

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

January 1916

THE WHITEHAVEN V.C.

On Friday last Mrs. Elizabeth Acton, mother of the late Private Acton, V.C. and resident at 14a, Peter Street, Whitehaven, received the following letter from the King and the Victoria Cross gained on the field of battle by her son, on December 21st, 1914:—"It is a matter of sincere regret to me that the death of Private Abram Acton deprived me of the pride of personally conferring upon him the Victoria Cross, the greatest of all military distinctions.—George R.I."

The clasp attached to the cross bears the name and regiment of Private Acton, and on the back of the cross is the date on which he won the honours. The letter has been framed by Mr. J. D. Kenworthy and presented to Mrs. Acton.

20 January 1916



LANCE-CORPL. R. SMITH
(COCKERMOUTH), 8TH BORDER,
KILLED IN ACTION.

(Photograph by John Campbell, Cockermouth)

LANCE-CORPORAL ROBERT SMITH, of the 8th Border Regiment, who was killed in action in France on December 20th, 1915, was a native of Cockermouth, and the eldest son of Mr. J. Smith of that town. He was in his 23rd year. Having served his apprenticeship of five years with Messrs. H. Fawcett & Son, of Cockermouth, in 1912 he joined the staff of Messrs. J. Rotherham & Co., of London.



PVT. J. W. WILKINSON
(OF MOOR ROW),
14TH DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY,
DIED FROM BEING GASSED.

Official information has just been received by Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Moor Row, of the death of their eldest son, John William Wilkinson. The report says "Died of wounds, gas." December 19th. Private Wilkinson received his education at Moor Row Council School, and on leaving obtained employment at Parkhouse Mines, Bigrigg. He afterwards went to Washington, Durham, to assist his uncle, as engineman at one of the collieries there. On the outbreak of the war he joined the 14th Durham Light Infantry, and went out to France in August. Pvt. Wilkinson was a general favourite. Much sympathy is felt for his sorrowing parents.

13 January 1916

The Military Service Act passed by
Parliament making all single men
aged 18 - 41 eligible for conscription
into the Army.
The Gallipoli campaign ends in an
Allied defeat

13 January 1916

PUBLIC NOTICES.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT IF I HEAR any more RUMOURS concerning my late husband, Lance-Corporal M. WILSON, I will give a Reward to anyone that can give any Information concerning the Person who put the Report about that a Letter had been received to say that he was a Prisoner of War. Lance-Corpl. Wilson was Buried in Front of his Company. If I hear any more, Legal Proceedings will be taken at Once against any Person Repeating it. — M. BARRY, 74, Newtown, Whitehaven.

MRS. LOWTHORPE-LUTWIDGE, HOLMROOK Hall, will be very Grateful for Any ODDS and ENDS of all Kinds of WOOL and KNITTED 12 in. SQUARES for MAKING QUILTS for Prisoners of War in Germany, which will be received up to the End of March. (ab)

NOTICE.

OWING TO DEPLETION OF STAFF THROUGH THE War, Attendance on FRIDAYS at the ST. BEES SUB-BRANCHES of the undermentioned BANKS WILL BE DISCONTINUED MEANWHILE.

ATTENDANCE will be given on TUESDAYS as usual.

For the London Joint Stock Bank, Ltd.,
JOHN GRAHAM, Manager.

For Parr's Bank, Ltd.,
GEO. HILL, Manager.

Whitehaven, 12th January, 1916. (ac)

13 January 1916

THE WAR.

CLEATOR MOOR LAD DIES OF HIS WOUNDS,

Official information has been received by Mr. and Mrs. F. King, Leconfield Street, that their grandson, Pvt. Frank Cromwell, died from wounds received in Gallipoli. He enlisted at the outbreak of war. He was well liked by his companions, and for his relatives the greatest sympathy is expressed.

13 January 1916

FEARED LOSS OF A MILLOM MAN ON THE PERSIA.—Mr. Abraham Allen, a well-known Millom man, it is feared was on the Persia when it was torpedoed. After spending a number of years in India, he returned home for a holiday, but left Millom immediately after Christmas, and it is understood he joined the Persia at Marseilles.

13 January 1916



PRIVATE G. DUFF
(OF HOLMROOK AND MILLON),
7TH BORDER REGIMENT,
WOUNDED AND GASSED
IN FRANCE.

6 January 1916

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.



LANCE-CORPL. T. W. TODD.

The young "non-com" officer whose portrait appears above is the son of Mr. T. W. Todd, of 24, Kilm Brow, Cleator. He joined the 2nd Batt. Border Regiment early in the history of the war, and has just returned to active service, after being severely wounded. Before enlisting he worked at Longlands Mines (Messrs. Lindow) at Cleator, and was an esteemed member of the choir at Cleator Church.

He was wounded on September, the 25th, in the terrible battle at Loos. The bullet struck him near the left shoulder and came out near the right shoulder, traversing the whole breadth of the body without hitting any vital part. Had he been hit a second sooner or later he could not have escaped, for parts like the heart or spine must have been struck.

6 January 1916

WHITEHAVEN PRISONERS IN GERMANY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS.]

SIR,—Will you allow us to make it known through your paper that our Whitehaven men, now prisoners in Germany, are cared for by the Mayoress's Relief Fund in the same way as those still serving with the forces. If there are any whose names we do not know we should be glad if relatives or friends would hand in the same to the Town Hall. The prisoners of war whose names we have at present are the following:—

Corporal James Carr.
Private Joseph Crosby.
Private John Kemp.
Private Thomas Kemp.
Private J. Kirkpatrick.

—Yours, &c.,

ELSIE DAVIS
FRANCES TAGGART.

25th January, 1916.

27 January 1916

THE "WHITEHAVEN NEWS" COUNTY ANNUAL FOR 1916.

LOCAL PRESS OPINIONS.

"The West Cumberland Times" of Saturday, December 18th, says:—

"THE 'WHITEHAVEN NEWS' COUNTY ANNUAL for the coming year is made additionally interesting and will be valued by many as a keepsake because of its pictorial roll of honour. This contains upwards of 80 portraits of Cumbrians who have given their services to the country, in the defence of which not a few have laid down their lives. It includes presentments of the late Pvt. A. Acton and Pvt. J. Smith, Whitehaven and Workington's V.C.'s, and of some ladies who have gone from this locality to engage in the honourable work of ministering to the wounded. Other pages are filled with the usual reliable and useful local information in which details of the constitution of county, municipal, urban, rural, the magistracy, political, and other public bodies are given, making it an indispensable desk companion for those who find it necessary frequently to look up such references. A useful interleaved diary, calendar, agricultural tables, &c., are also available, whilst its well-filled advertisement pages constitute a commercial compendium of considerable utility."

13 January 1916



PRIVATE J. TURNER
(WHITEHAVEN),
7TH BORDER REGIMENT,
DIED OF WOUNDS.

6 January 1916



PTE. GEORGE GREAVES (EGREMONT), WOUNDED.

The numerous friends of Pte. George Greaves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Greaves, Ghyll Bank House, Egremont, will regret to learn that he was wounded in France on Christmas Day. Writing in excellent spirits to his parents from the La Treport Hospital in France, Pte. Greaves hopes to be sent to an English hospital shortly. He says: "After all I have come off very very lucky, indeed. The worst I got was concussion of the brain and except for a piece of shrapnel, which cut through my boot and broke two bones in my foot, my other injuries were comparatively slight. I went on duty at ten o'clock on Christmas Eve, and considering I was unconscious for three days I missed the Christmas season. My eyesight and hearing were affected, and I lost the use of my left arm and leg, but they gradually came back to me." Private Greaves expects to be sent home prior to returning to the front. This gallant young soldier enlisted last Easter joining the British Motor Transport, and was only in England three weeks when he was sent into France. He was eventually transferred into an Australian regiment, and is still in that section of the army. Prior to joining the colours Pte. Greaves was employed by the Berrier Mining Company at Cleator Moor in the clerical department. His friends will wish him complete recovery.

20 January 1916

9TH BORDERS.

The 9th Battalion Border Regiment, Pioneers, in which is included a large number of Frizington young men, have been working hard in the Balkans, and since the end of October, correspondence with them has been very much interrupted and has caused much anxiety, but this is now being remedied. It is pleasing to learn that they are all keeping fit in spite of extremely hard work under very trying conditions. Interesting letters are being received, describing the native people and their methods. One writer describes their dress as being as far back as the year 1200. He states that the Balkans have at one time been beautiful, and now the houses are wrecked and the people are in a very poor condition. All appear quite confident that they can hold their own, and are proud their Colonel has been promoted owing it is said to the excellent work of the Battalion.

27 January 1916

WOUNDED SOLDIER INSULTED.

QUARREL LEADS TO A CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER..

The Cumberland Winter Assizes were held at Carlisle on Saturday, before Mr. Justice Shearman. There were only two prisoners for trial.

Charles Cassidy, a soldier in the 6th Battalion of the Border Regiment, was charged with the manslaughter of John Fox, a labourer, 64 years of age, at Carlisle on November 1. On the night in question Fox and another labourer named Hetherington were standing outside a shop in Rickergate. Cassidy asked Hetherington for a match, and he told him in reply that he ought to be at the front fighting for his country. Having been wounded in the landing at Suvla Bay, in consequence of which he was at home on leave, Cassidy resented what Hetherington had said, and a quarrel arose, in which Hetherington struck Cassidy in the mouth. Cassidy struck him back. Afterwards witnesses stated that Cassidy struck Fox, who was very drunk, and fell on the footpath, striking his head on a projecting portion of the wall below the shop window where he had been standing. From this wound Fox died. Cassidy denied that he ever struck Fox, who, he said, struck at him and fell when doing so.

Mr. Justice Shearman told the jury that to convict they must be satisfied that Cassidy struck Fox in anger. The jury without leaving the box returned a verdict of not guilty, and Cassidy was discharged.

20 January 1916