

Coalville Times At War

Friday March 3rd 1916 (Issue 1252)

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

From Snarestone, Swepstone and Newton Burgoland, Mrs H. C. W. Townsend, Swepstone Rectory, has collected 698 eggs, which have been forwarded for the use of our wounded soldiers. Further and increased contributions will be welcomed by Mrs Townsend.

People in Coalville and district were alarmed shortly before midnight on Saturday by the sounding of a colliery "buzzer." It appears that a small fire occurred in the blacksmith's shop at the Snibstone Colliery, some workmen's clothing getting on fire, and fearing it might get to larger dimensions, one of the employees gave an alarm by sounding two short blasts on the "buzzer." Happily, the fire was soon put out, practically no damage being done, but it disturbed the rest of many residents, who, fearing Zeppelins were about, got up and dressed and did not go to bed again. At midnight, several people were out in the streets making enquiries, and there were several callers at the Coalville Police Station to ascertain the cause of the alarm, while one or two of the special constables promptly put in an appearance. Of course, had the people given the matter a little more thought they would have realised that there was no cause for alarm. It should be distinctly remembered that the warning of the presence of Zeppelins consists of five short blasts on the "buzzer", in all – two short, one long and two short. On Saturday night, only two short blasts were given.

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COALVILLE TRIBUNAL

URBAN COUNCIL'S DEPLETED STAFF

INTERESTING APPLICATIONS

The Coalville Urban District Tribunal met in the Council Chamber on Monday night, Mr T. Y. Hay J.P., presided, and there were present Messrs. M. McCarthy, B. B. Drewett, C. W. Brown, A. Lockwood, J. W. Fisher, B. G. Hale, J.P., and T. F. Fox, with Mr G. J. German and Mr R. Blower for the military authorities, and the clerk, Mr J. F. Jesson, and his assistant, Mr A. L. Bertenshaw.

The Coalville surveyor, (Mr L. L. Baldwin) applied for a total exemption for Jos. Hy. Billings, waggoner and stockman on the Sparrows Sewage Farm, aged 26. He said there were 28 acres of land and about 30 head of cattle and horses. The only men on the farm were Billings and the bailiff. It was a sewage farm and in the absence of the bailiff this man would have to take charge of the farm, filters, tanks, etc. There were three men on the farm before the war, and he had been unable to get a suitable man to take the third man's place. His total staff before the war was 60 men and it had been reduced to 34, and of these nine had attested and might go at any time. That would leave him with only 25 men to do the work of the sewage farms, scavenging, roads, and all the sanitary work of the district. He felt it his duty to the ratepayers therefore, to apply for exemption. Out of a family of four sons to which this man belonged, three had already joined the Forces. He had worked on the farm for seven or eight years.

Mr Hale asked whether members of the Urban Council could adjudicate in this case. The clerk said they had no particular interest in the man. He did not work for any of them. They, as councillors, simply represented the ratepayers.

Mr Lockwood asked whether a man over 41 years of age could not be got to do the work. Mr Baldwin said it would be difficult to get a man with the necessary experience. Replying to Mr German, the surveyor said the work on the other farm was of a different kind altogether. That was brend irrigation, whereas this was tanks and filters. There were only three on that farm now instead of four, and the bailiff had attested.

Total exemption was granted.

Mr H. C. Lager, butcher, Belvoir Road, Coalville, applied for exemption for his slaughterman, James Ellis, stating that he was the only man he employed, and had to be left in charge while he (Lager) was at market, and on his round. The case had previously been before the Tribunal, and it was agreed that it could not be re-opened. A member remarked that if any applicant was not satisfied with the Tribunal's decision, they could appeal.

An application was made for exemption by James Wyatt, 36, ironmonger and house furnisher, Ellistown. He said he had recently built new premises, and had liabilities. If he had to go it would mean financial ruin. He paid rates and taxes and thought he was doing a greater service to his country as he was than if he went. He had no father or anyone to take his place, or he would have enlisted in the first instance. He added that he had a lot of outdoor trade, having 400 customers on his books, and he worked hard every day. He had not had bit nor sup since seven o'clock that morning.

Mr Lockwood: You look well on it (laughter).

Replying to questions, applicant said he had a married brother with two children with whom he lived. His brother could not make the business pay without his help.

The Chairman: How if you were ill?

Applicant: The business would have to go.

The application was dismissed.

Harry Danvers, aged 28, employed on the Castle Rock Farm, Coalville, as ploughman, and stock-breeder, applied for total exemption. He said he was the only man on the farm who could do the ploughing and deal with the stock. The farm consisted of 76 acres of land and there were four horses, ten milking cows and other stock. He added that he was married on September 4th last. His mother was ill, and he got married that his wife might look after her.

Mr Lockwood: You had no option then? (Laughter)

Mr Blower said this man had a right to be placed in his married group, having married before November. The Tribunal agreed to this course.

An application for exemption by Mr T.H. Moore, solicitor, Coalville, was heard en camera, and a postponement for three months was agreed to.

John Corbett, waggoner and milkman on the Spring Hill Farm, Whitwick, asked for exemption, the applicant being supported by his employer, Mr Berrington. It was stated that there were 105 acres on the farm, and he was essential to carry on the farm work. Mr German said there were three men for 105 acres. It was suggested that the man or employer should have appeared in person.

Postponed for a month.

The Forest Rock Granite Co., Whitwick, requested total exemption for James Arthur Hull, aged 32, who attends to the stone crushing machinery. Mr Briers appeared in support of the application and said he would not like to put an older man to that class of work. They had Government orders. Mr German said the man applied on January 26th and was refused.

Mr Briers: He applied on personal grounds then, and if I had known I should not let him have come then.

Answering further questions, he said Hull had worked for the firm for 12 years, and had done this particular work for 8 years. One mill had been standing since last April though shortage of labour, and if this man went this mill also would have to be closed and they would be unable to finish the War Office contract for which the authorities were pressing. Mr Lockwood asked how it would be if the man was ill.

Mr Briers: I don't know.

Mr Lockwood: All are being greatly inconvenienced now.

Mr Briers: I agree.

The case was put back for three months.

Mr Thomas Charles Goddard, 31, Station Terrace, Hugglescote, joiner and contractor, applied for exemption. He said he was in partnership with a single man, 36, who had attested. They had contracts running, and if the business had to be given up, it would mean considerable loss.

Replying to questions, he said most of the work at present on hand could be cleared up in about three months' time.

Postponed for a month, which Mr German said, would mean three.

Mr German then asked if he might reopen the case of James Wyatt, of Ellistown. He wanted as many men as he could get, but he wanted them to be fair to all. If Goddard was to have a chance to settle his affairs, Wyatt should have a similar chance. Mr Blower said Wyatt was concerned in a great deal more capital than Goddard.

The previous decision in regard to Wyatt was then rescinded, and he was given two months, which means four.

Mr John Hy. Lager, dairyman, Coalville, applied for Walter Stevens, 19, Ashby Road, Hugglescote, milker carrier, to be put back as far as possible, to enable him to get someone to replace him. He helped to support his widowed mother – Application refused.

John Burton Holmes, 32, master printer, Coalville, applied for total exemption. He said he was the only person responsible for working the machines. Two men he employed formerly had gone, and he had been unable to replace them. If he went it would mean serious loss, and the place would have to be closed.

Answering questions, he said he was the tenant of the building, which he had on a lease.

Mr German: You say it would mean serious loss to your parents. Are they dependant on you?

Mr Holmes: No.

Mr Lockwood asked whether, if this man had to go the owner of the property could demand the remainder of the rent to the end of the lease. The clerk said such cases would have to go to the County Court under the Courts Emergency Powers Act, and judges were not very ready to make orders.

Mr McCarthy said this matter was being discussed in the daily press. It was not very satisfactory, and something would have to be done. A man who went away to fight should not have to pay as well on a lease to the landlord who stayed at home.

Mr German said he understood that the business was in the applicant's mother's name. The case was adjourned for further enquiries. Other applications, chiefly in reserved trades were agreed to by the Tribunal, viz., John Hy. Moseley, cowman, Hugglescote; Ernest Henry Fisher, cowman, Hugglescote; Bertie L. Williamson, ploughman and waggoner, Bardon Hill (the only man on the farm); Sam Topliss, farmer, Agar Nook Farm; Leo. P. McCarthy, farmer, Whitwick; Charles Martin, waggoner, Whitwick; Samuel Hy. Wright, manager of the Charnwood Forest Laundry Co., Coalville; Benj. White, fish and game dealer, Coalville; and E. P. Higgins, engine-driver, Seal and Co., Whitwick.

MORE ARTILLERY LEAVE LEICESTER

The 157th Battery Heavy Artillery, raised by Colonel Mersey-Thompson, M.P., left Leicester on Monday morning for their training quarters, under the command of Captain Hollins. They were played to the Great Northern Station by the drum and bugles of the Pioneer Battalion.

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PATRIOTIC TEACHERS

In a supplement to last week's "Schoolmaster" it is stated that 11,400 men teachers are already serving with the Forces, and that approximately 9,000 have attested under the Derby scheme. In addition, there are 147 serving with the Naval Forces, and 236 women acting as nurses. The casualty lists have shown that 232 have been killed and 113 wounded, whilst nine are missing. Five teachers serving at the front have gained the Victoria Cross, 23 have the D.C.M. or Military Cross, and 12 have been mentioned in despatches.

IBSTOCK FOOTBALLER KILLED

AFTER LEAVING THE DARDANELLES

News has been received of the death of Private J. Flaherty, a man well-known in the Ibstock district. Deceased was a private in the R.M.L.I. and was in the trenches on the Gallipoli Peninsular up to the evacuation, being killed on his ship in the Mediterranean, on January 7th – Flaherty was a native of Rugeley, but had resided in Ibstock during the past eight years, and was well-known as a local footballer, and was much respected by all who knew him.

HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

TRIBUTES FROM OFFICER AND COMRADES

Mr and Mrs Arthur Pegg, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, have had the sad news that their son, Private Arthur Pegg, of the C. Company, 9th Leicesters, was killed in action in France, on February 21st.

The first inclination came in a letter from Lieut. H. E. Melburn, who, writing on February 21st, stated: *"I regret to have to inform you that your son was killed this morning by a piece of shell whilst working in the trenches. It will, however, be of comfort to you to know that I considered him one of my best men. He was always cheerful under all circumstances and was a splendid soldier. He has certainly done all he could for his country's cause. Assuring you of my deepest sympathy, etc."*

A letter dated February 23rd, and received on Sunday morning from the Rev. Hugh F. Sawbridge, chaplain, stated that the deceased soldier was buried at 4.45 pm, on February 22nd, in a military cemetery in a little French village by the side of the graves of several other brave men who had given their lives for their country. A little wooden cross bearing his name was being put over his grave. Two of his officers were present at the funeral. The letter concludes, *"Please accept my sincerest sympathy. May our Heavenly Father give you strength to bear your great loss."*

Another letter has been received from a cousin of deceased, Quarter-master Sergeant Harold Pegg, of Whitwick, who writes, *"Dear Uncle, It is with a feeling of sadness that I write this letter, and to give you the heart-breaking news I have to tell you. Still, it has to be done, and I pray God will help you and all your family to bear it. Arthur was killed in action yesterday. He was in the trenches at the time, when a shell came and burst close to him. His death was instantaneous, and he suffered no pain. He will be buried today (February 22nd) and I shall be at the funeral if my officer will give me permission. I saw Arthur, and had a chat only last Sunday. He looked in perfect health, and I can tell you it was a great shock to me when two of his chums told me he was killed last night. I know how keenly you will all feel it, but there is one consolation – he died for freedom and justice, and gave his life willingly for his country and his God. Good-bye, dear Uncle, don't grieve too much, for I am sure he would not have wished you to."*

A great tribute is paid to the deceased soldier by a comrade, Private Archie Martin, who, writing to his sister at Mr B. B. Drewett's (Hugglescote), says: *"I have got some awful news to tell you this time. Arthur Pegg got killed this morning. I was*



not with him then, but I was with him last night, and we were joking, little thinking it would be the last time. We have been together since we enlisted, and it has fairly taken all the heart out of me and the other lads in the platoon. He was so well-liked by all the company. I can hardly take it in, but another of my pals has just been to tell me that he died in his arms. Five more of my pals were wounded at the same time out of the platoon. We have had good luck up to now, but it is all coming at once. We have lost the best lad in the platoon, and me and the lads are going to write his mother later on."

Private Pegg was 26 years of age, and was Mr Pegg's second son. He enlisted on September 15th, 1914, and had been at the front since last July. Before the war, he assisted his father in his business as a painter and decorator.

LIFE AT SALONICA

INTERESTING LETTER FROM AN ELLISTOWN SOLDIER

(Passed by the Press Bureau)

Sapper J. T. Bass, son of Mr J. Bass, of Wood Farm, Ellistown, and formerly a clerk in the Leicester Post Office, writing to his sister, Mrs D. Marston, of Vaughan Street, Coalville, from the Army Headquarters at Salonica, where he is engaged with the Signalling Company of the Royal Engineers, gives an interesting account of life in Greece. He says he quite enjoyed the sea trip, though they had some unusual experiences of which he could not speak and continues:

"We have been under canvas since Christmas and I am getting quite used to the hard ground again now as we have been here for over five weeks. We have made our camp quite respectable and have a few additional comforts. we bought a stove about a week ago, and with a good supply of eggs, at 2 1/2 d each, manage things nicely, and yesterday I had my first bit of toast for a long time. The weather here is grand most of the time, although it is often frosty at night, and occasionally rains. It is so warm that I left my cardigan jacket off last week, and together with gloves and mufflers they are having their summer holidays now. The district is very hilly, in places mountainous. We can see two or three of them from here covered with snow. I have topped the biggest hills within sight of this place and there are ravines which eclipse any coast scenes for being rugged. The hills are very bare, but mountain goats may be seen in herds with shepherds who have crooked sticks, whilst the women fetch water from the wells in pitchers. A huge wall skirts the town on one side. It is about 60 foot high and a path along the top is about 3ft or 4ft wide. I went along the top for about half a mile the other day. The town (or city) itself has a population of about 1 ¼ millions, according to a local paper, and consists partly of huts worse than our pig-sties at home and partly of fine houses, whilst there are plenty of shops, good, bad and indifferent, and an arcade, to say nothing of several picture houses and a variety place, and band concerts on the front, sometimes by the Greek, French or British military authorities. . . . There are lots of Greek soldiers here, as they have mobilised, and we are continually coming in contact with them and the French, especially on the electric cars, which are packed after the style of the last car on the picture postcards. We are getting looked after very well now, although I miss the fellows I had been with all the time since I went to _____, but the lot I am with now are not bad, telegraphists from Birmingham and London chiefly. It seems nice to get on our proper work again, but we have plenty to do, and have one all-night duty, 9pm to 8am every three days, but our 24 hours' guard duty only comes round about once a fortnight now, and is looked upon as a welcome change.

There are lots of Serbian refugees here. They resemble English gypsies in some respect, but some of them are togged out in all the colours of the rainbow. Most of them have no shoes or stockings and there goods are carried on ponies or donkeys, pack fashion. The roads here are very bad, the worst I have seen. Even in the town it is dangerous to walk about in the dark, for drains exist without any top on, and large holes are about as numerous as lampposts. We are well protected here, and I think the Huns will find their work cut out if they even try to take this place.

A snake, 4ft long, was caught the other day near our tents. I hope they won't be numerous, as I don't fancy them crawling about where I am. Have had several evenings at the pictures where they seem to finish up all the items with a case of suicide. Last time I went, we had Charlie Chaplin to amuse us. The variety place never seems open when we drop by. They say the performance doesn't start till 9pm, and we are in camp by then. We don't get six or seven deliveries of letters a day here like at Leicester, but have to be content with one or two a week – if we are lucky. You have no doubt heard about the air raid about a fortnight ago. I was

on night duty and saw the whole show, and we went and had a look at the results the next morning. I don't know how long we shall be here, but I am quite satisfied with this place for the time being, although the sooner all is over and we are home again, the better.

We went to a Turkish bath the other day, and from the looks of it, it must have existed when St. Paul visited this place. But the proper baths are fine although they charge 1/3 ½ a time, to say nothing of the tip which the attendant expects. The chief shops seem to stock Birmingham goods and local productions are very scarce. You can buy Singer's sewing machines, Sunlight soap, Carr's biscuits, etc., if you have sufficient money, and are silly enough to pay their price for them – 8d a bar for Sunlight.

Hope you are well, and that it won't be long before I am able to tell you in person, how things have been going on."

MISTAKES THAT MAY OCCUR

GROUP MEN CALLED UP UNDER MILITARY SERVICE ACT

The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement:-

If a man who has been attested and classified in a group receives a notice paper (Army Form W 3236) calling him up under the Military Service Act, he should return it to the officer who sent it to him. At the same time he should enclose the following information.

- 1 His full name and address
- 2 Date of attestation
- 3 Address of recruiting station as on his white card (Army Form W 3194)
- 4 His group number

In the great pressure of work it is likely that such cases will occur, particularly in respect of men only recently attested.

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THE SHORTAGE OF PAPER

In consequence of the restrictions placed by the Government on the import of paper making materials and instructions to paper makers only to supply two-thirds of the usual quantity to customers, we have been compelled this week to slightly reduce the size of the "Coalville Times". It is with much reluctance that we do so, but readers will realise that it is due to circumstances over which we have no control, and we can assure them that we shall revert to the old order again as soon as circumstances permit, which, it is hoped, may not be very far distant.

By the exercise of every economy in space, and a little re-arrangement in the make-up of the paper, we anticipate being able to give quite as full reports of all local events of importance, as hitherto, but it will only be possible to publish the local railway and motor-bus timetables once a month, instead of in every issue. These timetables will appear in future on the first Friday of every month, and the local roll of honour, which, unfortunately, has now reached considerable proportions, will also only appear monthly – on the last Friday of each month.

Readers would help considerably if they would place an order with their newsagent to deliver the "Coalville Times" every week. We shall do our utmost to see that every agent is supplied with sufficient copies to serve regular customers, but no large surplus for casual sale can be allowed, since there can be very little allowance made for returns.

NOTICE

EARLY CLOSING

In view of the restrictions relative to the lighting of our establishments, and also the general practice of the public in earlier shopping of late:-

We, the undersigned, have decided to close our businesses at the following hours, from the date of Monday, March 6th, 1916, until further notice.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 7 pm
Friday, Saturday – 9 pm
Wednesday – 1 pm

We have every confidence that the public will support us in our endeavour to conform strictly to the wishes of the Authorities, and thus secure the greater safety of our town, and its inhabitants.

Benj. B. Drewett and Son.
Brown and Sons.
Thompson and Hodgkinson Ltd.
H. Conniff.
Hilton's Booteries.
Freeman, Hardy and Willis.
Richards and Sons.
A. Wilkins and Son.
T. W. Gray.
P. Sampson.
J. Porter and Son.
R. H. Whitford.
J. Templeman.
J. Lenton and Sons.
J. Davies.
G. A. Lewis.
India and China Tea Co.
Watters and Son.
Foster Bros. Co. Ltd.
James Starkey.
Hawthorn Bros.
James Gutteridge.
Maypole Dairy Co. Ltd.
A. E. Hudson.
Hunters Limited.
W. L. Moss.
H. Coltman.
W. F. Jones.
W. H. Parker.
F. H. Perkins.
Madame Lewis.
D. Summers.
Greenlees and Sons.
J. W. West.
Williamson Bros.
Charles Whatnall.
Coleman and Sons.
H. W. Guy and Co.

It has been impossible to call on all the tradesmen of the town in time for this announcement. It is recognised, however, that many others will be anxious to come into line with the majority of their contemporaries, and the names of any other firm will be added in all subsequent announcements, on intimation being given to Brown and Sons, Coalville; or Drewett and Son, Hugglescote.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

Soldiers were engaged in clearing the snow from the Leicester streets on Saturday?

The Coalville Adult School Hall has been insured against damage by aircraft?

Whitwick Parish Church is insured for £9,050 against damage by aircraft?

Wednesday was the last day for the attestation of single men?

Mr J. Lester, schoolmaster, Thringstone, has been appointed commander of the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps, in place of Mr G. F. Burton, who has resigned?

Bagworth people have been considerably alarmed this week by the discovery in a field of what was believed to be a bomb, but which proved to be an old thermos flask?

The Coalville Tribunal on Monday night, granted total exemption, besides nine who were in reserved trades, four got temporary exemption, three were adjourned, and five refused?

ASHBY TRIBUNAL

Mr John German presided at a meeting of this Tribunal on Monday. The other members present were Messrs. G. L. Orchard, G. Brown, W. A. Musson, J. P. Adcock, Ward, Young and Bonner, Captain Phillimore, and W. P. Musson (clerk).

A managing clerk whose employer appealed was granted temporary exemption – A shop assistant and a butcher's slaughterman were appealed for by employers, and the applications refused. A railway employee's application was adjourned, the ground of his appeal being that he was the support of his mother – A similar plea was submitted by a soapworks' employee, and rejected. – In another case it was reported that the applicant had enlisted.

A farmer appealed on the grounds of his occupation, and the support of his widowed mother, and was granted exemption, mainly on the grounds of his occupation. – A partner in a firm of solicitors was also granted exemption. His principal was already serving, as well as two clerks, and he claimed that he was indispensable. – An appeal on behalf of a mole-catcher for absolute or temporary exemption was refused, as was that of a man in business, who pleaded that he was the main support of his parents. – A photographer's assistant's application (by his employer) was refused, and also that of a blacksmith's striker. – The case of a master at a school was referred to the Board of Education.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Mrs J. T. Bishop and family, of 25, Crescent Road, Hugglescote, wish to express thanks to their many friends for the expressions of condolence, relative to the death of Company-Sergeant-Major Bishop, Army Service Corps, and ask that this will kindly be accepted as the only intimation.

Mr and Mrs A. Pegg, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote, desire to tender their sincere thanks for the many kind expressions of sympathy they have received on the occasion of the death of their beloved son, Arthur, killed in action in France, February 21st, 1916.

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IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED

News has been received by the parents of Private Joseph Satchwell, of Ibstock, who had been serving in France since last summer with the 8th Leicesters, that he was killed in action on February 6th. Further details and a photo of the deceased will appear in our next issue.

BOSWORTH TRIBUNAL

MANY EXEMPTIONS

The Market Bosworth Rural District Tribunal was held on Tuesday, when there were present, Messrs. R. A. Oswald Brown (in the chair), J. T. Jacques, W. Eggington (Ibstock), G. M. Arnold (Shackerstone), W. Towers (Newbold Verdon), Major Wollaston and Mr R. Hanmer (military representatives), with Mr F. Bouskell (clerk).

Twenty-six appeals were preferred by agriculturists, and temporary exemptions for periods varying from one to six months were granted.

A Market Bosworth baker was given a temporary exemption for two months, and a similar respite was granted to a Market Bosworth mail driver. A Barlestone butcher's assistant was granted temporary exemption for six months, and a Stapleton farmer's son for three months.

A Copton Ash farmer applied for two sons, one of whose appeals was assented to for six months, and the other dismissed. Six months' exemption was also granted to a farm hand employed by Mr Drackley, of Osbaston, similar grace being allowed a farmer of Baron-in-the-Beans, but the appeal was not assented to in the case of the latter's man, for whom he also applied. The two sons of a Bosworth farmer were granted temporary exemption for three months each. The application of an Orton farmer for his son was not assented to.

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

Wednesday – Before Mr F. E. A. Wollaston (in the chair) and Mr R. Hanmer.

Ibstock Soldier's Wife Summoned

Marie Brown, married, of Ibstock, was summoned for neglecting to send her child regularly to school. Defendant said she sent the boy to school and the master sent him home because he coughed loudly. The school attendance officer had told her to keep all the children at home because of whooping cough in the house. She said this lad was nearly 14. She had had ten children, and had never been summoned till December.

Replying to the clerk defendant said her husband was in the army. She added that some people seemed to think she was getting too much money, and wanted some of it from her. The school attendance officer, said the summons did not refer to the when the boy had a cough, and the mother kept him at home to work. Defendant was getting an allowance of between £2 and £3 per week, and coal free.

Defendant: I get half-a-crown a week for the boy and he can eat as much as his father. The doctor told me he would be better at work on the land than at school.

The chairman told the woman she could get exemption from school for a boy of 13 to work on the land.

Fined 5/-, or five days.

ACCOMPANYING NOTE:

This was the first issue to be reduced to six pages, instead of the usual 8. This was due to the paper shortage and would remain at six pages until the end of the war.

Friday March 10th 1916 (Issue 1253)

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COALVILLE SERGEANT'S D.C.M.

TRIBUTE FROM HIS OFFICER

An interesting letter has been received from his Major in the Royal Engineers by Sergt. Collier, of Melbourne Street, Coalville, who now lies wounded in the Lincoln Hospital. Collier, it will be remembered, has been awarded the D.C.M. and the Major writes as follows:

"Dear Sergt. Collier – I send you a bit of D.C.M. ribbon, which as you know, I wanted previously to present to you in our mess. No non-commissioned officer or man in the company has deserved it so much as you have and it is with very great regret that I heard of your wound last night. You were invaluable to us in every way and you leave a gap I cannot fill. I sincerely hope that your arm will mend all right, though I fear it will be a long time before you can once more display your energy and courage against the boches. Please let me

hear from you occasionally, so that I may know how you are getting on, and if at any time I can do anything for you let me know, as it will give me the greatest pleasure to help you in any way. Wishing you the best of luck," etc.

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COALVILLE TRIBUNAL
TWO CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS
BIG FEET REQUIRED FOR FARM WORK

Several of the public were present at a meeting of the Coalville Urban District Tribunal in the Council Chamber on Monday night. Mr T. Y. Hay, J.P., presided, and the members present were Messrs. B. G. Hale, J.P., M. McCarthy, B. B. Drewett, A. Lockwood, C. W. Brown, J. W. Fisher, and T. F. Fox, with Capt. Stevenson, Mr G. J. German, and Mr R. Blower for the military authorities and Mr J. F. Jesson (clerk).

Mr Drewett pointed out that at the last meeting a case was rejected unheard because there had been a previous application, but in another they half heard it before they were aware that that also had been decided before. They wanted to be fair to all. The clerk said it occurred through dual applications from a man and his employer, which would not occur in future. Mr McCarthy said they all desired to be fair.

Arthur Herbert Vesty, 20, a munition worker and formerly florist and gardener, Whitwick, applied for exemption on conscientious grounds. His faith was such that he could not, and would not, under any circumstances, take human life. He believed his present work was of more value to the nation. The Advisory Committee suggested that applicant continue to carry shells – to the gunners at the Front.

Answering questions, he said he objected to carrying shells at the front as he might have to fire some of them.

Mr Blower: Have you asked your employer to appeal for you? – No.

Where are you employed? – On the munition at the Colliery brickworks.

How long have you been there? – 2 ½ months.

The Chairman: Did you give up your work as a gardener to take up this work? – Yes, to do something for my country.

Didn't it occur to you that you are making bullets if not firing them? – That may be true, but it didn't appear to me that I should be really killing.

Mr German: Are you still willing to carry shells? – I am willing to stay where I am.

Do you consider your work of national importance? – I do.

The Chairman: I don't. – Then why did the Minister of Munitions apply for labourers and why are they there as 'starred' men?

You would not mind joining the R.A.M.C.? – Yes, if I can stay where I am.

Mr Brown: You want to do your part to help win the war? – Yes.

And we can only do that by killing, or they will kill us. – There are men who kill, and those on non-combat service.

Another member: How long have you had this conscientious objection? – Since the Bill was introduced.

The application was not allowed.

Another conscientious objector was Leonard Charles Alves, 20, tailor, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, who said military service was contrary to his religious convictions and the national religion. When it came to slaughtering human beings he must maintain his liberty of conscience. The Advisory Committee thought the man might do useful work at the Front.

Mr McCarthy: If you saw a man trying to kill our King, should you try to save him? – Until I was in such a position I could not say.

It would depend on your conscience on the spur of the moment? – Yes.

The Chairman: Are you willing to serve your country in any war at all? – No, I consider it is all working to the same end.

Mr McCarthy: If a man knocked you down in the street, and a policeman saw it, should you expect him to come and do his duty? – That is a different thing.

I want yes or no. – The policeman could please himself.

You would not care twopence? – No.

Mr German: You are not willing to do anything at all? – No.

Mr Blower: But you are willing to remain in a country where liberty is bought at such a price as we are having to pay today? – Unfortunately, I am not in a position to go anywhere else.

Mr German: Sooner than help, you would prefer the Kaiser and Germans to come? – I don't say that I should prefer them to come, but it would not alter my opinions.

Mr Drewett: You would do nothing to stop it? – No.

Mr Lockwood: Would you join the R.A.M.C. and assist the wounded? – No, because I should be an enemy of another country.

Mr Hale: You ought to go and live on some uninhabited island, and then you could carve out a path for yourself.

Mr Lockwood: Would you take up mine-sweeping, and try to save innocent lives? – I don't see the point, in saving innocent lives.

The Clerk: Do you see the point in anything? – No answer.

The application was not assented to.

J. S. Dodd, carpenter and contractor, Whitwick, applied for whole or partial exemption, saying that he had a lot of contract work on hand. The Advisory Committee suggested a months' grace. Applicant explained his difficulties in regard to his contracts, and Mr Jesson said he would undertake to assist him free of charge in certain eventualities.

Mr Lockwood suggested that Dodd take advantage of that offer, as lawyers did not often give much away. (Laughter). A month was allowed.

In the case of Hy. North, aged 36, mineral water manufacturer, of London Road, Coalville, who said he was the main support of his mother and invalid father, three months were allowed.

Alfred Platts, 27, engine driver and stoker, at Messrs. R. Walker and Sons' factory, Coalville, applied on the grounds of ill-health. The Advisory Committee suggested the man be seen by the Army medical officer. Mr German asked why his employer had not appealed.

Applicant: He told me he should.

Answering further questions he said he had worked 2 ½ years for the firm.

Two months were allowed.

Isaac Cyril Foster, hairdresser and tobacconist, Silver Street, Whitwick, applied for total exemption. If he went he said the business would have to be closed, and his sister, who depended on him, would be without means of support. Mr McCarthy said the applicant and his sister were orphans.

Three months were allowed.

Mr J. W. Eagles, manager of the Coalville Urban Council's gasworks, applied for the exemption of Gordon Mettam, 18, his clerk and meter inspector. The Advisory Committee suggested that this might be done by a female clerk. Mr Eagles did not agree.

Mr German: Who did this work before Mettam came to you 12 months ago? – I had a clerk then who had been with me for five years.

Mr German pointed out that this lad would not have to go till July, when he was 19. Captain Stevenson said he would be calling up Group 1 and Class 1 this week. That was a new Order received that day.

A member: They are to be called up younger then?

Captain Stevenson: Yes.

After discussion, it was decided to give a month's grace.

Enoch Robinson, 25, of the motor garage, Hotel Street, Coalville, whose case had been previously postponed, applied for exemption.

Mr McCarthy: Does Captain Stevenson apply for him, because he drives him about a lot? (Laughter).

Applicant said he had worked the business up, and if he had to go it would mean it would go to the dogs. His mother was dependant on him to a certain extent.

Mr German: But if you go, your mother will be able to live? – Oh, yes.

Mr McCarthy said a man like Robinson might be useful in a district like that in such an occurrence as that on Sunday night. He could not drive a motor. Captain Stevenson asked who would pay him. Mr McCarthy said they would not be to £1 if it was a matter of life or death.

A month was allowed.

Mr Josiah Kemp, representing Kemp and Co., grocers, Coalville, applied for the exemption of John Neal Smith, aged 40, of James Street, Coalville, groom and deliverer, who had worked for the firm for 16 years. One employee had joined the colours. Replying to Mr Lockwood, Mr Kemp said they had considered getting a motor, but did not think it would save them much.

The application was not allowed.

Thomas Hy. Marks, aged 25, Melbourne Street, Coalville, pianist at the Electric Theatre, and music teacher, applied for conditional exemption. His aged parents were partly dependant on him, and he had pupils nearly ready for examination. He preferred, if he had to go, to be employed on electrical wire work of which he had knowledge. Answering a member, he said he had been at the Electric Theatre three years.

The clerk: You say you would like to work with wire. Does that mean barbed wire? – Electrical wire.

The case was postponed for a month.

The application of Hy. Danvers, farmer and waggoner, Whitwick, adjourned from the last court, was again considered. He said he was sorry he made a mistake last time in saying he was married on September 4th. It was December 4th.

The clerk: That is a big mistake.

Applicant: I didn't know I had made a mistake till I got home.

The clerk: You know you are married? (Laughter) – Yes.

It was remarked that he would have to be treated as a single man, not having been married before November 2nd.

Applicant said the farm would have to be given up if he went. His father worked at the pit, and did not understand farming.

Mr German: What about your brother, aged 31? – He could not plough.

Why? – He has got small feet, (laughter) and could not stand the land work.

Mr Jesson: They are going to have ladies to plough now. (Laughter)

The application was refused.

Wm. Matterson, loom-maker, Coalville, succeeded in his application for George Hy. Baxter, employed by him on skilled labour for war requirements, on the ground that he was an indentured apprentice.

John B. Holmes, printer, Coalville, who was before the Tribunal a week ago, and had his application adjourned for further enquiries, asked for the case to be taken in private. This was done and the application was refused.

The application for Charles T. A. Simpkin, 19, carter, Hugglescote, whose father applied, was granted for two months.

Abraham Wardle, 40, Margaret Street, Coalville, employed as a puncher and shearer at Messrs. Stableford's Works, applied on the ground that he had a widowed mother, and was her mainstay. One of his brothers had been killed in action, and another was at the front.

Exemption allowed while the present circumstances continued.

The application of Wm. Beasley, 34, of Hotel Street, Coalville, motor fitter, was dismissed.

The following cases, approved by the Advisory Committee, were assented to:-

Thomas Neville Radford, aged 18, son of Mrs Radford, widow, of the Blackberry Lane Farm, Ibstock, six months; Thomas Wm. Thirlby, cowman and ploughman, Greenhill, Coalville, three months; Jos. W. Arnold, cowman and horseman, Agar Nook, three months; Wilfred Hy. Parker, pawnbroker and salesman, Coalville, two months; Richard Hy. Whitford, pawnbroker, Coalville, two months; and Hy. Victor Christopher, aged 26, wagoner, at High Tor Farm, three months.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR AT ASHBY

A HARD CASE FROM BARDON HILL

A meeting of the Tribunal for the Ashby Rural District was held at Ashby on Saturday afternoon. Mr T. Varnham presided and there were present, Messrs. A. Riley, F. C. Stevenson, J. Rice, J. T. Bradshaw, and Dr. Atkinson with Captain Phillimore (military representative), W. Baldwin, and George Farmer (clerk).

A Measham plumber, aged 31, applied for exemption, stating that one of three partners had enlisted. They were the only firm of plumbers and glaziers in a wide area, and it required a young man for ladder climbing. Mr Price, his father, said he could not get an older man to do the work, which was chiefly plumbing. Three of his sons had enlisted and the one appealed for was the only son he had left at home.

Captain Phillimore, replying to a remark that the man could not be spared, said some people had had to close their businesses. An applicant must show that he had made every endeavour to obtain a substitute.

A month's exemption was allowed.

Mr J. Billings, of Cottage Farm, Osgathorpe, applied for the exemption of his son, aged 22 years, described as a cowman. He said the farm was 50 acres, chiefly grazing land, and there were nine milking cows besides young stock. He was 63 years of age, and his son was the only man he had.

Replying to the chairman, he said he had daughters, but they could not milk cows. He might be able to do that himself, but he could not do the other work looking after the stock. In addition to the farm work, he did a little coal drawing, and a milk round. If the boy was sent away he would be missed more than anybody in the parish.

Captain Phillimore suggested that perhaps people would fetch milk from the farm. Answering a member of the Tribunal, applicant said he had another son who worked on the sewage farm, and the Coalville Urban Council had obtained exemption for him. *"But,"* added Mr Billings, *"He is leaving home. He is going to be married on Monday."*

Captain Phillimore: Couldn't he leave the sewage farm and help you?

Mr Billings: The Coalville surveyor says he can't get a man to replace him.

It was remarked that if this man left the sewage farm, his exemption granted by the Coalville Tribunal would cease. As applicant left the court, he remarked, *"Good-day, gentlemen, and I hope you'll remember the old man of 68."*

Dr Atkinson said that most of the people of Osgathorpe depended on this man for drawing coal. Captain Phillimore said they could not let a man off for drawing coal.

Two months allowed to enable Billings to try to get someone to replace his son.

A Measham music teacher, aged 29, applied for total exemption on the ground of ill health, saying he had suffered for ten years from neurasthenia, and on that account, he adopted music teaching as a profession. Captain Phillimore said this man might go on non-combatant service, and release another man for the firing line. Dr. Atkinson said the probability was that if this man became a soldier, it would cure his neurasthenia.

Exemption was refused, it being remarked that it was a case for the army medical officer.

Mr Hy. Barker, farmer, of Copt Oak, applied for exemption for his son aged 25, a shepherd and ploughman. Applicant has three sons working on the farm, which comprises 135 acres, of which 70 acres are arable land. The chairman asked him why he wanted the Tribunal to 'star' his three sons.

Applicant: Because there is plenty of work for them to do.

Answering questions, he said he had 10 milking cows, 26 young beasts, and 15 breeding cows. His son, who was applied for looked after the sheep. One of his lads was not strong. He tried all last summer to get a man to do a bit of hoeing and failed. "*Near a colliery and a stone quarry they laugh at you if you ask them to work on a farm,*" he added.

Having answered further questions, applicant said, "*The land is the backbone of England, gentlemen, and wants seeing to.*"

The chairman: We don't want you to begin to lecture us.

A member remarked if they were to take farmers' sons at all, this was a case where they should take one.

Exemption was refused.

Hy. H. Kidger, butcher, Pegg's Green, aged 32, applied for total exemption on the ground that he was indispensable to the business he carried on with his brother. Answering Captain Phillimore, he admitted that his brother could slaughter. The latter was 38, and married.

The application was refused.

Two Swannington applications were made, one of which was assented to, and the other refused. That agreed to was by Geo. Sidney Walker, who was cowman for his widowed mother, having charge of 7 milking cows, three horses and four other stock, on 26 acres of land. The other, which was refused, was by a brother, Reginald Walker, 19, carter and cowman on his brother's holding of 11 acres, where there were only three cows. The brother, Charles was engaged on munition work at Messrs. Stableford and Co's, but the Tribunal thought that George might look after the three cows as well as the seven on his mother's farm.

The Measham Shoe Company (Mr Hammersley) applied for the exemption of Frederick Godfrey, a presser, who was said to be indispensable, and if he had to go it would throw nearly 100 people out of work. This man worked the biggest and heaviest machine in the factory and it was impossible to put a woman on it. It was impossible to get a man over military age to do the work.

Dr. Atkinson: Suppose he was ill for a month.

Mr Stevenson: Suppose he died.

Mr Hammersley said he did not know what he should do. Mr Baldwin said it was a certified trade, and the rule adopted at Hinckley, where there were several such cases, was to allow time to train someone else. The chairman said they must be careful about closing a factory.

Captain Phillimore: Will it close the factory?

A member remarked that he agreed with Lord Derby that no man under 31 was indispensable.

Two months were allowed.

Applications were received from Ernest Glover, farmer, Snarestone, and also from a man on the farm named Hy. Quartermain, milkman, stockman and thatcher. It was stated that there were 35 milking cows, and four men and a boy were employed on the farm, practically the same as before the war. Captain Phillimore said there were not many farms which now had staff as in peace time. The application of Glover was granted, and that in respect of Quartermain was dismissed. The son, (aged 20), of the Measham sexton, applied for exemption on the ground that his father was too weak to dig graves, and depended on him.

The military representative said a young man of 20 should not be kept from the army to dig graves at Measham.

Dr. Atkinson: They will have to live forever at Measham.

Answering questions, applicant said that when he was not digging graves he was tidying the cemetery. A member remarked that the war was of more importance than the appearance of Measham cemetery.

The application was refused.

John Edkins, 20, quarryman, Bardon Hill, applied for exemption. He appeared with his father, who, through an explosion at the Bardon Quarry, some years ago, lost both his hands, and his wife being ill, the son dresses, feeds, and attends to his father. The latter works as foreman at the Bardon Quarry.

The case had been before the Tribunal on a previous occasion, and put back to enable arrangements to be made for attendance on the helpless parent. Applicant said he had been unable to get anyone.

Replying to a question, the father said he had a daughter, 17, in service in Birmingham. His eldest daughter at home was 13.

The application was refused.

A kiln fireman at some pipe works sought exemption on the ground that he was a Christadelphian, and had a conscientious objection to any form of military service.

The chairman: How long have you had the Christadelphian belief? – For some time now.

A week? – More than a week.

Five weeks? – Yes.

Not much more, is it? – It is about a month since I became a member.

Have you a Christadelphian Church here? – Yes, there is one at Ashby.

Are your mother and father Christadelphians? – No.

You are the only one of the family who holds this belief? – Yes.

The clerk: What is it you have objection to?

Applicant: Military service in any form.

Should you object to digging trenches? – Anything at all that comes under military authority.

The chairman: But if you were digging trenches you would be trying to prevent bloodshed. The better the trench, the less likelihood of being killed. – I object to taking the oath and coming under military authority and was commanded to take life I should have to do so or be shot.

A representative with the applicant said that since the Christadelphian faith had been formed as a system of religion its adherents had objected on conscientious ground to military service of any kind. He proceeded to give a short exposition of their beliefs. They would not object to doing an act of kindness to a wounded soldier, but if they took the oath they would be bound to take life or be shot. They would prefer to be shot than take life.

The chairman asked whether they objected to earning money at munition working?

The Christadelphian: We don't object to serving our country in civil life, but we can't take the military oath.

The chairman: You like the money all right. This man is getting his living from making things for the Government to run the war. – That is in his capacity as a civil servant.

The chairman: I can't quite understand it myself. If it is wrong to fight, it is wrong to take the proceeds.

A member: He is sheltering under this sect to get out of his responsibilities as an Englishman.

The military representative: He has only belonged to it for a month.

A member: If he gets poked with a bayonet he will soon begin to do a bit.
The chairman: If the man had been brought up in this faith all his life it would be different.

The application was refused.

A number of temporary exemptions which had been approved by the military authorities were assented to.

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RAVENSTONE SOLDIER'S EXCITING EXPERIENCES

Private Wm. Brooks of the 1st Leicesters, writing to his parents, of Coalville Road, Ravenstone, states that he is now back again with his company after an exciting experience. While he was in the trenches, a shell fell, and blew in a portion of the trench, and he was buried by the debris. He lost his knapsack, and also had his rifle smashed. He was considerably bruised, but is all right again after a few day's rest. His many friends in the Coalville district will congratulate him on his narrow escape.

Private Brooks was in the backwoods of Australia when war broke out, and travelled nearly 14,000 miles to join the regiment of his native country.

BOY SCOUT'S FUNERAL

Considerable sympathy was manifested on Saturday, on the occasion of the funeral of a boy scout, John T. Bland, whose father is a sick bay steward on a warship, and was formerly a member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and an employee of the urban authority. The lad was only 15 years of age, but was a particularly zealous member of his troop, the members of which paid his remains scout honours. The troop was under the command of Supt. Frank Goddard, and led the procession. The Vicar, the Rev. S. Hosking, conducted the services. The coffin was borne by four Scouts, the plate being inscribed, "*John T. Bland, died Feb. 28th, aged 15 years.*" "*Thy will be done.*" The boy's father was formerly a member of the Coalville Men's Adult School, and the members passed a vote of sympathy with him on Sunday morning.

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LOCAL NEWS

Mr and Mrs H. C. Elkins, of 148, North Street, Hugglescote, on Tuesday received a nice card from Lord Aberconway, in memory of their son, Private Amos Elkin, of the Grenadier Guards, recently killed in action in France.

If the conscientious objector as a rule receives scant sympathy from the local tribunals, it is largely his own fault. Many of these individuals have made such outrageous statements that they have forfeited all claim to consideration. What, for example, are we to think of the man who declares he would refuse to bandage the wounds of a British soldier, inflicted by the enemy, or of the person who says he would not protect his mother and sister from the brutalities of the Huns; or the so-called Englishman who would decline to help child victims of a Zeppelin raid. There are some men, no doubt, who have sound and sensible convictions against the war; but it is impossible to feel respect for the humanity or logic of cranks who unprotestingly pay taxes in support of other men who are doing their fighting for them, and yet would leave a man suffering from wounds to die because, forsooth, it would be against his conscience to help him. It would do these men good if they were placed in a position where they would have to kill or be killed. Most of the tribunals, however, are placing conscientious objectors in branches of the service where they will not have to fight, so that they will not be able altogether to shirk their duties to the country. In this struggle, he who is not with us is against us.

Lord Derby proposes that no single man, under 31, shall be exempted because he is in a reserved industry, and that neither married nor single shall be exempt if they have entered their present "starred" employment since August 15th. It is well-known that hundreds of young fellows have obtained employment in mines and munition factories simply in order to escape military service. No sympathy need be felt with them if they are brought out to make soldiers, leaving industrial work for men with greater family responsibilities. Industrial needs must not, of course, be sacrificed to military necessities. It would be folly to take away a skilled munition worker in order to make room for an unskilled married man, but where the work is of such a nature that it can be readily learnt, there are cogent reasons for making the transfer. Too many married men –

attested and unattested – a soldier's life on the scale of allowances would mean bankruptcy and ruin, and semi-starvation for his wife and children. That is a sacrifice which no man should be called upon to make. The Government must be alive to these facts, and they must be faced.

Now that the days are lengthening, the Government might surely adopt one useful economy by passing a Daylight Saving Bill. By putting forward the clock so as to begin and end the working day earlier, we should save many lives, as well as the cost of artificial lighting, for now the lighting restrictions apply to nearly all Britain, the death toll of the darkened streets at night is sure to become more serious. When it was first proposed the farmers were against the Daylight Saving Scheme on the score that it would interfere with some early morning milking arrangements. Some of the railway companies said it would be disturbing to the Continental traffic systems, and there seemed to be a general impression among the public that it would be in some or other mysterious way shorten the hours of sleep. There was no importance attaching to any of these original objections to the Daylight Saving Scheme, and there is none now, while there is so much more to be said for the advantages to be gained from it.

While the members of the V.A.D. and the special constables were promptly at their posts when a warning of the approach of Zeppelins was given on Sunday night, and carried out their programme admirably, the same can hardly be said of the general public. In the instructions issued by the Urban Council the people were advised to remain indoors, it being pointed out in previous raids the greatest number of fatalities occurred to people in the streets, but on Sunday night, hundreds of people left their homes and were in the streets, and for some hours a crowd remained near the police station. Happily, the danger passed, but we are asked to impress upon the public the importance of observing the instructions.

This also applies to the lighting restrictions. Reference was made to this matter at the Council meeting on Tuesday night, it being pointed out by Mr Blower that the more people keep the lights down the better it is for all. There is no doubt that one of the best means of baffling the raiders is to keep the place in absolute darkness. This was amply proved by the experience of Sunday night when, according to the official reports, many of the bombs dropped fell in rural districts and did little or no damage.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

Every Irish soldier and sailor is to have shamrock for St. Patrick's Day, March 17th?

Out of 80 special constables in the Coalville district summoned to a meeting at the Police Station on Thursday night, despite the bad weather, 76 attended?

In view of the regulations previously announced, in Leicester, for giving intimation of the approach of enemy aircraft, it is now stated that no hooters are being sounded for the purpose of warning people?

Mr and Mrs T. Hatter, have presented to the Hugglescote Church Lad's Brigade, a framed portrait of their only son, the late Lieut. B. Hatter (killed in action), who was an old member of the Brigade?

IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED

STRUCK WITH SHRAPNEL WHILE ASLEEP

OTHER IBSTOCK LADS HAVE NARROW ESCAPES

We regret to state that news has been received by the parents of Private Joseph Satchwell, of Ibstock, who joined the 8th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, stating that he was killed in action on the 6th February last. He joined the army at the commencement of the war, and has been serving in France since last summer. When he enlisted he was working at Ellistown No. 1 Pit. He was very popular with his workmates, and soon became so with his comrades in the army. Mr and Mrs Satchwell have received letters of sympathy from friends, including one from Captain H. L. Bransley, and Lance-Corporal J. Riley, who state death was caused by a shrapnel shell bursting immediately in front of the hut in which Satchwell was sleeping after he had been on sentry duty all night. A piece of the shell pierced the top of the hut, and cut his neck, causing instantaneous death. A tribute to the deceased is paid by his officer and comrade in the letters received by the parents.

Captain Bransley writes: *“On behalf of myself and brother officer of the B. Co., please accept our deepest sympathy in the loss of your boy. He was killed in his sleep by a piece of shell piercing the top of the hut, and cutting his neck. Death was instantaneous. He had only just turned in at 9 am for a well-earned rest after doing sentry all night long. We shall miss his cheery face and good humour. He was always willing, and thoroughly conscientious. I feel his death, as we all do after eighteen months together, more like that of a comrade than one under my command. He rests in peace in the churchyard at _____, where his grave will receive every attention. The only consolation I can offer you in your great loss is that your boy, ‘Jumbo,’ died fighting for his King and country, which is the grandest way of passing into a happier life, where trouble and sorrows are no more. Be assured of our sincere sympathy.”*

Lance-Corporal J. Riley, 13298, B. Co., 8th Leicestershire Regiment, B.E.F., in his letter stated: *“It is with a feeling of deep regret that I write these few lines to you on behalf of myself and all the Ibstock boys in the regiment, who deeply sympathise with you in your sad bereavement. No doubt you will have been informed of the sad news before this reaches you, and I know my letter will not give you much consolation, or relieve you of any of your sad trouble and great loss, but the death of your son has caused his chums and comrades much grief. We have practically known each other all our lives, and since he joined our regiment, we have fought and worked side by side the whole time, so it is a big blow to us all to have to part with him, although we know that our grief is nothing to be compared with the suffering of you, his parents, and relatives. It will perhaps relieve you a little to know that he suffered no pain whatsoever, but passed away quite peacefully in his sleep. His death was caused by shrapnel from a heavy shell which burst immediately in front of the hut in which they were sleeping. My brother, and several more Ibstock boys were in the hut at the time, but miraculously escaped any harm. One or two were slightly injured. Your son was known by all our company, and by most of the battalion, and is greatly missed by all. The only consolation we can offer you, his dear parents, is that he died fighting for a noble cause, and we, his pals, express to you our deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement.”*

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PRESENTATION

The Belgians resident at Broom Leys, Coalville, having heard with regret that Mr Edgar Hawthorn, the devoted and untiring secretary of the Belgian Refugee Committee, has joined the Navy, they could not let the occasion pass without expressing their sorrow at his departure, and have asked him to accept a cigarette case as a small memento and mark of their esteem for the able manner in which he has worked for the comfort of the Broom Leys inhabitants. In saying good-bye, the Belgians hope (God willing) he may be spared to return safely, and assuring him that no one will be more grateful to record him a happy greeting than those he has done so much for in their exile.

LEICESTERSHIRE COLLIERIES RECRUITING COURT

FIRST MEETING AT COALVILLE

The first meeting of the Collieries Recruiting Court for Leicestershire and South Derbyshire was held in Coalville Council Chamber yesterday (Thursday) to consider appeals by colliery owners on behalf of their employees.

Mr W. H. Hepplewhite, H.M. Inspector of Mines, Tamworth, was the President of the Court and with him as assessors were Mr E. D. Spencer, chairman of the Leicestershire Coalowners' Association, and Mr J. Buckley, agent for the South Derbyshire Miners. Others present were Captain Stevenson and Mr G. J. German, military representatives, Messrs. R. Blower and W. Baldwin of the local recruiting committee, and Mr Levi Lovett, J.P., Leicestershire miners agent for the workmen. The area of under the jurisdiction of the court embraces nine Leicestershire collieries, and five in South Derbyshire but only Leicestershire collieries were dealt with at this sitting.

Mr Hepplewhite explained that these courts had been established throughout the country under the Military Service Act to deal exclusively with underground and surface workers of the coal mines. He had been appointed President of the courts for Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and Warwickshire, with Mr Spencer (for the owners) and Mr Buckley (for the men) as assessors. Deputy assessors were to act if they were ill or could not attend but in the absence of either the assessors or their deputies, the court would proceed as usual. Collieries were entitled to appoint persons to represent them, but notice of such appointment had to

be given. All hearings were to be in public, unless the court decided to take any particular case in private. He further explained the regulations of the court and said the work was new to them all. If he made any mistakes at first he asked them not to be too hard on him. If anyone desired to ask any questions he would be pleased to answer to the best of his ability.

The first case was that of the Desford Coal Co., Bagworth, for which Mr F. E. Bramall (managing director) and Mr J. E. Homer (manager of the mine) appeared. Mr Bramall stated that on July 31st, 1914, before the war broke out, they had 887 men working below ground and 175 on the surface. Of these, 698 and 81 respectively were of military age, both married and single. Up to March 8th, 1916, 138 underground and 17 surface workers had joined the forces, or 13.84 per cent. Allowing for men since set on there was at the present an increase of 8 men employed on the surface and a decrease of 89 below ground, compared with the number on July 31st, 1914. They now had 103 men on the surface, and 793 below ground, of these, 69 and 568 were of military age. They had an office staff of 15 before the war and 8 out of 11 of military age had joined the forces, while one had died. The percentage of the total employees who had joined the forces was 14.40. Before the war the output of the colliery was 1676 tons per day and at present it was 1340 tons per day. They had only enough men to keep the winding going.

The President went through the list and put questions as to men working as labourers in and about the mines. Mr Bramall said they had reached the limit and could hardly spare anybody. Referring to storekeepers the President said he was afraid they could not exempt those. In the case of another man mentioned, Mr Bramall said he had gone. *"He would only put in two or three days a week,"* added Mr Bramall, *"and so we let him go."*

Mr German asked how many men had been set on since August. Mr Bramall said he was willing to liberate any men who had gone into the pit without previous experience since August 15th. These were said to number 20 odd.

Are you still setting on men of military age?
I think I must plead guilty.

Mr Homer: It doesn't matter whether you plead guilty or not, we can't get the men.
Replying to a further question, Mr Homer said he had set no one on of military age since the 2nd inst. Mr Bramall said that every man taken would mean two tons a day less output. The court decided not to exempt a storekeeper and a time-keeper and Mr Hepplewhite asked if Mr Bramall could not pick out a few men on the surface who would make good soldiers, seeing they had eight more men on the surface than before the war. Mr Bramall named four who had recently gone to the work, but said they could ill be spared. Five of the surface workers were taken.

The President said he would exempt the whole of the workers underground and they would each in due course receive a card, which they would produce to the military authorities if called upon, showing that they were exempt from military service so long as they remained at work in the mine.

The case of the Nailstone Colliery represented by Mr J. C. Burdett (manager) was next taken. Mr Burdett intimated that he had not thought it necessary to put in his lists the unattested married men. The President said he supposed these men would want cards. Mr German said that at present, there was no law dealing with unattested married men. Answering the President, Mr Burdett said it was necessary to have spare men about. During the last fortnight they had lost 1,700 shifts. The President asked whether tub-repairers could not be spared.

Mr Burdett: I am afraid not.
Mr Buckley: You would be losing the coal.
Mr Burdett: Yes, and the men would complain.

Questioned as to a blacksmith's striker, a coal carter, and other surface workers, Mr Burdett said these men could not very well be spared by reason of the fact that they could not be replaced. Mr German raised a question as to whether some of these men should not be dealt with by the local Tribunal. The case of coal-carters was particularly mentioned. The President said there was a difference between a man who carted coal with his own horse and cart, and one who was employed and paid by the colliery company.

Mr Blower said some of the cases now before them had been before the local tribunals and exemption refused, and unless they were careful, there would be some confusion. The President said many of the pits in Warwickshire did not keep a single horse for carting. It was all done by outsiders.

Mr Spencer said Ellistown Colliery Co., did no carting, and it also transpired that Ibstock and some other collieries did not. The President said it appeared to be a matter of custom. Mr Burdett said their carting had increased of late.

Mr Blower: While the collieries do it, outsiders won't bother about it.

Mr Burdett said some of these men had been at the job for years. They were paid by the company. Mr Baldwin held that these men were in exactly the same position as men carting coal for private merchants, who had to go before the Tribunals. The President refused to exempt the carriers. Mr Burdett said he was prepared to liberate all men taken on since August 15th.

Captain Stevenson said he had instructions to call all these men to the colours, and was doing so. The letters were in the post now. Mr Lovett said he was at a conference the previous day when several counties were represented, and in no case had miners been called to the colours. He wanted to know why it was so in Leicestershire. He was being inundated with enquiries from men.

Captain Stevenson said he was acting on instructions from Glen Parva Barracks. Before August these men were not at work at the pits. Mr Burdett said they had 671 underground workers now and 136 on the surface, these were increases since the war began of 104 and six respectively, but it was due to them having opened up a new seam. They had had 197 leave to join the colours and had signed on 513 fresh men since the war began.

Replying to Captain Stevenson, he said he thought most of these were colliers.

The President: They go from pit to pit trying to find a soft job (laughter)

Mr Blower said one wondered what had become of a lot of men in other occupations. It was pointed out that both the Desford and Nailstone Colliery managers had promised to release men taken on since August 15th, but they were all in the lists and if the Court exempted them, they could not be called upon.

The President said he had his instructions as to dealing with lists of underground men and he was sorry if the Court clashed with the Tribunals. He could only release underground men on the understanding that they would undertake tunnelling work for the military authorities.

Mr Blower suggested that the names of the men referred to should be struck off the lists at once, and then they would not get cards of exemption. The President declined to do this, and Capt. Stevenson said the papers he had sent out would have to be returned, that was all. In all, Nailstone Colliery lost six men taken for military service.

The Ibstock Colliery was represented by Mr J. J. Sharp and the manager, Mr T. Tatham. Mr Tatham said they had 1,128 workmen before the war, and now 38 less. The men taken on since the war began numbered 1123.

The President: You have had a bit of swopping then? (Laughter)

Proceeding, Mr Tatham said 244 of their men had joined the forces. The number they had taken on since August 15th was 264. The number on the surface in 1914 was 215 and now it was 233. They were turning a little less coal. They had 44 lads under 14 years, having collared every lad they could on leaving school. Several of the men were over military age, one old man on the bank being 87. Eight men were doing nothing but cutting English timber in the fields and carrying it to the pit top. In all seven men from the Ibstock pits were taken.

The Court then adjourned till today (Friday) when the South Leicestershire, Snibston and Whitwick Collieries will be dealt with.

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

Friday – Before Major Hatchett (in the chair), Mr W. Lindley and Mr B. Hale

“Light Fines”

There were 20 summonses against local residents for breaches of the Lighting Restriction Order under the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

The first case was that against Wm. Wannton, mechanic, London Road, Coalville. Inspector Dobney said there was a brilliant light from the house. He spoke to defendant's wife who said dark blinds had been ordered. He told her she should shade the lights, but she replied that the children were having lessons. Mr Sharp said it was the first case and he asked for leniency. Dark blinds had been ordered, but had not then arrived. The children were naughty and pulled the blinds on one side.

Fined £1 or seven days. The chairman said the defendants were liable to a fine of £100, and six months' hard labour. As these were the first batch of cases, the Bench would be lenient, but in future offenders would be more severely dealt with as it was a danger not only to the people themselves, but to their neighbours.

Charles Webb, butcher's manager, Coalville, did not appear. – P.C. Bursnall said light from defendant's shop cast rays across the path and road. Defendant wrote that the rays were from a lamp at the corner of the market. Inspector Dobney said the defendant had remedied the matter now. Fined £1 or seven days.

Herbert Charles Thompson, draper, Coalville, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney said it was 7.10 pm when he visited the shop from which there was a glare. He had previously spoken to the defendant. Fined £1 or seven days.

Wm. G. Culpin, grocery manager for Messrs. Worthington, pleaded not guilty. Inspector Dobney said part of the pavement and roadway was distinctly illuminated. At the back there was a window with no blind at all, and defendant said he did not think it necessary at the back (Laughter). He had called defendant's attention to the shop lights three times previously. Defendant said he thought he had complied with the regulations. There was only just enough light to enable them to carry on the business. Inspector Dobney said the lights were reduced when he went, but the next night they were as bad as ever. He could not go warning them every night. Fined 30/- or seven days.

Reginald Routledge, manager for Melia's grocers, Coalville, pleaded not guilty. Inspector Dobney said the gas had sugar paper round them, but were not properly shaded. The blind was not wholly down and light shone on the path. The clerk said he understood that the striking of a match could be seen from a height of 2,000 feet. Inspector Dobney said that some of the shop keepers had reduced the light when he requested them, but they would pop out afterwards, and if his neighbour's light was higher, he would put it up again. Defendant said they had to have a little light to work the bacon slicer or they would be cutting their fingers off. He had cut himself once. It would be a sad thing if the assistants cut their fingers.

Mr Lindley: It would be a sadder thing if a bomb dropped and 22 people were killed.

Defendant said the Market Place lamp caused the light. Fined £2 or seven days.

Wm. Kinch, manager of the India and China Tea shop, Coalville, pleaded not guilty. Inspector Dobney said he had previously cautioned the defendant. He put out a light at witness's request, but when he (the inspector) went by half-an-hour later, the light was up again. Defendant produced a green shade, which he said was over the gas. He had tried to comply with the regulations. He had put a small light on to cut some bacon.

Fined £2 or seven days.

Samuel Albert Turner, confectioner, Hotel Street, Coalville, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney said the lights from the shop illuminated the pavement. He had been spoken to three times previously. It only wanted the blind drawing, and defendant had now done this.

Fined £1 or seven days.

Frank Kemp, grocer, Hotel Street, Coalville, pleaded guilty, and Inspector Dobney gave similar evidence. Defendant told him he must have a little light, or people would not know he was open. Since then defendant had very effectively shaded his lights, and if others would do the same, there would be no more prosecutions.

Fined £1 or seven days.

Alec Wardle, shop-keeper, Coalville, who pleaded guilty, was on evidence of P.C. Bursnall, fined £1.

James Taylor, boot repairer, Coalville, pleaded guilty, and was fined £1 or seven days. – P.C. Spiby proved the case.

John Hodson, tobacconist, Coalville, did not appear. – P.C. Spiby said they had done nothing to remedy it now, but remove a mirror opposite the door. Fined 30/- or seven days.

Frederick Hickling, confectioner, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney said the roadway and pavement were illuminated, and especially when the door was opened. Defendant had been previously cautioned and was doing his best now to remedy it.

Fined £1 or seven days.

Thomas Beadman, grocery manager for the Coalville Co-Operative Society, London Road shop, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney said there were 7 incandescent burners in the shop with no shades on and it was a bad case. There were numerous complaints.

Mr R. T. G. Wright, of Leicester, appeared for the Co-Operative Society in this, and three other cases. He said the Society had no desire to evade the regulations, and had given instructions to the managers accordingly. Replying to the Bench, Inspector Dobney said this man had not been warned but witness gave instructions to the general manager, Mr Lockwood. Supt. Lockton said he himself had cautioned Mr Lockwood, and told him he was having complaints.

Fined £2 and costs.

Frederick Coates, butchery manager, of the Co-Operative Society's London Road shop, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney said four gases were on when he visited the shop, and there were streaks of light from the sides of the blinds besides a shaft of light across the road when the door was opened. Defendant said he only had one light on now, and that was shaded.

Fined 30/- or seven days.

Henry Brown, described as a foreman tailor, employed by the Coalville Co-Operative Society, said he was merely a pieceworker, and not foreman. Mr Wright said the defendant would plead guilty. P.C. Spiby said the light from the tailor's shop at the Central stores was like a searchlight in the air. Defendant told him he forgot to pull down the blind. Mr Wright said defendant was working late on a mourning order, and was so engrossed in his work that he did not notice the blind was not down.

Fined £1 or seven days.

Joseph Stretton, baker, employed by the Co-Operative Society, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney said lights shone from several bakehouse windows very brilliantly, being powerful compressed gas. An improvement had now been made. One window was very bad.

By Mr Taylor: That window was not in a yard with a covered roof. It could be seen from the road.

Fined £2.

Alfred Beasley, shoemaker, Coalville, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney gave the facts, and said defendant had been previously warned. Defendant said he had remedied now. He was fined £1 or seven days.

Wm. Bird, collier, Coalville, was represented by his wife. P.C. Burnsall proved the case, and said defendant had been cautioned. Defendant's wife said the little girl went into the sitting-room, and lit the gas unknown to her.

Fined £1 or seven days.

Walter Geary, builder, Hugglescote, pleaded not guilty. P.C. Langham said there were lights from defendant's house on the night of the last raid. Defendant had been cautioned previously. Inspector Dobney corroborated.

By Defendant: On the previous Sunday, witness told him the blinds were alright, but the lights were out then.

Defendant said he had 15 green blinds fitted at his house. Inspector Dobney said the blinds did not fit to an inch, and the light cast a streak of light on the wall opposite. Five people called witness's attention to it.

Fined £1 or seven days.

Alan Cartmel, auctioneer, Coalville, pleaded guilty. Inspector Dobney gave the facts and said there had been a previous warning. Defendant said he had remedied the matter now.

Fined £1 or seven days.

MILITARY ABSENCES

SIX SOLDIER'S CHARGED AT COALVILLE

Before Major Hatchett at the Coalville Police Court, on Monday, six soldiers, all of the 3/5th Leicestershire Regiment, were charged with being absentees without leave, from Bulwell, since the 11th inst.

The first was Private A. Hawkins, who was apprehended by P.C. Sibson at the house of a Mrs Baxter. The constable said defendant admitted having no pass. He said he could only get leave once in 26 weeks, and came without.

In the case of Private John Collier, P.C. Langham said he arrested the man at Hugglescote, and he admitted being an absentee. Inspector Dobney said this man had a pass, but it was only from noon on Saturday till midnight, to enable him to go to Nottingham and he visited Hugglescote instead.

P.C. Percival gave evidence in the case of Private John Henry Moore, who had nothing to say.

Private Harold Finch, who was arrested by Sergeant Kirkland, on Bridge Road, Coalville, on Sunday night, said he had not had leave for three months, and as he could not get it for another three or four weeks, he took it.

Private W. Extall, who was found at home on Sunday afternoon by Sergeant Kirkland, said, "I just came down to see my wife and five children, that's all." Inspector Dobney said this man was an absentee a fortnight ago, and they sent him back on the train then without charging him.

Private James Wm. Martin, arrested at his home by P.C. Burnall, admitted having no pass, but complained of the food.

All the men were remanded to await an escort.

COALVILLE SOLDIER'S DEATH

A LEICESTERSHIRE D.C.M.

ACQUITTED OF MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE

At York Assizes on Wednesday, Sydney Bolesworth, of the 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was acquitted of the charge of manslaughter of George Spencer, also a private in the same regiment. Spencer died at Patrington, East Yorkshire.

Mr Justice Low regretted that Bolesworth, who had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the French Cross for gallantry, should have been detained in prison in connection with the case for two months, but he could leave the court without the slightest stain on his character.

Private Spencer was a son of the late Mr Nat Spencer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, and before he enlisted, was lodging with his sister at Ravenstone, and working at the Whitwick Colliery.

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COALVILLE TRIBUNAL

WHITWICK BUTCHER'S CLAIM

A meeting of the Coalville Urban District Tribunal was held in the Council Chambers, on Monday night, Mr T. Y. Hay presiding. There were also present, Messrs. M. McCarthy, A. Lockwood, B. B. Drewett, C. W. Brown, B. G. Hale, J.P., L. F. Fox, and J. W. Fisher, with Mr G. J. German and Mr R. Blower (for the military authorities), and the clerk (Mr J. F. Jesson).

Thomas Benson, 36, of Pares' Hill, Whitwick, appealed for exemption. He said he was lamp and powder-box maker and general tinsmith, working for his widowed mother. If he went the business, which had been carried on for 50 or 60 years, would have to be closed. Applicant, replying to Mr German, said he had a brother working at Stableford's, and another brother 12 years of age. Mr McCarthy said the applicant was the only tinsmith in the district.

Mr German said it was a reserved trade. Mr Drewett said it was rather important if he repaired miners' lamps. Answering further questions, applicant said he had tried to enlist once, but was sent back because of the rush, that being early in the war. He was not living at home then. Postponed for a month.

Frederick Smart, boot repairer, Hugglescote, applied for exemption on the ground that he was the sole support of his widowed mother, aged 86. If he enlisted, the business and the home would have to go. His only brother, aged 42, was serving in France. Answering Mr German, applicant said he kept the house going. The rent was 8/- a week. He had to pay someone to clean. All his mother had coming in was an old age pension. A month allowed.

A Whitwick butcher, aged 34, who applied for total exemption, said he managed the business for his widowed mother who was an invalid. He had to keep two sisters, one to help in the shop, and one to assist his mother. Answering questions, he said he did all the slaughtering and everything himself. He worked Sundays as well.

By Mr German: A man named Underwood used to assist him, but not for the last three months.

Mr Lockwood: You are so often that you kill on Sundays? – Yes, often.

The Clerk: You are not a conscientious objector, then? – No, I would kill anything (Laughter)

You are just the man we want (renewed laughter) – But you want something to eat besides Germans.

You can't eat them, you mean? (Laughter) – Yes.

Conditional exemption was granted while the circumstances existed.

George Frederick Burton, grocer and baker, Whitwick, applied for the exemption of his man, Wm. P. A. Bland, 26, of Talbot Street, Whitwick. He was stated to be a married man, and the case was adjourned till the married men are dealt with.

Exemption was granted to William S. Page, aged 18, printer's apprentice, of Highfields Street, Coalville. He produced his indentures, which expire on February 24th, 1917. The clerk said it was all in order, and the exemption would be till the indentures expired.

Two cases assented to by the Advisory Committee were approved, John Pickering, farm labourer, Thringstone, three months granted, and Robert A. Harris, farmer, Hugglescote, six months.

These were all the cases.

It was stated that the Advisory Committee had considered the question of the unattested married men, and had decided not to commence with the attested married cases until something in regard to the former had been done. (Hear, hear).

The Clerk: At the present time, the unattested married man gets off altogether.

Mr Brown said the attested married man's grievance was the single men left. Mr German said that was being considered by the Government. Mr Drewett said they could not take the young single colliers out of the pits if they were to have coal. The chairman said they could get more coal if the Government would suspend the eight hours day. Mr McCarthy said many single men might be released from munition making. He understood a married man could learn munition making in twenty-eight days.

Mr Hale: They can't. It is all stuff. You come down, and I will give you a job and see.

The Clerk said no Tribunal had been appointed yet to hear appeals. Three Coalville appeals were waiting. After some discussion on this point, it was agreed that the clerk write to the Local Government Board, pointing out the delay which was occurring.

IBSTOCK

A meeting was held in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening to discuss further precautions to be taken in the event of an air raid. Mr Jabez Newman presided, and there were present representatives of the Parish Council, the police and the fire brigade. It was decided to publish leaflets showing what had been arranged.

WAR HOSPITAL

Another entertainment promoted by Mrs Hewitt, was given to the soldiers at the Desford Convalescent Home on Friday night, by Mr A. E. Smith's concert party, comprising Miss Haddon (contralto), Mr A. E. Smith (baritone), Messrs. W. Ellingworth and Bert Lowe (humorous duettists), Bombardier Sid Parsons (elocutionist), and Mr Osbourne Blackburn (accompanist). The items were heartily appreciated, encores being given by each performer. A vote of thanks to Mrs Hewitt and the artistes brought to a close a most enjoyable evening.

ASHBY TRIBUNAL

CHAIRMAN AND THE ARMY DOCTORS

SOFT JOBS FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

A meeting of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Tribunal was held at Ashby on Saturday, Mr T. Varnham presiding. There were also present, Messrs. A. Riley, J. W. Fowler, F. C. Stevenson, J. T. Bradshaw, J. Rice, Dr. Atkinson, Capt. Phillimore (military representative) Mr W. Baldwin and the clerk (Mr Geo. Farmer).

Capt. Phillimore raised the question as to granting total exemption in any case. He suggested that exemption should be temporary or conditional, and when the term had expired the man would have to come up again. It would save him (the captain) the trouble of making inquiries as to whether these men were in the same occupation. Mr Stevenson said it would be hanging a rod over a man's head. Capt. Phillimore said a man would be fairly sure of his position if he knew he had a good case for exemption. The chairman said that this uncertainty would be a serious thing for a tradesman or a farmer.

Mr Stevenson: A man won't know where he is. He can't settle down.

Capt. Phillimore still asserted that no man could have total exemption. All cases which had been exempted had to be revised.

The first case taken was an application by Mr Charles Jackson, farmer, Coleorton Moor, for his son, Joseph Edward, aged 37, who managed the farm of 48 acres. Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) for the applicant who is 76 years of age, said there were 20 head of cattle, including 10 milking cows, two horses and 21 pigs. Another son, over military age, was at home, but he managed a grocer's shop, and also had 12 acres of land. If total exemption could not be granted, he asked for temporary exemption to tide him over a period when seven cows were expected to calve. A calendar month was allowed.

James Walker, 23, butcher, Swannington, asked for total exemption, saying he was the principal butcher in Swannington village and people on a round depended upon him. Capt. Phillimore suggested people might fetch the meat. Mr Stevenson said it was a certified occupation. Capt. Phillimore said the point was whether the man was indispensable. It was pointed out that Coalville Co-Operative Society did a large trade in the district.

A member: Far too much as far as little traders are concerned.

The application was not assented to.

Hy. J. Street, farmer, Normanton-le-Heath, applied for his son, Ernest, aged 28, cowman. The son, with his mother, appeared, and said his father, who was 63, was ill. The farm comprised 63 acres and they had 18 cows and 19 lambing ewes. He had a single brother, aged 38 at home. They both thought they were starved, but had been told that they had to appear before the local Tribunal. It was agreed that one of the sons must go, and the case was adjourned for a week.

The Swannington village blacksmith, Wm. H. Rouse, aged 33, applied for total exemption, stating that he repaired colliery tools and agricultural implements and solely carried on the business formerly conducted by his father and grandfather. He had one brother in the army, and two were munition working.

By the chairman: No one depended on him.

Applicant added that he had 12 acres land and some young stock. The application was refused.

The Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe sexton applied for the exemption of his son, saying that if the application was refused he would have to give up the grave digging. He would also be inconvenienced in his work as a coal cutter. Answering questions he said he had an older son at home who worked on the railway, and a boy, 15. – Not assented to.

Walter Stevenson, farmer, Swepstone, applied for exemption. He is a brother of Mr F. C. Stevenson, who is on the Tribunal. Before he retired, he told the military representative that he had had no interest in the farm for eight years. He was fully employed and could not assist on the farm, if his brother went.

Applicant said he had four regular men and two boys. An old man of 79 years of age assisted when he could. He was kept on because he had worked for the family for 45 years. Answering questions, he said he would sooner sell up than appoint a bailiff. He was manager of the Swepstone Dairy Co. They milked 30 cows. One man did nothing else but look after 36 pedigree beasts. He had about 130 sheep, and the shepherd, who also acted as cowman, was 'starved'. Allowed till October 1st.

Hy. Redfern, 21, groom, Boothorpe, appealed for exemption, saying his parents would suffer if he went. His father was a cripple. Not assented to.

A Thringstone farmer, Samuel John Winfield, aged 38, who applied, said he was the only man on the farm (30 acres) and it would mean giving up at serious financial loss if he had to join the army. He milked seven cows and took some of the milk round, but people fetched most of it. His only relatives were three sisters. He did a little coal cutting. Exempted to October 1st, when it was said another application could be made.

A Worthington butcher, Mr John Spencer, applied for the exemption of his two sons, Percy John, aged 26, and Arthur, aged 23, who assist in the business. Mr J. F. Jesson (Ashby) appeared for the applicant and stated that it was a big business serving 321 customers. They had 18 acres of grass land. If the Tribunal decided to take one of the sons, he would withdraw the application for the younger. The Court agreed, Arthur's application being refused, and Percy put back to October 1st.

Louis Hy. Ison, 38, of Measham, farmer and grocer, asked for exemption, stating that two sisters were dependant on him. He had 26 acres of land on which he had 30 sheep, and two ponies. He was a breeder and exhibitor of prize poultry. His only brother had been killed in action and his parents were dead. A member remarked that applicant also kept an off-beer license, but had not mentioned it. The chairman said the less beer sold, the better it would be, so far as the war was concerned. Allowed till June 1st.

Wilfred Hy. Smith, 35, estate and agricultural labourer, Appleby, was applied for by his father, aged 67, saying he and his wife were partly dependant on the son. Application refused.

Mrs Greasley, of Appleby, applied for the exemption of her son, John Edward, aged 23, wheelwright, and farmer. She said she had another son, but one man could not do two men's work. There were 12 acres of land. Application refused.

Herbert John Mortimer, aged 19, baker and assistant grocer, was appealed for by his employer, Mr Bates, of Appleby, who, in addition to the business, said he had 20 acres of land. Three months allowed.

Mr Compton, grocer and draper, of Newton Burgoland, applied for the total exemption of his son, 28 years of age, who assists him in the business. Applicant said he was the rate and tax collector, and also acted as a special constable. He had 12 acres of land, and four beasts. Three of his four sons were already in the army. He produced a doctor's certificate stating that his son was unfit for military service. Answering the chairman, applicant said he could not spare his son if he gave up the rate and tax collecting.

The chairman: That's a woman's job you know.

Mr E. G. Compton said his son could not stand a military life. It would be like sending him to his death. A member said he knew the lad, and he agreed it would be useless letting him go. He was blind in one eye. Mr Baldwin said the proper course was for the young man to submit himself to an army doctor. The chairman said the military doctors were passing anybody. They had it on the evidence of an M.P. who complained in the House the other day of the scandal. Captain Phillimore said there was work for everybody in the army. There were hundreds of jobs apart from those in the trenches.

The chairman: Is there a job you would set an invalid to do? If you send him, he will come back a total wreck.

Mr Riley suggested it would be better for the lad to be examined by a military doctor.

The chairman: The army doctor will accept him. They are accepting anybody. I have not heard of anybody being rejected.

It was stated that they accepted a man with one foot the other day because he could relieve a man who could carry a rifle. He would have a soft job in an office, and would be useful to his country.

The chairman: The conscientious objectors are getting all the soft jobs.

Mr Baldwin said that if the youth was of use to his father, he would be of use to the army. Exemption of three months was allowed.

The Court refused the application of the Coleorton Colliery Co. for the exemption of Cecil Bollard, a wages clerk, it being pointed out that several of the collieries were getting lady clerks.

HUGGLESCOTE NURSE IN EGYPT

INTERESTING DESCRIPTION OF AN EGYPTIAN WEDDING

Nurse Doris Moore, daughter of Mr D. S. Moore, of Hugglescote, has sent another interesting letter from Egypt.

Writing from the 17th General Hospital, Alexandria, she says: "*We landed at Alexandria on November 5th, and had a ten mile ride in a motor ambulance car, arrived at the Beau Rivage hotel at tea time. This is where we are staying, as we could not all be accommodated at the hospital. The grounds of this hotel are beautiful.*"

There are large palm trees on each side of the drive, and here and there small fountains and ponds with trees growing in the water. All this is lit up by electric lights with pretty coloured shades over them. We had tea on the lawn in spite of it being November 5th. The drive from Alexandria was very peculiar, but interesting. In some places we saw the trains running along the streets, and the tramcars afforded us much amusement. At first the streets were very narrow, and at the corners were markets where the natives sold all kinds of brightly coloured articles. Afterwards we came to a much nicer part of the town where the streets were very wide, with very fine buildings, and a profusion of flowers everywhere. On our way we passed an internment camp. There were tents on the sands with high barbed wire entanglements all round. On November 6th we presented ourselves at the 17th General Hospital, and I found my duties lay in the fever block. Of course, the work is dangerous but we never think of that. Our patients are so cheerful and most grateful, so that it is a pleasure to us to do whatever we can for them. This hospital has accommodation for 2,000 patients. The first Sunday night I attended service in the tents, and the clergyman preached from the text, "It is more dangerous to neglect your duty than to do it." The congregation consisted of convalescent soldiers and staff, and the clergyman made us all realise more fully what our duties were. The same Sunday there was an Egyptian wedding, I wish you could have seen it. There was a drum and fife band, (not very musical) leading the procession. Next came a camel with a box arrangement on its back, in which the bride and bridegroom rode. They were completely covered by a red and gold cloth, and accompanied by a number of married women dressed in black, who walked round and round the camel. After this came five or six camels, while a long procession of men brought up the rear. This parade lasted all day, and then the ceremony takes place at the bride's house, after which the bridegroom leaves his bride for seven days without seeing her. I do not think this would suit Hugglescotians. The ceremonies at both weddings and deaths are very strange to us. A native man died a few nights ago, and we were kept awake most of the night by hearing strange noises, and on enquiring in the morning we learned that when a person dies the natives all round congregate together to weep. I have not seen a funeral, so cannot tell you what it is like. I wonder if it will interest you to hear a little about our Christmas festivities. The week preceding Christmas, all the spare time the sisters, nurses, and orderlies had, was given up to preparing decorations and tying up parcels etc., for our patients, and on Christmas Day we made our wards as pretty and attractive as possible. On all the lights we put red silk shades, and on the tables red roses; and each patient had a red cracker. It was very touching to see the poor boys who were not able to sit up, wearing the caps out of their crackers. The Christmas dinner was a real English one, which consisted of roast turkey with three vegetables, and a plum pudding. After tea we had a concert, but I was unable to attend as I was on duty from five to eight o'clock. However, we had quite a happy time in the ward with the contents of our crackers. One boy had a picture of a machine-gun with soldiers standing round, and a Zeppelin in the air. A star at the end of the gun barrel was lit and it worked its way to the Zeppelin, and then exploded. After coming off duty we had a very happy time, singing etc., till midnight, when we retired, feeling quite ready for rest. We are surrounded by English soldiers, but up to the present I have not seen anyone I know. As they bring the brave boys in on the stretchers I always look very hard to see if I know any of them. It would be lovely to see a friend out here, though I do not want him to be ill or wounded.

I do not know when I shall be amongst you again, as I have given my name to nurse until the end of the war, so when I leave Egypt I may go on a transport ship, but I will try to keep in touch with you all wherever I may be called upon to go."

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LEICESTERSHIRE COLLIERIES' RECRUITING COURT

ALL UNDERGROUND WORKERS EXEMPT

The second day's sitting of this Court took place at the Coalville Urban Council Chamber on Friday, the president, Mr W. H. Hepplewhite, H.M. Inspector of Mines, of Tamworth, being accompanied by Messrs. F. D. Spencer (for the owners) and Mr J. Buckley (for the men) as assessors, Mr G. J. German, with Mr R. Blower (secretary) represented the military authorities, and Mr Levi Lovett (Leicestershire Miners' Agent) was also present in the interests of the men.

For the South Leicestershire Colliery, Mr W. Eames, (manager), stated that in August 1914, there were employed at the pits 702 men underground and 200 on the surface. The number enlisted was 138. Allowing for these and others who had left, and men taken on since the war began, they now had an increase of thirty men. A revision of the list resulted in 7 being obtained for military service – all surface workers.

Mr S. T. Boam, manager of the Snibston Colliery, said that in August 1914, there were 503 men working underground and 140 on the surface; 98 had enlisted and they now had an increase of six over the pre-war number. Exemption was refused to four of the surface workers at this mine.

The Court exempted all the men employed at the Ashby Colliery Rescue Station.

Mr T. Y. Hay, for the Whitwick Colliery said that immediately before the war they had 1,127 men working underground and now there were 1,032 or 95 less. On the surface there were formerly 100, now 95; shopmen and enginemmen 92, now 88. The number who had joined the forces was 182 underground and twenty surface.

Replying to the President, Mr Hay said they had taken on 104 new hands since August 1915. He thought most of them had been miners before. Mr German asked whether Mr Hay would be willing to surrender men who had gone into the mine since August 1915, to escape military service.

Mr Hay: Yes, I can find them out. I will surrender the greenhorns, but I can't surrender a seasoned collier.

Proceeding, Mr Hay said they were producing 459 tons of coal a week less than before the war.

The President: But you have 95 men less underground. One manager has told us that each man taken means two tons a day loss.

Mr Hay: It depends on the thickness of the seam.

Questioned as to whether certain men on the bank could not be spared. Mr Hay said they had been working the bank on about half the staff for the last fortnight. They had men ill and could not replace them. He would set a man of 65 to work on the bank tomorrow if he could get him. The question arose as on the first day as to whether colliery carters should not go before the local Tribunals. Mr Hay said most of their carters had been left off these lists to go before the Tribunals.

Mr German: Mr Hay is chairman of the Coalville Tribunal. (Laughter)

Mr Hay: But I should not keep a man who could possibly be spared.

The President intimated that all the managers before the Court that morning had agreed to surrender for military service all men, not experienced colliers, who had been taken on at the mines since August, 1915. The Whitwick colliery yielded 5 for military service, and two for the local Tribunal.

The Court then adjourned till Monday.

The Court was resumed on Monday.

Four collieries were dealt with and from about 1,700 workers, eleven were obtained for military service and four referred to the local Tribunals.

For the Donisthorpe Colliery, Mr J. Armson, (manager), stated that before the war 861 men were employed at the mine and now there were 25 less. The number enlisted was 71 from the pit and 12 from the bank. There were now 46 working on the bank as against 49 and included were a man 69 years of age and 26 boys under 14. The number of men set on at the pit since the war began was 253. He could not give the number set on since August 15th. A revision of the lists produced six men for military service and two were referred to the local Tribunals.

Mr Robinson, manager of the Coleorton Colliery, said that before the war they had 253 men working below ground and 63 men on the surface, and the present numbers were 254 and 61. The number who had enlisted was 45. Three men were taken for military service and one referred to the local Tribunal.

For the Measham Colliery, Mr Colquhoun, (manager) said they had 339 underground and 83 above before the war and now 317 and 79. The number, who had enlisted, was 126. Two surface men were taken for military service and one referred to the local Tribunal.

The manager of the Worthington Colliery, (Mr Miller) stated that before the war they had 56 men below ground and 15 above. Now they had 82 and 17. Ten men had enlisted. Since August 15th, 1915, 34 had

been set on and 15 left. Two of his underground men had received military papers, and had gone to Wigston.

The President: They will come back again. I will make a note of it.

Mr Lovett (miners' agent) said scores of men had had papers calling them up, though they had not attested and worked in the mines all their lives. Mr Blower said one department had apparently not notified another of instructions received and there had been some mistake. Mr Miller, proceeding, said he had only one man of military age on the bank and this man was deaf.

The President: We can't get any from here then, Mr German?

Before the Court rose, Mr Hepplewhite said it appeared that he went too far in asking manager to release inexperienced men who had gone to the pits since August, 1915. He was told that he must not pursue that any further. Let somebody else deal with them.

Mr Lovett: There's no occasion to mention them. The Government will deal with them in their own way.

The President: Yes.

The Court adjourned to Swadlincote Town Hall for Tuesday and Wednesday to deal with the collieries in South Derbyshire.

IBSTOCK CYCLE MAKER'S BELATED APPEAL

ANOTHER DESFORD CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

BOSWORTH TRIBUNAL OCCUPIED OVER FIVE HOURS

The Market Bosworth Rural District Tribunal met on Tuesday morning, Mr R. A. Oswald Brown presided, and there were present, Messrs. W. Eggington, W. Towers, J. E. Homer, and G. M. Arnold, with Mr R. Hanmer (military representatives), Mr R. Blower, (military secretary), and the clerk (Mr F. Bouskell).

Mr Eggington moved a vote of sympathy with the chairman of the Tribunal, Alderman T. Cope, on the death of his wife, and this was carried. Mr Bouskell said he had received a letter from the Leicestershire Education Committee offering the services of the school attendance officers to the military authorities, or the clerk. – Mr Bouskell said it would be a great help in making enquiries.

A Norton blacksmith appealed for his brother, aged 39, who assists in the business, the firm doing the work for the Gopsall estate. One brother had just died. Besides the blacksmith's business they have a public house. One month allowed, which means three, this being a case under the Military Service Act.

Mr Eggington said the attested men only had the time given them by the Tribunal, and it was a great injustice that men who had not attested should be in a better position.

A Government employee of Kirby Muxloe wrote that having been allowed three months by his department, he withdrew his application. The clerk said there were two conscientious objectors and it was decided to leave these till last. Mr Woolaston said he noticed that the conscientious objectors were to be set on to clean out latrines and do all the dirtiest work.

Mr Eggington: They won't mind what it is so long as it is away from the firing line.

The Bagworth Colliery Co. applied for one of their clerks, Walter King, aged 29, stating that he was engaged on important work and efforts to obtain a substitute had failed. King, answering Mr Homer, said they had the same number of clerks now as before the war. Application refused.

A member said it did not look as if the colliery company had given their men every facility to enlist as stated, and the man who wrote such piffle should be sent to the front. Had they seen what had happened at the Colliery Courts? Every man underground was 'starred' and from each colliery they took about five surface men. Mr Homer pointed out the President of the Mines Recruiting Courts had his instructions. He (Mr Homer) offered to release every inexperienced man taken on at the Desford pit since August last, but they would not

have it. Other managers followed suit. They offered to cross the names off the lists, but Mr Hepplewhite would not allow it.

Mr Eggington said the Colliery Tribunal was a farce and was a waste of time and money. Whoever was responsible for drawing up instructions to a man before he heard the cases ought to be sent to the front, no matter what Government department he belonged to.

The Chairman: There is no more unpatriotic body in the country than the civil service.

Mr Homer said that anybody could see in the report in last week's "Coalville Times" of the offer he made. It was no use trying to be patriotic when they were up against a stumbling block like that. Mr Blower said it was only fair to Mr Hepplewhite to say that he knew something was going to be done.

Mr Homer: I believe they have something up their sleeve, but we can't work on that.

The chairman said he gathered from the papers that morning that the Government intended to deal with single men in occupations which they were not in before last August.

Three months were allowed to the son, aged 23, of a general contractor of Sutton Wharf, applicant stating that he had three sons in the forces.

The application of a Newbold Verdon general carter was refused, and a Ratby contractor who applied for his labourer and wagoner was told that his application was out of date. Applicant asked who he was to apply to.

The Clerk: In the first instance, Captain Stevenson, of Coalville.

The application on personal grounds of a Ratby quarrymen, who said he supported his widowed mother, aged 66, was refused. A member remarked that some of these big strapping fellows who said they supported their mothers, often paid 10/- or 12/- a week for their keep.

A coal carter of Twycross, aged 35, who said he had two brothers in the forces and a brother-in-law had been killed, and had no one to help him, was allowed three months.

A Ratby man, farming 200 acres, applied for his wagoner and assistant shepherd, aged 21. He said he must have assistance. There was a lot of talk about women on the land, but there was a lot women could not do. They could not attend to lambing ewes. Mr Eggington said he agreed, but there were many things on a farm women could do. Six months allowed.

A Desford applicant, aged 23, who said he managed a carrying business for his widowed mother, was allowed three months.

A Barlestone boot and shoe repairer, who also said he was the parish clerk, asked for absolute exemption. He said he supported his widowed mother. He started business on a capital of 2/- and recently built a shop costing £160.

Mr Homer: What does a parish clerk do?

Applicant said he did a great deal. He was a sort of handyman.

Mr Homer: I am afraid I am not much wiser.

Applicant said he attended to weddings, funerals etc., at the Parish Church, adding, "*I do a lot of work for very little money.*"

When informed that he would be given three months to fix up his affairs before being claimed by the army, he said he should appeal.

Mr Grewcock, a Stapleton farmer, applied for his wagoner, aged 27, who, he said, was the only man who looked after the horses. Three months allowed.

The appeal of a Witherley bricklayer, aged 38, was dismissed, it being pointed out that his mother would be as well off with his separation allowance, and one from a brother, also in the army. The clerk also pointed out that the application was out of date. A man must apply within 10 days of the date of the Proclamation calling up his group. – Mr Bouskell complained that the War Office did not notify him of the dates of the Proclamations and for the information of the Tribunal he had to ascertain the dates from posters on the wall. Several members thought this was very unsatisfactory.

A Dadlington farmer, applied for his two sons, one a wagoner aged 22, and the other a cowman aged 20. The farm was 118 acres and there were two horses, 26 milking cows, 12 calves, and 11 other stock. He said he could not work the farm without them. The application for the younger son was refused, and the elder was given six months.

A Markfield tailor, the only son of his widowed mother, who had once been put back, applied for further exemption. If he had to go he said the business would have to be given up. Three months allowed.

Mr George Abell, aged 80 years, farmer, Sutton Cheney, applied for his cowman, aged 38, married, with two children. The farm comprised 153 acres, of which 34 were under plough, and there were two men and a boy on the farm now against five before the war. The wagoner was leaving next week. Six months allowed, Mr Eggington remarking, "We hope the war will be over by then."

A Sheepy farm bailiff applied for the exemption of his two sons, aged 24 and 19, who assist on the farm of 310 acres. He had had one son killed in the war, and another reported missing. There were about 50 head of beasts and 50 sheep on the farm, and three men and two boys and himself to work it. The application for the younger man was dismissed and the elder was allowed six months.

The application of a Ratcliffe Culey farmer, for whom Mr Fielders, solicitor, of Atherstone, appeared, was ruled out, being one day too late. The chairman said there were other similar cases, and had they decided to hear this one, it would have created an awkward precedent.

Mr Fielders also applied for a farmer of Mount Pleasant Farm, Desford. The farm, he said, was worked by two brothers, aged 31 and 29. The latter had been given total exemption, and the elder was now allowed one month.

A Twycross farmer appealed for his son, aged 18, who assist him on the farm of 257 acres, on which were 87 ewes, 100 tegs, and 30 other sheep, 14 milking cows and 7 horses. He had a wagoner (29), who was not ill, and a cowman, 56. Six months allowed.

Appeals were received from two young farmers, aged 23 and 27, of Sheepy Magna, joint tenants of the Elms Farm, of 80 acres, on which they worked themselves, and employed no labour. Both were single. The younger said his father had retired after having the farm for 21 years. They took it over from their father about 12 months ago. They had 16 dairy cows. Answering questions, he said his father was living at Atterton now, and was 73 years of age. He had not tried to get labour, though it would be difficult. He and his brother did three men's work many a day. The elder was allowed six months, and the younger three months.

An Odstone farmer applied for his only son, aged 18. He said he farmed 440 acres, of which 179 acres were ploughed land. He had 48 milking cows, 15 calves, 124 feeding sheep, 80 breeding ewes, 28 feeding beasts and 25 young beasts. Before the war he had nine men and two lads working on the farm, and now five men (all over military age) and two lads. As the applicant recently met with an accident, and was temporarily incapacitated, it was urged by one member that time should be allowed till the father was better. The lad was now managing the farm. The chairman said labour on the land was being very much reduced now, and if they were not careful they would find that in a few months' time there would be as big an outcry for bringing men back to the land as they had for bringing back men to make munitions. Three months allowed.

The mother of a Norton collier applied for her son, aged 20, on personal grounds. She said he was working underground. She had 12/6 for one son at the front, and had five children earning nothing. Six months allowed and the clerk said the man would probably get a certificate of total exemption from the Colliery Co.

The tenant of Cliff Hill Farm, Shaw Lane, of 50 acres, applied for exemption, saying he had no labour. He worked the farm himself, and his wife and family and himself lived on it. Six months allowed.

A retired shoeing smith, of Ibstock, applied for his son, but Mr Eggington said he understood the lad had now joined the forces. – Dismissed.

The tenant of Pinwall Hall applied for one of two men working on his farm of 182 acres. Answering questions, he said one man had defective eyesight, and they would not take him.

Mr Eggington: They have taken a man from our district with only one eye.

A month allowed.

Mr J. W. Walton, of Field Head, Markfield, applied for his cowman, aged 39, married, with five children. The farm was 360 acres and there were 20 horses, 200 sheep, and 120 other stock, including 35 milking cows. He had two men and two boys assisting him (applicant). Six months allowed.

A Markfield butcher, Mr Gibbons, applied for the exemption of his son, aged 27, who did his slaughtering. Applicant said he was 56 years of age, and last year met with an accident which injured his arm, and he had to depend on his son for the slaughtering. Answering questions, he said he had another single son at home aged 36, who was a horse breaker, and knew nothing about butchering. The latter was appealing. The application was refused.

In connection with the appeal of a Groby medical student, a certificate was received to the effect that the man was unfit for military service – Referred to the army doctor.

The son of an aged Carlton farmer applied for exemption stating that there were 44 acres on which there were two milking cows, 18 young beasts, 3 horses, 6 sheep, and 36 couples of poultry. He also did stone and coal cutting. His father was 76 years of age. Six months allowed.

A threshing machine proprietor, of Twycross appealed stating that he was rejected at Coalville by Capt. Stevenson in November last, on account of a defective hand. He had now received his papers. A member asked whether he was married. "No," replied applicant, "*What is the use of getting married?*" (Laughter). Six months allowed.

An Ibstock cycle dealer, Hy. P. Carter, who applied for exemption, was asked why he did not appeal before. Applicant said he did not know the date.

The chairman: You should have found out. It rests with you now to satisfy the Tribunal why you didn't appeal sooner.

The clerk: You read the papers?

Applicant: Yes

The clerk: The papers have been full of it.

Answering further questions, he said he was single, and 34 years of age. His brother was going, and if he went the business would have to be closed. The military representative said the claim was two days too late. Mr Blower said the man had been advised by his best friends what to do, but he neglected it.

The clerk: He says the reason he did not appeal sooner was because he did not think of it. Is that sufficient?

Several members: No

The application was ruled out of date.

An under-gardener aged 23, at the Desford Convalescent Home, now an Auxiliary Military Hospital, applied for exemption on conscientious grounds, being a brother of a similar applicant at the previous meeting.

The chairman: How long have you suffered from this ailment? – I don't know I am suffering at all.

When did you begin to think about it? – Pretty well all my life.

Mr Blower: Have you ever asked your father to let you join the forces, feeling that you ought to go? – I don't know that I have.

Haven't you asked his permission for you to go? – (after hesitation) Yes.

Mr Homer: Don't say you don't know if you do.

The chairman: Why did you ask to go if you conscientiously object? – No answer.

Have you got this complaint from your brother? – No, sir.

Mr Homer said they should try to understand what was in the Prime Minister's mind when he included this unfortunate clause in the Military Service Act. They could not accept all this twaddle. The Prime Minister was thinking of Quakers and men who had held these tenets all their lives. It was a waste of time for them to listen to the contradictory statements of young men who were simply trying to humbug them. The chairman agreed. He said the mere fact that he asked his father if he could join upset the whole thing. Applicant was asked whether he objected to any form of service – He replied that he did, saying he thought he was doing his bit in growing food.

Mr Eggington: Is that because you are afraid of your own skin? – You can't say I am afraid of my own skin if I stick out and would rather be shot.

Mr Homer: We have only your word for that.

A member remarked that he would like to see it put to the test and asked whether there was a firing party on the premises.

Applicant: I don't mind being shot now.

The chairman: Would you pick up a wounded man on the battlefield? – No, sir.

Who is to go and fight to protect you?

You expect benefits from the war, don't you?

No, except what I work for myself.

But you would not be free to work. What would England be like if all were like you? – There would have been no war.

If you read the Bible, you will find there were plenty of scraps in early history – The Bible condemns fighting.

A member: Christ told a man to sell his garment and buy a sword.

Mr Homer said he objected to these men being put in non-combatant service. The appeal was dismissed.

Notice had also been received from another brother of a conscientious objector, but he had not had notice to attend as he was described as a miner.

Mr Homer: He was not a miner before August 15th. He is one of two cowardly curs who have sneaked into the mines to get out of it.

It was stated that the man would have to appear next time. The Tribunal agreed to a number of cases assented to by the military authorities. These included all the men in the service of the Atherstone Hunt, Mrs Inge, of Thorpe Hall, Tamworth, in a letter on the subject stating that the War Office had urged the maintenance of the national sport of fox hunting as an encouragement to horse breeding. Six months was allowed.

The Tribunal sat for over five hours.

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NOTICE

AIR RAIDS

Until further notice, warning of an impending raid will be given by the buzzer at Messrs. Stableford and Co. by TWO SHORT, ONE LONG and TWO SHORT BLASTS, this will be repeated once after an interval of one minute. When the danger is considered to be past the same buzzer will give a blast on ONE MINUTE'S DURATION. Similar warnings will be given by the buzzers at South Leicestershire Colliery and the Whitwick Gas Works.

Walter Lindley
Chairman of the Emergency Committee.

LOCAL CHIT CHAT

We are pleased to hear that Mr A. T. Eggington, son of Mr W. Eggington, of Ibstock, has just been given a commission in the Royal Engineers, with which regiment he is serving in France. Lieutenant Eggington was a very successful old Bosworth School boy, and before the war was science master at the Great Marlow Grammar School, Bucks. On the outbreak of the war, he joined the Public Schools Battalion, afterwards being transferred to the Royal Fusiliers, and thence to the Royal Engineers and has been lecturing to the troops in France, on explosives, and gasses. His many friends in the Bosworth and Ibstock district will congratulate him on his promotion.

The treasurer of the Coalville Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Guild (Mrs Farmer) acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £1/1/0 from Dr. Atkinson (Osgathorpe), 2/6 from Miss Wynn, and 15/0 from Mr James A. Johnson, from the proceeds of the sale of postcards at the Coalville Electric Theatre.

MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT

Wednesday – Before Mr R. A. Oswald Brown (in the chair), and Mr W. Eggington.

Ibstock Fish Dealer Fined

James Ball, fish dealer, Ibstock, was summoned for not shading or reducing the lights in his shop at Ibstock on February 28th. He pleaded not guilty, but said it was an accident. P.C. Potterton stated that about 9.30 pm in Chapel Street, he noticed a light from defendant's house shining across the road on to the houses on the other side. It was an incandescent light not shaded at all. Defendant said he was sorry, someone must have left the door open. He cautioned the defendant two days before. Fined 10/- and the chairman repeated the warning.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

There are about 70 men from Coalville and district working on munitions at Coventry?

The Coalville Tribunal decided on Monday night to adjourn for a fortnight before starting to consider the appeals of married men?

Five young German officers were marched to Donington Hall on Tuesday, two of them being wounded in the arm?

WHITWICK SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

Mrs E. Howe, of 37, Talbot Street, Whitwick, has received the sad news that her husband, Private E. Howe, No. 12075, of the 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, died in hospital on February 16th, from wounds received in action at the Persian Gulf, January 6th or 7th.

Private Howe, before the war was a Whitwick collier. As a reservist, he re-joined his regiment on the outbreak of war, and had participated in several battles. A pathetic feature is that since receiving news of his death, Mrs Howe has received a letter written by her husband from hospital a few days before he died, stating that he hoped soon to be better, and to be able to do a bit more for "Good old England." He also wrote the following lines:

*"I am the man that's always ready
Always game and always steady,
To shoot and fight and hammer in
In action always mean to win."*

The deceased soldier's letters were always written in a cheerful strain. A memorial service is to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Thringstone, on Sunday.



COALVILLE SOLDIER'S WIDOW'S FURNITURE

CASE IN ASHBY COUNTY COURT

An application was made at Ashby County Court yesterday by Alan Cartmel, furniture dealer, Coalville, to recover possession of furniture sold on the hire-purchase system, from Mrs Martin, widow, of Hermitage Road, Coalville.

Mr T. H. Moore (Coalville) for the applicant said the Courts Emergency Powers Act made it necessary to apply; before the Act they would have been at liberty to move the goods. Defendant said her husband had died from wounds received in the war, and she had only 15/- a week to keep herself and her boy, and out of that had to pay rent and buy coal. If her husband had lived, he would have paid for the goods.

His Honour: I know, poor fellow, and I will do anything I can to see that you are dealt with fairly.

Mr Moore: Are the goods useful to you? – Yes, certainly. I have to provide a home for my boy.

But you understand they have to be paid for? – Yes.

The Judge asked if there was an agreement. Mr Moore said there was, but he had not a copy with him. Applicant said he had it in his book.

His Honour: How on earth did you expect me to make an order without seeing the agreement?

Mr Cartmel said he was quite prepared to meet the woman, and suggested a payment of 8/- a month. She had had £30 or £40 from a collection at the Whitwick Colliery.

It transpired that the amount owing was £3/18/6/. The Judge said they had better try to come to some arrangement; he could do nothing that day.

IBSTOCK

The Ladies' Patriotic Committee are to be congratulated on the result attending their recent tea and social. At a meeting held on Monday evening it was announced that the result was £23 after expenses had been paid. It was decided to grant £1/1s to the British Prisoners of War Fund and £1/1s, similarly to the Russian Fund.

Friday March 24th 1916 (Issue 1255)

COALVILLE MEN IN EGYPT

Dear Mr Editor, For some time past several constant readers of the "Times" have felt it incumbent upon them to write and thank you for the interest, and the help, the cheer, and the pleasure, which we obtain by reading your paper.

"Do you know" – to use the well-known heading – there are several local men stationed here, who regularly and constantly join together, whilst one of their number reads the news in your stimulating paper?

One of our favourite columns is that which tells of the happenings at the local picture palaces, where, in times past, we have spent many happy hours and hard-earned cash in securing enjoyment, interest, amusement, and elevation. We wish all these places the success they so richly deserve.

Referring to our own experience we may say we are 200 miles from Alexandria – desert all the way – 40 miles desert eastward, 1,500 desert southward to Kardofan, 2,000 miles desert westward to that same sea which encircles our homeward isle, but Hugglescote, Coalville, and the surrounding places are ever near to our hearts. We lie nightly on our narrow hard beds, and dream of home and of the things we read in the "Local Chit Chat." How we would love to attend the cattle market, and see the fine cattle we helped to rear, instead of hearing of the prices sows fetched, and at which butter sells, recorded in your paper, week by week. We have had experience of these things in the past. When we see the sands, desert and flourishing

palms, with the hot sun beating down (the Arab natives tell us the Arabic is soknat shemsh) and we long for the fresh meadows and silent lanes of the Charnwood Forest with the cool refreshments at that spot, where we are ever welcome – the Forest Rock Hotel.

I wish you could see the smile of contentment upon the ruddy weather-beaten faces, and feel the hushed stillness – broken only by the jackal's howl – as we expectantly wait for the news to be served.

We assure you, Mr Editor, you do for us more than you think, and in times when the heat is unbearable, the flies and the obnoxious insects most troublesome, when the cheese is dry and the bread drier, the dinner tough and the meat tougher, we are stirred into greater determination by your frequent words of fervid patriotism, and are of settled purpose that whatever scarcity of food we have to bear, whatever hardships we have to undergo, we will not disgrace the district to which we belong, and from which we have gone forth to fight for our homes, our land, and our honour. – Wishing you every success.

Seven "Coalville Times" readers.

AN APPEAL FROM THE TRENCHES

March 11th, 1916.

Dear Sir, - As a constant reader of your weekly paper, and a Coalville man, will you please allow me to make a little appeal on behalf of my chums and myself. We have been out here now for the past seven months and the nights we spend in our billet are very dull, because we have nothing to amuse us. That is why I have written to you. Will you be so kind as to ask your readers if they have an old pack of cards or a mouth organ they do not require. If so, will they please send them to us, as they would be very much appreciated. There is nothing like a sing-song at nights when we are out of the trenches. We cannot buy anything where we are, as there are no towns for miles. We are right in the open country. Wishing you good luck and every success to your paper, we are, sir, yours, etc.

15th Platoon Members

Private T. Tookey, 17469
15th Platoon, D. Company
9th Leicestershire Regiment
B.E.F. France.

A LEICESTER D.C.M.

Private J. H. Hardwick, 8th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, who, as was announced on Thursday, has been awarded the D.C.M. is a Leicester man, his mother residing at Lytton Road. He followed the trade of a painter before the war, and is 26 years of age.

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ASHBY TRIBUNAL

NUMEROUS EXEMPTIONS

The Ashby Rural District Tribunal met on Friday, Mr T. Varnham presiding, and there were also present, Dr. Atkinson, Messrs. J. W. Fowler, J. Rice, A. Riley, J. T. Bradshaw, F. C. Stevenson, and Captain Phillimore (military representative), with Mr Geo. Farmer (clerk)

The case of a Normanton-le-Heath farmer, whose application for his son was adjourned from the last court, was again considered. He has two sons, and the Tribunal decided that one must go. He now wrote stating that his other son would enlist, and conditional exemption for the one applied for was granted.

Conditional exemption was granted to a Heather farmer and carter, and to a master butcher, of Heather.

A cattle man applied for by a Snarestone smallholder, was allowed till April 17th. The application of a small farmer at Coleorton for the exemption of his son, was not accented to.

Conditional exemption was granted to the shepherd employed by a farm at Staunton Harold and also to the cowman of a farmer and miller at Ravenstone, and the horseman and wagoner of a Heather farmer.

A grocer and small farmer of Measham, who applied for his son was given till April 17th, and the Hinckley Urban District Council obtained a similar respite for their five men at the Snarestone waterworks. The Tribunal refused assent to the application of a brewer's agent of Lount for his son, whom he required to assist him on account of illness.

A farmer and blacksmith, of Measham, secured conditional exemption, as did a farmer of Newton Burgoland, and a Thringstone carrier was allowed a sufficient term to enable him to make financial arrangements. A Newton Burgoland farmer and threshing machine proprietor applied for his wagoner, and conditional exemption was granted, a similar result attending the application for the Oakthorpe scavenger employed by the Ashby Rural District Council.

All the above were attested cases, and the following were dealt with under the Military Service Act.

A Chilcote farmer obtained conditional exemption for his stockman, as did two farmers of Appleby Magna, and a farmer of the same place was himself similarly dealt with so long as he remains a farmer. Absolute exemption was granted to the son of a Measham draper on account of illness.

Three month's exemption, which under the Act means five, was granted to a lady farmer at Osgathorpe, for her manager and to a Blackfordby farmer for his son.

LEICESTERSHIRE COLLIERIES' RECRUITING COURT

BAGWORTH AND ELLISTOWN PITS

The Leicestershire Collieries Recruiting Court was resumed in the Coalville Council Chamber on Friday morning, under the presidency of Mr. W. H. Hepplewhite, H.M. Inspector of Mines, of Tamworth. The assessors were Mr W. Eames, manager of the South Leicestershire Colliery, for the coal-owners, and Mr J. Buckley, South Derbyshire miners' agent, for the men. Mr G. J. German, with Captain Stevenson, represented the military authorities, and Mr Levi Lovett, Leicestershire miner's agent was also present in the interests of the men.

For the Bagworth Colliery, Mr J. Emmerson (manager) stated that in 1914, immediately before the war commenced, they had 559 men working below ground, and 125 on the surface, and that the present numbers were 518 and 115, decreases of 41 and 10. On the banks were 28 boys under 16, and half the men of military age had been rejected. Two men twice rejected, had been accepted on trying the third time, one having very defective eyesight and the other bad feet. They were called up and went without saying anything to him. The number who had joined the forces was 64, and the new men taken on during the war, 339.

The President said the percentage which had joined the forces was not a large as at some of the pits. He understood that at Bagworth, they had been a bit backward in coming forward. Mr Emmerson, in answering further questions said the output of coal had decreased by 9 per cent. They had very few men, not sufficient to keep the ordinary work of the Colliery going, and he could not spare any more. Mr German said they would have to take a few. The least they had taken from any colliery yet, was four.

The President said he would allow a week or so to get older men to take the places of a few of military age. The result of the revision of the lists was that two were taken, and the two who had gone were not exempted.

Mr A. B. Emmerson, manager of the Ellistown Colliery, stated that at this pit before the war, the number of employees was 818 below, and 185 on the surface, and the numbers now were 787 and 171, decreases of 31 and 14. The output of coal was 80 tons per day less. The number who had enlisted was 176, and since the war 612 fresh men had been set on. There were 44 boys working on the bank. The number of men attested was 279 below, and 44 on the surface. From this pit five were obtained for military service.

The Rawdon and Reservoir pits, Moira, were also dealt with.

BOSWORTH TRIBUNAL AND FOX-HUNTING

SYMPATHY WITH THE MARRIED MEN

ANOTHER CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

The weekly meeting of the Market Bosworth Rural District Tribunal was held on Tuesday morning in the old Board Room. Mr R. A. Oswald Brown (Cadeby) presided, and there were also present, Messrs. W. Eggington (Ibstock), W. Towers (Newbold Verdon), G. M. Arnold (Shackerstone), and Mr J. E. Homer (Desford), with Mr F. E. A. Wollaston and Mr R. Hanmer (military representatives), Mr Blower, and the clerk (Mr F. Bouskell).

A letter was received from Mr. T. Cope thanking the Tribunal for their vote of sympathy at the last meeting on the death of his wife and also thanking Mr Bouskell for his kind letter.

The chairman said he would like to make a statement for the benefit of the Press with regard to their decision at the last meeting re the Atherstone Hunt servants, which seemed to have caused a stir throughout the country. Out of a total of 21, Mrs Inge only appealed for six men who were all married with families. The other 15 had enlisted. He thought that if every establishment in the country could show such a good percentage as 15 out of 21 gone to serve their country, there would be not much fault to find.

Mr Wollaston: It is very good.

The chairman said it was in response to an appeal from Lord Derby that hunting should be carried on as long as possible and they took that into consideration in granting six months' temporary certificates – not exemption – to these six married men. They were giving no exemptions whatever, and the sooner that was understood the better. They were not like one Tribunal in Wales, which only took 20 for soldiers out of 578.

Mr Eggington said he was very glad the chairman had put the matter right in regard to the huntsmen. There was quite a wrong impression. The chairman said it would be better if the Press would call attention to the way the Government was thwarting recruiting, especially in the civil service and the collieries.

The appeal of an Atterton farmer for his man was adjourned for a week to see if another man on the farm enlisted as applicant said he intended to do. It was remarked that the Tribunal meant to have one of these two men.

A six month's certificate was given to Mr Samuel S. Matts, 38, single, who said he managed a small farm of 23 acres at Shaw Lane, Markfield, for his widowed mother, aged 75. Another Markfield applicant, aged 72, farming 62 acres, applied for his man, Walter Bailey, aged 21.

It was remarked that a young man of 21 ought to be doing something better nowadays than working on a farm for 18/- per week. Other help should be obtained. The chairman said it was difficult to get labour now. Even boys were all snapped up. Applicant said that was so. It was stated that he might obtain a woman to do the work.

Applicant: I don't know where you can get a woman.

The chairman: We have been told women are to be our salvation. (Laughter).

Commenting on the scarcity of labour the clerk said four-fifths of the men had gone from the stone quarries to the coal pits, and there would be a difficulty in getting stone for the roads. He understood that several quarries were to be temporarily closed down. Two months were allowed.

Mr A. Brown, farming 200 acres at Grendon, was granted a four months' certificate for his man, J. Salt.

Two months were allowed to a horse-man employed by Mr W. Friby, of Barton Fabis, who said he had four horses, 11 milking cows and other stock, on a 100 acre farm, and this was his only man, and a three months' certificate was granted to Mr E. Thirlby, farmer, of Stanton-under-Bardon, re his employee, O. Fisher. Applicant said he farmed 125 acres and had 10 milking cows. On being told that the man would probably have to go in three months' time, Mr Thirlby said he was in Group 40 himself.

A member: They won't take you both.

Mr Thirlby said he drove the man to the recruiting office at Coalville to attest, and he was told that he would never be called upon, as he was in a starred trade. He recently read a statement by Lord Selborne that these men should not go.

The Bagworth Brick Co. appealed for a brick-burner, stating that they were on Government work. The company's representative said he had only 8 men left, and this man was the only experienced brick-burner. The case was adjourned for a week for a letter from the Minister of Munitions to be produced, stating that it was Government work. The clerk said that had been done in other cases.

During the consideration of the appeal of a travelling provision dealer of Newbold Verdon, aged 30, married, with one child, Mr Homer said this was an attested married man and he thought the Tribunals should help them all they could. If they had not been foolish enough to attest they would have been out of it. They had been hoodwinked and fooled by the Government, and it was the duty of the Tribunals to help them in every possible manner. Six months allowed.

The chairman: If we had compulsion at the start it would have saved a lot of trouble.

Six months were allowed to a young married farmer and milk-seller of Stanton-under-Bardon who had attested. Application was made for a woodman on the Beaumanor estate engaged in felling timber for pit props chiefly. It was also stated that the man was about to undergo an operation, and was medically unfit. Mr Eggington said that was a case for the army medical authorities. Allowed till April 29th.

The appeal of a Bagworth Midland Railway employee for exemption on personal grounds was dismissed. The applicant did not appear personally, but in his letter he stated that his mother was ill, and if he had to go it would make her worse. She had been worrying since the war began.

Mr Eggington: All the mothers worry when the boys have to go.

A member remarked: This is the first fish we have angled today.

The Nailstone Colliery Co. applied for their secretary and commercial manager, Mr J. C. Hunt, and three clerks. Messrs. Hopkins, Wollerton and Grant. They were all stated to be married. Mr Hunt withdrew the application for Hopkins stating that he had been exempted by the Collieries' Court.

Mr Homer: They refused to exempt our storekeeper at the Collieries' Court, and what they do for one they should do for all, or leave it alone.

Mr Hunt said Hopkins was exempted as land-sales foreman. He said four clerks had already joined the Colours, and had been replaced by three boys, and a man over military age. Of the coal output, 64 per cent was for war purposes. Applicant said he had to spend a lot of time on the Birmingham and other markets.

Mr Homer: What for? Not for selling coal!

Mr Hunt: Settling disputes

Mr Homer said things were pretty well settled now, and coal needed no selling. It was pointed out that the application need not have been made yet, as their groups had not been called up. A six months' temporary certificate was given in each case.

Three months were allowed for an Osbaston cowman and shepherd. The application of a wheelwright caused Mr Homer to remark that there seemed to him to be something fishy about the evidence. Mr Hanmer said he knew the case, and it was correct. Mr Homer said he remarked the other day that the military representatives were the greatest difficulty they had to overcome at the Tribunals, and it was being borne out. (Laughter).

Mr Hanmer jocosely remarked, "*I don't mind what he says.*" The clerk said that if a man was a wheelwright he was entitled to exemption. Mr Eggington said good wheelwrights were wanted at the front. They could get 11/- a day. – Six months' allowed.

A Peckleton farmer applied for himself and his cowman.

Mr Homer: They are all cowmen on the farms.

Applicant: They are not all colliers (laughter) and the colliers will find their mistake out when the war is over.

Six months allowed.

The next application was by a Markfield farmer for his cowman.

The chairman: There are more cowmen than cows. (Laughter). We shall have to give up cows and live on tinned milk.

Six months allowed.

A Barlestone farmer, aged 56, who is also a smallholder, appealed for his son, aged 20. The application was out of date, and asked why he did not apply sooner, he said he could not read or write.

Mr Homer (in surprise): You can't read or write?

Applicant: I can just write my name. I went to work at the pit when I was ten years old, and have worked in the pit ever since. The application, being out of date, was dismissed.

A horse trainer, of Markfield, applied for exemption, stating that he had been in business 15 years. He had 14 acres of land. Before the war he had a man working for him. He had a hackney stallion, and looked after that also. It was stated that applicant would be useful in the army, and the appeal was not assented to.

There was another conscientious objector from Desford, the third of three brothers who had applied on similar grounds. He was 20 years of age, and worked as a loader at the Desford Colliery. He said he objected to taking life, and having anything to do with the war.

The chairman: Do you object to living in England? – Certainly not.

You would not be living here unless somebody else was fighting for you? – How is that?

Where would England be if everybody was like you? – There would have been no war.

Mr Homer: If every Englishman had been like you, would there have been no war? – I can't answer that.

How long have you held these opinions? – As soon as the war broke out.

The chairman: Oh, when you could see it coming? – I had no need to hold such opinions before.

You know there are between 200 and 300 Quakers fighting? – That has nothing to do with me.

They are conscientious objectors and don't hold back to save their skin when their country is in danger. – I don't know about saving skin. I would sooner be shot than go.

Mr Homer: Is your sole reason that you object to taking life? – Yes.

That is a lie. – Can you prove it?

Mr Homer: I am going to prove it.

He went on to question the applicant as to an alleged conversation in the pit, in proof of which he said he could call three witnesses, from which Mr Homer said it was clear that the man had other motives for wanting to stay at home. Applicant alleged that Mr Homer had his knife in him, and in his father as well. Mr Homer denied this. He said the applicant's father was dismissed for disobeying the under-manager, and any other man would be similarly dealt with in similar circumstances.

"You dare not say that to his face," retorted the man.

Mr Homer: I did tell him to his face in my office.

A member remarked, "If you object to fight for your country, why don't you clear out? – How do you make that out?"

The chairman: We don't want men like you in the country. Where do you suppose the country would be if everybody was like you? – I don't wish to answer more questions.

Applicant was told that his appeal was dismissed. He said he should appeal against the decision. The chairman said he hoped that would be the last of them.

A number of cases assented to by the Military Authorities were agreed to. In most cases they were farm workers, and six months' grace was allowed. In one case a blacksmith applied who, it transpired, was 42 years of age, and total exemption was given, it being pointed out that the man was over age.

"FATHER" OF THE LEICESTER PIONEERS

Colonel Canning Turner, on behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Leicester Pioneers, presented Mr T. H. Crumbie, on Saturday, with a handsome clock in recognition of his services as honorary organising secretary of the battalion. In making the presentation, Colonel Turner said Mr Crumbie might almost be called the "Father of the Regiment."

LOUGHBOROUGH MARRIED MEN'S PROTEST

WAGES OF INDISPENSABLE SINGLE MEN

A meeting of attested married men was held on Sunday morning at the Temperance Hall, Loughborough. Mr A. W. Rudkin, who presided, said they had been called together because Mr Asquith gave a pledge that the married men would not be called up until all available single men had been fetched, yet the fact was that some married men had already received their notices. It was only right that the single men, who were now laughing at the attested married men, should be made to do their bit, while the employers should make a sacrifice as well as the employees. Those who had watched the working of the local tribunals knew that single young men were appealed for as indispensable, but no one asked what wages were given to these indispensable men. If that were asked 18s might be found the answer to some.

A resolution was adopted calling on the Government to carry out strictly the single men first promise, to provide for the financial responsibilities of attested married men before requiring them to serve, and to defer mobilisation until these demands are dealt with, and immediately to intern all Germans and Austrians, whether naturalised or not, at present resident in the country.

The resolution was ordered to be sent to the Prime Minister, Secretary of State for War, and Sir Maurice Levy, M.P., for the division.

A committee was formed from the meeting to watch development, and to call another meeting and take any further steps to render the protests effective.

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LOCAL CHIT CHAT

A memorial service for the late Private E. Howe, is to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Thringstone, on Sunday afternoon next at 3 pm, when the collection will be for the memorial fund.

One of the three soldier sons, (Arthur), of Mr J. Crooks, of Vaughan Street, Coalville, is at home on leave from France this week. He has been promoted to the rank of corporal.

Mr Christopher C. Marston, L.D.S., has been appointed Surgeon-Dentist in the army (for the duration of the war) with the rank of Lieutenant. Whilst he is away, another Surgeon-Dentist is carrying on the practice at the same address, 40, London Road, Coalville, and attends there on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays between the hours of 10 am and 8 pm; also by special appointment on any other day except Sunday.

CORRESPONDANCE

ATTESTED MARRIED MEN

Sir, - The time draws near for the first Attested Married Men's Groups to go up under the Derby scheme.

On Tuesday, December 7th, 1915, the recruiting authorities issued a notice that "*married men will not be called up until single men have gone,*" but there are still at the present time, over one million single men in the country, the majority of whom are medically fit and who have slid into munitions works, etc., in order to avoid serving with the colours. England is fighting Germany today to uphold a pledge given to Belgium. Is a

pledge given to Englishmen of less consequence? Are the married men to leave their wives and children on a starvation allowance while the single man with no responsibilities is left behind? Meetings have been held in the towns and other districts, some smaller than this. What about Coalville and District lining up with the other places to send its protest? Where are the prominent men of Coalville that no move has been made?

Group 40.

DESFORD

CONVALESCENT HOME

Another concert (promoted by Mrs Hewitt) was given to the soldiers at the Home on Thursday night last week by Mr A. E. Smith's concert party, comprising Miss Haddon (contralto), Mr A. E. Smith (baritone), Messrs. W. Ellingworth and Bert Lowe (humorous duettists), Bombardier Sid Parsons (elocutionist), and Mr Osborne Blackburn (accompanist). The items were heartily appreciated, encores being gained by each performer. A vote of thanks (proposed by one of the soldiers), to Mrs Hewitt (who was present) and the artistes, brought to a close a very enjoyable evening.

NEWBOLD VERDON

At Hinckley, on Monday, a soldier, named Pendock Prime, of Newbold Verdon, was remanded on bail, to Bosworth Petty Sessions, on the charge of attempting to commit suicide by cutting his throat at Newbold on February 20th. Sergeant Clements said he arrested the man on his discharge from the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Prime said he was very sorry, he did not remember, but he was low and upset as his parents were invalids.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

Mr George Brooks, a Coalville miner, has been elected on the Leicester and Leicestershire Tribunal to hear appeals from the local Tribunals?

Mr Levi Lovett, J.P., the Leicestershire Miners' Agent, has resigned as a member of the Coalville Urban District Military Tribunal owing to the pressure of other duties?

DEADLOCK AT COALVILLE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STRIKE

REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH MARRIED MEN'S APPEALS

A remarkable position has arisen at Coalville in regard to the appeals of attested married men. The call to these men having come much sooner than was anticipated, numerous appeals have been made to the local Tribunals, but these appeals first have to be considered by an Advisory Committee, and as there is such a large number of married men who have not attested, to say nothing of the single men who, it is contended, should be released from reserved occupations, the Advisory Committee has declined to consider the married men's appeals until some definite decision has been arrived at in regard to the men who failed to respond to the call.

Interviewed by our representative last evening, the chairman of the Advisory Committee said that having himself advised many married men to attest, he felt the present position to be very unsatisfactory, and would sooner resign his office than continue with things remaining as they are. He contends that all should be dealt with alike. He strongly expressed this view at the last meeting of the Committee, and was unanimously supported by the members.

The outcome of this was that a resolution was adopted the effect of which was that the Committee would decline to consider the appeals of married attested men until some definite ruling had been given by the Government as to the position of the unattested married men.

Copies of this resolution have been forwarded to the two local Members of Parliament, Sir Maurice Levy, and the Hon. H. D. McLaren, and these have been acknowledged, with an intimation that the matter is being brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War.

"At the moment, we are on strike," said the chairman, *"and shall take no further steps until we hear something."* Meanwhile, the work of the Coalville Tribunal is held up. The usual weekly meeting was not held last Monday, and it is not known when the Tribunal will again be called together, since they cannot consider appeals until they have been before the Advisory Committee. And the appeals are accumulating. No respecting married men have yet been considered through the call to the first batch of groups is timed for today fortnight, and men who should respond on that date and have appealed, are wondering what they have to do. As one of the conditions of attestation was the right of appeal, it is understood that they can claim consideration of their appeals before having to respond to the call.

Friday March 31st 1916 (Issue 1256)

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COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

ROLL OF HONOUR

Local Men who have died for their country.

127 Names

"Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends."

William Chambers

Private, of Royal Marines, on board H.M.S. "Pathfinder," sunk in the North Sea, September 5th, 1914. Mother lives in Margaret Street, Coalville.

L. Henson

Private, of the Coldstream Guards, formerly police constable stationed at New Swannington, died of wounds, September 25th, 1914.

William Ogden Hoden

Private, of the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13th, 1914. He formerly resided at Page's Hill, Hugglescote, and left a wife and five children.

George H. Newton

Went down in H.M.S. "Hawke." Formerly of Bardon Hill

Sydney Herbert Sharpe

Private, of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action in Belgium, November 1st, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

J. C. Andrews

Lance-Corporal, of the 1st Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7th, 1914, in France. He was a Ravenstone man.

Thomas Jones

Private, of the Durham Light Infantry, killed in the bombardment of West Hartlepool. Former Thringstone school-master.

S. A. Meakin

Lieutenant, of the 1st North Staffs Regiment, killed in action in France in December 1914. Formerly resided at Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

Forester Roberts

Private, of the Northants Regiment, killed in action in France, November 16th, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

Frederick Kirby

Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9th, 1914. Formerly resided in Crescent Road, Hugglescote, and worked as a collier.

James Edwin Cox

Private, of the Coldstream Guards, died while in training at Caterham, Surrey. Formerly resided in North Street, Hugglescote.

Alfred Wesson

Sergeant, in the Sherwood Foresters, died of wounds, March 6th, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

John Manders

Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, died wounds, 15th March, 1915. His wife and two children reside in Belvoir Road, Coalville. He worked at Whitwick Colliery.

James Young

Private, Notts. and Derby Regiment. Died of wounds, 20th March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

Owen Hallam

Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, on March 10th. A well-known local footballer, formerly residing at Donnington-le-Heath.

John Williamson

Private of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action, March 10th. A Coalville man.

John D. Sheffield

Corporal of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on March 10th. Son of the late Mr W. Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, Coalville.

Ernest Moore

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action on March 10th, 1915. He formerly lived in Ashby Road, Coalville, and was single.

Ernest Hall

Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10th and 14th March, 1914. His wife and three children reside at Whitwick where he worked as a collier.

James Wardle

Private, of the Grenadier Guards, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. A former collier, residing at Margaret Street, Coalville.

Val Hull

Private, of the 3rd Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11th, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

Ernest Samuel Boot

Private of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on April 15th. He was employed at Messrs. Stableford's works and resided in Melbourne Street, Coalville.

Thomas Dooley D.C.M.

2nd Lieutenant, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1st, 1915. A former Coalville collier, of Margaret Street, adopted the army as his profession and rose from the ranks.

Albert Johnson

Of the Rifle Brigade, killed in action in April 1915. Formerly resided at Park Road, Coalville.

J. A. Johnson

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16th. A native of Swannington.

Harry Spence

Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13th, 1915. He resided at Markfield and was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., Coalville.

Samuel P. D. Thomson

Lieutenant of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action May 13th, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

George Barker

Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 14th, 1915. A young farmer of Onebarrow, Whitwick.

C. Avins

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in May 1915. He was an Ashby man.

William Moore

Private, of the Royal Garrison Artillery, killed in action May 1st, 1915. He belonged to Thringstone.

A. Heathcote

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds on April 23rd, 1915. A Bagworth collier.

J. G. Poyser

Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915. He left a widow and three children at Ashby.

Timothy Betteridge

Lance-corporal, of the 2nd Leicesters. An Ashby man killed at Neuve Chapelle, March 10th, 1915.

John Gadsby

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. A Breedon man.

George Henry Wesson

Sergeant, of the Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on May 9th, 1915. Formerly of Margaret Street, Coalville.

Cecil Thomas Beadman

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on May 19th, 1915. Formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville, and resided at Forest Road, Coalville.

Wilfred Pepper

Of the Royal Navy, went down on the "Goliath," in the Dardanelles, May 13th, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

Charles William Jewsbury

Gunner, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 6th, 1915. He was employed by Messrs. Stableford and Co., and resided at Bakewell Street, Coalville.

Frederick Wilfred Hart

5th Leicesters, killed in action, June 8th, 1915. A railwayman, of London Road, Coalville.

Francis Frederick Martin

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, died in England, on June 11th, 1915, from wounds received in action. Buried with military honours at Coalville.

Ernest H. Butler

Of the Australian Contingent, killed in action in the Dardanelles in May, 1915. He lived at Ellistown, being a former colliery clerk.

H. S. Burton

Lance-corporal of the 23rd London Regiment, killed in action on May 25th, 1915. A Whitwick man.

Ernest Tugby

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action on June 7th. He resided in Leicester Road, Whitwick.

Harold G. Blackham

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in May, 1915. Formerly clerk in the Coalville Conservative office.

Fred Whitmore

Lance-corporal, of the Black Watch, died of wounds on May 23rd, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

Arthur Brownlow

Private, of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action on June 21st, 1915. A collier, whose wife and child were residing in Margaret Street, Coalville.

John Ison

Private, of the 1st Canadian Contingent, killed in action in June, 1915. An old Bosworth schoolboy of Measham, who had not long before gone to Canada.

William Barney

Lance-corporal, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on June 30th, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

William Wardle

Lance-corporal, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action on July 4th, 1915. He worked at Ellistown Colliery and resided in Main Street, Swannington.

Harry Walker

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 2nd, 1915. A Ravenstone man employed by the South Leicestershire Colliery Co.

G. H. Highfield

2nd Lieutenant, of the 3rd York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action, July 4th, 1915. A former master at Coalville Grammar School.

John George Bennett

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 15th. He resided in Beresford Street, and formerly worked for Messrs. Wootton Bros., Coalville.

Walter Gray

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. He formerly lived in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

John Clibbery

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action July 20th, 1915. A former Ellistown collier, whose father resides in Bakewell Street, Coalville.

George Andrews

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, July 23rd, 1915. A Ravenstone man who worked at Ibstock colliery.

Harry Smith

Petty officer of the Royal Naval Brigade, killed in the Dardanelles, on July 14th, 1915. Formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

William Massey

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 9th, 1915. A Hugglescote man.

Harry Badcock

Private, 5th Leicesters, killed in action August 1st, 1915. A former Coalville Grammar School boy who resided at Ibstock.

Isaac Hall

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 23rd, 1915. A Whitwick collier whose home was at Thringstone.

H. Ing

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action July 30th, 1915. Resided at Waterworks Road, Coalville.

Cyril Ernest Briers

Of the Coldstream Guards, killed in action, July 29th, 1915. He lived with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, Ibstock.

Fred Pringle

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in August, 1915. An Ashby man.

E. Dowell

Private, killed in action in France, August 17th, 1915. His wife and four children reside at Markfield.

Clifford E. Scott

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1st, 1915. Son of Mr W. V. Scott, Coalville East station-master, and formerly clerk in the L and N. W. Goods Office, Whitwick,

Herbert Smith Hurst

Private, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, August 31st, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

Arthur Charles Johnstone

Private, of the 8th Leicesters, died September 1st, 1915, from wounds received in action the previous day. A collier of Castle Hill, Whitwick.

Alfred Clifford

Private, in the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in September, 1915, in France. He was a Coleorton collier.

Edward H. H. Rawdon-Hastings

Lieutenant, of the Black Watch, died of enteric in hospital at Boulogne, September 15th. Son of Lady Maude Hastings of the Manor House, Ashby.

Bernard Hatter

2nd Lieut., 2nd Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action September 26th, 1915. Only son of Mr T. Hatter, of North Street, Hugglescote.

Walter Irons

Private in the 5th Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France, September 28th. He formerly worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery and resided at Shaw Lane.

W. L. Pearson

Private, K.O.S. Borderers, killed in action at Gallipoli, on June 28th. He was a Heather man and formerly worked at the Ibstock Colliery.

Walter Shaw

Private in the 9th Leicesters, killed in action September 9th. He was a widower, formerly residing at Swannington and was a labourer.

J. H. Pepper

Private of the 9th Leicesters, died of wounds received in action in France in September. He formerly resided at Newton Burgoland.

Pte. Dolman

Of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, killed in action, October 1915. He formerly worked at Nailstone Colliery and left a widow and two children, residing at South Street, Ellistown.

Joseph Cox

Private in the Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 1915. He was an Ashby man and formerly captain of the Ashby Hastings F.C.

B. Turner

Private of the 3rd Leicesters, killed in action on September 17th, 1915. He formerly lived at Peckleton and worked at the Desford Collieries.

James Cairns

Private in the Connaught Rangers, killed in action in the Dardanelles on August 21st, 1915. Formerly a Whitwick collier, who leaves a widow and three children.

Frank Underwood

Private in 8th Leicesters, killed in action in October, 1915. Son of Mr John Underwood, of Pare's Hill, Whitwick, and a former employee of the Forest Rock Granite Company.

Paulyn C. J. Reginald Rawdon-Hastings

Captain, 5th Leicestershire Territorials, killed in action, October, 1915. Son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby.

Bernard Whittaker

Private of the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action on September 25th or 26th, 1915. He formerly lived in Leicester Road, Whitwick, and worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery.

George Gadsby

Private of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action October, 1915. He left a wife and one child living at Mill Row, Hugglescote, and formerly worked at Ibstock Colliery.

Percy Lawrence Smith

Private of the 1st Hants Regiment, killed in action. He was a Ravenstone man.

Walter Woodward

Trooper in the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, died of wounds received in action on October 9th, 1915. Son of Mrs Woodward of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

E. Pringle

Corporal, in the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. An Ashby man, brother of Pte. Fred Pringle, also killed in action.

George Fletcher

Private in the 5th Leicesters, reported killed in action October, 1915. Son of Mr George Fletcher, of No. 9, Ibstock Road, Ellistown.

R. C. Lawton

Lieutenant, 5th Leicesters, died of wounds received in action, October, 1915. Son of Mr Lawton of Boothorpe, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

C. Page

Private in the Worcestershire Regiment, killed in action, May 15th, 1915. A former Coalville policeman.

Samuel Thomas Berkin

Private in the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action September 27th, 1915. A Swannington man, formerly employed at Messrs. Stableford and Co's Works, Coalville.

Frank William Woolhouse

Private in the 5th Leicesters, killed in action, October, 1915. A Whitwick collier, who resided at Albert Street, Coalville.

Gerald Stewart

Captain, 10th Hussars, and **John Stewart**, Lieutenant, Royal Irish Guards, both killed in action. Only sons of Mr C. H. and Lady Mary Stewart, of Cliftonthorpe, Ashby.

Fred Davis

Private, in the 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. Aged 26, single, formerly worked at South Leicestershire Colliery, and lived with his sister, Mrs Massey, late of 154, Ashby Road, Coalville.

Edward Jarvis

Private of the 1st Grenadier Guards, killed in action, October 17th, 1915. He formerly resided at 88, Hermitage Road, Whitwick, and worked at the Snibston Colliery.

Harry Toon

Private, 9th Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France on November 15th, 1915. He was aged 20, formerly worked at Coleorton Colliery and lived at Griffydiam.

C. H. Smith

Private, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, killed in action in France, November 1915. His parents reside at Nottingham Road, Ashby.

A Litherland

Private, 1/5th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, killed in action in France, November 1915. His home was at Chapel Yard, Ashby.

Frederick Barttam

Private in the 5th Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) killed in action in France, October 13th, 1915. An Osbastone man.

W. Hadland

Private in the 5th Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.) died of wounds received in action in France, November, 1915. He was formerly employed on the Cadeby estate of Messrs. Scott and Brown.

Joseph A. Hall

Lance-Corporal in the 9th Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 9th, 1915. He was a Whitwick collier, aged 22 years, and his wife and child reside at the Dumps.

Charles W. Cook

Private, 10th Leicesters, killed in action in France, December 10th. Aged 22, an Ashby man.

Robert Ashby

Sapper of Royal Engineers, killed in action December 21st, 1915. A Battram man and former member of the Nailstone Colliery Rescue Party.

L. G. Beck

Corporal in the 1st Leicesters, killed in action December 21st, 1915. Late of Leicester and formerly of Park Road, Coalville, aged 27.

Oliver Pratt

Private, 8th Leicesters, died on New Year's Day, 1916, from wounds received in action in France on December 27th. He was a collier at the South Leicestershire Colliery and resided at 5, Wilkins Lane, Hugglescote.

J. W. Archer

Of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action, November 17th, 1915. He formerly lived at Hill Entry, Desford.

A Lee

Private, of the Royal Engineers, died of pneumonia. He belonged to Ulverscroft, Markfield.

R. Cramp

Private, of the 1st Leicesters, killed in action, January 1916. A Markfield man.

George Spencer

Private in the 3/5th Leicestershire Regiment, died while in training in Yorkshire, December 1915. Son of the late Mr Nat. Spencer, of Belvoir Road, Coalville.

Alfred Bernard Smith

Private of the Grenadier Guards, died January 5th, 1916, from wounds received in action in France the previous day. A former employee of Messrs. Stableford and Co., aged 19 years, of Main Street, Swannington.

Stanley Samuel Snell

Private in the 2nd Leicesters, posted wounded and missing in France, from September 21st, 1915, death officially confirmed January 12th. Had spent 5 years in the army, son of Mr S. Snell, of Snibstone.

James Haywood

Private in the 8th Leicesters, killed in action in France, January 1916. Formerly worked at Ellistown Colliery, aged 32, and lived at Donington-le-Heath.

Eric Compton Dougherty

Lieutenant, of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, killed at the Dardanelles on July 13th, 1915. Son of the Rector of Carlton.

Thomas Sleath

Private in the Leicestershire Regiment, died from wounds in hospital at Torquay, on November 14th, 1915, and was buried with military honours at Hugglescote on November 20th. His wife and children reside at Coalville.

Alec Howard Mason

Private of the 8th Leicesters, killed in action in France, February, 1916. Aged 19, a resident of Copt Oak.

Stenson Hardy

Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January, 1916. Lived in Hotel Street, Coalville, aged 28 and married.

George Wilkinson

Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 13th, 1916. Banksman at the South Leicestershire Colliery, and resided at Margaret Street, Coalville, single, aged 33.

John Copley

Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 6th – 7th, 1916. Lived in Margaret Street, Coalville.

Edward Henry Hunt

Private, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 1916. Aged 20, single. Lived in Pretoria Road, Coalville.

G. E. Hartwell

Corporal, 2nd Leicesters, killed in action at the Persian Gulf, January 1916. A former Coalville postman.

Amos Elkin

Private in the 2nd Grenadier Guards, killed in action January 30th, 1916. Formerly a collier, single of 148, North Street, Coalville.

James Thomas Bishop

Company Sergeant-Major, of the Army Service Corps, died February 17th from illness contracted while on military duty. Formerly a collier, married, and resided in Crescent Road, Hugglescote.

J. Flaherty

Private of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, killed on his ship in the Mediterranean, on January 7th. Formerly lived at Ibstock.

Arthur Pegg

Private, of the 9th Leicesters, killed in action in France, February 21st, 1916. Aged 25, single, son of Mr A. Pegg, of Crescent Road, Hugglescote.

Joseph Satchwell

Private, of the 8th Leicesters, killed in action in France, February 6th, 1916. A former Ibstock man employed at the Ellistown Colliery.

E. Howe

Private, 2nd Leicesters, died February 16th, of wounds received in action at the Persian Gulf, January 6th or 7th. A former Whitwick collier, of Talbot Street, Whitwick.

Joseph Martin

Lance-Corporal of the Royal Sussex Regiment, single, aged 31, a gardener, formerly of Coleorton, killed in action in France, March 3rd, 1916.

John Martin

Private, in the 1st Leicesters, killed in action in France, March 17th, 1916. Single, aged 19, of Swannington Road, Ravenstone, a former Ibstock collier.

Roland D. Farmer

Captain, of the 5th Leicesters, killed in action in France, March 22nd, 1916. Son of Mr Geo. Farmer, clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians, and a popular Territorial officer.

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COALVILLE POLICE COURT

ANOTHER BATCH OF "LIGHT" SUMMONSES

There was another batch of summonses for Breach of Lights in Buildings Order, at Coalville, Whitwick and Swannington, on various dates.

Sidney Cart, grocer's manager, Whitwick, pleaded not guilty. P.C. Grewcock said he saw a light from Melia's shop in Vicarage Street, at 7.15. One light was not shaded at all, and shone on the footpath and road. Witness had previously cautioned the man several times. Defendant said the lights were so shaded as to make it impossible for the light to shine on the path. He could hardly see to give change. Fined 30/- or seven days.

Sarah Willars, shop-keeper, Coalville, did not appear. P.C. Bursnall said there was only a bit of thin brown paper round the incandescent light, and the blind was not drawn. Fined £1 or seven days.

Frederick J. Bayliss, grocer, New Swannington, pleaded not guilty. P.S. Kirkland said light shone through the venetian blinds right across the road. Defendant said there was only a very faint streak of light. He had done all a policeman had told him to do previously, and he thought it was all right. Fined 30/-, or seven days.

Thomas Lashmore, jeweller, Coalville, pleaded guilty. P.S. Kirkland said he saw a powerful electric light in a workroom behind defendant's shop, and when the door was open, it shone right across the road on to the station-master's house. Defendant said all the lights in his shop were shaded. This light in his work-room had also been shaded, but it burnt off. He made a mistake in letting the door be open. He had reduced the lights as the police told him. Fined £1, or seven days.

Charles Newman, undertaker, Coalville, pleaded guilty. P.C. Bursnall said the lights were not shaded, and shone across the road. He had previously cautioned the defendant's wife. Ordered to pay 5/6 costs.

Oswald Insley, wheelwright, Coalville, pleaded guilty. P.C. Bursnall, said the defendant's workshop was illuminated, and showed a light on the adjoining premises. Fined 30/- or seven days.

Bernard Schi, hairdresser, Coalville, similarly summoned, did not appear. P.C. Bursnall stated that at 11.20 pm on March 9th, he saw a very brilliant light from defendant's bedroom window over a shop where he was employed in Belvoir Road.

The Clerk: How long has this man been resident in Coalville?

Inspector Dobney: About two years.

What is his age? – 43

Has he become naturalised? – Yes

How long? – About 12 years.

Supt. Lockton added: We have seen his papers, and they are all right.

Defendant was fined 30/-, or seven days.

ASHBY TRIBUNAL

MANY APPEALS DEALT WITH

A meeting of the Ashby Rural District Tribunal was held at the clerk's office, on Saturday, Mr T. Varnham presiding. There were also present, Messrs. J. W. Fowler, A. Riley, F. C. Stevenson, J. Rice, J. T. Bradshaw, and Dr. Atkinson, with Captain Phillimore (military representative), Mr W. Baldwin (military secretary), and Mr Geo. Farmer (clerk).

A Normanton-le-Heath farmer applied for the total exemption of his son, aged 24, a wagoner, who, he said, was the only man working on the farm of 130 acres. He had two other sons aged 16 and 14, helping on the farm, and a son aged 21 working on a farm at Stapleton. The latter enlisted, but was discharged. Allowed till May 1st.

The owners of Acresford Mill, appealed for their motor lorry driver, aged 24, stating that if he left they would be at a standstill for delivery. Six out of 12 employees had gone on military service. A wagoner was leaving them that day. It was very difficult for them to keep men, because they were within a mile of the coal pits where men got a lot of money. It was suggested that a discharged soldier might drive the lorry. Allowed until May 25th.

The son of a Packington miller, aged 24, who applied on the ground that his father, aged 64, could not work the mill, was unsuccessful in his appeal, and a Griffydam farmer and carter, with 30 acres of land, and four milking cows, was allowed till August 1st, which, it was pointed out, would mean two months longer, as this was a case under the Military Service Act.

The manager of the Worthington Colliery applied for a man aged 27, in his employ, as farm worker and carter. He said he had 45 acres of land, and there were 40 head of stock to look after, besides a lot of carting for the colliery. He had recently sold two horses because he could not get men to work them. Not assented to.

An Appleby Magna farmer, applied for his son, aged 19, working as a shepherd on the farm of 150 acres, stating that the lad was not well, and he brought him in for the members to see.

The chairman (to the lad): You would like to be a soldier if you were strong enough wouldn't you?

The youth: I am not strong, but I don't want to go for a soldier in any case.

A member remarked that it was surprising how an army training pulled a young fellow together. Mr Stevenson quoted from a speech recently made in Parliament by Mr Long, in which he said he was distressed to find that so many men manifestly unfit for the army, continued to be enlisted. If that was so, continued Mr Stevenson, it was silly to go on sending such men. The military representative said a statement was recently issued from the War Office on this very point, and men unfit would not now be taken as they had been. Mr Stevenson said the Tribunals should use a bit of common sense, and not be bound by red tape. The appeal was not assented to, it being stated to be a case for the army doctors.

The Ashby Co-Operative Society applied for the manager of their Donisthorpe branch shop, aged 27. Questioned as to whether the man could not be spared, the Society's representative said they had only three or four men left out of 14. "We are so busy," he said "that when one of the men wanted to get married the

other day, we could only allow him two hours off for the purpose." (Laughter). The application was not assented to.

Messrs. Harrison and Sons, threshing machine proprietors, of Newton Burgoland, applied for the exemption of two of their engine-drivers, aged 24 and 31. – Mr Harrison appeared and said 21 farmers were waiting to have their corn threshed. One set of tackle had been standing all the season, owing to them being unable to get a driver. A member remarked that he knew a farmer who had had his threshing delayed, had just got it completed and now wheat was 10/- a quarter lower. Replying to a question, Mr Harrison said he could not do much himself, he was 77 years of age.

A member: You look well on it.

Mr Harrison: I hope you will live to be 77, and look as well. (Hear, hear)

One of the men was allowed till May 1st, and the other given conditional exemption.

The Swepstone Dairy Co. applied for their dairyman and pig-feeder, 21, married, with three children, and the only male employee of the farm. Conditional exemption was allowed.

During the hearing of this case, a representative of the Dairy Co. was asked by Capt. Phillimore what wages were paid. Mr Fowler said he objected to such questions, contending that they were immaterial. Captain Phillimore said he had an object in putting such questions to the various applicants. People had to pay more wages nowadays, and when they said they had tried to replace men and failed, it was sometimes because they had not offered sufficient wages. Mr Fowler said he accepted the explanation.

A farmer, of Ellistown, applied for his son, aged 23, married, with two children, the manager of his Bardon farm. Another son on the Ellistown farm had been exempted by another Tribunal. He had no one else, having tried in vain to get other labour. There were 210 acres on the two farms. Conditional exemption was allowed.

Application was made on behalf of the butler and the chauffeur of Appleby Hall. Mr George Moore applied personally, and in regard to the butler said he had four brothers serving in the army. Applicant was in feeble health, and the butler was really his nurse. Formerly he kept a footman, but he had joined the army, and also two other household servants. As to the chauffeur, Mr Moore said he had promised the use of his car in case of necessity for conveying wounded, and could not do without a chauffeur. The application for the chauffeur was refused, but three months were allowed the butler, it being stated that another application might be made at the end of that time.

Conditional exemption was given to an Appleby farmer, an Oakthorpe farmer and a Stretton-en-le-Field wagner and cowman. A Measham baker applied for his man, stating that two had gone out of four. He had tried to get other labour, having advertised in the papers and applied to the Swadlincote Labour Exchange, all in vain. One of the men now working for him was 75 years of age. A member remarked that Measham bakers were working 14 hours a day. Conditional exemption was allowed.

The Measham Colliery Co. applied for the only turner employed on the premises, aged 19. He was indispensable and without him the whole colliery would be at a standstill. (Laughter). The chairman asked the colliery representative whether it was a joke. "*If this man went,*" it was asked, "*would it close the colliery?*"

The representative: It is hardly as serious as that.

Questioned as to why an appeal was not made to the Colliery Court, he said application was made, and this man was referred to the local Tribunal. Before the war, they had 422 men at the colliery, and 122 had enlisted. They now had 386. A member asked how many men the Colliery Tribunal took.

Mr Sinclair: Two
Application refused.

Several other cases appeals were dealt with, the Tribunal being occupied for some hours.

HINCKLEY AIRMAN

BROUGHT DOWN AFTER A FIGHT

Flight-Lieut. C. W. Palmer, the brilliant young airman, of Wykin, Hinckley, has fallen into the hands of the Germans, after a thrilling 15 minutes fight. The officer's parents have received a letter informing them that their son was wounded in the foot and taken prisoner after a fight against several aeroplanes, one of which was piloted by Immelmann, the daring German pilot. Lieut. Palmer's observer was killed.

An old boy of Hinckley Grammar School, Charles Palmer enlisted at the outbreak of the war and received his commission while serving in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Transferred to the 9th Leicesters, he applied for a commission in the Flying Corps. This eventually fell to him, and latterly he has flown almost daily, some of his achievements proving his grit and skill. Often he has gone up alone, doing his own observing, and signalling by wireless and working the gun if required. Once he returned from a flight with his plane riddled with bullets, and part of his undercarriage blown off by a shell.

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CAPTAIN R. D. FARMER KILLED

POPULAR ASHBY TERRITORIAL OFFICER

It is with much regret that we learn of the death of Captain R. D. Farmer, of the 5th Leicestershire Territorial Regiment, who was killed in action in France, on March 22nd. The sad news was rumoured in Ashby on Saturday and hopes were entertained that it might be only a rumour, but a letter to the bereaved parents from Colonel Jones, received on Monday morning proved it to be only too true.

Captain Farmer was extremely popular with all the men under his command. Being attached to a local company many of the soldiers in his regiment were from this immediate locality, and in letters home they have referred to him in terms indicating affection and have described him as a fearless and splendid officer.

This was fully borne out in the letter received from his Colonel, which stated that at the time he was killed by a bomb, he had completed the task allotted to him and had gone to the assistance of some comrades who were hard pressed in another place.

Before the war he had served for several years in the local Territorials, and had the rank of Lieutenant, being promoted to a captaincy while at the front. He was an excellent shot and in peace times had carried off many cups and prizes in the shooting competitions. His genial disposition and gentlemanly bearing made him very popular with everybody he came in contact with, and quite a gloom has been cast over his native town of Ashby by the news of his death.

Captain Farmer was the eldest of the three surviving sons of Mr George Farmer, the esteemed clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, for whom, and Mrs Farmer and the family, much sympathy is felt. Mr and Mrs Farmer a few years ago through illness lost a son who had just qualified as a solicitor. Another son recently joined the forces, and is now being trained somewhere in England.

The late captain was his father's assistant in the clerkship to the Guardians and when he was on leave at Christmas, he attended one of the meetings of the Board and was given a most cordial reception by the members.

SOLDIER'S TRAGIC END AT DESFORD

A soldier named John Fisher, 37, belonging to the 2nd Border Regiment, was found dead in a lavatory, at Desford Convalescent Home, near Leicester on Sunday, with his throat cut. Fisher, whose home was at Whitehaven, had been wounded, and was sent to the home. He leaves a wife and family.

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LOCAL NEWS

The Advisory Committee to the Coalville Military Tribunal met on Monday night and went through a batch of appeals, including those of several married men. It will be remembered that the Committee had stated that

they declined to go on with their work until something definite had been done by the Government in regard to the unattested married men, but we understand that it was put to them that local married men who had attested were likely to be in a less favourable position if left to be dealt with by the military authorities only, hence their decision to hear the appeals. Their recommendations will come before the local Tribunal in due course. Included are the appeals of several married men whose groups are summoned to report themselves to the military authorities on Friday next.

Another meeting of the Market Bosworth Rural District Tribunal was fixed for Tuesday last, and also the fortnightly Police Court on Wednesday, but on both these days Bosworth was quite isolated. No trains were running due to the line being blocked by the snow, and travelling by road was impossible.

People are at last beginning to realise that the restrictions upon the importation of paper making materials is a matter which affects not only newspapers, but every section of the community. Housewives and shopkeepers are faced with the necessity of being careful in the use of wrapping paper, and before long it may be found needful to insist that customers shall carry home their parcels in a basket, or a bag. Paper has been so cheap that we have become wasteful in the use of it. Handbills and catalogues have filled the letter-boxes, and the streets have been littered with waste paper. But an era of strict economy in this matter is now setting in, and old newspapers are acquiring an unexpected value. Stationary of all kinds, like everything else, is costing more, and it is apparent that the shortage of paper will be felt by all classes.

SAD NEWS FOR RAVENSTONE MAN

BROTHER AND SON KILLED



Lance-Corporal Jos. Martin.

Two days after receiving the news that his brother had been killed in action, Mr Frederick Martin, an engine-driver at the Newbold Colliery, who resides in Swannington Road, Ravenstone, was informed that his son had fallen in the great struggle.

Mr Martin's brother was Lance-Corporal Joseph Martin, of the Royal Sussex Regiment, whose death was officially notified by the War Office on Tuesday in last week, he having been killed in action in France on March 3rd. He was a single man, 31 years of age, whose widowed mother resides in the Almshouses at Coleorton, and before the war he was working as a gentleman's gardener in Sussex. He enlisted immediately after the outbreak of hostilities.

Private John Martin was the eldest of the three sons of Mr F. Martin, and before the war worked at the Ibstock Colliery. He was 19 years of age. The first intimation of his death in France was conveyed in a letter to his parents from Lance-Corporal Clarke, of the D.

Co., 1st Leicesters, received on Thursday morning.

Clarke wrote: *"Just a few lines to you as I feel it is my duty as Lance-Corporal to write and tell you of your son's death. He was killed in action on March 17th, during a terrible bombardment. I hope you will not take it too hard, but we feel it very much as your son was much respected by all his comrades, and was always willing to do what he was wanted to do. I can't tell you much more. He was laid to rest in a quiet little cemetery at the back of the firing line with his comrades. He suffered no pain, as death was instantaneous. All his comrades send their deep sympathy to you and yours in your sad bereavement. I write these few lines, as John used to work at nights with me at the pits, and I respected him as a great chum."*



Private John Martin.

On Monday last, Mr and Mrs Martin received another letter from Captain R. S. Dyer-Bennett, who wrote, "*I much regret to inform you that your son, Private J. Martin, 17361, of my late company, was killed by the bursting of a shell on the 16th inst. You may at least feel that he died painlessly and at once, and take some satisfaction from the fact that he died doing his duty up in our front line trenches. Our sympathies are with you in your great loss and we, too, have lost a comrade in this great struggle.*"

DO YOU KNOW THAT

The total amount received to date towards the cost of a soldiers' and sailors' memorial window proposed to be erected in Thringstone Church, is £33/18/10?

A meeting of the married attested men of Coalville and district is to be held in the Adult School Hall on Wednesday evening next at 7 pm?

While no general extension of the army age limit to 45 has yet been authorised, the Territorial Garrison Artillery has been granted permission to enlist fit men up to 45 for short service?

The treasurer of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £5/1/- from the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band, proceeds of a slow melody contest?

COALVILLE AND DISTRICT

MARRIED ATTESTED MEN

A MEETING

Will be held in the Adult School Hall, on Wednesday next, April 5th. With a view to appealing to the Government to fulfil their pledge.

Only Married Attested Men Invited.
Chair to be taken at 7 p.m.

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MEMORIAL SERVICE

On Sunday afternoon last, a memorial service for the late Private Edgar Howe, of 37, Golden Row, Talbot Street, was held in the Thringstone Parish Church, conducted by the vicar, the Rev. C. Shrewsbury. The local Citizen Corps and Boy Scouts and also some of the National Reserve, were present. The Commandant of the Corps, Mr J. Lester, read the lessons, and the Vicar preached from 1 Corinthians, x.v. 58. At the close of the service, Miss Crane played the "Dead March", the "Last Post" was sounded by two bugles of the Boy Scouts, and the National Anthem sung by the congregation.

WOUNDED "HELD UP"

After a very trying experience and a journey extending over a period of 29 hours, a train containing 132 wounded soldiers arrived in Leicester about 2.30 on Wednesday afternoon. How hopelessly disorganised has been the telephone and telegraphic communication can be judged from the fact that a wire was sent from Dover about 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning intimating that the convoy would reach Leicester by 3.30 the same afternoon, and the message did not get to its destination until Tuesday night and then it was brought by train from Derby!

The train, a Great Western hospital one, left Dover at about 9.15 (the wire to Leicester was sent after the train had started) and from all accounts its passage to the vicinity of Kettering was a fairly good one considering the unparalleled way in which the lines had been obstructed by the storm.

At Kettering, however, the train was pulled up behind a string of no fewer than eleven trains, all of which, like many on the opposite lines, were held up. Hour after hour went, and still there seemed no prospect of the

journey being resumed. The train waited thus for 16 hours, and then it was only able to get to Leicester by a circuitous route via Manton and Melton.

Everything possible was done for the unfortunate soldiers on arrival at Leicester, where they were removed to the Base Hospital.

ASHBY URBAN TRIBUNAL

INTERESTING APPLICATIONS

A meeting of the Ashby Urban District Tribunal was held on Monday evening, when Mr John German presided, and about twenty cases were dealt with.

Mr E. A. Mammatt, solicitor, representing a large firm of ironmongers, etc, asked for total exemption for the manager and controller of the business. Before the war broke out the firm employees numbered 29. Today, they were reduced to 19, plus girl assistants. The firm had very extensive business transactions with collieries, farmers, and others all round the district. Conditional exemption was granted.

On behalf of the same firm Mr Mammatt asked for exemption for the engine driver of an electrical plant, a plumber (not certificated) an agricultural seed mixer and assistant, and a carter. In each of the four cases the application was refused. On the advice of the military authorities, three months' exemption was given to four of the same firm's workmen, viz., a store-keeper, a clerk, a carter, and a mechanic.

A mail contractor with the post office applied for exemption for one of his men driving the mail cart between Burton and Ashby. Applicant said it would be difficult to replace the present driver. Two months' exemption was granted.

A firm of clothiers applied for exemption for their manager, urging that they had already liberated over 100 of their men, which in many cases meant the closing of their shops. – Application refused.

A marine store dealer applied for absolute exemption on behalf of an employee who was a general carter and assisted in the sorting of rags and metals. It would be difficult to replace him. He had undergone an operation for varicose veins, and had been discharged as unfit for naval or military service. He had previously been in the Territorials. Application refused.

A firm of grocers applied for absolute exemption for a traveller, who also assisted at the counter, and for a horse-keeper and carter. Three of the firm's men had already gone on active service. Both men would be difficult to replace. In each case, two months' exemption was granted.

The proprietors of a soap factory asked for total exemption for their control clerk, on the ground that the business was essential to the national service. Two months' exemption was granted.

A licensed general hawker applied for exemption on his own behalf on the ground that if he was compelled to go he would lose his business, as he had no one to carry it on. One months' exemption was granted.

A railway labourer asked for absolute exemption because he was the sole support of his widowed mother. He admitted having several married brothers, whilst a younger brother and a sister also contributed towards the support of the mother. Application refused.

A gardener asked for total exemption on the ground that he was the only support of his widowed mother, who was sixty years of age, and nearly blind. He had a married sister who was unable to help. After discussion, the application was refused.

A licensed victualler asked for an absolute exemption for business reasons. The only other assistance he had was a girl of 18 years of age. Application refused.

Another innkeeper applied for total exemption on account of his financial position. His wife could not carry on the business, and he had to help support his widowed mother. In reply to a member of the Tribunal, applicant stated that he contributed 10/- per month towards the support of his mother, who was living with a married sister. The application was refused.

An assistant schoolmaster asked for temporary exemption in order that he might sit for an important examination from April 15 to 17. Exemption was granted till May 1st.

The Advisory Committee and the military authorities recommended that conditional exemption be granted to a farmer, a voluntary surgeon, and a baker, and the Tribunal approved.

LOUGHBOROUGH TRIBUNAL

The method by which all the appeals for one firm may be settled by arrangement was shown at the Loughborough Tribunal on Monday night. A firm of house furnishers were appealing for 12 men, three of them single. They eventually agreed with the Advisory Committee that the single men should go, and the other nine should be exempted for four months. Two other men were not appealed for. The Tribunal confirmed this decision.

An applicant who contended he would experience financial hardship – he had a wife and young child – made a point that the man who canvassed him and assured him that if he did not attest he would have no right of appeal, and would be compulsory enlisted. The chairman said he did not think there was ever any question of the conscription of married men. The applicant said he had made a copy of a poster which he read out, bearing out his contention.

Alderman A. A. Bumpus said he should like to see the context of the poster. A witness who was in the room said he could personally corroborate the statement that applicant, after a long argument, attested on the ground that otherwise he would have no right of appeal.

A motor engineer appealed for three apprentices and was told to produce their indentures. He contended the youths would be of more service to the State as trained motor engineers than to serve and lose their training.