

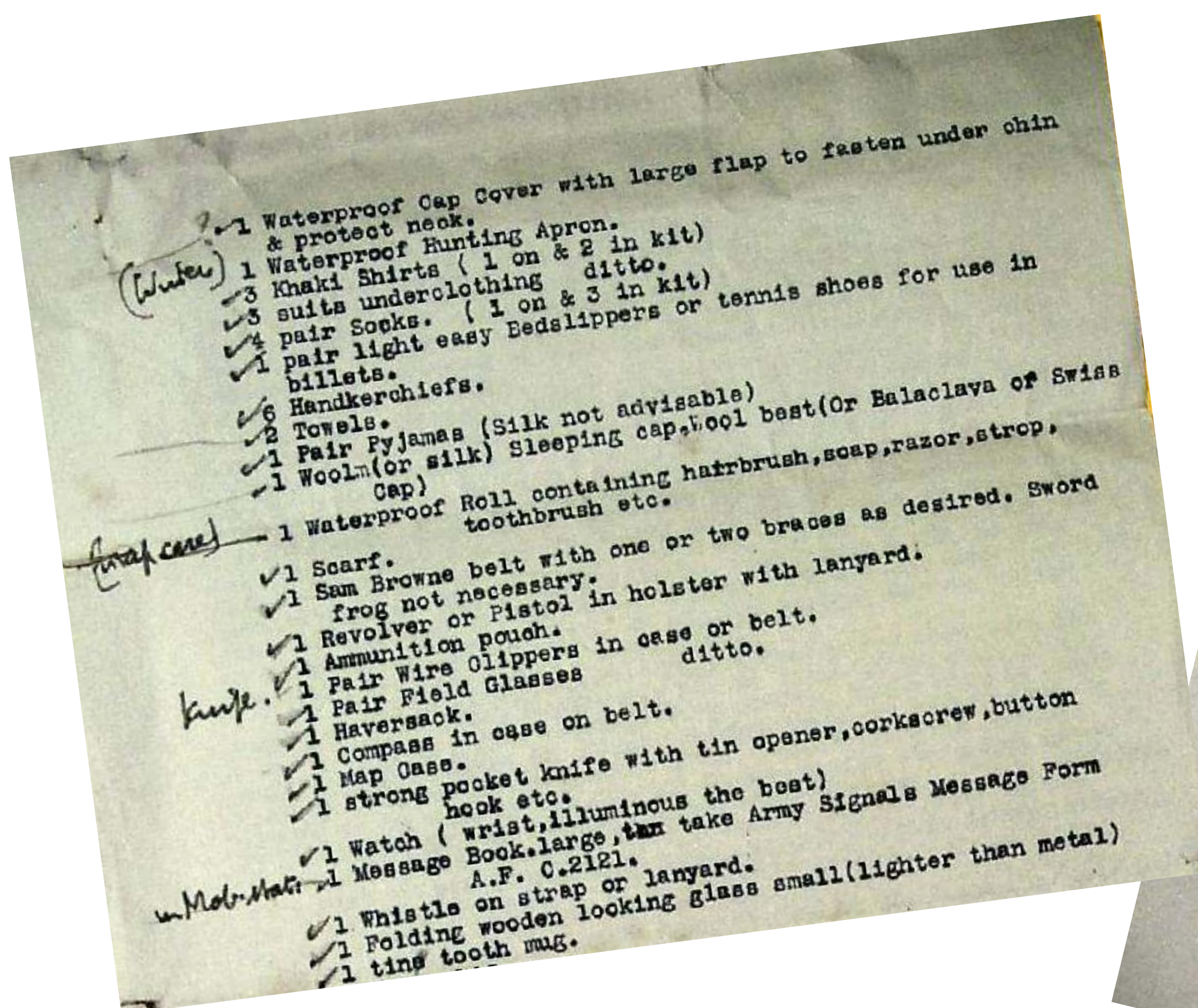
The First World War 1914-1918

An Officer and a Gentleman Major James Cropper's account of life on the Western Front

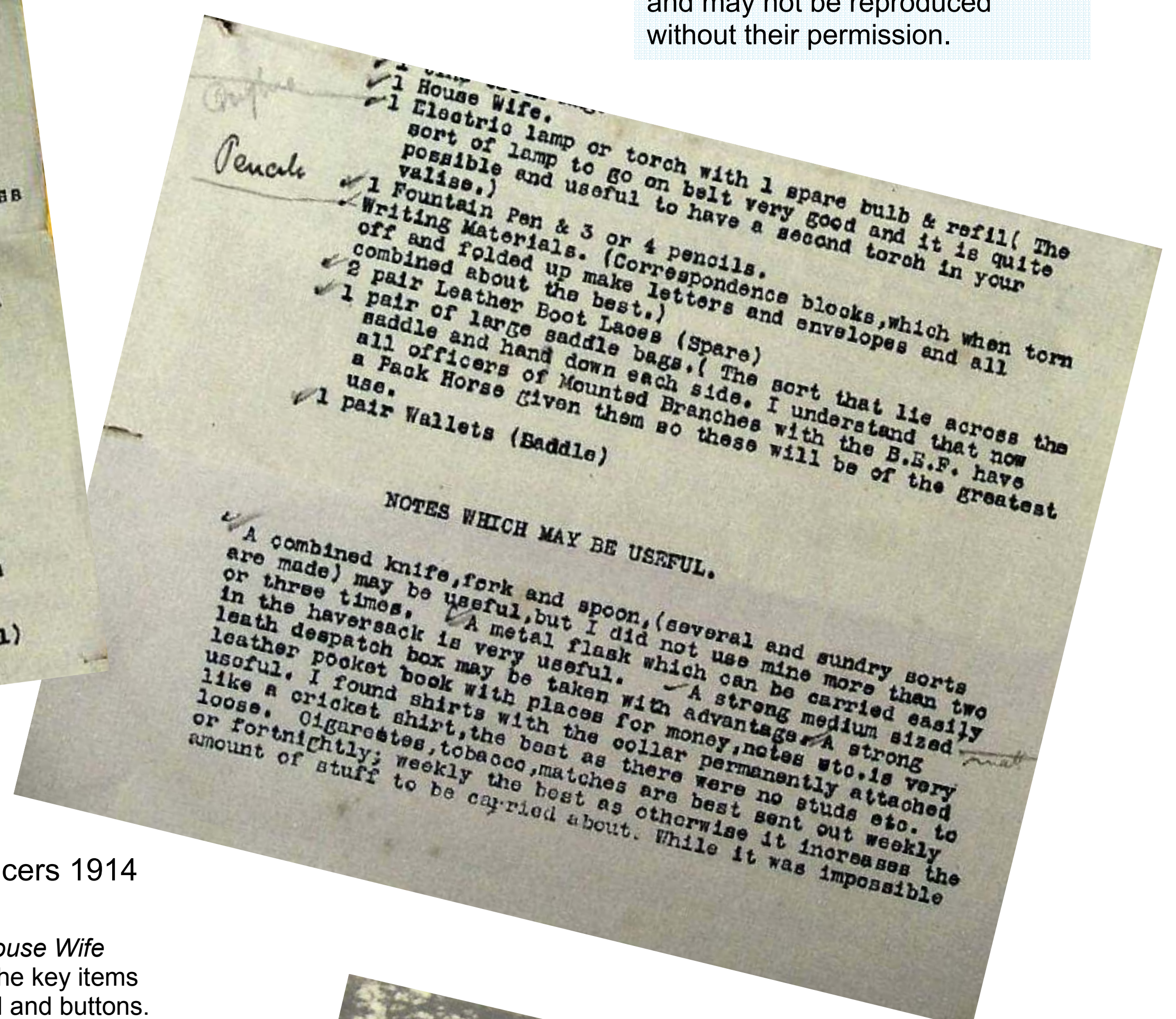
Major James W Cropper (1879-1956) served in the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, where he and his men took part in the Battle of Loos, consolidating infantry positions. There, British casualties amounted to 60,000.

In his letters to his wife, Marjorie, Major Cropper referred to his experience as being "Plum in the middle of Armageddon".

The panels in this display illustrate some of the conditions experienced by James Cropper and men like James Murray of Whitehaven and Tom Read, from Carlisle.



Records of Major James Cropper are displayed here with the kind permission of the Cropper family, and may not be reproduced without their permission.



Kit list for new officers 1914

The reference to *1 House Wife* means a sewing kit, the key items being needles, thread and buttons.

Kendal Archives (ref. ST 51)

Major James Cropper c.1915

Kendal Archives (ref. ST 51)

Divisional Headquarters, Lillers, France, 1914

Kendal Archives (ref. ST 51)



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The First World War 1914-1918

Life on the Home Front



Women's Work

Women played a vital role on the home front, carrying on essential work in agriculture, factories, transport etc as more men went to the front.

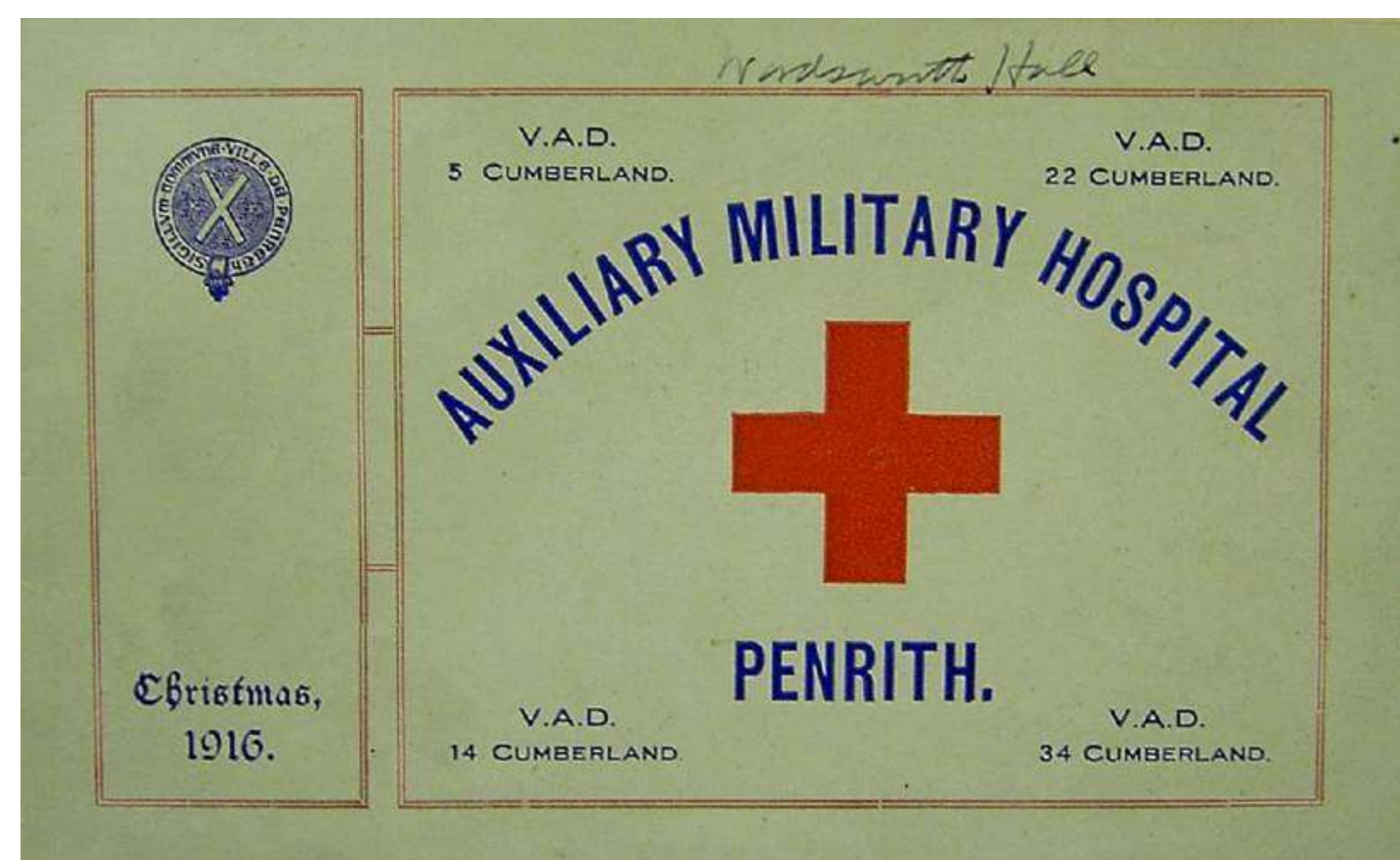
In particular many women were employed as munitions workers, a particularly unpleasant and dangerous job. The largest munitions factory was at Gretna, just inside Scotland, but existing factories also made munitions. The photograph to the bottom left shows women employed at Daniel Clark's factory at St Nicholas, Carlisle (Carlisle Archives, ref. DX85/6).

Munitions work did have its lighter moments and the photograph below is of a women's football team from a munitions factory in Barrow-in-Furness.



Penrith Auxiliary Military Hospital

Images from a photograph album showing the cover and a photograph of soldiers convalescing at the hospital during Christmas 1916. The hospital was established in St. Andrew's Parish Rooms. (Carlisle Archives, ref. DFCM 3/1/113)



CENTRAL CONTROL BOARD (LIQUOR TRAFFIC). Carlisle Office, 19 Castle street, Carlisle. Constitution and Objects.

The Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic), under the powers contained in the "Defence of the Realm (Amendment) (No. 3) Act, 1915," commenced to take over the whole of the licensed trade, both wholesale and retail, in Carlisle and district in June, 1916, the area being subsequently extended to include the town of Maryport and the intervening country districts. The aim of the board is to carry on the licensed businesses in this area in the most efficient manner, to supply the reasonable demands of the public under improved conditions, and to take all possible steps to eliminate excess. To this end a large number of redundant houses have been closed; all incentives to excessive drinking have been removed; food has been provided at licensed premises, with rooms set apart for such purposes; all houses have been placed under disinterested management; many houses have been reconstructed, and others have been improved. The results are seen in the increased sobriety in the city, and the improved appearance of the streets.

Kelly's Trade Directory for Carlisle, 1921, relating to the State Control Board (Liquor Traffic).

Extracts from the *Cumberland News* on the introduction of the Carlisle State Management Scheme, June to December 1916.

CARLISLE INNS CLOSED.

THE CONTROL BOARD'S REDUCTION OF LICENCES.

The Central Control Board (Liquor Traffic), in connection with whose scheme of State Control in the Carlisle area the Gretna Tavern was opened on Wednesday, have proceeded a step further by serving notices which render the closing of the following six publichouses in Carlisle compulsory by July 15:-
The Bird-in-Hand Inn, Castle Street.
Brooklayers' Arms Inn, John Street, Caldewgate.
Coach and Horses Inn, Blackfriars Street.
Northumberland House, Botchergate.
Crown Inn, Warwick Road.
Three Cannons Inn, Scotch Street.
Further lists of houses to be closed are in preparation.

WHISKY PROHIBITION.

Good Effect at Carlisle.

HOLIDAY INTEMPERANCE.

CITY'S SHOCKING CONDITION ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

GRETNA WORKMEN'S WEEK-ENDS.

25 CASES AT A SINGLE COURT.

One of the largest batches of prisoners charged with drunkenness at Carlisle appeared before the magistrates at the Town Hall this (Monday) morning. The names of 25 prisoners appeared on the charge sheet. Nearly all the defendants were Gretna workmen. The magistrates on the Bench were J. B. Slater, Esq., and J. Maxwell, Esq. The defendants were fined sums ranging from 9s to 19s 6d.
ABSENTEE SOLDIERS.

STATE CONTROL

THE CARLISLE SCHEME.

Official Statement To-Day.

LORD LONSDALE TO OPEN FIRST TAVERN

HOW DRUNKENNESS WILL BE CHECKED

Mr Edgar C. Sanders, general manager of the Control Liquor Control Board's Carlisle scheme, to-day (Saturday) made the following official statement to the Press, with the object, as he said, of definitely outlining the scheme and removing certain misapprehensions which have arisen in the public mind. Mr Sanders said:-

The Area of the Scheme.

The area at present to be dealt with by the Board is the city of Carlisle—excluding the County Hotel and the Crown and Mitre Hotel—and the Petty Sessional Divisions of Longtown and Cumberland Ward. In the Longtown Petty Sessional Division we have already acquired a number of licensed houses in connection with the Gretna works, and all the rest will now also be acquired. The number of licensed houses in the city of Carlisle and the two Petty Sessional Divisions named to be acquired by the Board is therefore about 200.

We are also acquiring the four Carlisle breweries and their properties, and we shall acquire the houses belonging to these breweries outside the area, though what will be done with the latter is a matter for future consideration.

In 1916 the Government took control of the production and sale of liquor to control excessive alcohol consumption. In Carlisle the brewery and pubs were, in effect, nationalised with many premises being closed. Carlisle is unique as the State Management Scheme continued until 1972.

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The First World War Killed in Action:

Private James Murray from Whitehaven and Private Tom Read from Carlisle

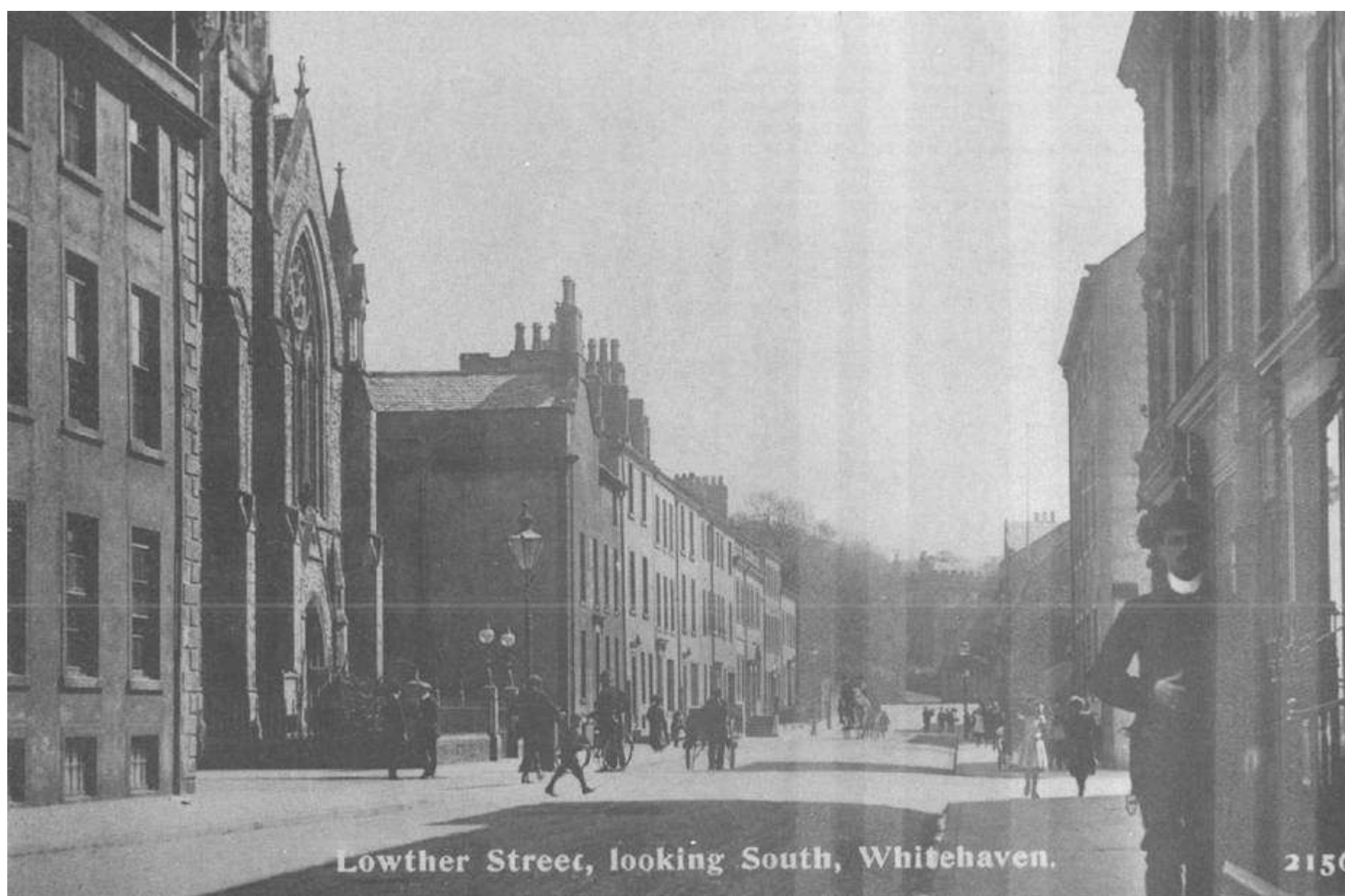


Commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

In memory of Private James Murray

5899, 2nd Batt, Border Regiment
Who died age 46 on 30th April 1915
Husband of Mary Hannah Murray of
3 Thompsons Court, Irish Street, Whitehaven,
Cumberland

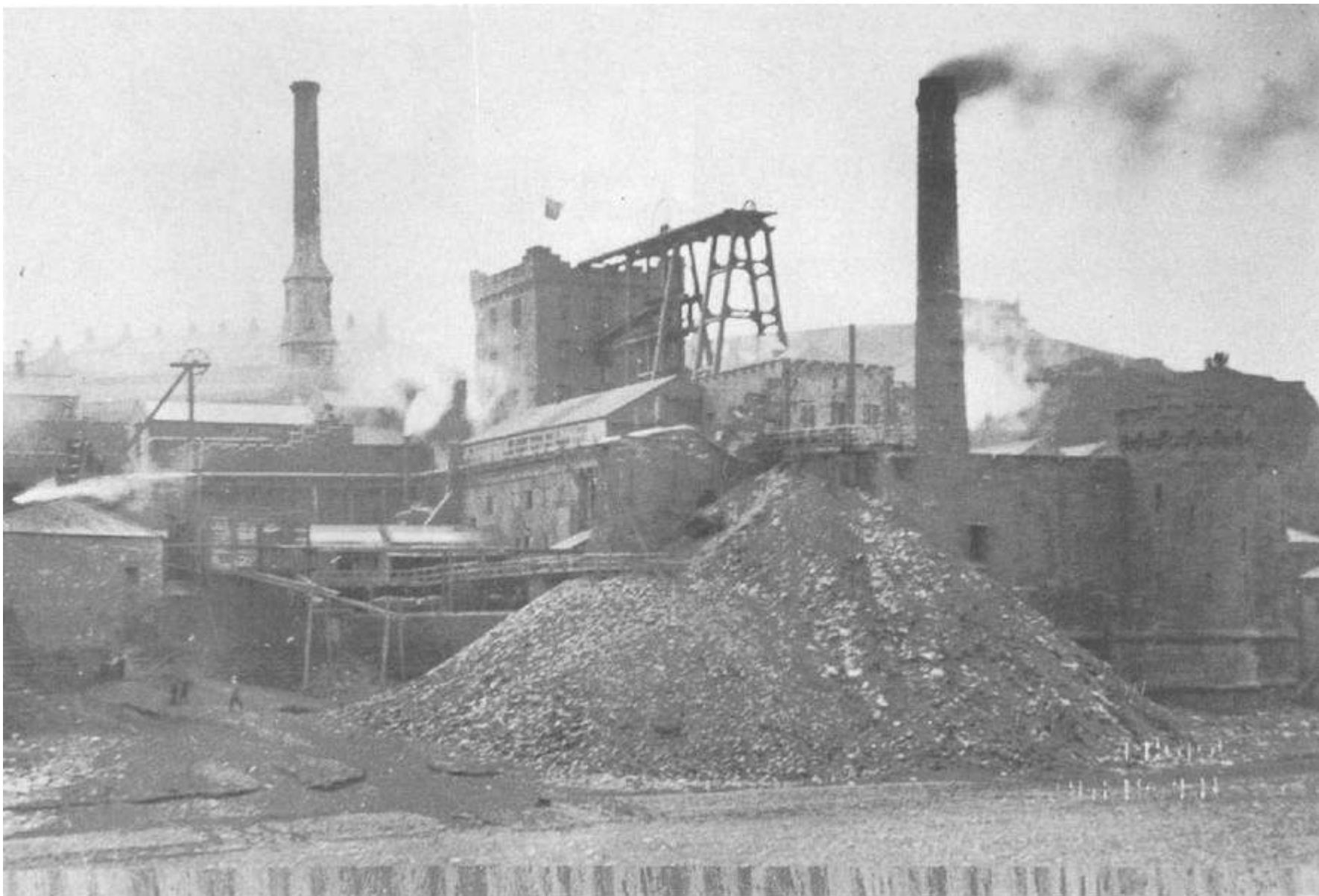
Remembered with honour
ESTAIRES COMMUNAL CEMETERY



Lowther Street, Whitehaven, undated

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Wellington Pit, Whitehaven c.1910



A Last Letter Home Private Tom Read to his mother in Carlisle

"In answer to yours I am very glad to hear father is keeping so well & hope you both enjoy yourselves whilst at Silloth, the change will do you both good and will be great fun for John Willie. I received his note alright, he puts a very decent letter together and seems to make a good hand at writing. I am glad to hear that Jimmy Baxter got down on leave and he is looking so well. How long was he in France before he got it, it doesn't seem very long ago. As for mine, well I can't expect it before Xmas and will be lucky to get it then. There are a lot going on leave at present who have been in France twelve and fourteen months since their last so I can't look for it for some time.

Yes the war has been going well in our favour this last month and its to be hoped they can keep it going. They have another two months to give him a good shake before the winter sets in and it is to be hoped they can take the full benefit of it but it is mostly pretty tough going now. But I think the war will last a long while yet and we will see another two winters in France before it finishes for although he is getting hit pretty hard now he is a long way off being a beaten but that will come in time but is going to take a long while. Well how does Harry like soldiering, not much I suppose, what regiment is he in?

Well mother I have joined the 2nd Field Ambulance again so my address will be 3/2804 Pte. Tom Read N.Z.M.C. 2nd N.Z.F. Amb. France. The weather here at present is splendid and it is to be hoped it will keep like this for a couple of months at least, it is better for the troops advancing and for the Cockeys [Frenchmen?] getting their harvest in. Well I think I am at the end of my letter now and hoping you are all enjoying the best of health as I am myself at present. I will close by wishing you all the best of everything from your ever loving son."

large amounts of work still in process, and for which purpose he forwarded home the necessary money. He was a Revolver, and served in the Bar War. By trade he was a plumber, but previous to the outbreak of war when he was immediately called up he worked at Wellington Pit.

His brother, Jack, of the R.F.A., is now with the forces in Egypt. Sapper Shepherd was a 5 unit fellow of much promise, and his early death is very much deplored by those who knew him.

WHITEHAVEN MAN MISSING.
Mrs. Callow, of Robinson's Court, Scotch Street, Whitehaven, received a letter on Tuesday night from a Maryport man, who was a "pal" of her husband's. Private J. Callow, of the 182nd Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers, informed her that her husband was reported missing. He was a 5 unit fellow of much promise, and his early death is very much deplored by those who knew him.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR THE FRONT.
The total parcels for the front Wharfedale patriotic concert amounted to £2 12s. 6d. Twelve substantial parcels have already been sent to the front, and the balance of the parcels will be sent to the front in the near future. The parcels contained clothing, food, and other necessities for the front.

CHRISTMAS AT MARYPORT.
The festive season was observed at Maryport pretty much as usual. All the shop windows were gayly dressed, and for about three nights previous to Christmas Eve, when the townpeople and those out of the surrounding villages were doing their Christmas shopping, the streets presented an unusual appearance. The ladies were particularly smart, and the gentlemen were in their best.

WS, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1915

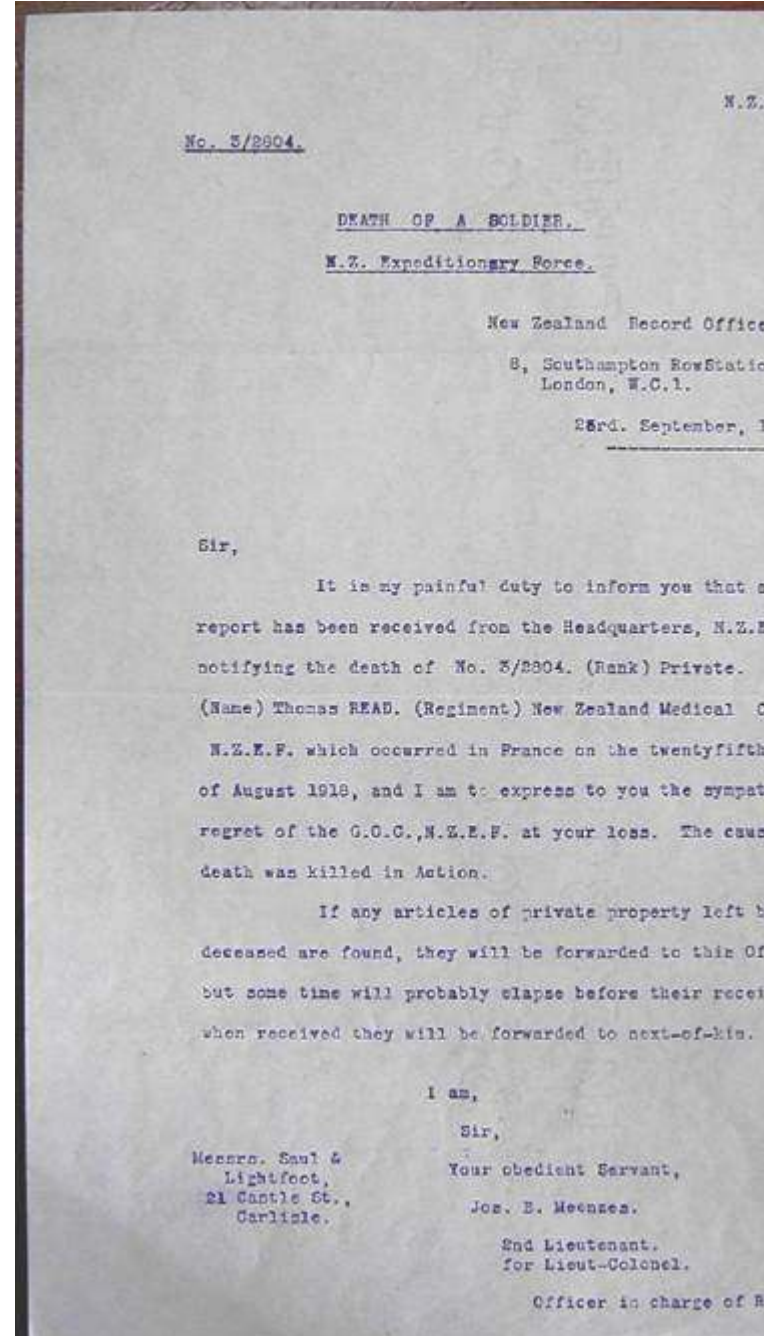
WAR.

EN BRAVE
Onsley Cutbert, of the 1st Battalion, Border Regiment, has died of wounds received in the fighting at the Battle of the Somme. He was a 5 unit fellow of much promise, and his early death is very much deplored by those who knew him.

HE IS NOT DEAD!
There is no truth whatever in the report circulated through the town that Private G. Wilson, of the 1st Battalion, Border Regiment, had been killed in action. He is still alive and well.

KILLED IN ACTION.
The following letter has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Ben. Marston, of Berwick-on-Tweed:—
1st Line Northumberland Fusiliers, Northumberland Infantry Brigade.

Dear Mrs. Marston.—It is my very painful duty to have to write to you to inform you that your son Harold Marston, of the 1st Line Northumberland Fusiliers, was killed yesterday (Tuesday, April 27th), by a shell bursting near him. I am very sorry indeed that your son is the first man in my section to have fallen in the service of his country, a service which he gave willingly and cheerfully. I know. He always impressed me personally by his very cheerful disposition, being always most willing to do any duty given him. Further, I thought him one of the most intelligent.

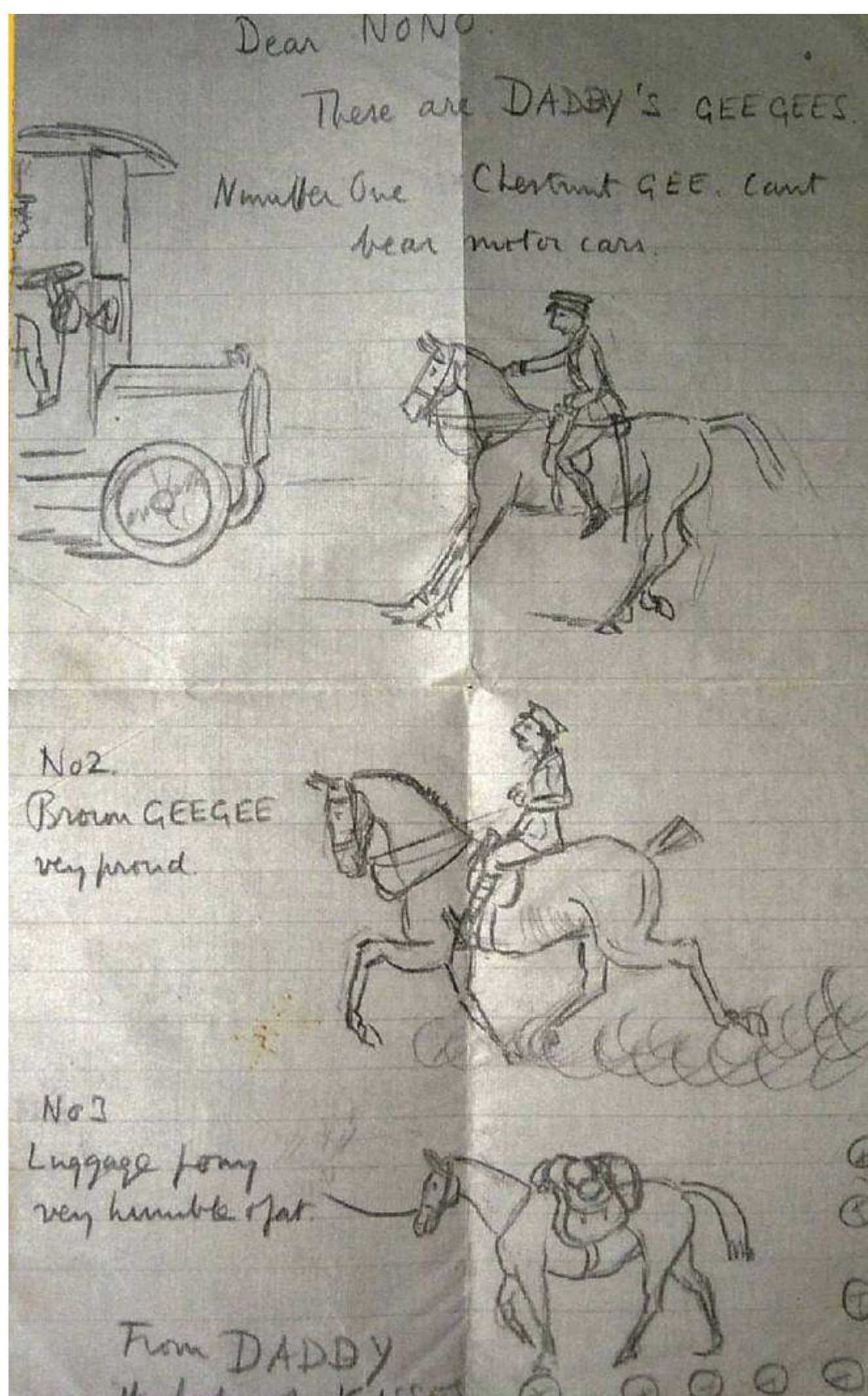


Official letter from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, notifying the representatives of Private Tom Read's family of his death in France, in August 1918.

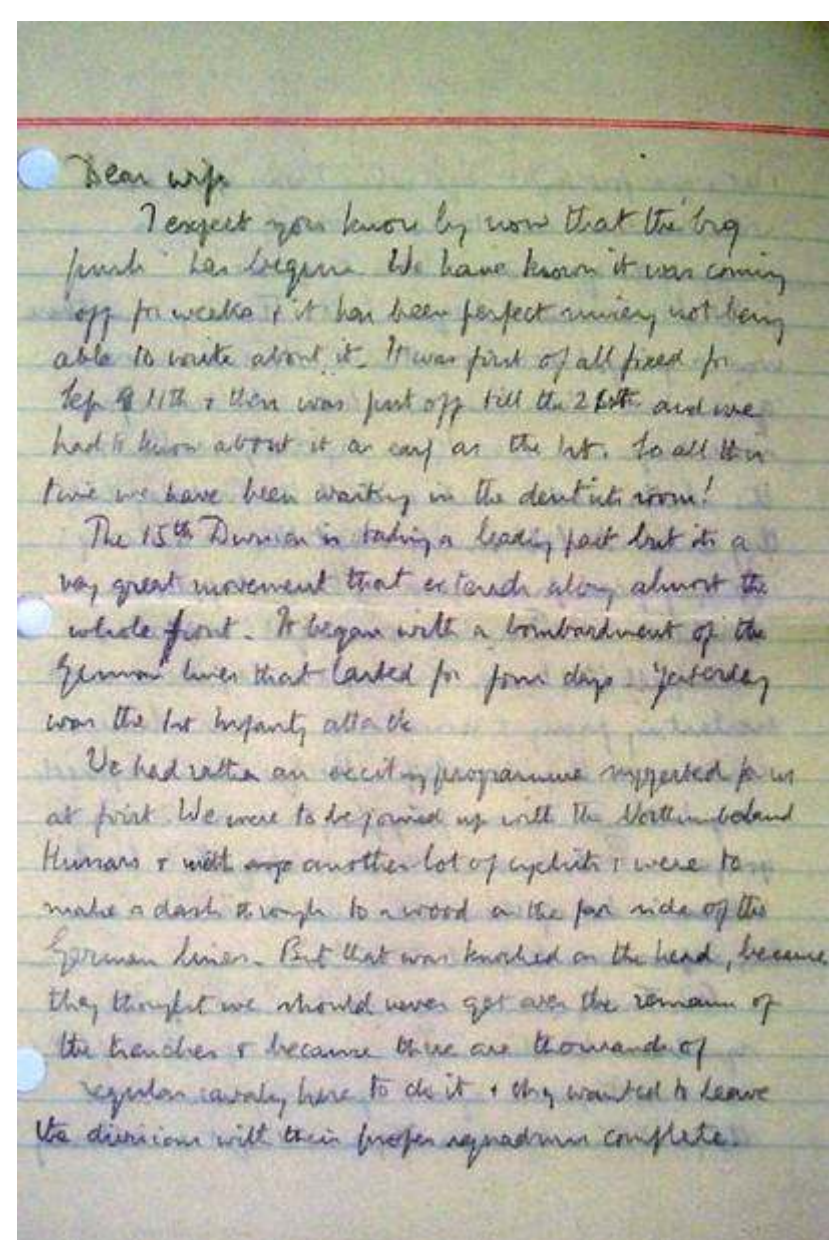
The First World War Armageddon: 1914-1918 Life on the Western Front



Pencil sketches by Major James Cropper, for his son, reflecting on life on the Western Front in 1915.



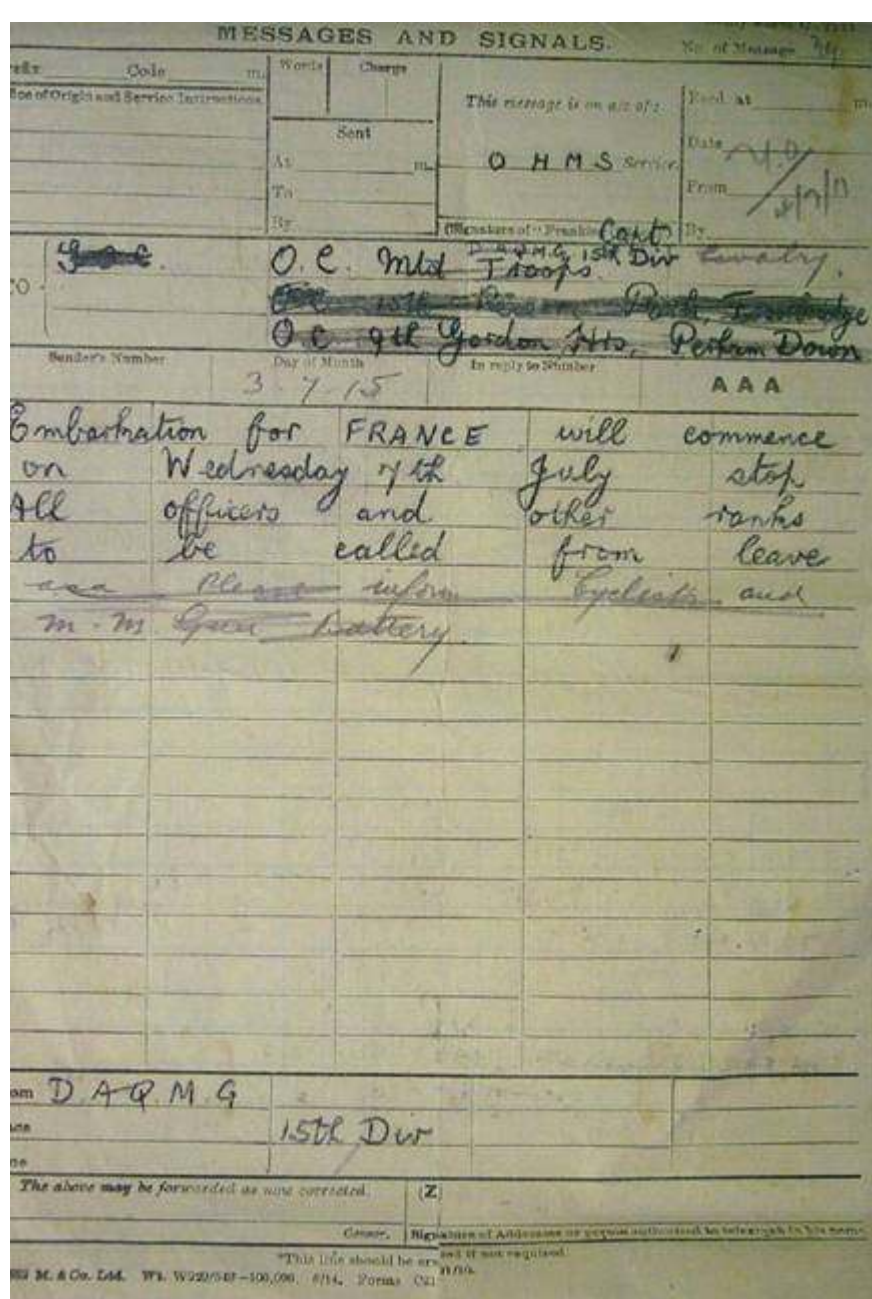
Postcard scenes from the Western Front in Northern France.



Armageddon: The Battle of Loos, September 1915

The Battle of Loos was a major British offensive in late 1915 and marked the first British use of poison Chlorine gas in the war. The battle was also the first test of General Kitchener's new model army.

Supply problems, in particular a lack of artillery shells resulted in devastating losses for the British. Among the 60000 casualties was Fergus Bowes Lyon, brother to Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, the late Queen Mother. A change in wind direction and ineffective gas masks meant that many British soldiers were gassed by the same chlorine gas shells fired at German positions.



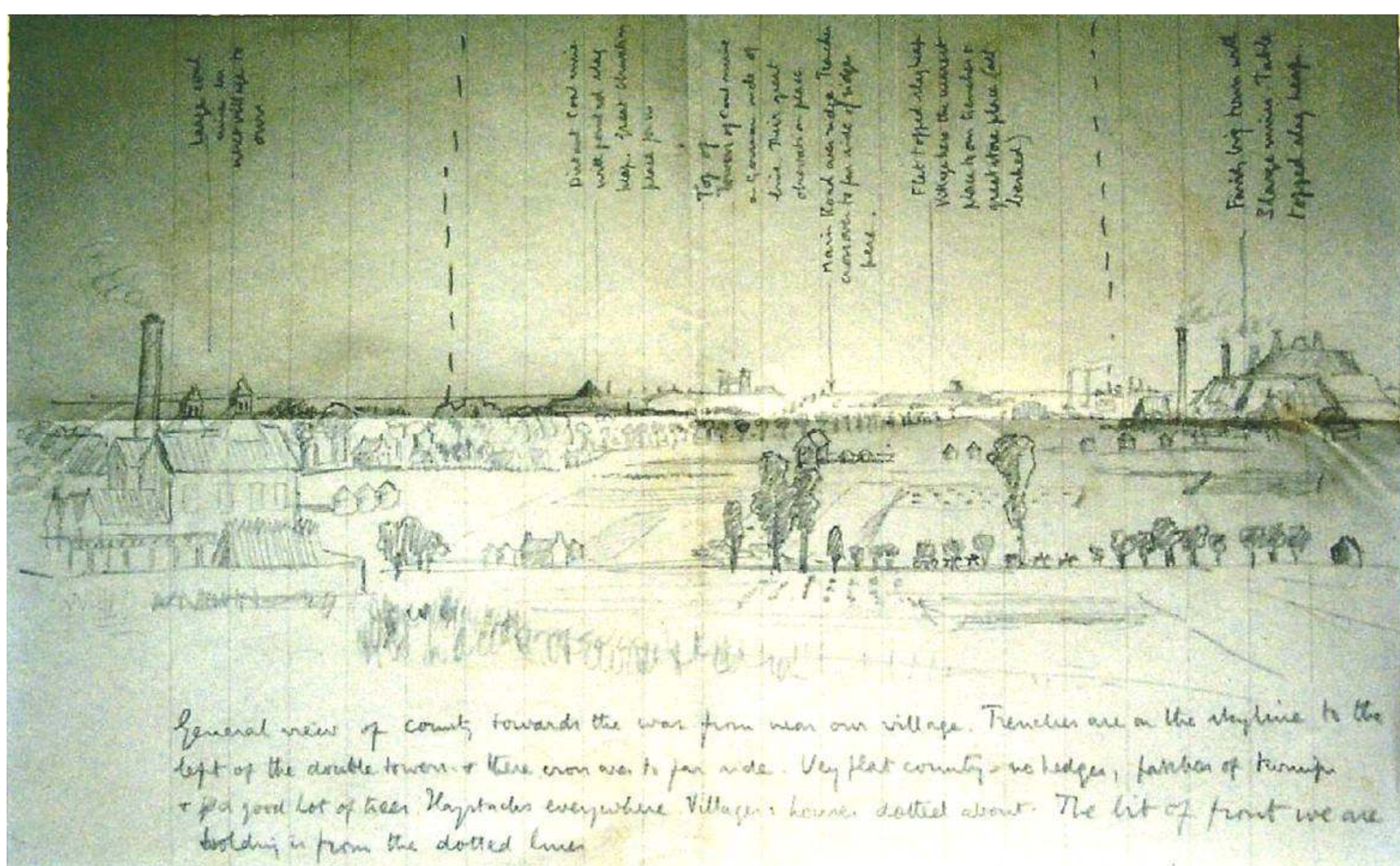
Extract from a letter describing the opening phase of the battle of Loos, 1915.

Pencil sketch of the French countryside, close to the front. c.1915.

Telegram regarding the embarkation of the Division to France, to commence on 7 June 1915.

Records of Major James Cropper are displayed here with the kind permission of the Cropper family, and may not be reproduced without their permission.

Kendal Archives (ref. ST 51)



The First World War 1914-1918

Your Country Needs You! Propaganda and Recruitment



Illustrated here are the different approaches to recruitment in the First World War.

Propaganda, demonising the enemy, was widely used. However, by 1916, exhortation was not enough and the very high casualty rate resulted in the introduction of conscription.

1. Photograph of an Army Recruiting Office in Barrow-in-Furness, undated.
2. Recruitment campaigns for men in Cumberland and Westmorland to join their local regiments, from the *Whitehaven News*.
3. The final recruitment campaign refers to the bombardment of Lowca in West Cumbria by a German submarine in 1915. Although there was very little publicity at the time the colour postcard was produced as propaganda illustrating where the shells fell.

G. R.
5TH BATTALION THE BORDER REGIMENT
(COMMANDING OFFICER: MAJOR A. C. SCOTLAND)
RECRUITS WANTED
FOR THE
THIRD LINE BATTALION.
They will be Trained as once for Service in France, and are shortly to be moved to Workington.
**JOIN THE FIFTH AND
FIGHT WITH LOCAL LADS**
Apply to JOIN the 5th BORDER REGIMENT at any RECRUITING OFFICE, or at the
DEPOT, CATHERINE STREET, WHITEHAVEN.

G. R.
**MECHANICAL TRANSPORT
ARMY SERVICE CORPS.**
NOW OPEN FOR:—
MOTOR CAR DRIVERS
PETROL LORRY DRIVERS } With at least One Year's
Regular Driving Experience.
MOTOR TRADE MECHANICS & ARTIFICERS.
PAY (in all Branches): **6/- PER DAY AND ALL FOUND,**
With Separation Allowance in addition at the NEW INCREASED RATES.
A MECHANICAL TRANSPORT OFFICER will VISIT the Following TOWNS to
Examine Applicants:—
CARLISLE, AUGUST 19. APPLEYBY, AUGUST 21.
WORKINGTON, AUGUST 20. KENDAL, AUGUST 23.
REFERENCES AND LICENSES SHOULD BE PRODUCED.
NOTE.—Men of the above Trades living within reasonable distance of any of these Towns
may obtain Railway Warrants by applying to the nearest Recruiting Office on the day before
examination as shown in the above Programme.
JOIN NOW.
GOD SAVE THE KING.



THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1915

THE CUMBERLAND COAST HAS BEEN SHELLED BY THE GERMANS.

What is our reply to this latest insult of our brutal enemy?

When the Germans attacked the East Coast by sea and air, the reply was swift and effective. Thousands of sturdy Britons, to whom the call had become a real one, rose and volunteered to avenge the enemy's foul deeds.

**AND THE CALL IS NOW BEING BROUGHT HOME,
THE CALL IS BEING MADE TO ALL.**

The Tyneside Irish Brigade Needs More Men.

**HERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY
BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.**

Come and Defend the Honour, the Freedom and the Glory of Ireland, beside our gallant Allies who are fighting for the Dear and Sacred Cause of Liberty.

All that you have to do is to fill in the attached form and post it to the Secretaries.

TYNESIDE IRISH BRIGADE.

I desire to join the Tyneside Irish Brigade. Please have my name placed on the list, and I agree to be attested in due course when called upon to do so.

Signed, Full Name

Address

Age

Height

Chest Measurement

Married or Single

Date

This Form to be returned to the SECRETARIES, TYNESIDE IRISH BRIGADE,
23, DEAN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

An Article dealing with the Tyneside Irish Brigade appears in another column of this issue. (See Page 7.)

NATIONAL REGISTRATION

will reveal ALL MEN of MILITARY AGE.

**We Appeal to ALL MEN in Cumberland and
Westmorland to Volunteer for their
Own County Regiments.**

**RECRUITS are Urgently Required to Complete the
4th & 5th Battalions—THE BORDER REGIMENT.**

The 5th Battalion is already in the Fighting Line, where it has done most excellent service. The 4th Battalion, we have reason to anticipate, will soon join it.

Don't wait for the Recruiting Sergeant to visit you. Do your duty VOLUNTARILY, and Join your Pals in the above Battalions (at once) while there are still vacancies.

Remember that your friends and relations are proud of their County Regiment, and follow its doings with ever deepening interest.

If you postpone enlisting until these Battalions are filled up, you may be sent to a Unit in another County, where you will be among strange officers and men.

Apply to ANY RECRUITING OFFICE in the Two Counties, and BE SURE YOU MAKE IT CLEAR which Unit you want to join.

JNO. LEARMONT, CAPTAIN,

Secretary—Cumberland and Westmorland
Territorial Force Associations.

19th August, 1915.

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The First World War 1914-1918

Your Country Needs You! Collecting for the troops

Between 1914 and 1918 many local men went to serve in the armed forces, whilst people at home worked hard to keep important industries going and to lend support wherever they could. These documents tell us how local people sought to help soldiers and sailors.

COMFORTS FOR DARDANELLES WOUNDED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS.]

SIR.—May I beg your assistance in bringing before the public the urgency of supplying the Empire's brave sons who have been wounded in the Dardanelles, with several comforts outside the official allowances. Hundreds of our splendid countrymen are at the moment in hospital at Cairo, Alexandria, and Malta, and at the base at the Dardanelles, and they and their friends have continually asked for certain little comforts.

I have for some time past been in communication with Cairo, Alexandria, and Malta, and have been successful in collecting books and magazines for our troops in these places. Altogether I have despatched, through the generosity of publishers and libraries, sixteen tons of literature. These gifts are highly appreciated by our men, but now many other things are needed, and I have undertaken to appeal to the public to give me the means of sending in such comforts immediately.

There is a considerable need of deck chairs, crutches, walking sticks, scent sprays, jaconet, waterproof sheeting, and that almost any articles which are useful for the wounded in the shape of clothing, bed linen, towels, cushions, &c., can be used by us, as we have the privilege, not only for supplying the hospitals here, but also the hospital ships that work to and from the Dardanelles.

The men themselves ask for cigarettes, jam, thin underwear (pants and vests), thin cotton shirts, handkerchiefs, pencils, and writing pads, pipes, tobacco, matches, sweets, fruit (preserved and fresh), and other little luxuries, which they now find it impossible to obtain. Mr. Tindale Robertson's letter will inform the public what the hospitals need. The importance of these articles being sent immediately is admitted on all sides, and the War Office has kindly promised to help me by giving preference in despatch to all the comforts I can gather together.

Every contribution will be publicly acknowledged. Gifts in money and kind should be sent to the offices and stores at 48 and 50, Waterloo Road, London, S.E. Cheques should be crossed "Union of London and Smith's Bank."—Yours, &c.,

W. N. WILLIS.

48 and 50, Waterloo Road, London, S.E., 31st July, 1915.

Wanted at Once
GIFTS OF
NEW LAID EGGS



FOR OUR
**WOUNDED SOLDIERS
and SAILORS**

CAN YOU PROMISE A FEW WEEKLY?
If you cannot, send Cash to Purchase some.

Nearest Depot:—
NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION,
154, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

**NATIONAL EGG COLLECTION
for the wounded**
Patron, H.M. Queen Alexandra.



Will you help?

Nearest National Egg Collection Depot

KIPPERS WANTED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS.]

Messrs. Cowman Bros., fish and game dealers, Whitehaven, have received the following letter from the front. Messrs. Cowman at once despatched a box of kippers, and we think if some of our friends of Whitehaven would send us a few kippers for our breakfast we could beat our machine gunners, for we saw in your papers of them beating our team, and our team are a good lot of lads; the good old bombers our lads call us, for we have done some good work lately."

"You will be wondering why I write you, but we are just, after having a good smell of kippers from the Germans' trenches, and we think if some of our friends of Whitehaven would send us a few kippers for our breakfast we could beat our machine gunners, for we saw in your papers of them beating our team, and our team are a good lot of lads; the good old bombers our lads call us, for we have done some good work lately."

R. Harker, R. K. Brown, J. Walker, and Bowness, and all Whitehaven lads in the pink.—From an old Whitehaven Lad.

Private R. Harker, 1690, 5th Battalion, Border Regiment, A Company, No. 1 Platoon, B.E.F., G.P.O., London, E.C.

EGGS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS.

Miss Hilda Cook, of Scurrigill, Egremont, received the following letter from Private C. Elford, No. 343, The "Queen's" R.W.S. Regiment, A.U.S. Ward, Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, London:—"Having just had an egg for tea, bearing your name, I thought that you might like to know that a soldier got it, and where. There was another marked from 'Ruth.' It was very nice and fresh, so I quite enjoyed it. I trust you and your family are quite well, as this leaves me much better than I have been since March last."

Miss Elsie Wilson, of 18, Church-street, Whitehaven, has received the following letter from Corporal H. Lingard, Royal Engineers, who is in A1 Ward, City of London Military Hospital, Homerton, London, E.:—"I was fortunate enough to get the egg you sent for breakfast this morning. I thought I would write and thank you, just to show how much we soldiers appreciate your efforts. We think it is very good of you to go to such a lot of trouble on our behalf, but we are thankful for it, and hope you and your friends will continue in your good work, as there are more soldiers coming in than there are eggs, and we look forward to these little luxuries, especially when we know who sends them."

EGGS FOR THE WOUNDED.

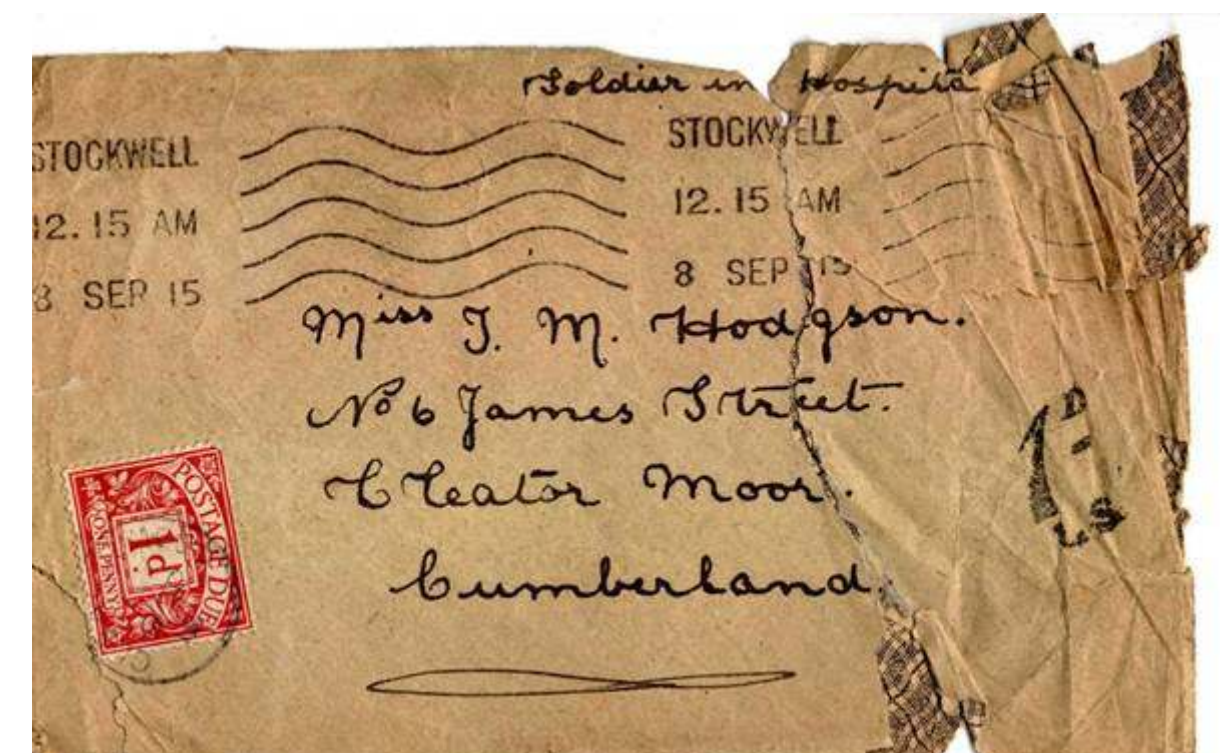
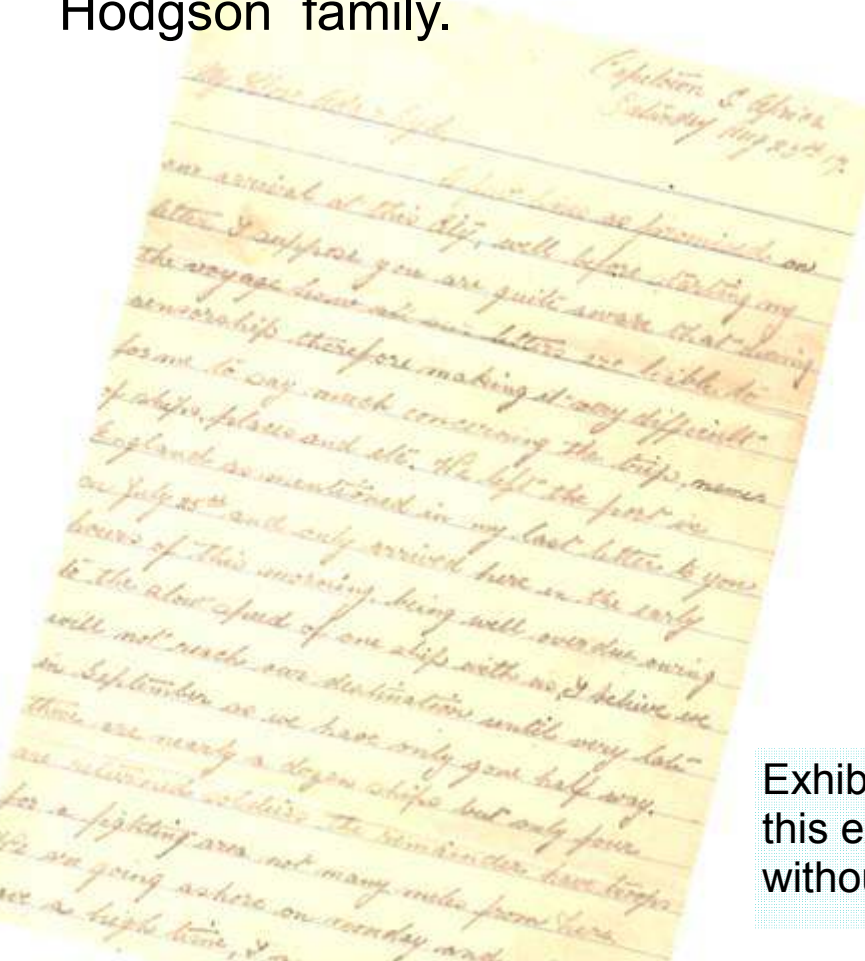
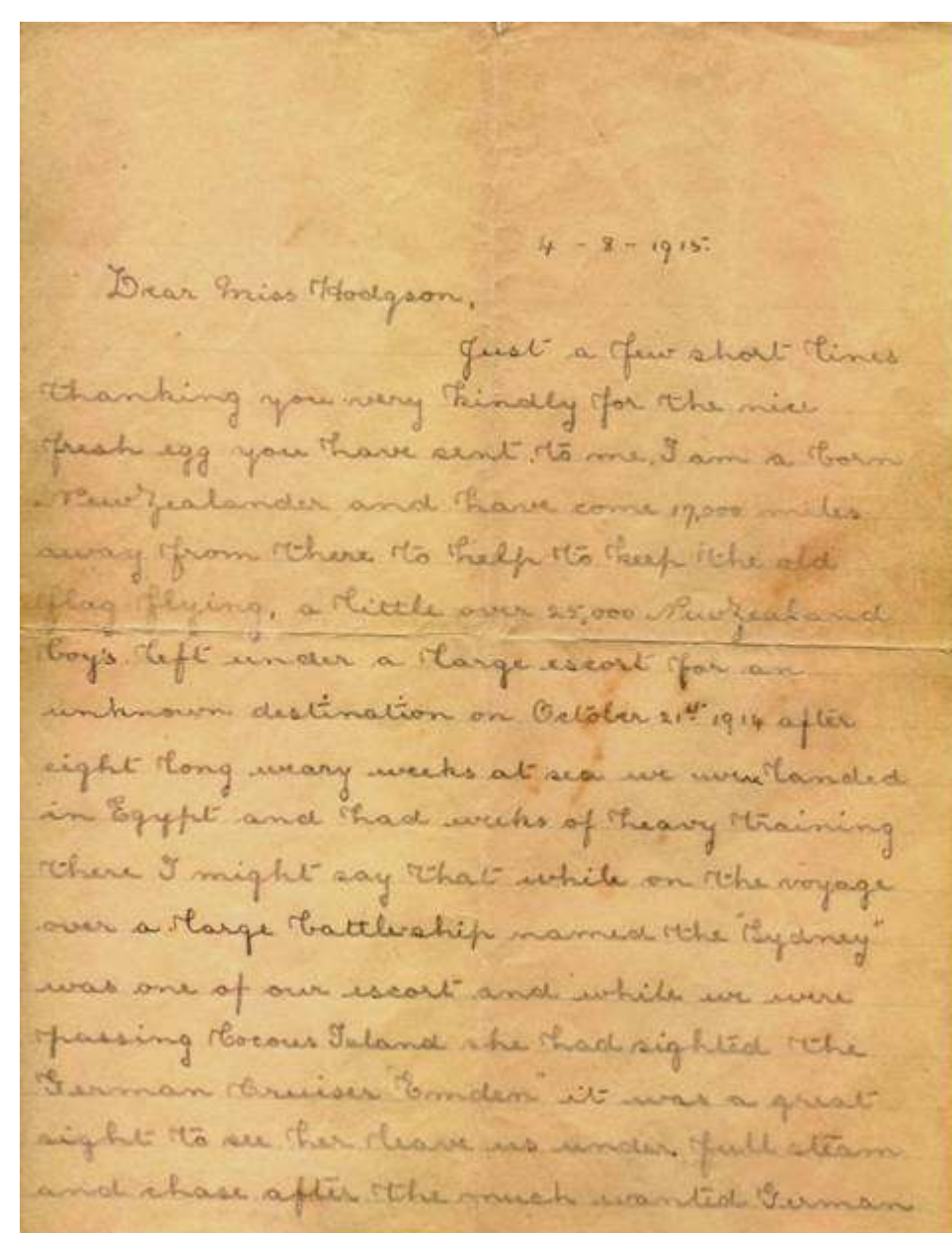
Martha Pritt, of Biggill, has received a letter from Pvt. Freeman, 4th Queen's Own Hussars, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, thanking her for the eggs sent by her for the wounded, he having found her address on one of the eggs. He had had the eggs for breakfast, and they were very nice. He had been in the above hospital for three months, suffering from a wound in the head, and is now well on the road to recovery. He was nine months in France and thought that he was very lucky all through, having been in the battle of Mons, the Yser Canal, the Aisne and Ypres, at which last place he got wounded.

A selection of letters printed from the *Whitehaven News* either expressing thanks to local school children for eggs sent for wounded soldiers, or requesting that specific and longed for 'luxuries' be sent to the front line.

The *National Egg Collection* scheme involved children sending eggs to wounded servicemen. By writing their names and addresses on the shells, they opened up many lines of communication, such as that with the Hodgson family.

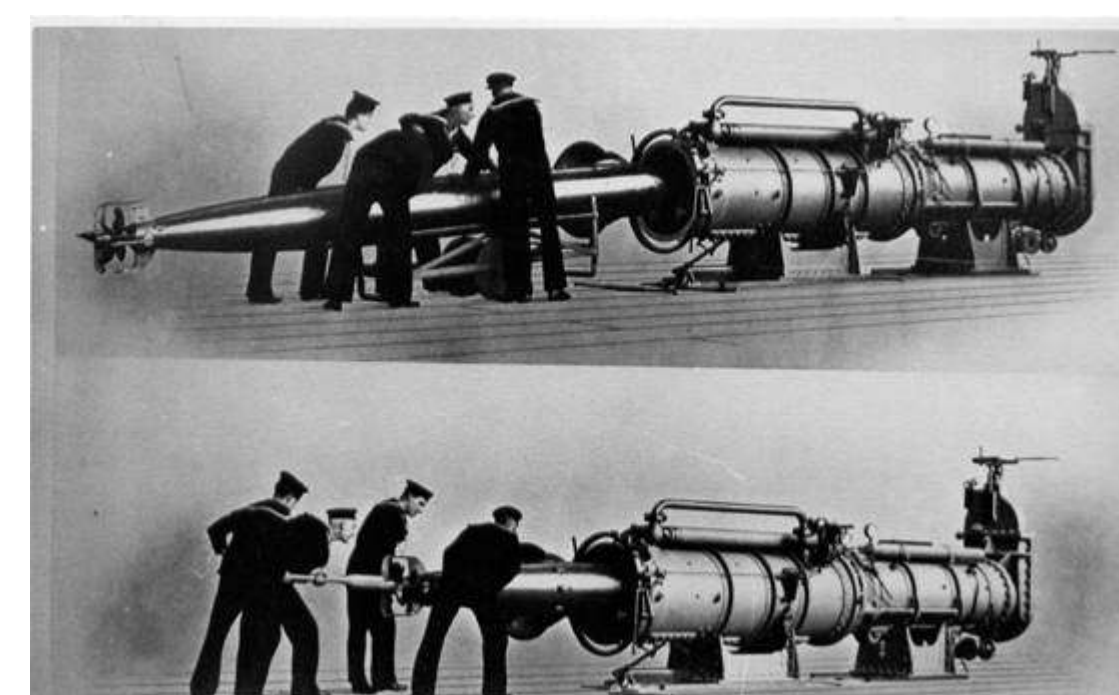
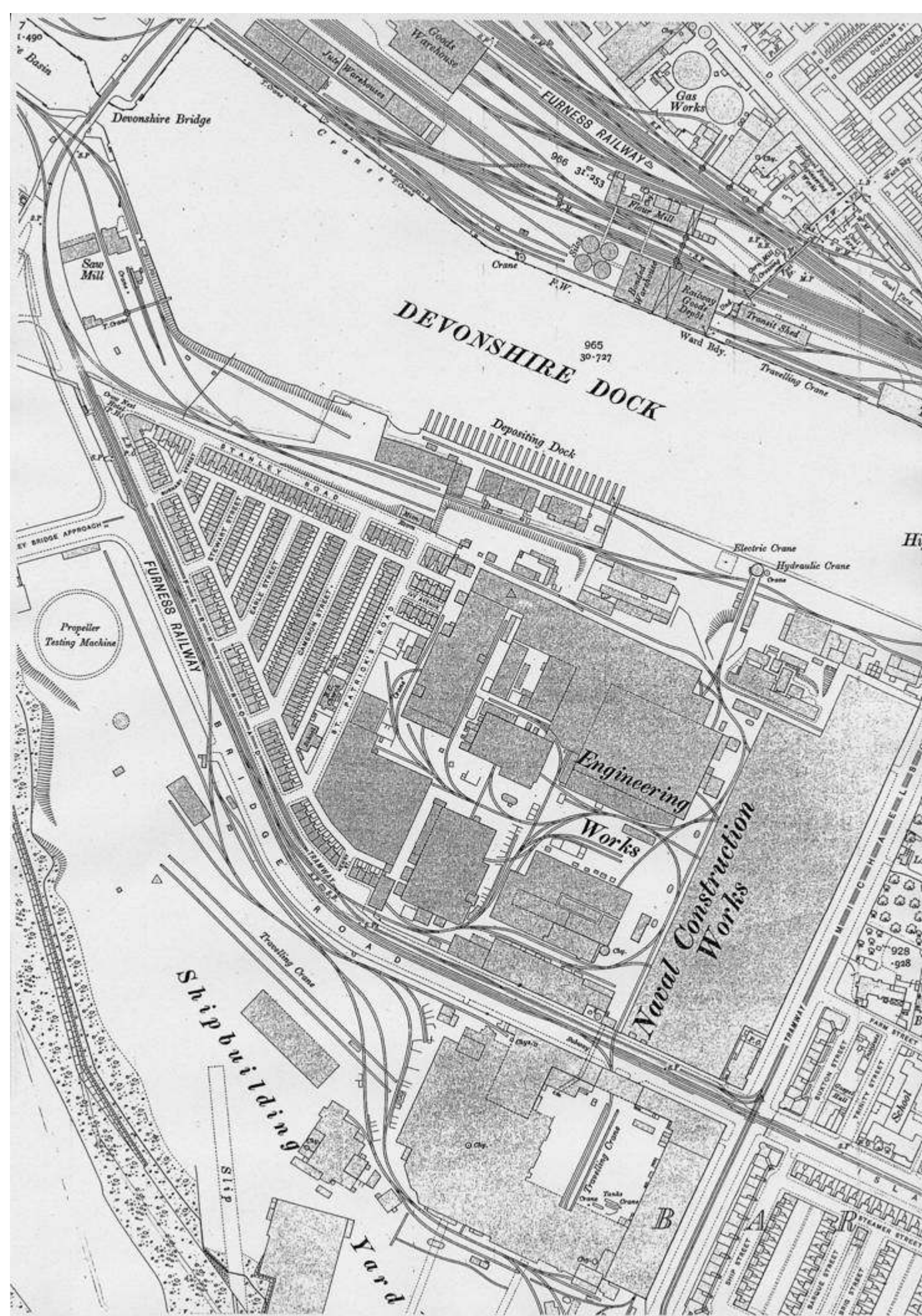
The handwritten letters are from New Zealand soldier Martin Petersen to the Hodgsons of Cleator Moor. Whilst recovering from war wounds in a London hospital he received an egg sent by Ida Hodgson from Montreal School. He went on to form a life time friendship with Ida's family.

Whitehaven Archives, ref. YDX 467



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The First World War Barrow at War 1914-1918 War and Industry



The battleship HMS Revenge which was built by Vickers in 1915. Vital statistics include: Length - 580 feet; Speed - 22 knots; HP - 42,600; Displacement - 28,000; Armament - 8 x 15", 14 x 6", 2 x 3"

The submarine 'L20' with awnings erected. The submarine was built by Vickers in c.1918.

Various scenes from the shell shop at Vickers, 1914-1918.

The 12" mark 9 siege gun on railway bogie truck, 1914.

Test firing of torpedo from above water tube on the dock, 1890.

Photograph illustrating the loading of a torpedo into a torpedo tube, undated.

Souvenir booklet of the Great War, 1914-1919, illustrating a memorial tablet for 6 members of Barrow-in-Furness police force who were army reservists and subsequently responded to the call to arms.
(Barrow Archives)



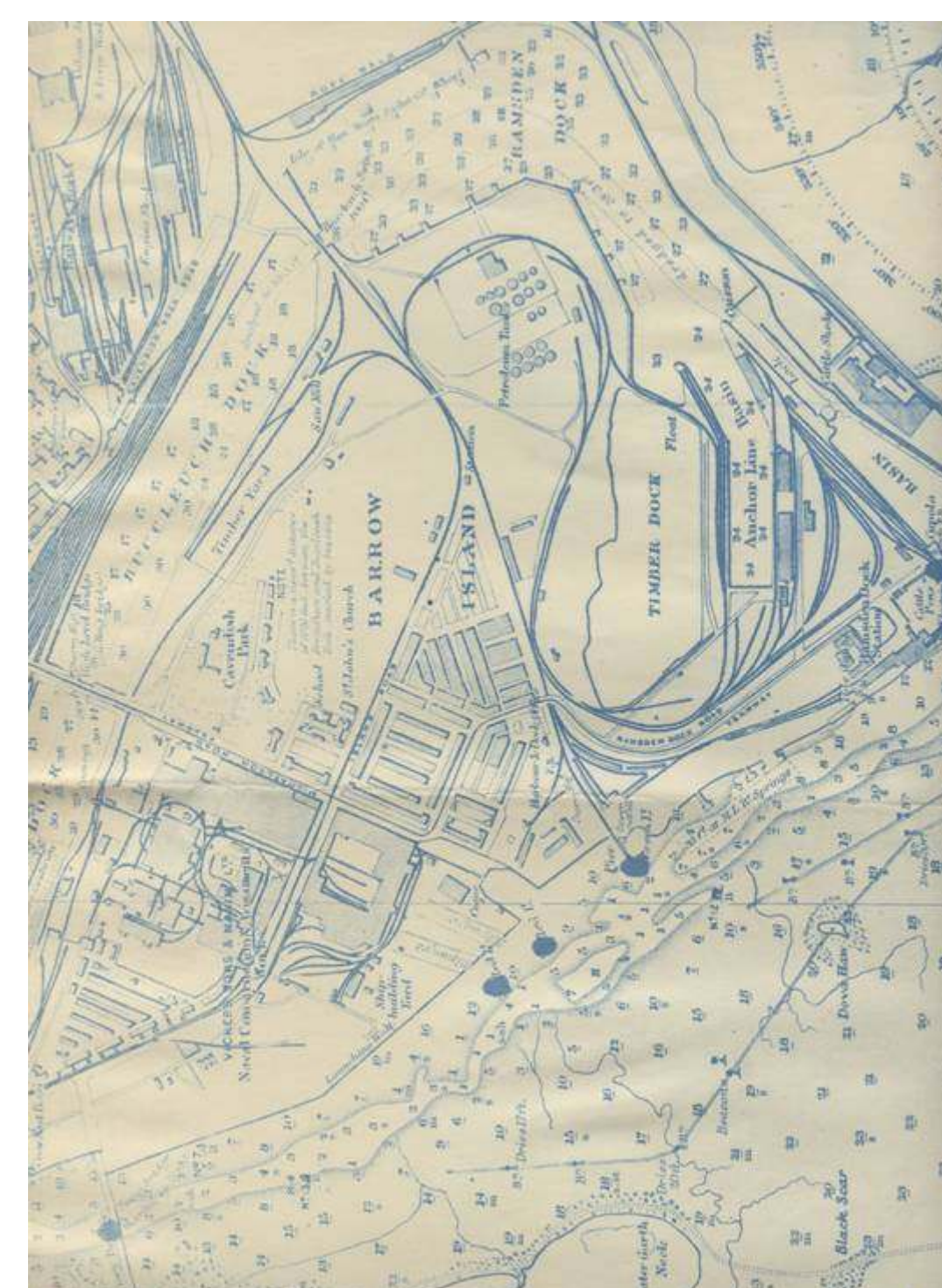
Vickers, Limited

Barrow-in-Furness played an important role during the First World War. Throughout Britain the civilian population was mobilised on an unprecedented scale with women employed in industry, most noticeably, munitions.

Vickers was also a significant shipyard and this panel illustrates the significance of this yard. An example of this was HMS Revenge, 1915-1948, built by Vickers, and one of the most powerful warships of her generation, serving in both the First and Second World Wars. She was present at the Battle of Jutland in 1916.



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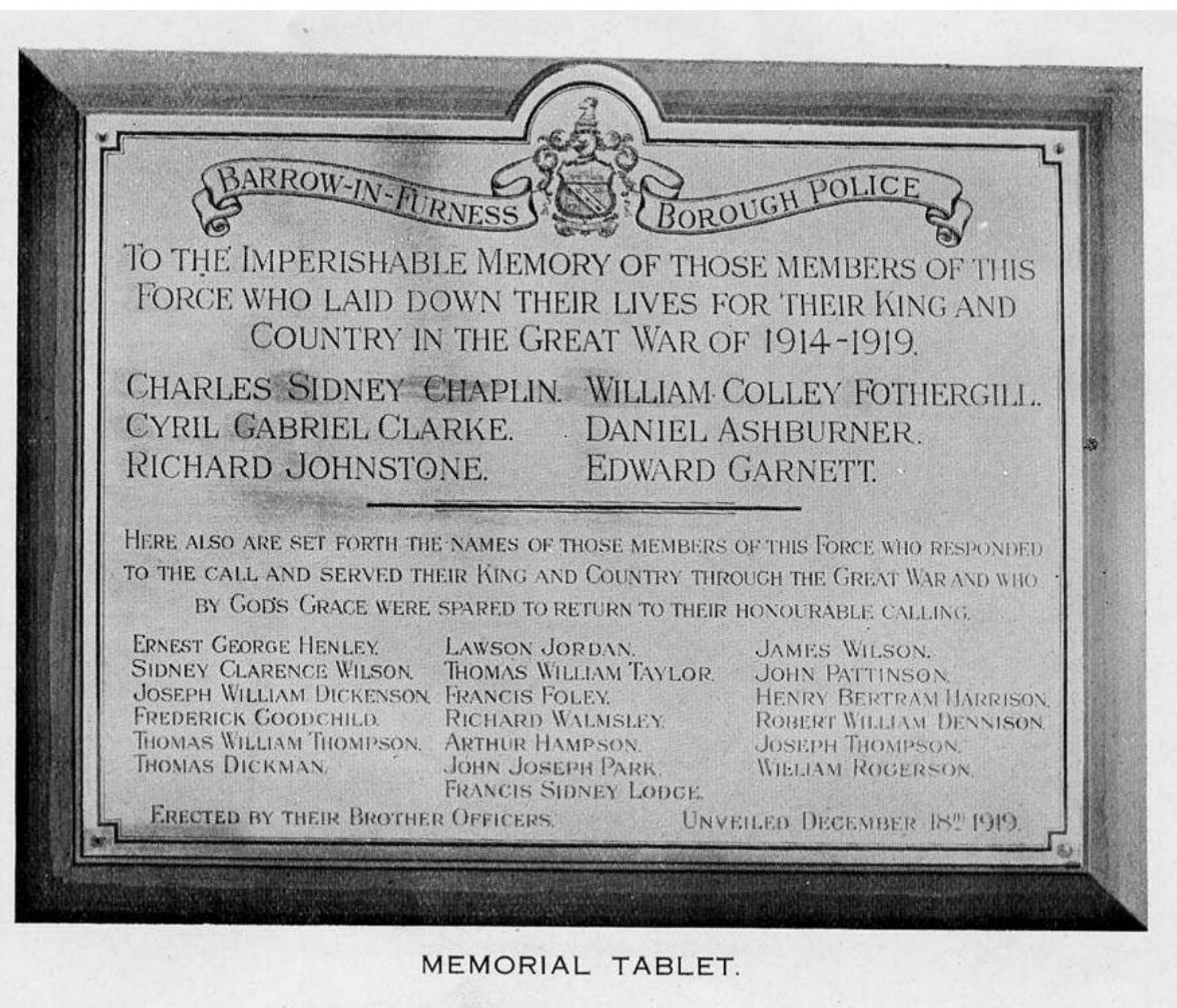
The First World War 1914-1918

War and Remembrance

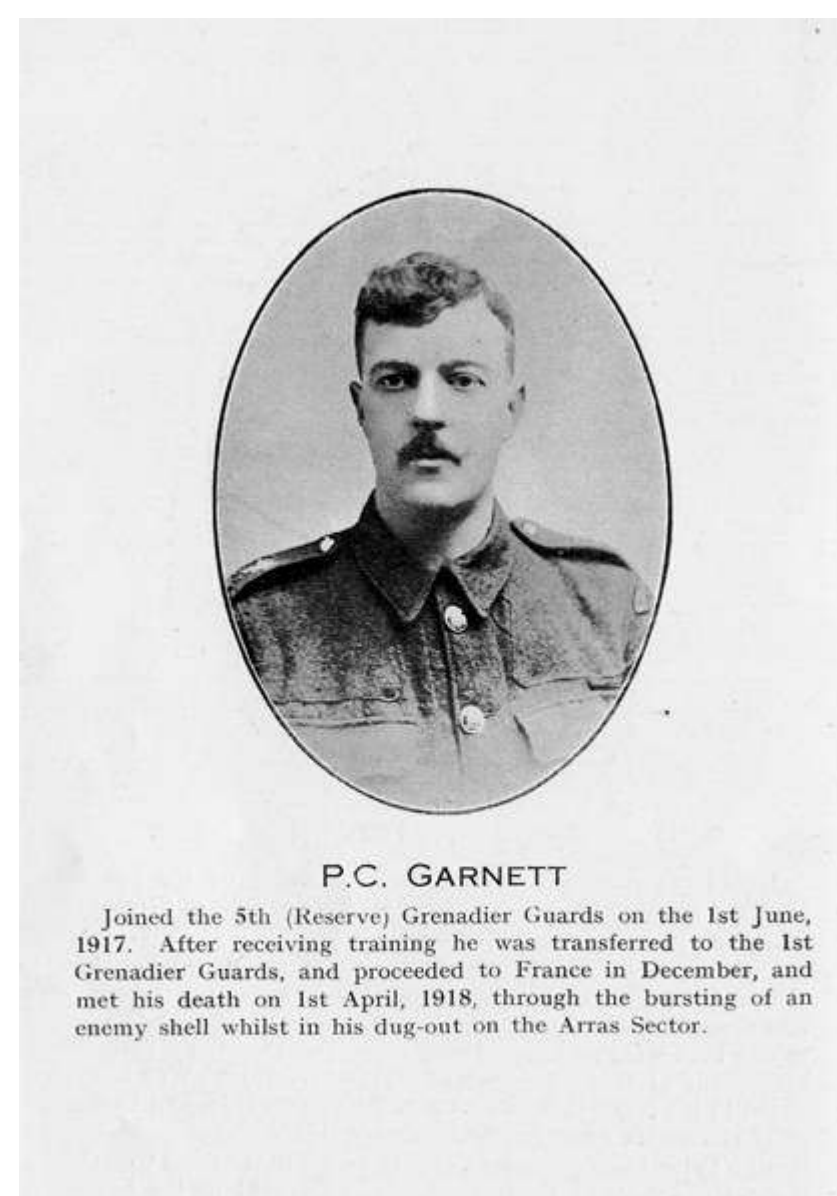


Over one million British and Empire servicemen lost their lives during the Great War and the scale of loss was unprecedented. The initial euphoria of victory soon gave way to how the sacrifice of so many should be acknowledged.

This panel looks at how communities in Cumbria celebrated the end of war in November 1918 and remembers those who did not return.



The newspaper extracts are from the *Cumberland News* in November 1918. Two images relate to the Barrow Borough Police, in particular a memorial tablet to those who lost their lives and an entry for PC Garnet, killed at Arras in April 1918.



Below, another casualty of war. Portrait of Sergeant Fred Bainbridge, son of George Bainbridge of Burton in Kendal.



Captain John Kinmont (of the Kinmonts of Beacon Hill, Penrith) who died in action at Cambrai in 1917. His grave is shown in the image below.
Carlisle Archives (ref. DKinn/22)



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