

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

September 1915



This month saw the British attack at the Battle of Loos—the largest British battle in 1915. This was the first major engagement of the New Army units which consisted exclusively of volunteers. British casualties were twice as high as German casualties.

COCKERMOUTH SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Word was received by his parents, who live in Horsman-street, Cockermouth; that Pvt. P. Hunter, 6th Border Regiment, was missing, but their anxiety was relieved by a later message from their son himself stating that he was wounded and on a hospital ship at the Dardanelles.

2 September 1915

PRIVATE JOHN FELL (OF LAMPLUGH), 6TH BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE, KILLED IN DARDANELLES.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fell, of Fell Dyke, Lamplugh, were officially advised on Thursday of the death of their eldest son, John, while fighting in the Dardanelles on July 15th. He was a private in the 6th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, which he joined at the outbreak of the war. He had been two and a half years in Australia when he enlisted, and he was previously a British Navy lad. The notification of his heroic end was sent by the High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia, and enclosed with it was an expression of the sympathy of the King and Queen sent through Lord Kitchener. Mr. and Mrs. Fell have also the heartfelt sympathy of their Lamplugh friends and neighbours in their bereavement. Their second son, Thomas, is a gunner in the Navy, and was quite well when he wrote home a few days ago.

9 September 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.

LIEUT. W. T. FORSHAW'S MAGNIFICENT FEAT.

The people of Barrow are rejoicing in the knowledge that one of their young townsmen has received the coveted Victoria Cross for distinguished gallantry in the Dardanelles. The officer thus honoured is Lieutenant William Thomas Forshaw, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Forshaw of Hillside, Fairfield-lane, Barrow. The heroic service for which the honour is conferred is officially stated thus:-

"For most conspicuous bravery and determination in the Gallipoli Peninsula from the 7th to 9th August 1915. When holding the north-west corner of the Vineyard he was attacked and heavily bombed by Turks who advanced time after time by three trenches which converged at this point. But he held his own, not only directing his men and encouraging them by exposing himself with the utmost disregard to danger, but personally throwing bombs continuously for 41 hours. When his detachment was relieved after 24 hours he volunteered to continue the direction of operations.

"Three times during the night of 8th-9th August he was again heavily attacked and once the Turks were over the barricade. But after shooting three with his revolver he led his men forward and recaptured it. When he rejoined his battalion he was choked and sickened by bomb fumes, badly bruised by fragments of shrapnel, and could barely lift his arm from the continuous bomb throwing. It was due to his personal example, magnificent courage and endurance that this very important corner was held."

16 September 1915

FOR ENGLAND'S SAKE.

The relatives of Private James Tyson, of the Dublin Fusiliers, have this week received the regrettable intelligence that he has fallen in the fight at the Dardanelles. Previously to the war he followed the occupation of a painter, and his home was in Devonshire-road, Millom. The sympathy of his numerous friends is extended to his sorrowing relatives.

2 September 1915

"PAPER CLOTHES FOR GERMANY."

Under the heading, "Cotton not a Necessity," a writer in the "Berliner Morgenpost" explains that the declaration of cotton as contraband does not affect Germany at all. He says that neither for industry nor for the conduct of War is cotton indispensable. Its chief use, is in the Clothing Industry, but there are plenty of substitutes, of which the most important is paper.

Dresses and Suits of paper have been sold in enormous quantities in Berlin, and they are warm, and keep the rain out remarkably well.

We have not come to paper suits yet, and so long as S. Redmayne & Sons, Ltd., can supply one of their well known "Durafit" Suits, from 29/6 to measure, there is not much need for paper clothes.

24, Tangier-street, Whitehaven; 11 and 13, South William Street, Workington; also at Maryport, Carlisle, Penrith, Wigton, &c.

9 September 1915



PRIVATE TOM BURN (OF MILLOM), LOST IN THE ROYAL EDWARD.

PRIVATE TOM BURN, son of Mrs. Burn, Castle-street, Millom, was lost when the Royal Edward was torpedoed in the Dardanelles on August 14th. Mrs. Burn has five sons in the service of the country.

23 September 1915



LOWCA SOLDIER'S DEATH

Mr and Mrs Boyles have received the sad news of the death of their eldest son. Private Joseph Boyles, of the 7th Borders, while on active service in France. He was shot in the neck by a German sniper whilst following the duties in the trenches on September 5th. A letter from the Lieutenant, sympathising with Mrs Boyles in her great loss, states that their company are all sorry to lose such a cheerful and obedient soldier. He was buried in a small churchyard near Ypres, his friend William Jackson, with whom he enlisted last September, being allowed to attend the simple burial service. Private Boyles was 22 years of age. He was a cheerful disposition, and greatly liked by all who knew him.

16 September 1915

A PARTON SOLDIER FALLS AT THE DARDANELLES.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyrrell, of Parton, have just received the news of the death of their second son, Private John Edward Tyrrell, who, at the Dardanelles, was shot through the chest on August 9th. Private Tyrrell enlisted on August 21st, 1914, and after completing his training was drafted to the Dardanelles, and about a month ago was wounded slightly, but recovered, and returned to the firing line. Private Tyrrell, who was 21 years of age, was one of four brothers serving in the army. The elder brother, Private Jonathan Tyrrell, is also in hospital rather seriously wounded in the head, but apparently recovering satisfactorily. The deceased was of a remarkably steady and quiet disposition, and will be deeply regretted by his companions.

9 September 1915

Tommy's Cooker.

HAVE YOU A DEAR ONE
IN THE TRENCHES ?

If so, send him a TOMMY'S COOKER. The only way for him to always have warm food. Over Three Millions of the Cookers are already in use at the Front. Well and Simply Made, will Last for Years. The Fuel is Three Times Hotter than Methylated Spirit, and will not spill, being in solid form. The Price of the Cooker is 1/- ; Extra Fuel, in 1lb. tins, 1/6. Send P.O. To-day and earn some Tommy's Gratitude.

KERR & CO.,

NOVELTY STORES,

THE CRESCENT,

WORKINGTON.

PVT. BUCK, DISTINGTON, SUCCUMBS TO HIS WOUNDS.

On Friday morning a letter was received at the "Workington News" Office, showing that Private Buck, 2nd Border Regiment, who was wounded in France, has succumbed to his injuries in Chichester Hospital. He leaves a widow and two children.

2 September 1915

REMEMBERING A HARRINGTON SOLDIER.

Private W. H. Moore, of the 2nd Border Regiment, who is in a convalescent home in France, after being wounded, sends home to his mother at Harrington, a letter he has received from Marion Pitman, a scholar of the East Tiverton Girls' Council School, Bath, in which she encloses a little bag in which he might keep his treasures, as probably he had no place to put them. Her kindness is very much appreciated. Private Moore says he is getting our champion.

2 September 1915



**PRIVATE P. PALMER.
(OF MOOR ROW), 6TH BORDER
REGIMENT.
DIED OF WOUNDS IN THE
DARDANELLES.**

30 September 1915

**PARTON SOLDIER'S DEATH
IN FRANCE.**

The sad news has just been received by Mrs. Turner, of Parton, that her brother, Private Geo. William White, of Parton, had on August 25th succumbed to injuries received in France on August 13th. Private White had been wounded in the arm on the 12th, and although ordered away from the trenches, insisted on returning to his comrades in the fighting line, and only the following day received a second wound in the same arm, which compelled his retirement to hospital. The letters sent to his sister, for whom he cherished a most affectionate feeling, were always in the heartiest tone, and full of courage. He wrote that he would shortly be at home, and hoped the ship would keep afloat. Lieutenant Quinn wrote that Private White had been in hospital two days wounded through the forearm. The bullet carried some dirt into the wound, which caused mortification, resulting in his death, despite their efforts to save him. It was with deep regret that they had to part with such a cheerful spirit as Private White. Nurse Whittle wrote just a few hours previous to his death that there was but small hope of Private White's recovery, which they all deeply regretted, as they had all learned to like him very much indeed. Mrs. Turner has the sympathy of a large number of friends in her great trouble.

2 September 1915

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ZEPPELIN RAID ON EASTERN COUNTIES

The Press Bureau yesterday night issued the following official:-

Three Zeppelins visited Eastern Counties last night, all dropping bombs and aircraft gun in action. Aeroplanes unable to locate airships. Fifteen small dwelling-houses demolished or seriously damaged. Ten persons killed, forty-three wounded, majority women and children.

9 September 1915

A NETHERTOWN MAN WOUNDED.

A letter to hand from Private H. Fisher, of the 2nd Border Regiment, who joined soon after the outbreak of war, and is on the Nethertown School Roll of Honour, writes as follows:—"Just a line to let you know I have been wounded in France, and am at present in the 21st Field Hospital. He proceeds: "There were six of us water carrying to the trenches, when a shell came right over us and killed five outright, leaving only me buried with earth and sandbags. I was the lucky one, and don't know how I missed being hit, as I was in the centre. Thank God I was spared. My ribs and upper parts of my legs were crushed. I think I will soon be all right, but it will take a day or two.

Private Fisher was in the employ of Mr. John Mossop, Nethertown, as a farm hand, when he joined the forces. He was well-known and most popular in the village.

30 September 1915

NETHERWASDALE NEWS

A WASDALE MAN LOST ON THE ROYAL EDWARD.- We very much regret to record the definite news that the published list of those missing in the loss of the transport ship, "Royal Edward," includes the name of Albert Howe. Five out of every eight were lost, and it was feared from the first that he was not among the rescued, but until the list was issued it was always possible to hope. His life was given willingly at the stern call of duty; a military life would not otherwise have been his choice. He was of a very quiet, modest and amiable disposition, much liked by all who knew him. He was engaged to be married, and he leaves a widowed mothers and other relatives. We mourn his loss and deeply sympathise with his bereaved relatives and friends.

9 September 1915