

Coalville Times At War

Friday February 5th 1915 (Issue 1196)

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THE NORTH SEA FIGHT

BURTON SAILOR'S INTERVIEW WITH GERMAN OFFICER

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

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

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5TH BATTALION'S DEPARTURE FROM LOUGHBOROUGH

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

hospital with frost bitten toes, but according to a letter received a day or two ago is better again and has returned to the trenches this week.

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

HUGGLESCOTE CITIZENS' CORPS

BADGES PRESENTED BY MRS MEREDITH

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

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

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

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

CITIZENS' MEETING AT COALVILLE

THE SIGNING OF THE ROLL

SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION BY CAPT. PRITCHARD

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

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

Capt. Pritchard, who was well received said he was pleased to meet the Coalville Corps. He could congratulate them on having a splendid commandant, who was heart and soul in the work. (Cheers). He could also congratulate them from what he had seen and heard, on their instructors. (Applause). He would not say that the Coalville Corps were better than Leicester, which he had the honour to command, but they came very near to them. He went on to say that difficulties had occurred to men under 38 in signing the roll. When the corps was first formed, the War Office was opposed to them, but that attitude was changed now. The reason for calling on men under 38 to sign the roll was to avoid giving shirkers a chance for not joining the army. He knew that there were plenty of young men who had not enlisted who ought to. If any young fellow joined the corps and signed the roll, Lord Kitchener would initial it if reasons for not enlisting were satisfactory. They should get it out of their heads that if they signed the roll they would be obliged to go. It was extremely unlikely that recruiting officers would visit any corps and pick out men. It was simply to avoid a loophole to young men who ought to join the army. There was no compulsion about it at all. As regards satisfactory reasons, these referred to men engaged on Government work, in municipal employment, telegraphic or postal work, while another valid reason was if men were engaged in businesses which would suffer if they left. He was pleased to say that the Leicester Citizens' Corps now numbered nearly 3000 men. (Applause). He called them together, with the mayor in the chair, and when he explained it to them, the decision to affiliate was carried without a single dissident. (Applause). His opinion was that if their commandant was satisfied with the reasons given, no compulsion would be brought to bear on any member. (Cheers). He (the speaker) was the responsible party for accepting these reasons from Leicestershire Corps and if the War Office differed from him he took the whole responsibility. He had had letters from corps asking when they would have uniforms and rifles, and, what he liked better, whether they were likely to go to the front. (Laughter). He went on to outline home duties what Citizens' Corps might have to perform – the guarding of public property, railways, bridges, etc. In that way, if necessary, they might release a good number of regular forces and territorials. Although Lord Kitchener opposed the corps at first, now that had been put to him he supported it whole-heartedly. (Cheers). Having eulogised Lord Kitchener as war minister he said the Duke of Rutland had been appointed president for Leicestershire and he anticipated after he had seen the Duke, that an appeal would be made for funds to equip the corps and he quite anticipated that in Leicestershire they would easily raise £10,000 (Cheers). He had heard that the corps at Sheffield, Birmingham and Manchester were already in uniform and he anticipated that Leicestershire would soon follow suit. It would be a huge battalion for the whole of Leicestershire and he was doing his utmost to get them fully equipped by the end of February. (Applause). He intimated at a publication known as the "Leicestershire Citizen Corps Gazette" was shortly to be issued and that would be found most useful in imparting information concerning the movement. He said he should be pleased to answer any questions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

BECAUSE HE COULD NOT ENLIST

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

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

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SNARESTONE

WHIST DRIVE

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

COALVILLE LADIES' NOBLE WORK

TOMMY'S APPRECIATION OF COMFORTS

INTERESTING LETTERS OF THANKS

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

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

FIRST SNOWSTORM FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

Fort Southwick, Fareham, Hants.

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

George W. Moyens

GLAD TO HAVE SUCH A FRIEND

Aldershot.

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

G. Bizzell

“GOD BLESS YOU ALL”

Cosham, Hants.

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

Pte. J. Watkins
3rd Leicester Regiment

GETTING READY FOR FRANCE

Winchester.

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

Drummer W. A. Titterton
2nd Northumberland Fusiliers

“CHEERS US UP”

Talavera Barracks, Aldershot

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

Private J. Walker
9th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment

THINKS OF HIS BROTHER

Aldershot

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

Private W. T. Findell.

MOST USEFUL

Diss, Norfolk

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

R. E. Deacon (Corpl)

SPLENDID WAY OF SHOWING APPRECIATION

Belton Park, Grantham

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

Corporal Hollyoak
9th Lancashire Fusiliers

NOT AFRAID TO GO

Talavera Barracks, Aldershot

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

Private J. T. Mugginson
South Stafford Regiment

A BIG COMFORT

Sawbridgeworth

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

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

FOUR IN ONE

Aldershot

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

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

GOING TO DO THEIR LITTLE BIT

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

Private Fingay
2nd Battalion, Indian Expeditionary Force

AT HOME ON THE SEA

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

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

Stoker F. Wheeldon

FROM THE TRENCHES

British Expeditionary Force

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

Private A. Edwards

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

MARKFIELD

BELGIAN REFUGEES

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

THRINGSTONE

CITIZENS' CHURCH PARADE

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

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HINCKLEY CITIZENS' CORPS

MR A. S. ATKINS APPOINTED COMMANDANT

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

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

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

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COALVILLE SAILOR ON THE 'LION'

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES OF GUNNER A. MORRIS

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

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

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



she seemed in a poor mess when we passed her at a distance of about ten miles. It was most exciting while it lasted. The Germans have some good gunners but their firing was much inferior to ours."

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

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

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

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIERS' DEATH

FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION

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

ANOTHER OLD COALVILLE WESLEYAN SCHOOL BOY

IN THE FIGHTING IN FRANCE

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

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



COALVILLE BAKER IN THE TRENCHES

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

GERMANS FED UP WITH THE WAR

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

The letter, which is dated January 23rd, proceeds: "We have just come out of one lot of trenches, and the Germans have not fired a shot since Christmas and come across to us, just as if it was in peace time. They say they are fed up with the war and that as soon as the Austrians give way they are going to do the same. Some of them belong to the Saxon race and they say they do not care for the Prussians. I think I have told you about all this time, give my best respects to all at the bakehouse."

SAVED BY HIS WATCH

SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S WORK AMONG THE WOUNDED

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

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

As emphasising the barbarism of the Germans in deliberately firing on the Red Cross, Walden told our reporter that one of his earliest experiences of the war was to see nine of their ambulance wagons out of a convoy of eleven, smashed up by the German fire and the drivers all killed, though luckily the ambulance

men themselves escaped. If a party of stretcher bearers were observed, he said, carrying the wounded the Germans would immediately fire on them. He himself witnessed such acts on several occasions and had had one or two narrow escapes. He recalled one incident on the Aisne when he, with a party of ambulance men were bringing some wounded over a pontoon bridge. Just as they were in the centre of the bridge a German shell dropped behind them and blew part of the bridge away. Almost immediately another shell came over their heads and carried away the portion of the bridge in front of them, leaving only a portion standing in the middle of the stream. Walden and some mates from the shock fell into the water. They managed to scramble again on to the portion of the bridge which remained and were in that perilous position for three quarters of an hour.



He attributes a good deal of his illness to the shock and exposure on this occasion.

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

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

Another question was whether Walden had been in conversation with any of the German wounded he had attended who could speak English. He replied that had come across numerous cases of wounded Germans speaking English and the thing which impressed him most from their talk was the great confidence which they seemed to have that the Germans would win. In the later stages of the war he noticed also that the Germans seemed better supplied with provisions. Most of the wounded had a good supply of food in their haversacks, though it was mostly pressed food in the form of meat juices. We were pleased to hear that Walden was practically fit again and ready to return to the front. He is due to leave Swannington on February 16th.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

HIGHWAY'S COMMITTEE REPORT

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

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

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

Friday February 12th 1915 (Issue 1197)

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COALVILLE SOLDIER'S LETTER CORROBORATED

DISAFFECTION IN THE GERMAN ARMY

SAXONS NOT ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE THE WAR

In a letter published in our last issue from Private H. Kilworth, a Coalville soldier at the front, it was stated that the German soldiers, of Saxon origin, desired to cease fighting, being bitterly opposed to the Prussians, and this is strikingly borne out by a letter received by the Mayor of Southport, from Capt. Armitage (Chief Constable of that town), who is on service at the front with the 2nd Worcestershires. The Captain writes, "This

sharp, dry weather has made a good deal of difference to the health of the men, and we are all now in the best of spirits, anxiously awaiting the time when more rapid progress can be made towards clearing the Germans from French soil.

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

DUBLIN FUSILIERS AT HINCKLEY

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

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

THANKS TO COALVILLE LADIES

ANOTHER LETTER FROM THE FIRING LINE

Corporal F. Wilde, No. 9785, with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, writes asking us on his behalf, to thank the ladies of Coalville and district for their thoughtfulness and kindness in sending scarves and other warm clothing, which they are very thankful for. The letter proceeds: "I got hold of a 'Coalville Times' the other day and was very pleased to see Mr Brockington's name figuring so well and I am sure that the people of Coalville and district ought to encourage such lectures, as I am sure they are doing much good. Then again, sir, I was very pleased to read in your paper about the resignation from the Football League of so many clubs through members enlisting, which shows the pluck of Coalville footballers.

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

KEEP SMILING

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

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

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER AND THE GIRLS

"VERY NICE OF THEM"

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

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS

A FORMER BAGWORTH COLLIER

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

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



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

COALVILLE SOLDIER

SAYS THE GERMANS ARE FED UP WITH THE WAR

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

COALVILLE RECRUITING OFFICE STAFF

A GOOD RECORD

When the final records to recruiting are known, Coalville and district, if present evidence is anything to go by, will be able to show a splendid response to the call for men in the hour of the country's need. Coalville's record, in proportion to population, would take a lot of beating and recruiting is still steadily going on. Our illustration shows the staff of the Recruiting Office, adjoining the Labour Exchange in Hotel Street. The gentleman seated is Capt. W. E. Stevenson, of St. Michael's, Ashby, whose work as recruiting officer has been carried on with a zeal worthy of the highest commendation and is largely accountable for the splendid record that Coalville is able to boast of. With him are Col-Sergt. Alfred Dye, in charge of the office, and Scout-Patrol Leader, M. Boot (a son of Mr Arthur Boot, of Park Road), clerk, both of whom have rendered the Captain excellent assistance.

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

Received with thanks, they were very acceptable.

Pte. Levi Randle.

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

G. Lloyd.

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

J. Talo

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

Corpl. King

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

Sergt. J. Twigg

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

Lance-Corporal L. Wilson

It was good to see presents from "Good Old Coalville." I left in 1906 and not having been there since, I could not resist taking one of your presents, though they were for the men. All are very pleased with them and say that they are the best presents yet received, and we have some good ones. I have issued 25 in my company to those who come from Coalville and district. Thanking you and hoping to be in Coalville again soon.

Thomas Doolby, C.S.M.

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

Men of Six Section, A Company

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

Pte. William Carter

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

M. Goode

Thank you for your gifts to the Leicestershire Regiment.

Pte. G. F. Cooke

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

Pte. C. W. Gaze

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

Ernest Moore

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

W. G. Carney

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

Pte. C. Hinsley

NELSON ALL OVER

SAILOR'S TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BEATTY

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S AT HOME IN THE TRENCHES

STAYING AT THE HALF-WAY HOUSE

Mr Wesson, of Margaret Street, Coalville, has received a letter from his son, Harry, with the British Expeditionary Force in France, in which he states that he is in the best of health and having a nice time. He proceeds: "The trenches are getting quite nice now and not like claypits, as they were a week or two ago. I have got a lovely dug-out and nothing less than a Jack Johnson will find its way into it. It took four of us from five o'clock at night till seven next morning to make it and there is just room for four. We have named it the 'Halfway House Hotel,' as it is just half way between Coalville and Berlin. Roll on when we get there. Our artillery have been making it quite uncomfortable for the Germans just in front of us. I have seen what in my opinion was one of the finest feats of marksmanship. The German trenches are only 30 to 40 yards in front of us and five shots cleared the sandbags from their parapets, while through a gap made, the next five went

into the trench. If groans and shouting count for anything there must have been a few of them hit. We get some excitement now as we often have a few hours' rapid firing at one another. The other night we saw quite a large body of them in the open and if any escaped being hit they were lucky, as we poured a perfect hail of lead into them and they were only a few yards in the rear of their own trenches. I had a busy time last time I was in the trenches, as we had some wounded and I assisted in bandaging them up. I often thank Dr. Jamie for his instruction in the St. John's Ambulance Classes I attended and I think it is the duty of every Englishman to learn it, as one never knows when it will be useful. Alf and myself are in the best of health. Am sorry I cannot tell you more, as the censor may object."

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ELLISTOWN

PRESENTS FOR MEN IN THE SERVICE

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

IBSTOCK

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

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

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

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

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MORE WOUNDED AT LEICESTER

MIDNIGHT ARRIVAL AT THE MIDLAND STATION

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

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

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

CAPTURED GERMAN OFFICERS

22 ARRIVE AT DONINGTON PARK

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

First came two taxi-cabs, each containing three or four Germans, and then followed a large grey motor omnibus with the remainder. A National Reservist with loaded rifle sat beside the driver of the taxis and there was another inside, while four or five armed men in khaki rode in the ‘bus. There were very few people about and they saw practically nothing of the prisoners, for the windows were closed and the glass was streaming with rain. Most of the officers wore uniform, blue, with narrow red facings, and flat caps of the colour, but several of them were in civilian dress. None had helmets. The majority were quite young, only two or three being apparently over thirty. One, a typical German of fair complexion and fine build, was smoking a cigarette, and as he saw himself being pointed out he laughed and waved his hand. Another, who might have been a baron out of a novel, wore a long fur coat.

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

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

CITIZEN CORPS

OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS TO UNIFORMS

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

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

LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

NEARLY 8,000 STRONG

EVERYTHING SATISFACTORY AT LUTON AND SAWBRIDGEWORTH

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

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

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

Your committee has sanctioned the building of a new pack store and disinfector at the Hospital, and has also agreed to undertake the upkeep and maintenance of the building and equipment, all indents being submitted for approval. Several subsidiary hospitals are now open in Leicestershire and Rutland, those at Melton Mowbray and Knighton being two of the latest to be formed, the latter being entirely staffed by members of voluntary and detachment formed prior to the war.

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

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

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

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

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

The report was adopted.

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

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RAVENSTONE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

SAW HIS COMRADES FALL

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

FRATERNISING WITH THE ENEMY

COALVILLE MAN'S EXPERIENCES

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

"I suppose you have seen in the papers about the truce on Christmas Day. It was rather funny to be talking to the men we had before been trying to kill, and it was quite nice to get out of the trenches to stretch our legs in the daytime. We had been in a fortnight on Xmas Day, and they (the Germans) had been pretty busy all the time. When we went over to them we took plenty of cigarettes which we exchanged for tobacco and

cigars. They seemed to be quite good chaps – so different to what you would think they were. We stayed in these trenches 22 days, and I can tell you it was pretty bad, as we were up to the knees in water by the time we went out. But still, it is no use troubling about small things like that.”

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

THE GERMAN COWARDS

WHITWICK SOLDIER CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

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

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER UNDER FIRE

SOME LIVELY TIMES IN THE TRENCHES

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

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

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

Writing subsequently, Briers says how pleased he was to get a letter from home, adding, “It put fresh life into me. We were under shell fire the other night, but we came out all right. I am pleased to hear that Ernest Booton is going on all right. It almost makes me wish I was with him, but never mind, I am only doing my duty for my country and one cannot do more. Good luck to him and I hope he gets his feet all right again. I



expect Kitchener's army will be here soon. When we were at Portsmouth I heard some of them say that they would like to go in the trenches at once. They will soon have the chance and good luck to them. I should like to come over to England and see you once more, as I think we have had a good innings from November 8th, but they will not let us off now. I have got enough tobacco to last me for six months.

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

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BEAUMONT RIFLE CLUB

LADY BEAUMONT OPENS NEW RANGES AT COALVILLE

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

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

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

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

Bell medal presented by the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs won by T. Lashmore, with 281 out of a possible 300; 2nd G. Clay 253. Bronze medal presented by the S.M.R.C. winner Mr Walker with 313 including handicap. Without handicap the possible was 300. The Sheppard Bowl and Club Championship, G. Irons with 1620 out of a possible 1750, which was a record for the club. (Cheers); 2nd C. W. H. Gutteridge 1531; 3rd T. Lashmore 1529; 4th G. Walker 1500; 5th G. Clay 1435. Monthly spoons, 1st month, G. Walker; next three months, G. Clay.

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

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

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

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

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

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LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER KILLED

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

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GIFTS TO LOCAL SOLDIERS

MORE LETTERS OF THANKS

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

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

Pte. J. Cooper

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

Pte. G. Hiron

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

Pte. B. Clibbery

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

Pte. W. Summers

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

Pte. T. Gee

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

Corpl. J. D. Sheffield

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

Pte. S. Hardy

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

L-Corpl. L. Beck

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

Pte. Owen Hallam

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

T. Grainger

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

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COALVILLE GIFTS APPRECIATED

DOMINOES IN THE TRENCHES

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

LETTER FROM CORPL. SHEFFIELD

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

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

UPSET THE GERMAN BAND

In another letter written to Mr Sam Goacher, Corpl. Sheffield says, "We are in the firing line, and, at places, only about 70 yards, or less, from the German trenches – in fact we can hear them speaking quite plainly. We were bothered the other night by a few playing a varied sort of musical instruments, and thus once more listened to a German band. Then one, who, no doubt has worked in England, would sing some of our comic songs, usually finishing by singing "God Save the King," but instead of 'King' they would say 'Kaiser'. They

had an interruption to their concert, though, in the shape of one of our shrapnels. There was no more singing that night or a few nights after. There will be a little excitement as soon as the weather picks up. I have had heaps of narrow escapes, but am pleased to say up to now I am well. One night a sergeant and myself were talking at a little village (or I might say, the ruins of one) about 200 yards from the German trenches when a shot came and flattened itself behind our heads. Another few inches! Well, it might as well have been a mile away. It did no damage. A shell came one day and dropped about the next house, killing two little French children, wounding several more. We are still as lively as ever, and not at all down-hearted."

SHELLED BY THE GERMANS

COALVILLE SOLDIER THINKS OF HOME

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S HUMOUR

AN INVITATION TO TEA

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH

WHILE TRAINING AT CATERHAM

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

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



AN OLD MELODEON WANTED

ANOTHER LETTER FROM "SMOSH"

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

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

LIKES THE FUN

COALVILLE SOLDIER SEEING THE SIGHTS

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



IBSTOCK MAN IN THE TRENCHES

THRILLING EXPERIENCES

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

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

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S LETTER TO CATHOLIC PRIEST

Father Degan received the following letter on February 23rd.

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

Joseph Hart
France, 12th February, 1915

ASHBY

CITIZENS' CORPS

About 60 members of the Ashby Citizens' Corps assembled at the Town Hall on Sunday morning, and, accompanied by the Ashby Prize Band, attended service at the Wesleyan Chapel. Mr G. J. German (captain) was in command. Mr C. Elliott, M.A., headmaster of the Grammar School, read the lesson, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. R. Sharpley, a retired Army chaplain. At the close of the service the National Anthem was sung.



IN A WARM CORNER

WHITWICK SOLDIER GETS THROUGH SAFELY

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

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

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

GERMAN OFFICERS AT DONINGTON

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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

Mr Tenant: I am not aware of that.

Mr Butcher: Is it necessary a large country house should be taken for the German officers?

Mr Tenant: There was no other accommodation available.

HUGGLESCOTE MAN IN BIG BATTLE

BROKEN IN NOW

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

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



COALVILLE CITIZEN CORPS

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



LOCAL NOTES

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

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