

From the Newspaper Archives West Cumberland at War

November



**PRIVATE H. MUNCASTER,
ONE OF HENSINGHAM'S FIRST
RECRUITS.**

PRIVATE H. MUNCASTER, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Muncaster, of Main Street, Hensingham, who was one of the first to volunteer from his native home, Hensingham, on August 6th, 1914. On the 28th October he celebrated his 21st birthday in Egypt.

4 November 1915

THE WAR. TO NEWSAGENTS

Newsagents will render an important service by Revising their Orders for the supply of our Papers and Restricting the Number as Closely as Possible to Actual Requirements, in Order to Prevent Any Avoidable Wastage of Paper, as it is necessary to make the most careful use of the supplies now available.

Serbian forces were pushed back through Albania in a move which resulted in the deaths of over 200,000 soldiers and civilians. Survivors reaching the Adriatic Sea were rescued by Allied transport ships.

WHITEHAVEN SOLDIERS' EXPERIENCES.

We have received the following letter from Driver Jim Banks (2592), Driver John James Hanlon (2589), Driver David Vaughan (2590), the above three drivers belonging to B. 61 Howitzer Brigade, R.F.A., Guards Division, B.E.F., France:—"We had just finished feeding our horses when our attention was drawn to an enemy's aeroplane being chased by our Allies. This occurred at the wagon lines, which were in a pit yard, which had been shelled very much by the Germans. We thought nothing about this incident, as a visit from aeroplanes is a regular occurrence. We had just started our tea when we were presented with a little dessert in the shape of a German coal-box, and then the excitement started. Everybody was anxious to get under cover, and away we all went, leaving everything behind. Then came the order, "Horses off the line," and I don't think the horses had been taken away so quickly before. We had just got them away when another coal-box dropped in front of us, just to waken us up a bit. Then we had to make a hurried departure, leaving all our possessions except what we stood up in. Again just as we had got clear another burst in a house on the opposite side of the road. This time it claimed a victim, whose head was blown clean off. After this the Huns turned their attention to another part of the line, and then we returned to our original position again, with many suggestions as to who was going to keep awake in case of another attack. However we all went to sleep, expecting at any moment to be awakened by another shell. By the way I might say we are the only three lads from Whitehaven in this battery, and I hope you can find a space in "The News" to publish this letter, just to let the townspeople see what we are going through. The writer of this letter is Jim Banks. Before enlistment I worked on the Queen's Dock, Whitehaven. Thanking you ever so much if you will do what I have asked you.—JIM BANKS.

4 November 1915

18 November 1915

TO MEN OF WEST CUMBERLAND.

WHY NOT JOIN

THE FIFTH BORDER

REGIMENT

AT ONCE, if you are able to Enlist?

Apply at any Recruiting Office, or at the Drill Halls in Whitehaven, Workington, and Egremont. Make Sure that you are Enlisted for the FIFTH Border Regiment.

4 November 1915

A CALL FROM THE TRENCHES

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS.]

SIR,—I have just been reading in your widely read paper, "The Whitehaven News," the full reports of the case of Nurse Cavell. Needless to say it has made our Irish Boys "wild."

I know full well that at present there are resident in our town many fellows eligible for the Army. Can they bear to think of this, the most outrageous, unwarranted and bloody crime the world has ever known, and still be content to skulk about the street corners at night?

Where, oh where, is their manhood? What would they do if, instead of this woman, whose pluck and courage puts their unmanliness to shame, it had been their own sister? I know they would leave no stone unturned to avenge the crime.

I appeal to those who have not yet taken up arms to do so at once, and so help to rid the world of a race of foul murderers, murderers whose countless crimes make those of the Emperor Nero of old appear but tenderness.

The spirit of a brave woman cries out for reprisals. Are they going to answer in the only possible way by voluntarily joining the ranks like Britons? or are they going to wait until they are made to do so?

I can assure them the former is far more preferable. Let them say—"I will avenge that crime."

—Yours faithfully,

A CLEATOR MAN IN KHAKI.

4th November, 1915.

18 November 1915

**WORKINGTON SOLDIER
KILLED**

Private B Quinn, King's Own Royal Lancasters, whose widow and child live at 80 Bolton Street, Workington, is officially reported to have been killed in France on May 8th, He was 33 years of age, and a furnaceman at Moss Bay before joining the Army.

25 November 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.



**PVT. MYLES HAMBLY
(MILLOM), 40TH RESERVE
BATT., R.F.A.,
DIED IN LEEDS MILITARY
HOSPITAL.**



**PRIVATE FALLOWS,
6TH E. LANCS., SON OF MR. G.
FALLOW, HILL OF MILLOM.
KILLED IN ACTION IN THE
DARDANELLES.**

*(Photograph by J. Hargreaves, Millom, Dalton,
and Ulverston)*

18 November 1915

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EGREMONT SOLDIER'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Private J. Johnston, an Egremont soldier, who is now in Evington Hospital, Leicester, suffering from wounds received in action, writing recently to his relatives at East-road, Egremont, says:—

"Just a few lines to let you know I received your kind and welcome letter on the 27th. We have had a rough time, I can tell you, and I thought I would never write you again, but it was my luck to get through. I was over into the German trenches with others, and I cannot describe how we got back. Our officer and a pal of mine were the last two to leave the German trench. We had some casualties, but the Germans lost heavily, and we took a large number of prisoners. Their artillery was very rough, but ours can soften them. The weather has been very bad out here lately."

In another letter he states:—

"I was wounded on the 29th. We made a charge on the 25th, and I will never forget it. I was attached to the Royal Scots Fusiliers. We lost a lot, but the Germans were lying in heaps. I think there was an attack all along the line. I was wounded against a dug-out. There was about ten inside, when a big Jack Johnson shell came over and knocked it in, killing five or six. I was buried for a few minutes, and when I got out I found that a piece was taken out of the muscle of my left arm. My face was all burnt, but that is all right now. Well, Joe, I could tell you a lot I've seen out there, but I will describe all when I come home."

Private Johnson, who is attached to the 7th Border Regiment, is the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lancaster, East-road, Egremont, who have two other sons in the firing line.

11 November 1915

AUSTRALIAN'S GRATIFICATION TO WHITEHAVEN YOUTH.

Master William Carver, Pack Horse Hotel, Lowther-street, Whitehaven, received the following gratifying letter from Ernest Whitehouse, of the Australian contingent, written from the 3rd London General Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W., and dated 5th inst:—

"I know not who you are, but I want to convey my heartfelt thanks and congratulations for your kindness in sending eggs to the above hospital. I have been at the seat of action, Dardanelles since the bombardment of April 25th, and about twelve weeks ago contracted dysentery, which accounts for my being here in the above hospital. Our diet, which is part of the cure, consists of milk and bread, varied with bread and milk, so just judge my satisfaction and gratification when I got an increase and had such a fresh new laid egg placed before me. "Square Dinkum" as we say in Australia; it was a fine treat. Well, Billy, old fellow good luck to you. I would like to tell you what I think personally, but then, who knows where I shall go and when. So please accept my sincerest and heartiest regards for a long and happy life"

11 November 1915



**PRIVATE W. McDOWALL
(WHITEHAVEN), 6TH BORDER,
WOUNDED IN THE
DARDANELLES.**

(From a photograph by the Romney Studio,
34, King-street, Whitehaven.)

PRIVATE WALTER McDOWALL, of Whitehaven, is the youngest son of the late Mr. Frank McDowall, and of Mrs. McDowall, and prior to enlisting in the 6th Border, which he did on the first week of the war, he was employed at the Ladysmith Pit of the Whitehaven Colliery Company. After much active service in the Dardanelles he has been severely wounded in the left shoulder and head, and is now in the hospital at Malta. Private McDowall married a daughter of Inspector Williamson, of Keswick, and has a family of four, who are now resident at Braithwaite, Keswick.

11 November 1915

**WORKINGTON
SOLDIER KILLED IN
ACTION.**

On Monday news was received by Mrs. Wade, Blackburn-street, Workington, that her husband, Private William Wade, of the Highland Light Infantry, had been killed in action on October 22nd. Deceased was an old soldier, and had been through the South African war. He was 36 years of age, and leaves a family of four children.

**MARYPORT
HIGHLANDER KILLED.**

News has reached his home at Collin's Terrace, Maryport, that Private Robert Plaskett, Seaforth Highlanders, has been killed. He was shot through the head by a sniper.

18 November 1915

**GERMAN-BORN RESIDENTS
IN CUMBERLAND.**

**AN ORDER AGAINST FORMER
SHIELDS TRADESMEN.**

At Carlisle on Saturday, two naturalised British subjects, who are natives of Germany, were summoned for non-compliance with a military order to remove from the Wetheral and Corby districts in which they reside. The defendants were John F. Sieber, who was living at Corby, and Edward F. P. Bitterman, of Wetheral.

Lieut.-Colonel Nash, officer commanding the district, said the order was made from information received, on account of the nationality of the defendants, and because the situation of their residence afforded facilities for action detrimental to the interests of the country.

Mr. Dix, Newcastle, who represented the defendants, argued that the order was not valid, as there were no grounds for throwing any suspicion upon the defendants. Bitterman, a native of Schleswig-Holstein, had been in this country 24 years, and had carried on business at North Shields during the time. Sieber left Germany in 1884, when he was 15 years of age. He had carried on a shop in South Shields since that time. Both defendants were naturalised British subjects. They had been ordered to leave Shields and had gone to reside at Wetheral and Corby without having any previous knowledge of the district.

The magistrates held that the order was valid and adjourned the case for 14 days to see if the defendants removed.

28 November 1915



**LANCE-CORPL. F. M. DOWNES
(OF EGREMONT),
8TH BORDER REGIMENT,
WOUNDED IN FRANCE.**

(Photograph by Romney Studio, 34, King Street,
Whitehaven.)

25 November 1915

ARCHIVES NEWS

NOVEMBER 1915

Call from the trenches

Cleator man demands revenge
for Cavell killing

READ ALL ABOUT IT!