

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

April 1918



PROMOTION FOR AN EGREMONT SOLDIER.

The many friends of Captain and Adjutant Jas. Nicholson, of the Yorkshire Regiment, will be glad to hear of his rapid promotion. Some time ago we recorded this young soldier's promotion to Sec. Lieut. Since then he has been gazetted 1st Lieut., this taking place on the 1st of July, 1917, and on the 10th of September last year he was appointed assistant adjutant of the depot. He held that appointment until the 8th of January last, when he was appointed Adjutant, and holds that appointment now. On the 22nd of February he was gazetted Temporary Captain.

11 April 1918. Image from County Annual 1917

CLEATOR MOOR SOLDIER DIES IN FRANCE.

The news was received of the death in hospital in France of Pvt. Gerard Wilkinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkinson, James Street, Cleator Moor. It was known that Pvt. Wilkinson had been very ill from meningitis, and that he had been removed twice during the late battle. He first joined the Westmorland & Cumberland Yeomanry, and later was transferred to the Borders. He was well-known and respected by everyone, and for his parents and relatives the greatest sympathy is felt.

11 April 1918

Germans launch offensive against British lines in Flanders capturing a lot of ground.

The Royal Air Force is founded by combining the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service.
The Red Barron is shot down.

DISTINGTON SOLDIER WOUNDED.

News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. James Hodgson, Wood Bank, Distington, that their son, Private Daniel G. Hodgson, Border Regiment, has been admitted into hospital suffering from a severe gunshot wound in the left thigh. Pvt. Hodgson joined up soon after the outbreak of war. He has had six brothers in the Army. One was killed, and two have been discharged.

11 April 1918

MARYPORT MAN MISSING.

News has reached Maryport that Private Daniel Scott, R.A.M.C., younger son of Mrs. Scott, Lawson-street, is "missing." Private Scott, who was a clerk at the Maryport Goods Station, was for a long time employed on the hospital ships crossing the Channel, but was subsequently sent into the firing line. He is about 26 years of age.

4 April 1918

PARTON SOLDIERS WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Anderson, of Cliff Villa, Parton, have received the news that their son, Private Wm. Anderson, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, has been wounded in the forearm by gunshot, and is in the No. 3 Canadian Hospital in France. The Chaplain writes as follows:—"Dear Mrs. Anderson,—Pvt. Anderson asked me to write a line to say he is getting on finely. He came in here yesterday, and is in tip-top spirits, and you need have no anxiety. He will have every care and comfort possible here.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES W. HEDLEY."

Private Albert Coates, Parton, sends word to his father and mother that he has been wounded by a shot through the thigh, and is now at the base in France. He says he is doing all right. He had not been long back in the trenches when the attack was made in great force.

11 April 1918

PARTON SOLDIER TAKEN PRISONER.

Private Thomas Kelley, Border Regiment, writing home to his parents from France, says that one of his chums, Coupl.-Sergt. R. K. Brown, Parton, has been taken prisoner of war, and that he, Pvt. Kelley, had a very narrow escape. He says that ten belonging to the same company were surrounded, and made a rush for freedom, but only six of them were successful, the other four in all probability being taken prisoners.

Coupl.-Sergt. R. K. Brown is a young man of excellent character, and he and Pvt. Kelley having been together all the time, his loss is very keenly felt by his companion, as well as by many friends at home. He is a grandson of the late Mr. James Brown, colliery manager, Cleator Moor.

18 April 1918



HARRAS MOOR BROTHERS IN THE CASUALTY LISTS.

Mr. J. B. Moore, joiner, of Preston Street, Whitehaven, on Tuesday received word that his youngest son, Pvt. David Moore, had died of wounds. Before joining up David worked with his father, and he was well-known and respected in Christ Church parish. He was a regular attender at the services of Christ Church and a member of the Bible Class. About twelve months ago Mr. Moore lost another son, who before the war engaged in the scholastic profession, and at one time was a school teacher at the Earl of Lonsdale's Monkwearay School. Pvt. David Moore was 23 years of age.

18 April 1918

Quite a gloom was cast over Harras Moor and district on Thursday last when it became known that the brothers, Major (acting colonel) James Wightman, M.C., and Trooper John Wightman, the second and third sons of Mrs. Wightman, of the Hope Inn, Harras Moor, had laid down their lives for their country. "Jim," who was only 25 years of age, has had a most brilliant career. He commenced his education at the Moresby Parks Council School, and greatly distinguished himself as a boy in the Moresby Council Football teams playing for the school for four years and being the holder of four medals for Schoolboy Football, and he also represented the district schoolboys in the English Schoolboy Shield Competition when the team made such a good show and were beaten by the West Ham School. Leaving Moresby Council School he attended the Whitehaven County Secondary School, subsequently taking up the teaching profession and became a teacher at the Whitehaven S. James' School. After distinguishing himself in examinations he entered Carmarthen Training College, on leaving which he took up duties in South Wales. Whilst in South Wales he took a prominent part in football, playing for several well-known Welsh teams. At the outbreak of the war he joined the colours as a private in the Irish Guards. Later he received a commission in the East Surreys, where his promotion was rapid and at the time of his death, on the 9th inst. from wounds, he held the rank of Major (acting Colonel). He had been twice wounded, and had been awarded the Military Cross. Deceased was married about three years ago, and leaves a widow to mourn his sad loss.

BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN FOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT.

REGISTRATION FOR BACON OR HAM.

HOW TO USE THE SECOND COUNTERFOIL ON THE MEAT CARD.

THE HOLDER OF THE CARD MUST SIGN his NAME and ADDRESS on the BACK of the SECOND COUNTERFOIL of the CARD.

In the Case of a Child under 10 a Parent or Guardian may Sign.

TAKE THE CARD to the SHOPKEEPER who will Enter his Name and Address at the Letter B on the Front of the Second Counterfoil and on the Body of the Card.

The SHOPKEEPER will then Detach and Keep the Second Counterfoil.

By Order,

A. R. KERSHAW-BREARLEY,
Chief Executive Officer.

Town Hall, Whitehaven, April 10th, 1918.

11 April 1918



James Wightman (left) and John Wightman (above)

Trooper John (Jack) Wightman, brother of the above, who was only 23 years of age, also received his education at Moresby Council School, and like his brothers was a member of the Moresby Council School Football teams for three years. He subsequently took part in local football, being a prominent playing member of the well-known Moresby football team, and the holder of a number of medals. Trooper Wightman served his apprenticeship at the "News" office as a lino. operator, and afterwards took up duties in London, where he was at the outbreak of the war. He early on joined the Irish Dragoons, but on a change being made in the Army routine he was drafted into a machine gun corps, and was killed in action on the 4th inst.

18 April 1918. Images from County Annual 1916

BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN.

INCREASE OF FOOD SUPPLY (PIG-KEEPING).

WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING ONE OF the Most Important Sources of FOOD, the Council Appeal to Householders, either individually or collectively, to **KEEP PIGS**, where this can be done without risk of nuisance.

The Council's Bye-Laws Prohibiting the Keeping of Pigs within 60 Feet of a Dwelling house Will Not Be Enforced, providing the Pigs are Kept in a Clean and Wholesome Condition.

Application for Permission to Keep Pigs should be made to the Borough Surveyor.

E. B. CROASDELL, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Whitehaven, 17th April, 1918.

18 April 1918

EGREMONT SOLDIER WOUNDED.

The news has come to hand that Private John Kelly, signaller, Border Regiment, was wounded in the great offensive on April 12th, by a gun shot wound in the right side, and was in the Base Hospital at the time of writing. Private J. Kelly joined the Pals in September, 1914, and was wounded in the Somme battle in July, 1916, and again in the Messines battle in June, 1917.

25 April 1918

ST. BEES SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

Quite a gloom was cast over the village on Friday last when the news received by Mr. and Mrs. McNeal, Fleswick House, St. Bees, was announced that their second son, Private Wm. McNeal, of the Border Regiment, was killed in action. A letter from the sister on the Red Cross train stated that deceased after being severely wounded in the abdomen, had remained unconscious and died on way down to hospital on the train. He was to be buried in the little English cemetery at Calais. Deceased will be greatly missed. He joined the Colours in March, 1916, and after a course of training at Ramsey, Isle of Man, went out to France after ten months as a signaller. He was home on leave about two months ago. Another brother, Private J. McNeal, is also serving in the Army in France. He was up to the time of joining the Army employed by Mrs T. H. Brockbank, Khandalla, St. Bees, and reached the age of 21 years only February last.

4 April 1918

DEATH OF A WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER FROM WOUNDS.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnelly, of 12, Church Street, has this week received intimation of the death from wounds of their son, Private Hilton Donnelly, of the 1/6th King's Liverpool Rifles. Private Donnelly was engaged at the local colliery before enlistment some 14 months ago.

25 April 1918

HENSINGHAM SOLDIER KILLED.

During the week Mr and Mrs George High, Main Street, Hensingham, have received official information of the death of their son, George L. High, which took place in France. It is 30 weeks since he was reported missing, and he is now presumed dead. He joined the Forces on January 2nd, 1917. He was 18 years of age, and prior to enlistment worked at Moresby Colliery.

18 April 1918

These articles are taken from the *Whitehaven News*, held on microfilm at Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre, and indexed by volunteers.

A SANDWITH SOLDIER MISSING.

Mrs Hinchcliffe, wife of Mr I. Hinchcliffe, of Sandwith, has received the following letter from Private Harper referring to her son, William Cowman, of the Border Regiment. Private Cowman had just turned 19, and joined the Army about twelve months ago. He has been in France about nine months. He was a farm servant in the Wigton district before joining up:—

"Just a few lines to send you my deepest sympathy about my dear pal, William. You will, no doubt, have heard from the battalion by this time. It was a week before the great offensive started that I saw William, and when they told me he was missing it nearly broke my heart, and I sincerely hope that for the sake of his dear mother he will come back to us again. There were a lot of our lads taken prisoners, including a few officers, and he might easily be with them, and if he is with the boys I think he will be quite all right. Don't worry too much, as one can't do any good by it. Just trust to Providence, and hope for the best. I think that is all I can say, and as William was my best pal, I once again send my deepest sympathy.—I am, your true friend, Private W. B. HARPER, Border Regiment, France."

Private Harper is a grandson of the late Mr W. S. Harper, of the "Cumberland Pacquet."—Mrs Hinchcliffe is without any news from the War Office, and is exceedingly anxious to hear from them. Inquiries have been made through the British Red Cross, but they say Private Cowman's name does not appear in the official list of British prisoners furnished by the German authorities.

25 April 1918

MILITARY MEDAL FOR WHITEHAVEN MAN.

Private Allan Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brown, 13, Foxhouses Road, Whitehaven, who is in the Seaforth Highlanders, received the Military Medal on the 28th March. Previous to joining the Army he was serving his time as a mining engineer at No. 10 Colliery, Lowca.

25 April 1918

LAMPLUGH SOLDIERS WOUNDED.

An intimation has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Branthwaite, Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, that their son, Pvt. Wm. U. Branthwaite, the Borders, was wounded in the recent fighting. His wounds are in the left hand, but are fortunately not of a very serious nature. He was previously wounded in July, 1916.

Information is also to hand that Pvt. Ernest Norman, who enlisted from Lamplugh, and is in the Border Regiment, was seriously wounded on Easter Sunday in the left arm, and is now in a Manchester hospital. Most of the other Lamplugh lads have written home reporting themselves all safe after recent fighting.

18 April 1918



WHITEHAVEN OFFICERS WOUNDED.

A telegram from the War Office to his parents at Holly House, Hensingham, on Tuesday, conveyed the information that Major T. S. Wilkinson is in hospital at Cannes suffering from a gunshot wound in the right thigh. This is the second time he has been wounded. **Pictured above**

Second-Lieut. G. Stalker, R.E. (N special company), second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Stalker, King Street, Whitehaven, has been slightly wounded in the back by shrapnel, but he has wired home that it is slight and that he has been able to keep going, not having been detained in hospital.

18 April 1918. Image of T S Wilkinson (above) from *Whitehaven News* 24 September 1914.