

Coalville Times At War

Friday December 4th 1914 (Issue 1187)

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STANTON UNDER BARDON

CONCERT

For the purpose of raising funds for the Belgian Relief Fund, a successful concert was given at the day school on Saturday evening. A good programme was well rendered by children who attended the infant school, and was much appreciated by those present.

LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICERS KILLED

The Press Bureau on Sunday night issued further casualty lists reported from the General Headquarters of the Expeditionary Forces under date November 26th, included in which were Captain H. A. Grant and Second-Lieutenant M. W. Seton Browne, Leicestershire Regiment killed; and Lieutenant W. S. B. Blackett, Leicestershire Yeomanry, died of wounds.

SHEPSHED

MEN'S ADULT SCHOOL

There was a good attendance at the above school on Sunday morning to hear an address by Mr G. P. Main of Loughborough, his subject being, "Is England justified in fighting? And how the war started." Mr Harriman, J.P., presided. On the motion of Mr W. Tapp, a cordial vote of thanks was carried with acclamation to Mr Main. A collection was made in aid of the Leicester "Post" and "Mercury" Fund for Christmas Gifts to Leicestershire Sailors and Soldiers and Bereaved Wives and Families, which realised 21s.

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Another batch of 114 wounded soldiers from the front arrived at Leicester on Sunday night. All were from British regiments. There were 14 stretcher cases. The men were taken to the Northern Hospital.

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BELGIAN REFUGEE MUSICIAN AT LOUGHBOROUGH

The grounds adjoining the Loughborough Bell Foundry were on Sunday afternoon besieged with people who had assembled to hear a recital on the carillon of 40 bells at Messrs. Taylors' works by Monsieur Josef Denyn, carrillonieur at Malines Cathedral, which has been damaged by the Germans. Monsieur Denyn is a refugee, and gave the recital in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund. There was no charge for admission, but a collection was taken. A capital programme was gone through, the items including the Belgian National Anthem, the two soldier's songs, "We mean to see it through," and "It's a long, long way to Tipperary," and several Flemish songs, and concluded with the National Anthem.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

Wanted, a really capable woman, to live in, and able to undertake (under the Matron) the cooking arrangements for 90 war refugees; suitable help provided. Apply by letter only stating qualifications, wages required, and giving two references to Honorary Secretary, War Refugees Committee, Broom Leys House, Coalville, Leicestershire.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

The Coalville Citizens' Corps paraded on Sunday morning and attended service at the Parish Church, being led in the marching by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band.

Captain Jesson, commanding the Territorial Reserves, which has been training at Ashby for three months, announced on Sunday after the company had returned from church at Donisthorpe that the company would leave Ashby on Monday morning for Loughborough.

Notwithstanding having sent two or three drafts away, the Coalville Territorial Reserve, are keeping up well and adding to their numbers almost every day, being now about 180 strong. They marched to Ravenstone Church on Sunday morning, led by the buglers and the Coronation Band.

The departure of the Territorial (Reserve) Company from Ashby-de-la-Zouch on Monday to join the battalions at Loughborough, was the occasion of a stirring demonstration. The Ashby Band played the company, under the command of Capt. Jesson to the station. The boys of the Grammar School, with Mr C. Elliott, headmaster joined in the march, and three ringing cheers from the boys, mingled with the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," gave the Territorials a hearty send-off from the station, which was crowded with relatives and friends.

A patriotic concert is to be held in the Whitwick Holy Cross Schools next Sunday afternoon and the proceeds of the silver collection will be for the C Squad of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. Mr E. M. P. de Lisle will preside and local artistes will be assisted by the Belgian Refugees.

Pte. G. Caldwell, of Hugglescote, in the A.S.C. B Squad of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, recently wrote to Mr Wood, manager of the Hugglescote Conservative Club, saying he was in the best of health, though since leaving England they had had a very wet time. He wished to be remembered to those at the club. Since receiving this, Mr Wood has heard that Caldwell has had his thigh broke.

Mr Fred Whitmore, secretary of the Hugglescote Wesleyan Football Club has joined the Black Watch and leaves for Scotland on Monday. There is some question as to whether the Hugglescote club will now go on, several others members having joined the army.

P.C. Wallace Smith, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, who is serving in a military hospital in the Isle of Wight, under the R.A.M.C., paid a visit to his home in Melbourne Street, last weekend.

IBSTOCK

RELIEF COMMITTEE

The Rev. S. Flood presided at a meeting of this committee at Stanton. Expenses were sanctioned for the furnishing of Sefton House, Barlestone, amounting to £23 19s 11d and Mr Eggington reported that Mrs Gray had accepted the position of matron. It was decided to allow visits once a week on permits being obtained from the local secretaries. It was agreed to write to the Postmaster General and the Hon. H. D. McLaren as to the excessive rates charged for papers and parcels sent to men at the front.

PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

The Rev. S. Flood presided over the usual monthly meeting of this committee held in the National Schools on Wednesday evening. The secretary, Mr W. Dunstan reported that Sefton House, Barlestone, was now fitted up and a caretaker had been appointed in readiness for the Belgian refugees whom they expected any day now. Mr Wain wrote offering the free use of the Ibstock Palace Theatre on Thursday evening December 17th. It was decided to accept this kind offer and arrange a Patriotic Concert for that date, the details to be arranged by the Concert Committee. Other informal business was discussed and settled.

HUGGLESCOTE

SUCCESSFUL TEA

The local committee which is busily engaged in making comforts such as scarves, body belts, helmets, mittens, etc., for the men from the district who have joined the forces organised a very successful tea which was held in the large hall of the Conservative Club at Hugglescote on Monday afternoon. There was a large attendance necessitating two sittings down. A number of the Belgian refugees from Broom Leys were entertained and they in turn entertained the company with some excellent musical items, the proceedings being very interesting and enjoyable. A good sum will be realised for the purchasing materials for the ladies to work upon.

DO YOU KNOW

That sixteen Belgian refugees arrived at Sefton House, Barlestone, on Tuesday night?

That two of the Belgians residing at Broom Leys, Coalville, are to be married shortly?

That 44 men have joined the army from Thringstone?

That Mr Will Crooks, M.P., addressed a patriotic meeting in the Palace Theatre, Leicester, on Sunday night?

That close on 1,000 members of the Leicester Junior Training Corps had their first route march on Saturday afternoon?

That the members of the Thringstone sewing meetings are busily engaged making serviceable wearing apparel for our soldiers and sailors?

That Mr S. C. Lewis, principal of the Loughborough Technical Institute, is starting classes in English for the Belgian refugees in the town?

That practically the whole of the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville, attended service at the Whitwick Catholic Church, last Sunday morning?

That on Wednesday, the second thousand pounds was sent by the Coalville District treasurer (Mr J. Husband) to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund?

That Thursday, December 17th, the night fixed by the Ibstock Committee for a big patriotic concert is the same night that a similar event is being held in Coalville?

That the profits of Swannington Flower Show last August amounting to five guineas, have been given to the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund?

That at Monday's meeting of Shardlow Board of Guardians, it was stated that a large number of German officers who are prisoners of war will be shortly interned at Donington Park?

That the Leicestershire Yeomanry, together with other Territorial units, are mentioned with commendation in General Sir John French's report, which was received Sunday night?

That the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund this week exceeds four millions?

That as a result of the tea held at the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, on Monday last, the sum of £3 16s was realised for Coalville District Soldiers' Comforts Guild, and that another effort is being made at Ellistown Schools next Wednesday for the same object?

That gifts of vegetables have been given to Broom Leys by the school children of Stanton-under-Bardon National School, Coalville National School, Whitwick National School, Hugglescote; Holy Cross School, Whitwick; and National Schools Bardon Hill for which the Belgian Refugees Committee is grateful?

BELGIAN REFUGEES FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors for the local fund was held at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. Mr A. Lockwood, presiding, also present, Capt. McKernon, and the hon. sec. (Mr F. G. Weaver). The hon. secretary reported the result of the fifth collection, £13 14s 6 1/2d from 15 districts (one not represented) and this was considered very satisfactory.

LETTERS FROM COALVILLE AMBULANCE MEN

KEEPING UP THE HONOUR OF THE BRIGADE

Private Curtis, of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade, on naval service writing to a Coalville friend, says that he quite all right and in good health and spirits. He was pleased to learn of Corpl. Moreton's promotion, which he read in the "Coalville Times." He asks for his kind regards to be given to members of the Brigade, what there are left of them, and concludes, "We are doing our best to keep up the honour and efficiency of the Coalville Division."

Another Coalville ambulance man, Pte. Bagshaw, also writes that he is keeping fit. He is on duty at the Royal Hospital, Woolwich, which he says is a fine place in which one could easily lose himself. There is plenty of work. A convoy arrived every week. One came last Saturday with 186 men, including nine Germans. He asks to be remembered to all the members of the Brigade. They get very good food and plenty of it. He has joined the R.A.M.C. for six months or the duration of the war.

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"Tipperary" is to be banned as far as the United States army and navy are concerned, as the authorities hold that the singing or playing by the United States regular forces of one of the allies' marching songs might be construed as a violation of President Wilson's neutrality proclamation.

SURGEON-MAJOR BURKITT IN WHITWICK

EXPERIENCES IN THE TRENCHES

THE REGIMENT'S LOSS

Surgeon-Major J. C. S. Burkitt, of Whitwick, serving with the Leicestershire Yeomanry in France, obtained 72 hours leave to visit England in connection with his private practice in Whitwick and Coalville and was warmly welcomed.

Major Burkitt, who came direct from the trenches, confirms the reports that the Leicestershire Yeomanry are brigaded with the Life Guards and relates that he had not seen a live German up to the time he left, but plenty of dead ones. So far the Leicestershire Yeomanry had lost but one killed, Captain W. S. B. Blackett who died of wounds. Another of the regiment named Toone, of Coleorton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, is missing. It is probable he is a prisoner of war.

Major Burkitt relates how he temporarily occupied the centre house of three and those on either side were blown to pieces. The Leicestershire Yeomanry were fighting as infantrymen and their horses were four miles to the rear of the trenches. Sergt. Green, of Onebarrow Lodge, Whitwick, contrary to rumour, was all right when the Major left the trenches, and the regiment was cheerful. The weather is piercingly cold. Major Burkitt who appeared in modest health, left Coalville on Monday morning on a visit to Leicester.

A COALVILLE TERRITORIAL'S LETTER

GETTING USED TO A SOLDIER'S LIFE

Writing to friends at Coalville, Pte. T. H. Usherwood, of the 5th Battalion, Leicestershire Territorials, one of the "Coalville Fifty" says they had a very busy time while at Luton. He was in perfect health and getting broken in now to a soldier's life. He goes on to refer to the long march they recently had and which was mentioned in letters published from other Territorials. He says they were fetched out of their billets at 4 am and told to pack everything up ready for going away. By six o'clock they were all ready and started on a journey, with full kit, including all their equipment, 100 rounds of ball ammunition, and blanket and waterproof sheet for bed, altogether weighing about 98 pounds. They had no knowledge then as to their destination. There were about 11,000 of them comprising the North Midland Division which included Leicesters, Staffords, Lincolns, Notts and Derby and all artillery. They marched 27 miles that day, but the Coalville boys stuck to their guns. Naturally they felt the strain of such a march, but were all right again. He understood that the most the regulars had done in a day before was 18 miles. They had a rest the next day and on the following day had a 16 mile march. They had a holiday on the Thursday – the day that Lord Roberts was buried. This was the first day off that they had had. The ultimate destination of the troops was unknown to them. He adds, "We are on active service now and never know what is coming next. We are only 28 miles from the east coast. We have passed through some of the most lovely country I have ever seen and shall not forget. Wherever we go the people are most generous towards us and give us anything. Shall have lots of news to tell you when I get home, but don't know when that will be." He expresses thanks for a "Coalville Times," remarking that it is nice to read the home news.

COALVILLE SOLDIER "GOING STRONG"

AMONG THE SHELLS

Private Sten Hardy, of the 1st Leicesters writing to his wife at Coalville, says (on the 15th November) that he was still in the land of the living, and that Clem and Joe Peck and Jack Martin had come up to the battalion. "Clem told me that he heard I was killed, and that they had sent it (the news) on to you, but I am not. I am still going strong for 28 which I am in two days' time." He extends thanks for the woollen helmet, which he found very warm at nights to sleep in. He mentions not having met Bill Stretton and asked his wife to send him a bit of cake now and again, but she must make it herself. In another postcard Hardy says it is a pitiful sight to see folks moving their belongings and leaving homes all day long. He was sitting in a house similar to the one at home. Shells kept going over, and at night it was worse. The battalion was having a day or two's rest, "and then we are at them again." He asked his wife to send a newspaper, with the regiment's list (of casualties) in it, expecting that she had seen it by the time he had written (13th) inst., She need not upset herself, as he was all right.

WARM CLOTHING WANTED

NEWTON BURGOLAND MAN SEVERAL TIMES REPORTED KILLED

Private John Henry Redfern, of the 1st Leicesters, has been several times reported killed at the front, but happily all these persistent rumours are groundless, for as recent as last Thursday he wrote a letter to his sister, Mrs William Meakin, of Newton Burgoland, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, when he was in the best of health. Redfern was a reservist at the time of the war breaking out, having served several years in India. He is 31 years old and belongs to Newton Burgoland. He writes from France.

"There is only one thing to worry about here, and that is the bad weather, for when we are out at night it is bitterly cold, as we have had snow and frost. Now this morning we are getting a change, a drop of rain. But if we get half the warm clothing that people in England promise us we should be able to keep warm. What I should like most is a good warm muffler and a pair of mittens. I have received your parcels of cigarettes and matches. Handkerchiefs all right, for which I return you many thanks and credit is due to you for the same.

While I write this letter I am sitting in a little cave, just big enough to wriggle about in out of the way of the enemy's stray shots. I shall have plenty to tell you when I come home. Hoping that will be very soon, I conclude with best respects to all old pals at Newton. Roll on old England."

AN APPEAL FOR COMFORTS

A Coalville man in the 3rd Leicesters, writing from _____, _____ on November 29th states that the Coalville boys who left on August 27th are still alive and doing duty for King and country. He adds, "I see in the "Coalville Times" again this week that the Coalville Soldier's Comforts Guild have sent parcels of warm clothing to some of the men. We are not jealous of what is being done, but we think we should not be left in the background, as we are guarding the sea shores every night and I can tell you it is a bit rough just now. It takes one all his time to keep warm. Hoping these few lines will catch the eye of all that can see their way clear to contribute to the fund. I beg to remain. One who is trying to do his little bit."

These are the names of the boys: Corpl. J. Sheffield, Ptes. T. Warren, J. Swain, E. R. Hall, E. Collier, H. C. Elkin, F. Wedlock, W. Davis, T. Roberts, W. Saddington, J. Spacey, J. Baldwin, W. Stanley, J. Brown, P. Hart, N. Cave and G. Biggs.

REFUGEE'S ROMANCE

TWO OF THE COALVILLE BELGIANS TO BE MARRIED

ANOTHER VISIT TO BROOM LEYS

(By our own Reporter)

A charming little romance in which are concerned two Belgian refugees staying at Broom Leys, Coalville, is shortly to have a fitting and interesting sequel to the accompaniment of wedding bells.

The happy couple, who were interviewed by the writer on Tuesday, are Bertha De Macsschalck and Froms Janssens, who both come from near Antwerp. Before having to flee for their lives as the Germans marched on the famous port, the prospective bride was in service as a parlour maid at a place called St. Nicholas, while her intended husband was following the occupation of a baker at Bouwel, about six hours journey from Antwerp. They were acquainted with each other for a few months before leaving Belgium and after the flight met in Holland, being there for about six weeks before they could get a boat to bring them to England. They travelled together, and cupid has since placed his seal upon the acquaintanceship thus happily, if somewhat tragic, renewed.

Asked when the happy day was to be, the young lady stated that it would be as soon as the necessary formalities required by the somewhat intricate marriage laws of Belgium had been complied with, and in this, assistance was being rendered by Father Degen, of the St. Saviour's Catholic Church, Coalville. It was explained that it is a much easier thing to be married in England than in Belgium, but as they are Belgian subjects and anticipate returning to their own country after the war, they desired the ceremony to be as it should be in accordance with Belgian law. This requires full names, ages, addresses, and occupations, not only of the couple concerned, but also of the parents, and birth certificates have to be produced. There was no such thing, they said, as getting married in Belgium under false names. The banns have to be published for three weeks, as in this country, and the first time of "asking" took place on Sunday last. In Belgium, couples are married by the Mayor as well as a clergyman and both sign the "marriage lines." The latter is altogether a more elaborate thing than the English certificate, taking the form of a cloth-bound booklet, in which are the particulars of the married couple, their parents, signatures of Mayor, clergyman, and registrar, and also similar spaces for the entry of similar details respecting the children who are issue of the marriage. A perusal of one of these unique marriage "certificates," handed to me by one of the married Belgians present, proved most interesting.

The whole of refugees, 74 in number, attended service at the Whitwick Holy Cross Catholic Church last Sunday morning, where Father O'Reilly preached. They are having a good time and very highly appreciate all the kindness being shown them. Many of them are receiving invitations out by residents of the district, all are being allowed to visit Coalville Electric and Olympia Picture Theatres, free of charge, while very few social functions or concerts are now taking place in the district but what the Belgians are invited to attend and one or two of them, who are no mean vocalists, have in turn repaid this kindly thought for their enjoyment by themselves contributing good items to the programme.

The caretaker at Broom Leys, Mr Hardwicke, states that the excellent behaviour of the refugees is being well maintained and they are very respectful to him and his wife, the matron, doing all they can to make the work

and conduct of the house go smoothly. When they arrived last Tuesday week, many of the refugees were very poorly clad, but thanks to the kindness of the people in Coalville and district in sending gifts of clothes, this difficulty was now being largely overcome and they were able to go out looking a little smarter. A number of them have very bad colds, doubtless due to the exposure to which they had been subject, and at the present time one man is confined to his bed. Dr. Wykes of Hugglescote, is giving his services as medical attendant. People have also been good in sending toys for the children. Just as Mr Hardwicke was communicating this fact to me a bonny little girl of about four years came and bade us "Good night" – the Belgians have got this off well now – and then made her way upstairs hugging a huge golliwog, and was followed by another wee little maiden who could hardly hold in her arms the Noah's ark which she was taking to bed with her.

The Belgians are great smokers and their friends have not forgotten them in this respect. They have been well supplied with tobacco and on Sunday several of them were enjoying choice cigars. Talking with some of the Belgians, with the aid of Mr Joseph Bogaerts, the Antwerp naval engineer, who speaks excellent English, I tried to ascertain what was their intentions for the future, and was informed that most of them are anticipating returning to their own country when the war is over. A good number of the male refugees are of military age and as conscription prevails in Belgium, some of them will doubtless be recalled for military service when they have fully recovered from their wounds should the war drag on. Already the police have had a communication from the Belgian Ambassador in London asking for full particulars of the men staying in Coalville. In one or two cases, young men have been exempted from further service. One of these is Houliers Gerard, who is a ladies' tailors cutter from Liege. He was 15 days in the trenches and for over two days and nights was up to his knees in water, which has considerably affected his health. He was also wounded in the thigh though not severely by a piece of shell. He is trying to improve his somewhat scanty knowledge of English and would stay in the country for a couple of years or so if he can get a situation in his trade. Another of the wounded refugees, Alexander Bernard, who has been exempted from further military service, was promoted on the battlefield from Sergt-Major to 2nd Lieutenant for an act of gallantry.

Several of the men are anxious to find work to save a few pounds to assist them in making a new start in life when they return to their native land. As Mr Bogaerts put it, "My house in Antwerp was shattered by the German guns and my home has gone. When I go back with my wife and family, I shall have to start afresh and get a new home together. So I shall be very pleased to do some work that I might save a little money during the few months I am here." Others gave expressions to similar sentiments. Mr Bogaerts also stated that his wife was an excellent cook and she, too, would be glad to do anything she could. One of the men has been doing a few jobs in the town as a painter.

Several of the refugees expressed pleasure at the article which appeared in last week's "Coalville Times," which was translated to them, one old gentleman remarking, "You put it in just as I told you." They were also pleased with our picture of Broom Leys and several of them have sent copies of the paper to their friends to show them what a fine house they are living in.

The members of the local committee are proving themselves very solicitous for the comfort of their guests. A tremendous amount of time and work is being given to the matter by the Chairman, Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., the hon. sec. Mr Edgar Hawthorn, the hon. treasurer, Mr J. Husband, and other members, and the smooth working of things thus far is simple proof of the success of their efforts.

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THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

Another of the series of war lectures was given in the Village Hall on Monday evening by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, the subject being "How the British soldier fights." Mr Ritchie presided and there was a large attendance. It was a most interesting lecture and was illustrated by some excellent slides, the lantern being ably managed by Messrs. H. Upton and W. Watts. Miss Maud Wheeldon, of Whitwick, nicely sang "England mine," and "Your King and country need you" for which she was encored. The chairman expressed thanks to the Vicar for the lecture. Nearly £3 was realised for the Prince of Wales's Fund.

COALVILLE

BELGIAN REFUGEE'S FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors for the Local Fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The Hon. Sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the result of the sixth collection £14 11s 4d from 13 districts (three not represented). This result was considered very satisfactory.

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BELTON

SOCIAL

At the Church of England Schools, Belton, on Wednesday evening, a largely attended social and dance took place in aid of the fund to provide the soldiers of Belton with comforts. The rector, the Rev. H. C. Deane, and Mrs Deane were present, the latter giving a recitation. Miss Chester, Mr A. Moore, and Mr P. Jeffcoat gave songs. Mr C. H. Smith (Hathern) was the pianist.

PRESENTATION OF "CITIZEN" BADGES AT THRINGSTONE

ROUSING SPEECH BY LADY BEAUMONT

An interesting event took place in the billiard room at the Thringstone House Club on Saturday night, when the members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens Corps, through the kindness of Commander B. Berry, were presented with nice badges by Lady Beaumont.

Capt. W. H. Stevenson presided and in opening the proceedings said he regarded that as a most historic evening for the Whitwick and Thringstone district. He went on to allude to the customs in olden times when the Barons living in their big castles used to have their bodyguards, but since those days no private person had been allowed to raise bodies of men for the purpose of taking up arms, and he ventured to say that had he ten or a dozen years ago, raised over 250 men in a Citizen's Corps as he had in that locality just lately, he would have been liable to a term of imprisonment. But the times were altered now. They were at war with a savage foe at whose head was a made emperor (hear, hear) and these citizens corps had been raised for two purposes. First to defend the old flag if needs be and secondly to defend their hearths and homes. At the present time no vessel was allowed to go through the Straits of Dover, or North of Yarmouth, without a Government pilot, which showed that the authorities thought an invasion of this country might be attempted. But before that was accomplished the enemy had to get past the thin British line which had never been broken. (Cheers) If invasion did come he ventured to say that the Citizen's Corps would give a good account of themselves, as the National Reserves were now doing. On August 7th he had instructions to call up the National Reserves and form them into two classes. Of the first class 88 from that district had rejoined their old regiments and over 100 of the second class were waiting to be called upon. He had no doubt that the Citizen Corps would prove a very useful body. Before many weeks were over they would have 400 German officers as prisoners not very far from there. The camp would be surrounded by a wire fence and would have to be guarded night and day and he ventured to say that some of the Citizen Corps would be used for that purpose. He went on to draw a picture of the signing of the peace treaty which would take place in the emperor's palace in Berlin, in which he imagined the Kaiser as protesting against the conditions imposed by Lord Kitchener and other representatives of the Allies. They would insist in their terms, however, and it was to enforce these that Lord Kitchener still wanted a huge army ready after the fighting was over. In the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps he believed there were at present 58 members, and no doubt the numbers would go on increasing. He then asked Lady Beaumont to distribute the badges.

Lady Beaumont said that when Mr Howe asked her to distribute the badges she replied that she would be most pleased to do so. She felt very deeply that everyone of them had a responsibility at this time. Women also could give of their best. She had only one son and she was sending him. (Applause) Some of them would not return and some would – that was as God wills it – but the great thing they had to be careful about was to see that they carried out the traditions of Englishmen and proved themselves worthy of their country. (Cheers) Our army and territorials were doing well but there were thousands and thousands who were not realising their duty. Every man in Germany was fighting, or ready to fight and so was every man in France

and Russia, but it was not so in England. There were hundreds of thousands in this country ready enough to sing "Rule Britannia," but were not ready enough to carry out what those words meant. If Englishmen everywhere were not determined to do their best there was not the slightest reason why we should not be conquered. Those who did not do their duty were not worthy of being called Englishmen. She was glad that the men before her were not of that type. Age had prevented them from joining the army, but they meant to do what they could, and try to persuade the younger men who had not gone to awaken to a sense of their duty. In most villages, Swannington included, there were many young men who ought to respond to their country's call and had not done so. She was recently talking to one young man who told her that he should not go till he was fetched. She hardly knew what to say and all she could say was "I am glad I am not your mother." (Cheers and laughter) She felt grieved. It showed that some did not care and had not realised the danger the country was in. It was simply stupid not to realise it. It was quite possible that England would be invaded. They knew that their navy was guarding them to the uttermost but they must be prepared for any eventuality. She thought it was splendid that so many had come forward for service in that corps. Unless men were enrolled and trained they were non-combatants and could not stir a finger because it would be against international law. She urged them to try and swell their numbers by each trying to induce another to join. If the country had listened to that fine old soldier, Lord Roberts (cheers) the position would have been very different. She was glad that she had always worked for the National Service League – Lord Robert's scheme – as much as she possibly could. (Cheers) Lord Roberts always said that the country would listen to him if it was allowed, but these in power said he was only a panic-monger, and an old woman, and that there was no danger, but had we been prepared it was doubtful whether Germany would have brought on this war. All they could do now was to try to make up for their carelessness and stupidity in ostrich-like hiding their heads in the sand before the approaching storm. Germany knew our weakness and thought England was no longer the country she formerly was; that Englishmen were no longer the men they used to be. They could say that Germany was mistaken, but still they had the responsibility for giving Germany cause to say that, and they would best discharge that responsibility by doing their duty now. (Cheers) She explained that Mr Berry had really given the badges and she was sure they would thank him most heartily and would be proud to wear the badges which showed they were prepared to do their duty in their country's defence. (Cheers)

Commander Berry, seconding, said they had the finest King on earth (hear, hear), they had got the finest country under the sun (applause) and without any flattery to himself he thought they were the finest people out of Heaven. (Laughter and cheers). If those three things were not worth fighting for, well the sooner they were wiped off the face of the earth the better. But he was sure that all Britons would do their duty. On behalf of the Corps he had pleasure in asking Lady Beaumont to accept one of the badges as a memento of the occasion and as a token of their good wishes towards her. (Cheers) The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

Lady Beaumont thanked them very much. She said she had not a buttonhole, but would have a little hole made so that she could wear the badge. She was pleased to see on the badge the Union Jack for which many brave men had died. She pointed out that there was a right way and a wrong way to hang the Union Jack. The broad white stripes should always be uppermost. If the thin white stripes were at the top it signalled defeat, and was how an enemy would hang the flag when he had captured it. She was told that by a sailor.

The Vicar, (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury), said there were advantages in having Citizen Corps. It showed that while they could not join the regular army they were prepared to do their little bit. He mentioned that the Thringstone schoolmaster had joined the Durham Light Infantry and in a letter said he found sleeping on the floor rather hard at first, but he liked it now and hoped the war would not be over before he got a chance of going to the front. He knew that some Whitwick and Thringstone men were at the front – Private West of Whitwick, Private Thomas Gee, of Thringstone, and others. He had in his magazine a list of all the men from the parish who had responded to their country's call and said all could do something to help those who were left behind. (Cheers)

Private A. H. Chapman, proposing a vote of thanks to Capt. Stevenson for presiding, said he would much rather have that little badge than all the iron crosses the Kaiser had ever made. (Laughter and Cheers) Private Blow seconded and the vote was heartily accorded, Capt. Stevenson responding. During the proceedings, Private West sang "Rule Britannia," Private Dickens gave "Hearts of Oak," and there were other contributions, Mr G. H. Hallam being the accompanist.

The National Anthem was sung at the close and three cheers given for Lady Beaumont. Her Ladyship said she had made many new friends that night and she hoped she would keep them all.

HALF BURTON'S MEN SERVING

Nearly half the adult male population of Burton-on-Trent is serving either with the regular forces or with organisations such as the National Reserve and the Volunteer Training Corps. Of the 9,000 or so men in the borough, the army has already claimed 3,000, and over 1,300 of these ineligible for enlistment are drilling with various bodies of semi-official nature.

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ARRIVAL OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT LEICESTER

On Saturday evening a Midland Red Cross train from Southampton, brought 180 sick and wounded British soldiers to Leicester, for treatment at 5th Northern Hospital. The men represented many of the army units who have taken part in the fighting near Ypres, and amongst them are a number of Sherwood Foresters. A considerable percentage was invalided home sick, and others were suffering from frost bite in the feet or hands. Of the wounded there were 50 cot cases. All the men bore traces of the hardships they had passed through, their uniforms in many instances being caked with mud. Mr A. W. Faire, the County Commissioner of the V.A.D., superintended the detraining of the men, who were served with hot tea on the platform, and then conveyed to the hospital in motor cars.

LEICESTER SOLDIER WOUNDED IN ELEVEN PLACES

One of the most remarkable escapes from death during the present war is that of Pte. E. Johnson, of Leicester, of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. In a letter from a hospital in France he writes to his wife: "I am not getting on too grand, but must look on the bright side of things, as I know a few Germans went under my rifle. I am wounded in nine places, and have such pains in my head that they nearly send me mad. My leg too, troubles me very much. I have three wounds in my leg, two in the head, one in my throat, one in my right hand, and two through the left arm."

In a later communication from one of the chaplains of the forces, the writer states that Johnson is actually wounded in eleven places.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

A letter posted three months ago to a private in the 1st Berkshire Regiment at the front has just reached him at his home in Banbury. He had been to the front, fought his battles and was invalided home while the Post Office were making ceaseless efforts to trace him.

About 200 parcels were packed up ready to despatch from the Coalville Recruiting Offices yesterday to the men of the 1st and 2nd Leicestershire Regiments at the front, the money for which was raised at a recent patriotic concert at the Olympia Theatre. The articles included socks, woollen vests, pants, mittens, body belts, sweaters, scarves, etc., and each parcel contained two or three, together with two cards, printed on one of which was the following:

"A present for the Leicestershire's at the front, December 1914. the residents of Coalville and District send their warmest greetings to you, wishing you every good luck and a safe return. The presents were given by your friends who are continually thinking and feel proud of the brave boys at the front. Will the receiver of this parcel kindly return the enclosed card notifying its safe arrival. – Capt. Stevenson, R. Blower, W. Baldwin, recruiting committee, Hotel Street, Coalville, Leicestershire."

The other card had the name and address of Capt. Stevenson printed on it and space for the name of the recipient and any remarks he wished to make.

Writing from 501 Polson Avenue, Winnipeg, Canada, Mrs Margaron, who is a daughter of the late Mr James Burton of Hugglescote, and a sister of the Hugglescote and Ellistown band master, states that no doubt friends in Coalville and Hugglescote will be interested to know that her husband, Mr Freeman Margaron, has volunteered for military service. He was one of the 50 men selected from the Winnipeg 2nd Field Troop of

Engineers, who have now joined the Corps of Engineers mobilized in connection with Canada's Second Expeditionary Force, and will be kept in active training (now at Ottawa) until the departure of the force from Canada. Mr Margarson is a telephone engineer and hopes to serve his King and Country in that capacity at the front.

The ladies of Market Bosworth being anxious to assist all they can in connection with the war in dealing with the wounded, formed themselves into an ambulance class and were fortunate in securing Mrs Keeling, wife of the doctor as instructress. The class has just completed its meetings and to mark their appreciation of the services of Mrs Keeling, the members have presented her with a time piece. Miss Hartshorne made the presentation.

Capt. Stevenson informs us that the "patriotic" prize-drawing will take place at the Coalville Olympia tonight and the result will be announced there and in our next issue.

BAGWORTH

FLOWER SHOW

On Saturday evening a meeting in connection with the flower show was held in the Plough club-room, Mr H. Ball presiding. Mr Ball was re-elected Chairman, Mr E. Smith vice-chairman, Mr H. Cherrey, secretary, and Mr T. H. Smith treasurer, and a working committee to draft out a proposed schedule of prizes for the next show. It was decided to hold the next show in August. The secretary stated that special prizes had been offered, and he had accepted them, and his action was approved. Mr H. Cherrey was presented with a fountain pen for the services he had rendered as secretary for the committee for the first show, which had proved quite a success. From the proceeds from the show, the sum of £3 3s had been given to the National Relief Fund.

WHITWICK

WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive was held in the National School on Wednesday night to provide comforts for wounded soldiers in hospital. About 70 were present. Mr T. W. Bourne was M.C. The winners were:
Ladies: 1st Miss L. Middleton; 2nd Mrs Greasley; 3rd Miss N. Glynn:
Gents: 1st Mr B. Ward; 2nd Mr H. Hicken; 3rd Mr A. Smith: and mystery, Mr J. King.

DO YOU KNOW

That the members of the Coalville Citizen Corps have received their badges?

That one of the Belgian refugees at Ravenstone has again been called up for military service?

That Corps is pronounced "kore," not "Corpse" as is so frequently heard since the Citizens have come into prominence?

That the Committee of the Coalville Co-Operative Society have decided to give all the Belgian refugees in the district a tea at the Adult School Hall tomorrow week?

That Pte. Hancock, of Ravenstone, and Pte. Wilson, of Coalville, of the Coldstream Guards who were both injured in the fighting on the continent and have recovered, have left home to rejoin their regiments this week?

CONCERT

A successful concert was given in the Coalville Adult School Hall on Wednesday evening by the pupils of Lidgely's studios of Music, Leicester. The proceeds being for the local Belgian refugees fund. There was a capital attendance, including some of the refugees. Mr Sanders Papworth, was the leader, and Miss Annie Dyer the pianist, the following being the programme:

Polka March "Raglan", Orchestra; song, "Constancy," Miss G. Mann; mandolin solo, "Annie Laurie," Sanders Papworth; duet, "Convent Bells," Misses Eames and Mann; waltz, "Springtime," Orchestra; recitation, "Comrades," Miss G. Mann; banjo solo march, "Under the Double Eagle," Sanders Papworth; march, "The State Express," Lyric Mandolin Club (Messrs. Haslegrave, Shaw, and Rose); march, "Cromwell," Orchestra; song, "My little grey home in the west," Miss G. Mann; banjo solo, march, "Stars and Stripes," Sanders Papworth; song, "Your King and Country need you," Mr A. Shaw; march, "En Ronte," Lyric Mandolin Club; march, "The Terriers," Orchestra; and God Save the King.

ASHBY

News has been received by Mr Joseph Kitchen, of Hilton's Yard, Ashby, that his son, Pte. Harry Kitchen, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, was killed in action on November 18th.

Pte. Kitchen was 29, and after serving nine years with his regiment in India and South Africa, he went to Canada about twelve months ago, where he married. When the war broke out he answered the call on reservists and rejoined his regiment, which was ordered to the front.

Kitchen was a scholar at the Blue Coat School, under Mr Morley, afterwards working for Mr T. Radford, of the Hall Farm, Coleorton. He enlisted when he was 19.

RAVENSTONE SOLDIER KILLED

We regret to learn that Mr and Mrs J. Andrews of Ravenstone, have received a notification from the War Office that their son, Lance-Corpl. J. C. Andrews, of the 1st Beds. Regt., has been killed in action. No details are given. Andrews, who had been in the army about three years, had recently been promoted from private. He has a brother in the Territorials. A portrait of Andrews will appear in our next issue.

IBSTOCK

BELGIAN REFUGEES

A good number of Ibstock people are taking an active interest in the Belgian refugees staying at Sefton House, Barlestone, entertaining them to tea on Sundays and visiting them during the week, and in spite of the language difficulty they are learning some dreadful things which the refugees have had to bear at the hands of the Germans. The host and hostess of a couple of Belgian ladies last Sunday was told by their visitors that their parents and two brothers were shot dead at Antwerp by German Officers simply because they refused to enter their service.

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COALVILLE BELGIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE'S THANKS

Dear Sir,

The Belgian Refugees Committee desire through the medium of your paper to thank the public of Coalville and District for the generous response they have made to the Committee's appeal for furniture and funds towards providing a home for the unfortunate Belgians.

There are now in residence at Broom Leys, 50 men, 11 women and 11 children, many of whom are in sore need of warm clothing. The Committee therefore appeal to the generous public for gifts of clothing, so that the refugees, many of whom are soldiers recovering from wounds, may be comfortably clad.

The immediate needs are as follows:- 12 overcoats, 30 jackets, 30 waistcoats, 30 pairs trousers, 20 woollen shirts, 40 pairs woollen pants, 57 woollen undervests, 40 pairs stockings, 60 handkerchiefs, 26 soft felt hats, 26 caps, 32 pairs boots, 66 pairs half-hose, 48 ties, 45 soft collars and 24 woollen scarves.

All parcels should be addressed to me at 12, Market Place, Coalville, and should bear on the outside the name and address of the donor, so that due acknowledgment may be sent.

Thanking you, Mr Editor, for the insertion of this appeal. I am, yours faithfully.

Edgar Hawthorn
Hon. Sec.
December 3rd, 1914.

SOLDIERS' SINGING CONTEST

Dear Sir,

A singing contest was held here (Sawbridgeworth, Herts.) on December 1st, open to the 5th Battalion of the Leicesters. The prize winners were as follows:

1st, a safety razor and case, Pte. Eastwood, F. Company; 2nd, a silver mounted cigarette case, Pte. C. H. Baker, A. Company; 3rd, a silver mounted pipe, Sergeant Perkins.

From A Coalville Lad

LEICESTERSHIRE MINERS' ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

At the monthly Council meeting of the Leicestershire Miners' Association, on Friday night, Mr John Wilton presiding, the committee appointed to deal with the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund was also delegated to consider the question of the local Belgian refugees fund in the Desford, Ibstock and Coalville districts and report to the Council, also to make enquiries as to the rate of wages paid to any refugees who may be working in or about the mines.

ADULT SCHOOL AND THE WAR

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The December number of the "One and All" has the following Christmas message to all Adult School men in khaki and on "active service" for their country.

Comrades, Very many of you have gone from our schools to undertake new and heavy responsibilities, to endure hardships and dangers to offer, if need be, life itself for the cause in which our country is fighting.

We who remain at home are deeply conscious of your sacrifice and service. We remember you with affection every day that passes, desiring high and noble things for you. But especially at this time, when Christmas draws near when home circles will seem so strangely incomplete lacking you and your comrades in arms, we think lovingly of you and send out to you strong thoughts of hope and cheer and courage.

Whether you are engaged in service "at the front" or in the trying and difficult work of preparation and training, we trust that you may find inspiration in the memories of the happy hours we have spent together in our schools, classes and clubs, that the lessons of life which we studied together may strengthen you to meet new occasions and new duties and that at no distant date we may welcome you back to our homes and schools.

We use few words to assure you of all our love, and hopes, and prayers on your behalf. We would add yet these; "Pray ye also for us, that we may all be made worthy of this immeasurable sacrifice of life." Bound with you in a fellowship that no distance can sever – We are, very sincerely.

A BRAVE COALVILLE "TOMMY"

THE ONLY ONE SAVED FROM A WHOLE BATTERY

An interesting letter has been received by Mr J. Scrivens, of 134, Margaret Street, Coalville, from his son's wife, who resides at 15, Athol Terrace, Egypt Road, Basford, Nottingham, which describes a thrilling escape of her husband from death in the fighting on the Continent.

The soldier referred to is Driver James Scrivens, of the 16th Battery, 41st Brigade, 2nd Division Army Corps, Royal Field Artillery.

He was working at the Dye Works, New Basford, at the outbreak of the war and was called up as a reservist. He has been in several engagements and is now in hospital at Rouen, wounded in the back.

His wife writes, "We have something to be thankful for, as the Germans cut up all the 16th Battery but Jim and Lieut. Oswald Anne. The Germans put all the guns out of action but one, and Jim and the Lieutenant stuck to it until the infantry came up and threw the enemy back. We may have Jim home for Christmas and it would be a godsend. I had a letter from him on Saturday and he is going on all right. They have removed him to the hospital at Rouen."



COALVILLE BROTHERS AT THE FRONT

ONE OF THEM WOUNDED

Lance-Corporal Arthur Ballard, who with his brother Levi (a private), is serving in France with the 2nd Leicesters, writes to his brother, Mr Ballard, of 53, Long Row, Coalville, on November 26th stating that he and Levi were in good health and having a little rest after being in the firing line. They expected to go in the trenches again in a little while, but were thankful for having come out all right up to now. He proceeds, "I cannot tell you anything else only that we are well fed and clothed and have no cause to grumble in the least. I shall have a lot to tell you when it is all over, if we come out safe, as we hope we shall, but in any case, it is for a good cause and right will win."



In a subsequent letter dated December 2nd, Ballard, having expressed thanks for a parcel received, says he has a little bad news and that was to tell them that Levi had been wounded in the hand. They were not to worry, however, as he did not think it was very bad. He did not know where they had sent him and could not tell them any more.

The Ballards were both in India when the war broke out and the lance-corporal would have finished his seven years in the army last October, six years having been spent in India. Private Ballard has served about four years, of which three have been spent in India.

BURIED BY A SHELL

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S "NOVEL EXPERIENCE"

Mr W. Wesson, of 108, Margaret Street, Coalville, has received a letter from his son, Harry, with the British Expeditionary Force stating that he is still in the best of health, except that he had a little misfortune in falling on an opened tin and cutting his thumb. He had started to use it again now. Alf was in hospital with frost bitten feet and so he could not say how he was getting on. The letter, which is dated November 29th, proceeds, "We had our first time in the trenches a little over a week ago. I had a novel experience. I was in a reserve place along with 6 others, when we got buried through a shell falling near. Luckily, no one was hurt, but it was a bit of a shock. It was then that I cut my thumb."

In another letter to relatives Mr and Mrs Harrison of Main Street, Ravenstone, Wesson speaks of his baptism of fire, when he was "buried," as above referred to, and says they had quite a hot time of it. "Shells were bursting all around us for a time, but our artillery soon put a stop to them." In jocular vein he adds, "We have a good chance of a medal and perhaps a wooden leg now so keep your eyes on the roll in the papers, I am looking forward to a German pie as I am fed up with German sausage. We are all enjoying ourselves and that is more than some not many yards from my here can say."

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S OPTIMISM

HAS NO DOUBT WHO WILL WIN

Private A. Edwards with the No. 4 Signal Section, British Expeditionary Force, writing to his sister, Mrs G. Ward of Oxford Street, Coalville, on November 30th, says that the snow had all cleared away from the battlefield, but they were having rain and it was very windy. However, he was well prepared for the cold weather and did not think he would take much harm. The country there was beginning to look a bit more settled, but it would be a long time before Belgium assumed anything like its usual aspect. He proceeds, "I feel awfully sorry for the Belgian refugees. I suppose they are quite pleased to be where they are safe from the Huns, and I expect some of them will want to stay in England after the war is over. I suppose you have seen by the papers that things are looking very favourable for the Allies and I have no doubt who will be victorious in the end. Bill (the Kaiser) has had one or two big shocks lately."

IBSTOCK YEOMAN IN THE TRENCHES

Mr George Morton, fruiterer, Ibstock, has received the following from Trooper J. W. Dawson, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, C. Squadron, now on active service who writes: "Just a line to say I am alright. We have not had much time for writing much the last few days but are now getting a rest. We have had a rough time for a week in the trenches under heavy fire, but were very fortunate to only have one casualty. The weather is cold and wintry. We have plenty of under-clothing and food but I should like a bit of your chocolate sometimes. Remember me to all the boys at Ibstock."

COALVILLE REFUGEE'S HARD CASE

HOTEL PROPRIETOR'S HEAVY LOSSES

INTERESTING EVENTS AT BROOM LEYS

The more one gets to know of the experiences of the seventy odd Coalville refugees the more one is impressed by the terrible hardships which these unfortunate people have had to undergo, and the more one realises the indebtedness of England to the little country across the North Sea, whose sons fought so heroically in the opening stages of the war and are still adding to their laurels in the Allied Forces.

In another visit to Broom Leys on Tuesday the writer made the acquaintance of M. Jean Gaspers, who is staying there with his wife and 2 children and who was formerly a hotel proprietor, at Herve, near Liege. M. Gaspers, some twenty years ago, was a waiter in England, holding positions in London, Harrowgate and Swansea and though he has forgotten much of it, he speaks the English language very well. Herve, we were informed, was a prosperous little town of about 5,000 inhabitants close to Liege. His house was the Hotel du Chemin de fer, Café Restaurant, which, as his business card states, was en face de la gare (opposite the station). He had an excellent business there, the hotel building, which was his own property, being worth

£4,000. This has been totally destroyed by the "cultured" huns and M. Gaspers, like thousands of his fellow countrymen, finds himself an exile, homeless, his wealth all gone and – nay, not friendless, for he says he has found some splendid friends in England and that this is a fine country to be in. One could only marvel at the cheerfulness of a man with such bitter memories.

In the course of our conversation, M. Gaspers stated that it was at his hotel that the general of the invading forces – General Von Emish – passed his first night on entry into the town. That was on August 4th. "Mine host" treated his visitor well, but next day, had to flee for his life, with hundreds of others, leaving everything behind. In this little town, said M. Gaspers, 327 houses were burnt down, his hotel being among them. His own words were:

"My house was worth £4,000, but everything has gone and we have got nothing. We were in the house for nearly two hours while it was burning. And all this without any reason." Herve, it was stated, was a manufacturing town, chiefly boots and shoes, and there were also collieries in the neighbourhood.

There was a fresh arrival at Broom Leys on Tuesday and one departure – the old lady of the party who had gone to reside with a relative in Dartford, Kent. Two of the men started work at Whitwick Colliery on Wednesday, and one is likely to commence work as a baker in the town next week. The latter by-the-way is the man who is shortly to be married. The arrangements for the wedding are proceeding, but Father Degen informs us that owing to the formalities which have to be gone through in accordance with Belgian law, they have not yet been able to fix the date. He is in correspondence with the Belgian Consul in London on this matter.

Events at Broom Leys during the week have considerably contributed to the enjoyment of the party. A bagatelle table has been installed and is very popular, while the piano, kindly lent by Mr J. Johnson, of the Coalville Electric Theatre, has arrived, and is much appreciated. On Tuesday night, Miss Doris Lindley played and sang to the refugees, who joined heartily in the chorus of "Tipperary," which they have well off by heart. Dancing was also indulged in.

On Sunday morning the refugees went to Mass at the Whitwick Holy Cross Church, the lame soldiers being conveyed in a brake sent by Father O'Reilly, and in accordance with an arrangement by Mrs J. J. Sharp on Sunday afternoon, one of the Coalville motor "busses" conveyed the party to a patriotic concert at Whitwick. Sunday was a busy day for Mr and Mrs Hardwicke, the master and matron, as most of their charges had invitations out to tea, and many of them were called for and had to be introduced, while others were given directions as to their destination.

The medical attendant, Dr. Wykes, of Hugglescote, informs us that on the whole the health of the refugees is good. Some of them have colds, but there is now no 'bed cases.'

Our old friend Joseph Bogaerts is still very anxious to find work. He is the Antwerp naval engineer to whom we have previously referred, and he is willing to try any kind of work that he could do. He speaks four languages, English, French, Flemish and Spanish.

The Committee had a meeting at Broom Leys on Tuesday night presided over by Mr W. Lindley, J.P. There was a good attendance, the members evidently all being anxious to see that everything goes on smoothly and their services are much appreciated. As will be seen in another column the committee are appealing for articles of clothing which are badly needed.

BELGIANS AT BARLESTONE

The following list of the Belgian refugees at Sefton House, Barlestone who are being maintained by the Ibstock Committee.

M. Jules Cappaert, Madame Philomene Cappaert, from Antwerp. M. Joseph Haesen, Frans Haesen and Joseph Haesen (sons of the above) from Antwerp. M. Guillaume Borghs, Madame Isabella Borghs, Joanna Borghs (daughter of the above), Joseph Borghs (son of the above), from Antwerp. Mademoiselle Marie Ceuppers, from Antwerp. Madame Marie Gisset, from Liege. Madame Henrietta Dombret, from Liege. M. Frederic Leneers, from Antwerp. M. Marcel Van Crumbruggen, from Antwerp. M. Victor Boulet, from Liege.

HEARTY SEND-OFF TO COALVILLE TERRITORIALS

LEFT FOR LOUGHBOROUGH ON MONDAY

Enthusiastic scenes were witnessed at Coalville on Monday afternoon in connection with the departure of the local company of Territorial reserves for Loughborough. The men, who numbered about 180, paraded in the Marlborough Square, in the presence of a large crowd. Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, complimented Coalville on having done so well, and these lads in particular on their smartness and progress made in the drills. He said they were going to Loughborough that day, and after a time would go to Luton, and then probably to the front.

The recruits then marched to Coalville East Station, headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Silver Prize Band playing "Tipperary" and other patriotic airs. A crowd of many hundreds assembled at the station to give them a hearty send-off. They were conveyed by special train and before it moved out, Mr R. Blower (Chairman of the Coalville Urban Council) called for three cheers for the boys which were lustily given and the band played "Auld Lang Syne."

PATRIOTIC CONCERT AT WHITWICK

SUCCESSFUL EFFORT FOR THE LOCAL YEOMANRY

It was estimated that about 800 people were present on Sunday afternoon at a patriotic concert, organised by Mrs J. J. Sharp and others, at the Whitwick Holy Cross School, with the object of providing comforts for the C. Squadron of the Leicestershire Yeomanry now at the front. Remarkable enthusiasm was displayed and the event was a great success.

The members of the Coalville Citizen Corps marched from Coalville headed by the Coronation Brass Band, and the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps were also present after having paraded the district to the strains of the Whitwick Holy Cross Band. The large central hall of the school was packed.

Col. E. M. P. de Lisle presided and was supported by his son, Sub-Lieut. E. de Lisle, who has joined the Melton squadron of the Yeomanry, the Right Hon. Charles Booth, and Capt. W. E. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer, and there were also on the platform a number of the Belgian refugees.

The Chairman, in the course of a short speech, referred to the excellent work of the Leicestershire Yeomanry and the hardships being undergone at the front. He was proud to have belonged to the Yeomanry for 24 years and regretted that he could not be with them now.

Capt. Stevenson made one of his characteristic speeches, appealing to the patriotism of the young men of the district and the key note of the meeting was struck by the Right Hon. Charles Booth, who said they all had to put to themselves the question, "What can I do?" The musical programme opened with the singing of the Russian National Anthem as a duet by Mrs J. J. Sharp and Mr J. Clarke; Mrs Payne, of Leicester, a talented performer on the violin gave an exquisite solo; Miss Burkitt nicely sang "Civilians All"; a capital cornet solo was given by Mr J. W. Burton, the master of the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band; Mrs Hatter's fine recitation, "The Victoria Cross" won for the Hugglescote lady loud and well deserved applause.

In the interval came the speeches, above referred to and the second part of the programme was opened with a finely executed violin solo by Mr Denis Hubert, a Belgian refugee from Shepshed; other items much enjoyed were Mrs Sharp's song, "Your King and Country need you" and songs by Mrs G. F. Burton, Mr Lawrence Gough, and "The Marseilles" by Mr Lidster, of Quorn, the closing piece being the British National Anthem.

Father O'Reilly proposed a vote of thanks to Mr de Lisle and also spoke of the good work of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, emphasising the excellence of the object for which they had met that day. The vote was heartily accorded and thanks were also expressed to all who had assisted. Admission to the concert was by silver collection, and this, with a few subscriptions, including £2 from the Whitwick Holy Cross school children, realised the splendid sum of £18 2s, in addition to which a few gifts were also taken.

The promoters of the concert are to be heartily congratulated on this excellent result. The money is being forwarded to Col. Franke to be spent in comforts for the men.

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ASHBY POLICE COURT

Saturday – Before Mr George Moore (in the chair) Major Hatchett, Mr J. German, Mr J. Turner and Mr T. Dennis.

Attempted Suicide

Harry Lewis (60), shoemaker, Ashby, was charged with attempted suicide at Ashby on November 25th. P.S. Fox stated that the prisoner was found in a hut on the Moira Road allotments with his throat cut. He said he had committed the deed with a boot maker's knife. His condition was then serious, he was removed to the hospital. Defendant had since told witness that he was sorry. He had been ill and was worried by the war, a son of his having gone to the front.

The prisoner was discharged and handed over to friends, the costs 8s 6d being remitted.

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LEICESTER MAN KILLED IN NAVAL BATTLE

Private Walter J. Kind, of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, a Leicester man whose relatives reside at Wellington Street, is reported by the Admiralty as one of the seven killed in the action by Vice-Admiral Sturdee's squadron off the Falkland Islands on December 8th.

MARKFIELD'S ROLL OF HONOUR

The following is the roll of honour for Markfield District:

H. Spiby, H. Spence, J. Simons, A. Hewitt and F. Bott (Yeomanry), A. Hull (17th Hussars), H. Bott (R.F.A.) (wounded), G. Wood (Coldstreams) (disabled), E. Williamson (Hussars) (reported killed), F. S. Nix (1st Leicesters), George Hadley and George Moyser, R.N. (the former interned in Holland), Joseph Bent (Reservist), Lieutenant Haynes (Medical Officer, 4th Leicesters), Second-Lieutenant R. Prevelt (5th K.O.Y.L.A.) R. Clapham and Clapham (Yeomanry), P. L. Preston, A. Bailey, L. Bailey, H. Boyles, J. Brooks, H. Arnold, J. Cave, E. Wylds, H. Kirk, W. Haynes, F. G. Pearce, J. Walton, T. Wardle, G. Haywood, and A. Wardle (Kitchener's Army), B. C. Gibbins, J. Wells, A. P. Bott, R. Irons, A. J. Windram, E. Bott, H. Bott, and R. Swain (Territorials), S. Bott (R.F. Artillery), Percy Tyers (Reservist), A. Cave (Grenadiers), W. Sibson (Leicesters), H. A. V. Hull (3rd Beds), W. Higgs (R.N.), W. Chapman, E. Wardle (R.E.), Rev. H. K. Bros (Chaplin Yeomanry), T. Woodford and William Shelton (A.S.C.), and A. H. Mason (9th Leicesters).

BARTON-IN-THE-BEANS

WAR FUND

A meeting was held in the Day School on Monday, December 7th to consider how the money amounting to £3, collected by the women of the village, and a few others in the district during the month of November, should be spent. It was decided to send Christmas parcels containing socks and various other comforts, to Mr F. Thompson, of the Leicester Yeomanry, and to our young men who have left the neighbourhood to serve their country. A further sum of £4 11s which had been collected in the same way was sent to the "Daily Express" blanket fund. It was decided to continue these collections during the winter.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

On Saturday last, a visitor to Coalville lost a lady's handbag containing over 20s and reported her loss to the Police. Later in the day, the bag, with the contents intact, was taken to the Police station by two of the Belgian refugees staying at Broom Leys, who had picked it up in the street. The two Belgians were Jellis Corneel, and Gustaaf Newenhuysen.

Mrs S. A. Corfield, of Fudge Row, Markfield, has three sons who passed through the Boer War, and two sons now on active service, one in West Africa and the other with the 3rd Leicesters. A third has joined the Leicester Citizen Corps. Two grandsons and six nephews responded to their country's call. One of the grandsons is in the Flying Corps, and the other with the Leicestershire Territorials. One of the nephews, William Millichap, aged 33, died recently, following a wound in the foot, and another, J. B. Millichap, is seriously wounded in the thigh. Mrs Corfield possesses an interesting letter, dated 29th October, 1900, from the late Queen Victoria, in which the Queen expressed her gratification on learning that Mrs Corfield had five sons in the army, and notified the sending of a P.O.O. for £3 as a mark of her Majesty's appreciation of this interesting fact. Mrs Corfield is 67 years of age and has been a widow many years.

Loughborough can claim some measure of connection with two of the most important naval events in the war in the fact that both the admirals concerned have relatives in the town. Admiral Cradock being a cousin of Miss Cradock, and the Quorn family of that name, and Admiral Sturdee being cousin to Rev. R. J. Sturdee, vicar of St. Peters.

Coalville readers will be interested to learn that Master W. H. King, Springstone Avenue, Ossett, Yorks, who raised £4 0s 7d for Princess Mary's fund for Christmas gifts to soldiers and sailors, has received the following letter:-

Buckingham Palace – Mr E. W. Wallington is desired by Princess Mary to convey her best thanks to Master William H. King for the splendid contribution he has so kindly made towards Her Royal Highness's sailors' and soldiers' Christmas fund, and to assure him that Princess Mary very much appreciates his efforts in so materially assisting her fund. 5th December, 1914.

Master King is a son of Mr King, insurance superintendent, who formerly lived at Bardon View, London Road, Coalville, leaving here about 12 months ago.

DO YOU KNOW

That the bagatelle table at Broom Leys, which is being much appreciated by the refugees, has been lent by the Coalville Y.M.C.A.?

That the Coalville Town and Swifts football match on Saturday last was witnessed by some of the Belgian refugees?

That 291 Leicestershire Adult School men, including a number from Coalville, are serving with the colours?

That arrangements are being made for a big patriotic concert in the Whitwick Picture Theatre on Christmas night?

That one hundred and nine members of the Shepshed Conservative Club are now with His Majesty's forces?

That the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild are arranging for a great whist drive and social in the Bridge Road Council School on New Year's Eve?

That about a dozen more Belgian refugees arrived at Ashby on Monday and are being accommodated with the others at St. Helen's House?

That about a thousand soldiers (Royal Engineers) and three hundred horses are to be billeted at Ashby and will probably stay a month or more?

That the 16th batch of wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester on Wednesday night, 180 in number, including several cases of frostbite?

That Mrs Blythe has handed over the excellent sum of £6 18s to the Soldiers' Comforts Guild as a result of the recent social at Ellistown?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

At a meeting of the Coalville collectors for this fund at the Adult School Hall on Monday evening, Mr A. Lockwood presided and also present were Capt. McKernon and the Hon. Secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver). It was reported that the result of the seventh weekly collection was £11 12s 10d which included £1 3s 1d collected at the Victoria Hotel per Mr G. Bramwell. Thirteen districts were represented at the meeting.

HUGGLESCOTE SELECT DANCING CLASS

In connection with the above a Christmas Dance will be held in the Church of England Schools on Monday, December 28th, 1914, 7.30 until 1 o'clock. Proceeds in aid of the funds for providing comforts for Leicestershire soldiers and sailors. Tickets 1s each, may be obtained at the class, or from Mr George Choyce and Miss Choyce. Refreshments at moderate charges.

THRINGSTONE SCHOOLMASTER KILLED

The sad news was received at Thringstone yesterday afternoon that during the German bombardment of Hartlepool, the Thringstone Church schoolmaster, Mr T. Jones, was killed. A telegram to this effect was received by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, from his old Vicar, of St. Aidans, West Hartlepool. It stated that Mr Jones was killed at his post.

Mr Jones came to Thringstone about a year ago. He volunteered for service in connection with the war leaving Thringstone early in October, and he joined as a private in the County Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. The men had been training near Durham and were recently moved to West Hartlepool.

The deceased wrote several letters to the Rev. C. Shrewsbury, all of a very cheery nature. He was a good sportsman and last season played with the Coalville Rugby Club. In the short time he had been at Thringstone he had made many friends and was very popular. His death will be much deplored. It is rather a coincidence that his military duties should have taken him to West Hartlepool, the same town where he was following his scholastic profession before coming to Thringstone. He has a brother at the front, in the Grenadier Guards. Mr Jones was 28 years of age and single.

MUSICAL EVENING AT BROOM LEYS

REFUGEES ENJOYING THEMSELVES

DATE OF WEDDING FIXED

Everything is proceeding satisfactorily at Broom Leys, Coalville, where seventy odd Belgian refugees have formed themselves into a happy family. Many of them have already made friends in the district and on Sunday afternoon practically the whole of them were invited out to tea. Four of the men a few days ago started work at the Whitwick Colliery and arrangements were made for four more to commence yesterday. The baker, who is to be married shortly, unfortunately met with a nasty accident on Sunday morning. He was operating the bread slicing machine when he cut a small piece off the end of the second finger of his left hand. The poor fellow was very downcast at this misfortune, the more so because at midnight on Sunday he was to have started work in the bakery at the Co-Operative stores. His accident has delayed his commencing work, upon which he is very keen. The wedding has been fixed for Thursday, January 7th. Father Degen has completed all the necessary arrangements, except that it is not yet definitely known whether the ceremony will be at St. Saviour's Church, Coalville, or Holy Cross, Whitwick. Mr Joseph Allread, of the Highfields Nurseries has kindly promised to give a bouquet. A gift of a wedding ring would be welcomed.

Readers will regret to learn that M. Joseph Bogaerts, who has acted as interpreter for the party is in bed with influenza, but this is the only case of any of the party being confined to the house through illness. One of the

refugees left on Tuesday morning having obtained a situation at Coventry. Another man left the same day with the object of returning to Belgium in order, if possible, to find his wife and children as to whose fate he was much concerned. There were also two fresh arrivals on Tuesday – two ladies from Earl's Court. One of them is the mother and the other the cousin of one of the young men already at Broom Leys, and, anxious to see him, they came on a visit but we understand the committee are trying to arrange for them to stay, as they brought the news that there were still a large number of refugees congregated at Earl's Court waiting to be sent to homes in the country.

It ought to be mentioned that Mr Walter Higgins, of High Street, Coalville, and his staff are rendering excellent service free to the refugees in their application of the tonsorial art. Twice a week – on Wednesday and Sunday – Mr Higgins and his assistants are shaving some forty or fifty men besides cutting hair as required, which is no light task but is cheerfully and willingly undertaken.

A great event took place on Tuesday evening. The committee, with the kindly thought and consideration which has characterised all their dealings with the refugees, had arranged a musical evening, under the presidency of Mr J. Husband, and the party had quite a jolly time. The large room made an excellent concert hall and the musical talent of Coalville was well represented in the programme, while several of the Belgians themselves also contributed capital items. It is surprising to note how rapidly several of Coalville's guests from abroad are picking up our language, and when Miss Hawthorn sang "Tipperary," they all took up the chorus in excellent English and with much gusto. Miss Doris Lindley nicely sang, "The Rosary" both in English and French, and Mrs Percy Brown gave an excellent rendering of the now popular patriotic song, "Your King and country need you" and followed this with the pretty song "Until." Mr R. J. Brown gave "A little soldier man," and Mr Walter Brown was prevailed upon to give his old favourite "Simon the cellarer," which he did in fine style. There was also a violin solo by Mr H. R. Brown and a piano and mandolin duet by two Coalville boys, Masters Leslie and Archie Dable. Some of the items by the Belgians were in character and were most amusing. Mr Sidney Brown was the accompanist.

Mr William Hurst played the accompaniment for the "Brabanconne" (the Belgian National Anthem) which the company heartily sang, and the "Marseillaise" (the French National Anthem) which went with even greater gusto, and when this had finished there were cries of "l'Anglais," and the British National Anthem was also enthusiastically sung.

During an interval, Mr Walter Brown said that when they went back to their native land, he hoped they would think of their friends at Coalville, who tried to entertain them, who were pleased to see them and who sympathised with them in all their trials. This nice little speech, when translated by M. Lauwers, the old man of the party, was received with great applause.

Through the same interpreter, the company at the close accorded a hearty vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the evening's enjoyment. Mr Walter Lindley (Chairman of the Committee) responding, said that if they had enjoyed themselves he was sure the artists would be delighted. They were only pleased that Coalville was able to entertain so many of their friends from Belgium and he hoped they would all continue to enjoy themselves, and at the same time do all they could to make the domestic arrangements of the house go smoothly. Nothing the committee could do for them would be too much. As they had enjoyed themselves so much that night, the committee had arranged for another musical evening on January 4th. They thought it would be best to leave it till then as probably several of them would be invited out for Xmas day by friends in the district.

This intimation having been translated there seemed to be a little doubt as to the date, January 4th, but it ultimately was made clear. "Comprenez?" asked Mr Lindley in admirable French. "Oui, Oui," was the enthusiastic reply.

MONSTER CONCERT AT COALVILLE

IN AID OF THE BELGIAN REFUGEE'S FUND

When it became known that Coalville had launched upon a scheme to entertain Belgian refugees on a large scale and that an appeal was being made for funds, it occurred to the members of the Coalville Philharmonic Society that considerable assistance might be rendered the object by organising a big musical event. In order to make it as popular and representative as possible, the society decided to invite all the choirs of the district and any interested in music to join them, with the result that there was a splendid response and

practices which have been going on for some weeks had a happy and successful culmination in the Coalville Olympia last night. The success achieved could not have been accomplished, but for the kindness of Mr McDonald, the lessee, in lending the theatre, a splendid building for the occasion, which was simply packed, the audience probably approaching two thousand people.

The promoters were fortunate in securing the services of artistes who are strongly established favourites with Coalville audiences. Miss Lysette Mostyn, (contralto), Mr Charles Keywood (bass) and Herr. Theo Kienle (the well known Swiss violinist) are all artistes of the first class who have delighted Coalville people on previous occasions and last night considerably enhanced their local reputation. The programme opened with the singing of the British National Anthem, in which the audience joined and Mr Keywood was vociferously encored for his song, "England Mine," singing in response, "Dusk and the shadows falling." As he was down for still two more items on the programme, for another of which he was encored, it made five items in all by this talented artiste, even then the audience, Oliver Twist like, would still have had more. As an encore for his rendering of "The Trumpeter," Mr Keywood gave the still more pleasing item, "There's a land," and his last contribution was "Son of mine." Miss Mostyn sang with much sweetness and feeling, "Christina's Lament," and was several times recalled, but with two more items to come from this lady and a lengthy programme the audience had to be denied the encore song they would fain have had. Miss Mostyn was even more successful in her other numbers, "Shepherd's cradle song," and "Land of Hope and Glory," the company finally taking up the chorus of Elgar's popular song with much enthusiasm. Herr. Theo Kienle's wonderful performances on the violin (a) "Melodie" (b) "Romance" and "Heyri Kat," were a great treat and that the audience were enraptured was shown by hearty applause and a vociferous encore to the last item.

The United Choir numbered some 250 voices, who under the able direction of Mr Frank Storer, sang most creditably the epilogue from Elgar's "Banner of St. George," "Moonlige" (Eaton Fanning) "The Dawn of Song," (Bairstow) – a very pretty piece – and the National Anthems of the Allies. An interesting contribution was also "La Brahanconne" (the Belgian National Anthem) by about 30 of the refugees, a group of whom on the platform was surmounted by crossed English and Belgian flags.

There were also cleverly executed pianoforte selections by Miss E. Compton Vincent, L.R.A.M. Mr Karl Russell and Mr E. W. Guy ably acted as accompanists. For half an hour or more prior to the commencement of the programme some interesting pictures were shown. During an interval, Mr L. L. Baldwin said that on behalf of the choir he would like to thank them all for crowding the building as they had done in support of the noble cause of the Belgian refugees. He also wished to thank Mr McDonald the lessee of the theatre, whose generosity in lending the building had made such a huge gathering possible. That was the fourth time since the war broke out that Mr McDonald had lent that magnificent hall for patriotic purposes (cheers) and they were to have it again on Sunday afternoon, January 10th when there was to be Citizens' Corps rally, and in addition to items by the choir and soloist, Mr W. A. Brockington would repeat his splendid lecture on "War and patriotism," which he gave last week in the Coalville Primitive Methodist Church to a disgracefully sparse audience. Thanks were also expressed to the manager of the theatre, Mr Kirkham, and his staff, for their help, and to the artistes who, he said had come for their bare expenses. (Applause) And last, but a long way from least they, as a choir, wished to thank their old friend, Mr Storer. (Cheers) The choir had only trained under Mr Storer for a short time, but they had done exceedingly well. (Cheers).

IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE

The fortnightly meeting of the above committee was held on Thursday in Sefton House, Barlestone. The Rev. S. Flood presided, and there was a good attendance including Mr T. Archer and Mr Jesson of Ashby. Arising out of the minutes, visiting time were amended as follows: Tuesday afternoons 2 to 4; Thursday evenings 5 to 7. The correspondence re the postal rates of parcels and newspapers to France was read. Both the Post-master General and the Hon. H. D. McLaren replied that nothing further could be done without detrimentally interfering with the essential wants of the soldiers at the front. The financial statements were presented and the estimated expenditure till January 9th was sanctioned.

The secretary (Mr W. Dunstan) explained that Mesdames Dombert and Gisset had returned to Folkestone after finding the formers wounded son at Billesdon Hospital. It was decided to pay for the return journey of these two ladies to Billesdon. The report of the visiting ladies to Sefton House was received. It was decided to offer work, if possible, to the men staying at Sefton House, provided they were found to be after medical examination, physically fit. The question of the rate of board, etc. was deferred. The Committee gratefully accepted and acknowledged the kind offer of Dr. Wilson to give his services as medical attendant to the Belgian friends. With the permission of Mr Archer, it was decided to provide a copper, which Mr Jacques

kindly offered to present. The secretaries of patriotic Committees were requested to send in names of those ladies from each parish who would undertake the duties of the weekly visiting on behalf of the committee. It was pointed out that many of the Belgian refugees were in great need of boots, and the secretary was instructed to take steps to supply them. Re invitations to visit outside friends it was decided that acceptance must be entirely left to the Belgians on condition (a) That the invitation must not interfere with visiting hours; (b) that the host must be responsible for safe conduct from and to Sefton House during reasonable hours, and (c) That all arrangements be made through the House Matron and with her approval. The secretary announced that the names of the Belgians at Sefton House had been advertised in local and Belgian papers and that a quantity of clothing had been kindly presented by the Ladies' County Committee. The chairman proposed and Mr Eggington seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Archer for so kindly placing Sefton House at the disposal of the Committee and Mr Archer, replying, congratulated the Committee on the good work they were doing, and expressed his pleasure in being able to help in such a cause. The next meeting was fixed for Thursday, January 7th at Ibstock.

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UNNECESSARY ORDERS

GOOD REPORTS OF LEICESTER SOLDIER'S WIVES

Speaking in the Leicester Market Place on Sunday morning, Mr W. E. Hincks, chairman of the Watch Committee, dealt at some length with the allegations recently made that drinking among the soldier's wives had increased since the outbreak of war. He said the whole country had been moved to furious indignation by the orders issued from the War Office concerning the conduct of the wives of soldiers, and there was a general impression that these orders were a gross reflection on the morality and conduct of the persons in whose interests they were ostensibly issued. The orders, however, in themselves were not nearly so bad as was the general impression concerning them. In Leicester such orders were unnecessary. The most careful and confidential inquiries had been made by the Head Constable, by the teachers of elementary schools, and by the relieving officers, and these showed conclusively that there had been no increase of drinking amongst women whose husbands were at the front. All the reports were of the most satisfactory character and one special feature of them was that the children of soldiers were noticed recently to be better clad, probably as the result of the women having a better income.

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LETTERS SUBJECT TO CENSORSHIP

The following notice was issued by the Press Bureau on Friday afternoon.

"The War Office announces that all letters subject to military censorship which appear to be written by an alien enemy in this country or which are addressed to any person residing abroad, are liable to be destroyed by the military censor unless they contain the full name and address of the sender."

SEPARATION ALLOWANCE AND ALLOTMENT PAY

An Army Order issued on Saturday night states that in the case of soldiers who die while serving, separation allowance and allotment, (including volunteer allotment) will be continued by paymasters at the previous rate to the wives and children of dependants pending further instructions but in no case beyond 26 weekly payment from the date at which official notification of death is first made to the next-of-kin.

In the case of motherless children the pension is ordinarily more beneficial than separation allowance and allotment and will be payable from the date of death.

In cases of cessation of service (such as discharge, transfer to reserve, or desertion), payment will cease from the end of the week in which the notification is received by the paymaster if later.

When a soldier is on ordinary or sick furlough, or in hospital, payment to the wife or dependant is not affected.

On the death of a wife, child, or dependant, payment will cease forthwith. If a child is born to the soldier, the increased rate will take effect from the next weekly payment day after birth.

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RAVENSTONE MAN KILLED

OFFICERS WARM TRIBUTE

“HE DIED A HERO”

“He died a hero. He had done excellent work for his King and country throughout this dastardly war.” In these words from an officer of the regiment, Mr and Mrs Andrews, of Ravenstone, though naturally much grieved at their loss, find some consolation in regard to the death of their son, Lance-Corpl. J. C. Andrews, of the 1st Bedfordshire Regiment, which happened on the 7th November, soon after he had been promoted from a private.

The officer adds in his letter, “His death is extremely mourned by all his comrades.” Mr and Mrs Andrews have also received the following letter from Lord Kitchener.

“The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow.

Kitchener”

In the official notification of the death, the place where it occurred is not stated and the only information given is that he was killed in action. The deceased last letter to his parents was dated October 20th and the following is an extract:

“There are lots of things I should like to tell you but we are not allowed to. I will tell you all when I come home, which I hope to do before very long. I don’t think the war will last much longer. I am in good health.”

Another letter which has been received by the deceased’s parents is from Pte. J. Starbuck, of Luton who says that he met a wounded soldier from the same regiment and who knew Lance-Corpl. Andrews. This soldier has told the writer that the Bedfords were surrounded by the Germans and had a rough time of it, but Dick, (the deceased) escaped on that occasion, though killed and wounded lay all around. The Bedford regiment was cut off by about 10,000 Germans and had it not been for the Scots Greys there would not have been a man left. The Bedfordshires fired away in the trenches till all their ammunition had gone and then there was nothing else for it, but to fix bayonets and charge. They had resolved to die together rather than surrender. That is British pluck if you like.

Lance-Corpl. Andrews was 23 years of age and had been three years in the army. The village of Ravenstone has several men in the war, some of whom have been wounded, but Andrews is the first Ravenstone man to be killed in action. He was a member of the Rector’s Bible Class and in the course of the service on Sunday morning, the rector (the Rev. S. Dowling) made suitable reference to the sad event.



Mr J. Andrews, the deceased’s father is a painter and worked for some time on the Gopsall estate (Earl Howe’s), but he has been at home for several weeks suffering from rheumatism. Another younger son, George, is serving in the Territorials.

COALVILLE MAN IN NAVAL BATTLE

GUNNER ON ONE OF ADMIRAL STURDEE'S SHIPS

Coalville was represented in the recent splendid naval victory off the Falkland Islands when Admiral Sturdee's squadron sank four German cruisers. Gunner A. G. Morris, of the Royal Marine Artillery, is on board H.M.S. Natal which was one of the ships of the successful British squadron. He is a son of Mr William Morris, picture-framer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, and this was his first engagement. The small list of casualties on the British side and the splendid effect of their fire, testifies to the excellence of the marksmanship of our gunners in which doubtless Gunner Morris had a hand.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S ENCOURAGING LETTER

Pte. Sam Hodgson, of the R.A.M.C. 14th General Hospital, British Expeditionary Force and son of Mr J. Hodgson, tobacconist, High Street, Coalville, writes that on the outbreak of war he was away from home on a holiday but returned immediately and proceeded to Ashby to enlist in the 5th Battalion Leicesters. He met an old chum, Harold Smith, of the Fountain Inn, and after they had marched to Loughborough, they thought being in the "Terriers" was hardly good enough for them and they decided to join the regulars. On the way to the recruiting sergeant in Church Gate, Loughborough they ran into another Coalville man, William Essex, and they all three joined the R.A.M. Corps. They went to Wigston the same night and saw a full battalion of the brave Leicesters leave for the front, which put new life into them. They were soon off to Aldershot and after being there for three weeks received welcome orders to pack up for foreign service. They embarked at Southampton and had not been long in Ostend before down came three bombs from a German aeroplane. They dropped about 50 yards off the ship. But the airmen dropped no more as they were soon brought down by the Belgians. They left Ostend the day before the Germans entered and arrived at _____ where they are still located. They are doing well. He had been pleased to read the "Coalville Times" out there and was interested in the reports of the great recruiting meetings at the Olympia, but he would like to hear of all the Coalville young fellows enlisting. He was sorry to leave his home, but when they thought of the poor Belgians being driven from their homes, he was sure they would all be determined not to let that happen at Coalville. So he urged them to give the recruiting sergeant plenty of work and they would never regret it. He concludes, "Next time I get the 'Coalville Times' I hope to see 113 recruits, not 13."

HAVING A CHAMPION TIME

REQUEST FROM A COALVILLE FOOTBALLER

The Chairman of the Coalville Town Football Club, Mr Johnson, has received another letter from one of the Town's old players, W. Scoon, who is with the Expeditionary Force. He says he has waited anxiously for a parcel they have sent to him but he has not yet received it. He proceeds, "We are having a champion time of it now. We have been relieved and are having a good rest. We have had a good supply of clothing and fags and tobacco come to us in tons. I want to ask you if you could send a football out. It would be good for our boys if you have one to spare. I shall keep myself in training for next season. Sorry to hear of Marshall's accident, also the poor luck the team is having. Never mind, better luck next season."

COALVILLE MAN PROUD OF HIS REGIMENT

CONGRATULATIONS FROM SIR JOHN FRENCH

Pte. G. Jones (5269) of the Coldstream Guards, whose home is in St. Saviour's Road, Coalville, writes enclosing a copy of Field Marshall Sir John French's speech to the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards at Pradelles and asks us to publish the same, stating that there is a number of Coalville men serving in this regiment. The speech was as follows:

"1st Coldstream Guards – I am proud to be able to say a few words to you. It is seldom I have the opportunity of speaking personally to any of the troops under my command. I must thank you one and all for the very hard and arduous tasks you have performed during this campaign. I am glad to see your Colonel back again after his severe wound, and I am sure you are all very pleased to have him again at your head. You have been engaged in a war covering the whole of Europe, and you have done remarkably well, fighting as you

often have, against great odds of two or three to one. You have been in this country since the war began and have seen continuous fighting, suffering severe losses, and at one time I believe you were reduced to eighty men. You have not only upheld the glorious traditions of your famous Regiment, which, as everyone knows, dates back to two or three hundred years, but you have materially added to them.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army, I thank you one and all for your grand services, and your country is also proud of you. You must all feel proud to belong to such a famous and distinguished Regiment as the Coldstream Guards."

CHRISTMAS IN THE TRENCHES

COALVILLE LADS SAFE

Pte. S. Hardy of the 1st Leicesters writing to his wife in Hotel Street, Coalville, in a letter dated the 6th inst., says he is afraid he cannot get home for Christmas, but he hoped to do so by Easter or just after. At the time of writing, the regiment was out of the trenches for a week's rest, but were to go in again on the 15th, and would be in for Christmas. He adds that while the lads were at Church parade in a field (on the 6th inst.) a big gun was firing away at the enemy, who were about six miles away. The lady at the adjoining farm was getting dinner ready for about eight. They were on roast leg of mutton, haricot beans and potatoes. Hardy sent his wife the "Leicester Post" Christmas card, mentioning the presents he received with it and asked her to communicate with the office, and thank them on behalf of his comrades and himself for the splendid gift. Writing to his wife on the 1st inst., Hardy said they had just come out of the trenches for a rest, and he was sure they could do with it after the fortnight they had had with snow, frost and rain. They looked like a lot of "mudlarks." He was pleased to say that all the Coalville lads were safe. He relates that he was going with message, and had to enter a village. The only living thing he saw was a big pig. The village was blown to bits – even the church, nothing standing only the walls.

WHITWICK MAN IN THE TRENCHES

TICKLING THE GERMANS' RIBS

Writing to Mr and Mrs G. F. Burton, Whitwick, Corpl. Yearby, on active service in the R.H.A., states, "I am in a perfect state of health and good spirits. We are just beginning to let the Germans know we are at home. They are doing some very treacherous work. It's not fighting with them. They are afraid of our artillery and especially that little bit of cold steel of our infantry. There are many spies round here, but they get caught in the long run. We are living fairly well but its very cold and wet. We have also had snow and frosts, but we stick to it like men. I expect you are busy for Christmas, but it will be a funny one for us. We shall have to amuse ourselves tickling the Germans' ribs a bit. What fun eh? Save me a bit of Christmas pudding for about Eastertime and a good smoke. I hope a good many of the Whitwick fellows are coming forward; it's nothing but right they should help. We have been in action for three weeks and last Sunday went out at midnight."

FROM AN OLD COALVILLE BOY

Dear Sir, I am very pleased to see through the columns of the good old "Coalville Times" that the boys of Coalville and District have answered their country's call and are doing their duty well. I get the "Times" every week from my brother and it gives me great pleasure to read the letters from the boys in the paper. I enlisted in the Warwicks fourteen weeks ago and as I was working in Leamington Spa at the time war broke out, or I should certainly have joined the Leicestershire Regiment, but I am doing my duty as an Englishman should do. Since we have been here we have had to make our own rifle range and now we are doing a course of firing on it. Food there is in plenty but it is rough. This is a very good training ground here as there is plenty of waste land for the job. Well good luck to all the boys of Coalville and District.

Samuel Line
(Son of the late T. Line, tailor, Hotel Street, Coalville)

GOOD ADVICE TO IBSTOCK BOYS

LETTER FROM CLUB INSTRUCTOR

Corpl. J. W. Lockton, of the Coldstream Guards, who is instructor of the Ibstock Church Lads' Brigade, and has returned to duty in the trenches after recovering from shrapnel wounds, writes expressing thanks for a parcel he has received from the boys. The letter proceeds, "I was very pleased to hear of all my boys volunteering for service and that quite a lot of them had gone away. I know that what they have learnt in the C.L.B. will stand them in good stead when being put through the mill. I should think that the people of Ibstock who laughed at us in our great work in the Brigade, realise now that it has come in useful for our King and country, and that it was not playing at drill and discipline. Tell all the boys to stick to their drill and shame the others of our church who will not join them now that they can see the usefulness of our drill etc. I am hoping to come back again someday when we have wiped the Germans for their dirty work off the map."

HUGGLESCOTE

DANCE

A dance was held in the Hawley Institute on Wednesday night, the proceeds being for the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild. Messrs. G. Griffin and H. Fort were the M.C.'s and Mr J. Cooper the pianist.

RAVENSTONE

A tea and entertainment were held in the Ravenstone Church school on Wednesday evening in aid of the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild. The rector (Rev. S. Dowling) and Mr R. G. Cresswell carried out the arrangements.

IBSTOCK

BELGIAN REFUGEES

For some weeks the local Patriotic Committee have expected to be called upon to provide accommodation at Ibstock for war refugees, and on Sunday a public announcement was made that, at short notice, a party of a dozen men would be sent on, and that they would arrive on Monday evening. Consequently a number of ladies and gentlemen set to work on Monday morning and in the course of the day succeeded in transforming the two rooms at the Old Town Hall into a bedroom and dining room respectively. The rooms presented quite an inviting aspect, and a substantial meal was prepared for the men at the time of their expected arrival. Shortly before this hour a telegram was received from Mr J. T. Jacques, who journeyed from Leicester to meet the party, stating two men only had arrived at Leicester, they were going on to Barlestone. The message added that a further number would probably reach Ibstock a day or so later. The response to the appeal for necessaries was prompt and very generous in regard to both food and furniture.

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

There was a crowded audience in the new schools on Saturday evening, when the Sunday School children and friends gave an acceptable entertainment on behalf of the local Belgian Refugee Fund. The youngsters gave action songs, character songs, dialogues, recitations, etc., in good style. Songs were also given by Mrs F. Rudkin, Mrs J. Grant, Mrs R. Farrow, and Miss D. Martin, Miss May Smith and Mr W. Lees gave a character duet. Mr F. T. Bellward a musical sketch and character song. Two humorous dialogues, "She said, he said, they said" and "Mrs Muddle," by two parties caused much amusement and a dialogue, "The two wives" by Misses. B. Smith and E. Cave. The children were trained by Miss Hale, Miss Musson, Mr and Mrs W. Bailey, and others, and Mrs J. Linch helped with accompaniments. The youngsters appeared to enjoy the concert as much as the audience, especially the ragtime band who had got some appropriate drums for the occasion. A good sum will be handed over as a result of the effort.

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BELGIAN REFUGEES ENTERTAINED AT COALVILLE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORTHCOMING WEDDING
GIFT OF A RING AND BRIDE'S DRESS

All the Belgian refugees staying in Coalville and District, including those from Whitwick, Thringstone and Ravenstone, to the number of about 90, were entertained at the Adult School Hall on Saturday by the Committee of the Coalville Co-Operative Society.

The Right Hon. Charles Booth kindly made the arrangements for the conveyance of the Whitwick and Thringstone contingent, and the women and children and the wounded of the Coalville party were carried from and to Broom Leys in one of the Coalville motor 'buses. An excellent tea was provided and the members of the Coalville Co-Operative Society's committee were assisted by their wives in looking after the wants of their numerous guests.

Among those also present were Mr and Mrs W. Lindley, Mrs Wykes, Mr and Mrs W. Hurst, Mr J. Husband, Mr Edgar Hawthorn, Mr R. Blower and other members of the committee. Dr. L. Storr-Best and the brothers Wilkins of Thringstone assisted as interpreters.

Mr John Bradley (chairman of the Society) presided at the social which followed. Songs were given by several of the Belgians, one being "Tipperary," chorus in English and dancing was also indulged in, the music for which was supplied by a band composed of the following: Messrs. J. Warden, E. Marriott, first violin, F. Popple, second violin, J. Burton, viola, W. Hemsley, cello, W. Clarke, flute, and Miss R. Burton, piano. Mr Warden also contributed two splendid violin solos.

During the evening, the chairman said a few words of welcome, and expressing the committee's feeling of sympathy for them in the position in which they were placed, this being interpreted by M. Lauwers. Mr Bradley also intimated that the committee were having nice little pocket diaries prepared in English, French, and Flemish languages, and each refugee would be presented with one when they arrived.

A most interesting item of the evening's proceedings was a presentation to the couple who are to be married on January 7th. The chairman said most of them had doubtless seen it mentioned in the "Coalville Times" that the gift of a wedding ring would be acceptable and acting on that suggestion, the committee had made a collection in the room that night and realised a sovereign.

The happy couple then made their way onto the platform and, amidst applause, Mr Bradley presented the bridegroom elect with a £1 note, assuring him and the lady of the good wishes of many Coalville friends in the step they were about to take. The man expressed his hearty thanks.

The company, through their interpreter, also expressed thanks to the committee for the excellent tea and entertainment which they had all thoroughly enjoyed. In regard to the forthcoming wedding, it is interesting to note that the bridegroom was able to commence work as a baker at the Coalville Co-Operative Society stores on Saturday last. In addition to the gift of a wedding ring above referred to, and the offer of Mr J. Alldread to present a bouquet, we hear that Mrs Thompson, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, has offered to give the bride's wedding dress.

The marriage ceremony will take place at Holy Cross Church, Whitwick, on Thursday, January 7th, at 10 am. Nuptial Mass will be said by the Rev. Joseph Degen but the form of marriage will be in Flemish and will be conducted by Canon Martens, of Shepshed, assisted by Father O'Reilly. The church will be open to the general public.

On Thursday last, five of the refugees at Broom Leys left to return to the war. One of them is starting work in Leicester as a tailor, on New Year's Day.

AN APPRECIATION OF COALVILLE'S KINDNESS

(By one of the Belgian Refugees)

The pen of a master would indeed be needed to express in a sufficiently eloquent manner the feelings of admiration and gratitude experienced by the Belgian refugees towards England. Belgium can herself claim to be a hospitable country, but such generosity, kindness and delicacy have astonished even the Belgians and they feel the need of saying so in these words.

However they talk, men really believe only what they see, and this applies to the Belgians who have been taught by misfortune. They knew that England was great and powerful but they know it much better now that they see with their own eyes how generous she is, and have just the measure of what a nation, noble, powerful, and worthy can do.

In all these respects the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys consider the inhabitants of Coalville as amongst the best English people it is possible to meet, and they do not know how to thank the Coalville people for the long series of kindnesses for which they are indebted to them. Thanks to them they very often find here in the simple and kindly parties at Broom Leys, the much missed comforts of the domestic hearth.

But in a word, the seventy new inhabitants of Broom Leys, can now realise that a population must inevitably be worthy of admiration which is so hardworking and which benefits by example of a committee presided over by such an Englishman as Mr Lindley, aided by such Englishmen as Messrs. Hawthorn, Blower, Atkins, Hurst, Bourne, Husband and Dr. Wykes, and when such admirable ladies as Mrs Lindley, Blower, Atkins, Hurst, Bourne and Wykes place their inexhaustible kindness at the disposal of the unfortunate.

Thanks to these ladies and gentlemen all are now comfortably sheltered, and provided with clothes and shoes, and some have already been able to recover that dignity which is the result of properly paid work. Never will they forget either how great is the devotion of M. le Docteur Wykes to the wounded, and, it is necessary to add the names of Mr and Mrs Hardwick, will always remain deep in their hearts and they are really abashed at the crushing amount of work which their presence at Broom Leys must cause to the above ladies and gentlemen.

Lauwers Pieter.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Writing from Winnipeg, on December 3rd, brother of Mr F. S. Weaver of Coalville, states that the city is full of military life, there being thousands there who are being trained for the second Canadian contingent.

It has transpired two boys were going to houses in Coalville on Saturday collecting for the Belgian Refugee's Relief Fund without having any authority to do so. Mr W. Lindley, Chairman of the Relief Committee, therefore desires it to be made known that any offenders detected in future will be prosecuted. Householders are also warned to pay money to none only authorised collectors, who are able to give an official receipt.

Police Constable Culpin, who has been stationed at Hugglescote South for 15 years, has just received good news from his youngest brother, Sergt-Major H. Culpin, of the 96th Battalion, Royal Field Artillery to the effect that he has received a commission as Lieutenant in Kitchener's army. He has just returned from India and is now stationed at Winchester, prior to going to the front. He has been nearly 20 years in the service and a sergeant-major for 6 years.

During the year now closing events in Coalville and District have, of course, been overshadowed by the war and in this connection the district has done remarkably well. About 1300 men from the Coalville recruiting area have joined the forces, the total amount contributed to the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund is now approaching three thousand pounds, while Coalville is also maintaining about 80 Belgian refugees, the contributions to this fund being handsome. In addition, several successful efforts have been made for hospital equipping and providing comforts and Christmas gifts for local soldiers and sailors.

Mrs Moseley, of Donington-le-Heath, recently gave a pig to be drawn for, the proceeds to provide soldiers' comforts. The pig has been won by Miss L. Brooks, of 122, Highfields Street, Coalville, with the number 43, and the amount realised by the effort was £5.

DO YOU KNOW

That the National Relief Fund yesterday reached £4,236,000?

That all Belgian refugees are now required to register with the police and notify changes of address?

That it has been decided that no Christmas leave can be granted to the 4th Leicesters?

That 73 members of the Y.M.C.A. are now serving with H.M. Forces?

That the Association is sending each a letter and Christmas card?

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

At a meeting of the Coalville collectors for the this fund at the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last, the Hon. Sec. (Mr F. W. Weaver) reported that the result of the 8th collection was £8/1/1. Eleven districts were represented at the meeting.

THRINGSTONE SCHOOLMASTER'S DEATH

PIECE OF SHELL EMBEDDED IN HIS PRAYER BOOK

MEMORIAL SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH

The death of their schoolmaster, Pte. T. Jones, has brought home to Thringstone people more forcibly than anything else, the horrors of the war now raging, and that the village has sustained a great loss is keenly felt by all the residents.

As reported in our last issue, Mr Jones, soon after the outbreak of war, volunteered for service in the Durham County Battalion of Light Infantry and he was on duty guarding a gun at West Hartlepool when he was killed by a piece of shell fired from a German cruiser last Wednesday. A remarkable circumstance connected with the event is the fact that a prayer book given to the late schoolmaster on leaving Thringstone, was found pierced by a piece of shell. The deceased was carrying the book in the breast pocket of his tunic and but for the other wounds the book would have saved his life. The iron fragment of the shell penetrated about half through the book, which is of fair thickness, and also firmly adhered to the cover of the book was a piece of khaki cloth from the tunic, held by the shell.

The funeral took place, with military honours, at St. Aidan's Church, West Hartlepool, on Saturday morning, being attended by a huge crowd and about 500 members of the Durham County Battalion, some of whom fired over the grave. The body was placed in St. Aidan's Church on Friday and remained there throughout the night. On Saturday morning there was a celebration of holy communion at 7.15, at which the celebrant was the Vicar, the Rev. W. J. Knowlden, assisted by the Vicar of Thringstone, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury. The funeral service commenced at eleven o'clock and while people were taking their places – there was a large congregation – the organist played the Dead March. The deceased's favourite hymn, "There is a land of pure delight" and "On the resurrection morning" were sung. The Rev. C. Shrewsbury gave a short address, after which the body was removed to the cemetery and committed to the grave in the presence of a huge crowd.

In reply to a question as to what he saw of the damage at West Hartlepool, the Thringstone vicar informed our representative that it was enormous. A shell burst over St. Aidan's Church, which however, was not much damaged. The residents had another scare on Saturday morning, in consequence of a notice sent round by the Mayor warning the people to keep indoors and not allow children out. Another message followed that this was a false alarm.

On Sunday afternoon, a memorial service for Pte. Jones was held in the Thringstone Parish Church, which was packed. At the commencement, Miss Crane played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, the same two hymns as at the funeral service was sung. The vicar gave an address and also referred to the prayer book incident mentioned above. The Vicar is returning the book to the deceased's mother, who lives at West Hartlepool.

(A photograph accompanied this article with the caption: "Durham Light Infantry firing over the Grave. Reproduced with kind permission of the 'Daily Mirror'.")

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IBSTOCK

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

A patriotic concert was held on Thursday night in the Picture Palace kindly lent for the occasion, the proceeds being for the Belgian Relief and Prince of Wales's funds. A company of Leicester artistes rendered an excellent programme, and a vote of thanks was heartily accorded on the motion of Mr G. Forman, seconded by Mr J. J. Sparrow.

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ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS

A SOLDIER IN THE WORKHOUSE

The fortnightly meeting of the Board of Guardians was held at Ashby on Saturday, Mr W. Sheffield presiding, also present, Mrs Pratt, Mr T. Varnham (vice-chairman), the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly, Messrs. T. Frith, A. Wilkins, S. Stanley, J. Rice, G. Bullen, A. J. Briers, T. Radford, T. D. Frost, W. Gascoyne, T. Oakey, J. W. Fowler, A. Riley, G. Sheldon, T. K. Fox, J. Woodward, R. Lawton, F. W. Soar, and J. T. Bradshaw with the clerk (Mr George Farmer).

A letter was received from the Netley Hospital authorities giving notice of the removal to the workhouse of a Coalville wounded soldier, and the authorities asked that when the Guardians considered he was able to give a receipt they should be notified that money due to him might be paid over. Mr Varnham asked how it came that a wounded soldier should be sent to the workhouse.

The Clerk: Because he belongs to us.

Mr Varnham: But why should a wounded soldier come here?

The Clerk said he thought it was a mental case. Mr Varnham said the report to the House Committee was that the man was a wounded soldier.

The Clerk said he thought it was a mental case and all such persons when destitute were moved to the union in which they had a settlement.

Mr Varnham: But a wounded soldier should never be destitute. Our doctor has seen him and says there is nothing the matter with him now. His parents are here and want to take him away and the doctor says he can be removed. The question of his being wounded should be cleared up.

The Clerk: It doesn't matter to us.

Mr Varnham: I think it does.

The Clerk: They are entitled under the Army Act to send him here if he is mentally afflicted.

Mr Varnham: Suppose his mental affliction arose from his wounds?

The Clerk: That is a matter for medical opinion. It is quite in order and they have acted in pursuance of the Act of Parliament.

Mr Varnham: It may be, but we want to know how they do these things.

Mr Frost said he thought the man was mentally wrong before he joined the army. The Chairman asked what was the Board's position now the man's parents had come to take him away. The Clerk said it all depended on what the medical officer said.

Mrs Pratt: The medical officer says he can go.

The Clerk said the medical officer must say whether the man was capable of signing a receipt for money due to him lying at the War Office.

A Member: And he would take the £1 he had with him?

The Clerk: Unless you made a claim on it.

Mr Varnham: Oh, we don't do that. What shall we say to his father?

The Clerk: All that we have to do is to see that he is capable of leaving. The parents must take the responsibility of looking after him. I shall see that the matter is put in order before he takes his discharge from here.

Mr Frith: They can't take him away today can they?

The Clerk: Not unless they get a certificate signed by Dr. Orchard.

The matter was left in the hands of the Clerk and it was decided to make no charge for the man's maintenance while in the workhouse.

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COALVILLE MEN IN A FORT

Sergeant W. Shilham, of the Leicestershire Regiment, late of Coalville, writing from Southwick, Cosham, Portsmouth, in a very cheery letter wishes his friends good luck, and gives the names of Coalville men with him who are anxiously waiting for passes before leaving for the front. The party are Privates Brown, J. Wright, W. Briers, J. Murfin, G. B. Biggs, W. E. Hall and J. Manders.

A COALVILLE SOLDIER'S HUMOUR

ITEMS OF TOMMY'S MENU

An interesting and amusing letter has been received by Mrs G. Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, from her brother, Pte. A. Edwards, of the 4th signal section, 18th Brigade, with the British Expeditionary Force. He expressed thanks for the "Coalville Times" containing his own portrait, and said there was quite a lot of items of news in which he was deeply interested. He says he is still keeping well and getting plenty of good food. In humorous vein, the soldier goes on to give a few items of their menu. "Coalbox pudding," "Black Man's pies" (with the crust made of nice mud), "Shrapnel Cake" (made with bullets of various shapes and sizes), and then, of course they sometimes get poultry which was mostly "Bread and duck." "You have a bit of bread" he says, "and then duck, that is if you are not too late. It is not too bad on the whole, in fact, it is rather exciting. We have plenty of rain here and it makes things very uncomfortable for the lads in the trenches, but everything is being done to make them as comfortable as possible and you seldom hear any complaints from any of them."

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT

AN INTERESTING LETTER

Mr Bert Watters, of Coalville, has received an interesting letter from Pte. W. Commons, a well-known Coalville footballer, who is serving with the R.A.M.C. at the front.

Commons says they have had a rough time, but are now having a rest and they have earned it. They tracked 300 miles in the first few weeks and the Germans were on their heels all the time, but he was glad to say the tide had turned and he thought they now had the enemy well in hand. He proceeds, "I really think the Germans would have beaten any one nation in the world. They have not finished yet, but I only think it is a matter of time and I shall be glad when that time is up. Me and old "Smosh" are together. It is like being in a desert where we are now. I am staying in a barn with a few shell holes in it and also where there are a few pilgrims of the night, but still we must not grumble. Hundreds of houses have been burnt to the ground and it grieves me to see the poor women and children walking about, not knowing which way to turn till they find someone to give them a helping hand. I should like to be at home for Christmas but I think it is a frost. I hope you are having some better weather at Coalville, than we are getting here. It is raining every day and everywhere is flooded. I am pleased to hear that you are turning a few soldiers out of Coalville. It will do some of them good, especially the "Nuts." He concludes by wishing his friends a merry Christmas.

WHITWICK

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

At the patriotic concert held in the Holy Cross Schools, Whitwick, on Sunday, December 5th, the following is the amount of the collection, and also the contributions received by the Treasurer, Mr F. Burton: Collections £10/10/0; Mr and Mrs Burton £2; Holy Cross School children £1; Mr B. Berry £1; Mr Robinson £1/1/0; Colonel de Lisle £1; per Miss Burkitt £1/1/0. After expenses were deducted the treasurer sent a cheque to Colonel Froke for £17/7/0, ear-marked "For the C. Squadron of the Leicestershire Yeomanry."