Whitwick.

C. Avins
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in May 1915. He was an Ashby man.

William Moore
Private, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action May 1st, 1915. He belonged to Thringstone.

A. Heathcote
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds on April 23rd, 1915. A Bagworth collier.

J. G. Poyser
Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915. He left a widow and three children at Ashby.

Timothy Betteridge
Lance-corporal, of the 2nd Leicesters. An Ashby man killed at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915.

John Gadsby
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. A Breedon man.

George Henry Wesson
Sergeant, of the Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on May 9th, 1915. Formerly of Margaret Street, Coalville.

Cecil Thomas Beadman
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on May 19th, 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 13th, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

Charles William Jewsbury
Gunner, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 6th, 1915. He was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., and resided at Bakewell Street, Coalville.

Frederick Wilfred Hart

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

Francis Frederick Martin
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, died in England, on June 11th, 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 23rd London Regiment, killed in action on May 25th, 1915. A Whitwick man.

Ernest Tugby
Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action on June 7th. He resided in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

Harold G. Blackham
Private, of the 5th 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 23rd, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

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

John Ison
Private, of the 1st 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action on June 30th, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

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

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

G. H. Highfield
2nd Lieutenant, of the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action, July 4th, 1915. A former master at Coalville Grammar School.

John George Bennett
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 15th. He resided in Beresford Street, and formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville.

Walter Gray
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. He formerly lived in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

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

George Andrews

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

Harry Smith
Petty officer of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in the Dardanelles, on July 14th, 1915. Formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

William Massey
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 9th, 1915. A Hugglescote man.

Harry Badcock
Private, 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 1st, 1915. A former Coalville Grammar School boy who resided at Ibstock.

Isaac Hall
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 23rd, 1915. A Whitwick collier whose home was at Thringstone.

H. Ing
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 30th, 1915. Resided at Waterworks Road, Coalville.

Cyril Ernest Briers
Of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action, July 29th, 1915. He lived with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, Ibstock.

Fred Pringle
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in August, 1915. An Ashby man.

E. Dowell
Private, killed in action in France, August 17th, 1915. His wife and four children reside at Markfield.

Clifford E. Scott
Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1st, 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 5th Leicesters, killed in action, August 31st, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Arthur Charles Johnstone
Private, of the 8th Leicesters, died September 1st, 1915, from wounds received in action the previous day. A collier of Castle Hill, Whitwick.

Alfred Clifford
Private, in the 1st 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 15th. Son of Lady Maude Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby.

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

Walter Irons
Private in the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France, September 28th. 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 28th. He was a Heather man and formerly worked at the Ibstock Colliery.

Walter Shaw
Private in the 9th Leicesters, killed in action September 9th. He was a widower, formerly residing at Swannington and was a labourer.

J. H. Pepper
Private of the 9th 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 3rd Leicesters, killed in action on September 17th, 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 21st, 1915. Formerly a Whitwick collier, who leaves a widow and three children.

Frank Underwood
Private in 8th 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, 5th Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action, October, 1915. Son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby.

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

George Gadsby
Private of the 5th 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 1st Hants Regiment, killed in action. He was a Ravenstone man.

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

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

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

R. C. Lawton
Lieutenant, 5th 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 15th, 1915. A former Coalville policeman.

Samuel Thomas Berkin
Private in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action September 27th, 1915. A Swannington man, formerly employed at Messrs. Stableford and Co's Works, Coalville.

Frank William Woolhouse
Private in the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. A Whitwick collier, who resided at Albert Street, Coalville.

Gerald Stewart
Captain, 10th 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 2nd 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 1st Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 17th, 1915. He formerly resided at 88, Hermitage Road, Whitwick, and worked at the Snibston Colliery.

Harry Toon
Private, 9th Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France on November 15th, 1915. He was aged 20, formerly worked at Coleorton Colliery and lived at Griffydam.

C. H. Smith
Private, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action in France, November 1915. His parents reside at Nottingham Road, Ashby.

A Litherland
Private, 1/5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France, November 1915. His home was at Chapel Yard, Ashby.

Frederick Barttam
Private in the 5th Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) killed in action in France, October 13th, 1915. An Osbastone man.

W. Hadland
Private in the 5th 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 9th Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 9th, 1915. He was a Whitwick collier, aged 22 years, and his wife and child reside at the Dumps.

Charles W. Cook
Private, 10th Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 10th. Aged 22, an Ashby man.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The formation of a second battalion of the Church Lad's Brigade for Leicestershire is now complete. It will have headquarters at Loughborough, and comprises Loughborough St. Peters Emmanuel, and Holy Trinity, Barrow-on-Soar, Quorn, Hugglescote and Donington, Ibstock and Market Bosworth, while others are expected to join. The boys will be cadets under the Territorial Association and uniformed in khaki. Major C. S. Adams will command, with other officers from Loughborough, Quorn, Ibstock and Hugglescote.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

Men who have been attested under Lord Derby's scheme are invited by the Coalville Citizens' Corps to a parade next Sunday morning?

Mr Aubrey Hewes, son of Mr G. H. Hewes, of Ravenstone, having joined the army as a motor driver, has proceeded to British East Africa with the staff of General Smith-Dorrien?

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ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED

Mrs Kilburn, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, has been notified that her eldest son, Private Charles W. Cook, was killed at the front on 19th December. The deceased enlisted in the 6th Leicesters soon after war broke out and was sent to France at mid-summer. He was 22 years of age, and very much respected. In her sad loss Mrs Kilburn will have the sympathy of the Ashby people.

CHRISTMASTIDE IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

The Coalville Recruiting Office was closed from Christmas Eve till Tuesday morning and there is no doubt that Capt. Stevenson and the staff were glad of this rest. They have had an exceedingly busy time of late in connection with Lord Derby's scheme, several thousands of men in this district having been attested and for a few days prior to Christmas they were busily engaged supplying armlets to many who applied. Considering then number of men who have attested the wearing of the armlet in Coalville has not yet become so general as it should be, though a few of the men are complying with Lord Derby's request in this request.

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ABSENTEES

Before Mr J. W. West at the Coalville Police Court, Pte. G. Boxall, of the 18th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment since December 11th, and Gunner C. H. Harrison, of 34th Res. Battery, Royal Field Artillery, similarly from September 11th, 1914, over 15 months. Both were remanded to await an escort.

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WHITWICK SOLDIER KILLED

DUE TO A MINE EXPLOSION

News has been received in Whitwick that Lance-Corporal Joseph Aramathea Hall, of the 9th Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action in France through the explosion of an enemy mine on December 9th.

The deceased soldier was a son of Mr A. Hall, of Silver Street, Whitwick, a miner at the Whitwick pit, where Hall also was employed before enlisting. He was 22 years of age and was married, his wife and only child residing at the Dumps, Whitwick. He enlisted in November last year and went to France in July, having been made a lance-corporal.

A nice letter has been written to the deceased's wife by the chaplain who officiated at Hall's funeral on December 11th and another letter written by a comrade runs as follows:

"December 14th. – Dear Mrs Hall, I regret to write these few lines in regard to your husband's death. All his comrades feel his loss very much as he was so popular with all the men of his platoon. The whole of the platoon send their deepest sympathy, as we know what a sad blow it will be to you. I am sending you these photos which were handed to me and I should like to ask if you have a photo of him you could send me, as I should like one in remembrance, as we have been great chums ever since he joined the army. He was buried in a cemetery in a village close behind the firing line, and we, his comrades, will see his grave is kept

alright as long as it is in our power. I conclude with the deepest sympathy from all the platoon and myself, yours sincerely."

12837 Walter Gould
B. Co. 9th Leicesters, 8th Platoon, B.E.F.

The photograph enclosed in the letter which was found on deceased were those of his wife and child.