

OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

June-July-August 1916

Another Victim of the Hartlepoons Bombardment

A sad reminder of the bombardment of North-East coastal towns in December 1914 is afforded by the death of a West Hartlepool man, Sergeant Thomas Jeffries, who was struck by a fragment of German shell, and who after 18 months of acute suffering, died on Monday night. During the past few weeks, Jeffries' condition appeared to improve considerably, and he was hoping soon to be able to resume his military duties. However, he suddenly became worse on Saturday.

Jeffries served for 14 years in the Army in India and elsewhere, retiring with the rank of sergeant. Prior to the bombardment, he had offered his services again to his country, and 2 days after sustaining the shell injury, he received official intimation of his appointment as an instructor.

Northern Echo, June 1916

Grand Theatre, Stockton.

A dramatic romantic play, entitled "The Little Grey Home in the West," will be the attraction at this theatre next week, when Ernest Vaughan will appear as "Dick Bryant," and Miss Madge Douglas as "Peggy." The play, which is in ten scenes, has a beautiful setting, and the story is excellently told all through and, being from the pen of Mrs F. G. Kimberley, it is sure to be acceptable to Stockton audiences.

Empire Theatre, Stockton.

"The House of Tears," a Metro-Super film, will be screened at this theatre next week. Miss Emily Stevens, who takes the principal role, appears in a most remarkable scene, when Pail Collingwood runs over her mother, Alice Collingwood, in a motor-car; Emily Stevens playing both parts. There will be numerous other good items, including, "Crooked to the End," "Pathe's Gazette," and a further instalment of the "Girl of Lost Island."

Hippodrome, Stockton.

Something fresh in the way of revues will be submitted at this theatre next week, when Messrs Ragal and Ryde present a burlesque in an office. The production is entitled, "It's a Bargain," and the subject gives the principal comedy manufacturer, Archie Pitt, ample scope for his business. He is supported by other comedians of merit, and also a star caste of ladies, including Miss Mona Frewes and Miss Gracie Fields. Something light, reasonable, and laughable is an apt description, it is said.

WAR PENSIONS.

WORK OF STOCKTON NAVAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEE.

Mr R. Tyson Hodgson, J.P., presided last night over a meeting at the Town Hall, Stockton, of the local Naval and Military War Pensions Committee.

It was reported by the Town Clerk (Mr T. Downey) that a considerable number of applications for assistance had been received from mothers, whose sons, at the time they joined the forces, were apprentices, with the result that no separation allowance had been received by them from the Government, or only a very small sum. It was pointed out that at the present time these apprentices would have been receiving such wages as would have made them a great help in the home.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Statutory Committee, informing them of these cases, and asking whether it was proposed to take any steps to relieve the acute distress which many of these persons were suffering from owing to the absence of their sons, apart from the increased cost of living.

Pending a reply, it was agreed that rent allowances should be paid in such cases.

*North Eastern Daily Gazette
August 1916*

Stockton Grange Estate

The 11th Annual Show of Stockton Grange Estate Association took place today in the Institute. There was a larger entry than last year and the quality of the exhibits was better than average.

Councillor J. McNaughton, who had a special display from his gardens in 'Glenlyon', performed the opening ceremony, which was presided over by the president, Mr. E. Elders.

Mr. W. Cunningham, superintendent of the Durham Road Cemetery, who was the judge, awarded the first prizes as follows:

Best flower garden on the estate – G. Johnson

Best vegetable garden – P. Hunton

Best flower garden under 500 sq. yds – W. E. Prest

Best vegetable garden under 500 sq. yds – W. Carter

Best lawn – T. Wilkinson

Best hedge – W. E. Prest

Vegetables – W. Facey - four 1st prizes,

S. Grierson - three 1st prizes,

P. Hunton - two 1st prizes,

T. E. Elders, P. G. Hill, H. Tomlin, A. Garbutt, A. Williams, A. Scriven & G. Johnson – 1 each.

Flowers – S. Grierson – three 1st prizes, W. H. Roberts – two 1st prizes, W. Carter – two 1st prizes. A. Scriven & J. W. Liddle – one each.

Dish of fruit – F. Gough

The special prizes were awarded as follows:

Cup for the best vegetable exhibit – W. Carter

Bowl for the best floral exhibit – W. Carter
Silver pendant to most successful exhibitor – S. Grierson

Silver medal for best group of cut flowers (arranged) – W. Carter

The secretarial duties were carried out by Messers P. Hunton and W. Hunter

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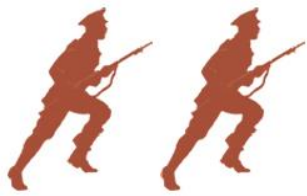
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OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

June - July - August 1916

The Battle of the Somme begins!



Assault on Front Line

It has been reported that on Saturday July 1st, British Forces launched an assault on the German front, following a seven day artillery preparatory bombardment, the scale of which has never been seen before.

The battle on "Z" Day, began with the British infantry attack at Zero Hour 07.30 hours along a front of about 18 miles.

As a diversion, two divisions of the British Third Army attacked at Gommecourt. The centre thrust of the British Somme offensive was between Serre and Maricourt villages. It was carried out by 12 divisions, in five corps of the British Fourth Army.

Two corps of the French Sixth Army went into the attack astride the Somme river on the British right wing.

Over 100,000 British Infantry men started out from their assembled positions in the British forward lines.



Heavy losses have been sustained as 18,800 soldiers were killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The losses come as 13 attacking divisions encounter German defenses that are still intact despite the seven-day bombardment designed to knock them out.

The Germans attacked again on the 10th July at Verdun, using poison gas, and advanced toward Fort Souville. Four days later, the French counter-attacked and halted the Germans.

British Forces are continuing to attack the German front line.

Mentioned in Despatches

Stockton Men Who Have Won Distinction

Lieut.-Colonel G.O. Spence, who is mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatch for gallant service at the front, is the O.C. of the 5TH D.L.I. (T.F.), which won such fame and glory when it first went out to France over a year ago.

He has commanded the regiment for a considerable time now, and prior to the war was constantly in attendance at the headquarters in Stockton.

Colonel Spence, who is an alderman on Thornaby Town Council, and has been mayor of that borough, resides at Hartburn, and is one of the principals of the firm of Messrs. Richardson, Duck & Co., shipbuilders.

Sergt. Major J.W. Close, who is also mentioned, is a son of Mrs. J.A. Close, a member of Stockton Board of Guardians, and is one of many of that well-known local family who are serving their country.

Sergt. M. Cohen, of the 2ND D.L.I. (Regular Force) another mentioned, is a native of Stockton, and a brother of Mr. Samuel Cohen, of Norton.

He went out with the Expeditionary Force at the start of the war, and has twice been wounded. Fortunately he recovered rapidly on each occasion, and was able to return to the front.

At the Delhi Durbar some years ago, he had the honour of acting as a special guard of the King during his visit for that ceremony. *North Eastern Daily Gazette, June 1916*



Our Portrait is of Miss Nellie Thornton, of 79, Brighton-street, Salford, Manchester, whose mother writes—

"I am sending a photo of my daughter Nellie, who is now completely cured of Eczema by your 'Clarke's Blood Mixture.' She was and could hardly bear to stand, sit, or to lie down. I took her to the doctor, but she seemed to get no better. After six weeks I took her to a skin hospital, and I kept her under their treatment for five months. They gave me medicine for her, but they did her no good. She got worse. I then bought some 'Clarke's Blood Mixture' for her, and an ome very thankful, for her life is due to the wonderful cure it has made of her!"

As a further letter recently received Mrs. Thornton writes: "Nellie is a fine young woman now, and has never called anything since she was cured by your wonderful 'Clarke's Blood Mixture.'"

If it's any Disease Due to Impure Blood
such as Eczema, Scrofula, Bad Legs, Abscesses, Ulcers, Glandular Swellings, Boils, Pimples, Sores of any kind, Piles, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Gout, etc.,

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