

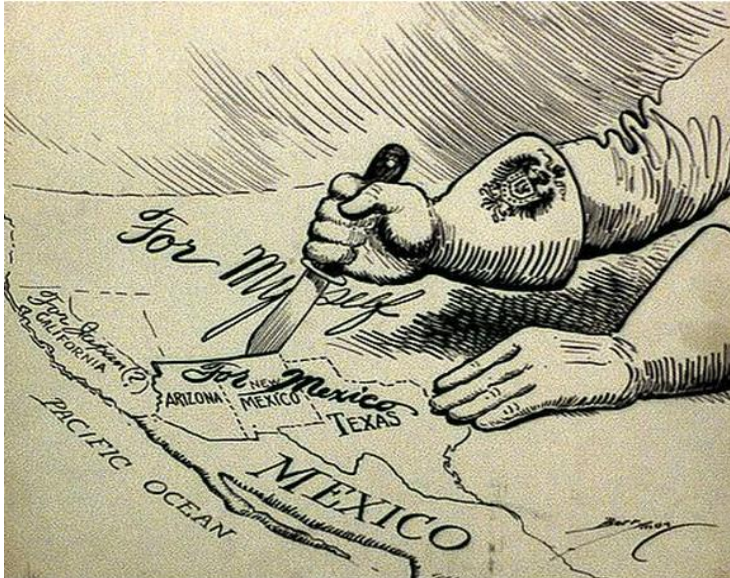


# OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

December 1916- January-February 1917



## AN OFFER FOR MEXICO

The British intercepted and decoded a telegram from the German Foreign Secretary, Arthur Zimmerman, to Mexico urging her entry into war against the United States. The American states of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico were to be offered to the Mexican government in return for such assistance.

19<sup>th</sup> January 1917

## A SMART CAPTURE

Thomas Casey, music hall artiste, of Paradise Street, Stockton – on – Tees, was brought up in custody as an absentee under the The Military Service Act, and pleaded guilty.

P.C. Tucker said Casey had been taking part in performances at the local

picture theatre, and police enquiries were made. The defendant stated that he had two months exemption. When asked to show his certificate, he said he had left it in his bag at the theatre. He made further enquiries, and on Sunday morning ascertained that the defendant had left the town. He travelled to Stoke Mandeville, and intercepted him as he was about to board the train. He challenged him to produce his exemption certificate, but as he could only produce a National Registration card he was arrested and charged with being an absentee.

The defendant said he had not received any military papers calling him up. PC Tucker remarked that the defendant stated that he had not registered at

Stockton-on – Tees, and had not forwarded his address to any other Registration Office. The chairman said as an intelligent man the defendant must have known the country's requirements, and that it was necessary he should report himself. Defendant: "I thought they would have sent me papers." The chairman: "but you are all over the country and do not register your address." Replying to Mr Grist, the defendant admitted that he had seen notices posted calling men of his age to report. He stated that he did not mind military service, although his two brothers had been killed. A fine of £2 was imposed, and defendant was handed over to the military authorities.

10<sup>th</sup> February 1917

*The Bucks Herald*

## STOCKTON Y.M.C.A.

Before a representative gathering of soldiers and townspeople, presided over by Mr W Dodshon, J.P, last night, the Mayoress of Stockton (Mrs Harrison) formally opened the Y.M.C.A buildings in Dovecot Street as a piece of recreation for soldiers. She was pleased to know, she said, that the men had such commodious premises in which to

entertain themselves, and wished to make it, as far as possible, a home from home.

Lieut.-Col. Collett, the commanding officer, said the soldiers in Stockton must be grateful for all that was being done for their comfort by the Y.M.C.A. He had seen the work done by the Association in France, and he had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the Mayoress as they were all very grateful to her for opening the hall.

The Mayor thanked the company for the way they had received the proposal of thanks to the Mayoress. He wished that the war might be soon over, when votes of thanks of that kind would no longer be necessary.

But so long as they had to fight for right he was sure he and the Mayoress and the great mass of the people of Stockton would be only too willing to do anything for the comfort of the soldiers in the town.

26<sup>th</sup> January 1917

*Evening Gazette*



Arts, Culture and Leisure

Big plans for great experiences



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A complaint was also made about the number of uniformed soldiers, employed at Port Clarence, who were claiming exemption from payment of the Transporter fare.

It was decided that as they were being paid the ordinary workman's rate of wages, they should not be allowed to travel free. Mr Gettins said that a large number of military

and naval cars crossed the bridge, many of them containing ladies. He asked if they were acting correctly by charging in those circumstances. The chairman said that as the ladies were not in service, the cars should not be allowed to pass free.

18<sup>th</sup> January 1917  
*Evening Gazette*

### STOCKTON MENS V.A.D.

The Stockton Red Cross detachment group have arranged a whist drive and dance to be held in the Borough Hall tomorrow night.

The wounded soldiers from Dinsdale hospital will attend as guests of the detachment, and the Mayor and Mayoress will preside over a light supper, which

will be provided for the men.

The net proceeds of the function are to be divided amongst the inmates of the hospital as a New Year's gift.

12<sup>th</sup> January 1917

### DRESS IN DARK CLOTHES

Are we too clean for a nation at war? Is there too much expenditure all round on laundry work for the frills and flounces of life which might be done away with? The national economy exhibitions say "Yes" and the point is to be urged at an exhibition at Dulwich.

Laundry works calls first for valuable labour which might be more usefully employed. Of secondary, still vital, importance is the expenditure of money, fuel, time and soap which washing involves. It is suggested that

housemaids, parlour, and personal maids, might be dressed in materials which require less labour than the morning starched frocks and afternoon aprons and caps of convention. Women who do not employ servants are urged to consider, from the patriotic stand-point, the rival claims of dark and light blouses for office and house wear, and even to look with favour on the overalls of the munition workers.

Mothers are asked to clothe their children in navy blue suits of gymnasium design which have for so long been favoured by schools. They are also urged to "scrap" for the time being, table-linen which is not absolutely indispensable and to let in more air and sunshine at the expense of washable draperies.

6<sup>th</sup> January 1917  
*Evening Gazette*

### STOCKTON TEACHER KILLED

Mr Reed of Coxhoe, Durham, has received news of the death of his son Private William O. Reed, killed in action on 13<sup>th</sup> November. At the time of his enlistment he was a teacher at Bowsfield Lane Boy's school, where he earned the respect of fellow teachers and scholars.

8<sup>th</sup> December 1916  
*Teesside Weekly Herald*

### TEES TRANSPORTER: LADIES IN NAVAL & MILITARY CARS

At today's meeting of the Middlesbrough Ferry Committee it was stated that the Middlesbrough Transporter had made 5,685 trips during December.

## BIRKBECKS' STORES

98, HIGH-ST., STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

### CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

GREAT DISPLAY IN  
Fancy Brass Goods, Plant Vases, Fire Screens  
Kettles and Stands, Slipper Boxes, Coal Vases, Fire-  
side Sets, Cake Stands, Bird Cages.

FOR THE SOLDIERS:  
Razors of all kinds, Combination Knife, Fork & Spoon.

SEE OUR SHOW OF  
Table Cutlery, including the latest Stainless Cutlery,  
Cases of Carvers, Cruets, etc.

GOOD SHOW OF TABLE LAMPS.