

From the Newspaper Archives West Cumberland at War

February 1915

"THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE." WHITEHAVEN AND WORKINGTON V.C.s.



**PRIVATE JAMES SMITH,
OF WORKINGTON.**



**PRIVATE ABRAHAM ACTON,
OF WHITEHAVEN.**

10694. Pte Abraham Acton, 2nd Border Regiment, and 6423 Pte. James Smith, 3rd Border Regiment (attached 2nd Battalion). For conspicuous bravery on December 21st at Rouges Bancs, in voluntarily going from their trench and rescuing a wounded man who had been lying exposed against the enemy's trenches for 75 hours, and on the same day again leaving their trench voluntarily under heavy fire to bring into cover another wounded man.

Early in the month Germany began submarine warfare against merchant vessels.

The Allied navel bombardment of the Dardanelles and Gallipoli began.

A COINCIDENCE OF WAR.

A local reservist, Mr. Kirkpatrick, of Distington, relates that being on service in France he was amongst those detailed to guard a column of German prisoners. Marching alongside he was suddenly accosted by a voice from the ranks of the captives: "Hallo, Jack, how's all going on in Whitehaven? How's Teddy Atter, and all of them?" Then the prisoner revealed himself to his astonished custodian as a German who was at one time in the service of the then existing West Cumberland Club as a waiter or page, who had recognised in the English soldier a face once locally familiar to him.

18 February 1915

Private H. McDonald's pet fox, which he took to France with him from Cockermouth, and which was reported as "missing," has rejoined the 5th Border Regiment. After two days' absence the Company rejoiced to learn that their mascot had returned to its master.

4 February 1915



**PRIVATE G. JOHNSTON,
OF EGREMONT, 'G' COMPANY
3RD EAST LANCASHIRE
REGIMENT.**

KILLED IN ACTION JAN. 24, 1915.

11 February 1915

MOTOR DRIVERS

(Car and Petrol Lorry), also GOOD

MOTOR FITTERS & TURNERS,

Are Required for

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT, ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

ENLISTMENT.

For period of War Only.

PAY.

6/- per day, all found, with separation allowance if married.

HOW TO JOIN.

Candidates for enlistment should present themselves at the Recruiting Office, The Castle, Carlisle, on Friday, March 5th, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6-30 p.m.; or at the Recruiting Office at Penrith, on Saturday, March 6th, between the same hours, where they will be seen by a Mechanical Transport Officer. They should bring with them Testimonials showing previous experience in Motor Driving. No applicants will be seen without references. Accepted Men will be Enlisted and required to proceed to the Mechanical Transport Depot on the following day.

25 February 1915

DO YOU FEEL HAPPY?



Do you feel happy as you walk along the streets and see other men wearing the King's uniform?

If not, why don't you enlist to-day and do your share?



4 February 1915

Several Belgian miners have arrived in Whitehaven recently to take up work at the collieries, and it is expected that others will follow shortly.

11 February 1915

WORKINGTON REGULAR KILLED IN ACTION.

Mr. Norman Fox, an engine driver, Yeowart-ville, Workington, has received the official intimation from the War Office that his son, Lance-Corporal W. Fox, of the King's Liverpool Regiment, was killed in action on Christmas Day at Cambrai. Deceased was highly respected in the town.

4 February 1915

WHITEHAVEN MEN AT THE FRONT.

Private Dixon, 9100, D Company, Head Quarters Staff, 2nd Border Regiment, British Expeditionary Force, writes us:—"Just a line from a few of the Whitehaven lads out at the front. We get your paper sent to us every week, and are very pleased to read the news of the dear old home. There is quite a good number of Whitehaven lads out here, but a few have "gone under." Our regiment has had it very rough since they came out. We numbered about 1,300 when we left home, and now there is only about 150 left, and I happen to be one of the lucky ones. I am proud to say our regiment heads the list in our brigade for distinguished conduct medals. At Christmas we got quite friendly with the Germans. There was no firing on both sides for about ten days, and we used to go over the trenches and talk to them and exchange souvenirs, but every one we spoke to that could speak English said they wished it was over. I was surprised when one told me he had a wife and two children in Piccadilly, and another said he drove a taxi at Fulham. We've started scrapping again, and I can tell you it is not very nice in the trenches up to the knees in water. We do four days in the trenches and then go to billets for four days. We are all quite cheerful and confident of success, so we just say the old saying "What odds, so long as we're happy?" Well I must draw to a close, and wishing your paper every success.—We remain, "A few marrows fra Whitehaven."

18 February 1915

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**LIEUT. F. BELL,
OF ST. BEES.
LOST IN H.M.S. VIKTOR.**

4 February 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.

Mr. Fred Todd, youngest son of Mr. H. Todd, Church-road, Seaton, is second engineer on the steamer *Ikaria*, which was torpedoed recently twenty-three miles from Havre on her way from Buenos Ayres. The vessel reached Havre in spite of a large hole in her hold. Nobody was hurt, but the captain and the mate were washed off the upper deck as the result of the violent explosion.

11 February 1915

Lord Leconfield, Major and Hon. Colonel, Sussex Yeomanry, has been appointed temporary captain, 1st Lifeguards, Reserve Regiment.

18 February 1915

The well-known Irish trading steamer the *Dowryshire*, one of the most regular of the Whitehaven coal trade steamers was sunk by a German submarine on Saturday night. The crew were all given time to get away before the sinking of the vessel.

25 February 1915

WHITEHAVEN MEN KILLED IN ACTION.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Clifford, 3, John's-square, Peter-street, Whitehaven, received the news on Saturday night, from the Infantry Record Office, Perth, that their son, Private 15743, J. Clifford, of the Cameron Highlanders, had died from wounds, at 3rd Field Ambulance, Benvry, and had been buried there. With this information was a letter signed by Lord Kitchener, assuring Mr. and Mrs. Clifford of their Majesties' true sympathy.

Private Clifford was originally a unit in the King's Own Lancashire Regiment, and was discharged on account of ill-health. After the declaration of war he re-enlisted in the 3rd Battalion Cameron Highlanders, and had only been in France about five weeks. He was 20 years of age and was a highly respected young man, being one of sixty-four young men from the Whitehaven Town Mission who are serving their country. He heads the roll of honour at the Mission, where Mr. Davidson, the missionary, intends holding a memorial service on Sunday evening next. Pvt. Clifford's brother, William Henry, is in the 5th Border Reserves.

11 February 1915