

# OVER THE TOP



News from the Front

June – July – August 1917

## The Military Medal



### PRIVATE G. JACKSON

News has been received that Private G. Jackson of 23 Castlereagh Road, Stockton, who prior to the war, was employed at the Malleable Works has been awarded the Military Medal and has been promoted to Corporal.

S&T.H. 2 June 1917

### BRAVE THORNABY SOLDIER

Private William Bates, of the Yorkshire Regiment, attached to the Light Trench Mortar Battery, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Bates, 39 Lanehouse Road, Thornaby, has been awarded the Military Medal. The official record of the award reads: "At the capture of Hill 60 on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917, after his corporal had been killed, he took command of the gun and team, which he handled with exceptional

skill and judgement. He led his men with energy and showed great determination and courage".

Private Bates who is 24 years of age was employed at Messrs. W. Whitwell & Co.'s Ironworks, Thornaby, prior to joining up in August 1914.

S&T.H. 21 June 1917

### PRIVATE DAVIES

Mrs R. Davies of 31 Hanlon Street, Stockton has received the ribbon for the Military Medal which her husband was awarded on the 7<sup>th</sup> of last month for conspicuous determination and devotion to duty.

His commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E.F. Fairner of the 69<sup>th</sup> Co., Machine Gun Corps, has sent the following graphic account of the deed which won the M.M.

During the attack of the 69<sup>th</sup> Brigade on the Hill 60 Sector on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917, Private Davies

was wounded in the wrist whilst carrying his load. Despite being wounded and going through a heavy barrage fire, he reached his objective, and did not go to the dressing station until ordered to do so by his section officer.

S&T.H. 21 June 1917



The Médaille Militaire

### BRAVE YARM CORPORAL

Corporal Christopher Croft, who belongs to Yarm, and at the time of enlistment was employed as a putter at Easington Colliery, has been awarded the Military Medal. An ammunition pit of a trench mortar battery was reported on fire. Croft immediately went to the spot, and regardless of danger, helped to extinguish the fire, which had reached a considerable height, accomplishing this under heavy enemy fire all the time.

S&T.H. 28 June 1917

### STOCKTON SOLDIER HONoured

Lance-Corporal Sambrook of 57 Hume Street, Stockton, who has been wounded on five occasions, has been awarded the French decoration, the Médaille Militaire.

In conveying this news to him, Colonel R. Bradford, V.C. offers his

congratulations, and says: - "Ever since you came to the battalion I have regarded you as a type of a good and true soldier; your consistent and efficient work, and your steadfast devotion to duty have been

a very great help to the battalion and to the country."

S&T.H. 28 June 1917



The Military Cross

### M.C. FOR A STOCKTON OFFICER

Quartermaster and Honourable Lieutenant Ben Williams of Stockton has been awarded the Military Cross for distinguished services in the field. This officer, who is well known in the district, fought through the Boer War and won quite a number of laurels, and has been in the thick of the fighting in the present war since the beginning of hostilities.

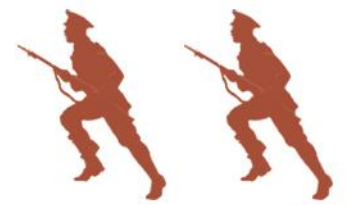
He is of a most retiring nature, and it is only by the merest chance that his relatives have learned of his recognition by the military command, although it is now some weeks since it was received.

S&T.H. 28 June 1917

Arts, Culture and Leisure



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News from the Front

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## PRIVATE GREEN

Private N.E. Green, R.A.M.C. of 24 Durham Street, Stockton serving with the Salonika Army, has been awarded the Croix de Guerre with bronze stars for conspicuous bravery during the bombardment of his hospital.  
*S&T.H. 7 June 1917*

## SOLDIER'S TRAGIC HOMECOMING

"Sudden death during extreme mental excitement", was the verdict returned at an inquest at Stockton on Monday on Annie M. Ibbotson (38) of 25 Alliance Street, who whilst opening the door for her husband, a soldier who arrived on leave late on Saturday night, fell down and expired in the passage.

William H. Ibbotson, of the R.G.A. stated that he arrived home about 11.30pm and his wife opened the bedroom window to ascertain who it was. Recognising the voice she shut the window, went downstairs and was unlocking the door when he heard her gasp and fall.

On affecting an entrance, the deceased was found lying in the passage and the doctor who was sent for, pronounced life extinct. For some time she had been very nervous; any

*The Croix de Guerre*



shock or excitement causing palpitation. Medical evidence showed that she had died from heart failure.  
*S&T.H. 9 June 1917*

## CPL. JAMES HUGILL

Corporal James Hugill, Royal Horse Guards of Thornaby has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field. He was decorated by His Majesty the King at the Hyde Park investiture on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst.

*S&T.H. 16 June 1917*

## A HAVERTON HILL HERO

Lance-Corporal George Armstrong, D.L.I., son of Mr and Mrs Armstrong, Osborne Street, Haverton Hill, has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the morning of May 13 1917, during an evening raid on our front line trenches in the Ypres salient.

He was in charge of a Lewis gun, and through the exceedingly heavy

bombardment, which preceded the raid, he kept his team together in a state of readiness.

The Lewis gun on his left having sustained a direct hit and his own sentry knocked out, he took up observation duty himself and brought his gun into action at the critical moment, successfully repelling one raiding party and afterwards firing on the enemy's second wave. His coolness and judgement were everything that could be desired.

He has previously been noted for his good work.  
*E.G. 5 June 1917*

## PATRIOTIC NORTON STREET

Two memorial services have recently been held by the Beaconsfield Street Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, Norton, in memory of residents who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Gunner Russell, who volunteered to find a sniper that had caused considerable trouble to the battery, unfortunately fell a victim to the enemy, and died on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Before the war he was employed by Messrs Nelson, Ltd., butchers.

The service was conducted by Councillor Elliott, assisted by Mr King.

Private C. Bean, D.L.I.,

was killed in action on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was 19 years of age, and had been in France one year. The Reverend H. Harrison Gower, assisted by Councillor Elliott and Mr J.W. King, conducted the service.

The patriotic spirit of the residents of Beaconsfield Street has frequently been referred to. There is scarcely a family that has not one or two of the members in the land or sea forces.

The association formed by the residents has done admirable service in arranging both the reception and entertainment of those at home on leave and in holding suitable services in memory of those who have made the supreme sacrifice.

*S&T.H. 16 June 1917*

## CAPTAIN AT 21

Lieutenant William Slater, son of Mr M. Slater, Stockton who was reported yesterday to be in hospital in Rouen, has been gazetted Captain. He is 21 years of age, and is probably one of the youngest captains in the Army.

*S&T.H. 16 June 1917*



Arts, Culture and Leisure

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## SOLDIERS FALLEN

**June 1917**

**Corporal Thomas Robert Burn** – 2/6/1917  
4<sup>th</sup> Field Co., Australian Engineers

**Private Harold William Robinson** – 5/6/1917  
8<sup>th</sup> Bn., Yorkshire and Lancaster Regiment

**Corporal William I. Baker** – 7/6/1917  
70<sup>th</sup> Co., Machine Gun Corps

**Corporal George Henry Harper** – 7/6/1917  
9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private Harold Victor Hayes** – 7/6/1917  
9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private Albert Lewis** – 7/6/1917  
195<sup>th</sup> Bn., Machine Gun Corps

**Corporal Alfred George Heseltine Smith** – 7/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers

**Private Frederick Wilson Pringle** – 10/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment)

**Captain Arthur H. Robinson** – 11/6/1917  
Legion of Frontiersmen

**Private George Ernest/Ernest George Foulger** – 13/6/1917  
'B' Co., 9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Sapper Litchford Ernest Brierley** – 14/6/1917  
169<sup>th</sup> Coast Works Co., Royal Engineers

**Private John Thomas Humphreys** – 16/6/1917  
13<sup>th</sup> Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers

**Sapper Joseph Richardson** – 18/6/1917  
225<sup>th</sup> Field Co., Royal Engineers

**Private John Robert Wood** – 24/6/1917  
'A' Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment)

**Gunner George Price** – 25/6/1917  
9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private George Oliver Cross** – 26/6/1917  
10<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private William Humphreys** – 26/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Sergeant Reuben William Marshall** – 26/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Lance-Corporal Charles Sykes** – 26/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Lance-Corporal James William Wallace** – 26/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private William Blackwood Campbell** – 27/6/1917  
'C' Co., 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Sergeant Fred Hardwick Merryweather** – 27/6/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Sergeant Richard Flattely** – 28/6/1917  
12<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private Robert Bransby** – 29/6/1917  
20<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

### **July 2017**

**Private John Joseph Humble** – 2/7/1917  
6<sup>th</sup> Bn., (Inniskilling) Dragoons

**Gunner Sidney Clifford Tingle** – 4/7/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Northumbrian (North Riding) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

**Private Joseph Nichols** – 6/7/1917  
11<sup>th</sup> Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers

**Gunner Percy Smithson** – 6/7/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Northumbrian (North Riding) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

**Second-Lieutenant William Richmond Clephan, M.C.** – 7/7/1917  
5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private William Hutton Minikim** – 7/7/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry

**Private George Walter Peat** – 8/7/1917  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., Wellington Regiment, N.Z.E.F.

**Stoker William Brown** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Stoker John William Chisman** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Stoker John Collins** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Stoker Joseph Elvin** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Leading Stoker Thomas Frederick Hall** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Stoker Walter Lane** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Stoker William Watts** – 9/7/1917  
Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. Vanguard

**Sergeant John William Southall** – 10/7/1917  
Royal Army Veterinary Corps

**Private John William Lowes** – 14/7/1917  
200<sup>th</sup> Co., 25<sup>th</sup> Div. Train, Royal Army Service Corps

**Corporal Thomas William Harland** – 15/7/1917  
22<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private William Charles Anderton** – 22/7/1917  
9<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Sapper Frederick William Day** – 22/7/1917  
234<sup>th</sup> Field Co., Royal Engineers

**Sapper Thomas Stoker Clasper** – 24/7/1917  
101<sup>st</sup> Field Co., Royal Engineers

**Private Charles Adam Tait** – 24/7/1917  
18<sup>th</sup> Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

**Guardsman Oswald Frederick Carter** – 25/7/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Grenadier Guards

**Private George Adamson Lambert** – 25/7/1917  
13<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private William Raistrick** – 25/7/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Driver Ernest Nettleship Sowler** – 25/7/1917  
'B' Bty., 83<sup>rd</sup> Bde. Royal Field Artillery

**Private Christopher Smith** – 26/7/1917  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Bedfordshire Regiment

**Lance-Corporal Robert William Addison** – 27/7/1917  
10<sup>th</sup> Bn., The Prince Consort's Own (Rifle Brigade)

**Rifleman Harry Taylor Laws** – 28/7/1917  
'D' Co., 13<sup>th</sup> Bn., The Prince Consort's Own (Rifle Brigade)

**Private George C. Kidd** – 31/7/1917  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., Grenadier Guards

**Private Reginald Guyll Simpson** – 31/7/1917  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bn., Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)

**Corporal John William Stewart** – 31/7/1917  
234<sup>th</sup> Field Co., Royal Engineers

**Private John Henry Ward** – 31/7/1917  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bn., Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment)

#### **August 2017**

**Corporal Charles Bailes Colbeck** – 1/8/1917  
235<sup>th</sup> Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers

**Sergeant Leonard Harding** – 1/8/1917  
8<sup>th</sup> Bn., Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry)

**Sergeant Wilfred Eric Alderson** – 2/8/1917  
4<sup>th</sup> Grenadier Guards

**Private Robert Edward Ridley** – 4/8/1917  
8<sup>th</sup> Bn., The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

**Gunner James Stirling** – 4/8/1917  
122<sup>nd</sup> Northumbrian (North Riding) Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

**Private Robert Kenneth Malcolm** – 6/8/1917  
140<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps

**Private Andrew Watt Ventress** – 10/8/1917  
13<sup>th</sup> Bn., Cheshire Regiment

**Private Richard James** – 11/8/1917  
195<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Corps

**Master Mariner John Gatenby Carling** – 14/8/1917  
Mercantile Marine, S.S. Thames

**Private Innes (John) Kirk** – 14/8/1917  
6<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private Arthur Pettinger** – 14/8/1917  
6<sup>th</sup> Bn., Alexandra, Princess of Wales' Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

**Private Walter Stevens** – 15/8/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Bn., Sherwood Forresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiments)

**Private John William Brown** – 16/8/1917  
1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Bn., Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

**Lance-Corporal Charles Richard Riley** – 16/8/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private Harry Worton** – 16/8/1917  
8<sup>th</sup> Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers

**Rifleman Arthur Harlow Wood** – 17/8/1917  
11<sup>th</sup> Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

**Private William Blyth** – 23/8/1917  
10<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private James William Todd** – 23/8/1917  
10<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private Daniel Daniels** – 27/8/1917  
6<sup>th</sup> Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

**Private Charles Albert Hunter Sawdon** – 28/8/1917  
19<sup>th</sup> Bn., Durham Light Infantry

**Private George Edward Sorton** – 28/8/1917  
8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment

**Lance-Corporal Ernest Learoyd Griffiths** – 30/8/1917  
1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Bn., City of London (Post Office Rifles)