

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

April 1917

CLEATOR MOOR MAN'S DEATH IN ACTION.

News from the War Office has confirmed the death in action at the age of 33, of a well known and equally well respected Cleator Moor young man, Private Thomas Halcrow Clucas, Border Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Clucae, Jacktrees Road, Cleator Moor. Enlisting at the outbreak of war, he joined the Border Regiment and was drafted out to the Dardanelles where he was engaged in most of the heavy fighting there. Later he was transferred to France and in July, 1916, was posted as missing. Private Clucas served his time as a tailor with the Cleator Moor Co-operative Society, and prior to enlisting he had been employed as a tailor by Mr. James Harrison. The greatest sympathy is felt for his widow and family and his relatives, all of whom are well-esteemed residents on Cleator Moor.

19 April 1917

WILSON'S
FOOT ROT CURE
Will Not Fail in the Worst Case; Cure Certain.
WILSON'S PREMIER EMBROCATION,
For Troops in Training and Troops in Trenches.
AGENT:—J. B. OSBORN, The Castle Drug Stores,
Lowther-street, Whitehaven. (eb)

12 April 1917

The USA declares war on Germany and sides with the Allies. April sees increasing casualties as the month wears on with the Battle of Arras, second Battle of the Aisne and fighting in Salonika. Canadian forces seize Vimy Ridge.

PARTON MILITARY MEDALLIST KILLED IN FRANCE

The sad news has come to Mr and Mrs W D Ferguson of Parton of the death on the battlefield in France of their youngest son Private Joseph Ferguson, Border Regiment. Sergeant David Johnstone of Parton, who is a friend and comrade in arms conveyed the news in a letter to his wife, stating that he (Sergt Johnstone) had just arrived with the letters when a shell struck Pvt Ferguson in the chest and killed him outright.

Private Ferguson who won the military medal a few months ago is very highly spoken of for his daring conduct as a stretcher-bearer. More than one of our local soldiers it is said, owe their life to his plucky and heroic deeds. His chums at home learned with deep regret of his death. His parents, who were very naturally proud of his distinction and were anxiously waiting his getting home on furlough, are feeling their loss very keenly, and have the sympathy of their many friends.

26 April 1917



WHITEHAVEN-BUILT SHIP'S FATE.— A report from Kingston (Jamaica) states that the Norwegian ship *Ilala* was abandoned in a sinking condition on March 5th in the North Atlantic, the crew having been taken off and landed at Kingston. The local interest attaching to the news lies in the fact that the *Ilala* was built by the Whitehaven Shipbuilding Company in 1882. She was an iron ship of 1,248 tons nett register.

12 April 1917

Ilala pictured (left) in Cape Town 1882. Image from collection at Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre (PH 375)

CERTAIN TYPE OF WOMAN ON MUNITIONS.

There's an awful class of people
That has suddenly appeared.
Since the war—not before.
Did you meet these people weird;
They have painted, powdered faces,
And idiotic hats,
And talk in busy places
Like a midnight stream of cats.
O madly foolish women.
Why bring on you this curse.
Who? when the war is over
Is going to fill your purse.
O! then in poverty you'd wish
That you had taken care
When you were on munitions
And had money and to spare.

CLIVE S. CORDER.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1916.

19 April 1917

**THE DEATH OF AN EX-SOLDIER AT
CLEATOR.**—On Good Friday, the body of
Mr. George Dawson was laid to rest in the
Churchyard of Cleator parish. The event
was singularly pathetic, almost tragic, for
his banns of marriage had been read in the
church on three recent Sundays and all
arrangements were complete for the wedding,
which was to have taken place about Easter.
The deepest sorrow was felt for the bride-
elect (Miss Annie Graham) in the village,
and a large concourse of residents assem-
bled to express their respect and sympathy.
The young man went to France among the
earliest troops sent there, about August,
1914, and remained there till August, 1916.
This fact too created much sympathetic feel-
ing, and also drew to the funeral a number
of ex-soldiers and men in khaki. The coffin
was borne by the following soldiers: Corpl.
R. Clements, Pte. G. Munroe, Pte. W. Black-
wood, Pte. J. Dunn, Pte. J. Sloan, and Pte.
R. Harker, acquaintances of the deceased.

12 April 1917

A WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McKee, of Roper
Street, Whitehaven, have this week had
information from one of the chaplains with
the Canadian forces intimating that one of
their sons, Private Harold McKee, 23 years
of age, who was with the Canadians in
their gallant attack on the Vimy Ridge, had
been wounded by a bullet passing through
his left forearm. Private McKee is now in
the Stoke War Hospital, Staffordshire. His
brother, Private Percy McKee, was in the
same attack.

19 April 1917



ON THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1917

THE PRICE OF

THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS

WILL BE ADVANCED TO

TWOPENCE

OWING TO THE

**INCREASING SCARCITY
AND UNCERTAINTY
OF SUPPLY OF PAPER**

TO NEWSAGENTS. NO RETURNS

ALL ORDERS MUST NOW BE CUT DOWN AT ONCE TO
WELL WITHIN SALES. All who want the Paper must please
order it from their Newsagents.

On May 1st next, the GOVERNMENT Control will Issue

AN ORDER MAKING NO RETURNS

Compulsory on All Papers, and Forbidding Transmission of Returns.

Therefore Orders for Supplies must be Promptly Re-Adjusted to Avoid
Unsold Copies. After the Issue of April 26th inst., ALL RETURNS
Of Copies Issued at the Price of Twopence, on April 19 and 26,
MUST BE SENT IN BEFORE April 30th. After which Date

NO RETURNS

Will be allowed, by Government Order applied to All Papers, and
All Newsagents.

12 April 1917

These articles are taken from
the *Whitehaven News*, held on
microfilm at Whitehaven Archive
and Local Studies Centre, and
indexed by volunteers.

The issues covering the time of
the Great War have been
indexed by a group of
volunteers in an eighteen-month
long project undertaken to
commemorate the centenary of
the outbreak of war, and to act
as a lasting memorial to all
whose lives were touched by the
events.

LOCAL SOLDIERS KILLED IN ACTION A BRAYSTONES FAMILY LOSS OF TWO SONS

Mr and Mrs Harrington of River View, Braystones, have received word that their son Corpl John Harrington has been killed in action. Corpl Harrington was their eldest son, and joined the first batch of Territorials that left Egremont on the outbreak of the war. Previous to his joining up he was employed at the new sinking pit at Ullbank, where he was held in high esteem by his employers and his workmates. He had seen some hard fighting in France during which he was taken ill and was sent home to recuperate having been gassed in one of the great battles. He only rejoined his regiment five weeks ago.

Mr and Mrs Harrington's second son Private R H Harrington is now reported killed in action. He originally joined the Border Territorials but was transferred to the Border Regiment. He had been in France since last April and had been through several engagements. During one battle in November of last year he was reported missing and his parent were buoyed with hope that he was alive and well but unfortunately word is to hand that he is killed. Great sympathy is expressed on all sides for Mr and Mrs Harrington in their great trouble. In their loss of two fine sons the eldest being only 22 years of age while the other is in his 20th year.

26 April 1917

HELPING OUR SOLDIER LADS.—The candidates of the Cleator Girls' Friendly Society adopted as their work for the winter session the making of "comfort bags" for the men who have gone from the village. Of these about seventy have been made and sent to the men, irrespective of denomination, the Roman Catholics and Wesleyans being recipients equally with the lads attached to the Parish Church. The bags contained: Oxo, cigarettes, tins of compressed coffee, sugar and milk, soap, writing paper and post cards, pencils, boric ointment or vaseline, tooth paste, handkerchiefs, &c. Every bag contained a "housewife," fitted with pins, needles, wool, thread, buttons, &c. In some cases the girls personally supplied the goods for the bags which they respectively made, and had the privilege in this case of selecting the soldier who was to benefit by the gift.

5 April 1917

SOCKS.

WILL 400 FRIENDS OF THE LONSDALE BATTALION Help by Each Providing ONE Pair of SOCKS Every MONTH. The Need is Very Urgent owing to the Constant Marching in Deep Mud, so I am asking, in conjunction with Lady Lonsdale's Counties' Association, that Socks may be sent to me at **CRACKENTHORPE HALL, APPLEBY**, from which Address they will be Immediately Despatched to the Battalion.

March 27th, 1917. **VALDA MACHELL.** (db)

5 April 1917

DEATH OF A FRIZINGTON DISCHARGED SOLDIER.

On Sunday week the death took place at Whitehaven Infirmary of a well-known Frizington young man, Lance-Corporal William Bell. The deceased, who was 27 years of age, was a member of G. Co., Territorials. When the war broke out he volunteered for active service, and was in France from October, 1914, to June, 1916, along with his Company. He was seriously wounded and also suffered from shell shock, being finally discharged. He then resumed his work as an iron ore miner at Parkside Mines. About a fortnight ago, as a result of his previous injuries, he was taken seriously ill, and removed to the Infirmary to undergo an operation, but this proved of no avail, and he passed away as before stated. Two brothers are at present on active service. The interment took place at Whitehaven Cemetery on Thursday.

12 April 1917

WAR AGAINST RATS AND SPARROWS.

The Presidents of the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture, in calling attention to the great increase of rats and house sparrows in many parts of the country, and to the depredations committed upon crops by these pests, suggest the formation of Rat and Sparrow Clubs; the appointment of professional rat-catchers; and the offering of rewards to other persons for the destruction of rats and sparrows.

12 April 1917

IS THIS A RECORD?—Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart, of Fletchertown, have three sons and three daughters over the age of 18. The three sons and the husbands of the three daughters all joined the Army soon after war broke out. The eldest son, Willie, has been wounded; John, the second son, has been wounded twice; Tom, the third son, is like his brothers in the Borders. Of their sons-in-law, Driver Jacob Reed is a reservist in the Royal Engineers; Driver G. Kermy is in the R.F.A., and Pvt. J. W. Rumney was killed in action on July 1st. Surely this family and their connections are doing their bit.

12 April 1917

MILITARY MEDAL FOR WHITEHAVEN MAN.

Pvt. J. Gill, attached to the Canadians, of 69, Mount Pleasant, Whitehaven, who is at present in hospital, has been awarded the Military Medal. The news was conveyed in a letter from his Captain, who writes:—"Col. Harvey gave me your Military Medal Ribbon to send on to you. Sergt. Davies is mailing it to-day. Col. Harvey asked me to convey his congratulations to you. I take great pleasure in adding mine, and those of the M.O. staff. You did great work, and we are all proud of you, and so glad that you have received the well-merited honour. I sincerely hope your wound is doing well, and you haven't had to suffer much. You got a good knock on the arm that morning. Trusting you will receive the ribbon all right, and that you will soon be well on the way to recovery.—I am, yours sincerely, W. C. Walsh."

Pvt. J. Gill is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gill, of 2, Senhouse Lane, Senhouse Street, Whitehaven, who have another son in hospital, Pvt. Edward Gill, Northumberland Fusiliers, who was wounded two months ago. Pvt. J. Gill is married, his wife being at present in Salford with her sister.

19 April 1917

SOLDIER LABOUR.

Judging by the reports that we have received the War Office are now meeting the farmers' requirements for labour to assist in spring cultivation better than was the case a few weeks ago. Large numbers of ploughmen have been supplied in most parts of the country, and many Commanding Officers have taken real trouble to see that capable men were sent, though sometimes men recovering from wounds have not been strong enough to be of much service.

12 April 1917

ADDING TO WHITEHAVEN'S DEATH ROLL

LEAVES A WIDOW AND FIVE CHILDREN.

Mrs. Elizabeth Parker, of Bowes Court, Senhouse-street, Whitehaven, received official information on Wednesday morning last of the death in action of her husband (Private John Parker, of the Loyal Lancashires). Private Parker was one of the first men to enlist on the outbreak of war, when he joined the Border Regiment, being subsequently transferred to the Loyal North Lancashires. He was 36 years of age, and leaves a widow and five young children. Prior to enlistment Private Parker was employed at William Pit, Whitehaven.

26 April 1917

MARYPORT PRESENTATION TO AN ASPATRIA SOLDIER — Sergt T Arnott, of Aspatria, who has been awarded the Military Medal was on Wednesday night the recipient of a gold watch and Treasury notes from the Cumberland Coal Trade Conciliation Board. The presentation took place in the Market Hall, before a large company. The Collieries' Band was in attendance and played selections. Mr T Cape, secretary to the Cumberland Miners' Association, handed over the gifts. Mr G H Askew, Castlemont, presided, and there were also on the platform, Mr T Edie, manager, and Mr I Rothery, under-manager from the Brayton collieries, Mr J Dickinson, Plumbland, President of the Cumberland Miners' Association and Mr E Sanderson, chairman of the Aspatria Lodge.

5 April 1917

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

Good progress is being made in enlisting women to come to the help of hard-pressed farmers. A general scheme has been adopted all over the country. Subject to the arrangement of proper housing accommodation, farmers can now obtain the services of either trained or untrained women. The former have passed four weeks at an Instruction Centre, where they learn the practical details of farm work. To them a minimum wage of eighteen shillings, or the current rate for women, whichever is the higher, must be paid.

12 April 1917