

# From the Newspaper Archives

## West Cumberland at War

March 1917



### **NURSE B. THOMPSON, A.R.R.A. (WHITEHAVEN), DECORATED BY THE KING.**

On Saturday last, Nurse Belle Thompson, daughter of the late Mr. Councillor John Thompson and Mrs. Thompson, of Tangier Street, Whitehaven, was one of the Red Cross Nurses decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace. A record of Nurse Thompson's devoted service as nurse has previously appeared, and on Saturday she was one of 23 nurses chosen to receive the decoration known as "Royal Red Cross," 2nd class. The first class is generally reserved for matrons. In bestowing the decoration His Majesty expressed the pleasure he had in making the award. After the investiture the recipients proceeded by request to Marlborough House, where they were received by Queen Alexandra, who presented each recipient with Her Majesty's photograph and a book. Queen Alexandra also shook hands with each of the nurses. The decoration entitles the recipients to use the letters A.R.R.C. after their names: Associate Royal Red Cross, and the grant of the medal is regarded as a very high honour in the nursing profession.

1 March 1917. Image from County Annual 1916

The Romanov dynasty in Russia fell with the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was formed. Over 57,000 women enrol, with 9,000 serving in France.

### **BANKLANDS MILITARY HOSPITAL.**

On Saturday the first batch of wounded convalescent soldiers arrived for the Workington Bankfield Military Hospital, at the Low Station, and were conveyed to the institution in motor cars, where they were kindly received and cared for by the Commandant (Mrs. Wilson, Stainburn) and her colleagues. Some of the soldiers attended divine service at St. John's on Sunday. The proposed free gift sale movement on behalf of the maintenance of the hospital is likely to become popular, as already the townspeople are making contributions, whilst others are considering what they will part with as necessary sacrifice for the good cause.

29 March 1917

### **ADVERTISEMENT**

**KILL THAT INSECT, TOMMY!—SEND YOUR** Pals "out yonder" some Tins of Harrison's Nursery Pomade—they'll be very acceptable. When you haven't time to wash, there's a big chance you'll have "companions." A little Harrison's Pomade kills every insect on hair or body. Insist on having Harrison's Nursery Pomade. "Tins of Comfort," at 4d and 9d. Sold by all Chemists—or by Post from Harrison, Chemist, Reading. Agents for Whitehaven, Wilson & Kitchen; Cockermouth, Cooper Bros. and R. F. Brown, Chemist; Maryport, W. Spark, Crosby-street; Egremont, J. J. Wilson; Millom, J. G. Short; Workington, G. E. Woodhouse, Chemist, 16, Pow-street. (dd)

1 March 1917

## PUBLIC NOTICES.

### ESKDALE AND ENNERDALE FOXHOUNDS.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the "KING OF PRUSSIA INN," ESKDALE, on SATURDAY, MARCH 10th, at Five p.m. Prompt, to Consider the Best Means of Continuing the Hunt, owing to the Strict Measures of the Military Authorities.

Farmers, Hunters, and all Persons Interested Please Attend.

T. NICHOLSON, Hon. Sec.

## COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

### WAR AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.

## FOOD PRODUCTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

### SOLDIERS FOR AGRICULTURAL WORK.

#### HOME DEFENCE MEN.

200 Fit and Able-bodied MEN are SHORTLY to be STATIONED at CARLISLE CASTLE, including 50 Men who state they are PLOUGHMEN. These Men are AVAILABLE until APRIL 15th, to ASSIST with the SPRING CULTIVATION.

#### CLASS W RESERVE MEN.

140 MEN in the above Reserve are NOW at the CASTLE, CARLISLE, and are AVAILABLE for FARM WORK until the END of the WAR. More Men of this Class will be sent to the Castle if the Demand on the Part of Farmers warrants it.

Applications should be made to the OFFICER COMMANDING AGRICULTURAL COMPANY, The Castle, Carlisle.

The above Supplies of Labour are subject to Recall at any time for Urgent Military Reasons, but the Executive Committee recommend Farmers to Apply at Once, and to take pains to Instruct those Men who have not been used to Farm Work, as they consider that there is now available a Supply of Labour of which great use may be made.

G. W. GILBANKS,

For the Executive Committee.

8 March 1917

## A WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER THREE TIMES WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Harper, George-street, Whitehaven, have had official information that their son, Private John Harper, of the East Lancashires, has been wounded by a shell, and is now in a military hospital in Aberdeen. Private Harper was formerly engaged as fireman at the Whitehaven Union Workhouse, and on being called up in his group was posted with the 3rd Border, then transferred to the 7th Borders, and afterwards to the East Lancs. This is the third time he has been wounded during his period on active service. His friends are hoping that his wounds will not be serious.

22 March 1917



**LANCE-CORPL. W. SEWELL**  
(OF EGREMONT),  
**KILLED IN ACTION.**

1 March 1917. Image from County Annual 1918

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.

# EMPIRE, WHITEHAVEN.

Lessee ..... STANLEY ROGERS  
General Manager ..... PERCY HALEY  
Acting Manager ..... MATTHEW HUDSON

MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 26TH, 27TH, AND 28TH,  
**THE BATTLE  
OF THE ANCRE**  
AND  
**ADVANCE OF THE TANKS.**

**3 TIMES DAILY. 3.**

**2-30, 7-0, AND 9-0.**

THE OFFICIAL WAR FILM.

**BOOK YOUR SEATS NOW**

REMEMBER THE DATES :—

MARCH 26TH, 27TH, AND 28TH.

**AT THE EMPIRE.**

15 March 1917

## ANOTHER CLEATOR MAN DIES AT THE FRONT.

### PRIVATE JAMES CARLISLE.

About a year ago we gave a brief sketch of Pte. James Carlisle, the occasion being when he was wounded at Leos. He made a splendid recovery and visited his friends at home.

On going out again he was posted for the expedition in Mesopotamia. Word has just been received that there he has laid down his life. No details have yet come to hand. He leaves two sisters, one of whom is engaged in munition work. Prior to joining the army he was a salesman in the boot and shoe department of the Cleator Moor Co-operative Stores, where promotion was awaiting him had he lived to return. He was full of enterprize. For a long time before he enlisted he occupied, for the improvement of his health, a tent on the shore at Braystones, and travelled to and fro each day on his bicycle. He possessed great natural refinement, and easily made a large circle of friends. He loved his Church, and for a considerable period he was one of the teachers in the Church school.

The War Office communication states he was killed on February the 22nd. The sisters have received the condolence of the King and Queen.

15 March 1917



ON THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1917

THE PRICE OF

**THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS**

WILL BE ADVANCED TO

**THREE-HALFPENCE**

ON ACCOUNT OF THE

**SHORT SUPPLY OF PAPER**

OFFICIALLY RESTRICTED, AND ITS

**GREATLY INCREASED COST**

AND THAT OF ALL NEWSPAPER

**EXPENSES OF PRODUCTION.**

1 March 1917

As a consequence of the increasing expense and short supply of paper, the *Whitehaven News* cut down on the number of photographs of the fighting men which had been printed up to this date.

However images continued to appear in the *Whitehaven News' County Annual* from which the images for this and subsequent newsletters will be taken.

## WILSON'S FOOT ROT CURE

Will Not Fail in the Worst Case; Cure Certain.  
WILSON'S PREMIER EMBROCATION,  
For Troops in Training and Troops in Trenches.  
AGENT :—J. B. OSBORN, The Castle Drug Stores,  
Lowther-street, Whitehaven. (eb)

22 March 1917

## THE LOCAL HOSPITALS.

### COCKERMOUTH CASTLE READY FOR PATIENTS.

The auxiliary Military Hospital which has been established at Cockermouth Castle is now ready for the reception of patients, and last week it was open for inspection by the public. It will be staffed with V.A.D. members, and to meet the condition that a trained nurse must always sleep on the premises at nights, District Nurse Holden has undertaken to attend. The arrangements will be under the supervision of Mrs. Atkinson as matron, Mrs. J. W. Hall, commandant, and Miss E. Dodgson, quartermaster.

22 March 1917

## NATIONAL SERVICE CAMPAIGN

### A PUBLIC MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN THE

TOWN HALL, DUKE ST., WHITEHAVEN

TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), MAR. 22, at 7-30 p.m.,

WHEN

MR. JOSEPH BLISS, M.P.,

WILL ADDRESS THE MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OF

NATIONAL SERVICE.

Chairman: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman J. R. MUSGRAVE, J.P., O.C.).

COME EARLY!

KEEP THE OLD FLAG FLYING!

ARTHUR ANDERSON, Hon. Secretary, National Service Committee.



22 March 1917

### DEATH OF CLEATOR MOOR SOLDIER.

Private Henry Walsh, Border Regiment, died at his home in Fletcher street, Cleator Moor, on Thursday, from the effects of being gassed in France. He was one of the first to enlist from Cleator Moor, and was in France early in 1915. He saw a good deal of fighting, and was gassed in July 1915. He received a very heavy dose, and was sent home to hospital at Taplow, from which he was discharged on pension in September. Since that time he has suffered from the effects, and has had to undergo several examinations from the military doctor. He leaves a wife and one child to mourn his loss, and for them the greatest sympathy is felt.

15 March 1917

### KILLED IN ACTION.

NICHOL.—(Official) In France, on January 27th, 1917, Pte. Robert Hartley Nichol, 11th Border Regt., the dearly beloved husband of Sissie Nichol (nee Dixon), of 13, Guard-street, Workington, aged 31 years.

I have fought for King and Faith, like a valiant man and true,  
I have only done by duty, as a man is bound to do.

### DIED OF WOUNDS.

ROBERTSON. — Lance-Corporal Leslie, from wounds received on active service, at No. 10 General Hospital, Rouen, France, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Robertson, 40, Roper-street, Whitehaven.

He died for England and Righteousness.

If Thou should'st call me to resign

What most I prize, it ne'er was mine;

I only yield Thee what is Thine,

Thy will be done.

THOMPSON.—On March 1st, 4th General Hospital, France, George Gordon, son of the late Councillor John and Mrs. Thompson, Tangier-street, died of wounds, aged 26 years.

Too far away thy grave to see,

But not too far to think of thee.

Fondly Remembered by Mother and Sisters,  
and Brother, in France.

8 March 1917

### PRIVATE TOM SCURR, FORMERLY ON LINOTYPE STAFF OF "WHITEHAVEN NEWS," OFFICIALLY REPORTED MISSING.

Official information was received on Sunday morning last that Private Tom Scurr, son of Mr and Mrs George Scurr, of Church Street, Whitehaven, had been missing since January. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Border Regiment, enlisting soon after the commencement of the war. At that time he was employed on the staff of "The Whitehaven News" as a linotype operator. He had been twice wounded. He is 21 years of age.

1 March 1917. Image from County Annual 1916

### DEATH OF ST BEES SOLDIER IN FRANCE

On Tuesday morning, Mrs J Kitchin received from France the sad news of the death of her brother, Private John Banks, of the Border Regiment. After about twelve months in the army, including five spent in France, he succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, lasting fourteen days. His death will be deeply regretted by his many friends who all remember him as one of the brave men of England who, having successfully faced the dangers of life from the enemy, have yet died in their country's service.

22 March 1917