

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

October 1917



PRESENTATION AT MARKET CROSS.

HONOURING V.C. AT EGREMONT,

On Saturday afternoon there was a scene at Egremont Market Cross such as the old Castle ruins that overlook it surely never contemplated before. It was a public presentation at the Cross, in the open air, of a gold watch and chain, a gold medal, and over £150, to Private Harry Christian, Low Mill, upon whom the Victoria Cross was recently personally conferred by the King. Flags and strings of bunting across the Main Street showed that the town was festive; and about three o'clock the neighbourhood of the Cross was densely crowded, lining the crowd in front being a number of wounded soldiers who had been brought from Moresby Hospital and other soldiers and ex-soldiers in the district. The band played the celebrated chorus by Handel that hailed the Jewish hero, Judas Maccabeus, "See, the Conquering Hero Comes!" But unfortunately the hero of the hour, who was expected to be in the procession, was not present, which was a great disappointment to the vast assembly that had turned out to honour him.

4 October 1917. Image from issue of 9 March 1916

British and Australian troops break through Turkish lines in Palestine. Over 300,000 Italian prisoners taken during the Battle of Caporetto. This month 100 years ago saw the last airship raid on London during World War One.

WHITEHAVEN WOMAN'S DOUBLE BEREAVEMENT.

News was received on Thursday by Mrs L. Dunn, of Bacon's Court, Market Place, Whitehaven, that her husband, John Dunn, of Royal Engineers, was killed in France last week, and was buried on Friday. The letter conveying the sad news was from the Chaplain, who spoke in high praise of the deceased, and said the officers had all attended his funeral. The circumstances are peculiarly sad, inasmuch as Dunn's little daughter died on Monday, and was buried on Friday. A telegram had been despatched to the father, in the expectation that he might be able to come to the funeral.

18 October 1917

AN EGREMONT OFFICER WOUNDED.

Lieut C. Harvey, of the 29th Lancers (Indian Army), has been officially reported wounded in action in France. It is understood that his wounds are not of a serious nature. Lieut. Harvey only recently returned to the Front after spending a short leave at his home in Egremont.

4 October 1917

LOCAL AGENTS:—WANDLESS, Chemist, Whitehaven & Frizington; WRIGHT, Chemist, Egremont; WATSON, Chemist, Cleator Moor. [cd

18 October 1917

Sugar Economy

*Eat Carr's Chocolate
Dates as part of
your daily diet. The
sweetness is in the
dates. Made only from
selected fruit and
the finest chocolate*

*Per
quarter* **8** *lb* *pounds*

Carr & Co Ltd Carlisle.

18 October 1917



EGREMONT MILITARY MEDALLIST.

CORPORAL J. J. WRIGHT.

The many friends in Egremont and district will be pleased to hear that Corporal John Joseph Wright, Royal Engineers, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallant conduct and devotion in the field. He enlisted in November, 1915, and went to the Front in May, 1916. Corporal Wright is the only son of the late Henry Wright, of Egremont, and of Mrs. Hannah, Broadheath, Cheshire. He has just been home on leave, and looks fit and well.

4 October 1917

TEA.—There is an undoubted

Shortage of Tea, and Urgent
Need for the Greatest
Economy in its Use.

COFFEE. 1/8 to 2/- per lb.,

Roasted and Ground on our
Premises, which when
properly Prepared is a Most
Delicious Beverage, and

COCOA. at 2/4 per lb., Pure,

and of Excellent Quality.
Should be Used for the
Morning and Evening Meals.
This will enable the Country
to Tide Over the Present
abnormal Shortage.

JOHN DAVIS.

TEAMAN, WHITEHAVEN.

(b)

4 October 1917

ANOTHER WHITEHAVEN MAN KILLED IN ACTION.

News was received on Tuesday morning last by Mrs. Cowan, 20, Peter-street, Whitehaven, informing her in the first letter that her eldest son, Private Foster Hunter, had been severely wounded in the right arm and shoulder, and in the second that he had succumbed to his wounds on the following day, the 28th September. Private Hunter was attached to the Army Medical Corps, connected with the Anzacs, Australian Forces. He joined up in May, 1915, and was drafted to the Dardanelles, where he saw a good deal of service with the A.M.C., and had some narrow escapes. He was with the last contingent to evacuate the Dardanelles, and came to France. He was down at Whitehaven on leave last Christmas.

4 October 1917

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ROYAL FLYING CORPS.

RECRUITS, SKILLED or UNSKILLED (the latter must be Clerks, Storemen, &c.), Men of almost any occupation, are Wanted at once for the various branches of the Royal Flying Corps.

Men of Military Age and UP TO FIFTY YEARS OF AGE accepted. Corps Rates of Pay.

Apply Personally or in Writing to the Nearest Recruiting Officer, who will put applicants into touch with the Special Recruiting Officer of the Royal Flying Corps in this District.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

(jb)

4 October 1917

A WHITEHAVEN HERO. WOUNDED FOR THE SIXTH TIME.

Writing from a Military Hospital in Derbyshire to Mr Robert Telford, The Mount, Great Broughton, a wounded soldier of the Lancashire Regiment, says:—"I have been to France and back since I last wrote, and have been wounded a second time. I was in charge of a Lewis gun team, and I had a Cumberland lad, amongst others under me, whose name was Graham. He came from Whitehaven, and he got wounded the same night as I did for the sixth time I believe. When he was with me he wore four gold stripes. He went out with the battalion in February, 1915. He was a very nice chap, faithful companion, a brave young fellow—a hero in fact. I never knew what became of him after I sent him down to the dressing station. I shall never forget that night. It was fearful. You talk about the Victoria Cross! Graham deserved more than that, and the people of Whitehaven ought to know what a splendid soldier they possess in him."

18 October 1917

RAVENGLASS MAN KILLED IN ACTION.

Mrs Birkett, Main Street, Ravenglass, has received the sad intelligence that her youngest son, Private James Birkett, 15th Australian Battalion, has been killed in action. He was 32 years of age. Born in Ravenglass, Private James Birkett attended Muncaster School, afterwards being apprenticed to the joinery business with John Wilson and Sons, Gosforth. Five years ago he went out to Australia. After a residence there of three years he joined the Australian Contingent, and came back to England with them fifteen months ago, being drafted to France three months later. He was home on leave a month ago.

4 January 1917



CAPT. A. B. COWBURN

Amongst the officers who received the Military Cross at the hands of the King at Buckingham Palace, on Wednesday, was Captain Arthur Cowburn, son-in-law of the Mayor of Whitehaven (Ald. J. R. Musgrave).

4 October 1917. Image from issue of 4 January 1917

HAVERIGG MAN LOSES TWO SONS ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Much sympathy is felt in Millom and Haverigg for Mr. and Mrs. Cartwright, of Pool Side, Haverigg, who last week received the doubly distressing news that both their sons had made the supreme sacrifice for King and country. They both belonged to the Royal Lancaster Regiment. Private Wm. George Cartwright, who was only 23 years of age, was married, and leaves a widow and one child. The young son, Private J. Cartwright, was 20 years of age. Both the brothers were employed at the Barrow steel-works prior to enlisting.

11 October 1917

A WHITEHAVEN MAN WOUNDED FOR THE FIFTH TIME.

News has been received by Mrs. E. Graves, of High Scotch Street, Whitehaven, that her husband, Sapper W. Graves, of the R.E., has been badly wounded, and is lying in Shrewsbury Hospital. In the course of his letter Sapper Graves wrote:—"Just a few lines to let you know I have arrived in England. . . I gave a pint of blood to save another man's life, so they sent me to Blighty." This is the fifth time that Sapper Graves has been wounded. He went to France with his late regiment, the 2nd Borders, in 1914, and was afterwards transferred into the Royal Engineers. When an inmate of the 3rd British Clearing Station in France he went through an operation, and on this occasion sacrificed his blood to save a comrade's life, who had gone through an operation and lost his leg. Prior to mobilisation Sapper Graves was employed by the Moresby Coal Company.

18 October 1917

WOUNDED MILLOM SOLDIERS

Amongst Millom soldiers recently wounded is Lance-Sergt. George Huddleston, 1/4 Batt. Royal Lancaster Regiment. He was wounded by gun fire, and is now in hospital in Manchester. Sergt. Huddleston has another brother in hospital in England who was wounded in the fighting line some time previously.

11 October 1917

Second-Lieut. G. W. N. Rowsell, Border Regiment, previously reported missing, is now officially reported a prisoner in German hands.

4 October 1917



GUNNER J. T. HOLMES THE HILL, MILLOM, WINS THE MILITARY MEDAL.

GUNNER TOM J. HOLMES, R.G.A., has won the Military Medal. He is a native of The Hill, near Millom. The Military Medal was won by him at Long di Guerra, Italy. All who know him are pleased to hear of his success.

18 October 1917

HOME ON FURLOUGH.

Gunner Wm. Pritt, of Arlecdon, who joined the Canadians, and is in the R.F.A., has been home on ten days' leave. He has been in France over two years, and has seen some heavy fighting. He looks in the best of health. Before emigrating to Canada, where he enlisted soon after hostilities broke out, Gunner Pritt was an ardent footballer, and was a regular player of the Arlecdon Club.

Private Evan Dixon, who is in the Borders, is at present staying at Arlecdon on convalescent leave. He was wounded two months ago in the face, and is at present unable to see with his left eye.

18 October 1917

The crew of H.M.S. Drake, which was torpedoed last week, included a Whitehaven young man—William Bridson, son of Mr. J. Bridson, of Strand Street, who is an artificer. A wire was received from him on Wednesday, showing that he was safe.

11 October 1917

The issues of the *Whitehaven News* covering the time of the Great War have been indexed by a group of volunteers in a 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.