

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

July 1917



TWO CLEATOR MOOR MEN WIN THE MILITARY MEDAL.

It was with extreme gratification and delight that Cleator Moor inhabitants learned that two of the lads of the town had earned the Military Medal. One of the recipients is Corporal Matthew Whelan, who as recently as April 9th, was awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry in France. Corporal Whelan was, prior to the war, an iron ore miner, and a leading bandsman.

The other medalist is Pvt. William Langton, Border Regiment, only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Paul Langton, Duke-street, Cleator Moor. He enlisted early on in the war, previously being an iron ore labourer at Winscales Mines. He has been in France some considerable time.

12 July 1917. Image of William Langton from County Annual 1919

The royal family changed its name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to the more British sounding Windsor.

The third Battle of Ypres began late in the month and continued until November.

GOSFORTH MAN PRISONER OF WAR.

Private George Walton son of Mr. John Walton, Hawkbarrow, Gosforth, has been taken a prisoner of war by the Germans. He has written home a post card, stating that his wounds are mending, but slowly.

5 July 1917

D.C.M. WON BY ANOTHER HENSINGHAM HERO.

The many friends of Private William Garroway, of Bedford Street, Hensingham, will be proud to know that by his gallantry he has won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and also that although he has been severely wounded and has several times been reported dead during last week, they will be glad to know that he is progressing favourably and expects to be fit to visit "Blighty" very soon. Pvt. Garroway is a fine manly soldier and of sterling conduct. He joined the Border Regiment, along with the "Pals," at Whitehaven, and has been in France since September, 1915. Before he joined up he was in the employ of Mr. J. I. Fisher, Duke Street, Whitehaven, as a grocer.

19 July 1917

A KELLS YOUNG MAN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN ACTION.

On Thursday last, Mrs. William Ginbey of East Row, Kells, received a wire that their second son, Private Robert Ginbey had been dangerously wounded, and on Tuesday morning they received a letter from the casualty clearing station, stating that his wounds are of a severe nature, but he was progressing favourably and hoped in the course of a week to be removed to the base hospital. Private Ginbey enlisted in the 5th Border, in December, 1914, and has been in France for the last 13 months. His elder brother is now also in France, having come from Egypt in March last.

5 July 1917

PUBLIC NOTICES.

CUMBERLAND WAR AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.

There will be a MEETING for FARMERS in TURNER'S REFRESHMENT ROOMS, PRESTON STREET, on THURSDAY, JULY 26, at 1-30 p.m.

Speakers: S. D. STANLEY-DODGSON, Esq., O. H. SAMPLE, Esq., Newcastle-on-Tyne, and others.

The Meeting is to Explain the URGENT Need of Increased Production. (gd)

19 July 1917

PARTON MILITARY MEDALIST HOME.

Private Robert Stubbs, on his arrival home on furlough on Thursday night, had a very hearty reception. Companions were in waiting at Whitehaven Railway Station to welcome him home. As Private Stubbs approached the village, about 10-30 p.m., having had to walk from Whitehaven, the group was swelled by those who had gone to meet him, and on entering his native place he found the streets lined with people, both young and old, some of whom shook him heartily by the hand and congratulated him on the honour he had won. When at the top of Main-street a rousing cheer was raised, and if Private Stubbs had given them half a chance he would have been borne to his home even by the mothers of the lads who are fighting, who ran to greet him as if he had been their own. Private Stubbs modestly acknowledged the reception, but kept pressing on to his home, and on arriving at the door stepped in, evidently greatly pleased to escape an embarrassing if hearty display of enthusiasm. Private Stubbs has been at the front from the early stages of the war, and so far escaped harm. Last year he won the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery on the battlefield.

26 July 1917

MILITARY MEDAL FOR WHITEHAVEN MAN.

Sergt. G. Stalker, second son of Mr. John Stalker and Mrs. Stalker, King Street, Whitehaven, is home for ten days, and has brought with him the news that he has been the recipient of a Military Medal. He is looking well, notwithstanding a strenuous time for the past two years on the Western Front, and several nerve-racking hairbreadth escapes. He was one of the volunteers on the outbreak of the war, and was transferred into the Royal Engineers, with whom he has put in his foreign service and won the Military Medal.

26 July 1917

THE GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER THE IRON ORE MINES.

THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS.

The Ministry of Munitions of War have definitely decided to take possession of the Cumberland and Furness Iron Ore Mines immediately; and that accordingly the mines will be under the control of the Government for the period of the war. It is understood that the Ministry of Munitions will review the whole position without delay, and are already in favour of allowing a holiday—three days, August 6th, 7th, and 8th.

An Order has been made by the Minister of Munitions, applying, from and after July the 24th, 1917, until further notice, Regulation 9 (gg) of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, to all iron ore mines in the Counties of Cumberland and Lancashire. The Regulation is as follows:—This Regulation empowers the Minister of Munitions to take control of such mines.

26 July 1917

HARRINGTON SOLDIER A PRISONER IN GERMANY.

Private Frank Deolan, Border Regiment, who has been a prisoner of war in Germany for about 18 months, writes to his sister, Mrs. McQuire, Quay-street, Harrington, as under:—Dear Sister,—I now write you these few lines to let you know that I am in the best of health, hoping this finds you and Jim and the children the same. I had a letter from Miss Bryce to say I had a parcel of clothing sent. I got it all right. If you see her you can tell her that I have lost everything except what I have on. As I tried to get away, I have been sent to a different place. You can tell all my pals that I was asking about them. I have been getting my parcels all right up to lately, but I have been (censored) about a bit. I sent you a P.C. last week to send me a pair of boots, as the last pair I had were too small; so I had to leave them. There is not much more to say, so I will draw to a close.—From your loving brother, Frank.

26 July 1917

PARTON'S FIRST D.C.M.

News has just come to hand that Corporal John Tremble, of the "Pals," has been recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Corporal Tremble joined the Pals at the formation of that battalion, and has seen much hard fighting in France, and continues to share the fighting still going on. The many friends of Corporal Tremble at Parton, and also at Maryport, of which place he is a native, will be pleased to hear of his success.

26 July 1917