

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

December 1917



**SERGT. T. F. MAYSON, V.C.,
OF SILECROFT.**

(Photograph by S. G. Lamb, Wellington St., Millom.)

GREAT RECEPTION TO SERGEANT MAYSON, V.C.

**MILLOM AND SILECROFT VIE WITH EACH
OTHER TO HONOUR A LOCAL HERO.**

On Saturday afternoon Millom presented a very lively appearance, most houses in the route on which Sergeant Mayson entered the town being decorated with flags, &c. Sergeant Mayson, accompanied with the Testimonial Committee, came to Millom on a brake, and were met in Holborn Hill by the Holborn Hill Brass and Reed Band, and a large crowd of interested spectators. The procession wended its way to the Market Square, where a platform was erected. Flags were flying from the banks, the West County, and the various tradesmen's residences. A crowd numbering some thousands congregated in the Market Square, and gave Sergeant Mayson a right loyal reception. A number of soldiers home on leave, as well as those on munition work, and late members of the Volunteer Force, under Sergeant Bragg, accompanied Sergeant Mayson round the town, and for the part of the way he was carried shoulder high. As he took his position on the platform with the committee, very hearty cheers were given for the V.C.

6 December 1917

Hostilities on the Eastern Front are halted when the Bolshevik government in Russia signed an armistice with Germany. The first Battle of Cambrai results in a stalemate, while the United States declares war on Austria-Hungary.

CHRISTMAS DAY AT WHITEHAVEN AUXILIARY MILITARY HOSPITAL.

Long before dawn messages came down from Sister-in-Charge to King George Ward wishing them all a very Happy Christmas, but at the same time requesting a cessation of the beating of drums and blowing of whistles, &c., until a respectable hour, it being then three a.m., and rather early to start a strenuous day! The contents of the stockings evidently proved very satisfactory, judging by the noise: in each stocking was a present from the Detachment (V.A.D. 12, Cumberland), also a handpainted writing pad, a handkerchief, Christmas card, cigarettes, nuts, &c. After church the wards were judged, prizes being given for the best decorations. This was a most difficult task, as every ward was so very tastefully and artistically done, entirely by the patients themselves, who all took infinite trouble.

27 December 1917

MILITARY MEDAL FOR SEATON SOLDIER.

At Seaton there is pleasure that Lance-Corpl. I. Bell, son of Mrs. Bell, Derwent View, Seaton, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and conspicuous bravery on October 26th near Holthurst Wood. "He led his Section on, after his Company had been held up by heavy fire and strong points. He worked round the flank, and just as he was about to charge he lost six of his section by shells, and was left with one man. He then dug himself a position, and held on until being relieved."

Mrs. Bell has another son, who is a prisoner of war in Germany. Both enlisted in November, 1914.

27 December 1917



Consumed with Pride

You'll bake your bread with pleasure and eat it with pride if you use Calders Yeast. Although it will not make "a war loaf" like "a peace loaf," Calders Yeast does enable you to "make the best of things." The Calder loaf keeps fresh and sweet for many days and saves frequent bakings and stale ends in the bread-pan.

Calders Yeast is made in Scotland under perfect hygienic conditions. You can detect its goodness immediately you open the bag—yet it costs no more than the ordinary kind. Ask for Calders Yeast and see that you get it.

If your dealer does not stock, send 4d. for ½ lb., post free from Calders Yeast Co., Ltd., Calder House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*British
Made.*

Calders Yeast

Direct distributing depots at Carlisle, Maryport, Workington, Keswick, Kendal, Barrow and Ulverston.

CALDEYS YEAST CO., LTD., Calder House Newcastle-on-Tyne.

27 December 1917

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THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

DRIVER TOM BRYAN, WHITEHAVEN.

Information has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bryan, of Ribton Lane, Whitehaven, of the death from wounds of their son, Driver Tom Bryan, aged 29 years. He was in the R.F.A., and had been in the Army since January last. His father is the well-known railway worker at Cor-kickle Station. A second son is in the Army. Tom, who was formerly a fireman at Wellington Pit, Whitehaven, was killed on the 24th of November.

6 December 1917

ABOUT SOUP.

Every housewife desirous of helping her country should apply to the Local Food Economy Committee (or to the Director of Food Economy, Grosvenor House, London, W., 1.) for a sheet giving 17 excellent recipes and telling how to get every particle of nourishment from oatmeal, rice, barley, sago, and tapioca. The following is a recipe of a soup specially suitable for the winter:—Required: ½ lb split peas or lentils, 1 onion, ½ stick celery, 1 carrot, 1 turnip, some bacon rinds to flavour, 1 oz. dripping or margarine, 3 pints stock or water, salt and pepper. Soak the peas or lentils for 24 hours. Melt the fat in a saucepan, then drain the peas or lentils and put them into a saucepan with the vegetables, previously prepared and cut into slices, and the bacon rind. Stir over the fire for about five minutes, taking care they do not brown, then add the stock, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Boil up gently and skim well, then allow to simmer slowly until the peas or lentils are done. Remove the bacon rind if this is used, pass the soup through a wire sieve, reheat, and if peas are used add a little dried mint, and serve hot.

6 December 1917

AN EGREMONT SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sewell, Salford Terrace, Egremont, have been notified that their son, Private T. W. Sewell, has been wounded in the left foot, and is now in Rouen General Hospital. Private Sewell, who is 21 years of age, is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sewell, and has been in France upwards of twelve months, during which time he has taken part in all the big battles, but unfortunately was wounded on the 4th of this month. Prior to his enlistment in the 1st Borders, he was employed by his father as a coal carter for the Railway Company, and was highly respected in the town for his kindness and obliging manner. Mr. and Mrs. Sewell have three sons in the Army, one of whom enlisted in America, and together with his brothers, are now fighting in France.

20 December 1917

A WELL KNOWN MILLOM FOOTBALLER KILLED BY A SHELL.

Private Isaac Moore, son of Mr. Isaac Moore, 148, Albert-street Millom, was killed on the 20th ult. in France. A German shell exploded in front of the bicycle he was using to carry despatches, killing him instantly. Private Moore, who was a member of the Territorials, Royal Lancaster Regiment, with his contingent joined up at the commencement of the war. He played in the Millom team in Northern Union football, and was looked on as a particularly promising player. He was only 23 years of age. Prior to the war he was engaged at the Hodbarrow Mines.

6 December 1917

HENSINGHAM YOUNG MAN MISSING.

Mrs Gibson, Main Street, Hensingham, has received information that her son, Private G. Gibson, has been missing since the 26th October last. He had just been at home on furlough, and had only been back with his company two days when he was reported missing. A letter from his Lieutenant received on Monday states that Private Gibson was not seen by any of the platoon after he left the trench. Private Gibson, before he joined up was in business with his brother, A. Gibson, as clogger and shoemaker. He had been in France some 15 months.

13 December 1917

MILITARY HONOUR FOR AN EGREMONT SOLDIER.

The many friends of Lieut. Charles E. Davidson, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. U. Davidson, Hard Heads, Egremont, will be pleased to learn that he has been awarded the Military Cross for volunteer work in France on November 20th. The news, coming as it did by wire on Thursday, the day after his marriage to Miss Hannah M. Hunter, of Egremont, must not only have been very gratifying to himself, but also to his bride and his parents. Lieut. Davidson joined the colours when war first broke out, and has seen a good deal of fighting. He is a great favourite in the town of Egremont and district, and we foresee he will have the heartiest congratulations of all in his military honour, who wish him the best of luck.

20 December 1917

The Finest Xmas Present IS A National War Bond

You won't splash your hard-earned wages about in trivial things this Christmas when someone else is splashing his red blood in the Trenches.

When our noble Seamen are being drowned in hundreds to feed you, you won't drown your cares in trifling pleasures.

What are you asked to do?

Merely lend your money at usurious rate of interest.

Stealing Candy off a Child,

That's about what it all amounts to.

Your Duty is clear,

and what a small, small sacrifice it is compared to what our Soldiers have to suffer.

Some of our Soldiers DIED in front of Cambria this week

For 1 - a day
(AND YOUR LIBERTY)

All you are asked to do

Is to work hard at good wages. To save and lend to the State at good interest.

Prolong your Prosperity until after the War.

Your financial strength after the War is more important to us than your trade now.

Payment for any purchases from us can be made in War Bonds, or War Bonds can be purchased from us

13 December 1917

The issues of the *Whitehaven News* covering the time of the Great War have been indexed by a group of volunteers in an eighteen-month long project undertaken to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of war, and to act as a lasting memorial to all whose lives were touched by the events.



PICA SOLDIER MISSING.

Official news has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henry Hunter, Pica Cottages, Distington, that their son, Private Joseph Hunter, was reported missing on October 26th, 1917. Private Hunter joined the Colours soon after the outbreak of war, and was drafted with the Border Regiment to the Dardanelles, where he was wounded. Afterwards he went to France, where he was wounded a second time. Before joining the Colours he was employed at Oatlands Colliery.

6 December 1917. Image from County Annual 1919

WINDER SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

Mrs. Wright, of Ennerdale Hall, has just received an intimation from the War Office that her son, Private Jack Wright, was killed in action, in the Far East on November 6th. He enlisted in the Border Regiment at Carlisle in 1912, and was drafted to India. After two years there he got home for a few days' leave, and then with the Borders fought in the first Gallipoli landing. He was wounded there, and was twelve months in hospital at Alexandria. After doing garrison duty with the King's Liverpools, he was transferred to Scottish Rifles, in which regiment he was engaged when he received his fatal wound. The deepest sympathy is felt for his mother and family in the loss of one who had proved himself a good son, a true friend, and a brave and loyal soldier.

27 December 1917

WHITEHAVEN MAN DIES FROM WOUNDS.

Official news has been received by Mrs. Sanderson, of 8, West View, Bransty, Whitehaven, that her eldest son, Lance-Corpl. Wm. Thompson, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, had died from wounds, on the 3rd inst. Lance-Corpl. Thompson had been wounded by a shell in the arm. He was a son of the late Mr. John Thompson, of the Granary Yard. Before enlistment he worked at Moresby Colliery. Lance-Corpl. Thompson was 29 years of age. This is the second son of Mrs. Sanderson's that has been killed. Much sympathy is expressed to the bereaved mother and family. Further news is anxiously awaited.

13 December 1917



Picture from *Whitehaven News* 25 May 1916 shows Pte M Quinn as part of the Champion football Team of the 4th Tyneside Irish.

CLEATOR MOOR SOLDIER KILLED

Private M Quinn, son of Mr and Mrs Pat Quinn, Crossfield-road, Cleator Moor, who had been posted as wounded and missing, is now officially reported as killed. Private Quinn had seen a good deal of fighting, having been in France for two years.

20 December 1917