



# OVER THE TOP



News from the front

July 1915

## WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SERVE DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON



On the 17<sup>th</sup> of July thousands of women from all classes gathered in central London in a mass demonstration in the name of a woman's 'right to serve'. Women were united in their patriotism and sense of duty.

The demonstration was organised by the Women's Social & Political Party and Emily Pankhurst and was sanctioned and paid for by the Ministry of Munitions, headed by Lloyd George.

Emily Pankhurst had agreed to mobilise a female work force on the understanding that they would replace male workers in factories and on the land, for which they would receive equal pay for equal work.

*North Eastern Daily Gazette 19<sup>th</sup> July 1915.*

## EXECUTION OF TWO GERMAN SPIES AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

At 6:00am on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1915 William Roos aged 33 was executed by a firing squad of Scots Guards and ten minutes later at 6:10am Haicke Janssen was executed by firing squad.

Each man had been tried and found guilty of spying.

Both men had been masquerading as cigar salesmen. They came under suspicion by the British Security Services when they intercepted telegrams sent to Germany by Janssen and Roos. In the telegrams Janssen was ordering Havana cigars. The BSS had discovered a code was being used within the telegrams to send information about the warships that were in Southampton. Roos had also sent telegrams in code and he made a small but significant error when he said that there was a big demand for cigars in naval ports. He failed to realise that seamen usually smoked pipes or cigarettes not cigars.

*North Eastern Evening Gazette 31<sup>st</sup> July 1915 and Illustrated London News 24<sup>th</sup> July 1915*

## 'SS GADSBY SUNK'

### Built and owned by Ropner & Son

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July the 'SS Gadsby', a cargo ship, which was on a voyage from Sydney to London carrying a cargo of wheat, was torpedoed by the German submarine U-39 and sunk 33 miles SSW of Wolf Rock off Cornwall. There were no casualties reported.

## STOCKTON SOLDIER KILLED

### Story of a gallant deed at Antwerp

News has just been received that Private Harry A Reay RMLI RN Division, the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Mr John Reay Borough Accountant at Stockton has been killed near the Dardanelles during the present campaign. Private Reay has conducted himself with conspicuous bravery.

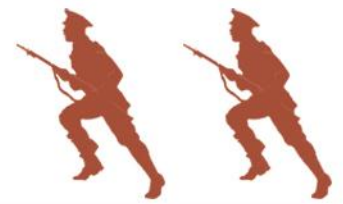
One incident in particular in which he played a leading part is worth recalling. He was a member of the Royal Marine Brigade which was defending Antwerp, and when retreat was absolutely necessary Private Jenkins, who was in the same trench as Private Reay, implored his comrades to leave him and escape whilst they had a chance. "My Legs gone." he said in an agonised voice. "I cannot move, never mind, though, lads, save yourselves while you can." Bullets and shells were bombarding the trench at that time and Reay was heedless of this.

"What!" he exclaimed "Leave you to the murderous villains?" "Not Likely!" He then lifted the unfortunate Jenkins over his shoulder and under a fusillade of bullets he managed to reach the British lines unscathed. Sometime late Private Jenkins wrote to him from the Naval Hospital Chatham stating he was recovering after three operations.

*Stockton & Thornaby Herald 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1915*



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## AN APPEAL

The following letter although not signed, seems to be genuine.

*"I and other Tommies in Khaki are vexed at the state of affairs in the borough. I have just finished a short leave at home after 10 months at the front, and I was surprised to see the thousands of civilians walking the streets of the borough, half of them wearing the war badge and not enlisted to it, not being on war work at all. This badge covers a lot of cowardice in my opinion. I heard of a borough man enlisting the other day who got his two sons in the army, at fifty years old. Is that not a disgrace to some young men at home? My parents have given their all to the cause, four eldest sons who were able to earn a penny for the old folks; yet they are proud of what they have done and so are we. Why don't other people make some sacrifice? We shall not get them if the women and girls keep encouraging them the way they were while I was at home."*

*North Eastern Evening Gazette  
24<sup>th</sup> July 1915*

## STRETCHER APPEAL

Mrs R Gray of 84 Hartington Road makes an appeal for donations towards the cost of a stretcher on wheels for the "Faithful Durhams". Each stretcher costs £16.

*Stockton and Thornaby Herald  
31<sup>st</sup> July 1915*

**STOCKTONS' COLONEL  
G. O. SPENCE  
COMMANDER OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
DURHAM LIGHT  
INFANTRY.**

**URGES YOU TO DO YOUR  
DUTY**

**YOUR KING WANTS YOU !  
YOUR COUNTRY WANTS YOU !  
YOUR CHUMS WANT YOU !**



GILBERT O. SPENCE, COLONEL.  
Commanding the 5th Durham Light Infantry.

**I Want You to Reinforce The First Line !!**

*Copy of a recruitment leaflet  
held in the Reference Library  
dated July 1915.*

## Stockton's Fallen

### **Lieu- Com John Edward Pallister**

Royal Naval Reserve. Died 1/7/1915 aged 47. Portsmouth Royal Naval Memorial.

**Pte. Frank McAvoy**, 2991 Durham Light Infantry KIA 2/7/1915 aged 18. Wulverghem-Lwdenhoek Cemetery Belgium.

**Pte William Murray**, 21111 Northumberland Fusiliers formerly 11785 D.L.I. KIA 8/7/1915 aged 19. Ridgewood Cemetery Belgium.

**Stoker Arthur McNaughton**, 4657s Royal Naval Reserve. Died 10/7/1915. Durham Road Cemetery.

**Pte Thomas Nash**, 5809 King's Own Scottish Borders died 12<sup>th</sup> July 1915 aged 24. Kensal Green All Saints Cemetery.

**Sgt. Blackburn Arnison**, 1727 Durham Light Infantry died of his wounds 18/7/1915. Bailleul Cemetery Nord France.

**Stoker William Meynell**, 24131s Royal Naval Reserve died at home 24/7/1915 aged 25. Durham Lane Cemetery.

**Driver Sidney Warren**, 21766 Royal Field Artillery died 25/7/1915. Oxbridge Lane Cemetery.

**Pte Charles Henry Thomas**, 7930 Durham Light Infantry was KIA 25/7/1915. Potijze Burial ground Cemetery Belgium.

**Lance Corporal James William King**, 4\*9126 Durham Light Infantry was KIA 27/7/1915. Potijze Cemetery France.

**Pte Charles Purvis Todd**, 1966 Durham Light Infantry was KIA 27/7/1915 aged 18. Strand Military Cemetery.

**Bandsman Frank Moore**, 1739 Durham Light Infantry was KIA 30/7/1915 aged 20. Strand Military Cemetery Belgium.

**Corporal Stephen Walker**, King's Royal Rifle Corps, died of wounds 30/7/1915. Menin Gate