

# Coalville Times At War

## Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1226)

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### CONSCRIPTION

#### LORD KITCHENER REFUSES TO BE DRAWN

In December, 1910, Mr C. Morle, of West Butterwick, near Gainsborough, received a letter from the late Lord Roberts containing the following sentence:

*"I have never advocated conscription, but universal military training for home defence, which is quite a different thing. Enlistment for the regular army and for service abroad must always remain voluntary as heretofore."*

This week, Mr Morle forwarded Lord Roberts's letter to Lord Kitchener, and respectfully asked if he could add anything to Lord Roberts's views. Lord Kitchener has replied thanking Mr Morle, and has returned the letter as requested, but minus any comment as to the views expressed.

### ALIENS RESTRICTION ORDER

#### PROSECUTION AT LOUGHBOROUGH

Annie Green, a Loughborough widow, who lost her husband in the Boer War and a son in the present war, on Wednesday, at Loughborough, pleaded guilty to not keeping a register of aliens at her boarding house in Clarence Street.

P.C. Mee spoke of visiting the house with respect to a Belgian engaged at the Brush Electrical Engineering Works, and lodging on the premises. She produced a number of papers containing the names of several lodgers but she had not got a register of aliens. A Portuguese gentleman had been living in the house for about two years, and the Belgian only a few days. Defendant admitted having received printed instructions, but she had not read the same carefully.

Supt. Agar said the defendant seemed to be trying to get an honest living. She had two sons in the army, but one, a member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, was killed. She attributed worry consequent upon the war to her neglecting the orders. This was the first case of the kind in the division, and the Chief Constable did not wish to press the case.

The Chairman said they would allow the case to be withdrawn on payment of costs, but the defendant and others must understand that such offenders had been severely punished about the country. For the benefit of all he hoped it would be remembered that future defenders would not be so leniently treated as had been the defendant.

### WAR MUNITIONS

#### TRIBUNAL AT LEICESTER

The first sitting of the Leicester District War Munitions Tribunal was held at Leicester on Friday, under the presidency of Ald. Thomas Smith. Two cases were set down, but one of them was referred elsewhere for consideration, the applicant having refused work in the Leicester district.

The other case was an application by George Ford, a general inspector of machine work, employed by a firm in the district, against Herbert Morris, for a discharge certificate, which he alleged had been unreasonably withheld by the firm.

Ford said he was discharged on August 17<sup>th</sup> for beginning his tea before the proper time, which was a 'slight' breach of the rules. The works manager subsequently told him he could go back to work if he liked, but he declined.

Mr J. H. Tuck, who was present on behalf of the works manager, said the job was still open to complainant, who was engaged on munitions work. By leaving, Ford disorganised the particular department which was engaged on very important work. Ford agreed to return to work at the firm, and the Court made no order.

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## **COALVILLE POLICE COURT**

### **SOLDIER SENT TO PRISON**

Edward Clarke, a private in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, was charged with stealing a gentleman's bicycle, at Whitwick, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. He pleaded guilty.

Inspector Dobney stated that having received information of a bicycle having been stolen from High Tor, he traced the defendant to 177, Trafalgar Street, Walworth, London, and watched the house from 9 pm till 10 am the next morning when he saw the prisoner enter the house with the stolen bicycle in his possession. He was dressed in civilian clothes. Witness followed him to the house and charged him with stealing a bicycle from High Tor Farm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., the property of Archibald W. Lee. He replied, "*All right.*" After being brought to Coalville he made a statement admitting having stolen the bicycle and riding it to London, sleeping one night under a stack. He also admitted being a deserter from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment and witness found his uniform under the bed. The prosecutor had identified the bicycle.

Defendant said he had no intention to steal the bicycle. He thought it belonged to the waggoner and borrowed it because he had had a letter to say his father was dying. Inspector Dobney said the defendant used to work as a labourer at High Tor Farm and when he went there on August Bank Holiday he said he had been to the front and had a fortnight's leave and they allowed him to stay a few days.

The Chairman: Has he been to the front?

Inspector Dobney: No sir.

Prisoner was sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

The Inspector having stated that the defendant was suffering from rupture and would probably be discharged from the army, the Chairman asked that this be pointed out to the prison authorities.

### **PREFERRED FARM WORK TO SOLDIERING**

George Wilson, a private, was summoned for being an absentee from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicesters. P.C. Higgs said he found the defendant at work on Mr Blackett's mowing machine at Heather. He had his soldier's trousers on. He told witness he did not like soldiering and would sooner work on a farm.

He was remanded to await an escort.

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## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The manager of the Bagworth Colliery, Mr J. Emmerson, has three sons – Joseph, William and Alfred – serving at the front, and Joseph has arrived home this week on seven days' leave, having come straight from the trenches. He returns today (Friday). He has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

A second birth among the Belgian refugees at Coalville took place on Wednesday in last week, a little girl being born to M. and Mme. Willems. The event took place in Broom Leys house and it is believed that a birth has not taken place there for nearly 50 years previously. The birth of the first Belgian baby in Coalville took place at the Broom Leys Lodge.

Mr and Mrs J. S. Thompson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, have just received an intimation that their son, Pte. Joseph Gregory Thompson, of the Portsmouth Battalion, Royal Marines, who was wounded in the Dardanelles in May last, has now lost the use of his right arm. The letter written for him by a comrade stated that he was in the convalescent camp at Cyprus and was about to be removed to Alexandria. He has a wife and one child who have been staying with his parents since he went to the war.

Mr Walter Brownlow, late of 'The Laurels,' Whitwick, has received an intimation from the War Office that his youngest son, George Harry Toon Brownlow, of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers, was twice wounded in actions at the Dardanelles on August 9<sup>th</sup> and was removed to the Base Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt, where he is going on as favourably as can be expected. The injuries are to his side and under his arm and it is not stated whether they are severe or otherwise dangerous.

The 'Hugglescote Parish Magazine' says: "*Mr Davies has now left us finally and is at present with the Officer's Training Corps at Cambridge. His place after the Advent ordinations, will be taken by Mr H. V. Williams, who was most successful as the Captain of the Peterborough No. 2 Church Army Van, and promises to make a most excellent clergyman. In the interval the Rev. F. Ellis has kindly undertaken to assist the parochial clergy.*"

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports having received for the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters at the front during the past fortnight, 64 packets of cigarettes and 241 loose from Mr Tyler's box, Engineer's Arms, Coalville; 28 packets and 11 1/2d cash from Mr W. Higgins' box; 35 packets, 5 loose and 5 1/2d from the Coalville Liberal Club box; 15 packets, 4 loose and 3d from the Coalville West End Club box; and 45 packets, 40 loose and 1d from the Whitwick Liberal Club box.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

That tomorrow is Belgian Flag Day in the Coalville Urban District, the proceeds for the Belgian Soldiers' Fund?

That the Markfield Belgian Relief Committee have forwarded to the Coalville Committee in cash £101 5s 4 1/2d since November 1914?

That as a result of the visit to Hinckley, Barwell, Earl Shilton and district of the Leicestershire Regimental Band, with recruiting officers, 159 men have been obtained for the army during the last ten days?

That P.C. Robertson, late of the county constabulary, stationed at Coalville and Newtown Linford, and now of the Howitzer Brigade, has been presented with a wrist watch by the inhabitants of Newtown Linford where he was stationed for 18 months?

That Mr Frank Poxon, son of Mr Poxon, of Meadow Lane, Coalville, an employee of the Whitwick Colliery Co., who is now a Metropolitan policeman, was one of the officers engaged in the recent 'Brides in the Bath' case and also had the honour last week of escorting his friend Pte. Buckingham, V.C., around London?

## **HONOURED BY THE CZAR**

### **REWARD FOR LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIAL**

### **FORMER CLERK AT COALVILLE POST OFFICE**

A special supplement to the 'London Gazette' states that his Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, has been graciously pleased to confer, with the approval of His Majesty the King, the under-mentioned reward for gallantry and distinguished service in the field.

1296 Sergt. John Harold Smith Christian, Leicestershire Yeomanry (T.F.)

Sergeant Christian was a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Leicester G.P.O., is still at the front, and was mentioned in dispatches, early in June for conspicuous bravery. At present he holds the position of staff-signaller at headquarters in the field.

For some time previous to outbreak of war he had been performing relief duties at Coalville Post Office and was well known to many local residents, and during a short leave from the trenches he paid a visit to Mr T. Tressider, postmaster, Coalville.

The decorations which the Emperor of Russia has conferred on British heroes are the equivalent to the Victoria Cross. They comprise the four Orders which are given for military or naval services – the St. George, St. Vladimir, St. Anne, and St. Stanislas. Comparatively, four recipients of the Order of St. George are listed in the 'Gazette;' it is the most highly prized of Russian decorations, and the majority of the awards are in the fourth class of the Order. The first, second and third class are reserved for generals in command of armies, chiefs and staff, and for commanders of corps which contribute vitally to victories. The fourth class is given to officers of any grade for extraordinary heroism. The decoration (the London correspondent of the 'Daily Despatch' states) is a brown enamel cross, supported by black and red ribbon, and it has crossed swords when given for gallantry in battle. Both the St. George and St. Vladimir were founded by Catherine the Great.

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#### **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 41<sup>st</sup> collection from 8 districts realised £4 3s 3d.

#### **SHEPSHED**

##### **PRESENTS TO SOLDIERS AND SAILORS**

A meeting in connection with the scheme for making Christmas presents to Shepshed and the Oaks-in-Charnwood soldiers and sailors was held in the Council Schools, on Friday evening, and was presided over by Mr J. Harriman. Mr G. F. Bottrill accepted the treasurership. Good progress had been made with the fund. The Chairman, Mr Brewill and Mr Smith undertook to see one or two heads of factories and schools who had not yet joined in with a view to making the effort a united one, and the meeting was adjourned for a week.

##### **WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT MARKFIELD**

Between 50 and 60 wounded soldiers from the Base Hospital, the Royal Infirmary and Charnwood Hospital were entertained at the Manor House, Markfield, on Tuesday afternoon by Mr Dally Birchnall; the men being conveyed to Markfield in motor cars lent by Mrs Lillingstone (Ulverscroft), Messrs. J. H. Holmes (Wigston), F. W. Preston (Kirby), B. Toone (Glen Parva), J. G. Pickard, A. E. Pudan, W. H. Herbert, F. S. Green (Whetstone), E. H. Warner, J.P., (Quorn Hall), C. A. Games, F. Chenry, J. Leeson, Allan Moss (Loughborough), H. G. Raven, William Evans, E. Bentley, Preston, and A. Boulter.

On Friday, a similar number from the Base Hospital will be entertained by Lady Palmer at Wanlip Hall; on the following day Lord Braye, of Stamford Park will again entertain about 200, and on Monday the congregation of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wigston, will entertain a number of soldiers. Further outings have been arranged for the 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September, and the 30<sup>th</sup> September, by the permission of Mr Oswald Stoll, a matinee will be given at the Palace for the benefit of the wounded soldiers in the hospitals in the borough in the county, and in Rutland.

##### **WOUNDED SOLDIERS' OUTING**

###### **FROM DESFORD HALL TO COOMBE ABBEY AND RUGBY**

Favoured with glorious weather, the wounded soldiers from Desford Hall Auxiliary Hospital had a most delightful outing to Coombe Abbey and Rugby, on Thursday. Motor cars for the journey were kindly lent by the following Earl Shilton and Barwell gentlemen: Messrs. A. V. Hopcroft, C.C., J. R. Ney, Wm. Smith, H. Orton, H. Bradbury, W. H. Cotton (two), George Ward, G. Geary, and A. C. Toon. The route was via Earl Shilton, Hinckley, Wolvey, Shilton, Coombe Abbey, Brinklow and Newbold.

At Coombe Abbey the soldiers greatly enjoyed being shown round the beautiful grounds and park, and before leaving three hearty cheers were given to the Earl of Craven for his kindness, and Mr Chandler (the head gardener) was also heartily thanked for conducting the party round.

Upon arriving at Rugby tea was served at Hobley's Café, through the kindness of Mr J. R. Ney. Owing to the lack of time the 'Tommies' were unable to accept the kind invitation of the manager of the Picture House to attend the first performance, and the return journey was commenced with a very enthusiastic send-off from crowds of people. The inhabitants of Wolvey again showed their kindness by providing cigarettes, chocolates and fruit on route, and the keen enjoyment of the soldiers proved how thoroughly they enjoyed the whole outing.

## **BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS**

### **IN MEMORIAM**

In affectionate remembrance of William Chambers, aged 22 years, who died in the defence of his country, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1914, being on board H.M.S. 'Pathfinder,' sunk in the North Sea.

The parting was sad, the shock severe;  
We little thought his end so near  
'Tis only those that have lost can tell,  
The sudden grief of the last farewell.

From his mother, brothers and sisters.  
Margaret Street, Coalville.

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## **ALL THREE SONS KILLED**

### **SAD BEREAVEMENT OF A BURTON SCHOOLMASTER**

News reached Burton-on-Trent on Friday that Mr A. Knight, had lost his third and only surviving son in the Dardanelles. All three sons have fallen in the service of their country, two in the Dardanelles and one in France.

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## **FROM THE TRENCHES TO THE ALTAR**

### **SOLDIER'S WEDDING AT HUGGLESCOTE**

An interesting wedding took place yesterday (Thursday) afternoon at the Hugglescote Parish Church in which the contracting parties were Miss Ruth Harper, youngest daughter of Mr E. Harper, of Ellistown, and Pte. James Edward Curwood, formerly of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, and now of the Cycle Corps.

The bridegroom, who was dressed in his khaki uniform, arrived from France on Monday, and is returning to the front to-day (Friday). The bride was given away by her father and wore a cream dress and hat to match. Her sister, Mrs Randle, of Ellistown, was the chief bridesmaid and there were two little girls, Ellen and Teresa Bishop (nieces of the bridegroom), who were dressed in blue and carried baskets of flowers, also the two little nephews of the bride, Willie and Silas Harper, wearing brown velvet suits and carrying shepherd's crooks, prettily decorated with flowers and ribbons of the national colours. Mr William Bishop, of Hugglescote, acted as best man and also present in khaki were Sergt.-Major J. Bishop and Pte. I. Harper, of the Midland Mounted Brigade.

The Rev. F. Ellis performed the ceremony. The wedding party were conveyed to and from the Church in Mr Blythe's motor car and a number of friends were afterwards entertained by the bride's parents. The bridegroom is the son of a soldier, being born at Wigston Barracks. He had served some years in the army before war broke out and was called up as a reservist. He has been at the front just a year, going to France on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914.

The newly married couple received hearty congratulations and the wishes of many friends for a happy reunion after the war.

## **IBSTOCK SOLDIER KILLED**

We regret to announce that Cyril Ernest Baxter, one of the recruits who responded to the call made at the Coalville Olympia meeting last November, was killed in action on July 29<sup>th</sup> last. He was a strong well-built young man standing 6ft in height and had joined the First Coldstream Guards. As an orphan boy he lived for some years with Mr Ball who kept the Conservative Club at Coalville, and later with his uncle, Mr B. Baxter, of Ibstock. He was 21 years of age and at the time of enlistment was working at the Ibstock Collieries.

## **IBSTOCK**

Trooper John W. Dawson who was so badly wounded in the famous Leicester Yeomanry charge some months ago, returned home for a few days last week-end. He has been in Warrington Hospital for three months suffering from severe shrapnel wounds in the back, but he is now convalescent and making good progress towards being able to take on light duties. He is very cheerful after the terrible ordeal he had to go through and looks forward to again "doing his bit" somewhere in France against the enemy.



## **LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER DECORATED BY THE CZAR**

### **RECEIVES THE CROSS OF ST. GEORGE**

Sergeant Ernest Davison, Sherwood Foresters' Machine Gun Section, has been decorated by the Czar with the Cross of St. George, Fourth Class. Sergt. Davison's parents live at 38, Paget Street, Loughborough. He is 26 years of age and has been in the army seven years.

## **LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER PROMOTED**

Sergt. Walter Tyler, of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, and second son of Mr Harry Tyler, late of the Black Lion Inn, The Rushes, has obtained a commission as lieutenant in the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Yorkshire Light Infantry. Lieutenant Tyler was employed at the Loughborough Gas Office as clerk up to two years ago, when he went to Lisbon, Ireland, where he latterly held the position of assistant gas manager. He enlisted last November.

## **LEICESTER JOURNALIST AS AIRMAN**

### **COMMISSION FOR MR W. P. CORT**

Having exchanged the pen for the flying machine, and obtained a pilot's certificate after three weeks' training, Mr W. Percy Cort, a well-known Leicester journalist, has been gazetted Second-Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps. To become an officer in this corps, particular qualifications are required, including a sound mechanical knowledge, and it is necessary to pass a fairly stiff examination before a coveted position in its ranks can be obtained.

Those who know Mr Cort – and he has a wide circle of friends – will offer him their congratulations on this distinction. Until lately he was a registered member of the reporting staff of the 'Leicester Daily Post' and 'Leicester Daily Mercury.' As a young journalist he showed exceptional promise. He has the gift of a ready writer, combined with a bright, attractive style, which would undoubtedly have carried him far in his profession.

# **Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1227)**

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### **CROSSES FOR THE FALLEN**

#### **NO MORE MEMORIALS TO BE SENT TO THE FRONT**

No crosses or memorials of any description to mark the graves of those who have died overseas can be accepted or transit, announced the War Office.

Durable wooden crosses, treated with creosote and legibly marked, are already in position on, or in preparation for, all known graves, and in addition, all known graves are carefully registered. A number of graves are well within the range of hostile shell fire which would as effectively destroy iron as well as wooden crosses. The former could not rapidly be replaced, whereas the latter could be re-erected immediately approach were possible.

Further, many graves are close to the enemy, and can only be approached at night, therefore the weight of the cross to be erected is an important factor. These reasons, and the difficulty which would be experienced in the delivery of crosses if general permission were granted, render it necessary that during the war only the regulation wooden crosses should be erected over graves.

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### **THREE SONS KILLED**

#### **KING'S SYMPATHY WITH A BURTON SCHOOLMASTER**

On Saturday morning, Mr A. Knight, the headmaster of the Guild Street Council School, Burton-on-Trent, who within two months has lost his three sons at the front, received the following letter from Lord Stamfordham:

*"It has been brought to the King's notice that your three sons have been killed in action. His Majesty is grieved to hear of the terrible sorrow which you are thus called upon to bear, and commands me to assure you of his deep sympathy. At the same time the King regards with great admiration this splendid sacrifice which your gallant sons have made in this great struggle, wherever the Empire is now engaged."*

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### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

About 400 soldiers, billeted at Loughborough on Sunday morning attended divine service at the Parish Church. The band was in attendance and Major Goward was in command of the three companies. The Rev. G. Wilson preached a powerful sermon on manliness and duty.

We regret to hear that Capt. A. T. Sharp, son of Mr and Mrs J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, has been injured at the front and is now in hospital in France. Happily the last letter received stated that he was progressing satisfactorily.

Another Coalville soldier, Pte. T. Usherwood, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, a former employee of Messrs. Wooton Bros. and whose parents reside at Highfield Street, Coalville, is also in hospital.

Another train load of wounded soldiers came to Leicester about 2 o'clock on Monday morning. It was No. 4 train from Dover, in charge of Lieutenant Martin, and contained 5 officers, and 172 men, 50 of the latter being cot cases. Fifty cases were taken to Base Hospital, and the remainder were conveyed to the North Evington Hospital. There was an ample supply of motor vehicles, and it speaks volumes for the excellence of the arrangements made when it is stated that the train was cleared in 63 minutes. Major Henry represented the Base Hospital, and Mr A. W. Faire, County Director, carried out the customary arrangements for the V.A.D.

Mr George Straw, formerly one of the Coalville members of the Ashby Board of Guardians, who now resides at 16 Midland Terrace, Ellistown, has received a letter intimating that his son, Sergt. George Straw, of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, has been wounded in action in the Dardanelles, being struck with a piece of shrapnel which passed through his thigh and right through the man next to him. This happened on August 21<sup>st</sup>, two days before his birthday. It was 12 months ago, last Monday, that Sergt. Straw enlisted.

Another party of wounded soldiers were, by the kindness of Mrs F. Abel-Smith, entertained at Coleorton Hall, near Ashby, on Tuesday, the visitors on this occasion being from Birmingham, whence they travelled in a fleet of 30 motor cars, a distance of about 32 miles. They were accompanied by a Boys Band, and on arriving, were provided with tea, and amusements at the Hall, the beautiful flower garden and walls being thrown open to them. The weather was fine and the return journey was begun before dusk.

Among the 144 new D.C.M.'s which have been awarded for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty is the name of Sergt.-Major C. H. Hall, of the 97<sup>th</sup> Batt. Royal Field Artillery. He has been in the army for a number of years, and is at present at the Dardanelles. He was born at Shepshed, where his mother and several brothers reside.

Sapper George Miller Chamberlain of the 176<sup>th</sup> Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, has been awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to service whilst on the field. His home is in Melbourne Road, Ibstock, and prior to enlistment he was employed by the Nailstone Colliery Company. He was one who responded to an invitation given some three months ago to members of the Ashby rescue teams to join and assist in mining operations against the enemy trenches. It is understood that whilst engaged in driving a mine they heard Germans countermining and succeeded in frustrating their attempts to charge the explosives laid.

A detachment of the Loughborough National Reserve left the town on Saturday night. They were accompanied to the Midland Station by the band of the 3/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, which played selections. Several hundreds of people joined in the procession, and the old soldiers had a great send off.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

That Pte. Starbuck, who has been awarded the D.C.M., is an Appleby Magna man?

That the Leicester Citizens' Volunteer Corps were inspected on Sunday on the County Cricket Ground by Lord Ranksborough?

That Mr J. Cole, of Gutteridge Street, Coalville, is in possession of a Ghurkha knife sent from the front?

That two members of the Thringstone Cycling Club have been killed in action and there are 14 others now at the front?

That on Monday afternoon over 60 recruits from the Leicester district for the Royal Naval Division left Leicester to commence their training at the Crystal Palace?

That the Coalville Trades Council on Monday night (Mr T. G. Marson in the chair) discussed and passed a resolution strongly opposing compulsory military service?

That Earl Howe was among those present at a memorial service for Lieut. Colonel J. P. Milbanke, V.C., at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, on Tuesday?

That Sergt. J. Emmerson, one of the three soldier sons of the Bagworth Colliery manager (Mr J. Emmerson) has been granted a commission, having been gazetted a lieutenant?

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### **GALLANTRY OF LEICESTER SOLDIERS**

### **RECOGNISED BY THE KING**



## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER AWARDS**

A supplement to the 'London Gazette' on Monday night states that the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the under-mentioned officer to be Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:

*"Captain Hugh Berrington Brown, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.*

*For conspicuous gallantry and good service in the trenches at Hooze between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August, 1915, when in charge of a brigade bombing party. He got his party up to the trenches by day under shell fire, and remained in them three days during a heavy bombardment. All his bombs were exploded by shell fire, and his party was several times buried and had to be dug out. He has brought his battalion bombers to a high state of efficiency.*

*Captain Brown, whose home is Kingsbury Lodge, Ditton, Salisbury, was born on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1886. He was appointed a second lieutenant in the Leicestershire Regiment (from the Special Reserve) on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1909, and was promoted to a lieutenancy on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1911, and temporary captain November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1914. He is now staff captain in the 16<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> Division."*

The King has also been graciously pleased to award the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Pte. H. S. Starbuck, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (attached to the 138<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Mining Section).

*"For great gallantry and resources on 31<sup>st</sup> July, near Ypres. When working in a gallery near a mine crater he discovered a German mine, charged with 1,400 lbs of Westphalite and tamped ready for explosion. He immediately cut the leads, and did not leave the chamber until all the explosive had been removed. This curtailed four hours of difficult and continuous labour."*

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## **WOUNDED SOLDIERS' OUTING FROM LEICESTER**

On Saturday afternoon about 200 convalescent wounded soldiers from several of the Leicestershire and district hospitals enjoyed an outing to Stamford Park, near Lutterworth, where they were entertained by Lord Braye, a former colonel of the Leicestershire Regiment.

Some sixty motor cars, organised by the Leicestershire Automobile Club, were requisitioned for the purpose, and favoured by beautiful weather, the picnic proved a great success, the men appreciated the efforts made for their pleasure and entertainment. The arrangements were carried out by Mr Geoffrey Barisdale on behalf of the club.

## **MARKFIELD SOLDIER KILLED**

Pte. E. Dowell, aged 34, of Markfield, was killed in action somewhere in France, on August 17<sup>th</sup>. He leaves a wife and four young children.

## **HINCKLEY SOLDIER'S TWO FAMILIES**

### **STRANGE DISCLOSURE IN WIFE MAINTENANCE CASE**

### **SEPARATION ALLOWANCE TO ANOTHER WOMAN**

At Hinckley, on Monday, Private George Lucas, of the King's Royal Rifles, was charged with neglecting to pay £13 4s 6d arrears due to his wife under a maintenance order made in 1909. The clerk ascertained from Mrs Lucas who was in court with two children, that she had drawn no separation allowance.

Lucas stated that he had allotted that to the woman at Sheffield with whom he had been living and who had made him very comfortable. He added that it was impossible to live with his wife. The War Office knew about it.

Mr Kinton (magistrate): It seems very strange that they should allow you to allot money in that way.

It was arranged that the facts of the case should be communicated to the War Office. It transpired that there were two illegitimate children. Mr Payne (in the chair) told Lucas that until the order against him was cancelled he was responsible for his wife's maintenance. They did not want to send him to prison.

Lucas: You can do so if you like.

The wife said if she could not get separation allowance she would forego the arrears. She did not wish her husband to go to prison. Police Sergeant Clements said the man was willing to allow 7s a week for his children at Hinckley and 7s to those at Sheffield.

The clerk drew up a statement, which Lucas signed, and the police undertook to approach the War Office on the matter. The warrant was allowed to lapse, and Lucas left to report himself to his regiment, he intended to sail from \_\_\_\_\_ immediately.

## **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **LOCAL MEN WHO HAVE DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY**

#### **OVER SIXTY NAMES**

(Starting with this edition, most weeks carried the list of the fallen, with the numbers slowly increasing as the weeks went by. The list produced in the final week of each month will be reproduced in full, rather than week by week. Also, the list will be in alphabetical order, rather than in the date order as originally produced.)

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### **DEAD "LEICESTER'S" MESSAGE**

#### **"THE GREATEST SACRIFICE A LAD CAN MAKE"**

*"To be sent to my father and mother in the event of my death,"* was inscribed on a letter written in the trenches by Private Marriott of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. The letter has been delivered.

The September issue of the St. George's Parish Magazine says that Pte. Marriott formed one of a party of four who volunteered to go out to bring in Lance-Corporal Tebbs, who was severely wounded. When the object was accomplished, two of the volunteers were killed by a shell, and in the tunic pocket of one of them the letter was found. It says:

*"My Dear Mother and Father, - Should this letter reach you, you will know that I have made the greatest sacrifice that it is possible for a lad to make for his country in her time of need, and in the struggle to free the world of its greatest curse – German militarism. I do not for a moment begrudge the price which has been demanded of me, as to serve in the Great Cause is indeed worth while.*

*I hope you will not grudge the offering which this means you must make. But, freed from the bonds of flesh, I shall forever embrace you with my love.*

*I pray that God may bless you, make up to you the sacrifice you have made, and keep you under His loving care, and may you enjoy many years of happiness together in your quiet, homely way. I do indeed thank you both for all the love and care that you have shown for me, and the very happy time you have given me. – With fondest love to both of you, your loving son."*

Ray.

Private Marriott was a member of the St. George's Church.

### **LEICESTER MINISTER'S SON KILLED**

The Rev. John R. Legge, M.A., pastor of Gallowtree Gate Chapel, Leicester, has received information that his son, Corporal Legge, of the Sherwood Foresters, was killed in an engagement at the Dardanelles about the middle of August.

Corporal Legge, who was 25 years of age, was educated at Chigwell School, Essex, and up to the time of enlistment a year ago was engaged in the offices of the Phoenix Insurance Company, London.

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## **COALVILLE SOLDIERS AT HOME ON LEAVE**

### **SOME MONTHS IN THE TRENCHES**

This week, Lance-Corporal A. W. Hanson, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, is on leave from the front. He is a son of Mr E. Hanson, cashier at Messrs. Wootton Bros. engineering works, and arrived on seven days' leave on Monday, having come straight from the trenches, where he has been out and in, for some months. He looks well, and to a representative of this paper spoke in an optimistic manner regarding the operations and the luck of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, whose losses, he says, have not been so heavy as those of some of the other regiments. At present the war is largely confined to artillery duels in which the British excel, and there is now no shortage of ammunition.

Referring to Private Scott and other local men killed he says they are buried in the soldier's cemetery, the spot being marked by a cross bearing the name, and so long as they remain in the locality, comrades are attending to the graves.

### **TOOK PART IN THE FIRST BATTLE**

Another Coalville soldier who has been home on leave this week is Private Edgar Goulson, son of Mr J. Goulson, of Belvoir Road. Goulson is in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, having been called up as a reservist when war broke out and went to France with the first British Expeditionary Force. He was in the famous retreat from Mons, in which he had some thrilling experiences, and received a gunshot wound in the arm. He returned to the trenches after recovering and was again sent to hospital on Boxing Day with frost-bitten feet. Getting well again he went into the trenches for the third time and has had a good spell, well earning the leave which he has been enjoying this week. He arrived in Coalville on Friday and returned to the front on Wednesday last.

### **ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED**

An intimation has been received that Private Fred Pringle, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, son of Mr and Mrs Walter Pringle, of Ashby, has been killed in the trenches by the explosion of a mine. Mr and Mrs Pringle have two other sons in the Ashby Company, which is under the command of Captain Reginald Rawdon Hastings, to whom the deceased was servant at the time he was killed.

### **"COALVILLE TIMES" APPRECIATED AT THE FRONT**

#### **LETTER FROM COALVILLE BOYS**

Lance-Corporal Edwards and Private Hammersley, both of the 'B' Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, British Expeditionary Force, writing to us from the front on August 31<sup>st</sup>, state that they are both readers of the "Coalville Times" which is sent regularly to them every week and it very nice to see how matters are progressing at home. It seems to revive one and make trench life pleasant. It is explained that they are short of writing paper and cannot write a long letter and they conclude by saying:

*"The majority of the boys are in the best of health and making good progress."*

Edwards and Hammersley are both Coalville boys.

#### **ANOTHER COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED**

#### **SON OF COALVILLE EAST STATION MASTER**

## SHELL FALLS ON HIS DUG-OUT

We regret to record the death of another Coalville soldier, Pte. Clifford Ernest Scott, son of Mr W. V. Scott, stationmaster at Coalville East L & N.W.R. station, who was killed in action on September 1<sup>st</sup>. He was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, joining the army soon after the outbreak of war and received most of his training at Luton. He was one of the first fifty territorials to leave Coalville and was 20 years of age.

The sad news was conveyed in the following letter from the deceased's officer:

In the Trenches, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*"Dear Mr Scott, - I am in command of No. 2 Platoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, in which your son was a private, and I am extremely sorry to have to be the bearer of the sad news that he was killed yesterday morning by a shell which fell on the roof of his dug-out. He was unconscious when taken out and only survived a few seconds and you will be relieved to hear that he suffered no pain. He was one of the two best men in my platoon and his death is a great loss not only to me but also to the platoon, to which he always set a good example by the willingness with which he did anything you wanted and his cheery spirit. Only recently he had undertaken the duties of acting as my servant and a perfect one he made. I shall miss him very much indeed, as he always anticipated every wish and I shall never be able to replace his loss. I would give anything if I could only see him back again among us all. He was buried last night close behind the firing line and as a last respect to him, his friends in the platoon, Tovell and Robson, dug the grave. The rest of the platoon have asked me to convey to you their deepest sympathy in your great loss and please accept the same from me. - Yours very sincerely."*

J. Wyndham Tomson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment.

Pte. A. G. Tovell, referred to in the letter is a Hugglescote lad, and Pte. Robson, the other mentioned, hails from Ellistown. Mr Scott also received a letter from Tovell in which he says that he and Robson asked permission to dig Scott's grave and bury him, and this was granted.

The deceased soldier wrote a cheery letter home dated two days before he was killed, in which he referred to them being shelled by the Germans as they were going into the trenches and for a time had to take cover in a ditch.



On Monday morning, Lance-Corpl. A. W. Hanson, son of Mr E. Hanson, cashier at Messrs. Wootton Bros' engineering works, arrived home on 7 days' leave and brought with him the personal belongings of Scott including a few trophies which had been picked up on the battlefield by the deceased soldier and these have been handed to Mr Scott.

Clifford Scott was a nice lad, and the affectionate regard shown for him by his officer in the letter above recorded was shared by all who knew him. Before the war he was engaged as a clerk at the L & N.W. Railway goods shed at Whitwick. His father is well known and highly respected as the superintendent of the Coalville Ambulance Brigade and as the indefatigable secretary of the Coalville Charity Parade. Much sympathy is felt for him, Mrs Scott and the family. Two other sons are serving in the forces, and one of those, Fred, who before the war was studying for the teaching profession, has been awarded a commission and is now in the trenches.

## SOLDIER'S WEDDING AT WHITWICK



A military wedding was solemnised at Whitwick Roman Catholic Church on Saturday by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. The contracting parties were Arthur Concannon, 1<sup>st</sup> Sherwood Foresters and Miss H. Perry. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a very pretty dress of voile, with wreath and veil and carried a bouquet of white sweet peas. The bridesmaids were the Misses Chrissie and Nellie Concannon, in pale blue crepe de chene, and Miss E. Perry and Miss L. Concannon in pale pink crepe de chene and the little trainbearer, Miss Mary Collin (niece of the bridegroom) wore a pretty dress of pale mauve crepe de chene and carried a basket of mauve sweet peas. The bridesmaids carried bouquets of sweet peas and roses, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr Joseph Concannon was best man. After the ceremony the happy pair left by motor for their short honeymoon, as the bridegroom is only home from 'Somewhere in France' on 7 days' leave. He is to be congratulated on passing through 10 months of warfare as a bomb-thrower and his many friends will wish him a safe and speedy return home.

## RECRUITING IN HINCKLEY DISTRICT

### SOLDIERS AS HARVESTERS AT BARWELL

Recruiting has been very satisfactory in the Hinckley district, notably at Barwell and Earl Shilton. In ten days, from August 15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 98 enlisted. A correspondent writes that the black spot of the whole district is Burbage, where the young men are simply apathetic, and openly aver their intention of 'waiting till they are fetched.'

The agriculturists as well as the manufacturers have suffered considerably. Mr John Bowers, farmer, of Barwell, finding that harvesting operations were likely to be seriously interfered with on account of the lack of labour, communicated his desires to Capt. Fry, of Leicester, who immediately sent over a squad of 12 men and a corporal to assist in the work.

## LOCAL CHIT CHAT

We are pleased to hear that Capt. A. T. Sharp, who is now in hospital in London, is making good progress.

Lance-Corporal A. E. Beadsmoore, of the Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr Walter Beadsmoore, of Ashby, has been wounded during the fighting near Gallipoli. He was shot through the right arm, and is now in hospital in London. The nature of his wound, however, is not very serious.

Further particulars are to hand concerning the injury to Lance-Corporal Fred Clay, of D Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters (Territorials), son of Mr Albert E. Clay, colliery checkweighman, of Whitwick Colliery, living in Albert Road, Coalville. It appears that he has lost a finger of his right hand, and sustained other injuries, through a bomb prematurely exploding when he was throwing it towards the enemy trenches. Clay is in the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, where he is making good progress. Before the war he was a clerk at Burgess's factory, and was one of Coalville's first fifty to join the battalion.

'We regret to hear' says the Ellistown Parish Magazine, "in a letter received from the Vicar, of the loss of his nephew, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. R. Blagrove, who has fallen in action in Flanders. Along with his Major he was trying to rescue some of his men who had buried by an explosion, when he and his commanding officer were killed by a shell. Another nephew, Evelyn Blagrove, brother of the lieutenant, has had to undergo a serious operation on board ship and we are glad to learn from the latest news that he is making good progress."

Mr J. Emmerson, manager of the Bagworth Colliery, has received news from William, one of his three soldier sons who have been fighting the Germans, but who is now a prisoner in the hands of the enemy. He is a private in the Liverpool Scottish and was engaged in the severe fighting round Hooge, where he was taken prisoner. For some weeks nothing was heard of him, but on Wednesday his father informed the writer that he had heard from him and that the letter was written in quite a cheerful strain. It appears that Emmerson has been removed from the prisoners' camp and with other prisoners is engaged in road making through a German forest, but he likes this much better than being in camp and makes no complaint.

Mrs J. J. Sharp reports having received cigarettes for the last fortnight to be sent to local soldiers at the front as follows: Coalville Liberal Club box, 58 packets and 14 loose; West End Club, 21 packets and 6 loose; Mr W. Higgins' box, 37 packets and 2 1/2d; Whitwick Liberal Club, 60 packets and 7 loose; Coalville M.R. station box, 17 packets and 23 loose; and Mr Smith's (Fountain Inn) box, 28 packets and 28 loose.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

That a muffled peal was rung on the bells at the Markfield Parish Church, on Sunday afternoon in memory of Pte. E. Dowell, who was killed in action last month?

That Lieut. R. D. Farmer, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, son of Mr George Farmer, clerk to the Ashby Board of Guardians, returned to the trenches on Sunday after seven days' leave of absence, during which he attended the meeting of the Guardians last Saturday, and was cordially received by the members?

That a number of wounded soldiers from the Leicester Base Hospital were taken to High Tor yesterday?

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### **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 42<sup>nd</sup> collection from 7 districts realised £8 2s 4d.

### **ASHBY CITIZEN CORPS**

By invitation of Mr C. H. Stewart, the Public Trustee, the Citizens' Corps, under the command of Mr G. J. German, marched to Cliftonthorpe, on Sunday. Tea was served on the grounds and a short service was conducted by the rector of Blackfordby-with-Smisby. The men were afterwards put through a number of drills and exercises and before returning home were congratulated on their smart appearance and drill.

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### **WOUNDED SOLDIERS FROM DESFORD**

#### **ENTERTAINED AT BARWELL**

Forty wounded soldiers were entertained at Barwell on Wednesday by local tradesmen. They were conveyed from Desford Hall by the Earl Shilton and Barwell Association of motor car proprietors, who from time to time cater for the enjoyment of the wounded billeted at Desford. Cars were lent by Messrs. W. Smith, G. Geary, G. Ward, G. Bonser, S. Bonser, S. Whitmore, S. W. Norton, W. H. Cotton, A. C. Toon, and A. H. Bradbury. The men received a hearty welcome from a large crowd. An excellent meat tea was provided at the National Schools, at which also tradesmen, their wives, and families were present. Later on the rectory lawn, placed at their disposal by Mrs Titley, sen., the men played bowls, croquet, and miniature golf, useful prizes being offered. The local brass band played, and each soldier was provided with six pennyworth of either cigarettes, tobacco or chocolates. Their departure was notable. Loaded up in the cars they proceeded at walking pace,

headed by the band, and followed by 32 of the Church Lads' Brigade. This was supplemented on the route by 36 of the Church Lads' Brigade and Boy Scouts. On the outskirts of the town the boys filed on either side of the road, the band struck up the National Anthem, and the cars then left to pass through Earl Shilton to Desford amidst the cheers of a large crowd.

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## **LOCAL RECRUITING**

### **LEICESTER TO RAISE MORE ARTILLERY**

The great success which attended the raising of a howitzer brigade in Leicester has induced the authorities to accept an offer made through the local Recruiting Committee to raise three batteries of heavy artillery. Mr T. H. Crumbie, who so efficiently fulfilled the duties of hon. secretary to the howitzer brigade, has been appointed in a similar capacity, and there is every prospect that the new unit will be very quickly recruited. Each battery will consist of four 60 pounder guns, together with 200 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, making a total of 600.

### **TERRITORIAL'S LEAVE LOUGHBOROUGH**

#### **MAJOR GOWARD'S THANKS TO THE TOWN**

On Saturday morning the 3/5<sup>th</sup> battalion, numbering 797, left Loughborough for training further south. There were thousands of people astir, and the route from the Drill Hall to the Great Central Railway Station was densely packed, there being many touching incidents. Cheer after cheer was given, and the people shouted till they were hoarse. While the men were parading in Granby Street the band played "Prairie Flower" and en route to the station "Are we downhearted?" The bugle band afterwards played "Lord Roberts," and as the men were entraining the band struck up the regimental march.

Major R. S. Goward, who was in command, wrote thanking the Mayor and Mayoress for the kindness they had shown to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men. *"Through your kindness and consideration,"* wrote the Major, *"our stay in Loughborough has been most pleasant, and I am quite sure all are very sorry to leave. I only hope our departure will cause some passing regret to the inhabitants of Loughborough. I especially wish to thank the ladies of the Institute Committee for the great trouble they have taken in providing refreshments and entertainments for the men, and for looking so carefully after their welfare. I need scarcely say that what they have done has been fully appreciated. I also wish to thank the Corporation for so kindly allowing the battalion the use of the swimming baths, which has proved a great boon and benefit, and also for the use of Radmoor Road Recreation Ground. May I, through you, thank the following gentlemen and committee for placing their fields at our disposal for drill and other purposes: Mr John Moss, Mr W. Porter, Messrs. G. Tucker and Sons, Mr Lowe, Mr H. H. Coltman, and the Loughborough Cricket Club, and all who have in any way helped to make our stay in Loughborough so pleasant."*

### **LIEUT. HASTINGS IN HOSPITAL**

#### **EXTREMELY GRAVE CONDITION**

Lieutenant Edward Hugh Hastings Rawdon-Hastings, of the Black Watch, second son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby, is in hospital near Boulogne, ill with enteric. It was at first stated that the attack was mild, but on Friday a serious report of his condition was received, and Lady Hastings left immediately for France, learning on arrival that an operation had been found necessary, and that her son's condition was extremely grave.

Lieut. Hastings is only 20, having been granted a commission when the war began. His elder brother, Captain Reginald Hastings, is serving with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, now at the front.

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### **THE DEATH OF AN IBSTOCK SOLDIER**

We have received the following letter:

*"Dear Sir, - Will you kindly allow us through the medium of your paper to convey our heart-felt sympathy to the relations and friends of our late comrade, Pte. Cyril. E. Briers, late of Ibstock, whose photo appeared in your issue of September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Although it was published in the name of C. E. Baxter, as soon as I received the paper from home I showed it round my platoon and they all at once recognised him as our late comrade who fell in action on July 29<sup>th</sup> last, at a place in the north of France. Having had the pleasure of working with him in civil life, I can truthfully say that he was a good workman with a pleasant word for everybody that he came in conversation with, and always willing to do anything that he could to benefit others. As to him as a soldier, standing as your paper states, a full 6 ft in height, and of fine physique, he was every inch a Guardsman, although his career as to trench work was very short. It was only his second experience at it when he met his death. He had every sign of making a good soldier.*

*I might here state for the benefit of relatives and friends that his death was almost instantaneous as he was struck by a grenade while he was having his breakfast and did not suffer any pain as he was unconscious the whole time and was buried in a cemetery has been made by the English troops not far from where he fell. I should have liked to have written these few lines to his relations, but through the absence of their address I cannot do so myself, but I expect that they have received a letter from the Regimental Headquarters, and with my comrades' consent, as they knew we both came from the same district, I have been asked to write these few lines to the local newspaper as we knew that it was the best way to convey our sympathy to the relations of such a good comrade whom I can assure you we all are sorry to have lost."*

Thanking you for an early insertion if possible.

Yours sincerely

5269 G. Jones, Corporal  
No. 1 Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion  
Coldstream Guards  
British Expeditionary Force

The letter is also signed by two of the same battalion

P. O. R. Bindle, Private  
P. E. W. Martin, Private

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1915

## **DEATH OF CAPT. WRIGHT**

### **SUCCOMBS TO WOUNDS RECEIVED AT DARDANELLES**

A well-known Leicestershire cricketer has succumbed to wounds received at the Dardanelles in the person of Captain Harold Wright, who was gazetted a temporary captain in the Royal North Lancashire Regiment, on February 17<sup>th</sup> this year. After being wounded in the Dardanelles on July 28<sup>th</sup>, he was taken to Alexandria Hospital.

Here he was visited by his parents, Mr and Mrs Wm. Wright, of One Ash, Quorn, and they brought him home. He reached England only a few days ago, but became worse and his death was announced on Tuesday morning.

Captain Wright was born on February 19, 1884. As a cricketer, and especially a left-handed batsman, he was well-known, chiefly with the Leicestershire Ivanhoe Club. In the season 1913, he assisted the Leicestershire County Cricket Club in four matches. He made a total of 107 runs, his highest score being 44. In 1914, too, against Hampshire at Southampton, he batted all through the second innings for 26. He also played cricket for his school, Mill Hill.

### **SOLDIER AND MOTHER SUMMONED**

### **ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES**



At Melton Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, Private E. Shelton, of the 3/5 Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, and his mother, who lives at Hoby, pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to obtain a separation allowance by making false declarations. There being extenuating circumstances, defendants were bound over for 12 months, but the Chairman of the Bench said if anything of the kind occurred again in the district, the magistrates would deal severely with the offenders.

## **A YEAR OF WAR**

### **381,000 BRITISH CASUALTIES**

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr Tennant said the casualties for the past year of war, ending August 31<sup>st</sup>, was as follows:

#### Officers

Killed or died from wounds	4,965
Wounded	9,973
Missing	1,501

#### Men

Killed or died from wounds	70,999
Wounded	241,086
Missing	53,455

## **SHEPSHED SOLDIERS KILLED**

Sergeant P. R. B. Harris, of the King's Royal Rifles, son of Mr H. Harris, Leicester Road, Shepshed, has been wounded and is now in hospital.

Information has been received of the death in France of Drummer Horace W. Miller, of Shepshed, of G. Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (T.F.). Private William Richmond, of the Sherwood Foresters, another Shepshed man, was killed in action at Hooge.

## **MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT**

John Fielding, a private of the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, was charged with being a deserter. Supt. Smith said the man gave himself up at Hinckley on the previous day. He was remanded to await an escort.

## **Friday September 24<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1229)**

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## **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT**

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **Local Men who have died for their country.**

#### **Sixty-six Names**

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

Appended is a list of names, as far as we have been able to trace them from the file copies of the "Coalville Times," of the men from this district, who have given their lives for their country:-

#### **William Chambers**

Private, of Royal Marines, on board H.M.S. "Pathfinder," sunk in the North Sea, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 1914.

**William Ogden Hoden**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment, killed in action in France, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914. He belonged to Heather.

**J. C. Andrews**

Lance-Corporal, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Beds. Regiment, killed in action on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 1914. Formerly employed by Messrs. W. Moss and Sons, Coalville.

**Frederick Kirby**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, died from wounds on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A former resident of Margaret Street, Coalville.

**John Manders**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, died wounds, 15<sup>th</sup> 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, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1915. A former employee of the Coalville Urban Council, of North Street, Hugglescote.

**Owen Hallam**

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

**John Williamson**

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

**John D. Sheffield**

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

**Ernest Hall**

Private, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed at Neuve Chapelle, between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Bedfords, killed in action in France on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1915. He lived at Copt Oak.

**Ernest Samuel Boot**

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

**Thomas Dooley D.C.M.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, died of wounds on April 16<sup>th</sup>. A native of Swannington.

**Harry Spence**

Trooper, Leicestershire Yeomanry, killed in action, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A director of the Ibstock Collieries Ltd.

**George Barker**

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

**C. Avins**

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

**William Moore**

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

**A. Heathcote**

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

**J. G. Poyser**

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

**Timothy Betteridge**

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

**John Gadsby**

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

**George Henry Wesson**

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

**Cecil Thomas Beadman**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. His home was at Ellistown.

**Charles William Dewsbury**

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

**Frederick Wilfred Hart**

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

**Francis Frederick Martin**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, died in England, on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> London Regiment, killed in action on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A Whitwick man.

**Ernest Tugby**

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

**Harold G. Blackham**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915. Formerly lived at Hugglescote, a colliery clerk.

**Arthur Brownlow**

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

**John Ison**

Private, of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1915. A collier of Cumberland Road, Ellistown.

**William Wardle**

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

**Harry Walker**

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

**G. H. Highfield**

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

**John George Bennett**

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

**Walter Gray**

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

**John Clibbery**

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

**George Andrews**

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

**Harry Smith**

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

**Isaac Hall**

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

**William Massey**

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

**Harry Badcock**

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

**H. Ing**

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

**Cyril Ernest Briers**

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

**Fred Pringle**

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

**E. Dowell**

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

**Clifford E. Scott**

Private, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action in France, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, killed in action, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1915. He was a collier, formerly residing at Parsonwood Hill, Whitwick.

**Arthur Charles Johnstone**

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

**Alfred Clifford**

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

## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The news has reached Mr and Mrs Arthur Newbold, Church Side, Shepshed, that their son, Arthur, was wounded last week whilst in the trenches. Private Newbold joined Lord Kitchener's Army, and was attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters. Information was received on Tuesday that Private Thomas Wardle, also in Lord Kitchener's Army, and whose home is at Shepshed, was wounded last week.

A gloom was cast over the town of Ashby and once more the grim reality of war was brought home to all on Thursday morning, when it became known that Lieutenant Edward Hastings had succumbed to enteric at the Stationary Hospital, Wamereux, near Boulogne. The sad occurrence, was the one topic of conversation, and among all classes throughout the community were heard expressions of sympathy for Lady Maud Hastings and the family in their bereavement. Lieut. Hastings, who was within a year of his coming of age, was greatly liked by those who knew him. He had a pleasing, aggregable manner, and his genial good nature found him many friends. He had a high conception of duty, to which must be added a zeal and energy that was very marked. All these qualities won for him the confidence of others. Unfortunately, his military career was of short duration, and the opportunity to show those finer, inherent qualities of his ancestors, and which have made the name of Hastings honoured through the centuries, was denied him, yet in the twelve months' training he had proved himself worthy of the position he held, and had endeared himself to his fellow officers and men.

The military authorities for the 17<sup>th</sup> recruiting area, which comprises Leicestershire and Rutland, have now received from the various local authorities the pink forms relating to men of military age. There are upwards of 60,000 of these forms, and, in accordance with the instructions of the Post Office, they are first entered three times in what are called register sheets, and then upon cards of various columns, for filing and sorting purposes.

## **DO YOU KNOW**

That letters are being delivered in Coalville this week for the first time by a lady?

That under the auspices of the Coalville and District Soldiers' Comforts Guild, the Belgian refugees at Broom Leys have knitted 220 pairs of socks for local soldiers at the front within the last two or three months?

## **ABSENTEE**

At the Coalville Police Court, before Mr B. G. Hale on Wednesday morning, Reginald W. Beadsmore, No. 95296, private of the 131<sup>st</sup> Field Company of the Royal Engineers, late of Coleorton, was charged with being an absentee from his regiment, at present in England, since September 14<sup>th</sup>. P.C. Sibson gave evidence as to apprehending the defendant, who was remanded to await an escort.

## **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Tuesday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the 43<sup>rd</sup> collection from 5 districts realised £3 5s 6d.

## **COMMISSION FOR HINCKLEY'S SURVEYOR**

Mr E. H. Crump, the surveyor and engineer to the Hinckley Urban District Council, has been honoured with a commission carrying the rank of captain in the Royal Engineers for service abroad. Mr Crump recently visited the War Office, and passed the necessary tests, and has now received an intimation that the King has granted him his commission.

The Urban Council have decided to make Mr Crump an allowance on the same basis as that of other towns. He will, it is understood, be engaged on camp establishment work and the provision of drainage and water

supply in connection therewith. Mr Crump has been in the employ of the Hinckley Council for the past 12 years.

### **ADVISED TO ENLIST**

### **CHARGE OF ARSON FAILS AT LEICESTER**

On Wednesday at the Leicester County Police, Albert Riddington and William Johnson, both of Countesthorpe, were charged with feloniously setting fire to a stack of hay on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., the property of John Page, farmer, Countesthorpe. Mr C. S. Biggs appeared for defendants, who pleaded not guilty.

Evidence was given to the effect that defendants were seen coming from the direction of the stack, which a short time afterwards, was observed to be on fire. When arrested, defendants stated that they knew nothing about the fire, and Johnson said they were never within three fields of the stack. They had apparently been drinking, though they were not drunk. Riddington afterwards made a statement to the effect that they rested on the straw at one end of the stack and that he smoked a cigarette there. If they set fire to the stack it was done accidentally.

For the defence, Mr Biggs urged that there was no evidence whatever of malicious intent, and the magistrates taking this view, discharging the defendants, suggesting that they should make reparation for the damage they had caused by enlisting in the army.

### **DETECTIVE AS BEST MAN**

### **DERBY SOLDIER DESERTS TO WED**

After James Hill of the Army Service Corps, had been remanded by the Derby magistrates on Wednesday to await an escort to take him back to his unit, it was stated that he had deserted in order to get married. A special licence had been obtained and arrangements made for the wedding to take place at the registrar's office during the day.

The Bench thereupon suggested that the police should grant facilities for the purpose, and the Chief Constable (Capt. H. M. Haywood) said he would have objection to Detective-Sergeant Dakin, who arrested the man, acting as best man. (Laughter).

The office was accordingly detailed for this unusual duty.

### **NEW BATTALION FOR LEICESTER**

The Mayor of Leicester (Ald. North) has received the permission of the War Office to raise a Pioneer Battalion in Leicester. The new regiment will be called the Leicestershire Pioneer (Tigers) Battalion, and recruiting will be done in conjunction with the raising of two batteries of heavy artillery. Mr T. H. Crummie, hon. secretary of the Leicester Football Club has been appointed hon. secretary to the committee.

### **EXCESSIVE DRINKING AT DERBY**

It was stated at Derby Police Court on Wednesday morning that excessive drinking is prevalent among munition workers in the town, and the Bench were asked to assist in suppressing it.

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### **WOUNDED SOLDIERS**

### **ANOTHER BATCH ARRIVES AT LEICESTER**

In the early hours of Tuesday morning about 170 wounded arrived in Leicester from the Continent. There were 76 cot cases, 88 'sitting' cases, and six officers. Included among the last named was Second-Lieut. C. F. Wright, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, son of Mr Harvey Wright, the Leicester Magistrates Clerk. Lieutenant Wright was wounded in the face on Monday last by a fragment of shrapnel. The injury, fortunately, does not appear

to be serious. There were three other Leicester men among the wounded so far as could be ascertained: Privates E. Richardson, Munday and Cragg. All three were wounded about the head or face, Private Cragg by shrapnel and the others by bullets. All kinds of regiments were represented among the wounded, including several of the Australian contingent.

The men were accommodated on the train journey by Mr A. W. Favre, County Director of the V.A.D., who related an amusing episode. One of the wounded soldiers was provided by a nurse with a pipe, and acknowledged the boon by observing, "*I did not see the angels of Mons, but at any rate I can see I have seen an angel.*" The men were divided between the Infirmary and the Base Hospital, and the North Evington Hospital.

## **FATAL ACCIDENT TO A LEICESTERSHIRE TROOPER**

### **THROWN FROM HIS HORSE**

### **FAMILY'S THIRD BEREAVEMENT**

Early on Sunday morning Trooper Herbert Cooper, of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, who are encamped at Garendon, was riding a horse in the drive leading to the park from Derby Road, when the animal stumbled and fell, and Cooper was thrown on his head. He was taken to Loughborough Hospital, where he died about 11 o'clock on Sunday night. His injuries were a fractured skull and probably fracture of the base of the skull.

His home was at Faltringham, Lincs, and he was one of four brothers, two of whom have been killed on active service, one in Flanders, and the other in the Dardanelles.

### **LEICESTER CURATE'S BRAVERY**

### **WINS THE MILITARY CROSS**

### **RESCUED MEN UNDER HEAVY FIRE**

Second-Lieut. Bernard William Vann, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, who has been awarded the Military Cross for rescuing buried men under heavy fire, was formerly curate of St. Barnabas Church, Leicester. He is the son of a former headmaster of Higham Ferrers Grammar School, where he was educated prior to proceeding to Jesus College, Cambridge.

Some years ago he visited the town with a body of Cambridge missionary campaigners. On being ordained in 1911, he took up the curacy of St. Barnabas Church, filling that position until 1913, when he was appointed Chaplain and Form Master of Wellingborough Grammar School.

At the beginning of the war Second-Lieut. Vann enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment, and subsequently obtained a commission in the Sherwood Foresters. On enlisting he did not renounce his priesthood, and has also taken part in religious work at the front. He has been previously mentioned in despatches.

### **GERMAN PRISONERS**

### **ANOTHER ESCAPE FROM DONINGTON HALL**

### **£100 REWARD**

Between 10.15 on Friday and early on Saturday morning two German prisoners of war escaped from Donington Hall. They are Otto Thelen, 25, aviator, and Hans Keilhach, 23, naval officer, and the descriptions furnished by the authorities are as follows:

Otto Thelen: German Flying Corps. Age 25 years, height 5ft. 7ins, stiff build, weather beaten features, somewhat sallow complexion, grey eyes, fair hair. Slight scar on left part of forehead caused by a burn, clean shaven. Believed wearing knickers and stockings, or greyish trousers. Speaks English with a foreign accent.



Hans Keilhach: Naval Lieutenant. Age 23 years, height 5ft. 10ins, stiff build, black hair, very large piercing blue eyes, prominent cheek bones. Third finger missing from left hand. Clean shaven. Believed wearing knickers and stockings. Speaks English with a foreign accent.

A reward of £100 is offered to any person who gives information which may lead to their arrest.

The Grimsby police were engaged on Sunday in searching actively for the missing officers. There are reasons to believe that the fugitives have travelled to Grimsby, but though a train was searched and the tickets, which the Germans were believed to have used, were recovered, the men were not found.

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### **WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZEN CORPS**

#### **SHOOTING MATCH**

An interesting shooting match was held on the range at Whitwick, on Saturday, between teams representing the above corps and the Hugglescote and Ellistown Citizen Corps. Ten rounds at deliberate and ten at rapid firing was the test at 25 yards N.R.A. target. Hugglescote by some very good shooting proved the better in each section scoring 222 and 175 to their opponents 213 and 156.

Mr Blow, of Whitwick, was the top scorer with 68, followed closely by Mr Woods, of Hugglescote, with 66. Following are details of the scoring:

#### *Whitwick*

	Deliberate	Rapid	Total
Mr Burton	28	17	45
Mr Millership	2	27	29
Mr Hull	29	23	52
Mr Storer	17	17	34
Mr Blow	32	36	68
Mr Pegg	21	29	50
Mr Geary	12	28	40
Mr Irons	15	36	51
	156	213	369

#### *Hugglescote*

Mr Woods	31	35	66
Mr Millership	2	27	29
Mr Dixon	28	29	57
Mr Canner	16	10	26
Mr Langley	18	36	54
Mr T. Weston	15	23	38
Mr Lander	26	36	62
Mr W. Weston	28	27	55
	175	222	397

#### **ANOTHER SPY SHOT**

#### **SENTENCE CARRIED OUT ON FRIDAY MORNING**

The Press Bureau states that a prisoner who was charged with espionage and tried by court martial at Westminster Guildhall on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, was found guilty and sentenced to death.

The sentence was duly confirmed, and was carried out on Friday morning.

## **LEICESTER SOLDIER'S PERILOUS JUMP**

### **POLICE COURT SEQUEL**

Private Handley, the Leicester soldier who jumped from a bedroom window in an endeavour to evade arrest by the Borough Police Court on Friday was charged with being a deserter since August 19<sup>th</sup> from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment.

The Head Constable said the defendant made an excuse to the police officers who had called to effect his arrest, saying he wanted an overcoat. He went upstairs and jumped out of the window, injuring his foot. The Head Constable asked that the man might be remanded to await an escort. This was granted.

Handley was described on the police charge sheet as suffering from fracture of a bone of the metatarsus of the left foot.

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## **COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED**

### **OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION**



Official intimation has been received this week from the Lichfield Territorial Record Office, of the death of Pte. Walter Gray, No. 2528, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, which occurred while he was in action on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. News had been received of the sad event from comrades of the deceased and was published a few weeks ago. Pte. Gray was a driller at Messrs. Stableford's works. He was a son of Mr Samuel Gray, of Margaret Street, Coalville, who has received a letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen.

### **IBSTOCK SOLDIER WOUNDED**

Sapper J. Gray, an Ibstock soldier, who enlisted in the Royal Engineers, received a gunshot wound in the abdomen on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month, and has been removed this weekend to the Great Northern Central Hospital, London. It is hoped he will soon recover.

### **COLEORTON SOLDIER KILLED**

News was received on Tuesday that Private Alfred Clifford, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, had been killed in action, being struck by a piece of shell. The information was contained in a letter from Private Chandler, to his parents at Coleorton, the writer stating that he saw Clifford injured and asking them to inform his parents. He states that the deceased soldier was given a proper funeral.

Pte. Clifford was a collier at the Coleorton pit and was only 18 years of age. He enlisted just before Christmas. His father is Mr James Clifford, who at that time was residing at Coleorton, but now lives in Ashby Road, Coalville, and works at the Desford Colliery. A sister of the deceased is Mrs J. Smith of Owen Street, Coalville.

A photo of Clifford will appear in our next issue.

## **SHEPSHED SOLDIER KILLED**

Private Elijah Newton, "G", (Shepshed) Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, was killed on Monday evening, September 13<sup>th</sup> in France, whilst carrying rations up to the trenches. He was 25 years of age, and his parents, Mr and Mrs Allen Newton, live at Lant Street, Shepshed. Lieut. Shields, in conveying the sad intelligence, expresses his deep sympathy with the parents who have lost 'a good son, and the country a free soldier'.

## **DEATH OF LIEUT. HASTINGS**

### **FATAL ATTACK OF ENTERIC**

It is with deep regret we record the death of Lieutenant Edward Hugh Hastings Rawdon-Hastings, which took place on Wednesday at the Base Hospital, Boulogne, following an attack of enteric, and an operation performed about a week before.

Lieutenant Hastings was the younger son of the late Hon. Paulyn Rawdon-Hastings and Lady Maud Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby. He was the grandson of Baron Donington and Lady Edith Maud Hastings, and a nephew of the Earl of Loudoun and the Duke of Norfolk. Born at the old park, Ashby, in 1895, he was educated at Eton and afterwards at Oxford, and was still at Magdalene College, at the outbreak of war, when he was granted a commission in the Black Watch, with which regiment, several of his distinguished ancestors have been associated.

He left England with his regiment for France early in the year and about a fortnight ago, news was received that he was in hospital suffering from enteric. It was first stated that the attack was a mild one. Afterwards, however, more serious symptoms developed, and from the first intimation of the grave nature of his condition little hope was entertained of his recovery.

Immediately on receipt of news of his relapse, Lady Hastings journeyed to France, and remained with him till the end. Widespread sympathy is felt for her ladyship and the family in their sad bereavement.

### **TWO WHITWICK SOLDIERS KILLED**

#### **THE RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT**

#### **HAND GRENADE PREMATURELY EXPLODES**

We regret to report this week the deaths of two Whitwick soldiers, at the front, as a result of an accident. They were Private H. Smith Hurst, No 13172, whose parents, Mr and Mrs Bowley Hurst, reside at Parsonwood Hill, and Pte. Arthur Charles Johnstone, No. 12435, whose home was at Castle Hill, his father being Mr Robert Johnstone, who is employed at Messrs. Brown and Sons' boot factory in Whitwick. Both men were in the 'B' company of the 8<sup>th</sup> Leicesters and the official notice received by their parents from the military authorities state that on August 31<sup>st</sup>, Pte. Hurst was accidentally killed by the exploding of a hand grenade and from the same cause Pte. Johnstone received wounds to which he succumbed the next day, September 1<sup>st</sup>. Hurst had gained a good reputation as a bomb-thrower and from letters received from other sources, it was learned that he was preparing to throw the grenade towards the German lines when it prematurely exploded.

### **WESLEYAN CHAPLAIN'S SYMPATHY**

Mr and Mrs Hurst, a few days ago, received the following letter:

*"Dear Mrs Hurst, - I expect by this time that the sad news of the death of your son has reached you and I hasten to assure you of my sincere sympathy in this time of trial and loss. As Wesleyan Chaplain, it was my duty to perform the last solemn rites. Side by side with the other brave comrades we laid him to rest in the corner of a quiet cemetery confident that by his willingness to die for the cause of right, he has proved his title to that unending life where eternal mercy shall arise and shadows end. Again, assuring you of my sympathy and prayers, I remain, yours sincerely."*

S. Morgan  
Wesleyan Chaplain

### **BEST BOMB-THROWER IN THE REGIMENT**

The Chaplain of Hurst's company wrote as follows:

*"Dear Madam, - Please accept on behalf of myself and my brother officers of the 'B' Co., our deepest sympathy in the great loss you have had. I cannot speak too highly of your boy, who had shown himself to be so full of pluck and grit as to have earned the reputation of being the best bomb-thrower in our brigade. Always cheerful and conscientious, he will be sadly missed by all ranks. Had he been spared, I feel sure he would have added to his already well-earned reputation. He met his death by doing his duty and that is the consolation I can offer you in your great trouble and the knowledge that it is the grandest way of passing into the happier life. - Believe me, yours in all sincerity."*

H. L. Beardsley, Captain.

Pte. Hurst was 23 years of age and single. Before the war, he worked, like his father, at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He enlisted in August, 1914, but had only been at the front about five weeks. He was at Whitwick at the wake on leave.

### **PRIVATE JOHNSTONE'S LAST LETTER**

In his last letter to his mother and father, written only about two days before he died, Johnstone said he was quite well and hoped they were all were at home. *"I will send M\_\_\_\_\_ a soldier's button to make a hat pin of and also one for F\_\_\_\_\_ and some other souvenirs if possible. I have got a ring made out of the aluminium nose-piece of a German shell. While I am writing this letter shells are bursting about a hundred yards away. W. Wright has had a letter asking if it right that I have been killed. I don't know who circulated the news, but you can tell them from me that I am as much alive as any of them. They wanted to know if 'Rabbit' had gone under, but he wishes them to know that he is very much alive yet."*

### **OLD PLAYMATES**

Asked by the writer to whom 'Rabbit' referred, Mrs Johnstone, the deceased soldier's mother, said it was Pte. Hurst who used to go to school with her boy and they were playmates together. Hurst was known by the nickname of 'Rabbit' and her boy as 'Bunny'.

Pte. A. C. Johnstone was only 21 years of age and was a widower. His wife died about a month before he enlisted in August last year. He went to the front on July 30<sup>th</sup>, last, so had only been there a few weeks.

### **OFFICER'S TRIBUTES**

Mr and Mrs Johnstone have received letters both from the captain and lieutenant of the deceased's soldier's company, in which they both testify to Johnstone's excellent character as a soldier and a man. The lieutenant said he was one of the finest men in his platoon, a conscientious worker and always willing and the men all miss him very much.

### **ROYAL SYMPATHY**

To the parents of both soldiers, Lord Kitchener has forwarded a letter as follows:

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

### **MEMORIAL SERVICES**

On Sunday evening a memorial service for Pte. Johnstone was held in the Whitwick Holy Cross Church, being impressively conducted by the Rev. M. J. O'Reilly. There was a large congregation. The priest read extracts from the officer's letters testifying to the deceased's worth and spoke of the righteousness of the cause in which he had died.

A memorial service for Pte. Hurst is to be held at the Whitwick Wesleyan Church next Sunday.

### **WHITWICK SOLDIER WOUNDED**



PTE. A. C. JOHNSTONE.

## PRESENT AT HIS BROTHER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE



PTE H. S. HURST.

Pte. George Johnstone, of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, brother of the deceased soldier above referred to, was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, on August 10<sup>th</sup> last, suffering from a severe gunshot wound in his right thigh. Happily, this soldier is now convalescent and is assisting in recruiting at Loughborough. He visited Whitwick on Sunday and attended his brother's memorial service in the evening at the Holy Cross Church.

## BOXING GLOVES WANTED AT THE FRONT

Sir, - I have great pleasure in writing to you on behalf of several of the Coalville lads who are in my company. They have suggested me writing, asking if you would get someone to kindly send them a set of boxing gloves for their use when out of the trenches. Hoping this will meet with your approval, I remain yours truly.

C.S.M. Sharpe

Some of the Coalville lads who are doing their bit: Lance-Corpl. Brotherhood, Pte. A. Lester, Pte. H. W. Swain, Pte. E. Roome, Pte. J.

Smith, Pte. W. King and Lance-Corpl. Perry.