

OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

November 1914

NORTON SOLDIER'S VIEW

In a letter home Private A MacPherson son of Mrs K MacPherson, of Stirling house Norton, Stockton says

"We are now, as near as I can tell you, at a point near the Belgium frontier, and as I write the snow is falling, and the German guns are banging away merrily.

The Germans have been continually attacking us in this vicinity and have been repulsed with heavy losses every time. I do not think they can stick it much longer.

At night we hear the Germans singing in their trenches, but I do not think it is a sign of high spirits and confidence of victory. I firmly believe that the German officers have had to give the men intoxicants to put Dutch courage into them.

Any way; it's a fact that every position our regiment has attacked it has taken with ease, the Germans giving up long before our men would have done had the positions been reversed.

We often play tricks upon them, too. A night or two ago the Germans attacked us with heavy rifle fire. We simply took no notice but sat yarning and smoking.

The Germans could not understand it and they cannot keep cool like our fellows can. They had to look out of their trenches to see what we were up to, and then our artillery let them have a few shells, and soon all was quiet again."

Evening Gazette
27th November 1914

PATRIOTIC STOCKTON GIRLS

Four little Stockton girls, Annie Smith, Jeanie Gregg, Jessie Robinson, and Annie Barker, have made a large quantity of small fancy goods, and on Saturday next they intend holding a stall at the end of Wharf Street, Stockton to dispose of their wares, the proceeds to be devoted to the Belgian Relief Fund. As a result of a similar effort for the same object by two Thornaby girls, Rene Collier and Mary Lyall, at No. 1, Oxford Road, the sum of £10 1s 3d was handed over to the Mayor of Thornaby.

Stockton and Thornaby
Herald 14th Nov 1914

STOCKTON'S FALLEN

Sapper Albert Senior, 26th Field coy Royal Engineers formerly of the Yorkshire Regiment, aged 20, killed in action 1st November 1914, and is commemorated on the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium.

Private James Arthur Robinson, 2nd/3rd Bn. King's Own Scottish Borders, aged 23, died of wounds 2nd November 1914, and is buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery France

Private Arthur Henry Whitehead, 2nd Bn. Grenadier Guards, killed on the 6th November 1914, and is commemorated on the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium.

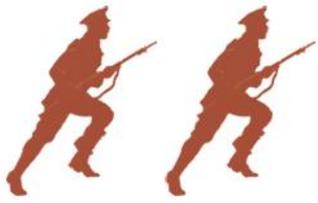
Private Charles Danby, 2nd Bn. Durham Light Infantry, aged 35, killed in action on the 19th November 1914, and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial Belgium.

Private John Hughes, Durham Light Infantry, aged 34, killed in action on the 19th November 1914 and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial Belgium.

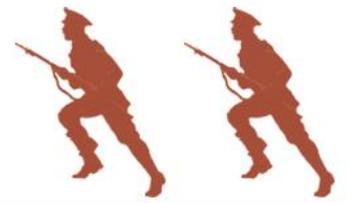
NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

Mr J. Robinson, confectioner of Norton, Stockton, has been inviting the public to guess the weight of a highly-ornamented Christmas cake, which has been displayed in his window. The proceeds of the guesses at 3d each were to be devoted to the National Relief Fund. The cake weighed 6lb 31/4 oz. The amount realised by the scheme was £1 17s. The two ladies Mrs Pawson and Miss Walton who made the nearest estimates (6lb 3oz) have agreed that the cake should be sent to Hemlington Hospital.

Evening Gazette 10.11.1914



OVER THE TOP



H.M.S. BULWARK

Blown up in Sheerness Harbour.

800 Lives lost

Stockton's John Galloway, Officer's Cook 3rd Class Royal Navy H.M.S. Bulwark, aged 18, died on the 26th November 1914 when the battleship H.M.S Bulwark blew up in Sheerness Harbour.



Mr Churchill in his announcement in the House of Commons said *“that it was probably an internal magazine explosion which rent the ship asunder. There was apparently no upheaval of water and when the smoke cleared the ship had entirely disappeared.*

Only 12 men were saved, and the rest of the crew, which he supposed amounted to between seven and eight hundred persons had perished.”

An inquiry will be held which may possibly through more light on the occurrence.

Mr Churchill expressed the deep sympathy and sorrow for the relatives and friends of those who had lost their

Stockton and Thornaby Herald 26th

STOCKTON HIRINGS

The Stockton Martimas Hirings were held under rather unfavourable conditions, the weather being inclement. The effect of war was manifest upon business, and the shortage of the supply of farm hands considerably enhanced wages. Foreman obtained as much as £29 to £33 for the year, ploughmen, £16 to £18; and young boys as far as £12. Young girls received £8 to £10 a year to start, older girls £14 to £18, and experienced women as far as £22, but there were very few of the latter to be obtained.

Stockton and Thornaby Herald
14.11.1914



MOTTO FOR THE KAISER: "LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP."

STOCKON BLUE FLAG DAY

It is only the minority of people who are aware of the existence of the Blue Cross Fund, a society whose special function it is to look after the interests of horses in war time. The part they play in modern warfare is a very essential and important one, and therefore it is necessary that every care should be taken to have mounts that are capable of performing the work expected of them. There are eight equine hospitals now at the front, involving an expenditure of between £15,000 and £20,000 for upkeep and it is in this particular way that the Blue Cross Fund finds an outlet for its activities. The Stockton Branch have secured permission from the Mayor to have a Blue Cross Collecting Day in Stockton on November the 14th when a special effort will be made to send a subscription to headquarters quarters. In addition gifts of pads, bandages, rugs or any such equipment for the comforts of the horses will be very much appreciated.

Stockton and Thornaby Herald
14th November 1914