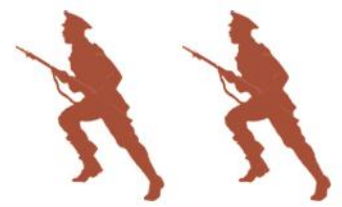


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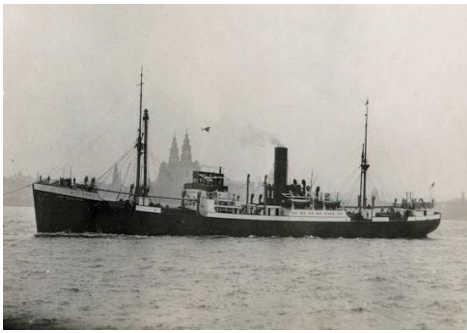
News from the Front

February 1915

H.M.S. CLAN McNAUGHTON

Given up as lost with all hands

Death toll of 281 men



H.M.S. Clan McNaughton,

H.M.S. Clan McNaughton was a Royal Navy armed merchant cruiser was sunk during severe gales a few days ago off the coast of Ireland. The cruiser is thought to have foundered with all 281 officers and crew presumed drowned.

The crew included 2 young Stockton boys, Robert Matthews, 16, the son of Ersham and Millie Matthews of 6 Ewbank Street, Stockton, and Charles Whitfield, 17, the son of James Monty and Ellen Whitfield, of 10 Hardwick Terrace, Stockton. Both were Boys, 1st Class, on board the cruiser.

The crew also included George Miller Thomson, Petty Officer and previously a wireless operator, of 33 Eton Road, Stockton.

*North Eastern Daily Gazette 11th
February 1915*

Empire Theatre, Stockton -

Next week's episode in the wonderful serial "The Million Dollar Mystery", running at this theatre, will be entitled "Coaching Party of the Countess", and shows how the heroine is lured into great danger by the rogues in pursuit of the money. It will be equally as exciting as its predecessors.

That Tot of Rum!

"Medicinal doses" for war-torn heroes.

Chilled by the biting winds of Flanders, Tommy has found one item in his rations very welcome! His little tot of rum! Only a tot it is, and a very small one too, for it is given to him as medicine, not as an alcoholic drink. It was considered necessary that the soldiers, exposed to the cold for hours in the trenches, should have something to promote warmth, and experience taught that the little tot of rum was just the thing!

*North Eastern Daily Gazette
February 1915*

Charles Whitfield below, aged 17, is one of three Stockton men lost when H.M.S. Clan McNaughton foundered, with the loss of all hands.



SUBMARINE BLOCKADE BEGINS

The German Government have issued the following warning that a submarine blockade of Great Britain will begin on 18th February 1915.

"The waters round Great Britain and Ireland, including the English Channel, are hereby proclaimed a war region. On and after February 18th every enemy merchant vessel found in this region will be destroyed, without its always being possible to warn the crews or passengers of the dangers threatening. Neutral ships will also incur danger in the war region, where, in view of the misuse of neutral flags ordered by the British Government, and incidents inevitable in sea warfare, attacks intended for hostile ships may affect neutral ships also. The sea passage to the north of the Shetland Islands, and the eastern region of the North Sea in a zone of at least 30 miles along the Netherlands coast, are not menaced by any danger."

(Signed) Berlin, February 4th,
VON POHL,
Chief of Marine Staff.

Daily Telegraph February 1915



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News from the Front

February 1915

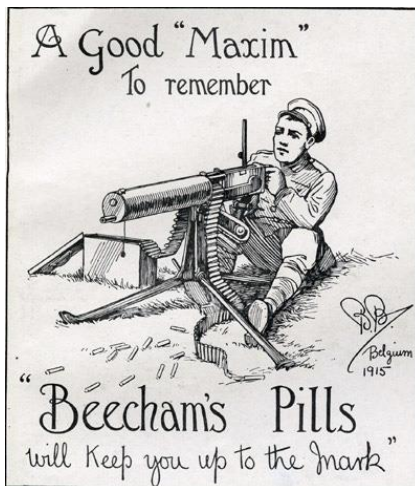
STOCKTON VOLUNTEER CORPS

The formation of a Volunteer Training Corps at Stockton has received an excellent fillip, for there has been a big response from those men who because of the age limits, or other physical or business disqualifications, were prevented from answering the country's call. "There is still room for numbers, and recruits are invited to join without delay. The proprietors of the North Eastern Daily Gazette have placed their Stockton office (Reporter's department, Tower St. entrance) at the disposal of the recruiting committee, and each evening there will be members present between 7 and 8 to register recruits. For anyone who is physically able to put in a couple of hours training per week, and who can spare the time to do so, there is no excuse for not joining, and the committee makes an earnest appeal that all who are eligible will become attached to the new corps.

It is true that there is only the remotest chance of them being called upon to defend their shores, but the benefits to be derived from the drill and training will be of great value to them, and the time devoted to the training corps will be time well spent.

Recruiting commences at the Gazette Office at 7 o'clock this evening.

North Eastern Daily Gazette 4th Feb 1915



STOCKTON MAN'S STORY

Writing home to his mother at Stockton, Pte. Mockler of the 2nd D.L.I. says :

"The only enemy that troubles us at the present is the weather. We have to work very hard to keep our dug-outs decent, and at times we are more like mud-larks than soldiers. As I am writing, an artillery duel is going on, and round here there is not a whole house standing. I have seen some pitiful sights, and the people of England cannot realise how much the French and the Belgians have suffered. My chum is lying sick, and waiting for nightfall so he can go to hospital. I shall then have my "Hotel de Ritz" to myself, to count the raindrops as they fall into the tin cans that we have hung up to keep the blankets dry."

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STOCKTON'S FALLEN

Charles Whitfield, aged 17, Boy, 1st Class. Missing, presumed drowned 3rd February 1915. Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial.

Robert Matthews, aged 16, Boy 1st Class. Missing, presumed drowned 3rd February 1915. Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial

George Miller Thomson, Petty Officer, of Eton Rd., Stockton. Missing presumed drowned 3rd February 1915. Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial.

D.L.I. at St. Peter's, Stockton

Last evening a company of 200 assembled in the Parish Hall, Stockton, including 150 of the non-commissioned officers and men of the D.L.I.

Amongst those who sang patriotic songs were Mr. Howard Hassis, Mr. T. Dickinson, and others. The refreshments and prizes were provided by Mrs. Rodham, of Hartburn, and an anonymous donor.

The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Rodham, and in thanking her, the vicar said they had now provided refreshments for 1,500 soldiers at a cost of considerably over £ 30.

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