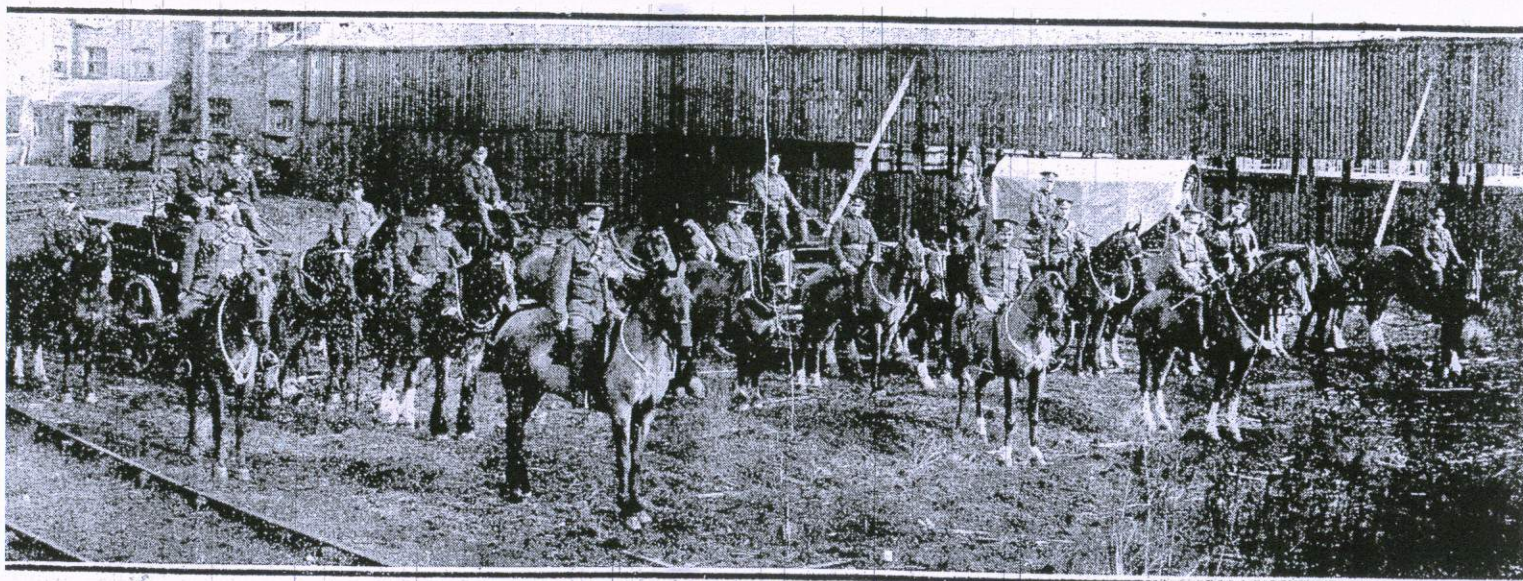


West Cumberland at War April 1915



PART OF TRANSPORT, 2ND 5TH BATT. BORDER REGIMENT.

8 April 1915

PRIVATE SMITH, V.C.

HONOUR BESTOWED BY THE KING.

HIS MAJESTY'S CONGRATULATIONS.

The King held a small investiture at Buckingham Palace on Thursday morning when he personally bestowed the insignia of various honours conferred upon about a dozen officers and men for gallantry in the field.

Special interest was attached to the bestowal of the Victoria Cross upon Private James Smith, of the Border Regiment. His Majesty shook hands with him and spoke a few words of cordial congratulation on the gallantry which had earned the coveted reward.

Private Smith won his Victoria Cross on December 21st at Rouges Bancs. He voluntarily left his trench, accompanied by Private Abraham Acton, and rescued a wounded man who had been lying exposed against the enemy's trench for seventy-five hours. Later on the same day the two men again left the trench and rescued another wounded man under sixty minutes' fire. Private Acton was granted the Victoria Cross for these special acts of gallantry.

29 April 1915

ANOTHER CUMBERLAND V.C.

Private Stables, whose parents reside at Holborn Hill, Millom, has been recommended as a recipient of the V.C. for saving three comrades under heavy fire at the recent battle of Neuve Chapelle. Private Stables was on a holiday in Millom two or three weeks ago.

29 April 1915

*Another instance of gallantry by a member of the 5th Border has been brought to light. Private Walsh, of "D" Company, whilst on guard at docks between midnight and two o'clock in the morning, heard what he thought was the howling of a dog, which owing to the rain and wind was not very distinct. As the call was repeated he made an investigation, and discovered a man in the water. Without hesitation he went into the dock and brought the man safely out.

8 April 1915

German forces launch a major assault on French and Commonwealth troops in what is now known as the Second Battle of Ypres. Poison gas was used for the first time. This month also saw the first landing at Gallipoli in support of the naval attack in the Dardanelles.



SERGT. W. N. YOWART
(MACHINE GUN SECTION),
DRUM-SERGT. A. McNAUGHTON,
SERGT. G. CUNNINGHAM,
OF THE WHITEHAVEN COMPANY 5TH BATT. BORDER REGT.,
IN FRANCE, WITH THEIR MASCOT, A YOUNG FOX.

22 April 1915

The King has conferred the Military Cross, in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with the Expeditionary Force, on Lieutenant T. H. Bevis, 2nd Battalion the Border Regiment, for conspicuous gallantry and exceptionally good work performed at Neuve Chapelle on 11th March, 1915. He led his men with great ability in the attack, and was twice wounded.

22 April 1915

Private James Smith, 2nd Border Regiment, who with Private Acton was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at Rouges Banes, arrived on Saturday night at North Ormesby, Middlesbrough, where he worked as a blastfurnaceman for ten years before going abroad with his regiment. Stovin Street, where he lodged, was partially decorated, and Private Smith was accorded a hearty welcome by a few of his fellow workmen and friends.

29 April 1915

BLACKSMITHS.

BLACKSMITHS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED

FOR SERVICE IN THE

ROYAL ENGINEERS.

FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR.

MEN Desiring to ENLIST as BLACKSMITHS in the ROYAL ENGINEERS are put through a test at their trade, which is less difficult than the test for Shoeing-Smiths. They might, for example, be required to cut off a length from half-inch round bar iron, bend into ring of five inches diameter, and weld complete.

For Terms of Service and Rate of Pay,

APPLY TO THE NEAREST RECRUITING OFFICE.

(dc)

1 April 1915

PICKED UP AT DRIGG SEASHORE.—On Sunday, April 18th, 1915, a bottle was picked up on the seashore at Drigg, by Mr. C. Swandale, son of Mr. T. Swandale, of Myreside, containing a card with the inscription as below. It seems a long voyage for it to turn up at Drigg. On one side is the following:—"1914." A. L. Calder-Adams, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, on active service. Muttra, U.P., India." On the other side:—"This bottle thrown overboard at Gibraltar. S.S. Alania. 1, 1, 1915. Roll on Berlin."

29 April 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.



SERGT. RALPH CARR,
8TH BATTALION BORDER
REGIMENT.

15 April 1915

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An officer serving in the trenches with the 2nd Border, in a recent letter home pays a fine tribute to the quality of the men. He writes:—"I wish people at home could just see the men out here, they do their few days in the trenches in mud and rain, too cold to sleep properly and wet through most of the time, and yet they will collect round a bit of a fire in an old bucket, and sing as if they hadn't a care in the world; fine chaps every one of them."

22 April 1915

PRIVATE ACTON, V.C., NOT WOUNDED.

On Friday Mrs. Acton, the mother of Private Acton, V.C., of Whitehaven, received a letter from her son in which he contradicts the report that he has been wounded. He writes:—

"Just a few lines to let you know I am still in the best of health. We have had rather a lively time out here. We made an attack on the Germans the other day, and chased them out of their trenches for nearly half a mile. We have taken about 500 German prisoners and some officers. Our artillery did some fine work. They shelled them out of the trenches, and then we chased them on. We have had a few casualties, but they are only slight wounds. John Tubman was hit in both knees by shrapnel; also Dick Harvey was hit in the hand, but they managed to walk out all right.

P.S.—Received your letter all right. Doing well. Not wounded, as reported. It is a mistake.

In reply to a letter from the Hogarth Mission Sunday School congratulating him on his distinction, Private Acton writes to Mr. Atkinson, the secretary of the school:—

"I am glad to see you have not forgotten an old scholar of your Sunday School, although it is a few years since the West Strand Mission was done away with. Times have altered a bit since that. I still think I can picture the old West Strand Mission Rooms, above the Whitehaven Cocoa Rooms, although many a lot have forgotten that now. You were talking about Arthur Bingham—this was an old scholar who had been wounded and invalided home to a Newcastle Infirmary—I know him very well, also his father, and we are very near to where his regiment is stationed out here."

8 April 1915

THE WAR.

THE BORDER REGIMENT AT NEUVE CHAPELLE.

SIR JOHN FRENCH'S HIGH PRAISE.

FRESH LAURELS ADDED TO A MAGNIFICENT RECORD.

The 2nd Border after its strenuous and brilliant work at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle has had a period of rest, and this relief from the fighting line was taken advantage of by Field-Marshal Sir John French to inspect the Battalion and express his thanks for "the magnificent part" it had taken in the battle and throughout the war.

29 April 1915



2ND LT. F. KAVANAGH,
FROM MORESBY COLLIERY.
PROMOTED FROM
THE RANKS.

8 April 1915