

# Coalville Times At War

**Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1183)**

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## **BELGIAN REFUGEES**

### **RELIEF COMMITTEE'S MEETING AT HUGGLESCOTE**

On Thursday evening, last week, the committee for the Coalville and District Belgian Relief Fund met to report progress in their work. Mr B. B. Drewitt presided and a large number were present, every district being represented. The meeting had been arranged the previous Monday, it was thought desirable to postpone it until after the public meetings had been held in support of the fund. Minutes of last meeting were read by Mr W. Cannon and confirmed. The collectors are the same as appointed for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, and their reports were considered very satisfactory. A total of £20 1s 3d was handed in as the result of the first visit. The sum included several donations, amongst them being a contribution from the relatives of soldiers and sailors now in receipt of relief from the Soldier's and Sailor's Relief Committee through the local secretary, Mrs Wykes. The amounts promised for weekly contribution were then reported (taken at their minimum) and will probably stand at £8. In addition to promises in money a large number of gifts were reported including bedsteads, tables, utensils of various kinds – several weekly gifts of bread and in one case 10s worth of grocery per week, delivered at Broom Leys. After the reports had been presented, conversation on one or two matters ensued.

One collector asked what was to be said to a resident who express willingness to provide a home for a woman and child and who felt aggrieved and refused to contribute because no favourable reply had been received. It was pointed out that neither this Committee nor the Central one had the least power in the disposition of refugees, and that the tremendous weight of business to be transacted by the head Committee in London would be sufficient explanation of delayed correspondence; moreover for every reason homes where the Belgians could be located together are preferred, and in every way more desirable than scattering the people in small numbers. The foregoing report does not include the Ellistown district, which will be presented later.

It was decided that payments to the Prince of Wales's Fund, (the importance of which was specially emphasised) and the Belgian Relief Fund, be made to the secretaries every Thursday evening at 7.45.

## **THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND**

### **SCALES OF RELIEF**

The following statement has been circulated by the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress in connection with the Prince of Wales's Fund.

Considerable variation exists among local representative committees in the giving of relief out of grants from the Prince of Wales's Fund and local funds administered in co-operation with it. Many requests have been received from committees for guidance with regard to the scale of relief to be adopted.

It has, therefore, been decided at a joint meeting of the Government Committee for the Protection and Relief of Distress and the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, to recommend scales to determine whether any minor modifications shall be introduced to meet local variations of circumstances.

It is to be understood that, in the application of the scale which is adopted, the principle must be observed that in every case relief granted shall be appreciably lower than wages. The following are the typical scales recommended:

## Outside

	London		London	
	s	d	s	d
One Adult	10	0	8	0
Two Adults	14	0	12	0
Each Additional Adult	4	6	4	6
Two Adults and 1 Child	15	6X	13	6X
Two Adults and 2 Children	17	0X	12	6X
Two Adults and 3 Children	18	6X	16	6X
Two Adults and 4 Children	20	0X	18	0X
One Adult and 1 Child	11	6X	9	6X
Each Additional Child	1	6X	1	6X
Maximum for 1 Household	20	0	18	0

X – Less 6d per week in respect of each child receiving meals at school.

In determining the amount of relief to be granted, all sources of income at present available to the household must be taken into consideration and must be deducted from the amount specified on the scale, but it is proposed that for this purpose income from savings (including sickness and unemployment benefit) should not be deducted except in so far as such income exceeds 5s a week.

## LEICESTER RELIEF

### LARGE DROP IN APPLICATIONS

It was reported on Monday that the number of applications to the Leicester War Relief Committee last week fell to less than one half those registered in the previous week, there being only 30 applications, as against 67. The greater part of these were soldiers' dependants who were in difficulty through not receiving their allowances. The number of military cases helped during the week was 178 and the amount spent £65, all due to shortage in allowances. The number of civil cases was 79, to whom £32 was paid. Since the committee was formed no fewer than 1,146 civil and 1,692 military cases have been relieved.

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## HOME DEFENCE AT HUGGLESCOTE

### CITIZEN'S CORPS FORMED

A public meeting was held in the Hugglescote National School on Saturday night, to consider the proposed formation of a Citizen's Corps. Mr J. Lester presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Lieut. Jamie and Councillors F. Griffin and S. Armson.

The Chairman said they all recognised the seriousness of the position, but England knew that every man would do his duty and also make himself fit to do it. He referred to the formation of a corps at Coalville and they thought it would be better to have a squad at Hugglescote rather than join Coalville, though it was not that they loved Coalville any the less. They considered they could do better by getting together at Hugglescote. He believed this movement as now recognised by the Government and their desire was to render themselves fit to take their part should the necessity arise. He was pleased to say that owing to the kindness of the Hugglescote Conservative Club and Institute they could have the large room for drill free of charge except on Monday and Wednesday evenings. (Cheers) He read a letter to that effect from the secretary to the company Mr E. Darby.

Mr F. Griffin said they were living in stirring times. England was going through such a crisis as she had never met with before. The arms and numbers of men pitted against them were without a parallel in the history of the world. So far they had not felt the effects of the war very much at Hugglescote, but they did not know how it would affect them as time went on. Kaiser Bill and his henchmen would do anything to cross the little streak of water with his horde of savages to get to this country and if that happened worse things would

occur than they had read of as having happened in Belgium and France. He was sure that the citizens of Hugglescote would do their utmost and that the movement, when started, would go well. (Hear, hear)

Mr S. Armson said they had all read in the papers what had been taking place and they were well aware of the position. They were fighting a dirty foe and had to be prepared should the Germans get here. He had tried to picture what was transpiring on the Continent and what it would be like if it extended to England. It was the duty of every young man to serve his country in this crisis and older citizens must be prepared to make sacrifices for the country they all loved. The time had come when they should act and be prepared to meet any emergency that might arise. He had never seen a drill in his life and did not know what it was like, but he was prepared to take his coat off and go into it. (Hear, hear) He hoped there would be a good response and that they would all assist in what might prove to be one of the most important movements ever started in Hugglescote. (Cheers)

Captain Stevenson said this thing had been coming on for years and if the country six years ago had taken the advice of that fine old soldier, Lord Roberts (cheers) he believed they would not have this war because there were six million men in this country between the ages of 19 and 35 and they would then all have been trained and ready to take up arms. The age had now been raised to 38 which meant that they wanted more men. Lord Kitchener was appealing for another 100,000. He (the captain) had been speaking sharply to the youngsters of late, but he did not want them to be pressed into service and labelled a coward for the rest of their lives. But if they did not volunteer they might be fetched. He went on to allude to the plucky stand of the Belgians and the horrible deeds committed by the Germans. Warfare today was very different from what it was in the Boer War. It was now carried on not only on land and sea, but in the air and under the sea. It was a terrible thing but they had to prepare for the worst and make themselves fit to meet the enemy. Three years ago, he started the National Reserves in this district and some of the men were now rendering excellent service. He had no doubt that the Citizen Corps would prove as useful a body. It would be no use coming to Hugglescote at the last moment and asking a hundred men to do something if they were not prepared. Organisation was needed and they must drill and make themselves efficient. He was pleased at the way the movement had taken on. There were a thousand in the Citizen Corps in Leicester, 180 at Hinckley, 145 at Coalville and 145 at Ashby. (Cheers) He believed there would be a good company at Hugglescote. The war was a long way from being over. They could not expect our soldiers back again this Christmas or the next. They had to bring the Germans to their knees (cheers) and peace would have to be signed not in London or Paris, but in Berlin. (Cheers) Men over 35 were eligible to join the Citizens' Corps, but not under, except in circumstances as they would then be eligible for Kitchener's army or the Territorials. They would be required to drill two nights a week and as they advanced in proficiency he imagined many interesting contests between the Hugglescote, Coalville and Whitwick corps when the light nights came on again. The Fox and Goose was an excellent ground and he anticipated much activity there next summer. The exceptions in which men under 35 could join the corps was those not medically fit to join the army, men in the second class National Reserves who might be called up at any time, or Government officials whose duties prevented them from joining the army. It must be strictly remembered that the Citizens' Corps was not a back way out for any young fellow not joining the army. He was sure that when the citizens had had a few drills and marches they would shame some of the youngsters who were holding back. After they had given in their names they should form a committee and fix those nights for drills a week so as to meet the convenience of them all. They would drill two nights a week and could then choose their nights. He referred to the 50 Coalville Territorials who left for Luton on Friday to join the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was under 12 hours notice to be ready to leave for some place they knew not where. They were as smart a lot of recruits as anyone could wish to see. (Cheers)

The Chairman said there were a few smart young men in Hugglescote who had joined the Territorial recruits and had not gone with the batch of 50 and some people had wondered why. He had made enquiries and found it was because they were so smart they were required at home to assist in the drilling of the recruits. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson and those young fellows were most eager to go, but they could not let all the smartest boys go and leave no one to assist the drill instructors. Those lads had remained as privates, but when the promotions came along they would have stripes on their arms as non-commissioned officers and he would be glad to congratulate them. (Cheers)

Questions were asked whether those who had joined at Coalville would be transferred to Hugglescote and the captain said they could. Mr C. Whatnall said a young married man with three or four children ought to be allowed to join the Citizens' Corps though under 35.

Capt. Stevenson said he agreed to a certain extent, but they had to draw a hard and fast line somewhere. He admitted it was hard on some. Under 35 men were eligible for Kitchener's army of the Territorials whether they were married or not. Provision was made for the wives and children.

It was pointed out by Mr Jennings that the age limit for Kitchener's army was now 38; why fix this at 35. Capt. Stevenson said 35 was the age when the Citizens' Corps commenced and they could not keep changing about.

Mr Boothby asked whether there was any limits as to height. Some of them were like Zaccheus, not very tall.

Capt. Stevenson said there was no restriction in regard to that.

It was decided on the motion of Mr W. E. Canner that a corps be formed and 21 names were enrolled. The following were appointed as a committee:

Messrs. F. Griffin, S. Armson, A. Griffin, J. Woods, W. Meadows, J. Lester and G. Langley.

### **CHIEF'S GENEROUS TRIBUTE TO LEICESTERSHIRE CONSTABLES FALLEN AND INJURED**

The "Police Chronicle" of October 30<sup>th</sup>, says: We have received the following letter, the fine spirit of which will be admired by all, from Mr Edward Holmes, the Chief Constable of Leicestershire.

*"With respect to your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> inst., I very gladly testify to the excellent qualities of my late Constable Leonard Henson, who, to the deep regret of all of us, lost his life in the discharge of his duty as a soldier in the early part of the war. He had only been with me five months, but showed every promise of being a comrade whom it would have been a constant pleasure to have amongst us. At the very last Bench he attended I complimented him on the fair spirit he manifested when giving evidence.*

*P.C. Heggs, who is wounded, and has recently been removed from Lincoln Hospital to a hospital at a private house near Grantham, will I sincerely hope, come back to us at the end of the war. Happily, none of the injuries he has received appear likely to prevent his resumption of police duty. I have, of course written to him and told him how glad we shall all be when he is able to come back. His father is an old sergeant with me, and is very much respected by all.*

*A third constable of mine, P.C. Durrands, had his arm broken by a shot in the war and is now a prisoner in the hands of the Germans. He was a very smart man, most anxious to make himself acquainted with his police duties, and, judging by the progress he made during the eight months he had been with me, I had every hope that he would become a really useful and valuable member of the Force. Of course, I hope that he will come back when the war is over."*

Yours truly  
E. HOLMES  
Chief Constable

### **APPLEBY**

### **QUEEN MARY'S GUILD**

Miss Elsie L. Moore, the energetic secretary of the local branch of the Queen Mary's Guild, invited the members to meet her in the Girl's School. In an eloquent address, she alluded to the necessity of working for those who were fighting our battles, and thanked the members for their enthusiastic support. The Guild has 100 members, and has already produced 212 garments. Each member was presented with a badge in the form of a brooch, the centre containing the flags of the Allies over the word "united."

### **IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE**

The Ibstock Patriotic Committee held a general meeting in the National Schools on Wednesday evening, the Rev. S. Flood, M.A., (Rector) presiding. There were present the Rev. J. W. Campbell, Councillor W. Eggington, J.P., Messrs. F. Holmes, E. W. Mee, J. Bonser, J. Baxter, T. Wyatt, R. West, J. Goddard, W. Wallace, J. Buggins, Humble, F. J. Newman, and M. Armson.

Mr Dunstan reported that the total amount collected up to date from their district was £808/1/0 and in addition a voluntary collection was made at Ellistown and Desford on behalf of the Belgian refugees and realised at Ellistown £2 5s 0d and Desford £5. This had been remitted to the County Treasurer of the Belgian Relief Fund.

The question of providing for the Belgian Refugees was discussed and the opinion expressed that it was desirable to make an effort as a distinct district rather than amalgamate with the Coalville effort. Mr Dunstan reported that "Sefton" House, Barlestone, had been offered but they were still corresponding on the matter. The "White" House, the Town Hall and also the unused factory at Ibstock, had been under consideration, but difficulties were in the way of making use of them. In answer to a question Mr Dunstan said the County regulation was to the effect that effort should be made on behalf of the Belgian refugees and if the Local Committee had none to provide for in this district the amount collected should be remitted to the County Authority to go to the assistance of other districts having refugees in the county.

The Rev. Campbell suggested that there would not be so much enthusiasm shown if they did not have some refugees to work for in their midst. He thought the ladies who were at present working so hard were particularly anxious a house should be taken to accommodate some of the refugees wanting homes.

Mr Eggington agreed they should endeavour to do something as a district. They were certainly strong enough if they could only get a house. Although it would entail considerable work in looking after the poor people when they arrived he was prepared for one to do his utmost in the work.

The following resolution was then adopted on the proposition of the Rev. Campbell, seconded by Mr Baxter was: *"That this Committee asks the Executive Committee to consider the question of "Sefton" House or any other available house with a view to obtaining refugees in our district. If no house can be obtained the amount raised to be sent to the County Fund."*

The question of how the money was to be raised was then discussed and Messrs. Goddard and Wallace expressed the opinion that the effort should be a voluntary one instead of by levy. This was agreed.

### **ASHBY POLICE COURT**

Saturday. – Before Mr George Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr J. Hassall, and Mr George Brown.

#### *A Territorial Elevated*

Ernest Bingham (20), labourer, Ashby, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly at Ashby on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Supt. Lockton said this man was a Territorial and he had been to a concert where they sang patriotic songs and got a bit elated. He was a respectable youth and the captain had told witness that he had attended his drills well. Under the circumstances witness asked to be allowed to withdraw the case on payment of the costs. – Agreed. The costs were 6s.

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

The Ashby company of the Territorial Reserve marched to Blackfordby, on Sunday morning, and attended service at the parish church. The vicar, the Rev. B. Kenyon preached. Mr Wilsher, the organist, played "Britain's Volunteers" as a voluntary.

At a meeting at Markfield on Saturday, Mr Preston was appointed Chairman and Mr Prett secretary of a local relief committee. Mr Lindley's appeal for Coalville's scheme to help Belgian refugees was favourably received.

Collections have been taken during the last two weeks at the Bagworth Colliery for the Belgian Refugees Fund. The two collections have reached a grand total of £12. Those responsible as collectors were Messrs. H. Hook, H. Percival, and J. Ward. This effort is in addition to the Prince of Wales's Fund and will be continued while the war lasts. We congratulate the workmen and hope other collieries will follow suite.

The Coalville Territorial recruits were joined by members of the Citizens' Corps for the church parade on Sunday morning. They met in Marlborough Square and marched to Whitwick Church, the Territorials being headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band, and the Citizens' by the Coalville Boy Scouts Band. Before dispersing them in Marlborough Square on their return, Capt. Stevenson highly complimented them on their marching and general appearance.

The three Belgian soldiers who died at the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital, Leicester, during the week-end were buried on Wednesday with military honours at the Welford Road Cemetery.

The following young men, who were connected with the Church Lads' Brigade, are reported to be serving their King and country either in the Territorials or regulars: W. T. Stinchcombe, J. Newbold, W. Newbold, O. Pratt, A. Crooks, W. Newberry, J. Knight, G. Straw, W. Attwood, W. Smith, C. H. Kirk, R. Glover, A. Ford, J. Summers, A. Dobney, B. Hatter, H. Thompson, J. R. Bowley, A. Choyce. In the navy are W. Clifford and in the Ambulance D. Newberry.

Though the Coalville Council meeting on Tuesday night was a short one, several interesting matters were dealt with, not the least prominent among which was the decision to supply water and gas free to Broom Leys while the Belgian refugees are in residence there. In this the Council will have the support of ratepayers who are themselves responding liberally to the appeal which is being made. Thanks to the liberality of the Whitwick Colliery Company and the Council, the refugees are now assured of a home with fire, light and water free, which form a considerable item. The furnishing is well in hand and there is no doubt that the necessary funds for the maintenance of the refugees will be forth-coming. On enquiry of the hon. secretary, Mr E. Hawthorn, yesterday, we were informed that it is not yet definitely known when Coalville's guests would arrive as the house was not quite in readiness.

A Leicester contemporary has been making some interesting comparisons in regard to recruiting showing that the villages and towns in the county have a good lead over the Borough of Leicester. It states: 'The little village of Gaddesby shows a marvellous degree of patriotism. Out of a population of 270 no less than 22 men have joined the colours since the outbreak of war, quite 8 per cent. If the great town of Leicester yielded anything like the same percentage she could nearly form an Army Corps of 20,000 men! Syston has sent 100 recruits out of the population of 3,000 and on the same pre portion Leicester ought to supply 8,000 recruits. The Coalville and Ashby districts have supplied 1,100 recruits out of 35,000 and on this basis Leicester's recruiting total should be nearly 7,000 instead of 5,600. Loughborough town has recruited nearly 700 men for all units out of a population of nearly 23,000, and had Leicester shown similar patriotism she could boast today of 6,300 recruits. Out of Hinckley's 12,838 people there have been 350 recruits, and here again, on the same percentage, Leicester would have been equal had she contributed 6,300 recruits. Even Melton beats Leicester hollow. The hunting centre has sent 356 recruits out of a population of 9,650. On this reckoning, Leicester alone should supply over 8,000 recruits.

Several of the Coalville friends of the fifty Territorial Reserves who left here for Luton last Friday have received letters which show that the men are in excellent spirits. Upon arrival at Luton they were allotted to various companies and were billeted at houses in the town, being supplied with warm blankets, and the food was stated to be good and plenty of it. It is just possible that they may have left Luton by now, as a letter received from one of them yesterday, stated they were mobilising on Wednesday and were expected to leave for an unknown destination. Since arriving at Luton on Friday they have had gun practice, several long marches and engaged in mimic warfare.

Mr Leonard Cripps, of the 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars, who was recently wounded in the ankle in the fighting in France, has returned home on leave. Mr Cripps is the son-in-law of Sir Matthew and Lady Joyce, of Abbot's Oak, Coalville, and 16, Great Cumberland Place. W.

There is nothing more to be proud of in Coalville at the present moment, says the Vicar of Coalville, in the Parish Magazine, than the company of nearly 200 young men who have volunteered to serve the country. And nothing is meaner than the superior (?) young men, whose skins are too precious for the job. We hear that some cannot go because their professional careers may suffer. What about the careers of those who have gone? Of one thing we may be sure. On the day when "Johnny comes marching home," one will be a hero, and the other a \_\_\_\_\_. Again, the hero will have infinitely better chance of employment, than the man with a precious and delicate skin. The day is gone by when any person will again look down on the man who went to the front!

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That the Coalville Citizens' had a march out on Tuesday night?

That the members of the Hugglescote Citizens' Corps had their first parade on Tuesday night?

That the collectors for the Belgian Refugees Relief Fund will meet at the Adult School Hall every Monday night?

That the workmen of Cliffe Hill, Markfield, are contributing 3d each week to the National Relief Fund?

That Mr McCarthy, of New Swannington has received two Belgian boys (brothers) aged 10 and 6 from Antwerp?

That on Sunday, at St. Deny's Church, Ibstock, the bells were rung half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of those who had fallen in the war?

That Lieutenant-Colonel German, who retired from the command of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Territorial Regiment about 2 years ago, has been appointed second-in-command of the 5<sup>th</sup> (Reserve) Battalion?

That 33 recruits were enlisted at a meeting at the Coalville Olympia last night?

That the Coalville Bowling Club have decided not to hold their annual dinner this year owing to the war?

That the Women's Liberal Association are arranging for a whist drive at the Coalville Liberal Club on Wednesday week in aid of the fund for Belgian Refugees?

That the whist drive and dance organised by the Hugglescote Women Unionists at the Hawley Institute last week realised £19 13s 7 1/2d and was made up to £20 for the local Belgian Relief Fund?

That a collection at the Market Bosworth Agricultural Society's ploughing and hedge-cutting competitions at Osbaston last week realised £5 5s for the Prince of Wales's Fund?

That when Mr Peace, fruiterer, High Street, Coalville, opened a barrel of American apples yesterday he found on the paper covering the apples the following inscription in large type, "Let Great Britain win. H. R. E."

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### **COALVILLE SOLDIER AT THE FRONT**

Private Sidney Haywood, a gunner serving in Garrison Artillery in France, writing from Rouen to his wife in Margaret Street, Coalville, says a relative in London wrote to him asking if he smoked cigarettes or tobacco. He answered that he did, but would prefer a change of clothing. He asked his wife to send a bottle of disinfectant, and hoped to keep clear of the "terrible diseases which are ravaging the enemy." He thought the enemy would fight to the last if their money and food could hold out.

### **IBSTOCK**

A patriotic concert was held in the Picture Palace, Ibstock, in connection with the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund and the Belgian Relief Fund. There was a full house and a very good programme was rendered by Mr Walter Grocock, of Leicester, and his court jesters. At the close a usual vote of thanks was proposed by

Councillor W. Eggington and seconded by the Rector, Rev. S. Flood, thanking the company for coming and giving their services free and also the Directors for the use of the Palace free.

## **COMFORTS FOR THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS**

### **AN APPEAL TO THE WOMEN OF COALVILLE AND DISTRICT**

On Saturday evening last, a public meeting of ladies of the Coalville Recruiting District was held in the National Schools, Coalville, and there was a very representative gathering. Mr B. G. Hale presiding.

Mr Hale explained that the object of the meeting was to form some central organisation through which channel any gifts of clothing or comforts could be sent to the men who have joined the Colours from Coalville or any of the surrounding villages. It would be the business of this organisation to ascertain what the men required, and then to get the women of the district to provide these requirements. By working through the central organisation it would be assured that some men did not get more than they required whilst others were in want, and it was hoped that every woman in the district would help the organisation to show the men who are risking their lives for them, that the women do appreciate and value the sacrifices they are making to defend their hearths and homes.

Mrs S. W. Brown and Mrs L. L. Baldwin also addressed the meeting and appealed to all those who were already working to forward the articles to this Guild, so that some record could be kept of what was being sent to the men, and advice given as to what was most urgently needed from time to time. Samples of the most approved patterns of articles would be procured and be available for reference so as to insure that any work done would not be thrown away as useless on account of not being to regulation pattern. They appealed for gifts of knitting wool and new flannel of best quality or money wherewith to buy them, and especially for promises of help in knitting and sewing.

It was decided to hold a public tea in Christ Church School (kindly lent for occasion) on Wednesday next at 5 o'clock, with the object of raising funds.

A committee of 18 ladies was elected with Mrs L. L. Baldwin, 88 London Road, Coalville, as Hon. Secretary, and Mrs J. W. Farmer, 56 Vaughan Street, Coalville, as Hon. Treasurer, and any ladies who wish to contribute to the funds either in money or materials, or to offer their services to knit or sew should send in their names as early as possible to these ladies.

The response of the meeting was most gratifying, promises of help, subscriptions and gifts of socks, body-belts, sleeping helmets, mittens, and mufflers coming in freely from all quarters.

Still the work is an enormous one in view of the fact that a large percentage of the 1,100 or 1,200 men who have gone from Coalville Recruiting District are entirely un-provided with any of the comforts mentioned above, and much they so urgently need when manning the trenches or sleeping out throughout the winter, or watching over us in the bitter cold of the North Sea.

## **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER KILLED**

Mrs Hoden, of Page's Hill, Hugglescote, has received official information that her husband, Private William Ogden Hoden, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment was killed in action on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. He left Hugglescote and his wife and five children on the 5<sup>th</sup> August, as a reservist, to join his regiment at Warwick. The youngest child is three years. Deceased was 33 years old last February and worked as a collier at Ellistown Colliery. An expression of regret and sympathy sent by Lord Kitchener has been received by the widow. The gallant fellow would have finished his period of service in the Army Reserve on the day after he was killed, assuming there had been no war.

## **COALVILLE AND THE BELGIAN REFUGEES**

### **CONCERT BEING ARRANGED**

At a meeting convened by the Coalville Philharmonic Society and held on Monday evening last in the Coalville Adult School Hall, it was announced that ten choirs had already promised to assist (comprising of 200 voices) in the proposed concert in aid of the Belgian Refugee Fund.



The meeting definitely decided to give a miscellaneous programme and the following choruses were selected:

Epilogue to "Banner of St. George" (Elgar), "Moonlight" (Eaton Fanning), and the national anthems of the Allies. Several fine pieces are under consideration and will be announced later. Mr McDonald has kindly offered the use of the Olympia Theatre and the concert will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

The first practice was fixed for Monday evening next at 7.45 in the Adult School Hall, kindly lent. The following committee was appointed: Messrs. F. Storer, E. W. Guy, J. H. Starkey, Josiah Kemp, and L. L. Baldwin, with W. Hatchett and A. G. Ball, joint hon. secs. All interested in singing are invited.

## **WHITWICK**

### **CITIZEN'S CORPS**

The following officers of this corps have been appointed: Captain: Capt. W. E. Stevenson; Chairman of Committee: Mr B. Berry; Secretary: Mr H. G. W. Howe; Drill Instructors: Messrs. E. Hanson, and G. H. Hallam. A meeting is to be held at the Whitwick Gymnasium on Monday morning at 10.30.

## **BELGIAN REFUGEES FUND**

### **COALVILLE WARD**

A meeting of the collectors was held in the Adult School Hall, on Tuesday evening. Mr C. W. Brown, jun. presiding. Capt. McKernon and the collectors, with the secretary, Mr F. S. Weaver, were also present. The secretary reported that the first collection was £16/7/7, including sums paid direct to the bank. Several items were discussed.

## **COALVILLE AND THE NATIONAL RELIEF FUND**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the collectors of the Coalville Ward was held in the Adult School Hall on Monday evening last, Capt. McKernon presided, and the hon. sec. Mr F. S. Weaver, intimated that the sum realised from the third collection was £13/11/6 making the total of the three collections, £105/10/11. It was decided to have the next meeting, the first Tuesday in December (1<sup>st</sup>).

A meeting of the Executive Committee for the Ibstock District of the Leicester County Committee was held at Thornton on Thursday, the Rev. S. Flood presiding.

In connection with the Belgian Refugee question, the following resolution was unanimously carried: "*That this Committee accept Mr. Archer's offer of Sefton House, Barlestone, and agree to furnish the same for, and maintain as many as can conveniently be accommodated.*"

In view of the fact that subscribers would naturally be desirous of aiding the effort to maintain refugees located in their own district, it was resolved, "That a voluntary collection should be made at all the collieries in the area each week, and that the money collected by utilised, (1) for providing and maintaining any refugees located in the area, (2) for assisting if possible, the County Fund in aid of the Belgian Refugees."

It was decided at once to prepare Sefton House and the Secretary was instructed to take the preliminary steps.

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## **BAGWORTH SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS**

Our readers will regret to learn that news has been received from the War Office this week that Mr Paston, of Bagworth, has died of wounds received while fighting in France. He leaves a widow and two children, the youngest being only a few days old. Mr Paston previous to the war was in the employ of the Bagworth Brick Company. He was much respected. Much sympathy is felt in the village for the widow and children.

## **CONCERT AT THE FIFTH NORTHERN HOSPITAL**

A concert, arranged by Miss Gladys Nicholls, was given at the Base Hospital on Saturday last. The programme was as follows: Song, "Angus McDonald," Miss Gladys Nicholls; song, "A Soldier's Song," Mr A. E. Ludlow; illusionist, Professor Hamilton; duet, "Where my caravan has rested," Miss G. Nicholls and Mr A. E. Ludlow; humorist at the piano, Mr Reg Green; song, "Bird of Love Divine," Miss G. Nicholls; song, "The Blue Dragoons," Mr A. E. Ludlow. A number of the soldiers were Belgians and greatly appreciated Professor Hamilton. The programme concluded with the Belgian and English National Anthems.

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## **FOOTBALL AND THE WAR**

### **MR J. C. CLEGG AND CRITICS**

Mr J. C. Clegg, chairman of the English Football Association, speaking on Sunday dealt with the question whether football ought to be stopped during the present national crisis.

He said it was not an unfair question to ask the critics whether they were prepared to give up their own recreation. Such criticisms were not directed to other sports or entertainments. The game was at the present time being played in Belgium, France, Germany, and Austria. The War Office were satisfied with what the football clubs of the country had done, and they were prepared to do anything more in their power.

## **LEICESTERSHIRE CRICKETER MISSING**

Captain G. H. S. Fowke, of the Gordon Highlanders, is amongst the missing officers mentioned in the latest casualty lists. Two seasons ago, Captain Fowke played several times for the Leicestershire County Cricket Club and would have played oftener, but for military duties intervening. He is a brother of Sir Frederick Fowke, of Lowersby Hall, who is also a keen cricketer. Captain Fowke served in the South African War and was married last year.

## **PAID IN THEIR OWN COIN**

### **RATBY MAN'S STORY OF GERMAN TREACHERY**

In a letter to Mr and Mrs John Richardson, Stamford Street, Ratby, their son, J. T. Richardson, electrical artificer on one of His Majesty's ships, says: "I am all right and in good spirits." He adds, "The German fleet cannot pluck up enough courage to come out and fight us but they'll have to do before long, and then we shall have some fun. It properly took the heart of them when we took a hand in the war. They expected to do a lot with their fleet. They shouted in time of peace that they were not afraid of us, but when war came, they were. When the Germans do come out there will be no quarter given them, for we have it in store for them for ignoring all the laws of civilised warfare, by first laying floating mines in the sea. One of the ships that was with us captured a German ship. She hoisted the white flag, but when we sent a small boat with an officer to her she fired on the boat and sunk it. We paid them back in their own coin however, for in about ten minutes we sent her with all hands to the bottom. I reckon you saw the account of it in the papers. Once when we called for coal a crowd of blacks came to join. They said they wanted to fight for their English King. We took in 2,500 tons of coal, and who do you think got it in for us? The black women and girls."

## **SNARESTONE**

### **WHIST DRIVE**

In aid of the Belgian Refugees a whist drive and social were held at Snarestone School on Friday evening. Miss Bell and willing helpers had made admirable arrangements. The room was prettily decorated. Mr A. Rain acted as MC for the whist drive. The prize winners were:

Ladies: 1 Miss N. Varnham, 2 Miss L. Riley.

Gentlemen: 1 Mr J. Smith, 2 Mr W. Riley.

Mystery: Miss Glover.

The Rev. H. Townsend acted as chairman for the concert, in which the following took part; Misses Adey, Corbett, Bell, Sutton, Russell, Mabel Seaton and Turner. Messrs R. Phayne and J. Riley. A profit of over £5 was realised.

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## **THRINGSTONE SOLDIER WOUNDED AT THE FRONT**

### **BURIED BY A "JACK JOHNSON"**

Private T. A. Commons of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, who left Thringstone for active service, is a patient in the Western Hospital, Liverpool, having been shot in the hand during an engagement. He is a cousin of Menty Commons, a footballer, of Coalville, and ambulance man at the front. The injured soldier wrote from abroad in October acknowledging a box of "fags," sent by his wife, and said he was in a warm corner. He added that he and his comrades were in one position 21 days and 22 nights in trenches all the time, and having shifted were not allowed to say where they were. He had had some hard times, especially in marching through a village and seeing it shelled to atoms, also the houses burned down. People had to leave their little homes for anyone to have but themselves. Furniture too, was burnt. Farmers had to leave their homes and cattle and flee for safety. Commons, continuing, said he lived in a farmhouse. The farmer would have to go away and leave his cows if the enemy advanced. The Germans were "Deadweed Dicks" with their shells or artillery fire, but their rifle fire was no good at all. They could not hit a haystack. He (Commons) had pulled through up to now. Stan Hardy asked him to send his best respects to Coalville friends.

Writing from the Liverpool Hospital, Commons says, he was shot straight through the left hand. "That's all," and it would not long before it was better if the knuckle bone was not broken. Whilst in action he was buried twice, eight feet in the ground by the gun they called "Jack Johnson" or "Coal Box." It took men all their time to find him. He was glad to be in England again.

## **LEICESTER V. C. HERO**

### **A BUSY WEEKEND**

The happiest man in Leicester last weekend was Driver Frederick Alec Osborne, of the famous battery, R.H.A. who celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday at his home on Sunday, the happiest birthday of his life. He received many messages of congratulations.

Osborne was one of the three heroes recently recommended for the Victoria Cross and also the French Medale Militaire, for exceptional gallantry in silencing 10 German field guns and two maxims near Compagne, a battle unsurpassed in warfare. Osborne has rapidly recovered from his injuries and left to rejoin his battery yesterday. On Sunday morning, Osborne attended the patriotic meeting in the Market Place at which 11 new recruits gave in their names. The same day Osborne also attended the Victoria Road Men's Meeting and on Saturday in company with his mother and a friend, he paid an unexpected visit to Derby and called on his schoolmaster at 1074 London Road where a presentation was made at the time in impromptu fashion. The gift took the form of a silver cigarette case, richly chased with his monogram for a centre-piece and on the reverse side the following inscription: 'Presented to Driver Alec Osborne by the staff of the Boughton Road School, Derby in honour of his V.C. L. XL. 1914'. An amber cigarette holder and a case and a supply of cigarettes were added at the last moment. Driver Osborne suitably acknowledged the gift and wished his thanks to be conveyed to all the subscribers. He expressed a desire to visit his old school when his duties permitted.

Osborne had a great reception on arriving at Derby. He was warmly cheered by railwaymen on duty at the station and the enthusiastic greeting was taken up on the Midland Road by a crowd which for a time stopped the tramway traffic, scores of persons shaking the victor by the hand.

## **COALVILLE MAN'S RETURN FROM CHILE**

### **AN EXCITING VOYAGE**

### **LINER CHASED BY GERMAN CRUISER**

A serious blow to the nitrate industry of Chile is another example of the far-reaching effects of the war. Evidence of this fact was given to the writer by Mr Fred Cramp, of James Street, Coalville, who, with his wife and two little girls, has just returned to his native town, after being abroad eight and a half years.

Mr Cramp is a moulder, having learnt his trade at Messrs. Wooton Bros. engineering works, Coalville, and the greater part of his stay in Chile has been at Taltal, where he held a good post under the Taltal Railway Company. His contract of employment did not expire till February next, but the industry of the country has been so hard hit by the war that many thousands of people there are unemployed and are depending on the authorities for food. The greater portion of the nitrate ships have travelled to German and Russian ports, which are now closed. Chile, says Mr Cramp, is feeling the effects of the war probably as much as any country not actually engaged in the combat.

The sea voyage home occupied six weeks and was made on board the Pacific liner Ortega, which had a memorable and most exciting passage, through being chased by a German cruiser and several times being held up for examination by friendly warships. The Ortega was steaming through Chilean waters when the German warship, supposed to have been the Leipzig, gave chase. At top speed the captain of the Ortega raced away, making in desperation towards the dangerous Cape George. Presently the people aboard the liner found that they were in an uncharted lagoon which was a round-about entrance to the Straits of Magellan. In unknown waters such as these, the greatest care in navigation had to be taken, and the resourceful captain adopted the expedient of sending a small boat ahead from which soundings were taken. The larger vessel followed slowly and skilfully she was taken into Smyth's Channel, a waterway that is very little used. At last, to the intense relief of all aboard, the clever navigator's came to Punta Arenas. They smiled when they were informed that the German warship had sent a wireless message to the effect that the Ortega had been sunk with all on board.

Three days after leaving the Straits of Magellan the ship's engines were suddenly stopped at 4.30 in the morning, and on going on deck Mr Cramp found that the boat had been hailed by another warship which was believed to be British, and as daylight broke it proved to be the Cruiser Glasgow. One of the officers came on board. The cruiser went away about 6.30. Later the same day, there was a commotion on board when the officers gave orders for all to be ready to take to the boats within half an hour. Another cruiser was bearing down upon them which was believed to be an enemy ship and the boats were all made ready for lowering and provision stocked up. The feelings of all on board may be better imagined than described when the ship turned out to be British – the Monmouth. Soon after leaving Santos, another cruiser was sighted, which proved to be a Brazilian. They touched at Rio and after leaving there met a Russian sailing vessel, the captain of which desired to have his chronometers corrected, as he had been at sea for four months. He was astonished on being told that Germany was at war against his country. On the average said Mr Cramp, they met about three steamers a day and not knowing what any of them might turn out to be it gave them plenty of excitement all the time. At the Canary Islands they saw 18 German steamers being held up, in fact a similar thing prevailed at most of the ports called at. They had on board 130 French reservists and before these disembarked at La Palais they sang the Marseillaise and were given a hearty send-off. Off the French coast, a French man-of-war steamed round the vessel and the band played the English and French National Anthems. *"There are thousands of German reservists in foreign ports,"* said Mr Cramp, *"who are unable to get away."* The French reservists who travelled on the same boat, were very enthusiastic. Many had left good situations and they seemed surprised to know that all Englishmen of military age were not doing the same.

Questioned as to how soon they heard of the war in Chile, Mr Cramp said it was announced in the papers immediately war was declared. Taltal, though, only having a population of just over 20,000, has three daily papers. Since the war broke out, he said, a German daily, said to be financed by the German Government had been started, and there had there is irony in the fact that the English translation of the name is "The Truth." According to this paper Germany has done remarkably well in the war. On the other hand, one of the other Taltal papers came out one day with a special edition giving news of a great naval victory for England, nineteen German dreadnoughts and 30 cruisers having been sunk. A notice was posted in the town from the commander of the Chilean fleet to the effect. *"This day England rejoices in the hour of her victory."* The news was received with much enthusiasm.

There is a big difference between the Chilean climate and that of an English November. Out there it is very hot and they have little rain. As yet, Mr Cramp is undecided in regard to his future movements. Though having been thousands of miles away he has been kept in touch with his old home as copies of the "Coalville

Times" were sent to him regularly. Doubtless other instances could be given of copies of this journal finding their way into distant lands proving a world-wide circulation.

## **COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

The surveyor reported that Tracey, the stoker at the pumping station had been called up for ambulance service and the committee recommend it be left to the surveyor and Mr Hale to arrange for a man as required.

### **FINANCE**

The surveyor read a letter to Secretary of the War Office as to the guarding of the reservoir and the pumping station, and the committee approved same and ordered it to be forwarded. The secretary of the local Belgian Refugee Committee wrote asking for a supply of water and gas to Broom Leys House where refugees were going to be housed and the Committee recommend the application be accorded to.

The Committee recommend the Council to supply water and gas free of cost to Broom Leys while Belgian refugees were there, which would be a slight appreciation by the Council of the bravery of the Belgians and sympathy with them in their suffering. (Hear, hear).

Mr McCarthy seconded and it was carried.

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES AT THRINGSTONE**

A party of six Belgian refugees, two women, a man, a youth of 17 years of age and two infants – have been accommodated in a house in Thringstone parish, generously provided by Mr G. F. Burton, of Whitwick. One of the women told a press representative that they came from Ghent. Her husband was fighting in Alost in August, but she had no knowledge of his whereabouts now, and she did not know she was in England. She proudly displayed his photograph in a pendant upon a chain round her neck, and said her house had been burned to the ground, and they had lost everything. Asked if she had witnessed any German cruelty, the poor woman readily admitted she had, and used the word "*bayonet*," as she pointed to the breast of her little one, which she passionately kissed, as she spoke indicating that children had been stabbed.

The men are market gardeners and the Rt. Hon. C. Booth, Gracedieu Manor, is providing the party on men with land on which to grow produce for sale, and purchasing seeds for them. The refugees are picking up the English language by means of the Flemish English book, but one of the men hoped soon to return to Belgium, as the weather in England was "so cold." They were minus overcoats, and the forest air was somewhat "biting." He marvelled at the hilliness of the Thringstone district, and said Belgium was a flat country. The party appear very happy, excepting that the young woman referred to is anxious as to the fate of her soldier husband.

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### **PATRIOTIC CONCERT AT BATTRAM**

#### **FOR THE BELGIAN RELIEF FUND**

A successful concert was held in the Battram Council Schools on Saturday evening under the auspices of the Patriotic Committee. Alderman T. Cope, J.P., D.L., presided and there was a capital attendance. The proceeds were for the Belgian Refugees Fund. The following programme was well rendered.

Glee, (a) "Hymns before Action," (b) "A Farewell," Ellistown Male Choir; song, "England Mine," Mr A. G. Ball; violin solo, Mr W. A. Smith; song, "There's a Land," Miss Wheeldon; quartette, "Alexander," Ellistown Quartette; song, "Angus MacDonald," Madame Clay; song and drill, "The Japanese Fan," scholars; song, "Thy Sentinel and I," Mr F. Smith; violin duet, Miss Soar and Mr W. A. Smith; duet, "The Soldier's Farewell," Madame Clay and Miss Wheeldon; recitation, "A straight question," scholar; humorous song, "I'm a second-hand Aristocrat," Mr R. Kirton; Glee, "Comrades in Arms," Ellistown Male Choir; song, "May Ain Folk,"

Madame Clay; violin duet, Miss Soar and Mr W. A. Smith; song, "Our night out," scholars; song, "Jack Briton," Mr F. Smith; quartette, "In Allmence," Ellistown Quartette; song, "The Sailor's Grave," Mr A. G. Ball; violin solo, Mr W. A. Smith; recitation, "Mrs Prim," scholar; song, "Your King and Country need you," Miss Wheeldon; duet, "The Battle Eve," Messrs. F. Smith and A. G. Ball; humorous song, "I do like cheap sea trips," Mr R. Kirton; National Anthems (a) Belgium, (b) French, (c) English, scholars.

## **IBSTOCK**

### **HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GENEROSITY**

At a recent meeting of the Ibstock Agricultural Horticultural Society presided over by Mr C. Badcock at the Town Hall it was decided that this year's profits of the show, amounting to £11 should be sent to the local Prince of Wales's Fund and also that a similar amount taken from the bank balance should be given to the Leicester Infirmary. Cheques have accordingly been forwarded by the secretary this week.

### **WHITWICK CITIZENS' CORPS**

With the object of obtaining additions to the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens' Corps, a public meeting was held in the Whitwick Gymnasium on Monday. Mr B. Berry presided and gave a patriotic address and Capt. Stevenson also made an appeal for men over 35 to join the corps and at the close of the meeting 16 more responded. Last night a similar meeting was held at Thringstone in the village hall, with a view to getting Thringstone men to join.

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### **GREAT RECRUITING MEETING AT COALVILLE**

#### **OLYMPIA THEATRE CROWDED**

#### **STIRRING APPEAL TO THE YOUNG MEN**

Another great recruiting meeting was held in the Coalville Olympia Theatre on Thursday night, when the spacious building was crowded and the proceedings were of a most enthusiastic character.

While the people were assembling an entertaining series of pictures were thrown on the screen, and a short performance by a highly trained dog was much appreciated, Miss Hilda Vendy (a pupil of Mr Koyes Jones) gave a delightful rendering of "Your King and Country want you," and at the close of this item, the orchestra struck up with the Marseillaise. The Coalville Citizens' Corps then paraded on the stage, receiving a hearty reception, and all joined in the singing of the National Anthem.

Mr W. Hurst presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Capt. Vere-Smith, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., Capt. of the Citizens' Corps, Mr W. Lindley, J.P., Mr R. Blower, J.P., Mr W. Baldwin and others.

The Chairman said that the large gathering showed that they had the object of the meeting at heart. He went on to refer to the causes of the war and the barbarities of the Germans. They were like a bully who terrorised a little boy and they hated the champion of the boy more than they hated the boy. Proceeding, he said Lord Kitchener wanted more men and it was the duty of the young men to come forward and serve their country. He asked them to stop loitering about the street with their hands in their pockets, and with the eternal cigarette in their mouths, and stop playing football. In this time of crisis, they must be up and doing. The Colonies had set them a glorious example and the help which India was rendering was one of the best tributes they could have to the justice of British rule in India. (Cheers)

Mr B. G. Hale said they did not want a lot of talk but action. The area of the war was colossal. Millions of men were pitted against millions and it was one of the greatest calamities the world has ever seen. This war had got to be fought to a finish and if the men would not go, they would have to enlist the women. (Laughter, and a female voice: "I'd go tonight.") – Mr Hale said they might laugh but if it were possible the women of the country would go whilst some of the men lagged behind. Proceeding, he said they were out to uphold a scrap of paper. If such scraps of paper were not to be honoured, the whole fabric of civilisation would totter and collapse. They were fighting for freedom, the integrity of the smaller nations, for honesty, for God and righteousness. They were the greatest empire the world had ever seen because they allowed freedom to

others. The colonies had come to their aid because this country had mothered them, and lent them protection of the means for development. They had absolute confidence in their troops but compared to with the hordes of Germany and Austria they were but a handful. If they could let Germany know that they could put another million men in the field what an effect it would have upon them and what an effect it would on our men in the trenches. On several occasions our men had been outnumbered by five to one and yet we had won. (Cheers) We had much to lose. If we lost command of the sea we should become a servile country. Sooner than he would be a subject of the Kaiser he would take a revolver and blow his brains out. (Loud applause). He alluded to the formation of a Citizens' Corps in Coalville and said he believed that if it came to the worse they would give up their home, wife, and children, and go into the fighting line and if needs be, die in the cause of freedom. They owed a debt to France, Russia and Belgium. But for the plucky stand of Belgium, Germany would have France on her knees and we should have gone down next. But if they owed a debt to Belgium, they owed a greater debt to Britain and they should rise as one man and every man who could serve his country should offer himself at once to try and end this terrible business as soon as possible. The fewer men they had in the field, the longer it would drag on, and it was essential when the battle was over and they marched in triumph through the streets of Berlin, as they would do, (applause) that they should have a strong army sufficient to dictate the terms of peace. If they owed this great debt to their country they could not pay it better than by saying, "We will stand by you and help you to the death." In the words of Shakespeare, "Nought shall make us rue, if England to herself do prove but true." Were they true? Did they feel that they were doing their duty? It was a time when every man, young and old, should do all in his power to stir up the manhood of the people and make them understand the peril and the responsibility which rested on them. He would sooner see his country sunk under the sea than it should come under the heel of a German despot. (Applause)

Mr Walter Lindley said it was a just war as far as the Allies were concerned. Germany's idea was to subdue France and then conquer England. She wanted to be a world power, and the only country that stood in the way was England. They were proud of that and hoped they always would stand in the way of the Potsdam butcher. (Cheers). A few years ago there were a lot of croakers in England who said this country was on the down grade. They were too fond of sport. But he wanted them to show that as well as being good sportsmen they could also be valiant in war. So far inland as they were in Coalville they perhaps did not realise the position so keenly as it was realised on the coast. He did not say there would be an invasion of this country, but until the German navy was at the bottom of the sea there was that possibility. Some people had asked what our navy were doing. They were doing a good deal. (Cheers) But for the navy they would not be living as comfortably as they were today. He asked them to realise a battle-line as long as from London to Manchester, with millions of men on each side, and what it would be if it was actually going on in this country. Although the fighting was in France and Belgium it was our war and might have been in this country. No people enjoyed more liberty than Englishmen and no more advantages and that was worth fighting for. He was sorry that Leicestershire was so far down in the list in recruiting. Under four thousand had gone from this county. Some of the villages in Devonshire had sent ten per cent of the population and Leicestershire had not sent two per cent. There were a million and a half young men available in this county yet, it was young men who would reap the benefit of the war. There was no doubt that England would a richer and more prosperous country after the war. They must make victory sure, but without men they could not carry on the war. It would be a disgrace to the young men of the country if we lost this war. He wanted to see 61 come up at that meeting as at the last and then he would think that Coalville was entitled to a place on the map. (Cheers)

Capt. Stevenson commenced by thanking Mr McDonald for the use of the building for that splendid meeting (Cheers). He went on to say that he was there for recruiting and they wanted more men. The peace treaty would not be signed in Paris or London, but in Emperor's Palace in Berlin. (Cheers) The British soldiers were upholding the best traditions of the army. He alluded to the London Territorials clearing the German trenches three times. Territorials used to be laughed at, but it would not be so again. When 50 men were wanted to make up the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Luton where did they get them from? "Coalville." He wanted more to fill the places. Coalville had not only supplied those fifty but also the first Territorial officer in Lieut. Jamie (Cheers) If they did not volunteer he assured them that they were likely to be fetched and would then be branded for life as the coward's brigade. He asked them to stop playing football and think of the lads in the trenches. Coalville had done well he knew, they had sent 117, but there were many more available and who ought to go. He appealed to the girls who were walking out with these young fellow to "chuck them" (Laughter). It would make men of them to go through a little military drill. He pointed out that the age had been increased to 38 and the height lowered to 5ft 3in for Kitchener's army. He went on to outline the terms of service and said they would have 3 month's drill at least before being sent on foreign service. They had on the platform that night three of the largest employers of labour in the district and they had given him there word that

places would be kept open for men who enlisted and, if married, their wives and children would be cared for. (Cheers) He then appealed for volunteers.

As recruits rolled up amidst applause, the band struck up with "Tipperary" which was heartily taken up by the meeting, being followed by "Rule Britannia" and other patriotic airs.

It was announced at this stage that 27 had volunteered but more than that were wanted. Mr Hale said it was a unique opportunity and if they had the good luck to come back again they would be regarded as heroes.

Capt. Vere Smith said the girls would think a lot more of their sweethearts if they enlisted, than if they stayed behind. The army made men of them. He had heard that the draft sent from Coalville last Friday was the finest they had in the regiment. (Cheers) He knew it before they went (Cheers). He then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers and to Mr McDonald for lending the theatre, which was heartily accorded.

Mr McDonald said it had been a pleasure to him to be among them that night and he endorsed what the speakers had said. The chairman replying said that the number of recruits had increased to 31 (applause) but they wanted 19 more. Their forces were fighting four to one and it was unfair. He hoped they would consider that and come forward.

Eventually 33 were enrolled.

A successful meeting terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.

### **RECRUITING AT STANTON-UNDER-BARDON**

A successful recruiting meeting was held on Tuesday at Stanton-under-Bardon, Mr P. Preston, presiding. In the unavoidable absence of Capt. Pritchard, through illness, Mr W. Baldwin, the Bosworth Division Conservative agent, gave a patriotic address, and Capt. Stevenson appealed for recruits.

At the close of the meeting 13 were enrolled.

### **MR B. G. HALE AT GROBY**

A recruiting meeting was held at the Council School on Friday evening, under the presidency of Mr Sheppard (Groby Parks). Mr B. G. Hale, (Coalville) gave an address, urging the young men present to volunteer. Arms must not be laid down, he said, until Germany was put low and a lasting peace signed. Capt. Stevenson urged the young men to join before compulsion was in force. No one should stand in the way of those willing to join, and England and the Allies must conquer.

Colour-Sergeant Alfred Dye was present, and several enlisted. Last Monday, 15 left the village and joined the colours.

### **ON THE SAME PLATFORM**

#### **HON. H. D. MCLAREN, M.P. AND MR A. E. HAWLEY**

A great recruiting meeting at Earl Shilton on Friday night was addressed by the Right Hon. H. D. McLaren, M.P., and Mr A. E. Hawley and also by the wives of both gentlemen.

Mr A. E. Hawley said Germany's was a mad ambition, bound to fail. They were not able to prevent the over-running of Belgium, but they had been able to drive the enemy backwards. The first call was for Kitchener's Army. Over 50 of his own work people had joined the army or the Territorials, including his own boy. They were looking forward to the time when they would return, and their work would be waiting for them. Earl Shilton would not be behind in sending men. They needed a long pull, a strong pull, and they must all pull together.

Mr McLaren, M.P., said England was doing almost the same as she did before the war, while Germany had to be content with what she had stored. Our fleets were not doing as some perhaps expected they would, but he believed their silence would tell its own tale before many months were out. The army had excelled in



gallantry. They had been outnumbered, but never flinched in the face of the foe. As he journeyed from London to Earl Shilton he saw a train load of German prisoners, and they were all looking so happy and contented that he said to the soldier in charge of them, "They seem happy and plenty of fun and singing going on with them. Are they really so?" The soldier said "Yes, they are pleased to be out of the fighting." He could vow if any English soldiers were taken prisoners they would never be singing because they were out of the fighting. In conclusion, the hon. gentleman made a special appeal to the men present to join the army.

The meeting yielded 21 recruits.

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## **IBSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES**

Mr Eggington said there was a possibility of having to provide for Belgian Refugees and asked if the Council would let the Town Hall if application were made. He thought they ought to provide such accommodation if possible and do all in their power to help the poor people. The small room could be used as a living room and the larger room partitioned off for the bedrooms. They could themselves meet in the schools to transact their Council business for the time being.

Mr Jacques said the idea was to get the Belgian Refugees placed in more populated areas but they could not get houses for them in this district. They had looked at the factory and made overtures in another direction without success and the Town Hall seemed to be the only place. They felt the people of Ibstock would be only too willing to have them in the district. Mr Lawrence said they ought to do all they could to help them.

On the proposition of Mr Thirlby and Mr Bonser, it was agreed to allow the use of the Hall should application be made.

### **CLAIMS OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS**

#### **GOVERNMENT SCHEME**

#### **PENSIONS OF DEPENDANTS AND DISABLED**

The Government on Monday night issued a memorandum of their scheme of new allowances and pensions in connection with the navy and army. The scales of pensions to widows and orphans have been improved.

A widow of a man in the lowest grade in each service with four children will receive a minimum of £1 weekly instead of 11s; a widow with three children a minimum of 17s 6d instead of 9s 6d; a widow with two children, 15s instead of 8s; a widow with one child, 12s 6d instead of 6s 6d; a widow without children, 7s 6s instead of 5s.

The allowances will be increased in necessitous cases. The widow's full separation allowance will be 5s continued for 26 weeks after the death of her husband.

The allotment previously made by the soldier for his children will now be paid by the Government, and provision will be made assisting an unmarried man's dependants. The allowances for partial disablement will be from 3s 6d to 17s 6d weekly, and for total disablement, 14s for unmarried men to 23s for married men with children, apart from national insurance benefit.

The actuary estimates that as various assumptions the new scheme will involve a total capitalised liability of from £99,000,000 to £202,000,000.

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## LOCAL CHIT CHAT

Driver Osborn, V.C., has rejoined his battery, and before doing so wrote to Mr Baddelay, the head-master of his old school at Bridge Road, Leicester, thanking the staff and school for their kindness to him.

The Coalville Territorial Reserves under Capt. Jesson (in the absence of Capt. Vere Smith) paraded in Coalville on Sunday morning, and headed by the Coronation Band marched to the Wesleyan Church, where the Rev. J. Warrington, of Leicester preached.

A number of wounded soldiers from the Base Hospital left Leicester on Tuesday afternoon. A few stretcher cases were sent to Burton, a larger number of more lightly wounded were sent to Loughborough.

One hundred and fifty wounded British soldiers were brought to Leicester on Tuesday night for treatment in the Base Hospital. Fifty of the cases were of a serious character – cot cases as they are called – while the remainder were such that the men were able to sit up or walk. The regiments to which the men belonged were the Grenadier Guards, the Seaforths, the Artillery, the Camerons, the Staffords, the Royal Sussex, the Lancashire, the Wilts, the Gloucesters and the Duke of Wellington's regiment. They came direct from the firing line at Lille, where, it was generally agreed, a terrific battle is still in progress.

At the Leicester and other military hospitals wounded soldiers who have lost limbs in action have been under anxiety as to whether artificial applications will be provided for them. Sir M. Levy, M.P., brought the matter to the notice of the War Office, and on Wednesday received a letter under date November 10<sup>th</sup> from Mr M. J. Tennant, in which he says artificial limbs are being supplied in such cases and *"you are more than welcome to make this public."*

There is still an urgent call for young men to join the colours. Hundreds, nay, thousands of able-bodied men are still holding back, they may be seen loafing about the pavements of our big towns and cities, or crowding to football matches and picture palaces, while their brothers are fighting at the front, or preparing themselves in training corps. No man who is eligible and free, can at the present moment refrain from enlisting without losing his self respect and the esteem of his fellow countrymen. Lord Kitchener wants another 100,000 men, and he wants them at once. Time is precious. The Germans are still bringing up reinforcements, and if these vast masses are to be hurled back, the Allies must be continually strengthened. Proper arrangements have now been made to receive and train every man who enlists, and it is imperatively necessary that the new battalions should be completed without delay and reserves provided for the army in the field.

The Parliamentary Recruiting Committee have, after consulting with the War Office, decided to circulate households with a view to ascertain the names and addresses of men between the ages of 19 and 38 who are willing to enlist for the period of war. Accompanying the form – the filling up of which is a purely voluntary service to the state on the part of the householder – is a letter signed by Mr Asquith, Mr Bonar Law, and Mr Arthur Henderson, the presidents of the Committee, which says, *"Every man who is eligible will ask his own conscience whether, in the emergency, it is not his duty to hold himself ready to enlist in the Forces of the Crown."*

Twenty Belgian Refugees are being accommodated in St. Helen's House, Market Street, Ashby, the following being their names and ages: Alphonse Petri (50), Colleta Petri (49), man and wife and seven children – Marie (26), Louise (17), Josephine (14), Marguerite (12), Raymond (9), Angele (5 1/2) and Walter (3 1/2); Juenette de Pooter (35) and children – Theresa (15) and Andre (12); Louise de Schutter (36) and children – Jacnette (16), Anna (13), Victor (13), Jaenne (9), Hortense (6), Francois (4) and Albert (three weeks born in London).

It was announced at the Coalville Men's Adult School on Sunday morning that some of the young members had joined the forces and the president (Mr B. B. Drewett) expressed the good wishes of the school to them and gave them a few sound words of advice. Incidentally, Mr Drewett referred to the splendid work done in the camps by the Y.M.C.A. and remarked that the Association had recently gone up in his estimation by leaps and bounds. It may be explained that at most of the large camps there is a Y.M.C.A. tent in which the soldiers may pleasantly pass their leisure hours reading, writing letters etc., and this provision is greatly appreciated by the men. Members of the Coalville Y.M.C.A. are rendering excellent work in helping in the supervision of some of the tents.

About 13 of the British soldiers who have been in Loughborough Hospital for the last fortnight left the institution on Monday to return to their homes or furlough. The men still in the hospital are making good recovery, and hope to leave shortly. A further batch from Leicester is expected to take their places.

The Belgian Refugees at Whitwick who are being accommodated in a house at Forest Side lent by Mr G. F. Burton, and whom Mrs Glynn is also helping, are Naxarie Amand and his wife Anna with one child and Mathelda Derde (whose husband is in the war) and two children. All come from Alost. Those at Thringstone, whom the Right Hon. Charles Booth is helping, are Frans De Mailly and his wife Josephine and one child. Auguste Alenhant (15), and Gustaf Scheive and Marcel De Smet, from Ghent. The two latter do not know where their wives and children are.

The response to the committee organising the concert in aid of Belgian Refugee's Fund had a remarkable response to their invitation, no fewer than 200 singers responding on Monday evening last, when under the capable and thorough conductorship of Mr Frank Storer, a splendid practice was held. Every choir in the district was well represented, and all seemed determined to make the concert a great success from both a musical and financial point of view. Practices are being held every Monday night in the Adult School Hall (kindly lent).

### **COALVILLE CITIZENS' CORPS**

#### **COMPANY ORDERS NOVEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 1914**

Members will parade in the Drill Hall on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8 o'clock, and on the afternoon of Wednesday and Saturday at 3 o'clock. Sergt. R. Williams to be Orderly Sergeant for the week. N.C. Officers to meet at 7 pm on Wednesday next the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

(Signed) B. G. Hale (Captain)  
Officer Commanding

### **WHITWICK AND THRINGSTONE CITIZENS' CORPS**

#### **HEADQUARTERS: THE GYMNASIUM, WHITWICK**

Company orders for week ending November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, Company Drill, Headquarters, 7 pm.  
Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Company Drill, Headquarters, 10 am.  
Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Company Drill, Thringstone Institute, 7pm

Major W. E. Stevenson  
Officer Commanding

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That Mr J. A. Johnson has kindly promised to give a matinee at the Coalville Electric Theatre in aid of the Belgian Relief fund on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>?

That Mr C. H. Parsons, C.C., of Ashby, is presenting each member of the Ashby Territorial Reserve Company with a photograph of the group?

That the whist drive organised by the Coalville Branch of the C.E.M.S. last week realised a profit of £18 11s for the Belgian Relief Fund?

That a concert will be held in the Primitive Methodist Mission Room, Wilkins Lane, Hugglescote, commencing at 7 o'clock, on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> in aid of the Belgian Refugees Fund?

That at a meeting of the Leicester and Leicestershire Recruiting Committee held on Wednesday evening it was reported that there had been a marked improvement in local recruiting during the last two or three days?

That the Coalville Women's Unionists' Association (Loughborough Division), through Miss Maud Tyler, have contributed £3 to the Coalville Ladies' Fund for providing comforts for the soldiers and sailors on active service?

That pursuant to Order issued by the War Office on the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, that all soldiers, including Territorials, are prohibited from entering all premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors before 1 pm each day, or between the hours of 2 and 4 pm each day, or after 10 pm each day?

That Ptes. Dobney and Hatter, of the Coalville Territorial Reserve Company, have been promoted to the rank of corporal?

That Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., of Coalville, was the principal speaker at a big recruiting meeting at Ashby Town Hall on Wednesday night?

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## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES FUND**

At a meeting of the collectors for the Belgian Refugee Fund, held in the Adult School Hall, on Monday night, Mr A. Lockwood presided and there were present Capt. McKernon, and Mr C. W. Brown, with the hon. sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) and the collectors, all but four districts being represented. It was reported that the amount of the second weekly collection was £16 2s 1d, which was considered good. A letter was read from the proprietor of the Coalville Electric Theatre, Mr J. A. Johnson, promising to give a matinee for the fund on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, and he was heartily thanked for the same.

### **FOR THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS**

The ladies of Coalville and District who have formed a working party to make comforts for our soldiers and sailors on active service held a tea at Christ Church School on Wednesday, where despite the wet day, it was a great success. There was a crowded attendance. The tea was all given, so that a substantial sum will be realised for the purchases of materials required for making body belts and other comforts. Mrs Hardington, of Forest Road, took a seed cake, and a competition in guessing its weight brought in a good many pennies. Mrs J. W. Farmer guessed the exact weight, 4lbs 9 1/2 ozs and so took the cake. A short musical programme arranged by Miss Maud Tyler, Miss Jamie and Miss Ethel Hay was much enjoyed.

### **MINING OFFICIALS MEETING**

Under the auspices of the local branch of the Midland Mining Officials' Association, a meeting was held in the Half-Way House club-room on Saturday evening. Mr A. Hook, Bagworth, the newly-appointed chairman presided, and thanked those present for the honour they had conferred upon him, and said he hoped to receive the same support from the members as had been given to his predecessors. After the usual business had been disposed of, Mr H. Cherry, Bagworth, appealed to the members to support the Coalville and Ibstock Committees for the relief of the Belgian refugees, who are almost to be brought to Broom Leys, in the Coalville area, and to Sefton House in the Ibstock area. It was unanimously decided to give £15 to the Coalville Committee for Broom Leys and £5 to the Ibstock Committee for Sefton House.

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES AT SHEPSHED**

The 15 refugees who have now been at the White House, Shepshed, for a month, have become fairly acclimatised, but the effect of their terrible experiences is too great to be easily cast off. A meeting of the committee was held at the Council Schools on Monday evening. Mr J. Harriman presided, and there were also present, the Rev. Canon Martens, Mrs Harriman, Mr Atkin, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Gibbs, Mrs Potter, Mrs Ince, Miss Goodall, Miss Green, Miss Fogathy, and Messrs. Smith Forton, and Whyte.

It was reported that the work of the Ladies' Committee during the month had been most satisfactorily carried out, and that the guests were greatly pleased with their treatment.

Mr M. Smith was appointed hon. secretary to the committee. The street collections are being carried out successfully, and in addition to money many other gifts have been received. The treasurer's statement showed a balance of receipts and expenses. The Co-Operative Society had agreed to contribute £1 a month for five months.

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## **FOOTBALL**

### **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT LEAGUE**

Neither of the matches fixed in the first division took place on Saturday. Coalville Swifts Reserves were to have played Whitwick Imperial Reserves on the Fox and Goose ground but were unable to raise a team through players having joined the colours during the week.

The management committee of this league met at the Red House Hotel, Coalville, on Monday night. Mr J. Kirby presided and there were present Messrs. R. T. Bradshaw, G. Swain, D. Marston, A. E. Clay, F. W. Smith and C. E. Marston (hon. secretary).

Ashby Hastings were reported for not going to Coleorton, the explanation being that several of the players wanted to go to Leicester Fair. Mr G. Robey (Ashby) said they were not able to raise a team and it was due to the war as well as Leicester Fair. Replying to a question Mr Robey said nine players had joined the colours.

A member: *Well done Ashby.*

Coleorton were reported for not going to Ibstock to play the Amateurs and Coleorton secretary said they had only about nine players left out of 20 signed on, the rest having joined the army. Quite 20 from Coleorton had joined the colours. The Coleorton club were ordered to pay Ibstock's claim of 1s 6d for ground marking, the match to be re-arranged within 14 days.

Hugglescote Wesleyans wrote withdrawing from the first division of the league, stating that about 20 of their players had joined the colours, and they asked for the return of the deposit. It was decided to ask for a list of the players who had joined the colours before deciding the question of the deposit.

## **SWANNINGTON**

### **WAR LECTURE**

An illustrated war lecture was given in the Swannington Church School on Wednesday evening by the Vicar, (the Rev. G. Robinson) on "How British pluck won in France." Mr T. Atkins presided and songs were given by Miss Atkins. The proceeds were for the Prince of Wales's Relief Fund. Some interesting slides were shown by aid of a lantern.

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## **MARKFIELD**

### **WAR RELIEF**

A meeting of the War Relief Committee and those recently co-opted was held in the School room on Wednesday evening. Mr Preston presided. The appointment of chairman and secretary was confirmed, and Mr J. C. Higgins elected treasurer. It was resolved to organise weekly collections for the Prince of Wales's and the Belgian Relief Fund, and that the Coalville scheme of relief be supported. An appeal was made for immediate gifts or loans of furniture for Broom Leys.

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## HUGGLESCOTE

### WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE

Despite a very wet night, a whist drive and dance for the local Belgian Refugee Fund, organised by the Hugglescote Church Council in the National Schools was a great success, over 200 being present. The MC's for dancing were Messrs. D. S. Moore and T. Hatter, and the pianist was Mr W. Gimson. The MC's for the whist drive were Dr. Meredith and Mr W. F. Canner and the winners were:

Ladies – 1 Mrs Baker; 2 Miss Canner; 3 Mrs Allen (Bardon).

Gents – 1 Mr Bowley (Bardon); 2 Mr J. Horner; 3 Mr Columbello.

Refreshments were provided by a ladies committee.

## LEICESTERSHIRE TERRITORIALS

### INTERESTING STATISTICS

A quarterly meeting of the Leicestershire and Rutland Territorial Association was held at the County Rooms, Leicester. His Grace, the Duke of Rutland was in the chair.

The following report from the Emergency Committee was read and approved: The Territorial units raised in this area and, as a War Office letter puts it formerly administered by these associations, may now be divided into two parts, the 1<sup>st</sup> line or imperial service units, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> line, home service or reserve units, which duplicate the foreign service units and of those members 60 per cent undertake the foreign service obligations. These units will provide the drafts for the 1<sup>st</sup> line when required. The reserve units which are already approaching establishment and for which many more applications for commissions have been received than there are vacancies are:-

Leicestershire Yeomanry, strength 400; Lieut. Col. R. Muir, establishment 470.

Leicestershire R.H.A., strength 44; Major W. B. Du Pre, establishment 45.

4<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, strength 934; Lieut Col. C. Oliver, establishment 1,000.

5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, strength 856; Lieut Col. E. C. Atkins, establishment 1,000

N.M.M.B.T. and S. Col, strength 36; Lieut. R. T. Cooper, establishment 115.

Lincolnshire & Leicestershire Brigade Company A.S.C. strength 61; S.S.M. Green, establishment 105.

2<sup>nd</sup> N.M.F.A., strength 201; Major Riddett, establishment 236.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital is not duplicated. Beds are now provided for 555.

In addition to the above, this area has also provided:

Half the North Midland Divisional T and S Col.

Mechanical Transport Company, about 76 in total.

A railway supply section for the same column about 40 men.

About 30 men for the North Midland Clearing Hospital just mobilised under Lieut. Col. Pe—e.

This in addition to a considerable augmentation of the establishment of various units due to different causes but in a part to the necessity for the provision of Mechanical Transport both for the North Midland Mounted Brigade now incorporated into the 1<sup>st</sup> Mounted Division, and for the North Midland Division. There is every reason to believe that these troops of which the Leicestershire and Rutland units form a part will be among the first to be sent to France, but it is not certain when they will go. A date was actually fixed for their sailing, but was then postponed. Every endeavour is being made in the meantime to see what their requirements in the way of stores are being met as soon as possible.

With regard to the new units now being raised as home service or reserves. The Corporation, the Rugby Football Club, the County Cricket Club and the Fosse Football Club have place drill ground and other accommodation at the service of these new units which have in a very short time done a great deal of drill and route marching.

The association are now paying out separation allowance and allotments to about 1,500 families, and small as this number is, the work of the pay office has been very much complicated by the frequent changes in procedure and method of payment which have been ordered.

Your Committee has received numbers on field glasses, blankets, shirts, mufflers, etc., including a large gift from Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, and a very considerable quantity of things from the Mayoress of Leicester who has especially interested herself in obtaining caps, mufflers, and body belts. These have been sent on to the troops as they have been obtained.

More than 300 packs of cards have also been forwarded to the different units, thanks to a collection kindly made by Mr Gibbs. All these things have been much appreciated. The 5<sup>th</sup> Northern General Hospital has been inspected by the Senior Medical Officer of the Northern Command, General Ford, who expressed his satisfaction with the arrangements made.

## **ASHBY**

### **MEETING OF WOMEN**

Under the auspices of the Ashby branch of the Women's Union a meeting was held in the Mission Room last Thursday afternoon. Representatives from the Parish Church and Holy Trinity Church were present in good numbers. The proceedings were opened by the Rev. H. E. Sawyer (Vicar of Ashby). Subsequently an excellent address was delivered by Mrs Rudd (Leicester) who spoke on the war, and urged upon those present to do their best in the matter of recruiting.

### **THE TERRITORIALS**

Under the command of Captain Jesson, the Reserve Company assembled at the Town Hall on Sunday morning and, accompanied by the Ashby and District Prize Band, attended divine service at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Burton Road. The chapel was crowded. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Blayney (superintendent minister).

### **WENT DOWN IN THE "HAWKE"**

#### **A FORMER BARDON HILL QUARRYMAN**



One of the gallant men who went down in the ill-fated "Hawke" was P.C. George H. Newton, a member of the Metropolitan Police Force, who formerly worked at Bardon Hill Quarry, and two of whose brothers are residing in this district – Mr Fred Newton, a collier, of Melbourne Street, Coalville, and Mr Wm. Newton, a collier, of Shaw Lane. The deceased man left Bardon ten or eleven years ago to join the navy, in which he served for six years, and he had been in the Metropolitan Police Force for about four years. His father is Mr Caleb Newton, who resides at Long Crendon, Bucks.

Newton was an able seaman and left the navy with an excellent record, while during his short career in the police force, he established the fact that he was a reliable man and a thoroughly good officer. He left Mitchem on general mobilisation day, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and sailed on board the "Hawke" two days later. During his naval career he served on the "Cressy." Several letters were received by his young lady who resides at Mitchem and a rather sad feature is that his last epistle reached her two days after his ship had gone down. The brightest letter of all, it was written on the

Saturday before, and assured his friends that he would soon be coming home, as the war could not last long. "We are doing our best to be cheerful" were his last words.

### **HINCKLEY MAN ON THE HERMES**

#### **TWO HOURS STRUGGLE IN THE WATER**

A thrilling story of the sinking of H.M.S. Hermes is supplied by Robert Samuel Harrison, a reservist of the Royal Marines, one of the first to be called from the Hinckley district.

Harrison states that on Saturday morning the Hermes had orders to proceed from Dover to Dixmude. On the way, her officer received a wireless message telling them to return to Dover to take in coal, a strange command having regard to the fact that they were full up with coal at the time. While on the way, the ill-fated ship was torpedoed. They all stuck to the ship until the captain gave the order, "Every man for himself."

With orders, Harrison went overboard at 8.22 am and he was struggling about in a rough sea for two hours until he became numbed and felt his senses leaving him. Just as he was about to give up however, his imagination pictured his wife and children on the water in front of him, he relates how it was if they were urging him to continue his efforts. The "picture" served to give him new life, and he succeeded in keeping afloat until he was finally picked up by the men from another warship.

Harrison was afterwards taken to Dover, and on to Chatham, where he was granted ten days leave. He appears to have suffered considerably by his trying experience.

### **THRINGSTONE TERRITORIAL'S LETTER**

Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head Inn, Thringstone, on Tuesday received a letter from Mr W. Sykes, of Thringstone, who was one of the fifty Coalville Territorial Reserves, who recently left for Luton. Sykes says that on Wednesday last week they were under orders to leave and had everything packed up. At the last moment, however, fresh orders came and instead of leaving the town as they had expected they started off on a ten mile march carrying one hundred pounds of kit on their backs and 125 rounds of ball cartridge. It was a very warm day and some of the men fell out, but he stuck it through. He says he is enjoying himself and gets into the town most nights. He wishes to be remembered to all his old friends.

### **"A GRAND LIFE"**

### **WHITWICK MAN'S CHEERY LETTER**

A Whitwick man who enlisted and is now with the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment at Aldershot, writing to his former employer at Whitwick, says his company has got a good name already for smartness. "We are all trying to keep the old regiment's name up. Our officers are very good to us. They want us to try and be ready as soon as we can. They don't want us to be left behind. I am sorry to say there are only two of us from Whitwick in our company. I think people would wonder what was the matter if the Germans got into England. Then they would blame us and say we were not doing our best. But if we do go to the front you can trust me to do my best for King and country. We are having plenty of food, a good bed at night, and yet some of the men are always grumbling. They do not think of the poor beggars at the front. It is a grand life. They can do with more men. I should be pleased to hear all the young men from the old place had enlisted. It appears some would sooner see the country go down than come. They ought to be made to come."

### **LEICESTERSHIRE COLONEL BACK IN THE TRENCHES**

Colonel Croker, the commanding officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment, who was included in the casualty list some days ago wounded in the hand by a piece of shrapnel, has, we are pleased to learn, sufficiently recovered to return to duty in the trenches.

### **HUGGLESCOTE SOLDIER WOUNDED**

### **TRIBUTE TO THE "MARVELLOUS INDIANS"**

The many Hugglescote friends of Trooper William Stinchcombe, of the Royal Horse Guards (blue) will regret to hear that he was wounded on November 1<sup>st</sup>, though, happily, is making good progress towards recovery.



Stinchcombe is a son of Mr William Thomas Stinchcombe, an employee of Messrs. Ellis and Everard, at the Bardon Hill stone quarry, and before joining the Guards two years ago, he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery. He proceeded to the front on August 15<sup>th</sup> from Southampton and was in the battle of Mons, having four days' fighting there. In the memorable retirement his regiment fought rear guard actions, escorting the guns. They were at Compeigne and on the Marne and at the Aisne they did dismounted work, reinforcing the troops in the trenches. *"In the recent fighting at*



*Messines," he says, "we held the trenches alongside the Indian troops and we kept relieving each other. The Indians are a smart lot of fellows. They are simply marvellous in creeping along the ground in an attack. On Saturday during the early hours of the morning, the Germans attacked our trenches, but we held them back, and must have caused heavy losses to the enemy, until we had run short of ammunition. By that time they had surrounded our trenches, so we had to retreat. The Lincolns marched up and the Germans attacked them, so they (the Lincolns) made three or four bayonet charges. While retiring, I was wounded in the left cheek with a shrapnel bullet, which went right through the cheek. The Indians were in the same affair as the London Scottish."*

Stinchcombe is now recuperating at Eaton Hall, Cheshire, and has written to say that he hopes to have a trip home when better, before returning to the front.

## **COALVILLE SOLDIER'S WAR TROPHY**

### **BELT TAKEN FROM DEAD GERMAN IN TRENCH**

Further testimony as to the great part being taken by the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters at the front was given to a representative of this paper by Private J. Snow, of that regiment, who is at present staying with Mr J. E. Palmer, a Midland Railway engine driver, of Bridge Road, Coalville. Mr Palmer's son, Tom, who is a pal of Snow, is still at the front.

Pte. Snow, who is a Leicester man, stated that his regiment was at Fermoy, County Cork, when the call to war came, his first battle was that of the Aisne. He was for three weeks in the trenches and they made numerous attacks. They were so near that at night when all was quiet they could hear the Germans talking in their trenches. The enemy were driven out several times at the point of the bayonet, the Leicesters taking part, and invariably the ground was strewn with dead. Snow said they did remarkably well on the Aisne and he went through that battle without getting a scratch. After that they travelled by train for 2 days and 2 nights, forty of them being in one cattle truck, and arrived at Armentieres. From there, a three days' march brought them up with the enemy again, in the neighbourhood of Lille. There they entrenched and were soon in the thick of it again. Several severe encounters took place on a Saturday, but the fiercest of all were on the Sunday, when he was wounded.

*"Hordes of Germans," he said, "rushed up and jumped on us in our trenches, and severe hand-to-hand fighting took place, but they lost a lot more than we did, though we were greatly out-numbered. Reinforcement came up and drove them off and the same night the Indian Ghurkhas made one of their splendid charges."*

Asked how he was wounded, Snow replied that he was struck on the thigh from a piece of shrapnel from one of the German "Jack Johnson's." *"Most of the mischief," he said "is done by their big guns: they are awful. Except the snipers, they are hardly any good at all with the rifle. They advance all together and you can't help but knock them over. I saw thousands of dead lying about the place."* At this stage Snow produced for the writer's inspection, a German leather belt, which he had brought home as a war trophy. The gallant soldier stated that when the trenches occupied by the Leicesters were rushed by the enemy, in the hand-to-hand scuffle which ensued, he had his braces torn from his shoulders and he took the belt from a dead German lying at his side. A grim circumstance is that the belt, though of thick new leather, bears a hole evidently made by a bayonet thrust. It has under the clasp a Dresden trade mark, with the figures 1914, showing it to be of new manufacture, and on the centre of the clasp is the figure of a crown, with the words "Providentiae Memor."

A lot of the Germans, he said, talked a little English and they did that to try and trap them. At a critical moment, during a charge, they would shout in English, "cease fire" and then follow up the advantage which that gave them. *"But that does not avail them much now,"* said Snow, *"as our officers have warned us against it."* After being wounded, he said he was with some German wounded for a time and several of them were only 16 or 17 years of age and had been in the war three or four weeks.

The last he saw of his mate Tom Palmer, was some little time before he was wounded. Palmer was then on horseback, apparently delivering a message for one of the officers.

## **COALVILLE LADS AT THE FRONT**

Private Stan Hardy, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, writing to his wife at Coalville, under date, 30<sup>th</sup> October, says Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October was a hard day, he thanked God he got through all right. The action started at 4.30 pm, on Sunday, and was "on" until 2 am Monday, and then, he says, *"We came out for a rest, but it was not for long, as we were shelled out again, and had to move, as it was too hot for us to stay."*

*"I am pleased to tell you"* he adds, *"that all the Coalville lads are all right, and when we come out of the line, we always have a look round for the others."* Hardy asks his wife to send him a woollen cap and mentions that he was with Tom Granger, a policeman, of Coalville, who was called up as a Reservist at the time he (Hardy) was.

## **PLENTY OF EVERYTHING**

### **COALVILLE BAKER'S INTERESTING LETTER FROM THE FRONT**

In reply to a letter from Mr T. Grosert, the Coalville Co-Operative Society's head baker, asking whether there was anything he was in the need of that they could send him, Pte. H. Kilworth, one of the Co-Operative bakers, who has been at the front for several weeks, writes that the letter received was very welcome and he was pleased to hear all were well at home. He was in the best of health. The letter proceeds, *"We have had several brushes with the enemy and I am pleased to tell you that I have come out safely up to now. I think it was very good of the Co-Operative to give that amount to the war funds. You must tell them that the boys are doing their duty out here as well. It is rough work and one does not get much rest on these jobs, but I hope it will not be long before it is all over. I must thank you very much for offering me anything that I might want, but I am pleased to tell you that we are getting plenty of everything. There is always somebody sending the boys tobacco and underclothes, so you see that they are taking care of us. Please remember me to all my workmates and tell them that I am often thinking about them and wondering what they are doing and I hope it will not be long before I am with them again"*.

## **WHITWICK QUARRYMEN AT THE FRONT**

### **THRILLING EXPERIENCES IN THE TRENCHES**

Splendid patriotism has been shown by the employees of the Whitwick Granite Company. Out of 200 workmen, 19 up to now have joined the colours, and one of them, Pte. Charles Millward, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, after a warm time in the trenches, has unfortunately been wounded. In letters written to the quarry manager, Mr J. H. Robinson, Millward states:

*"I am pleased to say my cut is going on well, it was a nasty wound: the doctor said if it had been a little deeper I should not have been here. It cut me down the middle of the head and knocked me unconscious. I lost a lot of blood. I shall never forget that Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> October. It was a terrible sight and a hard day's fighting, the busiest I had been in. The Germans started about 5 o'clock in the morning and came up in thousands; they had been trying to break our line for 3 days but we held them at bay, though we lost heavily, about all our officers were killed and wounded, our trenches were full. The dead lay all over the place in hundreds.*

*The enemy kept blowing our trenches up with the big guns, and when the shells hit the ground you could bury a horse and cart in the hole made. They were shelling us for 3 days. I thought every minute my last had come. Every time the big shells came we had to get under the ground we had dug out for the purpose. I am pleased to get out of it for a while. I shall be glad when the war is over. We had a pretty good time at the battle of the Aisne: we were busier in the last battle. We had some very hard times in the trenches. I am sorry that parcel will not reach me as we long for a smoke and anything in that line, someone will make a fuss of them.*

*The French people are a good-natured lot; they would give us anything. We were well supplied with tobacco and cigarettes that was something to be thankful for. We fared pretty well for food seeing we were at war. We left Cambridge Hospital on Wednesday afternoon for Bedford. When we arrived at the station there were motor cars waiting for us, taking us to our new destination. We enjoyed the 10 miles ride very much. We have gone to be guests of Lord Lucas. It is a lovely place and a very large estate. We are living on the best of everything. If you want anything you only have to ask for it, they are all very kind to you. I think it is very*

*kind of him to have us here, we get plenty to eat and drink and smoke and we can go for nice long walks in the Park. There is fishing, boating and every game you can think of to amuse yourself. I never thought I should come to a place like this in my time: it is better than being in the trenches. We are going for a motor ride on Saturday to Luton to see a football match. We are to have plenty of rides in Lord Lucas's motors. I could not say how long we are staying here, if we stay long we shall get quite strong again. Remember me to foreman and mates."*

## **COALVILLE FOOTBALLER AMONG THE FIREWORKS**

### **ANOTHER LETTER FROM "SMOSH"**

*"Don't send any fireworks, there are plenty out here,"* was a witty sentence in a letter dated November 5<sup>th</sup> just received in Coalville by a friend from Mr James Smith, a Coalville Town footballer popularly known as "Smosh," who is with the R.A.M.C. at the front).

Smith expresses thanks for "fags" sent out, says he is going on all right. "Menty" Commons (another footballer in the same corps) was about two miles away from him and he had sent his share of the "fags" and letter to him by another man. The writer proceeds, *"I hear that a good many are enlisting from Coalville. I think we are going on well. We are settling a few on 'em and I don't think it will last much longer. We had a bit of work on November 1<sup>st</sup>, when there was a big battle, and you need not send any fireworks as there are plenty of them here every day. I shall not forget you if I get back all right and I hope you will have a good Christmas. Just remember me when you are having your Christmas pudding. The British troops are showing the Germans how it should be done, in fine style. We have heard that our fleet have broken the German navy all up and I hope it's true. Please write back and let me know how things are going on in Coalville. Tell the Town I shall have to come and put them right."*

## **Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1185)**

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#### **FOREIGN TELEGRAMS AND RADIO TELEGRAMS**

Ordinary telegrams for places abroad and radio telegrams however addressed, can only be accepted at senders risk and if written in plain English or French. In case of telegrams for Switzerland, Turkey, French only is allowed. All telegrams will be subject to censorship and must bear the sender's name at the end of text, otherwise they are liable to be stopped until the name is notified by paid telegram.

Registered abbreviated addresses will not be accepted either as the addresses of telegrams or as the names of senders. Ordinary telegrams in code or cipher without text are prohibited.

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#### **RECRUITING MEETING AT ASHBY**

##### **SPEECH BY MR B. G. HALE**

Mr J. P. Adcock, J.P., presided at a recruiting meeting held in the Town Hall, Ashby, on Wednesday of last week. There was a large attendance, although the weather was unfavourable. Mr B. G. Hale said that every man of fighting age should ask himself whether his conscience was satisfied that he was doing all he could in this struggle. Some people would say there was no need to trouble, we had a million and a half men in the field training to go, but it was far better that we should have a hundred thousand too many than one hundred too few. He asked them to realise the terrible plight of the men in the trenches. We had only a handful there with half a million pitted against them. There was still time for Ashby to do its duty in this crisis, the greatest the world had ever seen, or would ever see. We should win in the end, but we could not win without men.

Speeches were also delivered by Mr Thornton (Kegworth), Colonel German, and Capt. Stevenson (recruiting officer), and at the conclusion recruits were enrolled.

#### **FUNERAL OF BELGIAN SOLDIER IN LEICESTER**

The funeral of the Belgian soldier, Private Bourgannon, whose death took place at the Base Hospital, took place at Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester, on Friday. Requiem Mass was said at the hospital and at the graveside the deceased soldier was accorded full military honours. A firing party from Glen Parva fired a volley over the grave, and the "Last Post" was sounded. The officiating priests were the Rev. Father Caus Lindboom and de Hoon.

Another death occurred on Friday morning of a Scots Guardsman at the base hospital who succumbed to his wounds.

### **EARL SHILTON SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS**

Information has reached Earl Shilton of the death in hospital on October 19<sup>th</sup> of Private W. Green, 18<sup>th</sup> Hussars, from wounds received in action. One of the first who went to the front, he was in several engagements. He was well known and highly respected both in Earl Shilton and Barwell. He took considerable interest in the Social Institute, and was a member of the Prize Choir. About three years ago he married Gertrude, only daughter of Mr J. Wolloff, boot manufacturer, of Heyford House, and leaves a widow and two children.

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### **ANOTHER PRISONER IN GERMANY**

#### **FOUR DAYS IN A LUGGAGE VAN**

Writing from Gastrow, Mecklenburg, Germany, Private W. R. Fisher of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, whose mother lives at 12, St. Bernard Street, Belgrave, Leicester says:

*"Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite safe, and in the best of health. I managed to get through without a scratch, but I have seen some terrible sights this last two months. Me and a lot more of our battalion are in the hands of the Germans; when they captured us they sent us to a station in luggage vans, and we did not see daylight for four days, travelling day and night."* In conclusion, Pte. Fisher asks that a parcel be sent him, and says, *"I should love a bit of cake."*

### **WHY THE WARWICKSHIRES CEASED FIRE**

Writing to a friend at Linton, Burton-on-Trent, on the fight at Mons, Bombardier S. Shaw, R.F.A., says, *"Our brigade held out well. We drove them back all roads, and when the Warwickshires ceased firing, we wondered what was up. Then we saw the Germans crossing their line of fire with women and little children, and our regiment would not fire"*.

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### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

During conversation in a Coalville house it was remarked that one of the members of the family was a driller at Stableford's. This caught the ears of alert little Tommy, who remarked, *"Is our Jack a soldier?"* "No," said his mother, *"what made you ask that?"* "You said he was a driller," replied the boy, *"and soldiers are drillers."*

Scout Master Eagles, of Whitwick, informs us that the Whitwick boy scouts propose to go round to houses in the Whitwick and Thringstone district fortnightly collecting waste paper, which is to be sold and the proceeds donated to the local Belgian Refugees Relief Fund. Households are asked to save up their waste paper.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr Herbert Samuel, answering Mr Fell, said that so far as could be estimated the number of unmarried men between 20 and 30 years of age in the United Kingdom at the present time was about 2,600,000.

Another train load of wounded soldiers, numbering upwards of a hundred, arrived at Leicester on Sunday evening and were conveyed to the 5<sup>th</sup> Northern Hospital. The hospital, which contains accommodation for between 500 and 600 patients is now nearly full.

The Postmaster-General, replying to a correspondent who asked him whether there was any intention of adopting a suggestion to employ females as letter carriers in place of postmen on active service, says the necessity for the employment of women on such work has not arisen.

The first Belgian refugee baby born in Leicester at the Maternity Home, Bond Street, was christened by the Rev. Father Caus at St. Peter's Catholic Church, and the names given to the boy were: Albert George Leicester Leicier Delrot, being the names of two kings, the place born at, and the godfather's name. The baby had its sleeves decorated with Belgian colours.

A gratifying feature of the work among the wounded is the generous practical co-operation of the titled and wealthy in providing for the sufferers. Lord and Lady Aberconway have converted their house in Belgrave Square into a hospital for the disabled and injured, as well as placing Hilders, their residence at Haslemere at the disposal of the County Association as a convalescent home for territorials. Both cannot but be an immense and happy boon at the present crisis.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters left Luton at daybreak on Monday morning, in full marching order, and ready, if need be, to go straight to the front. It is not known at present where their destination is, and it may be that they will return to Luton in the course of a day or two, on the other hand they may be under orders for service abroad.

Good news has been received from one of the Coalville Ambulance men serving in the navy – Mr F. Moreton, who is an employee in the waterworks department of the Coalville Urban District Council. Since leaving Coalville, Moreton has been promoted to the rank of corporal, and in a letter received on Wednesday by his wife he encloses a copy of a certificate signed by the Fleet Surgeon, which states that Moreton has satisfactorily completed a "man of war" course on board H.M.S. Caesar. He writes that he is in the best of health and enjoying the life at sea.

We are informed by Captain Woods, of the Church Lads Brigade, that the lads propose to make monthly collections of waste paper in the Hugglescote district, the same to be sold for the benefit of the Prince of Wales's Fund. The public, therefore, are asked to save up all their old newspapers.

There was a full congregation at the Ashby Holy Trinity Church on Sunday morning. The service was attended by the reserve company of Territorials under command of Captain Jesson. There was also a strong muster of Reservists, and members of the Town Guard under command of Captain Stevenson. Members of the Ashby Troop of Boy Scouts also attended. The Ashby and District Prize Band led the march to the church. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Fowler, M.A. (Vicar).

In response to a telegram last Thursday from Assistant Commissioner Woolston, Messrs. Arthur Foster and Stanley Lane, members of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade left Ashby for Woolwich by the 6:6 train last Thursday evening. They will act as hospital orderlies at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. Members of the Overseal Division travelled by the same train for similar duty.

Broom Leys is now quite ready for the reception on one hundred Belgian refugees who are expected to arrive in a day or so. On Wednesday, the public were allowed, by ticket, to visit the house, and many who did so were agreeably surprised at the splendid arrangements made. The extent of the building is much greater than many had supposed and a party of one hundred will find ample accommodation there; in fact it would have provided for more. The response of the public both in funds for maintenance, and in giving or lending articles of furniture, has been very gratifying to the committee and all concerned and the house has been made very comfortable in every way. To mention one item alone, there are 61 beds, besides numerous bed chairs, and visitors generally agreed that no little detail for the comfort of the refugees had been overlooked by those responsible for the arrangements.

A rumour has been going about the district the committee has bought a forty guinea piano out of the funds to place in Broom Leys and as such a report is calculated to curb people's generosity, we are asked to say that there is no truth whatever in the rumour. Possibly it arose from the fact that the Belgians are to have a piano, but this is through the kindness of Mr. Johnson, of the Coalville Electric Theatre, who has generously offered the use of a piano free while the Belgians are in residence at Broom Leys – an offer which the committee has gladly accepted.

By arrangement with the Loughborough Corporation, the three days' November Fair was continued on Monday, several of the showmen offering half their takings to the Prince of Wales's Fund and the local hospital. Several local residents helped to check the takings. When shouting was required, they did it well, even at the coconut shies and on the round-about. As a result of the day's fair, the sum of £60 was handed over by the showmen. No charge for ground space was made by the Corporation on Monday.

### **LEICESTERSHIRE REFEREES' SOCIETY**

#### **NO DINNER : MONEY TO WAR FUNDS**

At the annual general gathering of the above society the majority of the members were present. The meeting was called for the purpose of receiving the hon. secretary and hon. treasurer's report, which were both adopted. The hon. secretary, in his report, mentioned that 485 referees had been sent out during last season, and although practically the whole of the members were over the serviceable age, two, in Sergeant J. Thomas, R.H.A., and Sergeant-Instructor F. W. Broughton, (maxim gun and musketry), were on active service; most of the others had joined the Citizens' Training League.

It was unanimously decided that in lieu of the dinner usually held at Christmas the members should contribute the cost of same to assist in providing presents for those at the front, the amount received to be divided between the funds of the "Leicester Mail" and "Mercury." A first instalment of 10s 6d has been sent to each of these funds.

#### **DO YOU KNOW**

That twenty Coalville Territorial recruits left for Luton yesterday?

That the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund on Wednesday reached £3,859,000?

That there are now 61 in the Whitwick and Thringstone Citizens' Corps?

That the Coalville District contribution to the Prince of Wales's Fund have this week reached £2,000?

That three Belgians joined the company at the Licensed Victuallers' banquet at Thringstone on Wednesday night?

That the secretary of the Coalville S.S. Football League, Mr H. Marson, has joined the Territorials?

That according to a postcard from a member of the Leicestershire Yeomanry, the regiment is in the "thick of the fighting"?

That the concert recently held at Battram realised £14 10s for the Belgian Refugees' Fund?

That the Hon. H. D. McLaren and Mr A. E. Hawley addressed a recruiting meeting at Barwell, on Wednesday night?

That Mr T. G. Paget, son of Mrs Paget, of The Beeches, Loughborough, has been gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps?

That 220 singers were present at the weekly practice in the Coalville Adult School Hall last Monday night for the forthcoming concert at the Olympia in aid of the local Belgian Refugee Fund?

That a sacred and patriotic concert is announced for Sunday afternoon next in the Coalville Olympia Theatre (by kind permission of the lessee, Mr T. F. MacDonald) the object being to provide little comforts for our local Leicesters at the front? Admission will be by present, or silver coin. Capt. Stevenson and Capt. Vere-Smith will be present and Mr B. G. Hale will preside. Songs, etc., will be rendered by well-known local talent, and war pictures will be shown.

### **BELGIANS VISIT STABLEFORD'S WORKS**

#### **INTERESTING IMPRESSIONS**

Three of the Belgians who are staying at Gracedieu had a novel experience one afternoon this week, being privileged to make a tour of inspection over Messrs. Stableford and Co's extensive wagon building works in Coalville.

It is interesting to note that a frame-fitter at the works, Mr John Wilkins, of Thringstone, is able to speak both Flemish and French languages fluently. His father was for 21 years a resident in Belgium and Mr Wilkins received all his school training in Belgian schools, in which the two languages mentioned were taught. For seven years, Mr Wilkins has acted as interpreter to visitors on the battlefield of Waterloo, coming back to Thringstone for the winter months. Needless to say, the Belgian refugees at Thringstone have found in him a very useful friend. When these Belgians, who speak mainly the Flemish tongue, paid a visit to the works, the manager, Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., who is rendering good service in recruiting in the district, had a long interview with the refugees in his office, Mr Wilkins acting as interpreter, and the men afterwards gladly accepted Mr Hale's invitation to have a look through the works.

Since then our reporter has had an interview with the Belgians, who through Mr Wilkins, said how interested they were in the works. They regarded the machinery as wonderful and said they had never seen anything like it in Belgium. Asked how they liked living in England, the faces of the refugees beamed with pleasure. They said they had met with the greatest kindness everywhere and could not find words to adequately express their gratitude. After their arrival in England they were greatly impressed at being allowed to travel first-class on the railway. Never before had they had that experience in their own country. They had not wanted anything since they had been in England and the kindness meted out to them had exceeded all expectations.

The men hail from Ghent, and in reply to our enquiries, said their homes were intact when they left, but the Germans were then making a second attack on the town. In this assault the Germans lost fully five thousand men and the English about three thousand. The enemy were driven off the first time but renewed the attack after being reinforced. It was then that the inhabitants fled. One of three is a youth about 17, whose parents implored the two elder men to take him with them, so that he should not be taken a prisoner by the Germans. They were wandering about Belgium for three weeks before reaching Calais and in the flight got separated from their wives and families and have not heard from them since. One of the men has a wife and one daughter, and the other a wife and three daughters.

In their own land the men were gardeners employed by the Municipality of Ghent and thanks to the kindness of the Right Hon. Charles Booth, they are pursuing their own avocation at Gracedieu on land provided by Mr Booth who is also supplying the other necessary materials.

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### **WHIST DRIVE**

The Girls' Recreation Club connected with Christ Church organised a whist drive at the school on Wednesday night to provide funds for sending comforts to our sailors. Nearly 100 were present. The Vicar acted as MC and the following were the prize winners:

Ladies: 1<sup>st</sup> Mrs Aldridge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Skelham, Mystery Miss Lowe.

Gents: 1<sup>st</sup> Miss Broughton (playing as gentleman), 2<sup>nd</sup> Mr Frearson, Mystery Mr Allen.

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES' FUND**

At a meeting of the collectors for the Belgian Refugee Fund, held in the Adult School Hall on Monday evening last, Mr A. Lockwood, D.C., presided and there were present Capt. McKernon, with the hon. secretary (Mr F. S. Weaver) and the collectors, all the districts being represented. The hon. secretary reported that the amount of the third weekly collection was £14 13s 5d which was considered good. The meeting will be held every Monday night in the Adult School Hall until further notice.

### **SOCIAL**

A social was held in the Progressive Hall on Wednesday in connection with the Women's Liberal Association. There was a capital attendance and the event was a great success, the proceeds being for the

Belgian Relief Fund. About 120 sat down to tea and afterwards Mr E. Holyoak acted as MC. Songs were given by Mr T. Chambers and Miss Bott, and there were instrumental duets (piano and mandolins) by Master P. Kinsey and Misses M. Clay and R. Eames. Two pork pies were put up for guessing competitions, several sharing the pies and a skittle competition was won by Mrs Johnson. Miss Matterson was the pianist. The company spent an enjoyable evening.

### **BUFF'S CONCERT**

On Tuesday night, the Belvoir (Coalville) Lodge of the R.A.O.B. held a concert at their headquarters, the Halfway House Hotel, in aid of the local Belgian Refugee Fund. Mr A. E. Hawley was to have presided but wrote to regretting inability to do so and enclosing a guinea for the funds. Mr Edgar Hawthorn took the chair and Mr Walter Lindley gave an address on the local scheme for accommodating refugees. Songs were given by Messrs. R. T. Bradshaw, G. Astill, Best, E. Hawthorn, Margetts, Wright, Martin and others. Friends from the Ashby, Whitwick, Thringstone, Hugglescote and Ivanhoe lodges attended and an enjoyable evening was spent. The proceeds amounted to £2 3s 6d.

### **IBSTOCK PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE**

A meeting of the Ibstock County Area Executive Committee was held at Nailstone on Thursday, The Rev. S. Flood, M.A. presiding. The fortnightly financial statements of the Prince of Wales's Fund, and of the Belgian Refugees' Fund were presented and accepted. Arrangements for the reception and maintenance of Belgian refugees at Sefton House, Barlestone, were then discussed.

It was resolved to appoint a house matron. It was also decided to put the management of the home under the supervision of a sub-committee consisting of Mrs Bell, Mrs Bell, sen., Mrs Kirkman, Mrs Fell, Mrs Pegg, Mrs Pratt, Messrs Eggington and Jacques, the Rev. W. Dampier, and Messrs Burdett, J. Emmerson and J. C. Williams. The chairman and secretary were appointed ex-officio visitors and all members of the executive were invited to visit the home, and to bring any suggestions for the improvement of the management before the executive.

The question of the employment of any male refugees was deferred for further consideration at the next meeting. The owners of collieries were thanked for their kindness and generous offer to supply Sefton House with coal for the use of the refugees.

Dr. Storer Best was also thanked for his kind offer to help the committee in the matter of interpretation. General rules were drawn up and sanctioned by the committee and the secretary was instructed to obtain translations of the same into Flemish and French.

### **RECRUITING AT HATHERN**

On Monday evening at the Church of England Day Schools, Hathern, a meeting was held to further recruiting, Mr E. M. P. de Lisle (Garendon Park) presided, and was supported by the Rev. J. G. Lawrence, Mrs de Lisle, Mrs Lawrence, Miss Lawrence, Mr E. E. Wells (Kegworth), Mr Cartwright (Loughborough), Colonel Piercey, and Mr F. Fuller. The Chairman, Mr Wells and Mr Cartwright appealed to the young men of military age to do their duty, and Colonel Piercey and Mr Fuller spoke in the same strain.

### **"IS WAR NECESSARY"**

The Ibstock Debating Society held their meeting in the Town Hall on Monday evening last when Mr A. Cooper presided over an interesting debate on "Is war necessary?" Mr G. Sparrow argued the affirmative aspect of the case, and Mr G. Foreman the negative. Good speeches were subsequently made by Messrs. W. Newman, J. J. Sparrow, F. J. Newman and others. The result of the voting was in favour of the affirmative.

### **RAIN IN THE TRENCHES**

Private Sten Hardy, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, writing to his wife at Coalville, says the nights are very cold in France and misty, but we must not grumble at the weather we are having so long as it doesn't rain. We have had rain, and it don't go down very nicely, because we cannot get dry again for a day or two.



## **COALVILLE AND DISTRICT SOLDIERS' COMFORTS GUILD**

Sir, we are pleased to say that this Guild was able to send 57 articles of warm clothing to the 50 men who left Coalville on October 30<sup>th</sup>, and who have now left Luton and advanced another stage nearer the front.

These gifts have been acknowledged by the commanding officer, who stated they have been distributed to the men for whom they were labelled, and he will be pleased to distribute further gifts in a similar manner. Eighteen articles were also distributed to local men who are returning to the front after recovering from wounds, or to other duties. We have now a great number of ladies hard at work, and are receiving most valuable help from several of the schools where the elder girls are knitting mufflers, mittens, socks, and helmets.

Such a staff of workers will soon use up the materials purchased with the £10 cleared from the tea in Christ Church Schools on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., and a roll of flannel which has been generously presented to us. We therefore, appeal to all women of the neighbourhood who wish to show their appreciation of the boys who are risking their lives for us to come forward quickly with their offers of help in work, materials or money, as with winter so near the need is urgent and must not be delayed.

The Guild is doing its utmost to ascertain the requirements of each man individually so as to prevent waste or overlapping. Ladies who are working are reminded that all articles which will be visible should be khaki. The men who are being looked after by the Guild are drawn from Coalville and all the surrounding towns and villages, and we therefore earnestly invite the co-operation of all those places, and we shall be very pleased to hear from any ladies who are willing to help in any way in their own districts.

We want to provide for the whole 1200 men who have gone away, and the more prompt and generous your response, the more suffering you will prevent, and the greater the number of valuable lives you will preserve.

Yours truly  
Mrs A. E. Baldwin  
88 London Road, Coalville, hon. secretary

Mrs M. J. Farmer  
56 Vaughan Street, Coalville, hon. treasurer

## **WAR LECTURE**

On Wednesday evening another of the series of war lectures was given in the village hall. The Vicar (the Rev. C. Shrewsbury), presided and the Right Hon. Charles Booth gave the lecture, the subject which was "How British pluck won in France." It was illustrated by some excellent slides. Messrs. H. Upton and Walter Watts managing the lantern. Miss Burkitt, of Whitwick, nicely sang two solos. The proceeds amounted to £3 4s for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

## **LEICESTER MAN ON H.M.S. MONMOUTH**

Mr H. Bradshaw, of Barwell, writes to say that his brother, Albert Bradshaw, a musician of the Royal Marine Band, was on H.M.S. Monmouth when it was sunk by the German squadron off the coast of Chile. Bradshaw was 20 years of age, and his home, when ashore, was 27, Wheat Street, Leicester.

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## **ROSE FROM THE RANKS**

### **LOUGHBOROUGH MAN'S PROMOTION**

Friday's "London Gazette" recorded the promotion to Second Lieutenant of Quartermaster-Sergeant Dowding, of the Leicestershire Regiment. Lieutenant Dowding is the son of Mr Dowding, formerly of the Golden Fleece Hotel, Hinckley, and his brother is now mace bearer and town hall keeper under the Loughborough Corporation. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershires in 1896, and was first with a detachment at St. Helena, joining the battalion at Cape Town in 1897. He went through the Boer War, and was in the siege of

Ladysmith and has the South Africa medal with clasps for Dundee, Talana Hill, Laing's Nek and Belfast. He also has the King's medal 1901-2. In 1902 Lieutenant Dowding went to India and returned home with the battalion in 1906. In 1908 he was appointed as instructor at Sandhurst. He was promoted Colour-Sergeant in 1902 and Quartermaster-Sergeant in 1904. While in India Lieutenant Dowding trained a football team which won the Army Cup. He is married and has two children.

### **DIED FOR KING AND COUNTRY**

#### **FOUR MEN FROM MARKET HARBOROUGH**

Mr J. Spriggs, of 22, Bath Street, Market Harborough, has received information that his son, George Spriggs, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, has been killed in action in France. A Market Harborough postman, Mr J. Grainger, is believed to have been on H.M.S. Good Hope sunk off Chile. His wife and two children live at Bath Street, Market Harborough.

Mr and Mrs G. T. Stokes, of Drayton, Market Harborough, have lost both their sons. One of them, Arthur, was on the Good Hope, and the other, Edgar, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northhamptons, has been killed near Ypres, by a bullet wound through the chest.

#### **SOLDIER'S FUNERAL IN LEICESTER**

The funeral took place at Welford Road cemetery, Leicester, on Monday morning, of Private Leonard Brown, of the Scots Guards, who died from tetanus following wounds at the Base Hospital on Friday. Part of the service was conducted in the church at the hospital and the other at the graveside. The officiating clergyman being the Rev. C. W. Luxmore. There were a number of relatives present. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and a firing party, escort, and bugles attended.

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#### **DON'T SHOOT CARRIER PIGEONS**

#### **GOVERNMENT ARE USING THEM**

The Press Bureau on Saturday evening passed the following:

It has been decided to use carrier pigeons for certain purposes in connection with his Majesty's service. The public are therefore requested to refrain from shooting or otherwise interfering with carrier pigeons whilst on passage.

#### **MR W. A. BROCKINGTON AND THE WAR**

#### **LECTURES TO BE GIVEN IN THE COUNTY**

At the Leicester Museum on Saturday evening, Mr W. A. Brockington, M.A., the Director of Education for Leicestershire, gave a stirring and inspiring lecture on the "The Poetry of Patriotism."

At the close of the lecture, Mr Brockington said: *"I am going to deliver this lecture in various centres in Leicestershire in aid of the noble scheme of the "Leicester Daily Post" to provide some little Xmas present for our lads at the front. I am going to do it for that, and I am going to do it for another purpose. I think you can guess that purpose. I want a recruit or two for Kitchener's second million – (applause) – and I shall get them directly or indirectly. Most of you here are women: most of those I shall have to lecture to will be women, but you can do your part. Make it easy for them; give them of your love and sacrifice. Don't imagine for a moment we do not realise as much as anybody the horror of it all. In our waking moments it is a horror inconceivably mad – man matched against machines. It is a horrible necessity, and we have got to see it through. We have got to see it through by deed, not by song."*

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#### **SHEPshed MEN WOUNDED**

Private Charles Millward, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, who went with the reserves from Shepshed on August 5<sup>th</sup>, was amongst the wounded in October, and has been in hospital at Bedford. He returned to his home in Shepshed on Monday.

Private J. Parker, Coldstream Guards, who was wounded at the battle of Mons in September, is convalescent and has left his home at Shepshed to rejoin his regiment.

### COALVILLE SOLDIER WOUNDED

#### THRILLING EXPERIENCES IN THE TRENCHES

#### WESLEYAN CHAPLAIN'S KINDNESS

The parents of Private Tom Palmer, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, have just received official information that Palmer has been wounded in the fighting in France and is now in hospital in France suffering from a contusion in the back.



Writing from a hospital at Rouen, the wounded soldier gave some idea of the thrilling experiences he has passed through. Characteristic of the British "Tommy" he makes light of his wounds. He says: "I met with an accident on Saturday. The trench I was in was blown in. Seven of us were in the trench at the time; four got out and three were killed. I only sprained an ankle and had to go into hospital (glad to get a rest), but I expect to be out again before long. We had it a bit hot. One company were wiped out altogether. Jim is in the same company. I don't know whether he got out". (Jim refers to Pte. Snow, a wounded soldier, now staying with the Palmers at Coalville). The letter proceeds: "We were at the battle of the Aisne for three weeks and only lost about 20 men, but when we got into the battle of Lille, in three days we lost over three hundred. I have been very lucky all the time. At Aisne, my mate next to me in the trench was killed, but I am all right and hope to be home soon. This war won't last much longer. The Germans can't last out. They are mown down like sheep and lie on the field in thousands, so that when we made an advance we can hardly get along. The Germans are firing on the Red Cross trains and one of these trains which has just arrived here had half its occupants killed. The Germans attacked the train. I did not get the "fags." The box got lost, but no

doubt it will turn up later on".

Pte. Palmer is in the B Co. of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters and is a son of Mr J. E. Palmer, a Midland Railway engine driver, residing in Bridge Road, Coalville. In a further note he says he is getting on fine. A Wesleyan Chaplain, he adds, has been very good to him, having given him a shirt, socks, hat, woollen jacket, woollen belt, and a 1/2 lb tin of tobacco, besides several other things that were useful to him in the trenches.

### "CHANCE OF A LIFETIME"

#### WHITWICK LAD'S CHEERY NOTE FROM THE FRONT

The Editor of this paper has received the following interesting post card:

*From somewhere in France, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1914.*

*Buck Up, Coalville*

*Dear Editor, Please allow me a few lines. How are the "bhoys" of Coalville rolling up to the flag? I hope they are going strong. If you are out of work "bhoys," try and come out here, and see mustard for mustard. The*

woolly backs out here have given them socks, I can tell you. So let's hear of a hundred or two from Coalville getting ready to carry the gun, and a few from Whitwick also; every little helps. It's a chance of a lifetime now, so just go and do the trick. In other words, take the shilling. It's quite all right when get used to it – the get out and get under business. And the sights one sees will live for ever. The "Jack Johnsons" and "Black Marias" are only sent as souvenirs for our "bhoys" because we are just "Little Devils," as our friend Kaiser Bill calls us. We are getting quite used to all these pet names which they try to make in Germany. Well, buck up, Coalville, and K and K as much as you can.

Yours truly

F. A. C.

One from Whitwick.

## READY FOR THE FRONT

### LOCAL TERRITORIAL'S LETTER FROM LUTON

Another interesting letter to the Editor of the "Coalville Times" has reached us from Luton, dated November 14<sup>th</sup>. The writer, who encloses his name, rank and address, not for publication, signs himself, "Six year a Saturday afternoon Soldier."

He writes, "I see by the "Coalville Times" which I have sent to me every week, that they are still joining the colours. Let em all come and do a bit as we have done a lot so far. Your paper says that the draft of 50 to our battalion was the finest in the regiment. I don't think so. What about the lads who were ready at the start, who were not given two or three months to think whether they would come or not? We have worked hard and may have grumbled, but I think the 5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters would be ready to go to France tomorrow if they were wanted. I think the lads who were ready at the start should not be forgotten, as they were sneered at enough in times of peace. I, for one, have been dubbed a "Saturday afternoon soldier," I think that when our battalion was mobilised they were as fine a body of men as were in the regular forces. I don't wish to insult anyone, but I think that the fuss that is being made over those who have newly joined is not fair to us who joined when there was no sign of war. We have put in nights of drill when we had been at work hard all day and spent our Saturday afternoons on the range. Are we not the lads whom Coalville should be proud of? ("We are proud of you all" – Editor) I admire the spirit in which the recruits have come, but some of them ought to have joined us years ago. I have read the letter from a Thringstone lad, who says when we had a false alarm, he marched for ten miles in full kit on his back and 125 rounds of ball cartridge. I don't think his pack weighed 100 lbs and I know we only had 100 rounds of ammunition. As for ten miles I think he'd have dropped before he had done that. We went about 1 1/2 miles which was quite enough. I hope to see this in the "Times" and I hope to read of their keep enlisting recruits, for we want them, roll up Coalville".

## COALVILLE SOLDIER A PRISONER

### NOT ENOUGH TO EAT



Private T. Prosser, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Warwickshire Regiment, writing to his aunt, Mrs Glithero, of 2, Marshall's Row, Coalville, from Gustrow, Mecklenburg, Germany says:

"I am still alive and kicking. With a bit of luck, I have dodged shot and shell and am now a prisoner of war. In the place we are now, we are not getting much to eat, so send me some food and cigarettes. I shall not be sorry when the war is over. It is proper slaughter". He concludes with best wishes to all friends and repeats his request for food and cigarettes to be sent by return post.

## MEAN TO BEAT THE GERMANS

### COALVILLE MAN'S CONFIDENCE

Writing to his father, Mr J. Cope, of Waterworks Road, Coalville, Pte. J. Leslie Cope, of D Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment with the Indian Expeditionary Force acknowledging a letter received on the 5<sup>th</sup> November says he received it in the trenches. He was going on all right and was in the best of health, as he trusted all were at home. He was pleased to hear that his chums had enlisted and were willing to fight for the old country, but you know what they say, "*Britons never shall be slaves,*" and "*we don't mean to let the Germans beat us while we can hold a rifle in our hands. We had a decent week of it last week, but we don't mind work, as we have some good officers and are getting plenty of food, and good stuff at that, better than we expected, also fags as well.*"



Cope has been soldiering only two years, and served twelve months in India. He went from Wigston to Fermoy, and hence to India.

**"NEVER BETTER IN MY LIFE"**

### CHEERY LETTER FROM COALVILLE MAN IN FRANCE

Pte. Alfred Edwards, of the No.4 signal section, 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade, with the Expeditionary Force in France, writing to his mother, Mrs H. Edwards, of 61, Park Road, Coalville, says he is quite well and asks his friends not to worry. "*I was never better in my life,*" he writes, "*and we are being looked after splendidly. We have plenty of good food and tobacco and have no cause for complaint whatever. The only things we are in need of are shirts and drawers. These are the only things I have any difficulty in getting at present and if there is anything else I want, I will let you know. . . . I don't think we shall*

*manage to spend Christmas in England now, but I hope we shall be able to do the next best thing – spend it in Berlin. Then we shall be in good time to have the Easter egg in England.*"

## HAPPY UNDER FIRE

In a letter received from Private John Smith of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Leicester Regiment, the writer says, "*Thank God I have got through a living death in which the battalion lost 400 men in one day. Still, I am not downhearted by any means, and I am sure you never saw a happier lot of men under fire than the Leicesters.*"

### LEICESTER MAN COMMENDED FOR BRAVERY

A Leicester man, Bombardier George King, of the 126<sup>th</sup> Battery, R.F.A., has sent home to his parents a notification he received from Major-General Wilson, commanding the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, to the effect that his commanding officer and brigade commander have recommended him for conspicuous bravery in the field, and that the recommendation has been forwarded to higher quarters for recognition. In a very modest letter the bombardier explains that the act for which he has been commended was swimming across a river with a telephone wire.

## LOUGHBOROUGH SOLDIER KILLED

Quartermaster-Sergeant Colin Herbert Orton, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed in action in France on October 19<sup>th</sup>. He was for some time drummer in Loughborough Trinity C.L.B., and his parents live at 11, Pinfoldgate, Loughborough.

## DONINGTON-LE-HEATH SOLDIER WOUNDED

### STRUCK ON THE FOREHEAD BY PIECE OF SHELL

That the members of the Leicestershire regiments have been in the thick of the fray is shown by the numerous reports coming to hand of soldiers in those regiments being injured while engaged in the trenches. Another of these is Private J. A. Blakemore, of Donington-le-Heath, who is in A company of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters. Writing to his parents – his father, Mr Joseph Blakemore, a railwayman, of Brook Terrace, Donington-le-Heath – he says, “*Just a line to let you know that I am all right. I have got better of my wound and am going to the convalescent camp to get properly better, so that I can go off again. I can't tell you where I am going; will tell you all the news when I come home, if I ever do.*”

In a previous letter he stated that he was crouching low in the trench when a shell burst straight in front of him and a piece bounced up and struck him on the forehead. It knocked him down and while he was bodily well, his head ached so that he could hardly write.

Blakemore has been four years in the army, and when the call to the war came, his regiment was in India. Before joining the army he worked at the South Leicestershire Colliery. An official notification of Blakemore's injury was received by his parents on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Friday November 27<sup>th</sup> 1914 (Issue 1186)

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## KILLING PIGEONS

### NATIONAL HOMING UNION PROSECUTION AT COALVILLE

### OSGATHORPE MAN HEAVILY FINED

At the Coalville Police Court on Friday, John William King, grazier, Osgathorpe, was charged with unlawfully killing a pigeon, value 10s, the property of J. Caddick, of Coseley, Staffordshire, and also with killing another pigeon, belonging to Rolfe Bros., of Lincoln, at Osgathorpe, on October 16<sup>th</sup>. He pleaded not guilty.

Mr J. T. Hincks, of Leicester, prosecuted for the National Homing Union a produced a notice sent out by the chief constable to the effect that pigeon keepers should notify the police at once of any strange bird arriving at their lofts. He went on to explain regulations which had been made owing to the danger of German spies, who were found to be using pigeons to send messages to the enemy. Now no one was allowed to keep carrier pigeons without permission of the police. He also stated that as the Government were using pigeons themselves for carrying messages, notices had been issued that no one was to shoot pigeons. Under the new law, a register was kept of pigeon owners throughout the country and that was how the owners of these birds were ascertained.

Police Inspector Dobney deposed to notices being served on pigeon keepers, defendant included. He visited defendant's loft on October 16<sup>th</sup> and found three homer pigeons, two of which were rung. Witness told him he wanted to see the pigeons liberated. He replied, “*I shall not liberate them, I have only had them three weeks.*” Witness told defendant he should insist on them being liberated and defendant replied, “*Sooner than do that, I will pull their \_\_\_\_\_ necks out, and have them in a pie.*” Witness tried to persuade him, but defendant then killed the pigeons by wringing their necks. He took possession of the rings on two of the birds from which he ascertained the owners. He reported the matter to the National Homing Union. The bird belonging to Caddick had evidently been shot from wounds and an eye missing. Defendant alleged that the Inspector told him to kill the pigeons.

P.C. Jones bore out the Inspector's evidence. George Thomas Rolfe, of Lincoln, and secretary of the Excelsior Homing Society there, deposited to losing a pigeon and identified this one as his from the ring number and also a stamp on one of the features (produced). He paid 17s 6d for the bird, which would have returned home had it been liberated.

J. Caddick, of Coseley, Staff. also gave evidence as to missing a pigeon. This was his bird from the ring number. It was liberated at Templecombe on August 14<sup>th</sup>, which was a bad day and few birds got home. Defendant said neither the pen nor the pigeons were his and he had nothing to do with them. Replying to the Clerk he admitted that his wife caught one and his son the other.

Mr Hincks: *Who ate the pigeons?*

Defendant: *I don't know.*

Mr Hincks: *Didn't you have a bit?*

Defendant: *I don't think I did.*

Replying further to Mr Hincks, defendant said he had no gun but there was a gun in the house the tenant of which was his son.

Mr Hincks: *Who pays the rent?*

Defendant: *There is no rent to pay.*

Janet King, wife of the defendant, said the police officer demanded that her husband should kill the pigeons, which he did.

The Clerk: *Who had them?*

Witness: *I cooked them.* (Laughter)

Answering further questions, witness said she caught one of the pigeons which fell down the chimney. Another was given them and her son caught one. He did not shoot it, the gun was broken.

Defendant was fined 5s 6d and costs and the value of the pigeon in each case or seven days' hard labour the sentences to be consecutive. The total was £5 5s or 14 days and defendant said he should not pay.

Mr Hincks intimated that in future cases of rings being taken from home pigeons, the offenders would be prosecuted as they might be for stealing the collar of a dog. The Chief Constable publicly acknowledged the help rendered in this case by Mr Hincks whose knowledge in these matters were great, and they much appreciated the assistance he had given. The chairman said the Bench were also much obliged to Mr Hincks.

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## **PATRIOTIC CONCERTS AT COALVILLE**

### **REMARKABLE ENTHUSIASM**

### **PRESENTS FOR LOCAL MEN AT THE FRONT**

Remarkable enthusiasm was shown at Coalville, on Sunday afternoon in connection with a patriotic concert in the Olympia Theatre organised with the object of providing presents for local men at the front. Long before the advertised time for commencing the spacious theatre was packed, the number present being probably two thousand, and as quite as many were waiting outside. Capt. Stevenson, the promoter of the effort, decided to repeat the concert in the evening, Mr F. McDonald again kindly allowing the use of the building free. Seats were reserved in the afternoon for the members of the Coalville Citizens' Corps who marched from their headquarters in Mantle Lane headed by the Boy Scouts Band.

Mr B. G. Hale, J.P., presided at the concerts and was supported by Capt. Stevenson. The appearance on the stage of wounded Belgians who had been brought over in motor cars from the Leicester Hospital was the signal for a tremendous outburst of cheering.

Capt. Stevenson said they could not applaud the plucky Belgians too much for the splendid work they had done (cheers). He congratulated Coalville on its part taken in recruiting. He had always stood up for Coalville and when he came there that day he expected a big crowd. He had got it and there were so many outside that they had decided to repeat the concert that evening. He thanked the artistes for again having volunteered their services. It was for a good cause – the sending of presents to the Leicestershire lads at the front. (Cheers).

The chairman again called for three cheers for the Belgians which were most lustily given. Mr Hale thanked the audience for responding in such numbers to support a cause which had no parallel in the world. They were there to help the men who were fighting in the trenches for one of the most sacred causes that they had ever engaged in. They were fighting for all that was good and true, for honour, religion, God and Christianity, the freedom of the world and the checking of that militarism which had for its aim the over-running and over-powering of Europe. They would not permit it. But he wanted them to realise, though it was Sunday, that they must have men. He thanked the Coalville people for all they had done. They had responded nobly to the relief funds, to the equipping of the hospital and in finding a home for one hundred Belgians, but they meant to do more. They had started a Citizens' Corps and if it came to the last desperate struggle he was sure they would all stand in defence of their town and country. (Cheers) The men before them had been wounded in the fighting line: many who had gone would never come back but they would live in the memory of a grateful country as long as the English and Belgian languages lasted. Their deeds would be written on the pages of history in letters of gold. Introducing Capt. Stevenson, the chairman said that gentlemen had been misunderstood by some people for his plain speaking, but he meant well; his heart was right, and if every recruiting officer in the country had done as well, they would not now be wanting men so badly. (Cheers).

Cheers were given for the Captain as he stepped to the front of the stage to give an address. He first of all thanked the proprietor of the Olympia, Mr McDonald for lending that splendid building, the energetic manager (Mr Kirkham) and his staff, and the performers. He congratulated Coalville on what it had done in recruiting, but pointed out that there were many more young men who might come forward, and their country needed them. He announced that the money taken at the door amounted to £19 (cheers) in addition to which there was a cheque for £5 from the Hon. H. D. McLaren (cheers) and a large hamper from Mr A. E. Hawley, containing Cardigan jackets, scarves, waist belts, gloves, etc., in addition to which 40 other presents had also been received at the door. (Cheers) He asked them to think of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters in the thick of the fighting and but for their heroism and that of the plucky Belgians, we might now be in Queer Street. He explained that the money would be spent in purchasing suitable articles for the local men at the front. In regard to what the chairman had said as to him being misunderstood, he said his sole desire was to avoid it being said they were made to go when their country needed them. It would be a second Crimea in the trenches and the lads there needed their help. The more men to volunteer, the sooner the war would be over.

Mr Pearse, of Leicester, moved a vote of thanks to the artistes and orchestra and the numerous helpers. He also welcomed the members of the Citizens' Corps remarking that he belonged to the Corps at Leicester and as the result of a recent parade they got 33 recruits. (Cheers) It had a splendid morale effect. The question was often asked how long the war would last. Lord Kitchener had replied that he could not say when it would end, but said it would commence about next May, and it would go on longer still if they did not get men. Belgium was bled white for men. France could send no more and England alone of the Allies on this side were not sending all they might. Kitchener wanted more men because every sword drawn against Germany was drawn in the interests of peace. More and more men was the only way to shorten the war. The war did not commence until there was not a single German left in Belgium or France. They could not punish the Kaiser for his insolence and his arrogance until they got him back on his own soil and gave him a little of what he had meted out to the unfortunate Belgians. (Cheers) These men had lost everything – no, not everything, they still had their soul and their humour. (Loud applause). He asked them to realise that the French frontier was as much ours as the French, because the Germans having subdued France no doubt meant trying it on England. We had 46 dreadnoughts; Germany had 28 and France 16. The enemy would have taken over the French navy making 44 dreadnoughts to our 46, so they could see that if the Germans had conquered France it would have been serious for England. He appealed for recruits and said that if they responded they would be able after the war to proudly hold up their heads, knowing that they had done their part. But if they stayed at home, they would bow their heads in shame when the brave lads came marching home triumphant. (Cheers).

The vote of thanks was heartily accorded.



The speeches were interspersed with musical items, the excellence of which reflected great credit on local talent. Miss May Clarke finely sung "Your King and Country Need You" Miss Kirkham nicely sung "The Swallows"; Madame Alice Coleman pleased the audience immensely with her beautiful rendering of Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory" and led them in the singing of the chorus, while another charming item by this talented singer was "The Hills of Donegal"; Mr James Botesworth, a fine bass singer, was loudly applauded for his songs, "England mine" and "The Sentinel"; there were two capital items, "The Beleaguered" and "Crossing the bar" by the Coalville Lyric Quartette (Messrs. F. and W. Smith, B. Hatter and A. G. Ball); and a most appropriate and thrilling recitation "The Victoria Cross" was given in her inimitable manner by Mrs T. Hatter, of Hugglescote. Some war pictures were also shown. The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem.

The theatre was again packed in the evening and altogether a sum of £42 13s 11d was realised besides 58 presents in addition to the hamper from Mr Hawley.

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### **FOR SALE**

Florist and Fruiterer's Business situated in Belvoir Road for sale through owner having gone to the war.

### **COALVILLE MAN'S BAPTISM OF FIRE**

#### **SHELLS DROPPING ALL AROUND**

A Coalville soldier, Mr Harry Wesson, has just had his baptism of fire. He is with the British Expeditionary Force in France, and writing to his father, Mr W. Wesson, of 108, Margaret Street, Coalville, under date Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> says that he and Alf (a brother) are in the best of health and are having quite an interesting and enjoyable time. *"We saw our first lot of firing yesterday, shells bursting around an aeroplane, at the time of writing, we have artillery firing all around us. Everything here seems up-to-date. The transport is everything that can be desired and we get plenty of rations, etc."* He asks for some cigarettes to be sent.

### **LOCAL CHIT CHAT**

Arrangements are being made for the reception of a number of German prisoners at Donington Park, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, the seat of the late Baron Donington. The heir to the Donington estate (which is at present in the hands of the executors, the Duke of Norfolk and Mr Coverdale) is Captain Reginald Rawdon Hastings, eldest son of Lady Maude Hastings, of the Manor House, Ashby. The present occupier of Donington Hall is Mr Frederic Gretton.

Included in the casualty list of the fighting in British East Africa appears the name of Mr William Joseph Bellasis, of Bowker's Horse, who was killed in action on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. He was in his 29<sup>th</sup> year, and was the second son of Mr W. Dalglish Bellasis, of Sundorne Castle, Shrewsbury, late of Willesley Hall, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. This is the family's second victim of the war, the first being Captain C. A. Dalglish, of the Black Watch, killed in France on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and who was the son by her first marriage of Mrs Dalglish-Bellasis.

The Ashby Territorial Reserve, with the Citizens' Corps and the Scouts, attended service at Coleorton Church on Sunday morning. The distance from Ashby is two miles, and the company, which numbered about 200, was accompanied by the Ashby Band and the Coalville Scouts' Band; Capt. Jesson was in command and Capt. Stevenson was also present.

Two more Belgian refugees arrived at Shepshed on Friday and were taken to the White House, where 14 others have been residing for the past six weeks.

The following is a list of presents given at Coalville Patriotic Concert last Sunday: 6 boxes of cigarettes, 5 packs of cards, 1 pipe, 5 boxes chocolates, 1 purse, 1 body belt, 28 pairs gloves, 3 handkerchiefs, 2 shirts, 28 mufflers, 3 Cardigan jackets, 1 sweater, 15 pairs socks, 1 singlet, 5 vests, 1 knife.

The Coalville Territorial Reserve marched to Hugglescote Church on Sunday morning, headed by the Hugglescote and Ellistown Band. The company is considerably over 100 strong notwithstanding drafts having been sent away and additions are being made almost daily.

Private Jack Davenport, C. Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Warwicks, writing to his father, Mr R. Davenport, of Hermitage Road, Coalville, says he is a prisoner of war in Gottengen Camp, Hanover.

The Soldiers' Comforts Guild have been presented with about 50 prizes for the grand prize drawing they are organising and these include a pig, and a gramophone with records. It is hoped to raise at least £50 by this means; so that the services of all the numerous ladies who have already promised to knit and sew can be fully utilised, and the comforts quickly despatched to our gallant local lads wherever they may be.

The South Leicestershire Colliery Company Limited, their staff, and workmen, have contributed the sum of £10 6s 1d to H.R.H. Princess Mary's fund for providing every sailor afloat, and every soldier at the front with a Christmas present, and a cheque for that amount has been sent to the Princess, and acknowledged by her.

### **DO YOU KNOW**

That according to Nuttall's the pronunciation of Ypres is e-Per?

That one of the refugees at Broom Leys with the Belgians is Servian?

That two of the male Belgians who arrived in Coalville on Tuesday can speak good English?

That in aid of the Local Soldiers' Comforts Fund a tea is to be held at the Hawley Institute, Hugglescote, on Monday next?

That the Shepshed Licensed Victuallers raised the price of beer to meet the war tax on Tuesday last?

That the monthly meeting of the Coalville Collectors for the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund will be held at the Adult School on Tuesday night?

That for the patriotic concert on Sunday night which commenced at the Coalville Olympia at eight o'clock, people were waiting outside at six o'clock?

That Mr W. T. Humble, of Ibstock, has been appointed organist at Heather Church in place of Mr E. Taylor, who has left to join the colours?

That as a result of Wednesday's matinee at the Coalville Electric Theatre, for the Belgian Fund, Mr Johnson has forwarded the sum of £3 5s?

That at the matinees on Wednesday morning and Saturday afternoon next, at the Coalville Olympia, the Belgian refugees will be present? Presents of cigarettes, etc., for them may be left at the office on entering.

That the rumour that provisions etc., for the Belgian Refugees at Broom Leys are being obtained outside the Coalville are is untrue?

That the Coalville Soldiers' Comforts Guild (Mrs Leonard L. Baldwin, hon. sec.) sent off this week a further parcel of warm clothing to 70 of the men who have gone from the district to the front and elsewhere, and that funds are urgently required for purchasing more wool and flannel?

### **IBSTOCK**

#### **RECRUITING MEETING**

A recruiting meeting was held on Thursday in the Ibstock Picture Palace, at which there was good attendance. Capt. Pritchard and Capt. Stevenson made speeches. Councillor W. Eggington presided. A good number were enrolled at the close of the meeting. In the course of Capt. Pritchard's speech he referred to the death of Lord Roberts, the company standing.

## **JUMBLE SALE**

A very successful sale of work, jumble sale and tea was held in the National Schools on Wednesday last, the proceeds of which will be given to the relief maintenance of Belgian refugees shortly to arrive in Ibstock district. Mrs Flood's working party, who had been at work on material for the previous winter, very kindly gave their made up garments together with a sum of money which they had in hand for material. Mrs Campbell, Mrs J. T. Jacques, Mrs F. Holmes, Mrs Robertson and other ladies of the various religious bodies in Ibstock have given their valuable assistance in turning out more garments and canvassing the various districts allotted them with the result that most of the provisions needed for the tea held were forthcoming; supplemented by gifts of tea, butter, cakes, milk, etc., from Mrs Flood and the working party. The effort realised £28.

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## **TENDERS**

### **BELGIAN REFUGEE COMMITTEE (COALVILLE DISTRICT)**

The above Committee invite Tenders for the supply of Provisions, Meat, Fish, Milk, etc., for the month of December; 74 persons to be provided for.

Tender forms and all particulars may be had from the Hon. Secretary.

Tenders to be delivered by first post, Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, to Mr Edgar Hawthorn, 12, Market Place, Coalville.

### **BELGIAN REFUGEES' FUND**

The weekly meeting of the collectors for the Belgian Refugees' Fund was held in the Adult School Hall, on Monday evening last. Four districts were not represented. The Hon. Sec. (Mr F. S. Weaver) reported that the fourth collection realised the sum of £10 8s from the twelve districts that were represented.

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## **NEW SWANNINGTON**

### **CHILDREN'S CONCERT**

The children connected with the New Swannington Wesleyan Reform Church gave a concert on Saturday evening in aid of the Belgian Refugee's Fund. It was arranged by Misses F. and E. Bayliss and was a great success, £2 6s being realised. Mr A. Clarke presided and Miss E. Bayliss was the accompanist, the following being the programme:

Song, "The red, white, and blue," children; pianoforte solo, Joseph Bakewell; recitation, "What shall it be," Rosey Baker; recitation, "Sing a song of Santa Claus," Nelly Bayliss; duet, "Shadow faces," A. Bath and E. Waterfield; recitation, "the red, white, and blue," Connie Baker; part song, "The postman," six boys; recitation, "In praise of England," Rose Knight; solo, "The beautiful prayer," Gerty Baker; recitation, "The Squirrel," Louise Henson; recitation, "The rose girl," Florrie Storer; part song, "The Gipsy's warning," Rhoda Billings; recitation, "The dying Father," Gerty Holmes; recitation, "Home," May Storer; recitation, "The May Queen," Rosey Baker; dialogue, "Make hay while the sun shines," 3 girls, 3 boys; instrumental duet, E. Bayliss (piano) and J. Bakewell (mandolin); recitation, "The Day," Doris King; duet, "Footsteps on the stairs," M. Storer and G. Holmes; recitation, "The angel's message," Sarah Mann; solo, "Won't you tell me Daddy," Joseph Bakewell; recitation, "The dying girl," Elsie Holmes; part song, "Our model policeman," 6 boys; recitation, "Goodbye swallow," Sidney Taylor; recitation, "The tree they loved best," Edith Smith; duet, "One touch of nature," R. Billing and E. Young; recitation, "Autumn," Connie Baker; recitation, "Meddlesome Matty," Ivy Young; recitation, "The Giant," Nellie Bayliss; part song, "O no, John," G. Baker and L. Young; recitation, "A basket full of sweetness," Mary Brown; recitation, "The glories of the past," Connie Baker; recitation,

"Grandma Clock," Doris Young; dialogue, "Don't count your chickens," 2 girls and 4 boys: "God save the King."

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## BRITAIN'S STRENGTH

### MILLIONS AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY SERVICE

An estimate of the total male population of England and Wales available for military purposes is made possible by a table given in a section of the annual report of the Registrar-General of Births, Death, and Marriages, published on Friday. The table gives the following figures.

Age	Number
20 – 24	1,502,652
25 – 29	1,455,783
30 – 34	1,375,872
35 – 39	1,261,432
Total	5,595,739

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### BELGIAN REFUGEES

#### HEARTY RECEPTION AT COALVILLE

#### ENTHUSIASTIC SCENES

A most hearty reception was given to the Belgian refugees on their arrival at Coalville last Monday. The precincts of the Midland Railway station were thronged with a crowd of people which must have numbered from four to five thousand and the appearance of the first batch of refugees, who arrived by the 3.23 p.m. train, was the signal for a tremendous outburst of cheering and the waving of Belgian flags. The party numbered 27 and had travelled from Earl's Court, London. On the platform to receive them were Mr Walter Lindley, J.P., and Edgar Hawthorn, chairman and secretary of the local committee, and Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best, headmaster of the Coalville Grammar School, who had kindly offered his services as interpreter. As none of the refugees could speak English, Mr Storr-Best's help was much appreciated. The work of checking off the list to see that none had got astray, was accomplished on the platform by Mr Lindley, and the party then made their way to one of the Coalville motor 'buses which had been chartered to convey them to Broom Leys. Carrying on their backs bundles containing their sole earthly possessions and some of the women with shawls wrapped round them with no hats, they made a sad picture, but heartiness of the reception, given them by the Coalville people brought smiles to their faces, and as the 'bus moved off amidst tremendous cheering, the Belgians too, waved their hands, while children of the party threw kisses – that, at any rate, being a universal language which all could understand.



One old gentlemen who had missed the three o'clock train arrived on the 5.9 and was met by Mr F. S. Weaver, secretary to the collecting committee, Capt, McKernon and Mr J. R. Bennett.

Great as was the crowd to witness the afternoon's arrivals, that in the evening, when about 40 more refugees arrived on the 6.30 train, was even greater. This party had travelled direct from Folkestone, and their sad appearance was increased by the tiredness which they were evidently feeling. Among these were a number of soldiers who had been wounded in the fighting. Some were limping and got along with the aid of a

stick, others had their arms in slings, while in the faces of all one could trace signs of the effects of the awful experiences they had passed through. But they were evidently delighted to have arrived here and heartily responded to the cheers which were given in their honour. The 'bus and several motor cars soon conveyed them to Broom Leys where everything was in readiness for a good wash and meal and the party quickly settled down and seemed very comfortable in their new surroundings.

**AN EVENING WITH THE BELGIANS**  
**STORIES OF GERMAN BARBARISM**  
**TOLD BY EYE-WITNESSES**

(By our own Reporter)

The number of refugees staying at Broom Leys at the present time is 74, which includes 12 women and 9 children, and of the men about 25 have been wounded in the fighting. A representative of this paper was privileged in being allowed to spend a couple of hours one evening with the Belgians whom he found to be a happy party. Some were playing cards, others writing letters, while the great drawing room was occupied with a number of the guests enjoying a pleasant conversation, and the buzz of the voices sounded strange in the ear of one unfamiliar with their language. Some of them speak the Flemish tongue, though most of them can converse in French. Fortunately, there are two men in the party who also speak English fairly well and one of these – J. Bogaerts, from Antwerp – has proved himself very useful.

It was through this gentlemen that I was able to get into conversation with some of the refugees and to hear from them accounts of some of the terrible things they had actually seen, which show that the reports published of the atrocities committed by the Germans have been in no way exaggerated.

First of all, I asked Mr Bogaerts to tell me something of himself. He was in Antwerp at the time of the bombardment engaged as an engineer on a Government tug boat. For 12 years he was on English vessels visiting various parts of the world, and that was how he picked up his excellent knowledge of our language. He went on to say that he was on the boat which took the last batch away from Antwerp on the Monday when the bombardment had been going on since Friday. He saw the huge petroleum tank set ablaze and a bridge blown up by the Belgian soldiers to harass the German advance, and indicated parts of the town known to the writer where the houses were simply demolished by the fire of the German guns. He saw several civilians lying dead in the streets. Seven were killed in one house. Answering a question, as to whether the beautiful Cathedral and the statue of Rubens, the famous painter, just outside shared a similar fate, he said both these escaped damage.

One of the wounded soldiers, Demeyer Jules, who is accompanied by his wife and baby, then detailed his movements with the Belgian army before being wounded, just outside Louvain, where he was shot in the right hand, the centre finger of which was blown off. This soldier stated that when near Aerschot he saw the bodies of two Sisters of Mercy with their breasts cut off and he saw a child of three years of age, which was being pushed in a wheel-barrow, riddled with German bullets. He went on to relate how he met a young Belgian girl in one of the villages he passed through, who was crying. Her story of how she had been treated by a number of German soldiers is too horrible to reproduce.

Another of the Belgian soldiers with whom we conversed was Bertrand Bierre, of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, who was in the battles of Liege and Namur. During the retreat from Namur he was for three days and nights without food or sleep and eventually dropped in a grain field from sheer exhaustion. Afterwards he was sent to Termonde and was for 14 days in the fighting line. He was wounded in Dixmude from a piece of shrapnel. Passing through one of the villages of South Belgium he saw the body of a boy, 13 years of age, hanging from a tree, and from which both eyes were missing.

Derume Gules, a soldier in one of the Belgian foot regiments, took part in several sorties from Antwerp before the bombardment and when fighting at Dixmude a bullet passed right through his leg. He saw no atrocities by the Germans.

Gillis Cornel, another soldier, had the novel experience of taking part in the battle without ever seeing a German soldier. This is explained by the fact that he was in one of the fortresses outside Antwerp. His injuries were burns, through the German fire having exploded the powder magazine in the fortress.

Another of the refugees told how that in the town of Erp, near Liege, where he lived, practically all the houses were destroyed. He escaped through the German lines with his mother, aged 73, often having to hide behind bushes, until they reached Holland and thence were able to get to Flushing. They had to leave everything behind and the old lady has, unfortunately, been mentally affected by her terrible sufferings.

From the same place, Erp, near Liege, came F. Gootefruid, who informed me that he kept a furniture store there. He was in the town when the Germans entered on August 4<sup>th</sup> and had to fly for his life, his house like most of the others, then being in flames. From a house near where he lived, he saw German soldiers bring out the father, mother, a boy about 14 and a girl of 17. The boy was made to stand against the wall and stretch out his arms. Then the soldiers had a little shooting practice sending five bullets through each of the boys hands. They afterwards killed the father and mother, and then subjected the girl to treatment which cannot be described, the unfortunate victim dying in consequence. From the cellar of a house in the same street a father and three sons were dragged out and killed. Two German officers rode up in a motor car and enquired the way from a certain youth who, in his fright, ran away and was shot down from the car. Through the interpreter I asked Mr Gootefruid whether any provocation was given for these acts and his reply was in the negative. The Germans, he said, were given everything they asked for in the way of provisions and when the people had nothing left they were shot. In this locality there were 312 houses, practically the whole of which were destroyed, and everybody in the street, including women and children, were shot on sight. Our informant was congratulated on his narrow escape.

Another of the refugees is a Servian tailor, who was in Liege when the war broke out.

Van Malderen was in four battles and said his regiment, the Carabineers, were called "Little devils," by the Germans. All the battles in which he participated were round Louvain and he was sent to hospital suffering from typhoid fever.

One of the refugees named Collinet said he had twice been taken prisoner by the Germans and had escaped. The first time he ran away and the second time he escaped with a number of French soldiers in a 'bus.

An exciting experience befell Francks Pierre, another of the soldiers who was taken prisoner. He is a painter of Brussels, but rejoined his regiment on the outbreak of war. He was in the bombardment of Antwerp and was there captured by the Germans, but he overpowered his guard by a blow on the head with the butt end of his rifle and got away. After that he was three times wounded in his back and in the hand.

The last member of the party with whom I conversed was an old man of 60 years of age, named Lauwers Puter, who was able to speak English. He said he was working as an engineer in Brussels when the war broke out. His wife was then living in Antwerp and he went home week ends. He was in Brussels when the Germans entered and the fact of having a book printed in English in his possession nearly proved fatal. The Germans accused him of being English and it was with great difficulty that he assured them from his passports that he was a Belgian. He narrated a trying experience just outside Brussels. While parleying with soldiers about his passports a woman and three children approached them. She was unable to produce a passport and the result of her pleading was that the Germans shot her three children before her eyes. She fell prostrate and the old man was so moved at this that he even summed up courage to protest. He was pushed forward and told that the penalty of looking back would be death. He tramped the distance to Antwerp only to find that his house had been set on fire and his wife missing. To this day, he said, with some emotion, he did not know whether his wife or his two sons were dead or alive. His brother, a prosperous farmer just outside Louvain was shot dead and his house fired. Yet this old man, with such memories, is the soul of the party of Broom Leys and is doing much to cheer up his companions in distress.

The wife of the caretaker, Mr Hardwicke, has been appointed matron, and the writer was informed by Mr Hardwicke that up to now the behaviour of the refugees has been excellent. He hopes this will be maintained. Through interpreter they have told him how grateful they are and how very much they appreciate all that is being done for them. Some of them are already picking up English phrases. One of them was quite proud of the fact that he could say and write "Coalville, Leicestershire," though it was pointed out to him that

he had spelt it with a B, and when the writer, who by now quite got into the Frenchy style, bade the company, "Bon soir," one of them with a broad smile, replied, "Good night."

A notice posted up in the house, typed in French, states that the authority of the superintendent is supreme, and he must be obeyed without question. The hours of meals are, breakfast 9 am, dinner 1pm, tea 5pm, and supper 8.30pm; lights out at 10 o'clock. The guests are asked to do everything possible to preserve the property and to endeavour to keep everything satisfactory from the point of view of hygiene.

Dr. Lloyd Storr-Best and Mr J. L. Burge (both French linguists) are rendering excellent assistance as are Mr W. Lindley, Mr E. Hawthorn and other members of the committee. The secretary reports that the funds have come in well and, if maintained, there will be no difficulty on that score.

### HEATHER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION



News has been received of the death of Private Sydney Herbert Sharpe, a Heather man, belonging to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Coldstream Guards, which he joined last January, after being in the Leicestershire Territorials for a year. He went to the front soon after the commencement of the war and was in the trenches most of the time till he was killed in action at Rentoul, Belgium, on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The deceased, who is a son of Mr Josiah Sharpe, of Elm Bark, Station Road, Heather, was only 18 years of age when he joined the colours.

### COALVILLE MAN AT THE FRONT

#### ANXIOUS TO POP AT KAISER BILL

Pte. A. Edwards, of the No. 4 signal section, 18<sup>th</sup> Brigade, with the Expeditionary Force in France, writing to his sister, Mrs George Ward, of Oxford Street, Coalville, states that he is "*in the pink*," and presumes that with so many Belgian refugees in the town, Coalville people will soon be able to speak French and Flemish. "*Kaiser Bill*," he adds, "*keeps well under cover. We are anxious to have a pop at him and one of these days, he will perhaps stop one of our bullets.*"

In a subsequent letter received on Tuesday, he says things are pretty quiet at present. They have an occasional brush with the enemy but not much to speak about. "*We shall pull through all right in the end. It is not so bad out here. Under the circumstances, we are faring well as regards food and cigarettes. I expect we shall spend Christmas out here, but I think we shall have a good time and make the most of it.*" He adds that he has not yet seen Doughty or Wesson.

(A photograph of Pte. A. Edwards accompanied the article)

### COALVILLE MAN IN FRANCE

Pte. S. E. Allen, with the Army Service Corps in France, writing to Mr A. Boot, of Coalville, says he is the servant of an officer who is in charge of a large supply store, from which they supply 10,000 troops daily with rations with a staff of 14 men, who sometimes work night and day, especially when an ambulance train arrives in the night. He has never felt better in health and hopes the young men of Coalville are coming forward to help their King and country. "*Our boys coming down from the front wounded all agree that reinforcements are badly needed,*" concludes Pte. Allen.

### TOMMY'S DIET

#### THRINGSTONE SERGEANT CONTRADICTS UNFAVOURABLE REPORTS

In view of unfavourable reports having been circulated as to the food supplied to soldiers in camps in this country, a letter from Sergt. G. Watson, of Thringstone, who is in the K.R. Rifles, stationed at Aldershot, to Mr G. H. Hallam, of the Queen's Head Inn, Thringstone, is of interest, since he encloses a table of the weekly diet. This shows that the men have cocoa and biscuits during gun fire, for breakfast bread and butter

and tea varied with bacon and tomatoes, haddocks, boiled bacon and pickles and sausages; for dinner in daily rotation, brown stew and tapioca pudding, roast meat, potatoes and cabbage; Irish stew and plum pudding; roast meat and potatoes and haricot beans; curry stew, turnips, potatoes and rice pudding; roast meat and potatoes and haricot beans, and meat pies, potatoes and cabbage: for tea, bread and butter, tea, and jam or cheese, with cake on Sunday: and for supper, soup or cheese and pickles. The Sergeant goes on to say that they are leaving Aldershot next Thursday. They should have gone a few days ago, but were stopped and told to await orders. Things were a bit exciting, but it was quieter now. He is in good health and wishes to be remembered to all at Thringstone. He says the sergeants played the officers at football on the previous day and made a draw. They had quite a good time with the officers afterwards.

#### **NOT ALLOWED TO SMOKE**

#### **MARKFIELD MAN A PRISONER**

Private G. Bevins, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Leicesters, writes to his wife at Markfield, saying that he is a prisoner at Gottengen, and all right. He asks her to write soon, and says, *"Don't send any fags. I am not allowed to smoke them."*

#### **SHEPshed MAN KILLED IN ACTION**

#### **CONDUCTOR OF THE TOWN PRIZE BAND**

Rumours were current nearly a fortnight ago that Private A. W. Thorpe, 1<sup>st</sup> Leicestershire Regiment, has been killed in action. The rumour originated from a postcard from a Shepshed man in the same regiment, who had written on the address side that Pte. Thorpe had fallen. Inquiries at the War Office by his parents, who live at Sullington Road, Shepshed, elicited the reply that they had no information on the matter. On Friday, however, a letter was received from the War Office stating that he had been killed.

Private Thorpe, who was about 26 years of age, was a reservist and left Shepshed on August 5<sup>th</sup> with a number of others to join his regiment. He had been bandmaster and conductor of the Shepshed Town Prize Band, by whom he was much esteemed, and was also a member of the Liberal Club. Of the 250 Shepshed men who have joined or rejoined the colours, this is, as far as is known, the first who has fallen in battle during the war.

#### **MONS HERO AT MEASHAM**

Sapper Tom Jerrams, of the 59<sup>th</sup> Field Company of the Royal Engineers, has been invalided home to Measham. He took part in the battle of Mons and in the great retreat towards Paris; also in the advance towards Arras. On arriving at La Basse he was sent to the base hospital and then to Edinburgh. He speaks in high terms of the treatment while in hospital in Edinburgh; also of the efforts of commissariat at the front in providing for the welfare of the troops. He hopes to return to the firing line after a few weeks' rest.

#### **HATHERN MAN WOUNDED**

Sergt. Joseph Caldwell, of the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers, and belonging to Hathern, is reported to be severely wounded in the arm. Caldwell, it will be recalled, saw his brother, Samuel killed in the fighting some weeks ago.

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE YEOMANRY**

#### **BRIGADED WITH THE GUARDS**

Sergeant Gotheridge, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Life Guards, and a member of the Leicestershire police force, in a letter home says:

*"You will be surprised to hear that the Leicestershire Yeomanry are brigaded with us, and they are here, at the time of writing this. I have been speaking to several of them this morning. All the yeoman are here from Melton.*

*I shall be pleased when it is all over, but I am afraid that will be some time yet. I have had some very narrow shaves, and have been lucky up to now. Only this morning I got struck in the leg with a piece of shrapnel.*



*The Germans are hot stuff with that and their big shells we call "coal boxes." We shall show them the way back shortly, though, I hope. It is nothing but one continued cannonade all day long. They talk about their artillery, but it is nothing compared with ours.*

*We are doing all infantry work now, as cavalry are not required. We go in the trenches for days at a stretch. It's all right when you get used to it. The Germans will not face the bayonet, and we all carry them now, but they are hot on sniping (sending a man out by himself). We have lost a lot of officers, and men that way too.*

*P.S. We are at present in Belgium."*

### **SPIES NEAR OUR TRENCHES**

#### **LEICESTERSHIRE SOLDIER'S ASSERTION**

Private Leahy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leicesters, was in the trenches for 17 days, and eventually was wounded by shrapnel in the right knee. He complains of civilians being allowed to approach the rear of the British trenches, and assured the Press representative that the enemy's system of espionage extends to the rear of our lines.

*"The civil population should be shifted out of it," bluntly declared the Leicestershire man. "Once when a farm in front of us was set on fire you could see the German spies signalling from that farmhouse to the rear."*

#### **ANOTHER LEICESTERSHIRE OFFICER KILLED**

The Press Bureau on Monday issued further lists of casualties. Amongst the officers reported killed from the General Headquarters, under date November 20<sup>th</sup>, is Lieutenant J. B. Vandeleur, Leicestershire Regiment.

#### **THE COALVILLE 50**

*Dear Sir, - Your correspondent who signs himself "Six years a Saturday afternoon soldier," ought not to pass without a mild rebuke.*

*He himself admits that he doesn't think, for if he did he would not rush into print in a spirit of derision, and his judgement would be such that he would give honour where honour is due. The verdict that the first 50 fine well-trained young men were the finest that had been sent up to Luton came officially from Luton and was endorsed by very many who saw them on the platform previous to their departure. Again this was fully demonstrated in their march of 25 to 30 miles with full kit and only 1 falling out, and they compared most favourably with any other company. Perhaps it was the fact that in 2 months they attained such a state of efficiency which took the Saturday half-day soldier to acquire in 6 years. So he became jealous and then began blowing his own trumpet, which would, if left to others, brought out a sweeter melody and with no uncertain sound. Had he complained about those young men who were selected to go with those 50 fine young men but refused, he would, like many more of his comrades, have been justified. I will leave to your readers to say who is the bravest of the two – the one who is for years in the field waiting for the mad bull, or the one who enters after its arrival. – I beg to remain yours.*

W. E. Bradshaw  
5, Gutteridge Street, Coalville.

#### **WHITWICK**

#### **WHIST DRIVE**

On Saturday, a whist drive was held at St. Joseph's Cottage, from which about £11 was realised to send a Christmas hamper to the Whitwick and Coalville troops of the Leicestershire Yeomanry. It is requested that relatives will forward their names of any of these soldiers to any of the following addresses:

Mrs F. Cramp, St. Joseph's Cottage, near Monastery, Coalville; W. G. Thurman, Freehold Street, Shepshed; or J. Rowell, jun., Iveshead Road, Shepshed.