

## West Cumberland at War

January 1915

### MARYPORT PRIVATE ON THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE.

#### FRATERNIZING WITH THE GERMANS.

"It was a ripping parcel, and we had a grand time over it. To crown all, one of the fellows sharing my 'buggy hut' had a parcel on the same day, and we combined and invited four more pals, one of whom had a box of Tom Smith's Christmas crackers sent out, which we cracked, and it added to the fun immensely. Christmas in the trenches! What a time! 'Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.' It is hardly to be believed, but nevertheless it is quite true that such was the case this Christmas. Who can realise it? It will astound everyone who hears about it, which everyone will do in good time. Of course, I am speaking about the part of the firing line we are situated in. On Christmas Eve at four p.m. we had orders that unless the 'enemy' advanced we were not to fire, and the same applied to Christmas Day. Whether the Germans had the same order or not I don't know, but no shot was fired on either side. In Christmas Eve we shouted 'Compliments of the Season' to each other, and passed pleasant remarks. We sang the 'Austrian Anthem,' and they replied with 'God Save the King.' On Christmas Day, after service in the trenches, we went half-way and we shook hands, and had a fine crack with them. Quite a number of them speak English. I got one's autograph, and he got mine, and I exchanged a button with another, and exchanged cigars and got cigars galore. Altogether we spent a very pleasant two hours with them, and found them a nice lot of fellows. Men, every one of them, and white ones, too. There is heaps more I should like to tell, but I know it won't get packed, so it will have to wait.

14 January 1915

*News of the now legendary Christmas Truce began to appear in both national and local newspapers.*

*Germany mounted the first airborne attack on British soil. Zeppelins bombed Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn killing five people.*

*The British and German fleets met in battle at Dogger Bank.*



7 January 1915

Discover history

**Cumbria  
Libraries  
and Archive  
Centres**



### MRS. COWPERTHWAITE, OF RAVENGLASS.

#### HELPING TO FIGHT AT 90.

(Photograph by Withington and Company,  
St. George's Terrace, Millom.)

Mrs. COWPERTHWAITE, of Walls Cottage, Ravenglass, knitted stockings for the Ravenglass Soldiers' Comforts Fund at the age of 90 without the aid of spectacles.

## OUR SOLDIERS WANT MORE ZAM-BUK.

### REMARKABLE LETTERS FROM THE TRENCHES.

Letters received almost daily from the firing line in France and Belgium prove how indispensable Zam-Buk is to our gallant soldiers, not only for mending the cuts and bruises incidental to the hard life in the trenches, but also for healing their sore feet after long marches, and preventing frost-bite and rheumatism.

Lance-Corporal J. P. Delaney, a Distinguished Conduct Medallist, of the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment, in a letter, dated November 24th, says:—"A box of Zam-Buk out here is like a loaf of bread to a starving man. On the retreat from Mons we had a forced march of 37 miles, and not a man who used Zam-Buk on his feet fell out. I can safely recommend Zam-Buk to everyone as being the best healer on the market."

14 January 1915

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.

## A WHITEHAVEN GUNNER'S EXPERIENCES.

### THE EXPLOITS OF THE INVINCIBLE.

Gunner T. A. Emmert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Emmert, of Victoria-road, Whitehaven, is one of the crew of the *Invincible*, and was engaged on that war vessel at the time of the battle on Falkland Islands.

21 January 1915

The 5th Border Regiment in France mourn the loss of their mascot, the fox Winkle, which belonged to Private Hugh McDonald, of the Cockermouth Company. Winkle made his escape a few days ago at the base, and although diligent search was made for him in the woods around he was not found.

21 January 1915



LIEUT. J. W. ROBINSON.  
OF WHITEHAVEN.

7 January 1915

## THE SALE OF BEER.

### A CORRECTION.

We have received a letter from Mr. F. W. Livesey, managing director of the Workington Brewery Co., Ltd., referring to a short article which appeared on this page last week to the effect that the price of beer, which had been advanced on account of the war tax, had been reduced in Maryport, as to which Mr. Livesey gives the statement an unqualified contradiction so far as the Workington Brewery Co., Ltd., is concerned. That Company, Mr. Livesey writes, are keeping up the advanced price of 1d per pint in all their licensed houses, of which they have five in Maryport, and they have no intention of lowering prices so long as the heavy War Tax on Beer remains in force, whatever other breweries may do in the matter. As our readers know we always put accuracy first as far as we are able, and we much regret that in this instance the member of our staff who supplied the article has been so essentially misinformed, and we have pleasure in doing what we can to put the matter right accordingly.

28 January 1915

## WOUNDED SOLDIERS' CHEERFUL MESSAGE.

### "LIFE IN THE OLD DOG YET."

In a pleasing and homely interview with Mrs. Farrer, of 4, Addison-street, Whitehaven, our representative was shown a letter from her brother, Pvt. 6208, James Kitchin, 2nd Border Regiment, British Expeditionary Force, now in France, which was despatched from No. 1 General Hospital, and dated Sunday, December 27th, 1914. The wording ran:—

"Dear Sister,—Just a few lines to let you know I am beginning to be myself again. I suppose you will have received the letter that the Sister of this hospital sent you to let you know I was wounded. I think it was very kind of her to write. Well, it was on the 18th that it happened. We had finished our four days in the trenches, and would have been out that night, but there was an attack on the German trenches to be done. It would be about six o'clock at night. I was shot in the left thigh. The bullet went nearly through it; it was about two inches off, so I had to have it taken out. It is doing champion. The doctor says I have been very fortunate. It was an explosive bullet. But never mind; 'there's life in the old dog yet.'"

7 January 1915



**TROOPER R. P. SIMPSON  
OF BOOTLE  
(2ND LIFE GUARDS).**

21 January 1915

### ST. BEES MAN LOST ON THE "VIKNOR."

Mr. and Mrs. S. Bell, Abbots Cottage, St. Bees, received a message from the Admiralty on Monday afternoon, conveying the sad news that their younger son, Fred, had been lost on the "Viknor." As the commencement of the war Mr. Bell's two sons, both engineers, applied for commissions in the Royal Navy. These were granted, Fred being appointed to the armed merchant vessel, "Viknor," and Ted to the armed liner, "The Duke of Cornwall."

28 January 1915

### RAVENGLASS GIVES A MAN TO THE FLYING CORPS.

Mr. T. W. Smith, of Ravenglass, a chauffeur in the employment of Mr. Joanides, has enlisted in the Flying Corps, and is now training at Farnborough. Mr. Smith is a motorist of many years' experience, which experience has stood him in good stead, he having passed highly in all the tests he had to undergo. Good luck to him!

28 January 1915

# THE WAR.

## AIRSHIP RAID ON EAST COAST.

German aircraft raided some East Coast towns and threw bombs causing several deaths on Tuesday evening.

The hostile aircraft visited Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Sheringham, Sandringham, and Ipswich. (The King and Queen left Sandringham on Tuesday afternoon.)

Several bombs were dropped, causing considerable damage to property and the loss of at least five lives, other persons being injured.

Bombs were dropped on villages forming part of the King's Sandringham estate.

21 January 1915

## WHITEHAVEN GUNNER'S INTERESTING LETTER FROM FIRING LINE.

"NATIVES NOT AS CAUTIOUS AS WE ARE."

Writing to his parents at 2, Michael's-place, 1, Michael-street, Whitehaven, 54311, Gunner J. Willans, 14th Battery, R.F.A., says:—"You wanted to know if I had been in the firing line. We went into action on the 31st of October and remained in action for forty-seven days. During this time our battery did some very good work. When we first went into action all we could hear was the roar of the German big guns (these are the ones that fire "Jack Johnsons.") Our work was to support the infantry in front. I am a bit more lucky than most of the other gunners. Being a telephonist I have to go with an officer to observe the fire and send any orders down to the Commanding Officer. You see we are about one mile in front of the rest of the battery, and we have to keep our eyes about for snipers.

21 January 1915

## OVER 300 BELGIUM REFUGEES EXPECTED IN MILLOM.

The Millom Ratepayers' Association, which has done so much to provide accommodation for so many workmen engaged at the Barrow shipyard, have, through Mr. Docker, been invited to provide accommodation for from 300 to 500 more workmen from the Barrow shipyard. It is understood that most of these workmen will be Belgium refugees.

14 January 1915



2ND LIEUT. C. GRAHAM,  
OF ASPATRIA AND  
WHITEHAVEN.

7 January 1915

## COUNTESS ROBERTS' APPEAL FOR FIELD GLASSES

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—Although the appeal made by my father, Lord Roberts, to sportsmen and others, to lend their race, field or stalking glasses for the use of officers and non-commissioned officers under orders for the front has been most gratifying, a very large number of glasses are still required.

Up to the present some 18,000 pairs of field and stalking glasses have been received. These have been carefully examined and classified by an expert before being issued. The names and addresses of the owners are registered and the glasses themselves are engraved with an index number in order that the owners can be traced at the conclusion of the war and their property, when possible, returned to them.

28 January 1915