

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War



July 1918

WHITEHAVEN WAR WEAPONS WEEK.

The arrangements for the effort in aid of the War Savings movement in Whitehaven are being rapidly pushed forward, and an office has been taken for the sale of certificates, next door to Mr. R. Burlington's, Lowther Street. The various Banks in the town have likewise arranged to be open on stated nights during the week, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns. Any lady or gentleman willing to assist in the canvass of the town are invited to attend the meeting to be held in the Town Hall on Monday night at 7-30 p.m. See advt.

4 July 1918

A WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER DIES OF WOUNDS.

LEAVES A FAMILY OF NINE.

Mrs. Jane Young, of 28, Mount Pleasant, Whitehaven, has received official word of the death from wounds of her husband, Gunner Joseph Young, of the Royal Field Artillery, which took place on the 14th of May in a hospital in France from wounds received 1st March. Gunner Young, who was prior to the war a well-known and popular deputy at Ladysmith Pit, had been in the Army four years next January. He would have been 41 years of age this month. At Ladysmith he was well liked by all classes of workmen. He leaves a widow and family of nine children. At the time of the Wellington Pit Disaster, Gunner Young was one of those who volunteered to search the mine, and was a recipient of the Albert Medal for his services on that occasion. There have been many expressions of regret at the death of such a useful man.

4 July 1918

A WHITEHAVEN MAN WOUNDED.

Mrs. Wilson, of 7, Fox Lane, Whitehaven, has received news from the Record Office that her son, Private T. Wilson, of the 11th East Lancs., is at present in a stationary hospital in France, suffering from a gunshot wound in the left shoulder. Pte. Wilson is 19 years of age, and previous to enlistment was employed at the Ladysmith coke ovens. Pte. Wilson's father, Pte. Chas. Wilson, is also in the Army, having had nearly four years' experience with the troops. He is in the 2nd Borders.

18 July 1918

Second Battle of the Marne breaks out in mid-July and fighting continues until early August. This is the last German offensive on the Western Front, and fails when the Germans are counterattacked by the French.

In Russia, Nicholas II and his family are executed.
Haiti and Honduras declare war on Germany.

WHITEHAVEN MAN BRINGS DOWN GERMAN AEROPLANE.

Private W. J. Stafford, 8th Border Regiment, has been presented with the Military Medal for bringing down a German aeroplane on May 8th, and was admitted into hospital wounded. Private Stafford before enlisting was employed at Messrs. Stout and Sons' Newtown Foundry, Whitehaven, with whom he served his apprenticeship to the moulding trade. He joined the Forces in September, 1914, and has seen much active service. He is now home on leave, having been in hospital nearly three months. He is the son of Mr and Mrs J. Stafford, No. 1, Low Road, Whitehaven.

25 July 1918

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL FOR A WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER

Mrs M Routledge, 69, Duke Street, Whitehaven, has received a letter from her husband, Bomb. J Routledge, Mountain Battery, Salonika Field Force, stating that he has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for attending to wounded under heavy fire. Bomb. Routledge enlisted on August 4th 1914. He formerly worked at Moresby Coke Ovens.

11 July 1918

Discover history

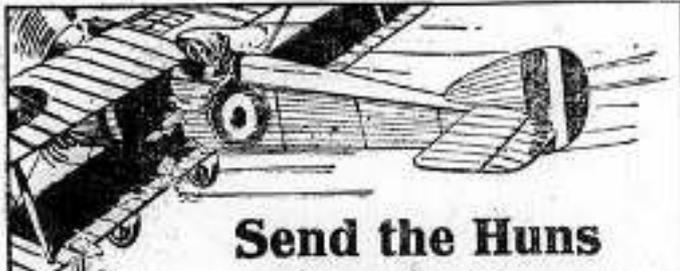
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DEATH OF A FRIZINGTON MILITARY MEDALLIST.

News of a definite nature has come to hand concerning the fate of L.-Corpl Benjamin O'Brien, who was reported missing March 22nd. It is known that he was wounded on that date and taken prisoner by the Germans. He died six days later in a German Field Ambulance, and was buried in the new cemetery at Serain.

11 July 1918



Send the Huns a Bomb from WHITEHAVEN

ALL this week, men, women and children—your own friends and neighbours and fellow-citizens—have been hurrying to lend their money to their country, and thus help the men who are fighting for them. Join the throng of patriotic investors. Share in the success of Aeroplane Week.

By closing time to-night hundreds and thousands of pounds will have been lent towards the grand total which Whitehaven means to invest this week in National War Bonds and War Savings Certificates.

Whitehaven's Own AEROPLANE

That is to be the prize of success—the name of "Whitehaven" on Our Aeroplane—the name that will remind our Cumberland lads at the Front how Whitehaven lent money to help them.

Draw your savings and invest to-day. The Huns will feel the power of your money when the Aeroplane "Whitehaven" comes swooping down to spray their massed ranks with death from its machine-gun; or when the drone of its engines and the crash of its bombs resound through the cities beyond the Rhine.

Don't delay. The end of Aeroplane Week will soon be here. No sum can be too large. But do not think that your help is not required even if you can only lend a few pounds or shillings. Every sixpence counts.

Buy **National War Bonds** to-day
and War Savings Certificates

18 July 1918

FEARED LOSS OF A PARTON MAN

Mr. and Mrs. James Williams of Workington are anxiously awaiting news of the fate of their second son, Pvt Robert Williams, R.A.M.C., who was known to be on the ill-fated hospital ship Llandoverly Castle, and whose name does not appear in the list of survivors. Pvt. Williams came over with the Canadian contingent two-and-a-half years ago and while in training became ill, and was a considerable time in hospital. For the last six months he has been engaged in the transport of wounded to Canada. Private Williams, who left his native village of Parton eight years ago, enlisted shortly after the outbreak of war. He was 31 years of age and of a fine, steady character, and in Parton and district was well-known and highly esteemed by a large circle of friends. The parents are also natives of Parton, but for the last few years have resided in Workington. For many years before going to Canada Pvt. Williams was assistant to Mr W Lace in his grocery business. His wife, who is left with one child, is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Debrick, formerly of Parton, now in Canada.

11 July 1918

LIEUT. H. W. ADAM KILLED WHILE FLYING.

There is a notice in our obituary column to-day of the death of Lieut. Henry William Adam, R.A.F., H.M.S. Glorious, youngest son of the Rev. H. T. Adam, of Lytham, formerly Vicar of Christ Church, Whitehaven. This intelligence had already reached Whitehaven earlier in the week, and was received with sorrow and sympathy by many connected with Christ Church. Rex, as he used to be familiarly called—nobody knew why Rex—was a general favourite. Physically he was a handsome youth, and just as handsome was his style, free, affable, and unpretentious. He and his elder brother, Tom, were educated at St. Bees, and both took an active part in the Cadet Corps. The elder was at the Whitehaven Colliery Office, and was a mining engineer in other parts of the country before the war, when he got a commission in the Royal Engineers. Rex took an active part at Christ Church. He was destined for the Church, and was studying at Cambridge when the war broke out, and was among the most eager of the eager ones to be serving his country with his country's forces. Previous to that he was a member of the choir of Christ Church, and he used to read the lessons. He was at Whitehaven last February, and stayed with Mrs Dees. Mrs. Adam just lately had sacrificed the pleasure of a visit to friends in Whitehaven because she was looking forward to the possibility of her sons being home on leave, and she would not chance being away. And then came this sad blow. It is now an old and common story, but the tragedy of it is felt as keenly as ever in every loving home in which it occurs.

11 July 1918

WHITEHAVEN MAN WOUNDED.

Information has been received by his wife, who resides in the Back Ginns, Whitehaven, that her husband, Private J. H. Stalker, of the Whitehaven Pals (Border Regt.), has been wounded, and is now in hospital in Glasgow. The wound is below the knee. It is two years since Private Stalker enlisted. He was at that time employed by the Whitehaven Corporation as a labourer. He has a wife and family of six children.

25 July 1918

AN EGREMONT SOLDIER KILLED IN FRANCE.

Mrs Thwaites, of 13, South Street, Egremont, has received word that her husband, Pvt. Philip Thwaites, has been killed in France. Pvt. Thwaites, who was only 22 years of age, joined the 4th Border Regiment nearly two years ago, and had been in France in most of the fighting this last twelve months. About a year ago he was home on sick leave, suffering from shell shock. On his return he was transferred to the 7th Border Regiment. He was mortally wounded by the bursting of a shell in the trench next to him, while he was on duty in the front line. In a letter to Mrs Thwaites, Capt. A. Dunstan Adams says "That he is buried in a little military cemetery in the village of Auchonvillers, north-west of Albert." Prior to Private Thwaites joining the Army he was employed at the Beckermest Mining Co.'s works at Winscales, where he was held in high esteem both by his employers and workmates. He leaves a wife and two young children to mourn his loss.

11 July 1918

WHITEHAVEN YOUNG SOLDIER'S DEATH

On Saturday word was received of the death of Pvt. Daniel Henvey Tyson, Royal Fusiliers, only son of Mr. G E and the late Mrs Tyson, Scotch Street, Whitehaven. The sad news was conveyed to his father in a letter from the Rev. E S Ellis, a Chaplain with the Forces in France, who stated that during an enemy "strafe" on the morning of the 15th July a shell burst near Private Tyson and so severely wounded him that he died shortly afterwards. "Your boy," the writer adds, "was well thought of by his officers and very much liked by his comrades, and his death is greatly deplored. It was not practicable to take his body away from the line to a back area and cemetery, so it was decided to lay the remains to rest near where he died. We did all we could to pay honour to him and to represent and remember you all at the grave, and at the close of the service we all stood at the salute in silence for a few moments. We were too near the enemy to allow of any last volley to be fired or 'Last Post' to be sounded."

25 July 1918

FURTHER HONOURS FOR AN EGREMONT SOLDIER.

News has reached Egremont from his wife that additional honours have been bestowed on Lieut. (Captain) W. W. Beckett. The information is notified in the orders of the day among the Third Honours and Awards which reads: "The Field Marshal commanding in Chief, under authority from His Majesty the King, has awarded the following decoration: Military Cross to Lieut. W. W. Beckett, 2nd Border Regt. (attached to the Loyal North Lancs.). Lieut., or rather Capt., Beckett is now the holder of triple honours, having previously been awarded the D.C.M. and the Croix de Guerre.

18 July 1918

WHITEHAVEN Aeroplane Week

Began on

SATURDAY

IF, DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING on Saturday, the Subscriptions from Whitehaven for National War Bonds and War Savings Certificates reach the total of £47,500, the authorities will give to an Aeroplane the name of our district.

Think of our civic pride if we read in an official despatch that

the Aeroplane

"WHITEHAVEN"

has carried the war into German territory and harried the lines of communication of the foe—perhaps that it has saved Whitehaven men from the deadly attack of the Hun, enabling them to return unharmed to their wives and children.

**Do your duty during
Whitehaven Aeroplane Week**

Have your Money ready for To-Day—ready to buy National War Bonds and War Savings Certificates—ready to help in making Whitehaven Aeroplane Week a triumphant, a record success.

Get your Pass Book. See how much money you have in the Bank. Draw the cheque and have it ready to give Whitehaven's effort a flying start this morning.

11 July 1918

A WHITEHAVEN SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

Mrs. Donnan, of Strand Street, Whitehaven, has received word that her grandson, Pte. William Harper, of the Machine Gun Section, Lines. Regt., was wounded on the 16th and died on the 18th June. Pte. Harper enlisted at the outbreak of the war, and had previously been wounded, when he was for some time in a hospital at Glasgow. He would have been 20 years of age next month.

4 July 1918

DEATH OF A CLEATOR MOOR SOLDIER IN FRANCE.

News of a definite nature has now been received of the death of Sapper T. C. Kitchin, who was posted as missing during the great German offensive last March. Several intimations from officers had been received by his father, Mr. W. H. Kitchin, Waterworks, Cleator Moor, to the effect that they felt sure Sapper Kitchin had been taken prisoner. It has now been established that he had been taken prisoner and wounded, and a letter from the War Office has vouchsafed the information given through the medium of the Red Cross Society that he died from wounds, and was buried in the soldiers' cemetery at Eppehy, near Peronne.

11 July 1918

BELGIAN GRATITUDE.

Miss M. F. Brown, who recently was honoured by the King of the Belgians, who has conferred upon her the gold medal of the Order of La Reue Elizabeth, has been greatly pleased by the way in which the Belgian refugees at the Old Bank have shown how they appreciate His Majesty's graceful recognition. The elder people have given Miss Brown a most beautiful coffee service, and the children a lovely bouquet of flowers, tastefully arranged with the Belgian national colours. Miss Brown greatly values these gifts from her Belgian friends, and appreciates most highly the kind thoughts which prompted these good people to show in such a way how grateful they are for the little she has been able to do for them since they came in such sad circumstances to find friends and a home in Cumberland.

18 July 1918

DISTINGTON SOLDIER KILLED

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. William Holliday, Distington, that their son, Gunner H Holliday, R.F.A., was killed on June 21st. Gunner Holliday was brought up with his grandmother Mrs Kirkpatrick, Chapel Street. He enlisted in May, 1915. He was ultimately drafted to Egypt with the R.F.A., and after being there about 13 months was sent to France. He was well-known in West Cumberland Football circles, having played for Lowca, Frizington White Star and Distington. Before enlisting he was employed at Lowca Colliery.

11 July 1918

A FRENCH DECORATION FOR A WHITEHAVEN MAN.

Sergt. Tom Birkett, 54th Batt., Canadian "Kootenay's" Infantry, has been awarded the French Medaille Militaire for consistent devotion to duty and saving wounded under heavy fire on several occasions. Sergt. Birkett enlisted in Fernie, B.C., in August, 1915, and was one of the many Whitehaven Canadians entertained by the Mayor before leaving for France. He has seen much active service on different parts of the line, being in action at the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Lens, and the taking of Passchendale Ridge. He was mentioned in the Canadian lists for meritorious conduct at Passchendale. So far he has come through all unscathed and has not had a day's sickness since he enlisted. Previous to the war he had been in the mining district of British Columbia for twelve years, having formerly served his apprenticeship as a collar maker with Mr. John Roan, saddler, Roper Street, Whitehaven.

25 July 1918

TO MEN OVER 45.

ANY MAN OVER 45 and LOW CATEGORY
MEN OF ANY AGE.

(Viz. Men in Medical Categories B. 3 or C. 3, or in Grade 3), not now engaged in Agriculture or its Accessory Industries

**CAN ENROL AT ONCE AS
WAR AGRICULTURAL
VOLUNTEERS,**

And Serve their Country on the Land instead of in the Army. Such Volunteers on Enrolment

WILL BE PROTECTED

From Liability of being called up for

MILITARY SERVICE.

Current Rate of Wages Paid, with Daily Travelling Allowance or Subsistence Allowance.

APPLY NOW FOR ENROLMENT and further particulars to :—

H. J. WATSON, Labour Officer,
23, Main Street, Cockermonth. (gc)

18 July 1918

These articles are taken from the *Whitehaven News*, held on microfilm at Whitehaven Archive and Local Studies Centre, and indexed by volunteers over an eighteen-month period to commemorate the centenary of the war, and to act as a lasting memorial to all whose lives were touched by the events.