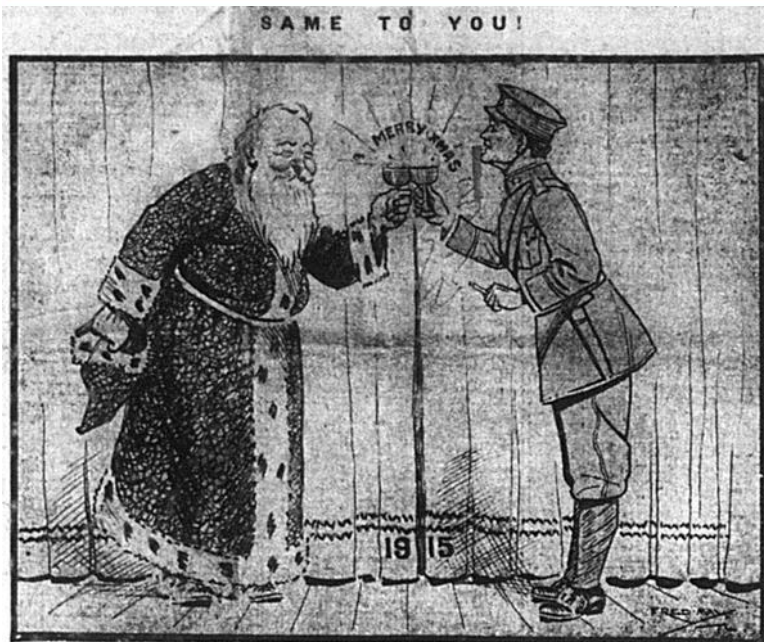


# OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

December 1914



SANTA CLAUS—"Here's to your health and success, Tommy."

been given a commission, and commences training at High Wycombe shortly; whilst their eldest daughter, Kathleen, has been appointed senior assistant at the Military Hospital in Felixstowe."

19<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*North-Eastern Daily Gazette*

### CHRISTMAS POST

"The Post Office notifies that Christmas parcels for the Expeditionary Force must not exceed seven pounds in weight, and must not be posted later than the 12<sup>th</sup> December. Letters should not be later than the 14<sup>th</sup> December."

5<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*Stockton & Thornaby Herald*

### QUIETNESS AT THE FRONT

"A Billingham Trooper in the Northumberland Hussars, writing from the front, refers to the quietness which prevails at the seat of war, and remarks that they have started the old exercises and wrestling on horseback, etc. to keep them fit. He says:- "I think we are settled here for the winter. All the inhabitants of the village where we are stationed have got notice to leave on account of spies. We might also think we were back, except for this country and the weather. It is snowing now, and has been wet and cold for the past few weeks.

We are not under fire, but we can hear the guns very clearly and also the crackle of the rifles, especially at night, where they make most of the attacks. The trenches are only about 150 yards apart, and in a few places they have

worked to within 50 yards, nearly up to our barbed wire entanglements. This is not a critical position, as where the rest of the line moves forward we will be able to do so, but no advantage will be gained by moving independently.

The Germans say in the papers that Ypres is untouched, but this is not true. A large number of the houses are blown to pieces, and it is still being shelled. The Cathedral has had several shells through the roof. There is little change here, and this battle looks like lasting longer."

5<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*Stockton & Thornaby Herald*

### CHRISTMAS PLUM PUDDING RECIPE

"Take three-quarters of a pound of flour, two heaped-up teaspoonfuls of Borwick's Baking Powder, two ounces of breadcrumbs, one-and-a-half pounds of suet, two pounds of raisins, one pound of currants, ten ounces of sugar, two ounces of almonds, one pound of mixed candied peel, salt and spice to taste. Mix the ingredients well together and add six eggs, well beaten, and three-quarters of a pint of milk, divide in two, and boil for eight hours."



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### A STOCKTON APPEAL

"Mr R. Tyson Hodgson, honourable secretary of the Stockton branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association makes the following appeal on behalf of the wives, families and widows of soldiers and sailors in Stockton and district:-

"It has been decided by the committee of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association for Stockton and district to inaugurate a fund to provide a suitable Christmas present for the wives, children, and widowed mothers of men who are at present serving their country.

I feel that the public of Stockton and district only require an opportunity to show their appreciation of the splendid services the soldiers and sailors have already rendered in the defence of this country, and it is unnecessary to remind them of the peace and comfort now enjoyed during one of the

greatest wars in history.

The coming Christmas to the wives, families, and widowed mothers will lack much of its cheerfulness on account of the absence of many that are dear to them, and the anxious circumstances in which they are placed. Will you help us to make it as bright as the circumstances of war will permit? Subscriptions will be thankfully received and duly acknowledged in the Press."

5<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*Stockton & Thornaby Herald*

### A PATRIOTIC FAMILY

"The family of Dr and Mrs Beatty of Stockton, have distinguished themselves in the service. Their eldest son, Norman Beatty, has secured a commission in Kitchener's army, and will probably be posted in the Engineers; Dr Cyril Beatty received a commission in the R.A.M.C. and goes abroad in the first week in January; the third son, Keith, in the 13<sup>th</sup> battalion, Durham Light Infantry has also



# OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

December 1914

## STOCKTON'S FALLEN

There are no servicemen recorded in Stockton's Book of Remembrance as having died or been killed in action for the month of December 1914.

We have however found a photograph of a serviceman printed in the *Stockton & Thornaby Herald* who was listed in last month's Stockton's Fallen:



**Private John Hughes**, 4<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry, was killed in action on 19/11/1914 after going to France with the Expeditionary Force. He had also served in the Boer War. He was 34 years old and had worked as a crane driver at Blair's Engineering Works. Born in Stockton, he lived at 22 Haswell Street with his wife, Ada, and his six children; John James, Ada, William, Thomas, Lily and James. His name is listed at Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium.

## STOCKTON CAPTAIN'S LETTER

"Captain F. A. Bagley\*, South Lancashire Regiment (of Stockton), who has been through the campaign from the outset, writes from hospital, where he is detained by an injured arm, to a local friend:-

"We want thousands more men out there yet. These war-worn regiments cannot fight fresh army corps every day, or twice nightly as some of the men say, it is beyond human endurance, though there is very little sickness amongst the men, and I keep as fit as a fiddle. The most wonderful part of our army out there is the commissariat (A.S.C.). The men are fed like fighting cocks. I think there is no doubt that our Territorials with three months' training will be infinitely superior to the German Landsturm and Landwehr. The ordinary German shooter cannot shoot; in fact they shoot from the hip."

5<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*Stockton & Thornaby Herald*

\* Captain Frank Adam Bagley, of Hartburn, was again injured at Le Cateau in July 1915. He was later wounded again and unfortunately his wounds proved fatal and he died in Hooge, Belgium on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1915. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium.

## CHILDREN'S TREAT AT STOCKTON

"The Stockton and Thornaby Fresh Air Fund have completed their arrangements for a monster treat to the soldiers' and sailors' children of Stockton for New Year's week. A special matinee of war and other pictures exclusive for this performance comprising 8,000 feet of film is to be shown at the Empire Theatre, and each child will also

be the recipient of a quarter-pound box of chocolate, also fruit. The treat is to be provided by Councillor T. Burns, lessee of the Empire Theatre in conjunction with the North-Eastern Symphony Orchestra (per Mr George Cooper) from funds collected at the Empire concerts. The number of children provided for is 3,000 and the tickets for the treat are to be distributed through the agency and the kindness of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association."

19<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*North Eastern Daily Gazette*

## STOCKTON'S ALLIED SPORTSMEN

"During the past two or three weeks meetings of representatives of cycling, cricket, football, boating, billiard, rifle, musical and social bodies of the district have been held at Stockton., the outcome of which is an organisation having the title of "The Allied Sports, Musical and Social Bodies" the object being to evolve charitable schemes whereby those who have not yet joined the forces or are ineligible may assist in providing the wherewithal for the benefit of those who are doing their duty for their country.

The organisation has arranged for a series of concerts to be held in the Hippodrome Theatre, Stockton, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Christmas week (twice nightly).

A brilliant array of the best talent in the district have given their services absolutely free of all costs, and a most diverse programme has been arranged for each evening.

A football match between two local teams will take place on New Year's morning on the Victoria Ground (the directors of the Stockton F.C. having granted the free use of same), kick off at 10.30.

Also two whist drives are to be held in the Masonic Hall on Fridays, Jan. 22 and Feb. 12.

These are some of the schemes the organisation has brought to a head for the present, and it only remains for the public of the district to show their appreciation by patronising the several efforts and thus enable a presentable sum to be handed over to the deserving funds in connection with the present crisis."

12<sup>th</sup> December 1914  
*Stockton & Thornaby Herald*

## XMAS BAZAAR AND TOY FAIR

AT  
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Magnificent collection of everything dear to the heart of a child. Dolls, Games, Books, Forts, Soldiers of all Regiments—not only British, but of our Allies and Colonial Troops; Uniforms, Tents, Indian Wigwams.

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