

## West Cumberland at War March 1915



**MR. JACK SPEDDING,  
OF H.M.S. SUPERB.**

4 March 1915

**G. R.  
5TH BATTALION THE BORDER  
REGIMENT.**

**RECRUITS** are still **WANTED**  
**FOR THE SECOND-LINE BATTALION.**

**STRONG HEALTHY MEN,** NOT LESS THAN 5ft. 3in. in Height, and between the Ages of 19 and 38, who are Willing to Join their Comrades from West Cumberland, are Invited to apply Personally, or by Letter, to the Depot, **DRILL HALL, WHITEHAVEN.**

**ENLISTMENT** may be either for Foreign Service or for Home Service. (db)

25 March 1915

This month saw the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, a meticulously planned British offensive which made use of extensive aerial photography conducted by the Royal Flying Corps. Technical breakdowns led to a halt in the operation after limited initial success.

## THE WAR

### Whitehaven V.C.

#### TO THE EDITOR

Sir, - Referring to my letter of the 19th of last month, I now have much pleasure in sending you the following copy of a letter which I have this day received from Private Abraham Acton, V.C. - I am yours faithfully

H W WALKER, Mayor

"British Expeditionary Force,  
10694, B Company, 2nd Border  
Regiment, 7th Division, 20th  
Infantry Brigade.

Dear Sir, - Just a few lines to let you know that I am in the best of health. I don't know how to thank you and my own townspeople for the hearty congratulations they have sent me. I hope that I may live long enough to see you all again. I saw the copy of your telegram in the paper, but I did not receive it. I am, however, going to make inquiries in the town near us as it must have come while we were in the trenches, and I have been told one cannot get them without signing for them. You will therefore see the reason I did not get it.—I remain, yours truly

A ACTON, 2nd Border Regiment.

P.S:- Received your telegram safe and sound.—A.A.

11 March 1915



IN HONOUR OF PRIVATE ABRAHAM  
ACTON, V.C., 2nd BATTALION BORDER  
REGIMENT, AND PRIVATE JAMES  
SMITH, V.C., 3rd BATTALION BORDER  
REGIMENT.

December 21st.

When at Red-Banks, companions tried and  
true,

You ventured all to save a brother man,  
When with your precious burdens back  
you ran

And showed what gallant Borderers dare and  
do,

More than your soldier-mates took note of  
you,

The very angels who with longing scan  
This earthly stage were glad; your saviour-  
plan

Thrilled Heaven's great armies watching  
from the blue.

Wherefore to-day all Cumbrian hearts rejoice  
To think the Viking-warrior in your blood

Has learned of Christ the noblest  
knightliest thing;

To know you fearless made the hero's choice,  
And for your country's honour and your  
king

Have proved the deathless might of brother-  
hood.

H. D. RAWNSLEY.

4 March 1915

Jonathan Marsh, the well-known Gosforth post-  
man, has enlisted in the Border Regiment, and is  
now training at Whitehaven. Another Gosfor-  
thian, J. R. Postlethwaite, recently in the employ  
of Mr J. S. Ainsworth, has also enlisted.

11 March 1915

## EGREMONT TERRITORIAL'S BRAVERY.

### SAVES DRUMMER FROM DROWNING.

The many colleagues and friends of Sergeant John  
Fawcett, now in France with the territorials, will be  
pleased to hear of a successful attempt on his part to  
save a drummer from drowning who had swam to the  
assistance of a boy who had fallen in a river.

Sergeant Fawcett is a very popular young man in  
Egremont, one who has made rapid strides in the  
territorials.

11 March 1915

# THE WAR.

## CALDERBRIDGE MAN AMONGST THE MISSING.

Mr. Edward Tyson, builder, Beckermel,  
was yesterday (Wednesday) notified that his  
brother, Private Tom Tyson, was reported  
missing. A parcel of cigarettes was sent  
to him through the Egremont Co-operative  
Society, who have received the following  
notification from his commanding officer,  
Lieut. T. C. Shillito, of the King's Royal  
Rifles:—

"To the Managers of the Egremont Co-  
operative Society, Egremont, Cumberland.  
I regret to have to inform you that No.  
7707, Rfn. Tyson, of the Company under my  
command, has been reported missing. The  
contents of the parcel forwarded by you  
have therefore been distributed amongst his  
comrades—this arrangement, I am sure, will  
meet with your approval."

It will be remembered that Private T.  
Tyson was twice wounded early on in the  
war and was invalided home. Afterwards he  
rejoined his regiment in France.

18 March 1915

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

The issues 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.



# ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

SUITABLE MEN are REQUIRED for the REMOUNT SQUADRON of the  
ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

## STANDARD.

The Ordinary Standards of Height and Chest Measurement may be waived, provided Men are organically sound and the eyesight test may be passed with the aid of glasses.

25 to 40 years.

## AGE.

## PAY.

Ordinary Rates of Army Service Corps. Men of the following classes will, however, if sent to the Expeditionary Force, receive the following Special Rates of Pay, inclusive of Corps Pay and all Additional Pay, with effect from the date of embarkation.

Corporal (Foreman) ...	...	...	4/- per day.
Private (Rough-rider) ...	...	...	3/6 per day.
Private (Groom-strapper) ...	...	...	3/- per day.

Shoeing-Smiths and Saddlers will receive 5/- per day and all additional pay from the date of enlistment.

**APPLY AT THE NEAREST RECRUITING OFFICE.**

(da

18 March 1915

## MILLOM AND DISTRICT NEWS

**FRESH EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED**—Mr. Keast, who is collecting eggs for the wounded English soldiers and sailors, sent away another large contingent this week, the number dispatched since he commenced collecting eggs now reaching nearly 3 000. Country contributors may send parcels, carriage forward, arrangements having been made for this, provided the parcel is labelled "for the wounded."

11 March 1915

11 March 1915

**SERVICES IN FRENCH FOR MILLOM BELGIANS.**—The first religious community in Millom to provide religious services in the French language for the Belgian residents in Millom has been the United Methodists. Fortunately the pastor (the Rev. E. O. Bartlett) is a fluent French speaker, and his sermon to the Belgians created much interest. Altogether 58 Belgians attended the service, but it is thought that more will come to the future services. The notice inviting them to attend appealed to the non-Catholic portion of this new element in the Millom population. A class has been opened at a nominal fee to teach the Belgians English by one of their own countrymen. Though the fee is only nominal the class has not been attended so far with much success. The same teacher has, however, opened a class to teach English French, and this is very largely attended, the pupils appreciating very much the teacher's system of imparting the knowledge of that language.



**LIEUT. E. FRANKS,  
OF PARTON.**

4 March 1915





**2ND LIEUT.  
LEONARD BIRCH,  
7TH BATTALION, BORDER**

4 March 1915

25 March 1915

## THE GERMANS AND THE WHITE FLAG RUSE.

In a letter to Whitehaven, Privates T. Lister, J. Burney, I. Knowles, of the "B" Company, all of Whitehaven, who sign themselves "lads of the gallant Border Regiment," give some stirring details of the work of the 2nd Border. They state:

"After a few months' arduous trench work and constant fighting our Division, the 7th, got relieved by the Canadians on the 3rd March to enable us to have a rest. Whilst on our rest we were called upon to reinforce the 8th Division to attack a well-fortified German position, which we took with five days' hard bayonet fighting, in which our regiment captured 360 prisoners. . . .

"During these five days we were constantly under heavy shell fire for as long as six and seven hours each day, but our officer took it so cool and kept us in such grand formation that only for a few of our unfortunate comrades falling we would have thought we were on manoeuvres in peace time. We can assure you our men cannot praise him and the Commanding Officer too highly, and the General in command of the 7th Division has given our regiment a splendid name, which we are all proud of.

"The Germans were so frightened of the cold steel that they hoisted the white flag, and as we advanced to take them prisoners they fired on us with their Maxim gun, but this did not dismay us. We rushed forward and took them prisoners. Another thing I would like to mention is our artillery's splendid work. They poured a deadly fire on the enemy's trenches the day we charged, and when we got in the first line of trenches they were strewn with dead and wounded."

25 March 1915

## A WHITEHAVEN MAN AT NEUVE CHAPPELLE.

Private M. Farragh, of 6, Bardsy-lane, West Strand, Whitehaven, 2nd Battalion Border Regiment, writes us his experiences at the battle of Neuve Chappelle, where he got wounded in the third day's fighting. He says:—

"The battle started on the 10th. We were at a place about five miles from the firing line on the 9th, and we were told to fall in at five o'clock the next morning. We got a slip bearing the words: 'General French hopes that this battle will be a big victory,' and so it was. Well the next morning we fell in, at five o'clock and marched off to a place three miles from the firing line and there occupied four lines of trenches. We were then in support. We then got passed along the line that three lines of German trenches had been taken with very little loss.

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