

# Coalville Times - October 1914

## Friday October 2nd 1914 (Issue 1178)

### Local News

#### Inquest at Onebarrow

#### London Builder Drowned in the Reservoir

The Deputy-Coroner for North Leicestershire, Mr T. J. Webb, held an inquest on Friday afternoon at Onebarrow Lodge, concerning the death of William Thomas Ballard, aged 54, whose body was taken from the Blackbrook reservoir the previous day, deceased having been missing since Saturday.

Mr D. I. Edmonds, solicitor, of St. Albans, appeared for the relatives. The Deputy-Coroner opening the case, said the points for the jury were whether the deceased came into the water by accident or design. In case of the latter, they would have to consider the state of the man's mind, or if they thought the evidence was insufficient to satisfy them on that point they could say so.

Percy Montague Ballard, an auditor, of 42, Gladsmuir Road, London, N, said the deceased was his father, and had resided at 8, Woodlands Gardens, Muswell Hill, London. He was a retired builder. He had not been in perfect health lately, but he had been able to get about and transact business. Witness did not consider that deceased's health was such as to be likely to prey upon his mind at all. The doctor told him that he ought to go away for a rest and that that place (Onebarrow) would be a good place for him to come. The last time witness saw him alive was that day fortnight, the night before he came. Deceased had not undergone an operation lately to his knowledge. He had a little gathering in his ear. Witness had never heard or seen his father say or do anything which led him to suppose that he might commit suicide.

The Coroner: Do you know anything in regard to his financial affairs to cause him worry? – No, I have no knowledge of anything of that kind and I have been his confident in such matters.

Arthur Barker, farmer, Onebarrow Lodge, Whitwick, said deceased had been staying there since the 12th instant. On the previous Saturday witness went away on business leaving the deceased in that room. He was not there when witness returned the same evening. Witness had known the deceased for twenty years and they had been great friends all that time. He came to Onebarrow for a rest. He complained of pain in his head. Witness understood that he had been operated upon for abscess or something of the kind in the head. His constitution seemed about as usual and deceased ate his food well. He did not seem to be afraid of getting worse. He was one of the jolliest and brightest men he ever knew and one of the best. Witness had not the slightest idea that deceased was likely to do away with himself. He was just as usual when witness left him. Deceased was not in the habit of going away from the house by himself, but had often accompanied witness in various parts of the district. He believed the deceased sometimes suffered from giddiness. Witness had not known the deceased to go for a walk on the banks of the reservoir. He would have to go through two gates to get to the reservoir. Witness had not heard the deceased say that he was aware that the Loughborough Corporation had ceased to grant permits for anyone to go by the reservoir, though he may have seen the notices to that effect which were posted up about the district.

By the foreman (Mr J. W. Eagles): The two gates referred to would both have to be opened by the deceased. He had been to Onebarrow to stay a few days almost every year and witness had never known him to sit on the bridge over the reservoir.

By a juror (Mr F. Harper): When witness came home he had no idea of the deceased being in the water. His only fear was that being giddy deceased may have fallen down in the ground somewhere or may have lost his memory and forgotten where he was. That made witness search everywhere for him.

The Coroner said Mrs Ballard, deceased's wife was prepared to give evidence, but it would be painful for her and he did not think she could say any more than the son had done. The jury agreed that it was not necessary to call her. John William Parkinson, caretaker of the Blackbrook reservoir, in the employ of the Loughborough Corporation, stated that in consequence of what he was told he commenced dragging operations in the reservoir on Thursday and about 8 o'clock in the morning, found the body. He did not know the deceased, but the body he recovered was the same one which the jury had seen. He recovered it from a part of the reservoir which was in Whitwick parish and it was at a place near to which there was no public thoroughfare. Previously on two occasions, witness had seen the deceased up the drive. No one had ever been allowed to go by the reservoir without a permit and even that had been stopped now for about three weeks, notices having been posted up warning people against trespassing.

By the foreman: The body was found close to Onebarrow bridge.

By Mr T. Kelly (a juror): It would be easy for anyone walking by the reservoir to slip in. The ground sloped down to the water on both sides.

By another juror: There was a public road over the bridge. The coping on the bridge was about 3 feet wide and the wall was 4 feet high. He found the body after dragging for about half an hour. He started dragging at the shallowest end and found the body in about 8 feet of water. Altogether the reservoir covered 100 acres and in some places was 65 feet deep.

Mr Edmonds: If the deceased had been sitting on the wall of the bridge with his back to the water and had become giddy and fallen in, would that be consistent with where you found him?

Witness: It would be the exact place sir.

The Coroner said P.C. Grewcock searched the body and found money and other articles, nothing unusual. He proceeded to review the evidence, recalling Mr Barker's statement that the deceased was one of the brightest and most cheerful men that he knew and that he was subject to attacks of giddiness. On the other hand they had the evidence that the deceased had to open two gates and had no right to go down by the reservoir. If the jury were not satisfied they could return a verdict of "Found drowned," and that there was no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water.

Mr Edmonds said he had acted as solicitor for the deceased for 20 years and transacted business with him on August 27th when he was quite as usual and not the least sign of any mental deficiency. The foreman said it was quite feasible that deceased may have fallen through giddiness.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned, and there was no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water."

## **Baptist Harvest Festival**

Harvest thanksgiving sermons were held in the Whitwick Baptist Chapel on Sunday and were well attended. The Pastor, the Rev. H. C. J. Wix preached and there were selections by a quartette party – the Rev. H. C. J. Wix, Messrs. A. Aris, O. Geary and A. Mann. The chapel was nicely decorated. The collections amounted to £3 4s. On Monday a public tea was held and a good number sat down. The produce was sold afterwards and realised nearly £2.

## **Singular Fatality at Whitwick Blind Girl's Sad Death**

The Deputy-Coroner, (Mr T. J. Webb) held an inquiry on Monday evening at the Compass Inn, Whitwick, into the death of Sarah Egan, aged 17 years, daughter of William Egan, coalminer, of Whitwick, which occurred on Sunday morning, under somewhat remarkable circumstances.

Winifred Egan, sister of the deceased, said she was in the same room with her on Sunday morning about ten o'clock, and had been downstairs about two minutes when she heard a noise. Going upstairs, she saw deceased lying on the floor and thought she was in a fit, to which she was subject, but seeing blood on the floor, summoned her mother and a neighbour.

Dr. Milligan, assistant to Dr. Burkitt, on being sworn, was about to kiss the Testament when the Coroner reminded him that he need not do so as the practice had been abolished owing to the representations of medical men.

The Doctor: Yes, I know, but I always look for a clean page. (Laughter) Continuing, the doctor said he was called about ten o'clock on Sunday morning, and saw the girl lying on the bedroom floor. She was dead, but death had not taken place many minutes. There was an enormous quantity of blood on the floor. There was a large-sized broken utensil near her left shoulder, a large piece of it being nearer to the body than the rest. He found a large incised wound on the left side of the neck, and the arteries had evidently been severed. The wound was a clean cut. It appeared to him as though the deceased had stumbled, or had a fit, and the accident would readily occur. He, however, saw no marks of blood on the fragments of the utensil, which he believed the deceased must have fallen on and broken, one of the pieces causing the cut in the neck. He had been told the deceased was subject to epileptic fits. He did not think the wound could possibly have been self-inflicted.

The mother of the deceased said her daughter had been blind since she was seven years old, and subject to fits for the past 12 months or more. Dr. Burkitt had told her they were epileptic fits. Deceased required assistance when she moved about the house and someone was always close to her to guide her.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased died as a result of a wound in the throat accidentally caused by falling on a piece of earthenware whilst in an epileptic fit.

## **Whitwick Revision Court Barrister congratulates assistant overseers on the excellent lists Liberal agent and the Whitwick overseer.**

The Revising Barrister for the Loughborough Division, Mr C. E. Dyer, attended the Holy Cross School, Whitwick, yesterday (Thursday) afternoon for the purpose of going through the voters' lists for the parishes of Bardon, Coalville (portion), Osgathorpe, Thringstone and Whitwick.

The two political agents, Mr G. Lloyd James (Liberal) and Mr A. E. Seymour (Conservative) attended in the interests of their respective parties.

The Barrister said he was very glad indeed to find that the work had been done so well again in this division. With one or two exceptions they were all excellent lists and he would like to congratulate the overseers on showing such intelligence and producing such an excellent result.

Mr W. Baker (Coaville): Thank you, sir.

In the Whitwick new lodger claims was one by Patrick Barker. Mr Seymour said he did not think there was any such name. The Barrister said that was how the claim was signed.

It transpired that the man's name was George Ernest, but he was known as Pat, and the question arose as to whether he had occupied the room long enough.

Mr George West, (Whitwick Overseer) said the room had been occupied by the claimant's brother Timothy, who had married and left home.

Mr Lloyd James said he objected to the overseer giving the result of his enquiries in these cases. The Barrister said he was exceedingly obliged to overseers for information.

Mr James: But when he does it for one party, it is not fair. If he did it for both sides in an impartial manner I should say nothing. I have brought the matter up before.

Mr Seymour: I don't think this sort of thing should be brought in because in some parishes overseers act as agents or sub-agents for Mr James. Mountsorrel is a notorious case, but I said nothing about it.

The Barrister said his view was that an overseer or assistant should be impartial and it was a pity for them to identify themselves with either party. If they were impartial and enquired into lodger claims irrespective of party he would welcome their assistance, because lodger claims were notoriously difficult to adjudicate upon.

Mr Seymour: We strongly opposed the claim of Timothy last year and the information we got from Mrs Stanyard was very unsatisfactory but he got through.

The Barrister: I am dealing with Patrick now, and I have something on which I must act unless it is repudiated.

The claim was allowed.

Whitwick Man Eager to Cut the Kaiser's Moustache

Former Whitwick Scout-Master Writes Contradicting a Rumour

Private S. E. Perry, of the G Company of the Leicester Regiment, S.R. Purbrook, Fort Camp, near Portsmouth writing to his father, Councillor S. Perry, of Silver Street, Whitwick, says: "I was surprised to learn that bad reports respecting the food, etc., at this camp had been going about in Whitwick. Let me say at once that there is absolutely no truth in the statements. There is plenty of good food issued out here every day and the officers look to it that every man gets his fair share. We are not by any means over worked and are practically free every night at five o'clock. We get bacon for breakfast every other morning (bread and butter and cheese other days), meat and potatoes every day for dinner, bread and butter and jam every day for tea and we always have plenty left for supper. Considering that we

came up here prepared to suffer any hardships, or even death, for the sake of our King and country it is really surprising that we are treated so well. We each have two blankets, and despite the bitterly cold nights, manage to keep warm and to sleep well. The only grumbling which I hear in this camp is because we are not rushed off to Berlin to "cut the Kaiser's moustache." Hope you will contradict the untruthful reports if you hear anyone talking of them."

### **Whitwick Man in Hong Kong German Ships Sunk and Captured**

A letter indicating how the German warships fared at Hong Kong has been received by Mr A. Huchby, gardener to Mr J. J. Sharp, of the White House, Whitwick, from his son, Gunner G. L. Hutchby of the 88th Company R.G.A. stationed at Hong Kong.

He says he is in the best of health and expects they are having a lively time in England through the war with Germany. The letter proceeds: "We are also having a lively time out here in China. We did not hear anything about the war until August 4th, and then could hardly believe it, thinking it was only intended to see how long it would take us to get ready if war did break out. But on August 5th, the German fleet invaded Hong Kong about four o'clock in the morning. We sunk one battleship and captured two more. That was not so bad for a start, was it? And it was before the British fleet arrived here. But our battleships came into the harbour yesterday morning, so we are all right. I am on guard at the present moment on one of the German battleships that we captured, to see that none of them escape or try to kill themselves, as some of them have tried to jump overboard. I have just come off guard to have four hours' sleep and thought I would write a letter home as perhaps I shall not have the chance again for a few weeks, as I am expecting to be sent on to a British man-of-war to go to sea. Our regiment is trained to fight on battleships as well as on land and there is a rumour that the Germans are going to make another attack on Hong Kong. Of course, we shall be ready for them, and will make them sorry when they do come. There will be no German fleet when we have finished with them, at least round China way. I can not explain to you how we all felt in the battle when we captured the German ships. We were all very excited and eager to get at them. We have not heard much yet about the war, but are expecting news from England every day. Fred Swift is on one of the scout ships here. His ship is on guard about 20 miles outside the harbour, watching for more German ships."

He concludes by saying that he had not had any sleep for three days and three nights and he was glad now of the chance. He was anxious for papers to be sent out, which would be forwarded to his ship.

(This article also contained a picture of Gunner G. L. Hutchby)

### **Coalville Territorials and their Instructor**

#### *Presentation to Sergt. Stone*

An interesting little function took place at the Whitwick gymnasium on Monday night when Sergt-Instructor Stone, who has been instructing the Coalville Territorials, over a hundred strong, was presented with a handsome dressing case.

Pte. Bernard Hatter made the presentation on behalf of the company, and said how sorry they were to know, that Sergt-Instructor Stone was to leave them shortly. The recruits highly appreciated his services and extended their best wishes to him as to his future career.

Sergt-Instructor Stone, who was quite taken by surprise, expressed his thanks and congratulated the men on the splendid progress they had made in such a short time. He had

heard many people remark how smart they looked and he agreed and assured them that any regiment would be proud of them.

The Sergeant is returning to his regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders, on orders from the War Office and expected to leave Whitwick to-day (Friday). As is well known, Sergeant-Instructor Stone has for the last few years been in charge at the Whitwick and District Gymnasium and School of Arms, founded by the Right Hon. Charles Booth.

### **Do You Know?**

That the Whitwick Conservative Club premises are likely to be offered for sale shortly?  
That J. W. Davis, who played so well at outside right for Sutton Junction at Whitwick, last Saturday, formerly played with Bloomer on the Derby County right wing?

### **Sport Football**

The Imperial team to oppose Mount Pleasant in a Coalville cup match at Whitwick tomorrow will be: Wright; Waterfield and Cooke, Moore Lockwood and Lovett; Cooper, Layton, Thorpe, Dexter and Roach. Reserves Bird and Needham.

### **English Cup Matches Whitwick Imperial Beaten on the Tape**

Three senior clubs in the Coalville district were engaged on Saturday in the preliminary round for the English Cup. Whitwick Imperial were lucky in being drawn at home, whereas Coalville Town and Coalville Swifts were both away. The visitors to Whitwick were Sutton Junction, a team which is fourth on the chart of the Central Alliance and an interesting match was witnessed by a crowd of about fifteen hundred people.

Sutton were certainly the more polished players the passing of their forwards at times being brilliant, but the Whitwick men put plenty of heart into their play and managed to hold them in check, while several times the Sutton goal had narrow escapes.

Cooke, Waterfield and Lovett were all prominent in the Whitwick defence, and the custodian, Wright, also covered himself with glory. Lockwood played a good half back game as did Joe Moore. The forwards were less prominent. Roach troubled the goal keeper a time or two and once grazed the upright with a fine shot. Another occasion, Keeling (Sutton's goalkeeper) had difficulty in dealing with a fine shot from Lovett.

The Whitwick custodian was severely tested in the first half, but kept his goal intact. He made several brilliant saves. Sutton had a fine right wing, two brothers named Davis and a lot of trouble to the Whitwick defence came from them. Although Sutton's play was the most stylish, taken all through Whitwick had the game as much in their favour as did the Junction until the last few minutes. They were 'beaten on the tape' as it were. Only three minutes from time, Brooks, the Sutton centre, worked an opening and put in a terrific drive in the top left hand corner of the net. Wright reached the ball but it had passed just under the bar and the referee promptly pointed to the centre. Another goal followed almost immediately. Whitwick thus losing by two goals to none, but they were by no means disgraced.

### **Births, Marriages and Deaths Death of Mrs Waterfield**

The death occurred somewhat suddenly on Tuesday morning of Mrs Waterfield of Church Lane, mother of Mr George Waterfield, secretary of the Whitwick Imperial Football Club. She had a seizure on Monday night.

### **Burials**

Egan – At Whitwick, on Wednesday, Sarah Egan, aged 17 years, of Loughborough Road.

Lacey – At Whitwick, on Thursday, Elizabeth Lacey, aged 55 years, of Church Lane.

### **Friday October 9th 1914 (Issue 1179)**

#### **Local News**

The Coalville Urban Council are believed to have established a record in brevity at their monthly meeting on Tuesday night, the business only lasting a quarter of an hour. An interesting item in one of the reports was the excellent result of the analysis of the public water, which now, as always, is declared to be of good quality. It would seem too, that progress is being made in regard to the improvement at Pare's Hill, Whitwick, which has been before the Council for years.

#### **Burglary at a Whitwick Public House Money and Spirits Stolen**

During the early hours of Sunday morning, thieves got into the Duke of Newcastle Inn, kept by Mr G. A. Waterfield, of Whitwick, and stole three bottles of special whiskey and one of brandy and also the contents of the till, some seven or eight shillings.

An entry was gained through a small window at the rear of the premises leading into the passage, which gave the intruders access to the bar. If they had thought of finding Saturday's takings, they were disappointed because Mr Waterfield had carefully removed the bulk of the money.

Several valuables, including the Coalville Charity Cup, on a shelf in the bar, were left intact as also was a large sum of money in another place. There were no marks showing how the thieves had entered except that the window was found open and it had apparently been inadvertently left unfastened.

The intruders are believed to have been men who knew the house well and who also knew the dog, which was in the kitchen, since the occupants heard no sound from the animal. All the whiskey and brandy left on the shelves was taken as well as all the money in the till. The matter has been reported to the police.

#### **Wesleyan Chapel**

Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Sunday at the Whitwick Wesleyan Chapel, conducted by Mr W. F. Newell, of Nottingham. There were good congregations. A tea was held on Monday and very well attended and in the evening the gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables were sold, realising £2 11s for Leicester Infirmary.

**Smart Coalville Pawnbroker  
Alleged theft of a bicycle at Whitwick  
At the Ashby Police Court on Saturday**

Frederick Smith, labourer, late of Whitwick was charged with stealing a bicycle and lamp value £8, the property of John Hall, at Whitwick, on October 2nd. He was brought up in custody.

Inspector Dobney stated that about 8 o'clock on Friday night he saw the prisoner at Coalville Police Station detained by P.C. Brewin. He told defendant he would be charged with stealing a bicycle from some place then unknown. Defendant commenced to make a statement and witness cautioned him and said he should take down in writing what he said. Defendant then said he borrowed the bicycle that night from a man named Hall he lodged with at Whitwick, to ride to Coalville to purchase some clothes and he was to return it a 7 o'clock. When he got to Coalville he thought he would sell it and clear off to Birmingham with the money. He rode up to Belvoir Road pawn shop and asked two men who stood outside whether they wanted to buy a bicycle. One of them said he would and went into the shop with him. The pawnbroker asked him where he lived and he told him he lived in a wagon at Loughborough. The man asked him if the bicycle was his and whether he had receipt for it. Defendant replied that it was his and he had left the receipt in his wagon at Loughborough. The man asked him how much he wanted for it and he (defendant) asked him to name a price. The man said he would make enquiries and detained him in the shop while he sent for the police. The Inspector added that he afterwards ascertained that the bicycle belonged to John Hall, of Whitwick, and that the defendant had been lodging there for a week. Supt. Lockton said he wanted to make further enquiries about the defendant and asked for a remand.

Defendant had nothing to say and was remanded in custody to the Coalville Petty Sessions to-day (Friday).

**Coalville Urban District Council**

The monthly meeting of the Urban Council was held at Coalville on Tuesday night, Mr R. Blower, J.P., C.C., presiding. There were also present, Messrs. T. Y. Hay (vice-chairman), M. McCarthy, S. Perry, A. Lockwood, W. Sheffield, F. Griffin, S. Armson, J. W. Farmer, W. Fellows, B. G. Hale, J.P., with the Clerk (Mr F. Jesson), surveyor (Mr L. L. Baldwin), assistant surveyor (Mr G. F. Hurst) and gas works manager (Mr J. W. Eagles).

**Plans**

The following plans were recommended for approval: Van and cart sheds, North Street, Hugglescote, for Mr W. J. Windebank and a house, Crescent Road, Hugglescote, for Mr G. Rogers. The following plan was referred back: Line of railway for the Whitwick Granite Company, Ltd.

The report was adopted on the motion of Mr Perry.

**Highway Committee's Report**

The Highways Committee recommended that in the case of Council men going on active service the difference between the amount they receive from the War Office and their usual wages be paid by the Council to their dependants.

The Surveyor reported that there was no change in the north high level outfall sewer. The Surveyor read a letter from the Trustees of the Baptist Chapel, Pare's Hill, Whitwick, that the wall of their property could be removed as desired as part of the proposed



improvement and the cost would be about £8, and the Committee recommended that the Finance Committee be asked to make arrangements for the amount required to carry out the whole improvement at Pare's Hill.

The Surveyor produced the plans and section of the proposed sewer in Meadow Lane and reported that the estimated cost would be £2000, and he was instructed to report further at the next meeting of the committee.

The Surveyor read a report from the National Boiler Insurance Co. that an internal and external examination had been made of the Steam Roller and the same was found in order. A plan was produced from the Whitwick Granite Co. showing the sections of the proposed alterations of their level crossing in Hall Lane, and the Committee recommended that they be asked to submit plans and sections of the whole alteration of their line of railway.

Mr Sheffield moved the adoption of the report which was carried.

**Christmas Dinner in Berlin**  
**Coalville Soldier's Optimism**  
**Local men from India for the front**

Four soldiers who have just arrived from India reached Coalville on Monday morning on four days' leave of absence, prior to rejoining their regiment which has orders for the front. They were Lance-Corpl. A. Wesson and Lance-Corpl. C. H. Wesson, brothers, sons of Mr Wesson, a Midland Railway fitter, residing in Margaret Street, Coalville. Pte. A. Concannon of Church Lane, Whitwick, and Pte. Hartshorne of Swannington. All are in the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters), who since arriving in this country have been encamped at Hursley Park, on Sir J. Cooper's estate near Winchester. The four named have all been in the army for some years.

In an interview with Lance-Corpl. A. Wesson, a representative of this paper learned that the whole regiment are in high spirits at the prospect of going to the front and are eager for the fray.

They left Bombay on September 3rd and landed at Plymouth on October 1st, the whole regiment comprising about 1100. these were all brought over in one transport, and came part of the way with Indian troops which were landed at Marseilles. In all, there were 26 troopships, and, escorted by the battleships, Wesson said it was a fine sight. The Indian troops are splendid, he said, and would strike terror into the hearts of the Germans. The Gourkhas, in particular, he considered a fine body of men and splendid fighters.

Wesson, who looked bronzed, said he had been two years at Bombay where it was very hot. He would have finished his time in the army next June, but was now continuing in the service. "You are fond of army life?" queried our reporter, "Oh, yes," was the response, "and we are all looking forward to getting to the front."

Questioned as to whether there had been any exciting incidents in Bombay, Wesson replied that the enemy had not made his appearance there but English vessels had brought in numerous German ships which had been captured and the British Tommies had been guarding them. His regiment, he went on to say, had been abroad for 16 years and went through the South African war. As far as they knew they were to leave England for the front sometime this month, and he believed that about 70,000 troops were leaving for the war. "Kitchener means business," he added enthusiastically, "and we have all been saying in our regiment that we shall have our Christmas dinner in Berlin. I'll send you a bit of pudding." Referring again to the journey from India, Wesson said ten of the transports sailed from Bombay and the others joined them at Port Said. They sighted no hostile craft on the way

but had the unique experience of witnessing a wreck. They saw a vessel disappear beneath the waves, but, happily, all the crew were saved. Apart from this, it was an uneventful journey. The dusky soldiers who had gone to the front were, he said, the flower of the Indian Army and would give a good account of themselves. It was pleasing to hear Wesson say how well the white soldiers got on with the dark men in the service of India. The Indian soldiers, he affirmed, would readily lay down their lives for the English soldiers.

Wesson is an old Coalville Athletic footballer, and has gained a good reputation at the game while in Bombay, having won several medals. Had things gone on in a normal way he would have completed his seven years in the army next June and intended playing for Coalville Town next season. He finds the English climate very chilly after Bombay, but said the army provided them with good warm clothing.

Before leaving Wesson, I assured him that readers of the "Coalville Times" wished him and his pals the best of luck, and that I should look out for that bit of pudding.

The four men left Coalville yesterday to rejoin their regiment at Winchester.

### **Coalville Footballer's Bravery Rescued wounded French soldier**

Private W. Commons, familiarly known in Coalville and district as "Merry Commons," and who is serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps with the Expeditionary Force, writing to Mr John Sykes, of Hotel Street, said he was pleased to hear that Mr Sykes had a good time at Thringstone Wake. He (Commons) was at a different wake, where the shells were flying night and day. He continues: "Well, I have had my name sent for bravery. There was a Frenchman hit by a shell, so me and "Smosh" got a stretcher and ran out, and fetched him to safety, and the shells were bursting all around us. But we have been lucky enough to miss them up to now. It isn't war out here; its murder."

Commons adds: "It's like asking for gold out here to ask for a piece of writing-paper. You can get 5d a packet for Woodbines here. There's one thing, they are sending plenty of tobacco out for the troops. But I say 'Roll on England'."

Commons, who lived at Club Row, Coalville, has figured in different football clubs, amongst them Whitwick Imperial and Coalville Swifts.

### **Births, Marriages and Deaths Burials**

Berkin – At Whitwick, on Saturday, Samuel Harry Berkin, of South Street, aged 8 months.

### **Friday October 16th 1914 (Issue 1180)**

#### **Local News Whitwick Publican Death Sequel to Trap Accident Inquest**

An inquest was held yesterday afternoon by Mr P. J. Webb (Deputy-Coroner) at the Whitwick Conservative Club concerning the death of Mr William George Musson, landlord of the Three Crowns Hotel, Whitwick, who died on the previous day as a result of injuries sustained in a trap accident a few weeks ago.

Mr S. Perry was foreman of the jury and Mr Jesson (Ashby) attended for the relatives. The Coroner said the medical evidence was that deceased died from bronchitis, or some injury to the lungs, but as this was caused by broken ribs sustained in a trap accident on September 23rd, an inquest was necessary. The party had to find whether anyone was criminally responsible. The evidence, he said, somewhat contradictory, but the jury had nothing to do with any proceedings which might follow in a civil court.

Mrs Musson, deceased's wife, said her husband was 56 years of age. On September 23rd they went to Coalville and returned to Whitwick via Brook's Lane, which leads into North Street, shortly after six o'clock. A horse and cart stood opposite Mr Stinson's shop, and the man in charge had the reins between his knees as he was lighting a cigarette. As they passed, the horse moved and the driver instead of taking hold of the right rein pulled the wrong one and there was a crash. She shouted out, "The Lord help us" and remembered nothing more until the next day. The other cart caught theirs and took the cap clean off the wheel. Their trap was overturned and they were thrown out. Just before the collision their cart was on the same side as the Railway Hotel and the deceased pulled right on to the causeway to escape the other vehicle.

Mr Jesson: What pace was your husband driving?

Witness: Nothing, no more than a gentle trot. We left Dr. Hamilton's at a quarter to six and it was then about a quarter past.

Answering further questions, witness said that anyone in the cart near Stinson's shop would be able to see them coming. The driver pulled the wrong rein pulling the horse right in front of them. Their pony's feet were on the footpath. The same night, Leslie Payne, the driver of the other horse came to the house, but she could not say whether he saw the deceased. He came again the next day and saw the deceased in company with witness's daughter. Apart from this accident deceased had had good health. They had been to Dr. Hamilton for a bottle of medicine for herself.

By the Coroner: The deceased was not short sighted or deaf?

Mr Jesson: And the pony was easy to manage? Yes, it is 16 or 17 years old. By the foreman: They went straight to Coalville and back and were only away from home about an hour. By Mr T. Kelly (a juror): Just before the collision deceased shouted to the youth in the other trap, "What are you doing?"

Dr. Milligan, locum tenens for Dr. Burkitt, Whitwick, said he was sent for about half-past six and saw the deceased at the Railway Hotel. With assistance he was got home to bed where witness examined him. He found abrasions on the face, especially on the left side. Two ribs were broken on the left side and the right ankle was badly sprained. He was suffering from shock and the heart's action was weak. The latter was a permanent thing and he warned relatives of what might happen. The deceased seemed to progress for a time, but later his breathing was difficult and indicated bronchitis. On Saturday they had deceased out of bed, and he seemed better. Witness was away until Monday. Dr. Vaughan, visiting deceased on Sunday. When witness saw deceased on Monday his breathing had become again difficult and the heart's action feeble. He died on Wednesday morning from bronchitis pneumonia, which was no doubt connected with the shock from the accident. The bruises indicated that the deceased might have been thrown out of the trap on the left side, but he could not say positively.

Mr Jesson: But for the accident Mr Musson might have been alive today. The Doctor: Oh, certainly. By the Coroner: There was no organic mischief to account for the weak action of

the heart. It was just the over-worked heart of a hard working man of his age. Mr Jesson: We have all got that. (Laughter)

The doctor said that sometimes medical men were blamed for not giving certificates in such cases, but when there had been an accident they could not according to law. The Coroner said that the jury understood that.

Arthur James Gough, farmer, Redhill Farm, Swannington, stated that he was near Whitwick Station, when he heard a crash about twenty yards away. He went up and saw Mr Musson lying in the gutter between Moore's shop and the Railway Hotel. The deceased's trap was upside down close to the causeway. Witness assisted in getting the deceased into the Railway Hotel. He heard no shouting just before the crash. The road was rather narrow there. The other trap was a little to the rear of the overturned one and on the other side. By Mr Jesson: When he got to the scene of the accident, Musson's pony was standing up. The other cart had probably been backed, though he did not see it, and would not say definitely.

By Mr Harper (a juror): The other horse was facing Pare's Hill and was nearly opposite Mr Noon's yard gate.

Henry Birkumshaw, fitter's labourer, Church Lane, Whitwick, stated that on September 23rd he was near Whitwick Church about a quarter past six and saw the deceased pass in a trap towards the Market Place. Another trap was near Noon's facing up the hill just on the move. Both carts were going straight and on their proper side. The wheel of Musson's cart struck the wheel of the other cart and deceased's trap turned over, with Mr and Mrs Musson underneath, and he helped get them out. After the collision each trap was in the gutter on the proper side. He heard no shout. He noticed nothing particular about the driver of Stinson's cart. He was simply driving the horse.

By Mr Jesson: He had told the policeman what he saw but had not talked to Mr Stinson about it or anyone on Mr Stinson's behalf. At the time of the collision the lad in Stinson's cart was not smoking. There was a man with him. In Musson's cart were the deceased, Mrs Musson and a little girl. Witness could not say how the wheels caught.

Leslie Payne, of Gracedieu Road, Whitwick, said he was a mineral water salesman. About 6.15 p.m. on September 23rd he was driving along South Street towards Pare's Hill when he said Mr Musson's trap turned out of Church Lane. Witness was on his left hand side with the wheel right in the gutter. Musson approached him in the middle of the road, and pulled a little to his left but not enough to miss the hub of witness's cart. Neither of them called out. Witness had the reins in his hand. He was smoking at the time but was not lighting a cigarette when the collision occurred. Musson's trap went on about six yards and then turned over. Witness got out and went to the assistance of Mr Musson.

By Mr Jesson: He was employed by Mr Stinson, who owned the horse and cart. Witness was accustomed to driving and had not had an accident before. He was 18 years of age. He did not call at Mr Stinson's chemist's shop that day. He lit his cigarette in Market Place and did not drop the reins to do so. The accident would have been averted had deceased pulled a little more to the left. Witness could not have pulled any more himself without going on to the kerb.

By the foreman: His horse was not standing near Noon's before the accident.

Enoch Horridge, collier, residing in the City of Three Waters, who was in the cart with Payne, gave similar evidence.

By Mr Jesson: He was not related to Payne.

The Coroner said there did not appear to anything in the evidence which would show anybody to be guilty of criminal negligence. The jury agreed and returned a verdict of accidental death. The Foreman, and the jury desired that the attention of the Urban Council be called to the narrowness of the road at that point, it being a source of danger.

### **Coalville Pawnbroker Commended Exciting Struggle with Would-be Bicycle Thief**

At the Coalville Police Court on Friday, Ernest Elson, labourer, Leicester, who gave the name of Frederick Smith, was charged with attempting to steal a bicycle and lamp value £8, at Coalville on October 2nd. Defendant said he was guilty and was sorry for what he had done.

John Hall, pony driver, Leicester Road, Whitwick, identified the bicycle in court and said it was worth £8. The defendant lodged at his father's house and asked witness to lend him the bicycle. He said he was going to Coalville to purchase some clothes and he would be back by seven o'clock. Inspector Dobney said the defendant was brought to the police station with the bicycle and witness told him he would be detained on a charge of stealing it from some place unknown. Defendant, after being cautioned made a statement admitting that he borrowed the bicycle and tried to sell it at Coalville to a pawnbroker, who detained him while he sent for the police.

William Henry Parker, pawnbroker, Belvoir Road, Coalville, said he heard the defendant offer to sell the bicycle to two youths near his shop and witness told him he would buy it. He took the bicycle into the shop and asked the prisoner what he wanted for it and defendant replied, "What will you give me?" Witness asked him if he had a receipt and he replied that he had left it in his wagon at Loughborough. Witness said he would have to make enquiries to see whether the bicycle was paid for and that defendant would be detained. Prisoner then put himself into a fighting attitude and said he could soon get out of the shop. They had a struggle and fell to the floor, but witness managed to hold him while the boy went for a policeman. Supt. Lockton said he was delighted with the way Mr Parker acted and he was sure every honest man in Coalville would be. He had acted splendidly.

The Chairman said the Magistrates desired to join in that and to express their appreciation of the way Mr Parker managed to detain the man, who would otherwise have perhaps got away with the bicycle. The Magistrates thought Mr Parker acted very wisely. Supt. Lockton said there was nothing known against the defendant, who however, caused them a lot of trouble by saying he came from Cambridgeshire and gave a wrong name. His home was in Mellor Street, Belgrave, Leicester. Mr C. A. Northway, police court commissioner, said the defendant was only 18 years of age, and it would be a pity to send him to prison. His mother was here and would take him back and he (Mr Northway) suggested he be bound over and he would look after him.

The Bench agreed to that course, defendant being bound over for 12 months. Mrs Elson said the boy had a good home and a new bicycle of his own. She could not understand why he would do such a thing.

### **Local Chit Chat**

Prominent among the spectators at the Coalville Town and Whitwick match last Saturday were two blind "onlookers" – 'Mic,' a strong Town supporter, and Brown, who likes to "see" Whitwick win. The latter is an old soldier and was wearing several medals. Although totally blind, both men evidently followed the game with great enthusiasm.

The treasurer of the Leicester Royal Infirmary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £12/1/8 from Market Bosworth Church, £5/5/4 Bardon Hill Church, £4/7/6 Barlestone Church, £2/2/0

Whitwick Wesleyan Church, £1/16/6 Bagworth Parish Church, £50 from the employees of the Ellistown Collieries Ltd., and £12/1/10 from the employees of the Cliff Hill Granite Quarry, Markfield.

### **Do You Know?**

That 110 men from the Whitwick Colliery have joined the forces?

### **Coalville Police Court**

**Friday – Before Major Hatchett and Mr W. Lindley.**

#### **No Light**

John Biddle, baker, Whitwick, was summoned for driving a horse and cart without lights at Thringstone, on September 29th. P.C. Collis stated the case.

The Bench dismissed the case on payment of 6/6 costs, no conviction being recorded.

### **Sport**

#### **Football**

#### **Coalville Town's Defence Strengthened**

When Coalville Town went to Whitwick a few weeks ago to play the Imperial in a Leicestershire Senior League match they were quite outclassed and beaten by 5 goals to 1, but they had a sweet revenge on Saturday. Since the first encounter, the weak places in the Town ranks have been strengthened and it was a very capable side which took the field on Saturday. Whitwick again gave a good display, but were beaten on their merits.

Coalville hitherto lacked in defence, but an old Town and Imperial player – “Shinty” Warden – having been released by the disbanding of Hinckley United, has come back to Coalville, along with Pick, Hinckley's goal-keeper, who has long enjoyed a great reputation locally as a custodian, and with “Japper” Smith in the half-back line, Coalville had some stubborn defenders. As constituted on Saturday, the Town have a team which should render a good account during the rest of the season. 'Twas a pity they could not have played at Moira the previous week as they did on Saturday.

The players were, Pick, Warden and Pallett, H. Smith, Nicholls and Webster, Marshall, Barratt, Evans, G. Smith and Wilkins.

Whitwick also made one or two changes in their side, Cooke and Heath were out, and Bourne and another Bird were brought in, the position of the players being somewhat re-arranged, as the following will show:

Wright; Waterfield and Dexter, W. Bird, Lockwood and Lovett; J. Moore, Layton, J. Bird, Bourne and Roach.

This was the only match in the district on Saturday and the Town committee, therefore, were gladdened by a splendid “gate.” The attendance must have been nearly two thousand.

The game started in Whitwick's favour and had not been long in progress before they were one up through J. Bird. Coalville did a lot of pressing and eventually Barratt made matters level. Pick was applauded for saving a difficult shot from one of the Whitwick halves and

later for returning a beauty from Joe Moore. Whitwick took the lead again just before the interval in rather an easy manner. Warden stumbled when about to clear and Bourne had a good opening with which he made no mistake.

Resuming Barratt scored again almost immediately and Coalville had decidedly the best of matters at the close. Two more goals were scored by Evans, but Wright might have saved the first of these. The ball bounced over his hand when trying to punch it whereas he might easily have adopted the safer plan of gathering the leather. Wright seemed a bit shaky in goal on other occasions. Evan's second goal was a beauty. It came from a tremendous volley and Wright would have done well had he stopped that. It was an interesting game throughout.

## **Friday October 23rd 1914 (Issue 1181)**

### **Local News**

#### **Whitwick Licensed Victualler's Funeral The Late Mr W. G. Musson**

The funeral took place at Whitwick on Saturday, amid many manifestations of public esteem, of William George Musson, landlord of the Three Crowns Hotel, whose death occurred from injuries sustained in a trap accident under circumstances narrated at the inquest reported in our last issue.

The chief mourners present were the widow and son Will, Mr J. Musson (son) and Mrs Stanyard (daughter), Mr George Musson and Miss L. Musson (son and daughter), Mr R. Musson (son) and Mrs Benistone (sister), Mr Stanyard (son-in-law) and Mrs Perkins (cousin) and Mr George Brooks and Mrs Clarke (cousins).

Also present were Messrs. H. Allgood, S. Perry, A. Briers, B. West, G. West and other prominent townsmen including most of the members of the Whitwick and Thringstone Licensed Victuallers Association. The service, the first portion of which was held in the parish church, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. T. W. Walters. The bearers were Messrs. Mason, T. Moore, W. Moore, T. Middleton, T. Wyatt, F. Perry, J. Haywood and J. King and the body was enclosed in a polished oak coffin with brass furniture, bearing the inscription: "William George Musson, died October 14th, 1914, aged 56 years."

There were about thirty beautiful floral tributes which bore cards from His Wife, May and Herbert, James and Mary Ann, Hannah and Harry, Reg and Lizzie, his sons, Mr and Mrs A. E. West and family, Mr and Mrs Roulston, Mr and Mrs W. Moore, Mr Frank Smith, Mr and Mrs Middleton, Mr and Mrs Ben West, members of the Women's Club, Whitwick and District Licensed Victuallers Association, Mr and Mrs A. Waterfield, Mr and Mrs S. Perry, Mr and Mrs William Smith and family, Mr and Mrs Thorpe, Mr and Mrs Ward and M. E. Wileman, Mr and Mrs B. V. McCarthy, Mr and Mrs Smith and family, Mr and Mrs James Robinson, Mr and Mrs Preer, Alfred and John Moore and Mrs Hault, Mr and Mrs Fred Sear, Mr and Mrs Wyatt, Messrs. Frank West, John Reynolds and Justin McCarthy.

Mr C. McCarthy of Belvoir Road, Coalville, carried out the funeral arrangements.

### **Parish Church Harvest Festival**

The harvest festival was held at Whitwick Parish Church on Sunday, when the church was prettily decorated and the services were largely attended. The Rev. C. Shrewsbury (vicar of Thringstone) preached in the morning and the Rev. T. W. Walters (vicar) in the evening.

Anthems were well rendered by the choir. Mr R. G. West being the organist. In the afternoon a service for men was addressed by Dr. Milligan, locum tenens for Dr. Burkitt, on "Our Hospitals." The collections realised £9 3s which was for the local hospitals. The fruit was sent to the 5th Northern Hospital for the wounded soldiers and the remainder of the produce distributed among the poor of the parish.

### **Do you Know?**

That Whitwick and District Licensed Victuallers' Association have decided to hold a dinner?

### **Births, Marriages and Deaths Burials**

Musson:- At Whitwick, on Saturday, William George Musson, aged 56 years, of the Three Crowns Hotel.

### **Friday October 30th 1914 (Issue 1182)**

#### **Local News**

Mr Neville Smith-Carrington has made a present of tobacco to every man in the 5th Battalion Leicestershire Regt. at Luton including ambulance and machine gun sections and the signallers. The presentation consists of a neat box of tobacco and pasted inside the lid is a label. "Good Luck!" from Neville Smith-Carrington, Ashby Folville, Melton Mowbray. The tobacco was supplied by the tobacconists from Loughborough, Barrow, Castle Donington, Mountsorrel, Shepshed, and Whitwick. Mr Smith-Carrington has been unable to leave London for a month, his firm being so busily engaged in making munitions for war that seven days a week and three shifts of eight hours each are worked continuously.

The treasurer of the Leicester Royal Infirmary acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts:- £19 Ibstock Free Church parade per Mr W. Eggington, J.P.; £4/7/5 Whitwick Parish Church per the Vicar; £4/7/0 Odstone Mission Room per the Rev. W. H. Neap; £4/6 Nailstone Church; £3/3 Ashby Primitive Methodist Church per the Rev. J. Blayney; £2/2 Coalville Ebenezer Baptist Church per the Rev. W. H. Wills; £2/2 Ibstock Wesleyan Church per Mr W. Eggington, J.P.; £1/17 Bagworth Baptist Church per Mr W. Bland; £1/15/8 Swannington Wesleyan Church per Mr Rouse; £1/14 Stanton-under-Bardon Parish Church per the Rev. H. R. Cooper; £1 Coalville Standard Hill Wesleyan Church per Mr E. Geary; 15/2 H. Tresise; 13/- Ravenstone Wesleyan Coalville United Methodist Church per Mr E. Church per Mr W. Saddington; £8 Workmen of the Whitwick Granite Company; and £7 Coalville Co-Operative Society employees per Mr H. Gray.

#### **Whitwick Baby's Death Inquest**

The deputy-coroner of North Leicestershire, (Mr T. J. Webb) held an inquest at Mr Briers' office on Monday into the circumstances attending the death of the infant son of Bernard Slattery, a collier, City of Three Waters.

The child's mother said he was five and a half weeks old. On October 23rd she and her husband went to bed with the child between them; and early next morning she found the baby dead. Dr. Milligan, locum tenens for Dr. Burkett, said the child died from suffocation from being over-lain.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and expressed the opinion that it was dangerous to have an infant between parents in bed.



### **Coalville's Effort for Distressed Belgians Urgent Appeal for Funds Successful Public Meetings in the District**

Considerable progress has been made during the week in connection with the scheme to provide for 100 Belgian Refugees at Broom Leys, Coalville. The committee have got to work and have received many excellent promises of support. The greatest task they have to face is the raising of the money, estimated at £30 to £35 per week, to maintain their guests after the house had been furnished, and a comfortable home provided for them, but judging by the enthusiasm displayed at several meetings held in the district during the past few days, it looks as though the money will be readily forthcoming. Appended are particulars of the meetings held.

#### **Good Response at Ravenstone**

There was a good attendance at a meeting in the Ravenstone School on Monday night at which Major Hatchett, J.P., presided and Miss Hawthorn attended from the Central Committee. The Major and Mr J. W. West, J.P., spoke of the great sacrifices made by the Belgian people and the claims they had on the people of this country. Promises were made in the meeting amounting to £2 per week.

It was explained that a Belgian and his wife and two children were already living in Ravenstone at a house kindly offered by Miss Cresswell.

#### **Meeting at Swannington**

A meeting was held at Swannington on Saturday night and was fairly well attended. Mr T. Atkins presided and was supported by Mr B. G. Hale and Mr Edgar Hawthorn, hon. sec to the Central Committee. The Chairman and Mr Hale gave addresses to what was evidently a sympathetic audience and it was intimated that collectors would come round.

#### **Stirring Addresses at Whitwick**

On Monday evening a well-attended meeting was held in the Church Schools, Whitwick. The Rev. T. W. Walters, M.A. Vicar,

presided and he was supported by the Right Hon. Charles Booth, Mr W. Lindley, J.P., and Mr M. McCarthy, Mr T. W. Bourne, Mr J. Eagles, Mr M. Downes, Mr F. Burton, Mr J. S. West etc.

The Chairman said that a few months ago the little country of Belgium was one of the most prosperous on the Continent and had flourishing populous towns and cities. Suddenly war broke out and the Germans demanded a passage through the country. Belgium knew if they said "yes" it would probably mean an end to their independence, and so they said "no." The result of that was the Germans set their war machine in action, and to-day old world towns that had been a joy to travellers were blackened ruins; ancient monuments and architecture were in ruins, and the people had been crushed as well. The people in thousands had fled to France, to Holland and to this country. To-day the Belgians looked upon the people of this country as their best friends and the people of this country looked upon the Belgians as a grand and noble people. But for the stand they made at Liege, France would have been devastated, and the resistance they offered enabled France and England to prepare to meet Germany. At the same time Belgium was a desert. Some of their friends here had already done something to provide hospitality for some of these heroic people, but a committee representing the district was organising means for accommodating more of the unfortunate

people. Considering what the Belgian resistance had meant for this country, they ought to do all they could in return.

Mr McCarthy said they knew pretty well what had happened, and the cruelties that had been enacted. He had received a letter from Father Parmerier, of Newhall, a Belgian, whose two brothers were in a large way of business and had lost everything. Before the war, Belgium had 7 1/2 million of prosperous people. He did not know how many would be left when the war was over. The Germans had been preparing for years. The war came to them in England like a thunderclap and they ought to thank God that they had gone on thus far so well. He felt that God was working for them in this fight for freedom and Christianity.

Mr Walter Lindley said that was one of the saddest occasions which he had had to come before a Whitwick audience. Belgian refugees, rich and poor alike were needing succour. There were 200,000 Belgian refugees in Holland who would be only too glad to come over to England if they could be accommodated. The most awful atrocities which the Germans had perpetrated were a scandal to the 20th century. Even barbarians had never perpetrated such atrocities. A gentleman had told him that he had seen two women without hands, and another gentleman had told him that a nurse he had known for 15 years had come back with both her hands cut off. The one nation the German Emperor wanted to crush was England. Proceeding, Mr Lindley said he believed that the German Emperor had climbed and climbed to the top of the ladder, and fallen over the other side. They must not minimise the task before them. It would probably take them till this time next year to overcome Germany. They must wait until they had driven the Germans off French and Belgian territory, and razed Krupps works at Essen to the ground. Then they could begin to talk about some reduction of armaments. The Coalville District Committee were hoping to get sufficient support to enable them to place one hundred refugees at Broom Leys. It was their duty and privilege and he believed it would be their pleasure to help them. They appealed for gifts or loans of furniture and household requisites, in addition to vegetables etc., and weekly contributions towards the maintenance of these people. The collieries had already contributed £124, and unless they received gifts of furniture, etc., it would take at least £230 more to furnish the place. On the top of this there was the cost of maintenance, and in his opinion these refugees would require help for at least twelve months.

The Hon. Charles Booth said he had in the past been regarded as an alarmist, but he was happy to have on his side Lord Roberts. He heard from time to time of the careful and thorough preparation made by the Germans for the invasion of England, and many people believed that these preparations were simply academic, but he for one did not take that view, but that they looked to "the day," as their favourite toast implied, when they would invade this country. Although the war had not gone so favourably for the Germans as the Germans had hoped, they still believed they would be able to invade England. The present fighting was said to be the greatest fight of the war, and the Germans were making strenuous efforts to get to Calais. They believed that by an invasion of this country by Zeppelins it would make them shake in their shoes, that they would be frightened and give in. Of course the Germans did not know us as a people.

The Belgians had done much more than he had ever hoped they could have done, and they should do all they could to help these people who had lost their all. He was trying a little experiment, and was expecting 6 Belgians at his place.

The Chairman said that Pte. Samuel Perry had written home that he had seen a Belgian Refugee landed at Portsmouth minus both arms, legs and one ear.

Mr T. W. Bourne moved a vote of thanks to the speakers and the Chairman and Mr Eagles seconded. Both made an eloquent appeal for support in the effort to support the Belgian Refugees. The vote was heartily accorded and the chairman and Mr Booth responded.

The chairman said that 23 volunteers were required to collect in that part of the district. Mr Lindley said it was important that the offers of furniture etc., should be to hand by the Central Committee at Coalville by Saturday as the Central Committee were meeting next week to decide what furniture it was necessary to purchase.

**The singing of the National Anthem closed the proceedings.  
Home Defence Meeting at Whitwick  
Citizen Corps Formed**

With a view to forming a Citizen Corps for home defence in Whitwick and Thringstone, a meeting was held at the Three Crowns Hotel, Whitwick, on Tuesday evening. Mr B. Berry presided and was supported by Capt. Stevenson, Lieut. Jamie, Mr S. Perry etc.

Mr Berry said they were all sorry to hear of the death of the landlord of that establishment (Mr Musson), and he asked the company to stand as a mark of sympathy.

This having been done, the Chairman said these were very serious days, more serious than some of them realised. They had to face a madman and his huge army. This madman had intended to capture Brussels, Calais and Paris. They had taken Brussels but had got little further. The Germans wanted to capture Calais and invade this country, so that they could serve us as they had done the people of Belgium.

Capt. Stevenson having explained why he was prevented from taking active service, stated that before the war he formed the Ashby and Coalville Corps of the National Reserve. He congratulated Whitwick district on the many lads sent to fight for their country. The Chairman had referred to the German madman; he called him the German Assassin – (A voice: The Belgian Butcher) – hear, hear. They had read of the horrors which the Belgian people had had to suffer. The people of this country would have to suffer more if ever the Germans got into this country. We thought that our fine navy was invincible and could not be defeated, Germany thought the same of their navy. They had been building it up against “The Day” which they had toasted and looked and prepared for in years gone by and it was wise that they should be prepared for all contingencies. He referred to the heroic behaviour of British troops in the war, and to the pluck and courage of men who kept the Union Jack flying. If they had followed the advice of Lord Roberts six years ago this war would never have taken place, because they would have had four million trained men. It rested with the men of Whitwick to help to protect this country. They wanted to form a Citizen’s Corps for home defence, and they wanted the young men to join Kitchener’s army. If the men did not come forward readily, then there would be conscription. When Lord Kitchener got his million men, he would ask for another million. This war would not be over this Christmas or the Christmas after. It would be a long affair. They had got to drive Germany out of France, out of Belgium, and right to Berlin. They had got to make it that the Germans would not be able to molest them again. They not only wanted men for Kitchener’s army, but also for the Territorial Reserve. It was a great honour to the Coalville Company and they had been called on to supply a draft of 60 to strengthen the 5th Battalion at Luton. They had with them that night, Mr Jamie, an officer of the Coalville Company, and it was many years since Coalville had supplied an officer for the Territorials. When the National Reserve was first formed it was not recognised by the War Office, but in the hour of England’s need, many of its members had gone again to serve their country. The same applied to the home defence corps. They wanted to be prepared for emergencies. At Coalville on Sunday 109 paraded for drill, and on Monday evening 88 presented themselves. There was a large employer of labour standing shoulder to shoulder with men in his employ. He regretted that there were men with strong sons who had not sent any to join the forces, although they could easily spare at least two. He explained in passing that the Citizen’s Corps was not a back door for those who had not the grit to join Kitchener’s army or the Territorials. Proceeding, he said that some women had trouble over their separation allowances. If any who had difficulty came to see him any

morning between 9 and 12 at the Labour Exchange he should be only too pleased to do all he could to put the matter right.

Mr H. G. W. Howe said that England expects every man to do his duty and that motto should be engrafted in the minds of everyone young and old, and in spite of his advancing years he was prepared to do all he could. The war was not yet before them, and peace would not be declared until they reach Berlin.

It was decided those who had given in their names should meet on Thursday evening to form a committee.

Lieut. Jamie proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was accorded and Mr Berry replied.

### **Do you Know?**

That in the membership of the Midland Miners' Fatal Accident Relief Society for the past quarter shows an increase of 20 at Coleorton Colliery and 39 at Snibston, with a decrease of 48 at South Leicester and 19 at Whitwick pits?

### **Coalville Police Court**

Friday – Before the Rev. C. T. Moore (in the chair), Major Hatchett, Mr B. G. Hale, and Mr J. W. West.

### **Bad Language**

Robert Cooke, collier, and Lily Cooke, married, both of Whitwick, were summoned for using bad language at Whitwick on October 10th. Defendants were stated to be man and wife. The woman appeared and P.C. Grewcock said the defendant's caused a disturbance in Whitwick Market Place, shortly after 11 pm. and he had to escort them away.

Sergt. Kirkland corroborated. The woman said she was as innocent as newly-born babe. Defendants were each fined 2s and costs 10s or seven days.

Hannah Young, married woman, Whitwick, was summoned for using bad language at Whitwick, on October 17th. She pleaded not guilty. P.C. Jelley proved the case and was corroborated by P.C. Grewcock. Defendant was fined 2/6 and costs 12s or seven days.

### **Births, Marriages and Deaths**

#### **Burials**

Slattery – At Whitwick, on Tuesday, Bernard Slattery, aged 5 weeks, of the City of Three Waters.

#### **Newsagent's Death**

The death occurred on Wednesday at the age of 54 years, of Mr John Bailey, a well-known newsagent of Whitwick.