



OVER THE TOP



News from the front

August 1915

“DIED DOING HIS DUTY”

STORY OF HOW STANLEY DOWNEY WAS KILLED

Mr T Downey – Town clerk of Stockton and Mrs Downey, have not yet received any official confirmation of the death of their only son Stanley, at the front but it would seem that the sad news is only too true.

It is contained in the following letter from Lance Corporal G Shaw of the Royal Engineers in France dated 8th August 1915.

“It is with deepest regret that I write to you, but as a friend of your son Stanley I consider it my duty to do so. We were out on Sunday night doing some very dangerous work at the trenches and while your son was looking to one of our wounded men, he was hit by a piece of shell and passed away by the side of one of the other poor fellows. We all admired him for his gentlemanly behaviour and for the way he did his duty, while helping a wounded comrade. I am expecting a cross over his grave as a token of the respect all the boys had for him.

Corporal Downey, from other accounts received, in addition to the above was a favourite in his regiment. He was a youth with an excellent education and was expecting early promotion. For several months he had acted as an Assistant Quartermaster.

13th August 1915 Evening Gazette

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

The Notification of Births Extension Act comes into operation tomorrow and by it, all births are notified to the medical officer for the district within 36 hours. The duty in the first place devolves upon the parents, but in addition there is an obligation resting upon medical practitioners, midwives or others in attendance at the births.

Forms have been supplied in the Cleveland district to all medical men and certified midwives.

August 31st 1915

Evening Gazette

THE RECRUITING RALLY

LIBERAL DISPLAY OF BUNTING AT STOCKTON

The householders and trades people of Stockton and Thornaby have responded heartily to the appeal for a liberal display of bunting in connection with the recruiting rally this week. This is to be seen more particularly in the working class district, where the women folks are vying with each other to give the most patriotic exhibition. Streamers in abundance are stretched from one side to the other. Flags are suspended from doorways and windows, and even the street lights are gaily decorated.

August 2nd 1915 Evening Gazette

NEW NAVAL MEDAL

To be awarded for service in minor operations

The following is an extract from today's London Gazette. The King has been pleased to sanction the establishment of a medal to be known as the Naval General Service medal, to be awarded for service in minor naval war like operations, whether in the nature of belligerency or polices which may be considered of sufficient importance to justify the award of a medal in cases where no other medal would be appropriate. The medal will have a distinctive ribbon - white with crimson borders and two crimson stripes and a clasp with appropriate wording.

August 9th 1915, Evening Gazette



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OVER THE TOP



News from the front

August 1915



HMS-Ben-My-Chree

On the 12th of August 1915, Pilot Charles H.K Edmonds, flying from the seaplane carrier HMS Ben-My-Chree became the first pilot to sink a ship by torpedo. He scored a direct hit on a Turkish merchantman

The Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry has received the following letter From Lieut Colonel M.D Goring Jones

Dear Lady Londonderry-please accept our sincere thanks for your very prompt reply to my request for wheeled stretchers. I will write again when they have actually been delivered. Every day it becomes more obvious that these stretchers will be of the greatest use. Battalion Officers desire me to express to you their appreciation of your kindness in giving one and collecting for others.

Yours Sincerely

M.D Goring Jones

Lt-Col Commanding Officer 2nd D.L.I

August 2nd 1915

HUMOUR IN COURT

STOCKTON WOMAN'S NOVEL EXCUSE FOR BRAWLING

Ellen Moran, Commercial Street, was charged at Stockton today for brawling. "Yes it's quite true" she said weeping and laughing alternately, in a most excitable manner "my son came home from the navy after being away eleven months and I was so pleased to see him that I commenced to shout and sing (laughter)

The chairman: but surely there was no reason to brawl in the fashion described by the officer.

"I was only singing it's a long way to Tipperary" she replied. In fact I was recruiting- but it was the officer that got the recruit when he got me!

The chairman: We are going to let you off this morning, but see that you don't come back again.

Defendant: No Sir I'll not. It is four years since I was here before, and it will be four more before I come again. But mind I'm sure to be back again when the War is over. (Laughter)

Evening Gazette

August 5th 1915

Stockton's Fallen

PTE Kenneth Morrison-D.L.I-
09/08/1915 KIA

PTE William Nugent-D.L.I-
09/08/1915 KIA

PTE Alexander Hardy Muirhead-
13/08/1915-KIA

PTE James O'Brien-KIA-21/08/1915
Able Seaman Thomas Pattison-RN-
died 08/08/1915

Driver John Francis Peers-
18/08/1915 aged 27.

CPL-Stanley Lawrence Downey-KIA-
10/08/1915

PTE George Edward Durham-
27/08/1915-N.F buried Durham
Road Cemetery, died at home.

PTE William Geldart- West York Reg
07/08/1915-KIA

Captain John Kingsley Martin-D.L.I-
01/08/1915-

PTE Thomas Mockler-05/08/1915
L/CPL Richard William Adams-

30/08/1915-died of wounds

PTE Francis Allen -22/08/1915

PTE George Trafford Crofton-
31/08/1915-died of wounds

Corporal Albert Phoenix-
22/08/1915

William Patrick Shevlin-09/08/1915

C.S.M Robert Simpson-KIA
07/08/1915 aged 43

PTE Thomas Swan-D.L.I- -
13/08/1915

PTE Thomas Thomas-D.L.I-
09/08/1915 KIA

PTE William Thomas-21/08/1915

RFM- Charles Henry Wall-
19/08/1915 age 21

PTE George Wilkinson-16/08/1915