

Coalville Times At War

Friday January 1st 1915 (Issue 1191)

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BARLESTONE

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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

ASHBY

CHRISTMASTIDE

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

MARKFIELD

BELGIAN RELIEF

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

IN MEMORIAM

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

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DEAD MAN'S DIARY

NOTES OF A BRAVE LOUGHBOROUGH SERGEANT

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

Sergeant L. Dennis, Coddington Road, Sileby, near Loughborough, was killed in action on October 23rd, and his diary has been forwarded to relatives. Commencing his narrative in August, the dead sergeant graphically describes the progress of our army into Belgium, and his last entry is dated "21/10/14" – two days prior to his death. Dealing with the reception given to the British troops in France, he has enumerated the various gifts showered upon the men, and on September 6th he writes about the French girls "who did not mind the soldiers kissing them," and the scramble for souvenirs. On the same date there is a reference to food, and the menu appears to have included eggs, rabbits, fowl, potatoes and other vegetables, but on the 12th September, three days later, there is an entry affording a marked contrast to the foregoing. "We have

had rations issued today so are feeding on carrots and mealies” – thus writes Sergeant Dennis after being under heavy artillery fire. “We did not retire,” he adds, “but took up a position. We could do nothing, however, but sit tight while the shells were dropping around us.”

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

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

“That all premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor within the areas specified in the Schedule hereto shall be closed for the sale of intoxicating liquors by any person not resident therein at 9 p.m. and shall also

be closed as respects the members of any of His Majesty's Forces except during the hour between 12 noon and 1 p.m. and the hours between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HUGE COALVILLE SOCIAL

FOR THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' COMFORTS GUILD

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

Ladies: 1 Miss M Bailey, 258; 2 Mrs Darby, 255; mystery, Miss Lillian Mason (a little girl who was loudly cheered) 231; and lowest score, Mrs Hamilton, 208:

Gents: 1 Mr C. Morris, 264; 2 Mr J. Unwin, 261; mystery, Mr F. Baker, 236; and lowest score, Mr G. W. Hammond, 206:

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

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

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

DO YOU KNOW

That 56 men from Markfield have joined the colours?

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

TENDERS

BELGIAN REFUGEES' COMMITTEE COALVILLE DISTRICT

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

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

IN OLYMPIA

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

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

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

Doors open 1:45, commences 2:30.

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

SOLDIERS' GIFTS FROM WHITWICK

YEOMANRY MAJOR'S THANKS

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

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

W. F. Martin

Major, C Squadron, Leicestershire Yeomanry

WHITWICK YEOMANRY'S THANKS

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

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

FOR ELLISTOWN'S SOLDIERS

SUCCESSFUL DANCE AND WHIST DRIVE

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

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

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

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

ELLISTOWN

WELCOME TO SOLDIERS ON FURLOUGH

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

ASHBY

CITIZENS' CORPS

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

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COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED

FORMER EMPLOYEE OF MR MOSS

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER IN HOSPITAL

SON OF GEORGE SWAIN

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

CONTINUOUS RAINS AT THE FRONT

LETTER FROM SHEPshed LIBERAL CLUB MANAGER

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

LEICESTERS AND GERMANS ON VISITING TERMS

In a letter to his parents, who reside at 19, Walnut Street, Leicester, Lance-Corporal S. Morris, 1st Leicesters says: "Things are very quiet here today (Christmas Day). The Germans have asked us not to shoot and they

offer to do the same. The men got quite friendly, singing songs alternately, and exchanging tobacco – in fact they are visiting each other’s trenches. But what’s in store for tomorrow?”

ASHBY OFFICER KILLED

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

V.C. FOR ASHBY SOLDIER

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

LEICESTER SOLDIER KILLED

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

IBSTOCK SOLDIER’S XMAS DINNER

HOW KITCHENER’S MEN FARED

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

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

Yours, One of the Ibstock boys.

Friday January 8th 1915 (Issue 1192)

HEATHER

CONCERT

On Boxing Day, a children's concert was given in the evening in the National School which was nicely decorated for the occasion, and which was also well attended. The Rev. H. Standidge presided in a very able manner and the creditable rendering by the children of songs, recitations, action songs, sketches, play, etc., displayed great credit on the part of their training. The accompanist was Mr J. Cooper. Two of the outstanding features was a play entitled: "Dorothy's Dream" which represented destitute homes in Belgium and the flight of the refugees, and also the Union Jack ribbon drill which had great effect on the audience. The proceeds amounting to £5 10s are to be devoted to the Belgian refugee (local) fund. Great credit is due to Miss Daisy Cooper, the organiser of the effort.

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BELGIAN REFUGEES AT BROOM LEYS

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

Monseur, Quai Londor 79, Liege.
Franckx, Rue de l'Escant 28, Anvers.
Lauwers, Bruxelles.
Vanmalder, St. Job Uncle by Bruxelles.
Transaer, Ermbodlegem.
Vanden Eynde, Rue Ceyligst 36, Anvers.
Hostens, Courte Rue de la Chapelle des bateliers 9, Anvers.
Decleene, St. Armand Rue de l'Angle 13, Gand.
Drumeaux, Provence de Namur, Chairiers.
Vantichelt, Rue de Gar No. 89, Anvers.
Vervaeet, Rue Ville bourse, 9, Anvers.
Mortier, Rue des Tisserants, Grand.
Kennef, Rue de la Clouche 35, Grand.
Feems, Nouvelle Allie 5, Anvers.
Respeel, Rue de Deurne 57, Anvers.
Corman, Antwerpen.
Nahoel, Chaussee d'Herenhals 89, (Deurne Sud) Anvers.
De Witte, Antwerpen.
Romain, Rue de la Province nord 82, Anvers.
Georgevitch, Liege.
Keirsebelck, Rue du Paradis 8, Antwerp.
Yassens, Courte Rue de la Digue 3, Anvers.
Cheruy, Charleroi, Roux.
Mage, Flemalle Haute, Chassee de Liege, R.C.I.
Gillis, Pleine No. 2, Malines.
Derume, Celle-ler-Tournai.
Marchel, Bruxelles.
Bertrand, Rue St. Ghillain 26, Bruxelles.
Robert, Dorp Street, Hormael.
Bogaerts, Vielle (Street) Bourse No. 9, Anvers.
Bothi, Tirlemont
Knooten, Liege.
Bernard, Place du Manage No. 6, Charleroi.
Dessy, Rue de College 20, Verviers.
Gaspards, Place de Lagare, Herve.
Dutriene, R. Circle 18, Ostende.
Franconnier, Rue de l'Hotel, De Ville, 8, Herve.
Devos, Tirlemont.
Veryken, Marche aux emirs 28, Malines.
Houtiers, Rue Chauve Souris 30, Liege.

Caviere, Gilly.
Cabooter, Rue Torfs 34, Anvers.
Tarras, Rue Capelle Millan, Sweveghem.
Nieuvenhuysen, Leopold Street 37 (Bercham), Antwerpen.
Colinot, Rue Sovet 184, Ciney.
Nys, Rue de Ribaucourt 92, Molenbeck.
Isaac, Rue Grand gagnage 25, Liege.
Midroles, Rue du Laven 56, Liege.
Falise, (or Van de Voost), Rue Longue, Ostende.
Rosaert, (Dutrienne), Circle Street, 18, Ostende.
Andres (or Gaspar), Rue de la Station, Herve.
Goossens, Marche auxeniers 33, Malines.
De Maesschalck, Avenue Van Ryswyck 39, Anvers.
Peetess, Rue Potgretersterstraat 49, Anvers.
De Weges, Chaussee d'Herenthals 60, Anvers.
Rutten, Albert.
Demeyer, Jules.
Van Herramegh Emile, St. Amaisberg, by Ghent.
Willens Joseph, Eagles Straat 4 F, Bruxelles.
Van Droogenbrock Johannas, Teniske, Anvers.

NAVAL DISASTER

BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

The Press Bureau on Friday afternoon issued the following statement:

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

A SISTER SHIP OF H.M.S. BULWARK

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

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

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

LEICESTER MEN ON THE FORMIDABLE

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

W. Cheney, able seaman
J. Farrer, stoker

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

BELGIAN SOLDIERS IN A BURTON MINE

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

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ALD. COPE ON TREATING SOLDIERS

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC

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

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

RECRUITING IN COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

A SERIES OF MEETINGS

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

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

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

The chairman said he felt that everyone must be moved by the interesting address given by Mr Sanford. He believed that there were many still in Bagworth who should come forward; not only working men such as

they had in the room that night, but others of the farming class. He was proud to say that three of his sons had volunteered to do what lay in their power, and, as Mr Sanford had said the sting of reproach must fall heavily on those who were evading the duty. (Cheers.) On an appeal being made for recruits four young fellows came forward and it was hoped that others would follow their example.

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

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

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

MORE MEN WANTED

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

Next Thursday afternoon, a pageant, entitled "Children through the Centuries," is to be given at Leicester Palace in aid of the war emergency fund of the Waifs and Strays Society and it is interesting to note that Mrs J. J. Sharp, of Whitwick, is responsible for one of the scenes, "Charles I." The following will be the characters: "Charles I," Mr R. L. Brown; "Bishop of London," the Rev. S. Hosking; "Princess Elizabeth," Miss

N. Burkitt; "Prince Henry," Master Derek Lomax; "Faithful Herbert," Mr Stuart Turner; Lady Royalists, Mrs Barker and Miss Doris Turner; Jailors, Dr. Griffin and Mr Stanleigh Turner; these ladies or gentlemen will be pleased to supply tickets.

Pte. Jack Swain, of the 3rd Leicesters, son of Mr George Swain, of James Street, Coalville, has arrived home from France to recuperate, having been in hospital suffering from bronchitis. He had been in France just over a month when he was taken ill and his regiment had not then actually been in the fighting, but were about to move up to the front. He is getting all right again and is to return on the 25th inst. Swain says there are several Coalville men in his company – Palmer, Williamson, Briers, Collier, Hunt, Corpl. Wildes, Hall (Thringstone) and others. He says they are enjoying it all right, except that the weather is very trying. At Lehavre, where they have been stationed, tents have been repeatedly blown over and the men move about in slush and sludge.

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

IBSTOCK

ARRIVAL OF BELGIAN REFUGEES

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

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

COALVILLE WORKMAN AND SUPPOSED GERMAN SPY

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

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

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COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

THREE SHILLINGS SAVED BY ENLISTING

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

ABSENT MILITARY MEMBERS NOT DISQUALIFIED

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

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LEICESTERSHIRE CITIZENS' LEAGUE

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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

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

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES AT BROOM LEYS

REFUGEES HAVE A GOOD TIME

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

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

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

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

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

ROLLS OF HONOUR AT CHURCHES

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

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

COALVILLE TOMMY'S HUMOUR

NOT TROUBLED WITH THE BEER TAX

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



TWICE REPORTED KILLED

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S HURRIED VISIT HOME

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

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

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER AT THE FRONT

HOW HE SPENT CHRISTMAS

CAROL SINGING IN THE TRENCHES

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

A GOOD CHRISTMAS

We have received the following letter from France:-

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

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

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

IBSTOCK SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE

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

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

Your son, Joe.

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST BAGWORTH SOLDIER

ILLNESS OF A MATERIAL WITNESS

CASE ADJOURNED

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

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

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

Mr Baxter: Not at present.

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

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

Mr Jesson: And suppose Mrs Baxter can't be there?

Supt. Smith: We will see that she is there if it is at all possible. If not, we will let the case go through on its merits. I will not ask for a further demand.

Mr Jesson applied for bail.

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

THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

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

GIFTS TO WHITWICK YEOMANRY

OFFICERS' LETTER OF THANKS

The following letters have been received by Mrs Sharp.

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

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

BELGIAN REFUGEES MARRIED AT COALVILLE

AN INTERESTING EVENT

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

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

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

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

Friday January 15th 1915 (Issue 1193)

ASHBY

BELGIAN REFUGEES' CHRISTMAS TREE

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Typical of the splendid sacrifices which are being made by all classes of people in Coalville and in various ways for helping the men who are fighting our battles in France and the North Sea, a gift of five guineas to the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts' Guild has just come into the hands of the treasurer (Mrs J. W. Farmer) in an interesting manner. For some years it has been the custom of Dr. Jamie and Mr George Glover (colliery under manager) to act as hon. lecturer and hon. instructor respectively to the St. John Ambulance classes which are run during the winter months in connection with the South Leicester and Snibston Collieries, and in recognition of their services, it has invariably been the custom of the miners to make them a small present at the end of the term. They were desirous of doing so this year, but both Dr. Jamie and Mr Glover intimated their willingness to forego the gift on this occasion and let the money go to the funds of the Guild. Five guineas, therefore have been handed over as stated.

SHEPSHED

DANCE

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

FROM FRANCE

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

HIGHLAND PIPERS

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

WHITWICK

WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

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

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

Refreshments were provided by a ladies committee.

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ADVERTISEMENT

TENDERS

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT BELGIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE

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

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

A SOLDIER OF THE WAR

In the Progressive Hall at the Coalville Liberal Club, on Wednesday night, Pte. S. Rouse, of the Oxford Light Infantry, who has returned from France wounded, gave an interesting lecture on the war to a good audience. The lecturer gave a history of the war from the commencement, and, using maps, traced the movements of the various armies, explained how battles were fought and the methods of advance and retreat. Mr A. Lockwood proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer and to Mr B. G. Hale for presiding, which was seconded by Mr E. King and heartily accorded – Mr Hale responding, said he had spoken to many experts and all agreed that we should certainly win. Some people said the war would last for another two or three years, but he believed it would be over in about six months. There was a seething mass of discontent in Germany and that would be the solution. The moment the military power in Germany was broken and the people could voice their feelings with no uncertain sound, he felt confident that would be the end of the great struggle.

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

That eight Belgian refugees at Coalville were each presented with an overcoat by the Coalville Co-operative Society last night?

That two of the Belgian refugees who have been residing at Thringstone, left on Wednesday to take up farm work near Kettering?

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

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

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

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

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

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COALVILLE LEAGUE AND THE WAR

SEVEN RESIGNATIONS

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

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

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

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

The Ashby Hastings secretary attended as to the ground not being marked out and no nets up for the match with Ibstock Wanderers on December 12th and only playing eight men. Ibstock were late and the match was 19 minutes short. The score was 2-2. Mr Robey explained the circumstances and the difficulties of carrying on the club owing to the war. They had been compelled to resign, nine of the players having enlisted. The resignation was accepted and Ashby were asked to send in the names of players who had joined the forces, which, it was stated, would have a bearing on the Committee's decision as to the deposit.

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

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

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

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CITIZENS' HUGE RALLY AT COALVILLE

MR W. A. BROCKINGTON ON WAR AND PATRIOTISM

EFFORT FOR SOLDIERS' COMFORTS

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

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

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

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

Mr Brockington, who was cordially received, opened his lecture by a recital on the ideals of peace and said that none had so closely approached to that as Great Britain. We became a free people from the time we became a nation. If they wanted to realise what a change an arrogant bureaucracy and military tyranny could affect in the homes of the free citizens of empire they had only to stand aside and see Germany conquer. The home might be a poor place and they had got to make it better, but in the meantime it was worth fighting for; this island of ours, with its immortal tradition of free institutions was well worth fighting for. (Applause). The war came home to them. He supposed there was hardly anyone in that building who had not someone in the fighting line or waiting to go. And it was very near to them geographically. Friends direct from the trenches had been over and spent weekends with them – a few hours leave – and had returned to the scene of the conflict. As Mr Winston Churchill said in his great speech in the Guildhall, London, only 80 miles away the greatest battle ever known was going on and yet to the outward eye nothing had changed. They were gathered in that building in Coalville, on the 160th day, at the end of the 23rd week of the great war and to the material eye nothing had changed, thanks to our island position and a powerful navy. He referred to the devastation of Belgium and said it was not playing the game. The patriotism of our island race might not always be of a sober hue, but it was a fast colour and always came well out in the wash. (Applause).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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RAVENSTONE SOLDIER'S BATTLES

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF DRIVER PLOWMAN

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

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

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



DRIVER PLOWMAN.

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

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

ASHBY SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

SHOOK HANDS WITH THE GERMANS

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER MISSING

WIFE OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED

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

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

Yours faithfully
N. Payne
Officer in charge of records.

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

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



HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER IN FRANCE

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

A SOLDIER'S THANKS

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

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

BAGWORTH MAN WOUNDED

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



COALVILLE SOLDIER'S APPRECIATION OF COMFORTS

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

ELLISTOWN GOALKEEPER'S RETURN

EXPERIENCES WITH THE LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY

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

TOMMY WELL LOOKED AFTER

TESTIMONY OF A COALVILLE SOLDIER

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

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

MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.'S ROLL OF HONOUR

LIST OF WORKMEN WHO HAVE JOINED THE FORCES

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

Roland Hill, Harold Hancox, Lewis Wheeldon, Fred Bradshaw, Henry Smith, Ernest Massey, Robert Deacon, Arthur Massey, William Scoon, Charles Jewsbury, Albert Thirlby, Harold Deakin, Wilfred Lilley, John Hall, Samuel Boot, Alfred Freeman, Fred Ducker, Horace Savage, Charles Hunt, Walter Smith, Harold Smith, Wilfred Fowkes, William Howell, Edward Knight, Emanuel Holyoak, James Massey, Joseph Brown, Samuel Allen, Albert Mason, William Saddington, Arthur Poole, Horace Crofts, Jesse Weston, Joseph Cowley, Edward Walker, Walter Gray, Alfred Deakin, James Coles, Arthur Congrave, Walter Hagger, Oswyne Peck, James Hurst, Benjamin Grew, Alfred Smith, Thomas Berkin, William Cooke, Cecil Bradshaw, John Harper, Harold Jones, William Harrison, Joseph Collier, Frank Wheeldon, John Spriggs, George Gilbert, Fred Williamson, Lawrence Usherwood, George Clarke, Harry Spence, Edgar Boot, Frank Glynn, Fred Toyer, Fred Briers, Joseph Capnor, Charles Topham, Frank Tabener, Jack Platts, Harold Clark, George Wilkes, Frank Bonser, and Stanley Harrison.

FRAUDULENT COLLECTING FOR WOUNDED SOLDIER

A SERIOUS OFFENCE

MEASHAM COLLIERS SENT TO PRISON

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

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

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

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

The Clerk: And this would not help recruiting?

Witness: No, I thought it was a bad example. – He added that when the defendants presented the paper, he questioned whether it was legal and the defendants said it was, as Sanders had received no pay for seven weeks.

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

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

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

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

By Supt. Lockton: He did not see Sanders before making the collection, and did not get his permission.

The Supt. : Did you tell the people Sanders was in great need? – No sir, I said his wife had been ill for six or seven weeks.

Supt. Lockton: You wrote the paper without getting Sanders' permission? – Yes.

And when the policeman went to the house, you had a full gallon of ale there? – Yes.

The other defendant, Spacey, said he was not much of a clerk. He wrote the paper without thinking and did not think he was doing any harm? – Yes.

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

BABY BORN AT BROOM LEYS

ANOTHER MUSICAL EVENING

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

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

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

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

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST BAGWORTH SOLDIER

COMMITTED TO THE ASSIZES

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

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

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

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

MAINTENANCE OF BELGIAN REFUGEES AT HINCKLEY

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

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LEICESTER V.C. HERO

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

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GALLANT LEICESTER SERGT'S DEATH

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASHBY

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

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

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LOCAL NEWS

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRETTY PAGEANT AT LEICESTER

"CHILDREN THROUGH THE CENTURIES"

LOCAL PERFORMERS

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

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

The scene opens with the King and the Bishop pacing up and down the stage engaged in earnest conversation. Afterwards they heat themselves at the table on which are books and a casket. Two jailers are present. After about one minute, the children enter accompanied by three lady Royalists and the faithful Herbert; the ladies curtsey to the King and then to the Bishop and pass on. The children greet the Bishop, who blesses them, and the King greets them as they run to him affectionately. The lady attendants, the Bishop and Herbert now retire, Charles draws the boy onto his knee and Elizabeth kneels by his side, and all

engage in earnest conversation for a minute; the King then takes the garter from his knee and puts it on Henry's and takes a necklace from the casket and puts it round Elizabeth's neck. The Jailers now approach and whisper to the children that it is time to retire. The ladies now re-enter weeping with the Bishop and Herbert. The children reluctantly rise to go after affectionate embraces, and the King is greatly moved, and as the children depart he rushes after them and takes Henry up in his arms. Herbert takes them from the attendants and all withdraw. The King now shows signs of great emotion and paces the stage impatiently (the Jailers and the Bishop are in the background). He then throws himself down at the Pri-Dieu and the Bishop advances and holds the crucifix over him.

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

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COALVILLE CITIZENS' AND ENLISTMENT

THE SIGNING OF THE ROLL

IMPORTANT NEW ORDER

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

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

The Chairman: About forty.

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

The Chairman: They would come under it.

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

Mr C. Coleman asked whether there was a time limit. The Chairman said there was not. The secretary had had several requests from the commanding officer of the district to send in the roll. Mr Allen said he did not

think they could carry a gun without a license unless they were recognised. Neither could they take their rifle for practice on the range.

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

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

The Chairman said the chief thing was recognition and they would belong to a county regiment and be called up for county drill occasionally. Officers would be detailed to inspect them at stated intervals and it would make for greater efficiency. But the main idea of forming the corps was to form themselves into a last defence. They did not expect to go to Germany, but were prepared to defend their own shores if necessary. No doubt they could all give a reason for not joining the regular army, but the question was whether the recruiting officer would accept it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HINCKLEY CITIZEN CORPS

SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS

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

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

WHITWICK MAN IN HONG KONG

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



COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THANKS

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

In another letter he states that he has had a post card from Mr William Eames wishing him every success. He wonders what sort of weather we are having at Coalville, but where he is, it is continually raining. He had 37 hours on guard last week and it rained without ceasing for 24 hours. Thirty-three Canadians had recently joined their company, these men having paid their own passages from Canada to come and enlist in England. They told him that there were over 80,000 soldiers situated on the border separating Canada from the United States and they did not want to be stuck there. They wanted to get here so that they could have a good chance to go and see the fun. In reference to the gifts for which he expresses thanks, he says they are frequently needing new socks.

FLOODING GERMAN TRENCHES

THRILLING EXPERIENCES OF A SHEPshed SOLDIER

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

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

ASHBY

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT

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

BELGIAN REFUGEES AT COALVILLE

A SATISFACTORY REPORT

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

"The sub-committee have pleasure in reporting that since their appointment they have received (including a girl born at Broom Leys on the 10th inst.) 87 refugees, viz., 55 men, 16 women and 16 children, of these, two were married on the 7th inst., one has returned to Belgium to fetch his wife and ten children, whom he has succeeded in finding. They are now in Holland and the committee have written him an invitation to bring them to Broom Leys. Two have returned to Belgium, two have gone to work in Leicester, one to Coventry, one to London, one aged lady had gone to her married daughter at Dartford, Kent, twelve have obtained work locally, and the committee regret to say that they were compelled to return six men and one woman to the Central Committee in London, because they were not amenable to discipline. They are very pleased to say that the general conduct of those remaining is eminently satisfactory. It should be stated that a number of the men are soldiers who have been wounded in the war; some of them have been discharged and others are convalescent and liable to further service when fit. Your committee have thought it desirable to obtain frequent tenders for provisions etc., both from a financial point and also to give all tradesmen equal opportunity of supply. Owing to the destitute state in which the unfortunate refugees arrived and the paucity of clothing they possessed, the committee have had to beg and buy a fair quantity of clothing and boots. It was also necessary at the commencement to buy a considerable quantity of bed clothing etc. They are glad to announce that they have received four bags of flour, ten sacks of potatoes, and two 80 lb cheeses, their share of Canada's gifts to the war refugees. They have found it necessary to engage a competent woman to take charge of the catering and cooking department and Miss Titterton commenced her duties this week. They beg to express their deep sense of gratitude to the public for their general kindness to the refugees and their continued financial support and also to the various committees and collectors for their excellent services to the cause. Your committee meets weekly and although they have found the duties of a very trying and arduous nature, they have spared no effort to manage the house economically, having due regard to the comfort and proper treatment of your guests, and from the expressions of thanks received from the refugees, they feel that their efforts have been successful."

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

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KING CONGRATULATES LEICESTER MAN

EIGHT SONS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY

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

January 19th, 1915.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that the King has heard with much interest that you have at the present moment eight sons in the Army and Navy. I am commanded to express to you the congratulations and to assure you that his Majesty much appreciates the spirit of patriotism which prompted this example, in one

family, of loyalty and devotion to their Sovereign and Empire. I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant.

F. M. Ponsonby
Keeper of the Privy Purse

HINCKLEY DEFENCE CORPS

MR HAWLEY ELECTED PRESIDENT

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

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BAGWORTH SOLDIER ACQUITTED

ALLEGED ASSAULT UNCORROBORATED

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

WHITWICK

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

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

THRINGSTONE

ANNUAL GATHERING

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

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LOCAL NEWS

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

CITIZENS' CORPS UNITED

A COUNTY REGIMENT ESTABLISHED

IMPORTANT CONFERENCE

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

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

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

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

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

The chairman, replying to a vote of thanks for presiding, expressed his delight in being associated with the movement. The spirit of the meeting clearly showed that every man meant business, and he felt sure that the Duke of Rutland, to whom he would report fully, would give the project his full support, as also the Mayors of Leicester and Loughborough. His own sympathy was entirely with the men and their objects in preparing for any danger that might arise, and he felt sure the public would subscribe most liberally for what, after all, was their own protection. The way the men were coming forward voluntarily for drill and to become efficient combatants was splendid. For this alone they deserved every recognition from all, and he would himself do all in his power to further the proposed fund. (Applause).

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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ASHBY CITIZEN CORPS

PUBLIC MEETING

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

Mr W. A. Musson said they had met to stimulate the formation of the Citizens' Corps, and there could only be one answer as to the necessity of such a body, upon which a very serious responsibility might rest. Mr G. J.

German (captain) gave an encouraging report of his company, and said the question was how to get rifles and uniform but with or without rifles and uniform they were determined to go on.

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

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**COALVILLE SAILOR IN NORTH SEA FIGHT
ON BOARD THE "PRINCESS ROYAL"
AN OLD WESLEYAN SCHOOL BOY**

Coalville was represented in the fight in the North Sea on Sunday by Mr Bert Hodgkinson, whose home is in Vaughan Street, where his father (a railwayman) and mother reside. Hodgkinson is engineer's mate on board H.M.S. "Princess Royal," which not only had a share in causing the German rout on Sunday, but also one of the ships which participated in the great victory in Helligoland Bight about the end of August, being slightly damaged on that occasion.



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

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

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

COALVILLE FOOTBALLER'S RETURN TO THE FRONT

In a letter to Mr Alfred Cockerill, landlord of the Royal Oak Inn, Coalville, Pte. James Smith of the R.A.M.C. an old Coalville Town footballer, popularly known as "Smosh" and who was recently in Coalville on furlough, says he landed back all right and just now was "in the pink." He says he hopes "Twiggie" won't get married

before he gets back as he wants to be at the wedding. He hopes to get back in time to see the final for the English football cup and would like to know who is now in the running. In the struggle on the continent he says he is backing England to win. He would like to see more of his old pals joining the colours. He has not dropped across many out there that he knows yet, but mentions having seen Garner, who was not looking well. The weather was not yet very gay out there, but it had considerably improved.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER SUFFERING FROM FROST-BITE

GIFTS THAT ARE APPRECIATED AT THE FRONT

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

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

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



LETTER FROM A "MISSING" COALVILLE SOLDIER

"COALVILLE TIMES" WELCOMED IN THE TRENCHES

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

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

looked after so well as we are. All that is possible is being done to make the trenches habitable. I hope this will find you all in the best of health as I am "in the pink" myself at present."

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



WITH KITCHENER'S ARMY IN FRANCE

ELLISTOWN MAN SAILED ON TUESDAY

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER IN FIERCE FIGHTING

ANOTHER BIG BATTLE EXPECTED

Writing to Mr W. J. Gough, of the Talbot Farm, Whitwick, Corpl. Charles Yearby, a Whitwick man, of the Royal Field Artillery, says he hopes all the members of the club (Thringstone House) are well. They were having a very trying time with the wet and snow and it was very cold at night. They would not care if the

weather would only clear up. He had been in some fierce fighting, but things had been quiet the last few days and they were expecting a big battle soon. He was enjoying the sport though it would be a good job for all if it was over. He wishes to be remembered to members of the club and hopes that all the young fellows will come forward to help their country.

COALVILLE POLICEMAN A PRISONER

NOT ALLOWED TO RECEIVE LETTERS

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

IBSTOCK MAN IN THE TRENCHES

EVERYMAN DOING HIS BEST

Pte. J. Lockton, an Ibstock man, in the Coldstream Guards, and who before going to the war was Sergt. Major in the Church Lad's Brigade, writing to a friend in Ibstock, Mr A. J. Walker, states that he is in good health at present which was something to be thankful for, as what they were going through was enough to

knock the stuffing out of the best of men. He proceeds, "A week ago today I stood for over five hours, knee deep in water, in the firing line and we could only move to raise our heads to fire and then bob down again. Going into the trenches it was over waist deep in places and the whole of the 24 hours that we were in it rained hells' delight. It is a very trying time for us, but every man out here is doing his best to keep the old flag flying. It is better that we should suffer now than that those who follow us should be ruled by such a dirty, rotten and disreputable nation as the Huns. That will never be unless the Kaiser walks over the dead body of every British soldier out here, and I don't think he can do this. We have potted the pride of his army, although we have lost fine men, but his losses are ten to one more than ours. Thank Jack Warner and Mr Brooks for "cigs." I don't know when I shall be able to repay you for all your kindness. I am keeping a good heart and hope to come back and see you all again some day." He concludes by saying that newspapers and periodicals are always welcome. He wishes to be remembered to all old friends.

COALVILLE POLICEMAN SAFE

TRENCHES LIKE CLAY PITS

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

SOLDIER'S DEATH AT BURTON STATION

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

FAMOUS ADMIRAL

LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER'S SUCCESSES

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

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