

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

February 1917



PVT. ERNEST BREW, OF EGREMONT. (CANADIAN REGIMENT) DIED OF WOUNDS.

Mr. and Mrs. Brew, of Brewery Lane, Egremont, have received official news from the Canadian Record Office, London, of the death of their son, Private Ernest Brew, of the 49th Batt. (Canadian Regiment). Private Brew, who was 29 years of age, is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. Brew, Egremont, and was a young man well known and highly respected in the district. For eight years he was employed by Mr. John Roberts, carter, Egremont, and during that period he made

1 February 1917

SON OF RECTOR OF GOSFORTH KILLED.

Captain J. W. H. Park, 22nd Cavalry (Indian Army), previously reported missing, is now reported "killed in action" in Mesopotamia. He is the eldest son of the Rev. J. Park, Rector and Rural Dean of Gosforth.

1 February 1917

Germany resumed full unrestricted submarine warfare. Suspecting this would bring the US into the war, Germany gambled it could defeat Britain before that happened. Meanwhile German forces on the Somme began to withdraw to newly-prepared defences, the so-called Hindenburg Line.

PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

Corporal J. Thompson sends us two photographs which he writes he picked up on the 27th January after an attack. They bear the imprimatur of the well-known Romney Studio, King Street, Whitehaven, and on inquiry from Mr. Wilson, we were referred to the lady photographed in them. This is Miss May Lilley, Barker's Court, Market Place, Whitehaven, daughter of Mr. Lilley, a shiprigger, at present employed at Barrow-in-Furness in the shipbuilding yard there. The photographs were in the possession of a Whitehaven soldier, who has been twice wounded, but there is no mention of his name in the recent casualty lists.

22 February 1917

THE LOSS OF THE SAXONIAN.

CAPTAIN TAKEN PRISONER ON BOARD U BOAT.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Leech, St. Bees, wife of Lieut.-Commander A. Leech, received information on Tuesday night from the Admiralty that her husband had been taken prisoner by the German submarine. From the telegrams received it was hoped that all, including the commander, had been landed in Ireland, but this unfortunately has not proved to be correct.

15 February 1917

NO COALS FOR FARMERS WHO HOLD UP POTATOES

At the adjourned meeting of the Council of the Cumberland Miners' Association at Workington, on Friday Mr J Dickinson was again in the chair. The following resolution was carried unanimously:- "That lodge secretaries be instructed to send in the names of all farmers in their neighbourhood who are holding up stocks of potatoes, so that Mr Cape can notify the Coalowners' Association to stop supplying such farmers with coal."

8 February 1917

Pvt. D. M. FISHER, PARTON, KILLED.

Official information has been received from the War Office that the death of Pte. D. W. Fisher, formerly of Parton and Whitehaven, may now be assumed. He has been missing since June 13th, 1916, and belongs to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Division, Canadians.

1 February 1917

HAVE you helped the 'big push' that has started, by putting all the money you possibly can behind it?

If not—buy War Loan to-day.
The more you lend—the sooner the War will end.

ANY Money Order Post Office will hand you a £1 War Savings Certificate for 15s 6d. Any Bank will buy War Loan for you from £5 upwards. Or go to your local War Savings Committee who will do everything for you.

Whitehaven War Savings Central Committee.
Hon. Sec., T. M. Oldfield, 44, Lowther Street.
Egremont—F. C. Symons, 14, Cringlethwaite.
Cleator Moor—J. W. Goulding, Public Offices.

8 February 1917



SERG. ISAAC J. ECCLES (WHITEHAVEN), AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL.

Is in the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, mobilised at the outbreak of war. He went to France in August, 1915, attached to the Machine Gun Section, and was awarded Military Medal for bravery and devotion in the field. He is well known in Whitehaven as a popular postman which position he occupied up to the war.

1 February 1917

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.



**CAPT. H. BELL
(ASPATRIA), DIED OF WOUNDS.**

"I very much regret that my letter to you should be the bearer of very sad news. Your son Harry died of wounds in hospital yesterday. Perhaps it will be some little consolation if I tell you how it happened. His company was occupying a portion of the Battalion front which I am now holding. It was about five a.m. yesterday morning (Jan. 25) when on going my rounds, I visited him, and he accompanied me around his sector. This, of course, means walking in the open. We had reached his extreme left post, and I was standing close beside him discussing various tactical features. Suddenly an enemy sniper opened fire, and Harry shouted, 'I am hit in the stomach.' Before he had time to fall I picked him up and carried him into a shell hole. On opening his clothes I found a bullet had entered his stomach. I immediately dressed the wound, and sent my orderly back to company headquarters for a stretcher. This was procured in a few minutes, and during the time he was being carried to a dug-out, I telephoned for our medical officer, who reached him in a very short time. He did all that could be done, and then took him back to the main dressing station. We had hopes that the wound would not prove fatal. During the whole time he never lost consciousness and was a real brick. His wonderful spirit and pluck were marvellous, and he never once complained. . . . We have just heard of the wound proving fatal. We shall miss your son very much indeed. He was one of the best company commanders I have, and simply worshipped by his men. He was a brave and fearless man, always cheery, and a real good soldier. More I cannot say, because I personally feel his loss too keenly. . . . Please accept my full sympathy on behalf of myself and the Battalion in your sad bereavement. — Believe me, yours sincerely,

W. B. LITTLE, Major."

15 February 1917

**Dainty Dinah
TOFFEE.**

If only you could see the happy expression on the face of your soldier lad when he comes back from the muddy trenches to his billet, and finds a parcel from "Blighty" awaiting him! It helps him to forget what he has been through—the great trials and sufferings he has undergone. He will be better pleased still if he finds a supply of Dainty Dinah Toffee in that parcel—for he loves it, and so do his pals. He knows a good thing, and he knows that Dainty Dinah Toffee is good, gloriously good.

Send him some next time you are making up a parcel—he's sure to enjoy it and want more.

SOLD BY ALL GOOD CONFECTIONERS.

GEORGE W. HORNER & Co., Ltd.
Makers of Good Sweetmeats.
CHESTER-LE-STREET, County of Durham.

A GIFT FROM 'BLIGHTY.'

15 February 1917

**CLEATOR MILLS
EMPLOYEES AND THE
WAR LOAN.**

Messrs. T. Ainsworth & Sons, Ltd., Cleator Mills, arranged to take up War Loan for their employees to be paid for by a shilling a week deduction from wages for each £5 of loan. The employees have made a fine response and have availed themselves of the opportunity to take up over £1,100 of the loan.

**LOCAL MINERS'
CONTRIBUTIONS.**

On Friday afternoon the miners at St. Margaret's Pit, Frizington (Sir J. S. Ainsworth's) after hearing addresses from Mr. Richard Smith, manager, and Mr. Robinson, took up £800 of the War Loan through the facilities offered by the Company.

The Montreal miners have taken up £170 of the loan.

22 February 1917

NETHERWASDALE NEWS.

DEATH OF PRIVATE JOSEPH COWPERTHWALTE.—We regret to have to record the deaths of two of our parishioners within the last few days. Private Joseph Cowperthwaite, Burckbarrow, 5th Border Regiment, has been killed in action in France. A letter was received on Wednesday morning from the Sister in charge at the casualty hospital at the base, stating that he was severely wounded on Saturday evening, but hoping to have better news to send. A letter from her and a telegram from the headquarters of the regiment followed on Thursday morning stating that he had died on Sunday without recovering consciousness. On Tuesday morning this week a letter written by himself was received, written on Friday, the day before he was wounded, saying that they were expecting to have a rough time on the 27th and 28th. He was the fifth man out of twenty from Wasdale to go down in the war. Albert Howe went down with the Royal Edward; Hugh Park returned from the trenches in France to die at home; Walker Roper died suddenly in the camp at Dunfermline; Crowther Morton and Joseph Cowperthwaite were killed in action in France. There will be a memorial service here for the last-named on Sunday morning.

8 February 1917



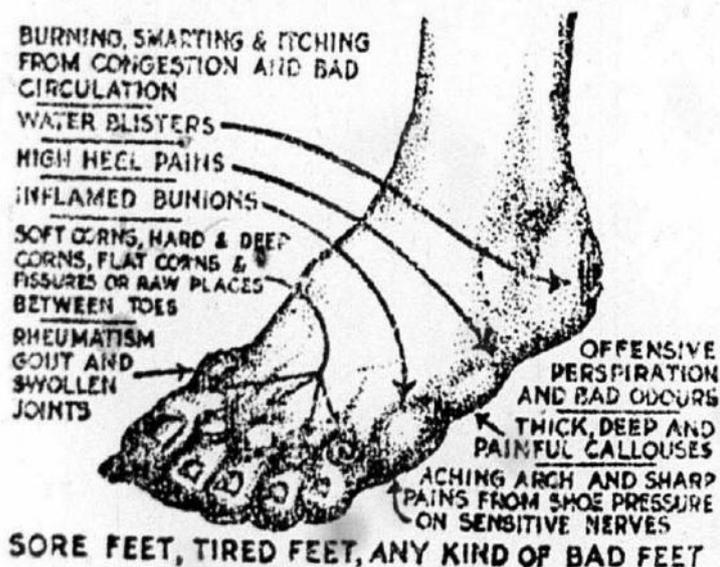
Pvt. ALFRED TAYLOR (EGREMONT, CUMBERLAND, LATE OF SANDWICH), 5TH BORDER REGIMENT.

The sad news reached the relations and friends of Private Taylor's death on January 22nd, 1917, from Bagthorpe Military Hospital, Nottingham, after a long illness caused from shell shock. Deceased was only 20 years of age. His body arrived at St. Bees on Friday, the 25th ult., and was taken to Mrs. Newton's, Egremont, where he had made his home for the last six years. Private Taylor was laid to rest at St. Bees on Sunday, in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends.

22 February 1917

HOW SOLDIERS CURE SORE, TENDER FEET. CORNS, BUNIONS, CHILBLAINS, &c., IN THE TRENCHES.

Corporal Thos. S. Wilburn, of the R.A.M.C., also tells what to do for feet that Ache, Burn, Smart, Swell, and Blister.



15 February 1917

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