

Coalville Times At War

Friday March 5th 1915 (Issue 1200)

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SOLDIER CHARGED AT COALVILLE

ALLEGED THEFT OF A WATCH AT HUGGLESCOTE

SAID HE WANTED A KEEPSAKE

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

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

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

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEATHER

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

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

DO YOU KNOW

That the Coalville Territorials have arrived safely in France?

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

DESERTER FROM THE CAMERONIANS

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

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COALVILLE URBAN COUNCIL

Highway Committee Report

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

Gas Committee

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

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

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

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DRUMMER G. H. WILCOX.



ELLISTOWN SOLDIER AT THE SEASIDE

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

GUARDSMAN'S FUNERAL AT HUGGLESCOTE

WITNESSED BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR. LAWRENCE GOUGH MADE
SERGEANT.

THRINGSTONE TERRITORIAL PROMOTED



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

Friday March 12th 1915 (Issue 1201)

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SOLDIER'S THEFT AT HUGGLESCOTE

WANTED A KEEPSAKE

A LENIENT VIEW

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

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

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

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

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

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

The summary of the annual report of the Pearl Assurance Company Ltd, printed in our advertisement columns makes very interesting reading. Up to the outbreak of the war the company was making its usual excellent progress and it is noteworthy that since then no less than 1908 members of the staff have joined His Majesty's Forces. In spite of the unprecedented conditions brought about by the war, the company's record for the whole year is a splendid one, the income being £126,206 5s 2d more than that of the previous year. The payments are also of a very complimentary nature and go to show what a strong hold the Pearl has in the favour of the public. Coalville and District has contributed in no small degree to the great success achieved and any information concerning the company will be gladly given by the local representatives.

Mr W. Wesson, fitter, employed at the Midland Railway engine sheds, Coalville, has received information that his son, Sergt. Alfred Wesson, 2nd Leicesters, Indian Expeditionary Force, has been wounded – shot through both legs. He is in hospital at Boulogne. Wesson was in India at the outbreak of the war, and before going to the front spent a few days at Coalville, being accompanied by his brother, who is also serving in the 2nd Leicesters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

D.C.M. FOR IBSTOCK SOLDIER

LANCE-CORPL. J. W. LOCKTON HONOURED

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

HUGGLESCOTE

CITIZEN'S PARADE

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

TEA AND CONVERSATION

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASHBY

GIFTS TO OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

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

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SEPARATION ALLOWANCE

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

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ROLL OF HONOUR

HUGGLESCOTE CHURCH SCHOOL OLD BOYS WITH THE FORCES

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

The list up to date is as follows:

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

9153	Pte. J. Blakemore	2 nd Leicesters
11476	Pte. J. Knight	3 rd Leicesters
15864	Pte. W. T. Willett	3 rd Leicesters
16526	Pte. J. Tebbatt	3 rd Leicesters
1119	Pte. J. H. Bullen	5 th Leicesters
1212	Pte. G. Gadsby	5 th Leicesters
1240	Cpl. W. Barney	5 th Leicesters
1250	Cpl. W. Smith	5 th Leicesters
2331	L.-Cpl. A. Quilter	5 th Leicesters
2411	Pte. G. Martin	5 th Leicesters
2438	Pte. W. Pettitt	5 th Leicesters
2487	Pte. J. Summers	5 th Leicesters
2482	Pte. Wilfred Robinson	5 th Leicesters
2493	Pte. W. Newbold	5 th Leicesters
2326	Pte. F. Hill	5 th Leicesters
2522	Pte. I. Harper	5 th Leicesters
2534	Pte. C. Hatter	5 th Leicesters
2540	Pte. R. Glover (Res)	5 th Leicesters
2554	Pte. W. Baker	5 th Leicesters
2560	Pte. W. Cowley	5 th Leicesters
2566	Pte. C. Beadman	5 th Leicesters
2810	Pte. H. Thompson	5 th Leicesters
2865	Pte. W. Bradford	5 th Leicesters
2999	Br. H. Watson (Res)	5 th Leicesters
2515	Pte. H. Meadows	5 th Leicesters
3001	Pte. S. Summers	5 th Leicesters
3142	Pte. F. W. Cooper	5 th Leicesters
3148	Pte. H. Gadsby	5 th Leicesters
3099	Pte. J. Bamkin (Res)	5 th Leicesters
14445	Pte. A. Neville	8 th Leicesters
13298	Pte. O. Pratt	8 th Leicesters
13205	Pte. G. Browne	8 th Leicesters
13180	Pte. A. Cartwright	8 th Leicesters
11483	Pte. A. Hull	8 th Leicesters
14639	Pte. W. Hall	8 th Leicesters
15279	Pte. J. A. Pegg	8 th Leicesters
16046	Pte. T. Wilson	8 th Leicesters
16781	Pte. W. Heward	8 th Leicesters

THRINGSTONE MEN WITH THE FORCES

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

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

Thringstone Civil and Ecclesiastical Parish.

	Sapper W. Turner	Essex (Fortress) Royal Engineers
295	Pte. T. Jones	County Batt. Durham (*)
1762	Pte. F. W. Rose	Leicestershire Yeo.
2347	Pte. J. Peace	9 th King's Royal Rifles
6867	Corpl. J. West	Royal Scots Infantry
11759	L.-Corpl. W. E. Button	6 th Service Batt. Leicesters

12465	Pte. G. Wilson	18 th Hussars
12034	Pte. J. Hall	
12118	Pte. H. Findall	7 th Service Batt. Leicesters
26939	Pte. J. H. Rennocks	Royal Engineers
7787	Pte. T. A. Commons	1 st Leicesters
16712	Pte. J. Robinson	3 rd Leicesters
	Pte. R. Robinson	3 rd Leicesters
5833	Pte. T. Gee	3 rd Leicesters
2529	Sergt. L. Gough (Res)	5 th Leicesters
2521	Pte. I. Hall (Res)	5 th Leicesters
2525	Pte. J. Hallam (Res)	5 th Leicesters
	Pte. W. Stopp (Res)	5 th Leicesters
1885	Pte. J. Sykes (Res)	5 th Leicesters
10939	Pte. H. Granger	6 th Leicesters
15523	Pte. J. Squires	6 th Leicesters
	Pte. T. Squires	6 th Leicesters
1997	Pte. J. W. Eaton	5 th Leicesters
2564	Pte. J. Bancroft	5 th Leicesters
1346	Pte. A. Bird	5 th Leicesters
12134	Pte. W. Wright	8 th Leicesters

(*) Killed during West Hartlepool bombardment)

Ecclesiastical Portion of the Parish outside the Civil area.

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

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SHEPSHED

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

THRINGSTONE

WAR LECTURE

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

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SHEPshed OFFICER KILLED

THE LATE LIEUTENANT AKED

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

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

IMPRESSIONS OF MY LAST DAYS IN BELGIUM

BY AN EMPLOYEE OF MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.

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

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

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

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

Laroche, a town much favoured by English tourists. In short, before leaving Liege, I was satisfied that we were on the verge of war, and I bought a reliable weapon.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

everyone the instinctive idea of seeking the safety of their cellars, like rats which bolt for their holes at the approach of danger.

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

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

(To be continued)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

ANOTHER COALVILLE SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

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

DONINGTON HALL

OPEN TO VISITORS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

HOW THE GERMAN PRISONERS ENJOY THEMSELVES

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

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

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

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

GERMANS TO REMAIN AT DONINGTON HALL

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

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

ASHBY CITIZEN'S CORPS

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

COALVILLE EFFORT FOR THE WOUNDED

THE SALVATION ARMY MOTOR AMBULANCE UNITS

HUGE GATHERING AT THE OLYMPIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

mothers and sweethearts not to stand in the way of the lads going. We had a great task before us as a nation and it was only by sinking self that we should carry it to a triumphant issue. (Cheers)

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

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

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

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

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

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KILLED FIVE GERMANS

HOW IBSTOCK SOLDIER WON HIS MEDAL

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

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



GOLDEN ROW AT THE FRONT

ANOTHER WHITWICK SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

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



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

COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

EMPLOYEE OF MESSRS. STABLEFORD AND CO.

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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



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

COALVILLE SERGEANT'S DEATH

CHAPLAIN'S KIND LETTERS TO PARENTS

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

WESSON DIES OF HIS WOUNDS

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

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



EAGER TO GET BACK INTO THE TRENCHES

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

ELLISTOWN SOLDIER WOUNDED

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER WOUNDED

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

WHITWICK SOLDIER A PRISONER

HOW LETTERS AND GIFTS ARE APPRECIATED

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

Continuing, he asks them to send him eatables, another good big cake, a bit of cheese and butter, and chocolate in preference to cocoa as they had no fire to make it with. They were also allowed to receive fags and he would be glad of some of these. He thanks all friends who have remembered him and hopes to hear from them every week.

A COALVILLE PRISONER

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

SINGING IN THE TRENCHES

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER AT THE FRONT
SAW HIS PHOTO IN THE COALVILLE TIMES

(Passed by Press Bureau)

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

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

Friday March 26th 1915 (Issue 1203)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASHBY

WAR LECTURE

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

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CLASSES

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

CITIZEN'S CORPS

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

DO YOU KNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

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

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THE LATE SERGT. WESSON

AN APPRECIATION BY FATHER DEGAN

News has just been received of the death in France through wounds received in action of Alfred Wesson, who only a few months ago interrupted his recent journey through India to the Western theatre of war by a visit to his relatives and friends in Coalville. He was in the Sherwood Foresters and thought his regiment the finest in the army. Whilst stationed at Delhi he bought a silk set of his regimental colours for 25 rupees (two pounds) and sent it to his father. In September he wrote from Bombay to say that all was bustle and hurry in speeding up the preparations for a hasty embarkation to Europe for the war. During his short stay in Coalville, he called with his friend Leonard Sheffield, at "The Scotlands," Forest Road, and there received scapulars and a badge of the Sacred Heart, emblems of piety which are being worn by thousands of our troops at the front. He looked forward eagerly to distinguish himself on the battlefield and to returning to Coalville with some military decoration for conspicuous bravery. Soon after his arrival in France, he had to spend a few weeks in hospital on account of frost-bitten feet. In December he wrote to Leonard Sheffield for a cake for Christmas, which would be, he said, a very welcome treat, "on coming out of the trenches" and he added the remark that it is not only a matter of "getting out but also of getting under" in order to escape the enemy's bullets.

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

Joseph Degán

A DESERTER

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

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ANOTHER SHEPshed SOLDIER KILLED

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

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HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS

EMPLOYEE OF COALVILLE URBAN COUNCIL

Another name to swell the local roll of honour is that of Pte. James Young, of the 2nd Battalion Notts and Derby Regiment, whose home was at 16, North Street, Hugglescote. Young went through the South African

War and was called up as a reservist in August last. News of his death was received by his wife on Tuesday morning, from the sister in charge of the hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. He was an employee of the Coalville Urban District Council, 48 years of age, and leaves a wife and one boy aged 11 years. On Monday night, Mrs Young received the following letter:



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

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

March 20th, 1915. Dear Mrs Young, I am sorry to have to inform you of the death of your husband, 6295, Private Young, Notts and Derbyshire Regiment. Your husband was brought in here very severely wounded; in fact, he only lived for a few hours after his admission. Everything possible was done for him by the surgeons and nurses, but we had no hope for his recovery. The chaplain attended your husband and he will be buried

in the churchyard here. I cannot tell you the name of the place, as it is strictly against army regulations to do so. You must feel relieved to know that your husband had every care and attention before he died. He asked me to write to you, but beyond that he left no message. With our sincere sympathy, yours truly.

“COALVILLE TIMES” IN THE TRENCHES

LOCAL SOLDIER’S GOOD WISHES

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

COALVILLE SOLDIER’S PLEASANT SURPRISE

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

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

J. W. Nicholls.

WHITWICK POSTMAN WOUNDED

IN THE GREAT BATTLE AT NEUVE CHAPELLE

KILLED THREE GERMANS

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

He writes: “I was wounded in the early morning on March 12th. It was in the charge on the morning of the 10th, when this advance started. Before we made a



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

Hutchins goes on to say that he hopes his wife as well and he is longing to see her again. He asks for a shillingworth of stamps to be sent, saying that if he posts his letters without stamping them they are delayed. He proceeds; “Remember me to all friends and people who know me in Whitwick. You need not trouble to send me a parcel, as I get plenty eat and drink. I had a nice clean bath and a change of clothes, but the worst of it is we are compelled to stay in bed. I think this is all the news this time. Cheer up! It seems lovely to be in good old England once more. Don't forget to send the “Coalville Times” on to me each week.”

WOUNDED IN SEVERAL PLACES

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH

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

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

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

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

HUGGLESCOTE FOOTBALLER REPORTED KILLED

MAIN SUPPORT OF HIS AGED PARENTS

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

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

Pte. Owen Hallam was well-known as a local footballer, being a member of the Coalville Swifts team and formerly of Hugglescote United. He was called up as a reservist when the war broke out, being then engaged at the Ibstock Colliery. His father, Thomas Hallam, was for many years driver of the winding engine

at Ellistown Colliery and both he and Mrs Hallam are old age pensioners, this now being their only source of income. They have had six sons and five daughters, Owen being the youngest. He was the only son at home and the main support of his aged parents before the war. Another son, Francis was in the South African War, being in Ladysmith during the siege, and he died from disease on the way home.

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

WHITWICK MAN'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES

HELPED TO CAPTURE THE GUNS NOW AT LEICESTER

LEARNING TO SPEAK FRENCH

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

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



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

worst has got to come yet, when the ground gets dry, so that we can get our artillery about for a big advance. We can shift them when we like, but we are waiting for the weather to take up, and then it will be, God help them!"

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

BAGWORTH SOLDIER A PRISONER

Private George Bevins, of the 2nd Leicesters, and late of Bagworth and Broad-lane, Markfield, who is a prisoner of war at No. 9 Barracks, Gottingen, Hanover, has recently written to a friend at Bagworth

acknowledging a sum of money collected in the village and forwarded to him. He says, "I am pleased that you think of me in the village. May you and those who sent it (the money) never want, and if ever it is in my power to do you a good turn, I shall never forget to do so."

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