

# OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

March 1915

## “AGAINST THE GRAIN”

**Submarine Captain Disgusted with His Task.  
A Stockton Victim Capt. Lugg describes loss of SS Headlands**



Capt. Lugg of the SS Headlands, which was torpedoed and sunk near Scilly, has arrived at his home at Raby Road, Stockton. The gallant sailor was quite un affected by his exciting experiences when seen by representatives of the “Herald” “It was nothing to be alarmed about “ he said “You see we had been waiting for something of the sort for some time and we were quite prepared when it arrived.”

“I was on deck when we were ordered to heave to, but I tried to get my boat out of the way. What chance had I with my unwieldy 3,000 tonner against the very latest submarine, commanded by the smartest man in the German navy?” “Did you know him Captain?” “I knew him to be the officer who was in charge of the submarine who sunk the Cressy and its two companions.”

“We had got several of our boats into the water, and I had just taken a photograph of this submarine when the torpedo was fired.

*There was of course, an explosion, and a mixture of cargo coal and other things showered above us.” “Here is a piece of torpedo,” picking up a small jagged piece of metal similar to the pieces of shell one sees as souvenirs of the Hartlepool bombardment.*

*“The captain took us in towards Scilly until the patrol boats came along, and he laid to sheer off. He was very polite, and said that work of that grain was against the grain for him, but he was forced to do it. I did not speak to him, but he spoke to my crew. He used excellent English.”*

*“You are none the worse for your experience” – “Not a bit; in fact, I’m glad of the few days at home for a change. This is the longest holiday I’ve had for three years.”*

*Stockton & Thornaby Herald 20<sup>th</sup> March 1915.*

The photograph below was taken from the deck of the British Steamer SS Headlands as it was pursued by Submarine U29. One of Germany’s first submarine commanders Otto Eduard Weddigen was the Commander of the submarine at that time.



The photograph below shows the crew of the of the SS Headlands landing in the Scilly Isles after being torpedoed by U29. The U boat was chased away by patrol craft and the ship taken in tow, but she sank one mile South of Scilly, the crew, took to the lifeboats, and they were towed ashore by the auxiliary steam patrol vessel Dart.



## WOMEN IN NEW ROLES

The barriers which hitherto have prevented women from engaging in work solely done by men are gradually being broken down under the influence of the war.

One of the first occupations in this category in the Manchester district to undergo this change is that of railway carriage cleaning.

The Great Central Railway Company, at the Ardwick sheds has introduced women for this work consequent upon many of the men having rallied to the colours.

*Stockton & Thornaby Herald 27 March 1915*



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## STOCKTON'S FALLEN

**Albert George Carter** S4/058799 "A" Coy Royal Army Service Corps died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1915. Son of Mr R.W. & Mrs A. Carter, 1, Airton Street, Stockton-on-Tees

**Private Thomas Frost** 3\*8524 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) was killed in action on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915. Husband of Florence Frost (Nee Forden), of 8 May Street, Stockton-on-Tees

**Private Hugh Alexander Johnston,** 6564 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment), was killed in action on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1915. He was the youngest son of Robert and Margaret Johnson, Georgina Street, Thornaby. Husband of Elizabeth, (nee Upton) 13, Windsor Road

**Private Robert Cornelius Meynell,** 5<sup>th</sup> Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers died on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1915 at the age of 16. Son of Elizabeth & Harry Meynell, 47, Thornaby Road.

**Lance Corporal Thomas Mullen,** 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed in action 13<sup>th</sup> march 1915. Born Stockton-on-Tees

**Sergeant George Harry Oram,** 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Royal Rifle Corps was killed in action on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1915.

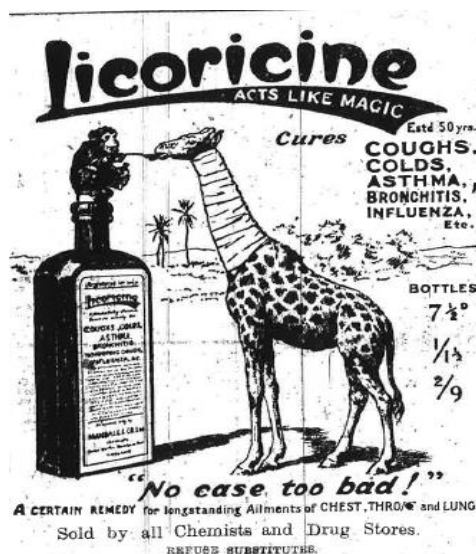
**Bandmaster/Bombardier William Thomas Roberts,** 8071 2<sup>nd</sup>/<sub>3</sub><sup>rd</sup> Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Died on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1915 at the age of 44 of Spotted Fever and is buried in Falmouth Cemetery.

**Private Moses Sefton.** 8069 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Highland Light Infantry was killed in action on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

## Hippodrome Stockton

Chief fixtures next week will be a grand descriptive fantasia of the Birdwell Prize Band entitled "A Soldier's Life" John Clark, the famous ventriloquist will appear with his funny assistant "Hodge" the yokel. The Four Sisters Ruby, in a contortion and acrobatic turn, will be well worth seeing, while other good times will be rendered by Mina Bax, dancer, and George Lawrence, comedian.

*Evening Gazette 13 March 1915*



## WOMEN'S MILITARY CORPS

The Committee of the Stockton and Thornaby Women's Military Corps have decided upon their uniform, and have drawn up a set of rules and arranged the time table for the training to begin. The object of the corps is to train women in signalling, ambulance driving, military drill, cycling, route marching and shooting to enable them to assist the local authorities in times of necessity. People interested in the movement should attend the next meeting in the Y.M.C.A. Dovecot Street tomorrow evening, at 7:30pm or send a stamped addressed envelope to the secretary, Miss B Forster, Ferndene, Billingham Avenue, Norton-on-Tees

*Evening Gazette 15 March 1915*

### A POEM OF TO-DAY

What have you done for your country?  
How have you answered the call?  
Are you pleased with the part you are playing?  
In the job that demands us all?  
Have you changed the tweed for the Khaki?  
To serve with the rank and file as your comrades are gladly serving.  
Or isn't it worth the while?  
Can you meet the eyes of your fellows?  
Or have you to turn away  
When they talk of stay at home slacker  
Have you never a word said?  
When you read the roll of honour of living and dead – what then?  
What have you done for England?  
Ask of your heart today.