

# Coalville Times At War

**Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1204)**

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## LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Pte. S. Strutt, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, writes us saying that on coming out of the trenches recently he received a parcel of clothing from the ladies of Coalville and District and desires to thank them very much.

The parents of Pte. Tom Palmer, of Bridge Road, Coalville, have received intimation that Palmer, and also a pal of his, Sam Allen, of Margaret Street, Coalville, have been wounded and are in hospital. Palmer, who is an old Wesleyan school boy, and in the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters has been some months at the front. He had been wounded earlier in the war and had returned to the trenches on recovering.

Members of the Thringstone House Club have forwarded 46 packets of cigarettes, 1/4 tin of golden flake tobacco and one of "Bruno" to Leicesters at the front and there is a small balance left in the fund to be augmented for further supplies.

Police Sergeant Betts, of Whitwick, who has been a drill instructor at Wigston Barracks, arrived home at Whitwick on Monday night for a few days holiday, prior to leaving today (Thursday) for York. He has been one of the drill sergeants at Wigston, who since September have trained 14,000 recruits.

## DO YOU KNOW

That many of the soldier's letters we receive from the front and elsewhere are written on Y.M.C.A. paper?

That a good number of local Territorials visited Coalville and district on a short holiday last weekend?

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## THRINGSTONE

### MEMORIAL WINDOW

The current issue of the "Thringstone Parish Magazine" states that designs have now been got out for the memorial window which the school children are to erect in the Parish Church to the memory of Pte. T. Jones, late schoolmaster, who was killed during the bombardment of West Hartlepool. The subject is St. Alban, the first Martyr of Britain, who suffered martyrdom in AD 303, at Verulamium, now St. Alban's. Tradition has it that he sheltered a Christian priest and was converted by him. He enabled him to escape and offered himself while yet a catechumen to Christian martyrdom. The design is appropriate to the fact that the window is near the font and reminds us of the sentence in the Baptismal Service "Christ's faithful soldier and servant." The appropriateness of the design to the memory of him to whom the window will be erected is in itself sufficiently obvious. The Sunday School children have agreed that their savings for the last seven years amounting £7 10s 1d should go to this object. The cost of the window is estimated at £34, and this sum is beyond them. The vicar will be glad of subscriptions from any of the day school children as well as from adults. The total amount raised so far is £15 12s 2d. We shall be grateful if any who would like to subscribe would do so as soon as possible, that the window may be put in at an early date. The Easter offerings which in many parishes is customary to give to the vicar of the parish, will be devoted to the Window Memorial Fund. The work will be undertaken by Messrs. C. E. Kempe and Co.

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## A NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN DAY

### COALVILLE SOLDIER IN A GLORIOUS CHARGE

Writing to his father, Mr C. Palmer, of 96, Highfields Street, Coalville, Private Albert Palmer, with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, states that he has just come out of action in the best of health. They had just



had a charge and had a few killed and wounded, but the Germans, he thought, could not last out much longer. If it was God's will, he hoped to return safely to see them again, but he would be British. At present, he was resting and looking forward to a parcel and the "Coalville Times." He thanks the ladies of Coalville for a welcome gift he had received from them.

Writing later he said they were still out of the trenches. The other day, the General came to see them and said he was very pleased to have the command of such a brave heroic lot of men. He went with a very good heart into the charge and they earned a good name. He thought it was a day unequalled in history and was a glorious day for thousand's of them – a day that would soon not be forgotten.

In another letter, written to his brother and sister, the gallant soldier again alludes to the charge and says they were under a heavy fire. He proceeds, "In one of your letters you said 'mind those snipers,' but we pop a few over at times. We are out for a rest now and are lucky to get away for a bit. Hope to be home soon."

#### **WHITWICK SOLDIER IN A GREAT BATTLE**

#### **CONTINUED FIGHTING AFTER BEING WOUNDED**

Since publishing a photo of Pte. E. Howe, of Golden Row, Whitwick, and copies of letters he had sent to his wife, we have received a further communication direct from Howe in the trenches, in which he states that he is still in the land of the living. Since his last letters appeared in this journal, he says, he has been through a big battle, during which he received a small wound in his right arm, but he kept on fighting and went for the enemy "more savagely than ever." He concludes, "Roll on England! Come out here boys, and keep at it till its finished."

#### **MOTOR DRIVING IN FRANCE**

#### **COALVILLE SOLDIER THANKS THE LADIES**

Pte. G. Sitdown, who formerly drove a taxi-cab in Coalville, is now engaged in similar work in France, with No. 1 Motor Ambulance Convoy, and is having some interesting experiences. In a recent letter to Mr Fred Gr---, of Belvoir Road, Coalville, Sitdown states that he had received a parcel safely and could not say how pleased he was with it. He continues, "I am enjoying the best of health at present and am getting on fine out here. I cannot say what I should like to, but if God spares me, I shall have a lot to tell you when I return. I was also delighted with the things the Coalville and district ladies sent to me, also Mr and Mrs T. Frith for their presents, all of which are very useful."



#### **BAGWORTH ASSISTANT SCHOOLMASTER AT THE FRONT**

#### **AN INTERESTING LETTER**

The headmaster of the Bagworth Council School, Mr J. C. Williams, has kindly forwarded to us for publication a most interesting letter he has received from a member of his school staff, Mr Alfred Emmerson,

now on active service in France. The letter is so brightly written and gives so much interesting information that we publish it in extenso.

Dear Mr Williams, Have time for a few small jottings to you now. Really we are very busy indeed. We are "right in it," except for being in the trenches. The latter is expected at any time. We are just outside the town – living in a barn (you've no idea how comfortable the barn is, we have never lived elsewhere since landing) but there is a café attached so we are all right. Even as I write the place continually shakes owing to the concussion of the big guns. One of the biggest out here is only 100 yards down the road and the thunder of it is great. It gives one huge crack half bang and even indoors the rush of air is felt as the shock travels. We are quite used to it now. There has been a rush out to see German shells bursting in the air quite near. Yesterday we saw a lovely sight – an aeroplane being fired at by big guns. It was an English plane and the daring of the pilot was great. He circled slowly round and round, then dived and then rose out of range and so on. The flashes of the bursting shells (shrapnel) around the machine, and the smoke which looked like small puffs of cotton wool against the blue sky made a very pretty picture. At night the whole district is illuminated by flashes from guns, searchlights and fire balls. The latter float in the air and are like electric arc lamps. They are thrown by the Germans to illuminate the immediate area and to prevent British soldiers leaving and entering the trenches. Of course, the old soldiers tell us many hair-raising yarns, but we take the proverbial grain of salt with them. These men as a rule possess amazing thirsts. You'd no doubt like to know how we live – well you wouldn't recognise me. My hair is off – shaved almost – and after my usual flowing mane you can guess how I look. I have had to grow a moustache, my clothes are no longer immaculate – they are dirty and greasy – boots covered in mud and dirt, a handkerchief I have used for a month (fortunately it is a khaki one) and well, on the whole a lovely sight. We eat and drink out of the same vessel – a mess tin – which we carry with us everywhere. It is a good tin I can assure you. The outsides are black – like a gypsy's pot – with being on fires, but we contrive to keep the insides clean. We have knives and forks, but we have good clasp knives and we can get at them better. Besides we stick to the old phrase, "Fingers were made" etc. We have bacon for breakfast, "pootoon" soup for dinner, jam for tea and cheese for supper. When we haven't bread we have biscuits – like dog biscuits. Our dining tables are our knees and chairs the ground or straw. We move on long journeys in cattle trucks – each truck holding 40 men – and small journeys, anything to 20 miles, we walk. We carry all our belongings on our backs, except blankets and fur coats. That is, we carry towels, comforters, all change of underclothing, shirt, socks, overcoats, waterproof sheet, food and any other luxury you wish to have with you. The whole weighs 60 – 70 pounds, but at the end of the journey it seems double. We know nothing of outside affairs except for an occasional newspaper. Of the progress of the war we are ignorant. The wildest rumours float about. Of course, there is a gentleman known as the Censor, who stops me from telling you too much, so I can tell you no names of places or people or regiments and so on.

The people here are of the peasant class and on the whole live very meanly. They appear to thrive on filth. The children, of course, do not attend school now, and at our billet there are 9 children. They spend their leisure hours on the manure heap, and squeal and shout like young Indians. They have picked up many English phrases and delight in repeating them over and over again. There is one great difference between places in France and places in England – such as Bagworth especially – and that is, there are no young men in civilian clothes. The women carry on all the business whilst their husbands fight. There are lady signalmen, station masters, tram conductors and so on. If only a few young men in England realised how serious this business is they would soon give up their Saturday football and week-night pub and be out here doing their little bit.

Don't think we are serious. In my company are bank clerks, auctioneers, lawyers, surveyors and schoolmasters like myself (there are two of us), and we, of course, find many things that are real hardships to us. We have not been used to "roughing it" and so it comes hard sometimes. But we always smile. One never sees a British soldier who hasn't got a joke or a laugh ready – no matter under what circumstances you find him. That is the British temperament – a thing quite different to the French who are so easily upset. By the way, ask the children why it is nearly always raining here now. After I have been in the trenches properly I shall no doubt have more interesting things to tell you. Until then, think of me sometimes. I often think of you all. Kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

Alf Emmerson

## **SWANNINGTON SOLDIER'S NOCTURNAL EXPERIENCE**

### **DISCOVERED LEAVING THE TRENCHES**

#### **A THRILLING MOMENT**

Mr C. Jones, of Primrose Hill, Swannington, has received a letter from his son, William, serving with the forces in France, in which he says he was glad to receive the letter from home. He was just wondering where he was to get a bit of paper from to write to them when the letter came. So was Bill Wardle. He shared the paper with him and they were both sitting together writing in a cobbler's shop. The letter proceeds, "You ought to see our chaps jump with joy when the mail comes in. There was a parcel for Jimmy Blythe. He was not there, so I took it for him. There were twelve packets of fags and a tanner and I thought he would go mad. Talk about the relief of Ladysmith! . . . . You asked me in your letter to let you know what we want. Well, just send me a bit of cake and a bob; also the "Coalville Times." Don't send too much at a time for fear of it getting lost, but I don't think they will get lost if you direct them right. We are having a rest now. We have been at the Germans twice and shall be into them again before many more hours, I expect, but we are quite at home while we are under their fire, because none of the fopping lot of us are frightened at 'em. I was leaving the trenches one night about twelve o'clock in a place where the two lines are only about 30 yards apart, and the Germans must have spotted it, for they lit us up. There were eight of us, and three of us scuttled like rabbits to try and get under cover. The others dropped and lay in the mud till the light burned out and then ran for it, dodging a volley of lead which they fired at us. There are some ruins here which used to be a fine church and there is a shell, which failed to explode, sticking out of the wall. We are at a place now which is the subject of reports in the papers and where the Germans are retreating."

## **COALVILLE POSTMAN'S RETURN FROM THE FRONT**

### **IN HOSPITAL WITH FROST BITTEN FEET**

We have received an interesting letter from Pte. G. H. Kenney, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Yorks Regiment, who is now in hospital at 40, Grove End Road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W. He has been doing his bit in the trenches and writes that he is now in hospital at this address with nothing worse than frost-bitten feet, from which he was recovering splendidly. He went out to the front on January 15<sup>th</sup> and went into the trenches on February 5<sup>th</sup>, remaining there until February 24<sup>th</sup>. "So you see," he goes on, "I had not been there long before Jack Frost had hold of my tootsies. I consider myself lucky to be alive, as our battalion lost heavily. My experiences while at the front were similar to those of others from Coalville who have been in the trenches. I shall be glad when it is all over and I am on my rounds again as postman, and after the day is done – Home, sweet home. Roll on!"

## **COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED**

### **CORPL. J. D. SHEFFIELD**

It is with much regret that we record the death of Corpl. J. D. Sheffield, son of Mr W. Sheffield, of the Railway Hotel, who was one of the heroes – there are four or five in the Coalville district – who fell in the great battle of Neuve Chapelle, and it will be some consolation to their sorrowing relatives to know that they did not sacrifice their lives in vain, since this was the greatest British victory yet achieved in the war, the Germans being utterly routed and suffering very severe losses.



It had been known, unofficially, for several days that Jack Sheffield had fallen, but we refrained from publishing the news until it was received from the military authorities, in the hope that their might be some mistake, but the official intimation of the sad event was received by Mr Sheffield on Tuesday morning. Sympathy with the family will be the greater as for several weeks Mr Sheffield has been confined to his home by illness.

The news conveyed in letters received from comrades of the deceased soldier at the front show that on March 10<sup>th</sup>, Sheffield participated in a brilliant charge against the Germans at Neuve Chapelle, in which the enemy suffered great loss and a lot of ground lately held by them was

captured. The Leicesters, to which Sheffield was attached, were prominent in this attack, and the gallant Corporal was laughing and joking – as was his wont – to a companion in arms, when he was picked out by a German sniper and shot through the head, death being practically instantaneous. At the moment, the Leicesters were engaged in entrenching themselves on the new ground captured and Sheffield was remarking with pride to his mate what a smart piece of work they had accomplished.

When the South African war broke out Mr J. D. Sheffield joined the Leicestershire Volunteers and took part in this campaign being raised to the rank of corporal. He took his old rank on joining the Leicestershire Regiment some months ago to participate in the great war now raging. On returning from South Africa, Sheffield and other Leicestershire volunteers had a great reception, a dinner being given in their honour at the Grand Hotel, Leicester.

Mr J. D. Sheffield will be remembered as a brilliant and popular footballer, having played for Coalville Swifts and the Town club of which he was formerly captain. He also played outside right forward for Burton United (now defunct) when that club figured in the second division of the English Football League. He possessed a rare turn of speed which made him a terror to the opposing backs. Of a genial disposition he was very popular with all associates and there are many in Coalville who will regret his death.

The letters received state that Mr Sheffield was buried close to where he fell, and that the spot is marked by a wooden cross bearing his name.

### **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **PARENTS OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED**

The report in our last issue of the death in France of Pte. Owen Hallam, of Donington-le-Heath, was officially confirmed on Tuesday, when his aged parents received a notification from the military authorities to the effect that Hallam had been killed in action at a place not stated. Deceased was a playing member of the Coalville Swifts Football Club and formerly of Hugglescote United. He was the main support of his parents, two old age pensioners who live near the Corner Pin.

### **LIFE AT THE FRONT**

#### **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S GRAPHIC NARRATIVE**

The thrilling experiences of Pte. E. Goodman, formerly in the employ of Mr W. F. Moore, butcher, London Road, Coalville, who joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry and is now attached to the G. squadron of the 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars, are narrated in a letter written to a pal, Mr Fred Henson, of Belvoir Road, Coalville.

Goodman says, "We have just come out of the trenches after ten days' fighting, and am pleased to tell you that I keep getting through it, though I have had some very narrow escapes having been blown out of the trenches and been buried and had to be dragged out, but still, I am none the worse for my adventures up to the present. But I think the last time I was in the trenches, they were the worst days I ever experienced. We were only 80 yards from the German trenches and our engineers were mining under their trench, while they were mining under ours, but we got there first and blew them up. You never saw such a sight in your life. There were legs, arms and bodies flying all over the place, and the explosion about buried our fellows with earth. After that, you talk about a scrap – it lasted about four hours. We did not have many casualties, but the Germans must have had a lot. We are resting at present. We billet in barns and sleep on the straw. I have not slept in a bed since I have been out here, but we keep healthy and fit enough. We have had an awful winter. It has been up to the knees in water and mud up to the waist in the trenches, but they provide us with high-topped rubber boots and they are very good keeping the water out. You would be surprised to see the villages and towns all in ruins where they have been shelled. I was at one town only a few miles from where we are billeted, where the cathedral and buildings are all smashed up and I don't believe there was a house left whole in the town, and yet there were people living in the ruins. There are some awful sights to see as we go up and down the country. Where we are staying we can hear the big guns bang away all night and day. It gets on your nerves at times. We always have our saddles packed ready for turning out at any notice, both day and night. How would you care for this life. It's alright for a change, but it gets monotonous too much of it. It seems a long time since I came out here – about 7 months – so it would be alright to have a few days in the old country again. We are looking forward to the time when we shall be home again. I think

both sides are fed up with it. I am writing this on St. Patrick's night and I keep thinking of the times we had together at Whitwick. Remember me to all friends and tell them I am in the pink.

PS – You ought to see the black Belgian horses out here. Just do for the hearse work.

### **WHITWICK**

The Vicar of Whitwick, the Rev. T. W. Walters, is this week, sending to all the men at the front he knows to have gone from his parish, a pictorial postcard emblematic of Easter, bearing his name and that of St. John the Baptist Church, Whitwick, also with these words, "At our Easter communion we are praying for you."

### **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 21<sup>st</sup> collection from 10 districts realised £7 16s 10d.



### **WHITWICK SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **FELL IN THE NEUVE CHAPELLE BATTLE**

Official intimation was received on Tuesday morning, by Mrs Hall, of Talbot Street, Whitwick, that her husband, Pte. Ernest Hall, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action between March 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, which was the period of the battle in which the British gained a great victory at Neuve Chapelle.

The news had been broken to Mrs Hall a few days previously, having been conveyed in letters from comrades of Hall at the front. She is left with three children, aged 9 years, 1 year and a baby in arms. Hall wrote a cheery letter to his wife only a few days before.

The deceased soldier was a son of Mr John Hall, of Thringstone, a popular figure at the Whitwick Imperial football matches. Before leaving Whitwick for the war, he worked at the Whitwick Colliery. He is believed to be the first Whitwick man to be killed in action. A younger brother of his is now in the trenches.

A memorial service will probably be held at Whitwick Church next Sunday week, attended by the members of the local Citizen Corps.

**Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1205)**

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### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Monday was a great day with the members of the Coalville, Whitwick and Hugglescote Citizen Corps. They marched to Woodhouse Eaves and participated in manoeuvres against the Leicester Corps in the neighbourhood of the Hanging Stone Rocks. Coalville led the attack and completely routed the enemy. A remark by one of the retreating Leicester warriors, "That lot of colliers with guns were not to be trifled with," highly amused some of the Coalville citizens. The local men marched back quite sprightly and though after having covered 25 miles on foot some of them did not deny that they had had enough, they all declared that was one of the best days they had experienced for a long time.

We understand that Sir Maurice Levy, M.P., proposes to visit the British lines in France as a member of a War Office Committee engaged upon departmental work. The hon. baronet will be away from home about a week.

An instance of rapid promotion is that of Company Quartermaster-Sergeant Arthur C. Cave, who has very quickly made his way since he joined the army. He is an old boy of Melbourne Road School, Leicester. He

enlisted in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment in August, having had no previous experience in military work, was promoted lance-corporal in October, lance-sergeant in November, and C.Q.M.S. in March at the age of 22. He is believed to be the youngest quartermaster in Kitchener's Army. C.Q.M.S. Cave is the son of Mr A. Cave, of 7, Guthlaxton Street, who is an engine driver in the employ of the L and N.W. Railway, and before enlisting was a clerk at Messrs. Hart and Levy's, Leicester. He is a nephew of Mr Charles E. Marston and Mr David Marston of Coalville.

Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick, has received the following letter from Lieut-Col. Jones, commanding the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment: "Dear Sir, - Thank you very much for large box of cigarettes and tobacco sent to me for the men of this regiment. It is all most acceptable and much appreciated. It is good of your friends to take so much trouble. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. I am, etc."

We are pleased to hear that Mr Charles Drewett, son of Mr B. B. Drewett, of Hugglescote (the president of the Coalville Men's Adult School) has been given a commission, being gazetted second lieutenant in the East Yorks Regiment. He paid a short visit to his home during Easter and while there received the notification from the War Office. He joined Kitchener's Army in August and has since been training in various parts of the country. Mr C. Drewett is an old pupil of Mr L. L. Baldwin, surveyor to the Coalville Urban District Council, and for some time before the outbreak of war, held a Government surveying appointment in Nottingham.

It was reported on Friday that Capt. Gore-Browne, son-in-law of the Right Hon. Charles Booth, had been wounded in the fighting in France.

Mrs S. W. Brown of 110, London Road, Coalville, has received a letter from Pte. G. H. Taylor, of Ellistown, who is working with the R.A.M.C. at Southampton Docks, thanking the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild for sending him socks and helmet, which was in response to letter sent to the "Coalville Times" and passed on by us to the Comforts Guild. Taylor says he and the others were delighted to receive such useful gifts and they all said, "Good old Leicestershire." He adds that they are proud to be doing their duty for their country.

#### **DO YOU KNOW**

That 130 men from Whitwick parish are serving in His Majesty's forces?

That two more of the Whitwick Granite Co.'s employees having enlisted this week bringing the total to 26 men who have gone from this firm?

That Alec Skedding, the Leicestershire fast bowler, has joined the Leicestershire Yeomanry, making 14 of the county players now with the colours?

That Dr. Birkitt, of Whitwick, wrote this week from the front stating that he was in excellent health, though they are having a strenuous time?

#### **KHAKI WEDDING**

A very interesting wedding was witnessed on Saturday afternoon at Holy Rood Church. The contracting parties were Corporal Frederick Grey, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, and Miss Ellen Bennett, of Bagworth, Miss Lily Heathcote being the bridesmaid. Mr George Cross of Bagworth acted as best man. The bride was adorned in a pale blue costume and white hat and the bridesmaid's dress was of blue silk and hat to match. The Rev. H. Badham officiated. The bridegroom has gained a Distinguished Service Medal and is to appear before the King shortly for decoration. The happy couple had many useful presents.

#### **COALVILLE POLICE COURT**

Pte. John Thomas Wardle, a Whitwick man, an absentee from the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, South Staffs. Regiment, stationed at Folkestone, was handed over to an escort.

Pte. Bunce, of the guard, Donington Park, made an application to the Bench to stay an order for ejection. His wife occupied a house at Whitwick and had tried to get another but had been unable to, as they had a large family. Mr Jesson said he made the application for the Coalville Urban Council and an order for ejection was made. He did not press the matter immediately, though it had expired, if applicant would give

an undertaking to get a house within a month. He said he would try and the Bench allowed him a further month.

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**LOCAL NEWS**

**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 the 22<sup>nd</sup> collection from 6 districts raised £7 8s 10d.

**CITIZEN CORPS**

At a meeting of the Coalville Citizen Corps, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., intimated his desire to resign the position of Commandant owing to the pressure of other duties. Mr Hale was unanimously thanked for his splendid services to the Corps since its formation and was elected to the position of president. Mr C. W. H. Gutteridge elected to succeed Mr Hale as Commandant of the Corps.

**WHIST DRIVE AND SOCIAL**

A successful whist drive and social were held in the Bridge Road Council Schools on Wednesday night in aid of the Soldiers' Comforts Guild, about 300 people being present. Mr W. Gimson played for dancing, Mr F. Goddard and Mr E. Hawthorn acting as MC's. Songs were rendered by Pte. Bagshaw. MC's for whist were Messrs. S. W. Brown, H. R. Brown, P. Brown, W. Eames, J. Husband, and J. W. Farmer. Handsome prizes were presented by Mrs Eames to the winners as follows:

Ladies, 1 Mrs Biddle, 182; 2 Mrs Abell, 177; Mrs G. W. Pickering, 172. Gents, 1 Mr G. W. Pickering, 174; 2 Mr A. Willett; 3 Mr S. Barron, 171 each, second and third decided on a cut. Refreshments were admirably served by a ladies committee and the proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem about 12.30.

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**LEICESTER SOLDIER KILLED**

**BRIDE BEREAVED**

Much sympathy will be felt for Mr J. D. Preston, the newly appointed headmaster of Narborough Road Schools, Leicester and Mrs Preston, who received news on Monday morning that their son, Private Edwin Preston, was killed in the trenches in France last Monday.

He was with the 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters in the trenches for 24 hours, and was instantly killed by a hand grenade thrown from a German trench. Four others were wounded. The deceased was 23 years of age, and he enlisted with his brother, Francis, on the outbreak of war. The former held a post with Messrs. Inglesants, and the latter was a clerk at Parr's Bank.

A sad feature of the tragedy is that Edwin was only married a few days before going to France, the bride being Miss Thorne, of Brookhouse Avenue, Leicester. Deceased was a grandson of Mr J. Preston, the late chief attendance officer.

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**ASHBY SOLDIER KILLED**

Mrs Louise Poyser, residing on The Green, Ashby, has been notified that her husband, Pte. J. G. Poyser, has been killed in action in France. The deceased was serving with his battalion, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters. He was a National Reservist and was called up soon after the commencement of the war. Besides the widow there are three children.



## **BRAVE LEICESTERS**

### **SIX MEN AWARDED THE D.C.M.**

A special supplement to the 'London Gazette' contains the following: "The King has been pleased to approve of the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to the following for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Private E. W. Chatten, 9600, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Private H. O. Chamberlain, 9409, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Sergeant P. E. Foister, 7335, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Lance-Corporal F. E. Garton, 9130, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for conspicuous gallantry on November 20<sup>th</sup> near Neuve Chapelle, in leaving his trench at great risk and rescuing an Indian soldier of the 167<sup>th</sup> Pioneers, who had been blown out of his trench by a bomb from the enemy, who were only 70 yards distant.

Acting-Corporal G. Gray, 8244, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Private J. Taylor, 8569, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, for the gallantry displayed in the operations on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## **IBSTOCK SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES**

### **FIGHTING WITH A GOOD HEART**

An Ibstock soldier in the trenches, Private Joe Robertson, writing to his parents, says he is excellent health except for his knee, which with the wet was playing up a bit. They had had fine weather for about a week but when they woke up that morning (March 20<sup>th</sup>) snow lay on the ground and it was still snowing, which made things rather uncomfortable. "But I shall stick it," he continues, "I have never said die to anything yet and I have still got a bit of pluck left. My only thought is to get back to my poor wife and children. I am glad that you think I shall pull through it now, having got so far. I hope so too, but there is a lot of fighting to be done yet and we are the attacking party now. We have got to drive them into their own country and I hope they will get a little of what they have given to the Belgians. You cannot understand what lies before us. If you were here you would know why the advance is so slow. If you read the papers, you will see that the British are advancing. It would not do for me to say where, nor what my regiment is doing, as there is too much spying going on and this letter might fall into the hands of the enemy. That is why things are kept quiet, but we are doing our duty all the same and hope to be home by October. That will make me just one year out here. I have read in the paper about Joey Lockton getting the Distinguished Conduct Medal and was very pleased, but should have been more pleased had it been me. But only let me get a chance! But luck comes in a good deal, like backing horses. You may get away from a shower of bullets, but on the other hand, you may stop the only one fired. But we happen to have some very big guns now, and the Germans know it too. As I lie in my dugout with shot and shells flying over, any one of which may drop and put paid to my account, it makes me think of home and I look forward to letters from the ones I love."

In a subsequent letter, Robertson says the war has got to be fought to a definite conclusion, and the Germans beaten, or God help those at home. "It gives us all a good heart to fight because we know our children will be provided for. Tell Walter that a lot of the names of his old chums appear on the roll of honour (list of killed). I hope mine don't get on it, but if it is to be, then it will be well."

P.S. The big guns are now playing a tune.

## COALVILLE MOTOR CYCLIST IN FRANCE

### HAVING A BUSY TIME

Corpl. J. Johnson, formerly carrying on business as a fruiterer in Coalville, writes as follows:

“Dear Sir – Allow me to thank the Coalville and District women through your valuable paper for the very useful gifts sent out to me. I feel sure that everyone out here that has received such gifts, welcome anything from the dear old place, and will look upon it as a kind action indeed, for the women workers at home to think of those that are doing their duty for their country.

It would have been nice for all old faces to have met, but I regret that that cannot be so, as I gave assistance to the wounded in the Neuve Chapelle battle and found that all will not return. I have nothing to complain about and hope we shall soon be busy again with an advance. I have been on duty since Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. There is great excitement when the Taube is sighted again when one is brought down. I have lots of news but must keep within bounds. I am writing this letter in my little hut on my machine and hope the same finds all old friends in the best of health and hope recruiting in Coalville is still going strong. Remember there is a machine here for all motorists ready to join. I have registered 3,000 kilometres on mine in ten weeks.”



Wishing you one and all a happy Easter.

Yours faithfully

Corpl. Johnson



## IN THE RESERVE TRENCHES

### COALVILLE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES

Pte. J. F. Spriggs, of Park Road, Coalville, now serving with the forces, “somewhere in France,” writing to his sister, Mrs H. Reed, of Owen Street, Coalville, on March 25<sup>th</sup>, says he is well and proceeds, “We are in a curious place here. They are a lot behind good old England in a great many things. They have a use here for dogs in pulling handcarts about. We were in reserve trenches on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of this month. It is not actually the firing line, but nevertheless, it is just as dangerous for there you catch the stray bullets that come whizzing past. At present, we are about 8 miles from the firing line, so do not hear much of the big guns firing away now. We are in a barn full of straw and rats, but we are quite comfortable, considering.”

He adds that he hopes all are in good health and expresses the pleasure it gives to receive letters from his friends.

## ELLISTOWN AMBULANCE MAN

### WORKING AMONGST THE WOUNDED

Writing to us from Southampton, Pte. G. H. Taylor, of South Street, Ellistown, says how pleased he is to receive the “Coalville Times” but is sorry to see so many old faces of Coalville soldiers who are falling in the war. He was called up from the S.J.A.B. and is now stationed at Southampton Docks. It was strictly forbidden for him to give information of their doings, but he was seeing some sights, as his work was chiefly among the wounded, being in the R.A.M.C. He advises anyone holding first aid and nursing certificates to at once offer

their services for he is sure that their King and Country need them. He says he was on duty all hours, and as it is very cold at night he would be glad if one of the local organisations would send him a sleeping cap or helmet. They were a jolly fine company and all in the pink. He had a pal, J. Foster, of Ashby, who wished to be remembered to all friends in Coalville and Ashby.

Pte. Taylor's address is R.A.M.C., 10, Mess Room, Test Chambers, Southampton Docks.

He adds in a postscript: Buck-up old Ellistown.

### **COALVILLE ADULT SCHOOL SOLDIER**

#### **TWICE IN THE TRENCHES**

The President of the Coalville Men's Adult School, Mr B. B. Drewett, has received a letter from Pte. E. S. Boot, A. Co., 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, son of Mr Sam Boot, secretary of the Coalville Liberal Club, who states that he received the book recently sent by members of the school for which he expresses thanks. He says it is a very nice book, containing a text for every day. He continues, "I have been in the trenches twice since we left England and I am pleased to say I was not hit. We have only had one bad day since we have been out, when it snowed all day. Shall be glad when I can get back and take my place in Mr Hatchett's class again. Remember me to Mr Hatchett and all the school and let them know that I am going on all right. Wishing the school the best of luck, etc."

### **ANOTHER COALVILLE SOLDIER KILLED**

#### **A WELL-KNOWN FOOTBALLER**

Official news was received on Tuesday morning by Mrs Wardle, of Margaret Street, Coalville, that her son, Private James Wardle, of the Grenadier Guards, had been killed in action between March 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, apparently being at Neuve Chapelle, though the place was not stated. A letter from Lord Kitchener, expressing the sympathy of His Majesty King George and the Queen was also received.

The deceased soldier joined the army in August, prior to that being a collier, at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He was a well-known Coalville footballer, having played for the Amateurs and P.S.A. He was 25 years of age. His father, the late Mr Abraham Wardle, used to work at the Whitwick Colliery and died 17 years ago.

Mrs Wardle now has four sons, one of whom Joseph, is in the Coldstream Guards, and he is now at Windsor, having had two fingers shot off his left hand. He is expecting to go out to the front again as soon as he is fit.



### **COALVILLE TERRITORIALS PRAISED**

#### **A CREDIT TO THEIR COUNTRY**

We have received a letter from Pte. J. S. Newbold, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Grenadier Guards, at the front, who thanks the Coalville and District ladies for the useful parcel they had sent him. He says, "They will prove very handy to me in the trenches. The weather here improves every day, though it is very cold at night. We are looking forward to a very busy time this spring. We had a good taste of it at Neuve Chapelle. We showed the Germans what Britishers could do there. They (the Germans) are beaten any day. We could shift them any time we want to. I hear that they are a few eligible men left in Coalville yet, and I would advise them to join, as they will never be able to bear the contempt the boys are preparing for them out here. I am just off to hear the Bishop of London. He has just arrived today near our billet. The Coalville Territorials are stationed near to me, but I have not had the pleasure of dropping across any of them yet. But I hear on all sides they are proving a credit to Leicestershire and to their country."

## HAVING A GOOD TIME

### COALVILLE SOLDIER'S CHEERY LETTER

Mr J. Woodward, of 41, Margaret Street, Coalville, has received an interesting letter from Pte. Stephen Bunn, of Albert Street, Coalville. Bunn is in the B. Co. 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters with the British Expeditionary Force in France and says he is in the pink and hopes they are well in Coalville. He has been in the trenches for a week and went on alright. Sam Moore and Fred Beasley are with him. He continues: "Are you working at the new pit yet? If so, remember me to Burton Holmes, Jack Price and Mr Price, the under-manager. Tell them that I am getting on alright and I hope the pit is working well. We see lots of aeroplanes flying about. I have been inoculated today. Will you remember me to the Thringstone girls if you meet them up at the Forest Rock any time. Tell them I am going on alright. I am having a jolly good time. Are they many more enlisting in Coalville?"

**Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1206)**

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### "CITIZENS" AT WHITWICK CHURCH

#### IMPRESSIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Whitwick Parish Church was packed to the doors on Sunday morning on the occasion of a memorial service for Pte. E. Hall, the first Whitwick soldier to be killed in the great war, and for the late Mr B. Berry, who had taken such an interest in the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizen Corps. The members of the Coalville Corps about 50 strong, under the Commander Gutteridge, marched from their headquarters and on reaching Whitwick, were joined by the Citizens there and marched to Church headed by the Whitwick Holy Cross and Boy Scouts Bands, Capt. Stevenson being in command. The parade attracted a good deal attention and was witnessed by a large crowd of people. A good number of relatives of the deceased were at the service.

Suitable hymns and psalms were sung and an impressive sermon was delivered by the Vicar (the Rev. T. W. Walters) from the text 1 Cor 15c, 20v, "Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept."

All over our country in these days, said the preacher, and indeed, all over this great empire of ours there are scenes such as this morning. The heart of the people has been touched, the whole nation has been stirred, men everywhere are rising up from thoughtlessness and you see everywhere upon their faces the serious looks of manliness, of responsibility, and of understanding. Men are becoming to know what we are engaged in; what the nation is engaged in. But deep as the heart has been touched already, I don't believe, and I don't think that anyone in this church this morning believes, that we have been touched quite deeply enough. There must be a deeper stirring of the human mind and the human heart. We must realise in a way that we have never yet done so, the great forces that are against us. We must understand in a way that we have not done yet that the enemy we are fighting against is extremely powerful; splendidly organised, prepared after years of constant and splendid preparation, and we have to face millions of men, trained, drilled and instructed not only in the art of war, but, unfortunately in the feeling of hatred against ourselves. We have to face such a nation as that and I am afraid, almost certain in fact, that we have not yet realised in this country what we are up against.

Proceeding, he suggested that they ought to keep three, or even four lists of the men who were serving their country. First, a list of the men who are fighting, or preparing to fight; secondly a list of men who had tried to join the colours but who for no fault of their own had been rejected – and there were several such in Whitwick; thirdly, a list of the men who had joined the Citizen Corps for home defence; and the fourth list should be of the wives and children and mothers of the men in the danger zone. Oh, what a list that would be. When they thought of all these things and of the seriousness of them, it was enough to stir them to the very depths. They could not see a congregation like that without feeling the stirring force of it and without feeling that they were awakening to the responsibilities they ought to feel as a nation when facing such an enemy as they were facing in these days. They were being stirred as they read of the great battles on the Continent of Europe. In the casualty lists for last Thursday, Friday and Saturday appeared 4,011 names. Over four thousand casualties recorded in three days. In Saturday's paper they saw that the Leicesters, 75 were dead after one battle. Many of these men they knew; where were they today. Their bodies lay in graves

on the battlefield far from their native land. Their wives, their children, their mothers, would never see them again. Their fathers and brothers would never take them by the hand again and give them a welcome home. They had been buried in graves with a crowd of other bodies, but was that the end of them? Was there not something else after that? If they faced such a question as that with a feeling of doubtfulness, then in the words of the lesson, they of all men were the most miserable. If that was the end of everything what would be the use of standing up and fighting for their country? They would be without hope and would indeed be the most miserable of men. When thoughts like that assailed them, let them think of the text, "Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that sleep." What did that mean? Simply this: That as Christ rose from the dead so shall all men rise from the dead. There was a time coming when they would all come forth graves, a tremendous army facing their God from their graves, a great army facing God on the great resurrection day. In these days they thought far too much of the seriousness of death. It was hard to part from dear ones and they had come to think of death as a terrible thing. It was a mistake to think of it like that. Death was not the ultimate end of life but only the beginning. That was illustrated to them in the parable of the seed. The death of the seed was not the end of it but was only the beginning of a finer life which sprang from it, and so it was with every one of them. Death simply meant the passing into a higher life and that certainly ought not to be terrible. But as they lived today, so they were moulding their future life, and if they kept the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ they would become more like Him in the hereafter. They all sympathised very deeply with the mourners that morning, that large congregation of men had come together to express it in that way. They sympathised with the relatives of the brave young soldier whose earthly life had come to an end on the battlefield of France, and also with those who mourned the loss of the chairman of the Citizen Corps of that district. But the time was coming when they would all be reunited, and all the sorrows of partings and misunderstandings, and the difficulties, trials and temptations which they now experienced would be nothing before them but the higher life of that bright, glorious future. They prayed that God in His mercy would look down on the sorrowing ones and bless them and help them to bear the parting and may the relatives of the young soldier be comforted by the knowledge that he died fighting for his country and for them all, that he died in glorious company in the midst of hundreds, thousands, who fell in the same fight. While they sympathised with them, they almost envied them in having a relative so brave, so noble, and so unselfish as to give up his life in that way. May God comfort and bless the mourners and give them all the consolation possible from that religion of theirs – the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the close of the service, the organist, Mr R. West, played the Dead March, the congregation standing meanwhile, and as they were leaving he played, "O rest in the Lord."

The flag was flying over the church at half mast, and before the service a muffled peal was rung on the bells.

The Citizen's marched to the School of Arms in Silver Street, where after a few exercises, the Coalville contingent continued their journey home.

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### **LEICESTER MAN'S SUICIDE**

#### **SON'S PROTEST AGAINST THE VERDICT**

A verdict of "Suicide" was returned at an inquest held in Leicester on Monday afternoon on the body of Edward Myring, a fish hawk, of Brunswick Street, who threw himself under a motor lorry on Friday.

Deceased's son, a soldier, who was present, protested against the jury's decision, remarking that his father suffered from gout.

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### **BELGIAN FLAG DAY AT LEICESTER**

Under the auspices of a committee formed for the purpose a Belgian Flag Day was celebrated at Leicester on Saturday with the object of raising additional funds for the maintenance of Belgian refugees now residing in the town. A small army of lady helpers volunteered their services, and throughout the day a brisk sale of Belgian flags was carried on, upwards of 100,000 being sold. The total amount raised by the effort was about £650.

## **AN ABSENTEE FROM DONINGTON**

At Leicester County Police Office on Monday morning before Mr A. Turner, Alfred Frederick Wallace, soldier, Donington Park, was remanded to await an escort, he being an absentee from the National Guard at Donington Park since Saturday.

## **LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT CASUALTIES**

### **MEN WHO FELL AT NEUVE CHAPELLE**

#### **OFFICIAL LIST**

Reported from the Base, 24<sup>th</sup> March

#### ***KILLED***

11054 Ball, Private A.  
10872 Barker, Private A.  
12314 Bates, Private W.  
9239 Betteridge, Lance-Corporal T.  
11078 Bishop, Private J. H.  
6131 Bradley, Lance-Corporal A.  
11776 Bradley, Corporal G. J.  
9838 Branston, Private E.  
12142 Brooks, Private B.  
11185 Brown, Private H.  
8631 Brown, Private S. W.  
11125 Carter, Private W.  
8282 Congreave, Private F.  
5393 Conway, Private A.  
9898 Cooke, Private E. A.  
8485 Corby, Private W. H.  
10358 Cornish, Sergeant J.  
6007 Cousins, Private C. E.  
8829 Cox, Lance-Corporal F. J.  
8854 Croucher, Private L.  
12090 Cunnington, Private H.  
9923 Davis, Private F. (Coalville)  
7096 Elson, Lance-Corporal F. A.  
8269 Emery, Private W.  
9277 Ferguson, Private R. E.  
9939 Garton, Private E.  
11801 Green, Private G.  
12041 Hall, Private E. (Whitwick)  
6473 Hallam, Private O. (Hugglescote)  
8740 Hayes, Drummer D.  
6021 Helsdon, Lance-Corporal W.  
10713 Hicks, Private E.  
9160 Hinckley, Private L. J.  
11718 Holt, Private C. H.  
12093 Holt, Private W.  
12383 Hopkinson, Private J.  
8199 Hyde, Private J. W.  
9242 Lake, Private H.  
12468 Latham, Private W. S.  
11330 Lee, Private E. H.  
5329 Lees, Sergeant E.  
8708 Littlejohn, Private T.  
8961 Locke, Private L.  
12700 McHugh, Private A.

9034 Mansfield, Private H.  
8412 Morgan, Private A.  
5661 Moore, Private E. (Coalville)  
5342 Neat, Sergeant J.  
6400 Needham, Private H. S.  
11043 Peacock, Private G.  
8959 Potterton, Private W.  
12070 Poyser, Private J. G.  
6164 Randle, Private L.  
10162 Reynolds, Private J. S.  
8732 Robinson, Private P.  
9863 Rowley, Private W.  
9225 Sanders, Private U.  
12078 Sheffield, Corporal J. D. (Coalville)  
6396 Shipsides, Private E.  
8825 Skeleey, Private R.  
11262 Soden, Private W. A.  
7798 Tansley, Lance-Corporal W. J.  
12412 Taylor, Private F. W.  
5708 Towndrow, Lance-Corporal F.  
7466 Twigg, Sergeant J.  
10426 Vine, Private W.  
10951 Ward, Private W. R.  
6399 Wardle, Private W. (Coalville)  
12045 Wareham, Private H.  
9285 Warner, Private A. H.  
9864 Warner, Private O.  
11669 Watson, Private J.  
9522 White, Private A.  
9045 Woodford, Private A. F.

The following list of casualties in the Leicesters reported from the Base under date March 25<sup>th</sup>, is issued:

#### ***DIED OF WOUNDS***

Cooper (9812), Private F.  
Dingley (9833), Private W.

#### ***WOUNDED***

Abrahams (7758), Private W.  
Alderman (8551), Private A.  
Allen (8229), Sergeant J. T.  
Bennett (5549), Private T. K.  
Benstead (10958), Lance-Corporal G.  
Bond (11283), Private R.  
Bond (10940), Private T.  
Bradbury (5862), Private G.  
Brown (9900), Private G. W.  
Buckingham (6276), Private W.  
Burr (8673), Private H.  
Clarke (9027), Lance-Corporal J. (Ellistown)  
Clements (11877), Private A.  
Cockerill (7750), Private M.  
Coleman (5952), Corporal W.  
Crouch (10235), Private A.  
Curtis (9925), Private T.  
Dale (11113), Private W. H.  
Dunkley (9901), Private E. T.  
Edwards (8223), Act-Corporal H.

Evans (9454), Private F. A.  
Evans (9083), Private J.  
Eyden (11147), Private E.  
Fall (10834), Private W.  
Fenwick (9203), Private W.  
Follis (11705), Private R. W.  
Frisby (7552), Private W. C. V.  
Frith (14157), Private A.  
Gilbert (8290), Private E.  
Gilbert (11092), Private T.  
Gilliams (9089), Private H.  
Glasa (15254), Private J.  
Greenlear (11001), Private A.  
Hall (12062), Private E.  
Hanwell (9794), Private G.  
Harding (8074), Private J.  
Helps (6273), Private B.  
Hill (5932), Private G.  
Howard (8384), Private W.  
Hughes (12254), Private J.  
Huntley (11386), Private L.  
Jackson (11342), Private J.  
Jarman (9124), Private V. A.  
Jelly (9755), Private A.  
Judd (8041), Private S.  
Larkin (8148), Private H.  
Larrad (7876), Private H.  
Lloyd (10502), Private E.  
Lloyd (9296), Private G.  
Manship (7946), Lance-Corporal D.  
Marvin (6143), Private B.  
Miller (9844), Private J. H.  
Nash (9852), Private P.  
Norman (7645), Corporal W.  
Nunnley (8350), Private \_.  
Pell (11458), Private B.  
Richardson (12190), Private F.  
Robinson (9781), Private A.  
Sadler (7225), Private C.  
Sampson (7658), Private J.  
Skelton (8809), Lance-Corporal S.  
Smith (9876), Private F.  
Smith (8650), Private W. -.  
Staines (6624), Private J.  
Tarry (16152), Private W.  
Thornton (9862), Private  
Turner (8498), Private C.  
Varney (11619), Private \_.  
Watts (9896), Private H.  
Wickwar (8892), Private G.  
Wilson (6902), Lance-Corporal \_.  
Wright (9835), Private G.

The following casualties are reported from the General Headquarters under date April 8<sup>th</sup>:

**WOUNDED**

Second-Lieutenant H. F. Papprill.



Lieut. Papprell is a son of the Rev. F. Papprell, of Holy Trinity Church, Leicester. The wounded officer was attached to the Officer's Training Corps at Trent College, and joined the Territorials early in August.

Lieutenant T. Whittingham.

Lieut. Whittingham is a son of the Rev. W. G. Whittingham, Knighton. He joined the Territorials from the Officer's Training Corps on April 13<sup>th</sup> and was promoted Lieutenant on October 8<sup>th</sup> last year.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT**

Casualties reported from the Base, under date March 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS**

Barratt (11802), Private T.

#### **WOUNDED**

Atkins (10594), Private A.  
Ballard (10877), Private J.  
Barnett (12385), Lance-Corporal H.  
Beck (5805), Private G.  
Bennett (10387), Private C.  
Bollards (5280), Private \_.  
Bostock (12679), Private W.  
Brewin (10432), Private J.  
Brindle (7475), Private  
Brown (12592), Lance-Corporal W.  
Burke (9204), Private J.  
Burke (11583), Private J.  
Butler (8948), Private R.  
Cartwright (11209), Private N.  
Clacey (82-0), Private G.  
Coleman (8921), Private A.  
Cunningham (12405), Private J.  
Day (1178), Private W.  
Deakin (6926), Private \_.  
Dilkes (92-0), Lance-Corporal A.  
Downs (11245), Private H.  
Etchells (1-434), Private D.  
Fletcher (14155), Private P. J.  
Folwell (11496), Private A.  
Garner (8316), Private T.  
Gillett (95-2), Private H. W.  
Glover (86-8), Lance-Corporal J.  
Hall (9178), Private W.  
Hartshorne (1044), Private \_.  
Hefford (12069), Private G.  
Higgs (8141), Lance-Corporal \_.  
Hilleard (9865), Private A.  
Hinckley (12001), Private R.  
Hyde (7676), Private E.  
Jacques (8005), Private W. J.  
Jesson (10893), Private H.  
Johnson (6096), Lance-Corporal \_ J.  
Keefe (9915), Private W.  
Knight (10245), Private F.  
Lowin (8967), Private H.  
Miller (12361), Private H.  
Page (9978), Private G.

Porter (9144), Private T.  
Preston (1-784), Corporal J. W.  
Pugh (11420), Private F.  
Quirk (8989), Private J. A.  
Roadknight (11039), Private \_.  
Saunders (14151), Private J.  
Smith (1297), Private W.  
Tipping (9129), Lance-Corporal J. W.  
Travers (6397), Private S.  
Wilkinson (9903), Private C.  
Wood (8783), Drummer W.

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**LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The boys of the Whitwick Troop, Leicestershire Yeomanry, now on active service, write to thank all kind friends on the Charnwood Forest for the boxes of good things that have been sent out to them this Easter.

Mrs Lawrence (Hathern) has collected for the wounded soldiers 1,000 eggs and these were taken to the church on Sunday by the Boy Scouts, making the service specially interesting.

The following interesting paragraph appears in the "Ellistown Parish Magazine."

"I am exceedingly sorry to have to record that Lance-Corporal Clarke has been most seriously wounded in both legs, and his right leg has been amputated above the knee. Jack has been so good and noble about it, and regrets he cannot rejoin his regiment, and hopes we shall find room for a one-legged man at Ellistown. I am sure our hearts go out to him and his parents in this trouble. The vicar thought good to forego his Easter offerings, and when Lance-Corporal Clarke comes home the offerings will be presented to him. The first one from our Church and parish to shed his blood for King and country. Harry Lagoe we are glad to see among us this Easter. He is now on the fair way to recovery. Tom Robson has been wounded by a bayonet thrust in the knee, and is now in hospital in Rouen going on very well. I have had letters from Corporal Wheatley, at the front, Alf. Priest, Harry Gadsby, and others, all of whom are well and confident. It was a great disappointment to some of our soldiers not to be able to come home for their Easter Communion.

**DO YOU KNOW**

That Miss Vesta Tilley sang to the wounded soldiers in the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital at Leicester on Saturday night?

That four collectors are wanted, two each for two Coalville districts, for the Belgian Relief Fund?

That Mr A. Dobney, eldest son of Police Inspector Dobney, of Coalville, has this week been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the Leicestershire Territorials?

That £18 was raised by the patriotic concert recently arranged by Mr E. E. Wallsgrove and committee for the benefit of Ratby men with the colours?

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**BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 23<sup>rd</sup> collection from 14 districts realised £11 1s 2d.

## **BAGWORTH**

As the result of sending the parcels of clothing etc., to the soldiers who had gone from the neighbourhood by the Women's Guild, quite a large number of letters of thanks have been received from the recipients and are of a most interesting character. Some had come from the trenches, others from various parts of England. Some of the letters are of a most loving attitude and signed with crosses and styled your soldier boy, etc. The following are the names of those who sent letters of thanks:

Pte. L. Ward, Pte. F. S. Brown, Pte. Jack Read, Pte. Oakley, Pte. P. Hunt, Pte. J. W. Davis, Corpl. E. Curton, Pte. J. H. Jackson, Pte. R. Glover, Pte. C. Johnson, Pte. J. Emerson, Pte. A. Worth, Corpl. D. Linford, Corpl. D. Linford, Corpl. C. Hubbard, Pte. H. Heathcote, Pte. H. Emerson, Pte. W. Ribby, Pte. H. Lockwood, Pte. H. Vicars, Pte. D. White, Pte. J. Atkinson, Pte. G. Barker, Pte. A. Holland, Pte. J. Adkinson, Pte. G. Barker, Pte. A. Holland, Pte. J. Reed, Pte. A. Bowler, Lance-Corpl. R. Astle, Pte. G. H. Farmer, Gunner A. Smith, Pte. W. Bevans, Pte. W. Twigger, Pte. J. Witts, Pte. J. A. Bowler, Pte. L. Stretton and Pte. W. F. Jones.

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## **RECRUITING MEETING AT SWANNINGTON**

### **SPEECH BY SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT**

At a recruiting meeting held at Swannington School, the speakers were Captain Stevenson and Lieut. Briggs. Sir George Beaumont, who took the chair, said he was glad of taking the chair and saying a few words. Having been in the trenches he could assure the boys who went that there was a bright side apart from the intense pleasure it gave one to feel that he was fighting for his country, they would find all that was possible done for their comfort – food, clothing, and even luxuries received would make them feel that the people at home appreciated their services. From his own knowledge more men were wanted, and he hoped the glorious traditions of a volunteer army sufficient for our country's needs would be forthcoming; if not, neither this, nor any other Government would have any alternative but to adopt conscription and reduce England to the level of the conscript armies of the Continent.

Lieut. Briggs said he was there specially to appeal for the Leicestershire Territorials, who were now raising a new battalion. From the records of the past the Leicesters were a fine body to join, it was easy to sit in an arm chair and criticise the conduct of the war and the poor reservist to the recruiting appeals, but it was the duty of all to encourage recruiting and help to maintain our volunteer army in the great task before them.

Captain Stevenson said he had visited Swannington before and had a number of patriotic responses but there were still many who were hanging back – many, he felt sure, who would be ashamed of themselves when the war was over. England had always added glory to her record by a volunteer army, he hoped it always would, but he was there to tell them that many more men were wanted, and he feared Sir George was only too correct when he said that other methods would have to be adopted if they did not come forward. He was sorry to say he had circularised 60 young men in Swannington of enlistment age asking them to join the army, and not one of them had been even patriotic or courteous enough to answer the request. He also thought it a disgrace for single men to allow the married men to go first; 75 per cent of the recent enlistments had been married men. He knew the majority present were not acceptable, to them the responsibility lay; they could each act in some small way to encourage the slacker to come forward; turn yourselves into amateur recruiting sergeants and give these fellows no peace until they take their share of the burden their comrades are bearing at the front.

A vote of thanks proposed by Mr T. Atkins to which Sir Beaumont replied, terminated the meeting.

## **PATRIOTIC ENTERTAINMENT**

A patriotic lantern entertainment was given in the village hall at Thringstone on Monday night by the Whitwick Glee Party and members of the House Club, the proceeds being to provide tobacco, cigarettes, etc., for the men who have joined His Majesty's Forces from the village and from the House Club. The Vicar (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury) presided and there was a capital attendance. Nearly all the items given were illustrated with

excellent lantern slides which helped to make it a very interesting and enjoyable entertainment. The programme opened with "The comrades' song of home" by the Glee Party and other items were:

Recitation; "Lines written in Devon," Scout J. Rossell; duet, "Life's dream is o'er," Messrs. Waterfield and Gee; song, "The lost chord," Mr J. W. Brotherhood; reading, "How Bill Adams won the Battle of Waterloo," Mr A. Woodward; song, "Hearts of Oak," Mr J. Lawrence; duet, "All's Well," Messrs. Baker and Waterfield; song, "Hurrah for the British navy," Mr Baker; "The loss of H.M.S. Victoria," Mr C. Watts; song, "Rule Britannia," Mr J. W. Brotherhood; song, "Your King and Country need you," Master E. Cooke; reading, "Corporal Smart," Mr Woodward; a quartet and "God save the King." On the motion of the Vicar, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Glee Party and also to Miss Crane, the accompanist.

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### **ASHBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS**

#### **SYMPATHY WITH THE CHAIRMAN**

The chairman said he was sure he was voicing the feelings of all the members when he said how very much they regretted to learn that Corporal J. D. Sheffield, a son of the chairman of the Board (Mr W. Sheffield) had been killed at the front, his name appearing in the casualty list published in the papers that morning. It must be a great blow to their chairman. They all knew that Mr Sheffield, jun., was a very worthy young man, who did his duty before he went and also at the war. He (Mr Varnham) also hoped that Mr Sheffield would soon be restored to health and be able to take his place again in that room. (Hear, hear). Personally, he felt Mr Sheffield's continued absence very much. He moved a vote of confidence with him in the death of his son. This was seconded by Mr Fowler and carried.

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### **TWO COALVILLE COLLIER'S KILLED**

In the list of Leicesters killed at the front published in this issue will be found the names of Pte. Ernest Moore and Pte. Fred Davis.

Pte. Moore was a collier lodging with Mr Joseph Brownlow, in Ashby Road, Coalville, and was called up as a reservist on the outbreak of war. He took part in the South African war. A brother of the deceased soldier is Mr J. H. Moore, of No. 5 Marshall's Row, and a sister, Mrs Measures, resides in Highfields Street, Coalville. His father was one of the victims in the Whitwick colliery disaster.

Pte. Fred Davis was working at the South Leicestershire Colliery when the war broke out and he joined the colours in August. He used to lodge with Mrs Dennis, a sister at Hoo Ash. His brother, Mr Davis, a collier at the Ellistown pit, lives nearly opposite the Halfway House in Belvoir Road, Coalville.

### **MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT**

#### **A SOLDIER'S NERVES**

Ernest Miles, soldier, was charged with being a deserter from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Leicestershire regiment. P.C. Willars deposed to arresting the defendant at Higham-on-the-Hill that day. The regiment was stationed at Cosham, near Portsmouth and the defendant had been absent since last Wednesday.

Defendant said he had been in the trenches and his nerves had given way. He was 35 years of age and had a wife and family at Higham. Supt. Smith said the defendant was called up with the reserves on the outbreak of war and went out with the First Expeditionary Force. He was wounded in the retirement from Mons and was invalided home. He overstayed his leave and that was the fourth time he had been arrested for deserting. He was remanded to await an escort.

## COALVILLE POLICEMAN IN THE TRENCHES

### INTERESTING LETTER

We have received the following interesting letter dated April 9<sup>th</sup>, from Lance-Corpl. T. Grainger, who before going to the war was a Coalville policeman residing in Gutteridge Street.

Dear Sir, - Just these few lines to let you know how the Coalville and District boys are going on. I am pleased to say that they are enjoying good health and are taking the rough with the smooth, and you can rely on them doing their bit of work when the time comes. We expect to start moving them back as soon as the weather permits, but I must say that this is the worst country I have been in for rain. You cannot trust it for five minutes, but we are looking forward to the fine weather now and then we shall be finished with the trenches for a time. We have done nothing else but trench work since we arrived in this country, and I must say we have had our share as we were in for 22 days at a stretch and we spent Christmas and New Year in digging, but we had a day off Christmas Day and pleased to say it was quiet for a time. The Germans showed themselves for once, but they went rather shaky. They were the Prussians, but the regiment on our left were quite civil; they left their trenches and pulled together with our men and exchanged souvenirs with us. We have been working with another regiment in our brigade since January and doing six days in the trenches and six days rest. It was nice and quiet for the first week or two but when war was declared we had to keep under and it is rather bad now as we are under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire and also a few shells just remind us that they have got a gun or two behind. But we know they have not got the best of ours now, if they had at the beginning of the war. Ours can bite quite as look and bite worse. Of course, we cannot see what damage they do in the way of casualties but they cannot all dodge them. I am sorry to say that the Coalville lads had a rough time during last month, but none serious. There were four in this battalion but they suffered much worse in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, and we heard of Corporal Sheffield and Sergeant Twigg being killed. We sometimes get hold of the "Coalville Times" and sometimes we don't but I have heard the lads in my company say, "Have you had the 'Times' this week?" Then Sten Hardy will say, "Yes, so and so has got it." Then there's a run to the next company. By the time I get to the last man he has lost it or something worse, and we keep quiet until the next week and 10 to 1 it's the same old tale I think I have told you all this time, but when I feel fit I will put a good letter together for the benefit of the old town.



Yours etc.  
Lance-Corpl. T. Grainger

### AT THE FRONT

#### ANOTHER COALVILLE MAN'S LETTER

Writing to his sister, Mrs George Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, Pte. A. Edwards, who has been some months at the front, expresses thanks for a parcel received safely together with the "Coalville Times." He proceeds, "I came out of the trenches last night (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) so still have a little more time to myself now for the next fortnight. We are having nice weather here now. It rained a little last night, but that was the first for about a fortnight. . . . I see in the "Coalville Times" that another of my old school mates, Jack Manders, has gone under. It is a bad job but it can't be helped. There are worse things happening every day. It will be a blessing when it is all over. Tell Harvey Morris I haven't time to be making belts at present, but I will make him one if I have the good luck to get back to England. I am still keeping in the best of health and hope all are the same at home."

## HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED

### MR OWEN HALLAM

Killed in action at Neuve Chapelle. Deceased was a collier, and a popular member of the Coalville Swifts F.C. His parents reside at the Green, Hugglescote.



## COALVILLE SAILOR'S WEDDING

### CEREMONY IN SCOTLAND

An interesting wedding took place at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness, on Easter Saturday, in which the contracting parties were Miss Dorothy Lilian Laywood, eldest daughter of Mr Harry Laywood, one of the Coalville postmen, of Bridge Road, and Mr John Henry Finch, son of Mr John Finch, of Coalville.

The bridegroom is a gunner on H.M.S. Benbow and was to have been married at Hugglescote Church, but as he was unable to obtain leave the wedding had to take place in Scotland. The bride was attired in a pretty dress of cream satin, with a wreath of orange blossom and veil and was given away by her mother. There were no bridesmaids. Pte. H. Bellamy, of the Royal Marines, also of H.M.S. Benbow, was best man and the officiating clergyman was the ship's chaplain, the English ceremony being followed by that customary in Scotland.

The bridegroom appeared in his naval uniform and was given a hearty send-off by his ship mates, it being the first wedding amongst the crew of this vessel. After a short stay in Scotland, the bride returned home with her mother and the bridegroom rejoined his ship. They had many congratulations and the numerous handsome presents received included several from members of the crew.

## VESTA TILLEY AT THE HOSPITAL

### SINGS TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS

On Saturday night, Miss Vesta Tilley in the interval between her two appearances at the Leicester Palace, paid a visit to the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital at Leicester, now full of wounded British soldiers, and delighted the men with a selection of her inimitable songs. She was received at the hospital by Lieut. Col. Harrison, and in order that as many of the wounded men as possible might hear the popular artist, a large number of them were carried into the large ward on stretchers.

Miss Tilley sang her songs in admirable style and was greatly touched at the end of the performance she was presented with a bouquet of flowers in the national colours. Subsequently she intimated to Mr W. G. Gibbs, the secretary of the Recreations and Literature Committee, her desire to present the hospital with sets of gramophone records of her songs, an offer which was gratefully accepted.

## Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1915 (Issue 1207)

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## GERMAN OFFICERS AT DONINGTON HALL

### "JUST LIKE AN HOTEL"

The Berlin "Zeitung am Mittag" publishes a letter from London describing a visit to the well-known German lawn tennis player, Herr Froitzheim, who is a prisoner at Donington Hall. The visitor stayed to tea, which was served by a German waiter from a London restaurant. He writes, "One can have everything just as in a hotel. There is also a splendid bar. Froitzheim said that he was well housed. The rooms are all very large and simply furnished. From the dining room there is a very fine view. Thus far the number of prisoners is 70, and including servants, cooks and so on, there are 95 persons in the castle, but huts, with good beds, etc., are being constructed in the park. When I arrived they were playing squash racquets. There is also football, hockey, and lawn tennis every day, when the weather allows. The commandant is very charming and very nice to Froitzheim, and permits everything. He himself is a keen sportsman and is a great promoter of all

games. While I was there an English girl came to pay a visit to an officer. A girl friend of hers had to wait outside the park as she had no pass. When she heard that Froitzheim, whom she evidently knew from a Nottingham Tournament was there, she asked at once after Rabe and Kleinchroth, and was disappointed not to find them all, as she would have liked to speak to her old friends.

### **SYSTON SOLDIER BROTHERS**

#### **ONE KILLED, THE OTHER CAPTURED**

Of the two soldier sons of Mr and Mrs W. Earl, 2, Archdale Street, Syston, one has been killed and the other is a prisoner of war in Germany. The one killed was Lance-Corporal G. W. Earl, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, who gave up his life on March 9<sup>th</sup>. He was aged 25 years. The other son, Private Charles Earl, was captured as far back as October last, when serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sherwood Foresters.

### **LOUGHBORO' SOLDIER KILLED**

Mrs J. Easton, with her one child, lives at 43, Pinfold Street, Loughborough, received official intimation on Monday that her husband, Pte. J. Easton, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, was killed in action "somewhere in France" on April -th. Private Eaton, who was 31 years of age, was a Reservist, and was employed at the Empress Works.

### **LEICESTER TERRITORIAL KILLED**

Information has been received of the death of Pte. Alec Clark, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment (Territorials), who was killed in action on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Clark, whose parents reside at Park Road, Blaby, enlisted in August last, and the news of his death has caused much regret in the village where he formerly lived. He was only 21 years of age, and was a prominent member of the Blaby Swifts Football Club.

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### **DO YOU KNOW**

That it is proposed to raise another Territorial Battalion in Coalville?

### **ELLISTOWN**

#### **SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE**

On Wednesday in last week, a social and whist drive were held in the Ellistown School in aid of Soldiers' Comforts Guild. There was a capital attendance. The MC's were Messrs. W. Mason (dancing) and T. R. Grundy (whist) and the prize winners were:

Ladies 1, Mrs Trueman, 2, Mrs Hatter;

Gents 1, Mr Barnes, 2, Mr Elton;

Mystery, Mr G. Shepherd. The ladies of the knitting guild provided refreshments.

### **COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED**

#### **AN ADULT SCHOOL MAN**

News was received in Coalville yesterday in a letter from a soldier at the front, that Private Ernest Samuel Boot, of Melbourne Street, Coalville, was killed in action on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Boot is a member of the Coalville Men's Adult School, and a son of Mr Sam Boot, employed at Messrs. Wootton Bros. works, and secretary of the Coalville Liberal Club. The young soldier was only about 18 years of age, and went out with the second batch of Territorials from Coalville. A letter written by him to Mr B. B. Drewett, president of the school, appeared in a recent issue of this paper.

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## BELGIAN RELIEF FUND

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 24<sup>th</sup> collection from 9 districts realised £5 15s 5d.

## CITIZENS' CORPS CHURCH PARADE

A contingent of the Coalville Citizens' Corps attended Copt Oak Church on Sunday morning. The vicar (Rev. H. K. Bros) who conducted the service, gave an excellent address from St. Matthew x 34. He said that in the relationship between patriotism and religion there was a common bond; both demanded sacrifice. By sacrifice they were fulfilling the highest destinies of life. Appropriate hymns were heartily sung. The collection was in aid of church expenses. The rendezvous of the Citizens was Marlborough Square and they marched back after the service and were there disbanded.

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## COALVILLE EBENEZER BAPTIST CHAPEL

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

#### 39 MEMBERS AND SCHOLARS WITH THE FORCES

The anniversary services in connection with the Sunday School were held at the Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church on Sunday and were largely attended, the chapel being packed.

The preacher was the pastor, the Rev. W. H. Wills, and the children and choir, as usual, excellently sang special hymns and anthems. The children were conducted by Mr Jonathan Burton and their hymns were: "Singing" (H. Buckley); "I am Jesu's little friend" (H. Dennis); "For the glory of the Lord" (H. E. Nicol); "The name forever precious" (A. Clarke); and "Sound the battle cry" (H. Dennis). The choir, under the direction of Mr W. Baker, opened each service with the Sanctus, "Holy, holy, holy" and in the afternoon sang the anthems, "How amiable are Thy Tabernacles" (H. Buckley) and "Be not afraid" from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" while in the evening the anthems were, "I was glad when they said unto me" (Thomas Allwood) and the "Hallelujah Chorus." Mr F. Newman officiated at the organ and an efficient orchestra also assisted in the accompaniment.

The annual report read at each service stated that the income for the year was £55 16s 6d and the expenditure, including £3 added to the school building fund, was £55 5s 9d, leaving 9s 9d in hand. The number of teachers was 27 and there were 265 scholars, an increase of 23. Twenty-five scholars sat for the county scripture examination and 21 gained prizes or certificates. An appeal was made for assistance in extending the school premises, the present accommodation being greatly overtaxed.

The afternoon collection realised £18 17s and in the evening the amount was £24 4s 9 1/2d, making a total of £43 1s 9 1/2d, which was a little better than last year. An interesting feature of the services was that a roll of honour containing 39 names of men from the church and school who were serving with the forces was read. This was as follows:

Pte. Fred Briers, 16025, Leicester Regt.  
Gun. Arthur Green, 1999, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regt.  
Pte. F. Whitmore, 7106, 3<sup>rd</sup> Black Watch.  
Pte. C. Hatter, 2534, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regt.  
Sergt. Walter S. Baker, Army Service Corps.  
Corpl. Bosworth, 55081E, Railway Transport.  
Pte. Victor Woolley, 2482, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regt.  
Pte. H. Savage, 154, North Mounted Brigade.  
Pte. F. Williamson, 2702, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regt.  
Drummer A. Burton, 5481, Royal Warwicks.  
Pte. J. Bullock, 3300, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. J. Smith, 3833, R.A.M.C. 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.



Pte. H. Fern, 10533, 6<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regt.  
Pte. T. Davis, 16044, 9<sup>th</sup> Sth. Staffords.  
Pte. W. Gray, 2528, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. Major Baker, 2431, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicester Regt.  
Sergt. James Collins  
Pte. Jack Knifton, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. A. Deacon, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. E. Hickling, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. A. Mason, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. W. Brewin, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. H. Arnold, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. H. Davis, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. F. Osbourne, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. J. Moon, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. H. Tudge, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. W. Maddocks, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. R. Smith, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. A. Peace, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. L. Peace, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. E. W. Osbourne, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. G. H. Osbourne, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. E. Moon, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Pte. F. Bennistone, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.  
Corpl. A. Smith, Gloucesters.  
Pte. F. Moon, 7<sup>th</sup> Leicesters.

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## **WHITWICK SOLDIER IN NEUVE CHAPELLE BATTLE**

### **LIKE PLAYING SKITTLES**

Pte. E. Howe, of Golden Row, Talbot Street, Whitwick, writing to Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head, Thringstone, says he is quite safe up to date (April 7<sup>th</sup>) and wishes to thank the good men of Thringstone for gifts sent to him and his pals. As soon as the parcel was opened and they saw the cigarettes they were all eager to get some as they were to get at the Germans at Neuve Chapelle. They all "make a charge" for it when anything comes from England.

Howe continues, "Perhaps you know how it is out here, and I am going on as well as you can expect. I keep on doing my duty and if I should go under – I hope I don't – I can't grumble. As the old saying goes, "I've had a good run for my money." The Germans asked us to give them a chance, and we did – a dog's chance. It was like playing skittles for a time. I can tell you it was easy enough. I have got a lot of things, but they won't let us send them to England. The wounded can take them and that is how some people have got them in England. If I get a chance I will send you something. I think a lot more will have to come yet. I wish it was all over and I was having a pint of your good old Shardlow. But cheer up! I am not down-hearted, and don't mean to be. Keep smiling.

### **BAD FOR THE HUNS**

Howe has also sent a postcard to the office of this paper which was received on Tuesday morning. He says they are having better weather in France now, which makes it better for getting about. But if it is bad for them it is also bad for the Huns. Howe holds that they are more than holding their own now and they mean to keep pegging away. He comes from the right place for that and there are several more from Whitwick besides himself. He concludes: Keep smiling.

The card is dated April 16<sup>th</sup>, and the writer says he is still alive and kicking and in the best of health.

## COALVILLE TERRITORIAL'S EXPERIENCE

Private Edgar E. A. Boot, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, son of Mr Arthur Boot, of Park Road, Coalville, writing to his father, says they were spotted by a sniper, with the result that one of them got his heel taken off. "A little after that, another of our chaps was on guard, and he just got up to have a look round when he got one through his cheek. Of course, he died very shortly afterwards."

## GIFTS TO ELLISTOWN SOLDIERS

### LETTERS OF THANKS

Ellistown people have not be unmindful of the gallant lads from their parish serving in the forces and Mr H. Brown of 234, Whitehall Road, secretary to the local committee, has received several letters from soldiers, expressing thanks for gifts received. Among these are the following:

*35<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance  
Hillsborough Barracks  
Sheffield*

It is with the greatest pleasure that I send an acknowledgement for the gift I have received. I am pleased to hear that the people of Ellistown think of those who have left good homes to serve their country. Please remember me to the friends and thank them for their gift.

Pte. C. Whittaker

*5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters*

Received cigarette case and was very pleased with the same. Thanking the patriotic friends at Ellistown.

J. B. Bamkin

*Ellistown Hotel*

I received present kindly sent by Patriotic Concert Committee and thank all for same.

S. Black

*Epping, Essex*

Please thank all kind friends for present received while at Luton. It is nice to know that we have friends who think of us while we are away. Hoping to be home before very long.

Pte. W. Mason

*35<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance  
Hillsborough Barracks  
Sheffield*

It gives me the greatest pleasure to write these few lines to you in answer to your gift, which I was very pleased with. Hoping to be remembered to all friends and thanking all who took part in the social and concert.

Pte. Arthur Cooper.

Among others who have written are Pte. Bowley, 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Luton; Pte. B. Farmer, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Luton; and Pte. H. Partner, 4<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, Luton.



## COALVILLE SOLDIER TWICE WOUNDED

### PRIVATE J. WARDLE

Pte. Joseph Wardle, whose widowed mother resides in Margaret Street, has been twice wounded in the war and is now at Windsor. He is in the Coldstream Guards and went out with the First Expeditionary Force, being in the great retreat from Mons. He recovered from a wound and was taking his place again in the firing line fighting near Ypres when he had two fingers shot off. Last week, Wardle paid a short visit home and returned to Windsor.

He is a brother of Private Wardle of the Grenadier Guards, who as reported in a recent issue was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle.

## THRINGSTONE SOLDIER'S EASTER HOLIDAY

### IN CAPTURED GERMAN TRENCHES

An interesting letter has been received by Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head Inn, Thringstone, from Private William Sykes, A. Co. 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters, also a Thringstone man, now at the front.

Sykes expresses thanks to the members of the Buffaloes' Lodge for present of cigarettes which he was very pleased to receive and he would have answered sooner, but on the Sunday night that he received the parcel they were just starting for the trenches and were there for five days. He continues; "We are now out for a short rest before going in again. It seemed a very funny Easter holiday, firing at the Germans night and day for five days. I thought many a time about you and all the boys having the piano going and enjoying yourselves while we were hard at work, but it will only make me think more of the holidays if we live to come back. I am sorry but they will not allow me to send anything home in the shape of relics or else we could send plenty of all sorts of things. The Post Office would have nothing else to do. While we were in the trenches we found all sorts of things – rifles, bayonets, clothes, etc. The trenches we now occupy have been German trenches until they were driven out. There are scores of dead bodies of soldiers and horses lying about which they dare not fetch to bury. It does look a desolate sight. I hope you will have success with the cycle club, and I hope the captain, J. Lee, is well again. The last time I heard from him he was ill in bed. I have not heard any talk of Kitchener's men coming out here yet, so I doubt if Button has landed. I should like to meet him here and hear what he thinks of it. As for \_\_\_\_\_ this is just the place for him. He doesn't know what real soldiering is like yet. He would know more if he was out here night and day in the wet, and not able to go to sleep, but always on the watch for the Germans. Remember me to all the boys and tell H. Weston I wish him success in his promotion. I expect he fancies himself now he is W.P. Must close now, as we are just off for a bath. Will tell you more when I see you again, which I hope will not be long.

P.S. Tell \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we have got a vacant place for them here, if they like to come. They will be close to Tinker, who is in my company. If they let me know when they are coming I will try and meet them.

## Friday April 30<sup>th</sup> 1915 (Issue 1208)

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### RAVENSTONE

#### WHIST DRIVE

A whist drive organised by Miss Cresswell and a committee was held in the Ravenstone School on Wednesday night, the proceeds of which were in aid of the funds of the Soldiers' Comforts Guild.

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## **MARKFIELD**

Councillor Pearse (Leicester) addressed a large audience in the schoolroom, Markfield, on Wednesday evening. His subject "How the British Tommy Fights" illustrated by excellent lantern slides, was most instructive. The lecturer made an eloquent appeal for additional recruits. Mr Preston presided. Songs were sung by Miss Pearse and Mr L. C. Page, and a patriotic recitation was given by Mrs Hatter (Hugglescote).

### **LIFE AT DONINGTON HALL**

#### **GERMAN OFFICERS "LUXURIES"**

##### **CHAMPAGNE BARRED**

Donington Hall and the German officers interred there formed the subject of further inquiry in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon.

Mr Butcher, the Unionist member for York asked whether Mr John B. Jackson, of the American Embassy, in Berlin, was correct in describing Donington Hall as "a beautiful place where there is regularly a hot breakfast, a light meat luncheon, and three course dinner in the evening, and there is also a well stocked wine cellar, wines, beer, champagne, whiskey, etc., and a store from which the prisoners can buy practically anything which they want in the way of food, delicacies or clothing."

Mr Tennant said that officers interred at Donington Hall were allowed to spend up to the maximum of 3s a day on their food. The exact manner in which this might be distributed between the various meals was a matter for local regulation. There was no free rations. Certain wines and beers might be obtained on payment, but champagne was not allowed. (Laughter). Articles of dress, tobacco, etc., might be purchased from the stores.

Mr Butcher asked whether the prisoners were given facilities for playing squash rackets, football, hockey and lawn tennis and whether English girls were allowed to pay them visits.

Mr Tennant said facilities for exercise were given by the provision of suitable ground within the internment area. Prisoners had to pay for whatever apparatus they might require for games. Any prisoner might, with the permission of the commandant, be visited once a month by not more than two persons at a time. These visits took place in the presence of a member of the staff. No rules had been laid down as to age or sex of visitors. (Laughter). The system under which German prisoners of war in Great Britain were being treated was based upon, and did not go beyond the engagements made by this country when she signed The Hague Convention. The Government did not propose to depart from it.

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## **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The Whitwick Colliery employees, in connection with their Death Fund decided to exempt men who enlisted from payment during service with the forces, or until such time as the committee determined. The widow of Pte. Jack Manders, of the Leicesters, is the first to benefit by the fund. Manders was a miner employed by the Whitwick Colliery Company, and a collection taken on Friday realised just over £30 for the widow and two children. In the unfortunate event of any other soldier who was an employee at the Whitwick Colliery losing his life in the country's service the same collection will be made for the dependants and paid from the Death Fund.

As a result of the recruiting effort in Coalville and district on Sunday, when meetings were held at Bagworth, Ellistown, Hugglescote and Coalville, 19 recruits were enrolled. At the four meetings combined it was calculated that at least 8,000 people were addressed and the result was hardly as satisfactory as had been anticipated. There are yet hundreds of young men in the district who would make excellent soldiers and the need for more men cannot be too strongly emphasised. This was the dominant note: "Men, and still more men." Some harrowing stories were told at the Swannington meeting on Monday morning by non-coms who have returned from the front wounded. These were no fairy tales but atrocities committed by the Germans of which the speakers were actual eye witnesses. The very thought of what might happen if ever the Germans

get to England should make the young men stiffen their backs and be determined to do their utmost to prevent it.

A sum of £7 15s was realised by collections at recruiting meetings in Coalville district on Sunday in aid of providing a motor ambulance in Leicester to be used in carrying wounded soldiers. At Bagworth the amount was £2 15s, Ellistown £2, Hugglescote £1 5s and Coalville £1 16s.

An Army Order, issued on Monday states that a slip has been prepared for attachment to the front pages of Territorial force attestation and notice papers with a view to making it clear that men enlisting into the Territorial Force during the period of war and entitled to claim a free discharge at the end of the war.

A new recruiting campaign has been set in operation, "The man the army wants now" to quote the heading of the new poster issued by the War Office, is not only the soldier but the worker in armament factories. It is no secret that the supply of fitters, turners, machine hands and unskilled labour, is seriously inadequate to the demands for war material. Steps are being taken to induce local authorities to release all the suitable men in their employ, and Lord Kitchener made an urgent appeal for volunteers to assist in increasing the output of guns, shells and rifle ammunition. They are not asked to submit to military discipline, but they are regarded as serving their King and Country as truly as if they were in the trenches. It may be that a mistake was made at the outset in allowing so many skilled mechanics to enlist, but the mischief has now been done, and it only remains to organise all the resources that are available in order to furnish the troops in the field with an unceasing amount of ammunition.

Interesting letters from Pte. A. Emmerson, to the Bagworth schoolmaster, (Mr J. C. Williams) and Pte. A. Lucas to the manager of the Whitwick Quarry (Mr J. H. Robinson) have been forwarded on to us for publication, but are unavoidably held over till next week. We have to submit all soldier's letters to the Press Bureau in London for sanction and these did not reach us in time to enable this to be done this week.

#### **DO YOU KNOW**

That the lamp in Coalville Market Place which is lighted all night, has been blackened at the top in case of a German air raid?

That two machine guns captured from the Germans will be included in the Coalville charity parade on Whit Monday?

That a tea, social and dance is to be held by the Women's Adult School Knitting Party in the Adult School Hall on Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, for the Soldiers' Comforts Guild?

That recruiting meetings are to be held in Coalville Market Place tonight (Friday) and on the Fox and Goose ground tomorrow afternoon?

That an illustrated lecture for recruiting purposes is to be given by Councillor Pearse, of Leicester, at the Coalville Olympia (kindly lent) next Sunday night?

That at the spring assembly of the Baptist Union, at Bloomsbury, on Tuesday, the president, the Rev. J. T. Forbes, introduced to the assembly 15 Baptist chaplains shortly bound for the front?

#### **MARKFIELD**

#### **RECRUITING MEETING**

A public meeting for the purpose of obtaining recruits for the army was held in the Church Institute on Wednesday evening, the Rev. H. K. Bros, presiding, when a very stirring and patriotic address was given by Mr R. J. Allen. Five names were given in at the close of the meeting which terminated by the hearty singing of the National Anthem.

## **BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors in connection with this fund was held in the Adult School Hall, Bridge Road, on Monday evening last. The hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported the 25<sup>th</sup> collection from 8 districts realised £4 9s.

## **SOCIAL**

On Wednesday evening a social and dance were held in the Progressive Hall at the Coalville Liberal Club in aid of the funds of the Soldiers' Comforts Guild. There was a fair attendance Messrs. T. Kirby and F. Dent were M.C.'s and Mr J. Cooper played for dancing. Mr W. Burton sang.

## **SOLDIERS' COMFORTS GUILD**

### **TO THE COALVILLE DISTRICT MEN AT THE FRONT**

The Guild has discontinued sending mufflers and similar warm comforts but if any of you want socks to help you on your march to Berlin we women will be very glad to send them out to you if you will send your full regimental address, and also your house address to the hon. secretary of the Guild, Mrs L. L. Baldwin, 88, London Road, Coalville.

Will those who see this letter please tell any other Coalville District men about it.

## **MARKET BOSWORTH POLICE COURT**

### **FOOTBALL AT BAGWORTH**

Robert Bennett, soldier, Sidney Bennett, carter, Wilfred Bevins, collier, William Sperry, clerk, Richard Bateman, Ernest Bennett, Sidney Murby, Alfred Farmer, George Reed and Robert Webster, pit boys, were summoned for playing football on the highway at Bagworth, on April 15<sup>th</sup>. They failed to appear. P.C. Sreaton said he was in plain clothes when he saw all defendants playing football in the street with a tennis ball. He had cautioned them before, the same day and on other occasions. Defendants were each fined 5s or 5 days, the case against Robert Bennett, the soldier, being withdrawn.

### **TO AWAIT AN ESCORT**

William Ashwell, soldier, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, was summoned for being a deserter from the regiment at Purbrook since March 26<sup>th</sup>. Evidence was given by P.C. Shaw and defendant was remanded to await an escort.

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## **DESFORD BOYS COMMISSIONED IN THE ARMY**

A meeting of the Leicester Education Committee was held on Monday evening, and was presided over by the Mayor. The reports, summaries of which have already been published, contained no contentious matters. A note of sadness was imparted to the proceedings by the statement that seven old Desford schoolboys had been killed and 21 wounded at the war, but not a little pride was felt when Councillor Sault mentioned that two old boys had been given commissions in the army. The report of the school was again excellent, and equally satisfactory was the testimonial of the work that is being done at the Boys' Home in Highcross Street. Satisfaction was expressed at the progress Mr Oxley was making towards recovery from his severe illness and, incidentally, the Mayor expressed regret that Mr Groves is somewhat seriously indisposed.

### **WHITWICK EGGS FOR SOLDIERS**

The following is a statement as to the number of eggs collected by Mr R. Sharp, of Whitwick, and sent to the wounded soldiers in the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital, Leicester:

Mr Robert Sharp, Whitwick – 100  
Mrs Swift, Greenhill – 30  
Mrs W. T. Hull – 30  
Miss Bell, Castle Rock – 20  
Miss Thirlby – 20  
Mr G. T. Harding – 20  
Mrs James, Forest Rock – 14  
Mr Joseph Merriman – 14  
Mrs Beale, Greenhill – 12  
Mr Glyn, Whitwick – 12  
Mrs Neale, Greenhill – 12  
Mrs A. J. Briers – 12  
Mrs Thompson – 12  
Mrs Popples – 12  
Mrs Black, Whitwick Waste – 10  
Mrs Pepper, Greenhill – 10  
Mr W. Ward, Castle Rock Cottage – 10  
Mr H. Stinson – 10  
Mr Downes – 10  
Mr G. McCarthy – 10  
Mr Thomas Kelly – 10  
Mr J Tacey – 6  
Mr W. Berridge – 6  
Mrs Belcher – 6  
Friend – 2

Total = 410

### **RECRUITING CAMPAIGN AT COALVILLE**

#### **SUNDAY A BUSY DAY**

Sunday was a busy day in the Coalville district with representatives of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee meetings being held at Bagworth, Ellistown, Hugglescote and Coalville. The Leicester Ivanhoe Band gave their services and paraded at each place, playing patriotic airs. All the meetings were well attended, particularly at Bagworth and Coalville, and collections were made for a Red Cross motor ambulance to be used at Leicester.

The speakers were Councillor C. Pearse, Mr F. Tippetts, and Mr Rands, all of Leicester, and Capt. Stevenson, the local recruiting officer. The Coalville meeting was attended by about two thousand people in Marlborough Square. Mr Rands, who is a socialist, occupied the chair, and in the course of his opening remarks said he had preached the gospel of socialism, but today, all parties were united in one common aim and that was to defeat the Germans. He pointed out that the aristocrats of the country had responded nobly to the call and were shedding their blood in the country's cause and he asked had the workers nothing to fight for? Would it be nothing to them if their homes, their furniture were smashed up, their wives violated and children slain? It was up to every eligible young man to enlist to defend their homes and friends. (Cheers).

Mr F. Tippetts said they were out for men. The German doctrine was Might v. Right, but ours was Right v. Might. Germany was placarded all over with the words: "Gott strafe England" – which meant 'God punish

England' – and German children are being taught the gospel of hate. If it was necessary to bring the name of the Deity into this terrible business, Englishmen did not say, "God punish Germany," but "God forgive Germany." He went on to say that whatever might be the outcome of the war, today the Germans were victors. They occupied a large portion of Belgium, of France, and of Russian Poland and until they were driven out the real struggle had not commenced. It was a struggle for supremacy. The Belgian army were defending 16 miles of frontier, the British troops 33 miles, the French troops 583 miles and the Russians 1,800 miles. When they considered that the Germans, with the aid of the Austrians, were engaged on all those miles of frontier and blocking the Allies progress, they would realise how well organised the enemy was. The Allies had not made progress since they drove the Germans back from their mad rush on Paris and it was the "contemptible little army" that did that. They appealed to all young men between the ages of 19 and 38 to come forward and enlist and assist in driving the Germans back. At Neuve Chapelle within 20 minutes of the sounding of the advance, the Leicesters were over three lines of the German trenches. Did not that stir their blood? Go and help your pals, he urged. He recently heard a story of a West Kent soldier who had just returned from the front bringing some trophies with him and offered £5 for a German helmet, but the soldier's reply was, "Why don't you go where they can be picked up for nothing?" They are giving them away in France, said Mr Tippetts, so join this pleasure trip to the continent and get a German helmet for nothing.

### **CHEERS FOR A COALVILLE SOLDIER**

Councillor C. Pearse said he was pleased to be on the same platform with his old opponent Mr Rands. For over nine years, week in and week out, Mr Rands had fought him at his meetings in Leicester Market Place, but all parties were united today. As a Unionist he supported the Government today, because they were up against the greatest thing known in history. He then called for three cheers for a Coalville soldier, Sergt.-Major T. Dooley, who had been made a Lieutenant in His Majesty's Army.

The cheers were heartily given and Councillor Pearse went on to say that our men were fighting for King, for law, for liberty. He asked trade unionists to remember the most precious thing they possessed was liberty. He heard one trade unionist say that he had no quarrel with the Germans and they had done nothing at him. The reason for that, said Mr Pearse, was that they had not had a chance to get at him. What did they do in Belgium? Another person had said that he could not enlist because his teacher had told him that he should love his enemies. Again he reminded them of what the Germans had done and said it would be much worse if they got to England. He had heard three boys and three girls talking in that crowd, and one of the former said, "I am not going till I am fetched." A young man was not worthy to walk out with a girl who was not prepared to defend her. The country would not fetch them and they would be branded cowards. He referred to the movement to release shop assistants, urging that women could sell cheese, butter and other things just as well as men and he suggested Captain Stevenson should send round every shop in Coalville, urging for the release of every eligible young man. Some of the young fellows made it an excuse for not going that they were supporting their mothers, but he pointed out that the Government made an allowance to mothers and other dependants which increased in amount according to the scale of allotment by the soldier himself and they could go out and know that their mothers would be well provided for. If there were any cases where that was not so, he said they should be brought to the notice of the recruiting committee, who had already rectified a number of cases.

Captain Stevenson also made an appeal to the young men to come forward and said that if any do so who were physically unfit he was prepared to give them a certificate to that effect. Coalville had done well, but when they remembered the number of young men there were in the district, it ought to do better. (Cheers).

Nineteen recruits were enrolled during the day.

### **MEETING AT SWANNINGTON**

A meeting was held in Culvert Square, Swannington, on Monday morning with the object of drawing the colliers who work on the night shift. Prior to the meeting, Desford Industrial School Band paraded the village playing patriotic airs.

Mr W. Baldwin presided, and was supported by Capt. Stevenson and five non-commissioned officers from Wigston, who have been wounded at the front and are now convalescent. These were Sergt.-Major Pugh, Sergt. Arnold, Sergt. Edwards, Corpl. Bradshaw and Corpl. Williamson.



The chairman said he came among them as a friend and neighbour and he felt the position somewhat keenly, that after eight months of war he should have to be appealing for recruits. There were few families in Swannington had not one or more representatives serving in the colours in one branch or another, but it was deplorable to think that there were yet over 50 young men in that village who had not sufficient respect for their friends or patriotism enough to come forward.

Capt. Stevenson said he visited Swannington on several occasions and must say that he was disappointed at the response. Swannington still had a large number of available young men, it was the working classes which had the greatest privileges to protect. If the Germans were to get into Swannington, instead of enjoying an eight hour shift and a minimum wage, the colliers would be forced to dig trenches for the enemy and would have to be thankful to receive a little food and recognition. They would also undoubtedly suffer abuses, their wives and children would be violated and their whole freedom taken away. It was up to them to defend the privileges they had enjoyed.

An appeal was made by the wounded officers who said more men were urgently wanted and those in trenches out there were looking for the young fellows in England to go and give them a hand. One of the corporals described some ghastly things committed by the Germans which he had himself seen. In one house he saw a baby lying dead with both its ears cut off, while in another room a number of Germans were violating the mother. He concluded: If you can stand that without being determined to go and do your part to avenge such acts then all I can say is, God help you.

Capt. Stevenson said that was no tale. What the corporal had told them he saw himself. And if the Germans ever got to England; it would be ten times worse. It was up to every able-bodied young man to come forward and enlist for the duration of the war. They were only wanted while the war lasted and when peace was declared could take their discharge and come home with honour.

The Recruiting Sergeant moved about among the people inviting likely young men to give in their names, but the result of this meeting was not very encouraging.

#### **OTHER MEETINGS**

A similar meeting was held at Ellistown on Monday night, Desford on Tuesday, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe on Wednesday and Ashby last night.

#### **COPT OAK SOLDIER KILLED**

News has just been received that Val Hull was killed in action on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, "somewhere in France." He enlisted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bedfords in September, and only went to the front last month. He was 19 years of age. The deceased was a valued chorister and ringer at the Parish Church, and on Sunday the flag was flown at half-mast, muffled peals were rung on the bells, and at the conclusion of evening service the organist played the Dead March in Saul.

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#### **ASHBY COUNTY COURT**

#### **COALVILLE DEBTOR ENLISTS**

Wilfred Fern, collier, Mammoth Street, Coalville applied for an administration order, his debts amounting to £17/13/4 which he offered to pay at 5s a month until 15s in the pound was paid. A letter was received stating that since sending in his application, debtor had joined the army. Under these circumstances the Judge said he could not deal with it. The clerk said the creditors could not do anything with the man.

The Judge: They might break into his house. I think I must protect a man who has gone to the front. I will adjourn the application and grant a protection order.

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## RISEN FROM THE RANKS

### COMMISSION FOR A COALVILLE SOLDIER

#### LIEUT. T. DOOLEY

Many congratulations will be offered by Coalville people to Lieut. T. Dooley on having been awarded a commission in His Majesty's Army. The gallant soldier is an old Coalville British School boy, and a son of Mr T. Dooley, of 122, Margaret Street. He joined the army, (Leicesters) 12 years ago and has spent nine years in India, being there when the war broke out. He came over with the Indian Expeditionary Force to France and has been taking part in the fighting. He was by the side of Corpl. Jack Sheffield when the latter fell at Neuve Chapelle. Only two months ago he was made Company Sergeant-Major. The news of his further promotion, announced at a meeting in Marlborough Square, Coalville, on Sunday afternoon, was enthusiastically cheered by a crowd of about two thousand people. He was married in March last and his wife is still in India.



Lieut. Dooley is every inch a soldier and has done remarkably well since adopting the army as his profession. For four years he has acted as a gymnasium instructor and he was captain of the regimental football team in India, having played for Coalville Town during the latter years of his civilian life.

His father, who is 67 years of age, had to give up work as a miner 12 months last August owing to receiving a blow in the eye while in the pit, and we regret to say that he is now nearly blind. The sight of the injured eye has completely gone and that of the other is affected. He is receiving compensation from the owners of Snibston Colliery in which, excepting a brief interval, he worked for 57 years. For 18 years he was master of the old Snibston (later Coalville Town) Brass Band being a soprano cornet player of great merit and allowing for the short interval that he was away in Yorkshire, he was in the band for 45 years. He has four sons and six daughters living and three of the former are serving in the army. In addition to the lieutenant there are Ptes. Joseph Dooley (R.A.M.C.) and Fred Dooley (Sherwood Foresters). They are both married and have wives and families living at Cresswell.

### FORMER COALVILLE SCOUT'S MESSAGE

#### "KEEP ROLLING UP"

Pte. T. H. Bagshaw writes to Mr W. Baldwin, of Coalville, as follows:

"I am serving in the R.A.M.C. and have done for the past five months. I hope the Coalville boys keep rolling up. There is no mistake we have done remarkably well in Leicestershire, but there are still a lot more who are fit for service in the British army and navy.

I hope what is left of the Coalville troop of Boy Scouts are still doing the good work they were doing before I left them. I think that all the senior boys have enlisted, and I think it is only right that each one should be presented with an 'Old Scout Badge,' which is obtainable at headquarters. I am the only one serving at this hospital from Coalville Brigade, and it is up to me to keep up the honour of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. We are finding plenty to do, but you can always find that wherever you go. We have had two convoys of wounded in a fortnight, each consisting of 116 and 118 respectively.

Before those came in, we had over a thousand. I recommend every young man who holds a nursing, or ambulance certificate to enlist at once. There are hundreds wanted to play several football finals – grounds somewhere in Berlin. And as soon as they sign the forms, the times and dates can be fixed. My last appeal is: Keep rolling up Coalville. The Recruiting Office is in Hotel Street.

I must close now, you may show Captain Stevenson this if you like. Perhaps he will not remember me, but I played a bugle for recruits at Appleby Magna by his request, and if you think it would be a draw for recruits, you may use what you want in the "Coalville Times."

Pte. T. H. Bagshaw  
Known as Boy Humorist and Entertainer  
No. 1 Barrack Room, 28,205, R.A.M.C.  
R.H. Hospital, Woolwich.



### COALVILLE SOLDIER THINKS OF HIS CHILD

#### "KISS HER FOR ME"

Pte. A. Brownlow, writing from the front to his wife at 83, Margaret Street, Coalville, expresses thanks for a letter and parcel received safely. The weather is getting nice out there now and the socks sent were rather too thick. He thanks his wife's dad for the twist sent and says he has smoked it all and would like a bit more, though he has plenty of the other sort of bacca. The latter burns his tongue, but it is better than none at all and so he puts up with it. He proceeds, "I saw Tom Grainger last night and he told me to remember him to all friends at Coalville. We are out of the trenches for a little while and I will drop you a few lines before we go in again. Ask your dad whether our Lily (writer's child) meets him coming home from the pits. Bless her! I shall be glad when she can come and meet me again. Kiss Lily for me."

In another letter written to his father and mother on April 18<sup>th</sup>, Brownlow thanks them for sending him more of his favourite "twist." He goes on to say that he is quite well and asks his dad whether little Lily comes to meet him like she used to. The weather is improving now out there and it is much better for getting about. "I am in the trenches again for a little while," he says, "and it is a treat when the weather is alright." He enquires how the pits are working and hopes his father and brother have been doing well.

### BAGWORTH SOLDIER A PRISONER

#### MORE FOOD WANTED

A letter was received this week from Pte. G. Bevins (Bagworth), now prisoner of war in Germany, addressed by Mr G. Swan of Bagworth. The letter is as follows:

Dear George, - I now write in answer to yours. I received your first letter and money safely. I was quite pleased to hear from you and glad to receive the money. It was most kind of you to think of me and I shall never forget your kindness and if you ever need any help and I am able to help you I shall be most willing to do it. I have thought of the many kind friends that contributed and of many old friends since I have been here, but owing to my ill luck I am a prisoner, but I am quite alright. I did what I could so cannot help it. I am going on as well as you can expect. I hope it will soon be warmer, it is so cold up here. If you hear of anyone wanting to send me anything, tell them they can send food up to 11 lbs I weight free. Kindly remember me to Jackie and tell him his son is keeping his spirits up as best he can. Tell him there are plenty of pork pies coming. Tell Sambo I shall try to and catch him up or have a good try, at 4d a pint. We are allowed to smoke but cannot get any Woodbines here. Many thanks George, I shall not forget your kindness, so goodbye till we meet at Bagworth. Good luck, yours, etc.

George Bevins.

## **DEATH OR VICTORY**

### **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S THRILLING LETTER**

Pte. Charles Cope, of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Staffs. Regt., writing from France to his parents at Waterworks Road, Coalville, states that he is in the best of health. He says how letters are appreciated by the soldiers at the front. They cannot write as much as they would like as the letters have to pass through the hands of the officers, but he asks his friends to "buck up" till he returns. It may be years and it may be never, but he is hoping to return some day. He goes on to relate how a mate in his regiment was killed by his side from a shell and says it was terrible, but they are Britons and don't have to think of death. If the war is not over in about five months from now he thinks he may last years. He has had a slight wound in the leg, but nothing serious and he has now left off the bandages. He asks them not to fear for him as he is strong and can meet three Germans. He stabbed one through the heart with his bayonet, into another he put a leaden bullet and the third he met with the butt end of his gun. "We are in a happy land" he says, "amidst shot and shell. You should see them spread as we go to meet them. It is death or victory all the time."

## **WHEN THE ZEPPELIN CAME**

### **COALVILLE R.A.M.C. MAN'S EXCITING EXPERIENCE**

Pte. G. Hodson, son of Mr and Mrs J. Hodson, of High Street, Coalville, who is serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps in France, writing to Mr Fred Henson, of Coalville, says:

"I hope you are quite well, as it leaves me not so bad at present. I saw Goodman's letter in the "Coalville Times" and was glad to know that he was well. I am not in the trenches so get off a little better than them, but we see plenty of the wounded and at present we are taking the Leicestershire Territorials in. I went and saw them as they came out of the trenches. I saw Sergt. Roland Hill and Lieut. A. T. Sharp, who at present are quite well. I often think about you and when I saw Goody's letter thought I would write you. Have you got the old car yet and the phonograph? I shall be glad to see the Olympia once again and the Engineer's Arms. I want to tell you of our scare the other night. We were all asleep when suddenly we heard a bang. I looked out of the window and saw a Zeppelin. They dropped any amount of bombs, but did little damage. I hope to hear from you soon, as a letter from an old pal cheers us up."

## **SAW HIS COMRADE FALL**

### **COALVILLE TERRITORIAL'S INTERESTING LETTER**

The following are extracts from a letter of Private John George Bennett to his parents, Mr and Mrs J. R. Bennett, of Coalville, dated April 20<sup>th</sup>.

"The sun is shining lovely and it is quite hot today, but the nights are chilly. We have not long come out of the trenches and shall be in again by the time you get this. Our brigade band is now playing about four miles from the firing line and the artillery is quiet; it makes one forget almost there is a war on. Being in the trenches is a most trying time and we need a rest every \_\_\_\_\_ days, but they do their best for us when we come out, as can be seen by the thoughtfulness of the band. I am writing to Mrs Baldwin and Miss Drewett having received the socks. Thanks very much for the parcel; please send as many parcels as you like of eatables. I do like chocolate. Besides it being nutritious, it is handy to nibble at in the trenches, finding something nice to do.

When we are in the trenches we neither receive anything, nor send anything so I cannot write so often now. This is my third letter to you, the two previous ones being destroyed through having to meet yours waiting for me. I write as often as possible. You keep writing for it is such a pleasure to have a lot of news from home. I don't know what you would think about the havoc wrought by big guns near the fighting, every house is blown to bits and dead bodies lie about where it is dangerous to bury them; most are between our lines and the Germans which are 100 yards apart here. Convey to Mr S. Boot my sincere sympathy about the death of Sam. I was not far away when he was shot through the head and may tell him where Sam is buried after the war. It may be some condolence to his father to know he was doing his best and was buried properly with the church rites. I felt it a bit myself, knowing him since we were kids.

We do see life here and things that peaceful Coalville people would be horrified and faint at, we take not the slightest notice of now.

Tell Mr Holmes I will write a good letter soon and thank him for his card and good wishes. Miss \_\_\_\_\_ has sent me some writing material now so I shall need none for a week or two unless I get it pinched. Kind regards to the other neighbours and all who ask about me. I read Mr Guttery's lecture in the "Coalville Times." I hope you have a prosperous anniversary day. I should have liked to have been with you but impossible. Give 5s of my money as subscription.

Keep on wishing me good luck and I know I shall be permitted to see you again. Tell Morley we live sometimes in little places in the ground that would just suit a boy like him, also there are plenty of nice fireworks here at night."

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

#### **ADVERTISEMENT BRINGS INTERESTING LETTER**

Mr F. Gregory, manager of Goodly's Worcestershire Furnishing Company, Market Street, Leicester, writes forwarding a letter he has received from a soldier in France which mentions the "Coalville Times" and shows that this paper, with its advertisements, gets a wide circulation. The letter is from Mr G. W. Massey, representative of Swinnerton's Ltd., Hanley, Staffs, who writes from No. 4, General Hospital, France, as follows:

"Dear Mr Gregory, - I have just picked up a copy of the "Coalville Times" and seeing your advertisement in same caused me to think you might like to have a line from me. I joined our local 'Terriers' at the outbreak of the war and after severe training we were sent out here, where we have been doing our little bit. I had the misfortune to stop a bullet on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and have been here since Easter Monday, on which day the bullet was extracted from my neck. From what the doctor tells me and what I can see now for myself, I have had a very narrow escape, for it missed my jugular vein only by the smallest fraction of an inch. In spite of all, I am pleased to say I am now on a fair way to complete recovery and feeling very little the worse for my experience. I have quite a lot of news but, of course, we have to keep within bounds and not say too much. I shall be very pleased to get a line from you. Also if you see Mr Kirkman and Mr Wood will you please give them my kindest regards and say I should like to hear from them. If I get a chance I will drop them a word. Trusting that you are keeping in the best of health and that there is plenty of business about, etc."

### **ELLISTOWN**

#### **SOLDIER'S WEDDING**

At St. Christopher's Church on Wednesday in last week, the marriage took place of Pte. Harry Lagoe, of the Rifle Brigade, only son of Mr and Mrs G. B. Lagoe, and Miss M. Chiswell, of Ellistown. The Vicar (the Rev. F. Boothby) performed the ceremony before a good congregation. The bride, who wore a grey costume and hat to match, was given away by her brother, Mr J. Chiswell, and was attended by two nieces as bridesmaids, Misses S and E. Galman, of Sheffield. They were dressed in navy blue with velvet hats trimmed with red roses. Mr A. Richardson, of Hugglescote, acted as best man. After the ceremony a number of friends were entertained by Mr and Mrs G. B. Lagoe. The bridegroom had been invalided home from the front with frost-bitten feet but has now recovered and this week returned to his regiment's headquarters.

### **COALVILLE 'TERRIERS' CHEERFUL**

#### **IN THE TRENCHES WHILE COALVILLE CUP FINAL WAS ON**

Writing from the front on April 19<sup>th</sup> to friends at Coalville, Pte. T. H. Underwood, who was one of the first 50 Territorials to leave Coalville, states: "I am pleased to say that I am going on alright. We have been in action in the first line of trenches and are now out for a rest before going in again. You cannot imagine what it is like in the trenches only when you are here. It's bullets above, around and everywhere and the large guns fairly deafen you. We are in the very thick of the fighting but of course, cannot say where we are. Every man is intent on victory, although we are having to rough it in many ways. Though we are facing death all the time, yet we are all in good spirits and you would find us whistling and singing favourite tunes. The Germans are good shots. They are soldiers, but the boys are equal to them in any way. I don't know how we should have

fared without the 'Terriers.' I have dropped across several old chums and faces from Coalville and had a good long chat with them. Thanks for "Coalville Times" and good wishes. Its so nice and cheery to read home news. We are hoping that the war will soon be finished and that we shall soon be home again. Although up to now we shall not all come back, but I have good faith that I shall come through alright. I was in the trenches when the Coalville Cup final was on and it was the first time I have missed it. I hope Whitwick will pull it off in the re-play. Remember me to all and Lawrence (his brother, who is also at the front) also wishes to be remembered."

#### **COALVILLE TERRITORIAL KILLED**

Pte. E. S. Boot, of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Territorials, who, as reported in our last issue was killed in action on April 15<sup>th</sup>, being shot through the head. He was a son on Mr Sam Boot, secretary of the Coalville Liberal Club, for whom, with the mother and other members of the family, much sympathy is felt. Before the war, the deceased soldier was employed at Messrs. Stableford's Works.

He was a member of the Coalville Men's Adult School, in which his father is also an official, and when the school met on Sunday morning, it was evident that the sad event was keenly felt by the members. The president (Mr B. B. Drewett) made suitable reference to it and expressed sympathy with the bereaved parents, which the members passed in silence by standing.



#### **COALVILLE SOLDIER IN THE TRENCHES**

Pte. Jack Measures of the Leicesters, with the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, writing to friends at Coalville, states that he is well and is hoping to return safely. He asks for a "Coalville Times" to be sent to him and mentions that Arthur Brownlow is a few miles from where he is. He says they are taking turns in the trenches and are going on alright.