

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

October 1916

LANCF-CORPL. CRONIN AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL.

Mrs. Cronin, of 4, Croft Terrace, Egremont, has received news that her son, Lance-Corpl. Cronin, has been awarded the Military Medal, for devotion to duty. Despatch riding in the battle of the Somme he went through heavy shell-fire, he was blown off his motor cycle, but, with the exception of shell shock, was little the worse, and is now doing duty again. Previous to enlisting Lance-Corpl. Cronin was in the employ of Mrs. E. Thom-Postlethwaite, of The Hollins, Hensingham. He has seen almost two years' active service, and only had one leave of a few days, last March. He served his apprenticeship with Mr. J. F. Stout, Main Street, Egremont. He was also in the employ of Mr. G. H. Turner, then at Newton Manor, and of Mr. Whittle, Seascale. Lance-Corpl. Cronin has another brother serving with the R.F.A., who was wounded in France early in the war, and sent home to hospital in England, and he is at present stationed in this country.

Lance-Corpl. Cronin's cousin, Mr. R. Nolan, of Egremont, has received a letter from a friend of Lance-Corpl. Cronin, home on leave. The letter is as follows:—"I suppose you are a friend of Lance-Corpl. Cronin. He is despatch-rider for our ambulance, and one of the 'bhoys.' I am home on leave, and he asked me just to drop you a line to say he is in the best of health, and still sticking it. We have been on the Somme, and Pete had his work set up there, running to our advanced dressing stations.

12 October 1916

FRIZINGTON SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

On Monday evening, Mrs Graham, George-street, Frizington, received official communication that her husband, Private Thomas Graham, had been killed in action in France on the 16th inst.

Private Graham, who was 30 years of age, was a reservist of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, and was called up when the war commenced. He leaves a widow and three young children. Both Private and Mrs Graham were natives of Cleator Moor.

26 October 1916



BOMB. R. H. SANDERSON (WHITEHAVEN), CUMBERLAND ARTILLERY, DECORATED BY THE KING OF SERBIA.

News has been received by his parents that a gold medal has been presented to Bombardier Robert Henry Sanderson by the King of Serbia, with the approval of His Majesty the King for services rendered in Gallipoli.

Bomb. Sanderson joined the Cumberland Artillery at the outbreak of the war, prior to which he was employed in the City of Carlisle Electrical Department.

During the seven months in Gallipoli Bomb. Sanderson was on the communication lines to his battery, and had many daring escapes, having on many occasions been given up for lost, and was among the last group to leave Gallipoli when they evacuated, and he is now with this battery somewhere in Egypt, where the presentation took place while on church parade. Bombardier Sanderson is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sanderson, 7, Henry Street, Bransty, Whitehaven.

19 October 1916

"OUR DAY" AT WHITEHAVEN.

"Our Day," for the British Red Cross Society, in aid of the wounded at the fronts, all for work done abroad and excluding work in Britain, had a fine day on Thursday at Whitehaven. £100 12s 10d was made for this noble purpose, in Whitehaven alone, and there will be further contributions to come from the villages of the district.

26 October 1916



Pvt. C. DOCKWRAY (KELLS), BORDER REGIMENT, KILLED IN ACTION.

Private Christopher Dockwray, of Kells, Whitehaven, who was in the Border Regiment, has been killed in action. Before enlisting Private Dockwray was employed at Ladysmith Pit and was 21 years of age. He is a son of William Martin and Elizabeth Dockwray, of 2 East Row, Kells.

12 October 1916



BOMB. JAMES COLLINS (WHITEHAVEN), R.F.A.. KILLED BY THE BURSTING OF A SHELL.

Mrs. Kelly, of Castle Row, Newhouses, Whitehaven, has received word that her son, Bombardier James Collins, of the R.F.A., has been accidentally killed by a bomb bursting at the gun from which our forces were shelling the German first line. Bombardier Collins was 34 years of age, and was single. He has two brothers in France.

5 & 12 October 1916

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—With a view to sending a Christmas parcel to soldiers and sailors past or present of the Whitehaven Primitive Methodist Church—there are now about 70 names on the Roll of Honour—a special effort was made last week-end to raise the necessary funds.

26 October 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.



**PVT. JOHN NELSON
(PARTON), BORDER REGIMENT,
KILLED IN ACTION.**

The sad news has come to Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson, of Parton, of the death of their son, Private John Nelson, Border Regiment. The following letter conveyed the official intimation:—"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nelson.—We are very sorry to have to convey to you the sad news of John's death, but as we were all 'pals' of his, we thought it our duty to do this. . . . We all hope you will bear this sad news as well as possible, as he died a hero and suffered no pain. A lad from Workington asked me to write to you. His name is Graham. He says John's father knows him very well.—From his 'pals,' Sid."

Private Nelson, who was 20 years of age, enlisted in August, 1914. On July 1st, 1915, he was drafted to the Dardanelles, where he had a rough experience during his six months' stay there. He was next sent to Egypt, where, though there was less actual fighting, there was plenty of work. In January of the present year they were drafted to France, and were in the thick of the "push."

19 October 1916



JUST INTRODUCED

"JUTLAND"

A NEW BISCUIT, RICH
AND VERY APPETISING.

PER 1/- POUND
OF ABOUT 24 BISCUITS.

CARR & CO., Ltd., CARLISLE.

(ad)

26 October 1916



**LIEUT. F. W. PRYOR
(ST. BEES),
INNISKILLING FUSILIERS,
DIED FROM WOUNDS.**

12 October 1916



**Pvt. J. SPEDDING
(SMAITHWAITE, LAMPLUGH),
BORDER REGIMENT,
KILLED IN ACTION.**

Mrs. T. Spedding, Smaithwaite, Lamplugh, has received the following letter regarding the death of her son:—

Lieut. George E. H. Slater, commanding A Company in a Border Regiment, writes on the 9th October to Mr. Spedding:—

"It is with the greatest regret I have to inform you of the death of your son, J. Spedding, in action in the field. He was standing in the trench quite close to Company Headquarters, when a shell burst on the parapet, killing him instantly, and wounding another Lewis gunner and one of my officers. He suffered no pain, and was given a soldier's funeral behind the lines. The death of your son is felt keenly throughout the Company by all who knew him for a fine soldier and a straight living man, and I am writing to you on behalf of my men to offer you our deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement."

19 October 1916

**GUN. JOHN BETHWAITE
(WHITEHAVEN),
KILLED IN ACTION.**

Gunner Bethwaite, R.F.A., was killed in France on September 30th. He was on parade at a lorry inspection when a German shell struck the lorry by which he was instantaneously killed by the explosion.

19 October 1916

GALLANT BORDERS.

Mr. H. Perry Robinson, writing from the British Headquarters in Saturday's "Daily News," says:—To turn to other matters; it always seems invidious to mention the gallantry of any troops in this fighting, where all are so gallant and where the circumstances debar one from giving credit to all alike. But among feats of the last few days which are spoken of as conspicuously fine is a performance of some troops of the Border Regiment, who took magnificently a very strong position, capturing with it a large number of prisoners and many machine guns.

5 October 1916



**A HARRINGTON MAN KILLED
IN ACTION.**

The death in action is announced of Private Tom Tinkler, of Harrington, which took place in one of the casualty clearing stations abroad on the 29th of September. Private Tinkler had been in the Army right right away from the time war was declared. Private Tinkler was wounded when in the Dardanelles. On recovering he was sent to the present scene of activity, and unfortunately was mortally wounded. He was the son of the late Mr. Robert Tinkler, and of Mrs. Tinkler, who lives at William Street, Harrington. He was 22 years of age, and up to the time of enlistment he was employed at the Lowea Colliery. He leaves a widow, having been married just eleven months at the time of his death.

12 & 19 October 1916