

From the Newspaper Archives West Cumberland at War

December 1916



PVT. THOS. ROUTLEDGE, EGREMONT, MISSING.

Mr. and Mrs. Routledge, Hodgson's Court, Egremont, are anxious to know the whereabouts of their son, Private Thomas Routledge. Private Routledge, who is 21 years of age, joined the army in January of this year under Lord Derby's scheme, being attached to the 3rd Border Regiment. After his training in the Conway camp he was drafted into the Border and was sent to France. He had been in several engagements. The last letter received from him was on August 31st, and word has now been received from the War Office that he is missing. One of his pals, Private Thwaites, of Keswick, writing to Mr. Routledge, states that he saw him ten minutes before he (the writer) was buried by a shell.

7 December 1916

PARTON SOLDIER WINS THE MILITARY MEDAL.

Signaller James Mein, of the R.F.A., who has been on furlough after twelve months at the front in France, has won the Military Medal for devotion to duty while engaged as observer and Signaller Mein, who is 25 years of age, is the eldest son of the late Mr. Mein. He has served eight years in the army, four of which were spent in India. On the outbreak of war he came over with the Indian contingent, and was shortly afterwards wounded. Many chums will hear with pleasure of the honour conferred on him.

21 December 1916

David Lloyd George takes over leadership of the wartime coalition from Herbert Asquith who resigned as PM.
The Battle of Verdun ends with enormous casualties on both sides.
The battle had raged since February.

FRIZINGTON SOLDIER'S DEATH ASSUMED.

Mrs. Hogan, Steel Bank Cottages, Frizington, received an official communication on Friday respecting her son, Private Edward Hogan, No. 19058, the Border Regiment, who has been missing since August 21st, 1915. It states: "The Army Council have been regretfully constrained to conclude that he is dead, and that his death took place on August 21st, 1915, or since that date." The deceased, who worked at the Margaret Mine, Frizington, enlisted about two years ago into the Borders, being afterwards drafted into a battalion, and sent to the Dardanelles. He was a keen footballer, playing in the shield team for Arlecdon; also Frizington Athletic and Recreation Clubs; and was well known in the district.

7 December 1916

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR SOLDIERS.

**KHAKI FLEECE JACKETS,
CHAMOIS LEATHER JACKETS,
MUFFLERS, GLOVES, MITTS,
SOCKS, and WOOL HELMETS.**

**LUCAS & CUSSONS,
LOWTHER STREET,
WHITEHAVEN.**

21 December 1916

THE PRICE OF DUTY.

The prayer of a little child, kneeling,
"Dear Jesus! I miss him so much.
Let daddy come back to the sheiling,
If he should come back on a crutch."

A curly head heavy with weeping,
A little hand out in the cold
That daddy might know his boy, sleepin'
Had left it to clasp and to hold.

Far-off by time soon to be hidden
In lichen and green of the moss;—
Somewhere in a land battle-ridden,
A number, a mound, and a cross!

O measureless pity that lingers
To solace when healing is vain;
Be thou as the clasping of fingers
To the soul of a child in pain.

J. A. BROOKE.

Grasmere.

21 December 1916

DISCHARGED SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS.]

SIR,—The number of sailors and soldiers who have been discharged as unfit for further service is increasing daily, and, as the war continues, is bound to increase further. The problem of how to re-instate these men in civil employment is one of absorbing interest. Employers in this area with patriotic zeal, set free numerous men when war broke out and others have been recruited since. It is a duty cast upon all of us, and the employing force in particular, to endeavour to see that all men who have served in the Army or Navy obtain civil employment at the earliest possible moment.

The Departments concerned, with the aid of the Statutory War Pensions Committee, have made complete arrangements to that end, and only the co-operation of employers is required to make the arrangement successful. Particulars of every man discharged are sent to the manager of the nearest Employment Exchange, who keeps a nominal roll of those who are fit for employment under ordinary industrial and commercial circumstances. These men, who by reason of their physical incapacities, cannot be employed on ordinary industrial terms, are dealt with by the War Pensions Committee, the secretary of which will be pleased to assist employers if they feel they can usefully engage the services of any such men.

I am sure I can appeal to the employers of Whitehaven and district when they are requiring labour to think first of our soldiers and sailors, and to apply to either of the agencies mentioned above for particulars of the men who are available.

—Yours faithfully,

J. R. MUSGRAVE, Mayor of Whitehaven.
Town Hall, Whitehaven, 19th December, 1916.

21 December 1916



PVT. L. RICHARDSON, M.G.S., 54TH CANADIAN BATT.

Private Leonard Richardson is a nephew of Mrs. Tyson, 7, James Pit, Whitehaven. He was wounded on the 25th October and died November 10th, 1916, in Boulogne Hospital. He is 19 years old, and enlisted in the Canadians in 1915. He has another brother, William E. Richardson, who has been in France over two years. Both are sons of W. Richardson who emigrated to Canada about 14 years ago. The deceased soldier has four uncles serving with the colours.

21 December 1916

WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER'S SUDDEN DEATH.

Mr. Richard Bell, hairdresser, of Duke Street Whitehaven, on Tuesday received the sad news of the death of his son, Pvt. David Bell, of the King's Liverpool Regiment, which, according to a letter from the chaplain, occurred from heart failure on December 9th. The chaplain states that Pvt. Bell reported unwell on the morning of that day, and was kept at the aid post after treatment. He was comfortable until about 8.30 p.m., when he suddenly and without any warning, died. "It has come as a great shock to us all, adds the writer, "and the battalion very much regret his loss." Pvt. Bell who was 38 years of age, was well known both in Whitehaven and Frizington, particularly in the latter place, where he was in the hairdressing business for about thirteen years. Last year he removed to Liverpool, and in March this year on his 38th birthday he entered the army. He was reported as wounded and suffering from shell shock on September 25th, but ultimately was able to return to duty, during the performance of which death has so suddenly overtaken him.

14 December 1916

PROMOTION OF BOMBARDIER A. H. JACKSON, MOOR ROW.

Few men who volunteered for active service have had such rapid promotion as Arthur H. Jackson, of Moor Row, formerly in the Co-operative head office, Cleator Moor. He has been repeatedly advanced in positions of trust, always receiving high commendation from the commanding officers, and now he has been promoted to the position Acting Sergeant-Artillery Clerk which involves great responsibility. His several successful examinations as an accountant before leaving home will stand him in good stead for his intricate work and trustworthy position.

7 December 1916

PREFER KIPPERS TO CAKES.

Messrs. Cowman Bros., of King-street, Whitehaven, who, it will be remembered, sent out a box of kippers recently in reply to an appeal from Whitehaven men in France, have since received the following acknowledgment:—

Somewhere in France, 28th Nov., 1916.

Dear Sir,—Your box of kippers to hand, for which we thank you very much indeed.

I may say we had a good feed with them, as we had to go on fatigue the next day, and make our own meal, so you see your valuable kippers came in very handy. Indeed, we all enjoyed them very much, and I can say they were a change to jam. They had a darned good taste, too.

The K-nuts from Whitehaven mention that there should be more kippers for the front thanuffed up cakes.

The weather here is somewhat the same, and we are still out of the trenches.

Again thanking you very much for your valuable parcel, and hoping there is more for out here.—

7 December 1916

A WHITEHAVEN MAN A PRISONER OF WAR.

Mr. James Campbell, of Back Row, New-houses, Whitehaven, has received news this week that his son, Private William Campbell, of the Border Regiment, is a prisoner of war in Germany. He had been officially reported missing from the 15th of November, when his regiment had done some very heavy fighting. He is 19 years of age, and before enlisting 12 months ago was in farm service in the neighbourhood of Cockermouth. His brother Alexander Campbell is a signaller in the R.E., and was a bogie hand at Wellington Pit before enlisting. He has also two uncles in the services—Mr. Tom Hodgson, late of New Street, is in the Navy, on H.M.S. New Zealand, while the second uncle is Pvt. George Hodgson, R.E.

28 December 1916

GOSFORTH SCHOOL.

A WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE,

In Aid of the Local Sailors' and Soldiers' Christmas Fund, will be held on

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 1916, at 7-30 p.m.

Admission:—Whist Drive, 1s; Dance, 1s.

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14 December 1916



LANCE-CORPORAL
W. SATTERTHWAITE,
EGREMONT,
MISSING.

7 December 1916

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**LANCE-CORP. W. H. COOK,
EGREMONT,
AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL.**

7 December 1916

**A CLEATOR MOOR SOLDIER'S
FORTUNATE ESCAPE.**

News was received early this week of the lucky escape of Corporal Muncaster, a Cleator Moor young man, who has been in Salonika with the forces. In his letter to his parents he mentions that he was on the "Braemar Castle" when she was torpedoed or mined on November 25th, in the Mediterranean. When the explosion occurred he was lying in his cot, suffering from rheumatism, and was thrown up about two feet. Fortunately the sea was calm, and all save seven, who were killed by the explosion, were safely transferred to a couple of tramp steamers and landed at a little Greek village. After staying there a couple of days they sailed in another hospital ship to Malta.

14 December 1916

A SANDWICH MAN WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. James Thompson, of Trent-street, Chopwell, and late of Sandwith, have received information that their eldest son, Private Robert Thompson, Border Regiment, who has been wounded for the second time, is in the No. 1 ward, N. Evington Military Hospital, Leicester. The extent of his injuries has not transpired. Mrs. Thompson has another son, James, who was reported missing several months ago. A third son, George Killip, Tyneside Scottish, who gained great notoriety as a cross country runner after joining the army is all right.

21 December 1916

**DISTINGTON SOLDIER
KILLED.**

An official notification from the War Office has been received by Mrs. Timmins, Main-street, Distington, that her husband, Private Morrison Timmins, Border Regiment, who has been missing since July 1st, 1916, died on that date. Private Timmins joined the army about eighteen months ago, and had been in France about nine months. He is a son of Mr. Jacob Timmins, fruiterer, Distington. Before enlisting he was employed at Oatlands Colliery as a collier. He leaves a widow and four children to mourn his loss.

The following letter has been received by his brother:—

"Sir,—In reply to your inquiry we are very sorry to have to tell you that we have received the following report:—Private J. Cunningham, now in hospital in France, says he knew Timmins, and was with him. They were in reserve, and were ordered to advance soon after daylight. They had to advance over three lines of trenches. Timmins was shot through the head, and fell in a reclining position on the back of the first trench. Cunningham saw the bullet wound in his head near the temple, and shouted to him, but got no reply. He then advanced with his company, and on returning two and a half hours later saw Timmins in the same position. He was quite sure he died at once. He does not know if or when he was buried. We do not as a rule accept a first and only report as being conclusive as to the fact of death, but as Cunningham's report gives the impression of accuracy, and as your brother has now been missing for nearly five months without his name having appeared in any of the lists of prisoners, we fear that the sad fact will prove to be that your brother has been killed. Assuring you of our great sympathy with you."

14 December 1916

**MILITARY MEDAL FOR A
WHITEHAVEN EX. P.-C.**

The friends and former colleagues of Sergeant Maher, Border Regiment, who, before the war was a member of the Whitehaven Police Force, will be pleased to hear that he has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field. Some time ago he was promoted to the rank of sergeant in recognition of his services in France and, it will be remembered, he also fought and was wounded at the Dardanelles.

14 December 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.