

April 1916



**SERGT. J. F. BARNES,  
A GOSFORTH MAN IN EGYPT.**

MR. JOHN BARNES, son of Mr. R. P. Barnes, Gosforth, went to Australia twelve months ago, and went into business as a fruit farmer. When the war broke out he tried three times in Melbourne to enlist in the infantry, but was rejected. He joined the R.A.M.C. in Sydney, and was appointed to No. 1 Australian Hospital Ship "Karooka." He got his stripes and was appointed physical instructor for the staff and crew. Sergt. J. F. Barnes was an assistant master in St. James's School, Whitehaven.

6 April 1916

**A WORKINGTON SOLDIER RECEIVES 'A WHITEHAVEN EGG.**—Master M. W. King, of George Street, Whitehaven has received the following letter from Private S. J. Sawyer, of the 7th Border, who is now in a military hospital somewhere in France:—Dear Master M. W. King,—I am just writing these very few lines to thank you for an egg I received this morning with your name written. My home is in Workington, so you can tell how pleased I was to receive a gift from near home. This is the second time I have had to come to hospital. Last August I was down wounded, but this time I have had to come for an operation. We have had grand weather here this last fortnight until to-day. Since last night it has rained almost continually. In Cumberland I suppose you are still having snow. Three weeks ago it was awful for the cold and snow up at the trenches. The roads were so slippery we used to fall about every ten yards. News is very scarce here so I will now have to close, thanking you once again, and hoping you are keeping in the very best of health."

6 April 1916

The Battle of Verdun continues with the French suffering heavy casualties. British troops suffer major gas casualties when Germans use a mixture of chlorine and phosgene gas at Hulluch near Loos in northern France. Gas blankets fitted to dug-outs prove ineffective.

## THE WAR.

### THRICE WOUNDED AND "STILL SMILING."

Lance-Serjt. Sansom, who was a member of the Cumberland and Westmorland Constabulary before the war, and at one time stationed at Whitehaven, is again in hospital, suffering from wounds received while fighting in France. It appears that a trench occupied by Sansom and his comrades was blown in, with the result that eight of his teeth were knocked out and his back and one of his eyes were injured. This is the third time Sansom has been wounded since he first went to the war, but in spite of all, he writes to a member of the Police Force at Whitehaven in a very cheerful strain, and says he is still smiling.

### ARLECDON SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Mrs. Haddon, of Asby, Arlecdon, has received word that her son, Matthew Haddon, 5th Border Regiment, was severely wounded in action on the 19th March, and is in hospital with bullet wounds in the left thigh.

13 April 1916

### A WATH BROW SOLDIER WOUNDED IN EAST AFRICA.

Mr. Abraham Southward had official news on Sunday, the 2nd of April, that his son, Private Norman L. Southward, had been severely wounded in action in East Africa on March 22nd.

6 April 1916

## CORRESPONDENCE

### THANKS FROM THE FRONT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE WHITEHAVEN NEWS.]

SIR.—Would you kindly put a note of thanks in your paper for me? I wish to thank the Committee of the Patriotic Free Gift Sale for forwarding me a present of a postal order, which is fully appreciated. It is very kind of the Whitehaven people to remember us so.

I have been out here over a year now. I am at present at the base having been just discharged from hospital, where I have been in with colic, the result of trenches.

It is nice to be thought of by people at home. Some of the Whitehaven people were very good in sending me a gramophone some months ago. I can assure you it has given us great pleasure, and passed many a weary hour away. Thanking you for all kindnesses.—I am, &c.,

603 Gunner W. McKEE.

Motor Machine Guns, France.

9th April, 1916.

20 April 1916

BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN.

## "FLAG DAY"

FOR

BRITISH SAILORS AND SOLDIERS WHO  
HAVE BEEN WOUNDED OR ARE  
PRISONERS OF WAR, AND FOR  
RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN BELGIUM.

**T**HE COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE several Religious Denominations within the Borough, have Arranged to hold a **FLAG DAY** on the 20th APRIL, 1916, for the Purpose of **PROVIDING FUNDS** for the **RELIEF** of **BRITISH SAILORS and SOLDIERS** who have been Wounded or are Prisoners of War, also for the **RELIEF** of the **DISTRESS** in **BELGIUM**, and beg to Appeal to the Public for a Generous Response towards such Deserving Causes.

The Proceeds will be Divided between the Two Objects in Equal Proportions.

By Order,

THOS. BROWN, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Whitehaven, 12th April, 1916.

13 April 1916

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and Archive  
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### PRIVATE R. TORRANCE (OF WHITEHAVEN), KILLED IN ACTION.

Mr. and Mrs. Torrance, of Park House, Peter Street, Whitehaven, have received the sad news of the death in action of their son Private Richard Torrance. The deceased was only 19 years of age, and previous to enlistment was employed at the Whitehaven Colliery Company's William Pit.

27 April 1916

### LOCAL AND OTHER VERSES MISSING

[PTE W Milburn of Egremont, 5<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment, Missing since August 1915.]

*Suspense, anxiety, and agony of mind,  
Hopes and fears, forever combined,  
Wondering every day, where can he be,  
A laddie in Khaki across the sea.*

*He left the Cumberland hills and fells  
To fight the Turks in the Dardanelles;  
But now his whereabouts are unknown,  
Only aching hearts remain at home.*

*Perhaps in the enemy's camp interned,  
For England's shores his heart has yearned,  
Or perhaps he lays in a hospital bed, Wounded,  
Unconscious, nearly dead.*

*None seems to know, his mates cannot tell,  
Whether he lives, or in battle, he fell,  
But all are assured, he has shown true grit,  
And for "King and Country" has done his bit.*

J BOUSTEAD, Egremont

27 April 1916



**Pvt. C. W. TURNER  
(OF WHITEHAVEN),  
CANADIAN MOUNTED RIFLES.**

Private Charles W. Turner is the third son of Mr. Councillor S. Turner, of Lowther Street, Whitehaven. He had been in Canada three years when war broke out, and immediately joined the Canadian Mounted Rifles, coming to England with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Before leaving England for Canada Private Turner had been learning farming with Mr. Joseph Haig, of High House, Sandwith.

6 April 1916

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.

Ask for CARR'S new biscuit

# ANZAC

AS NICE AS  
THE "TIPPERARY"  
BISCUIT BUT  
DIFFERENT

PER **10<sup>D</sup>** POUND

ABOUT 48 BISCUITS TO THE POUND  
**CARR & CO. LTD CARLISLE**

6 April 1916

**ANOTHER LOCAL MAN  
WOUNDED.**

Mrs. Mary Donald, of 13, Brackenbrow, Whitehaven, on Monday received a letter with reference to her husband, Pvt. J. Harrison Donald. Pvt. Donald, who enlisted on 18th May, 1915, formerly worked at William Pit, and has been in France for some time. The letter, which is dated April 7th, 1916, is as follows: "Just a line to let you know that your husband is in hospital here, and has come through his operation splendidly. The doctor who operated assured me that the operation was most successful. He has lost the use of his arm, but his life has been saved. When I saw him in the ward this morning he told me he had had a good night, and was most cheerful and seemed quite comfortable. He certainly ought to make satisfactory progress."

13 April 1916

REAY.—Mr. and Mrs. Mallinson Reay, Elizabeth Terrace, Netherton, desire to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, and all those who sent letters of condolence, on the loss of their son, Private John Reay.

13 April 1916

## ENNERDALE SOLDIER AT HOME ON LEAVE.

Past week Private Isaac Stilling, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Stilling, of Kirkland, and formerly of Ennerdale, was home on a few days' leave from France. He was one of the first batch of recruits from Ennerdale, and he is the only one so far that has obtained leave from France. He is in the Cycling Corps, and was in capital health. He left home again amidst the hearty good wishes of his many friends.

13 April 1916

## WORKINGTON SOLDIER KILLED.

### STRUCK WHILST CARRYING WOUNDED OFFICER.

In the form of a letter received from Sergt-Major Hayson, 5th Border Regiment, Mrs. Johnston, of 22, Berepot, Workington, was on Monday morning informed of the death of her nephew, Pvt. Jos. Johnston, of "C" Company, 5th Borders, which took place on the 6th inst. The letter says: "I regret to inform you that your nephew, Pvt. J. Johnston, was killed this morning whilst bringing in a wounded officer under heavy shell fire. He was a volunteer for this duty, and we all sympathise with you in your loss. He was a brave soldier, and had on many occasions distinguished himself in bringing in wounded comrades. He died instantly and suffered no pain." The following morning Mrs. Johnston received the following letter from the chaplain of the regiment: "It is my very sad duty to have to write and tell you that your nephew, Pvt. J. Johnston, was killed yesterday. You will doubtless have received official notice of his death, but I feel sure you will be proud to know that he died bravely doing his duty. He was carrying in a wounded officer when he himself met his death. He was buried last night under own cemetery with a Church service, and in the presence of a large number of his comrades who greatly praise his conduct and bravery. May I offer you my deepest sympathy in your loss, and I pray that our Father in heaven may comfort and strengthen you.—Yours sincerely,

STANLEY ASHBURY."

Deceased was 27 years of age, and had been previously mentioned in despatches for gallantry at the battle of Loos in September. Prior to the war he was employed as a collier at the St. Helens Colliery Co., Siddick, and was well known in the town.

13 April 1916

### LICENCE TRANSFER

Mr W H Chapman, who said he was acting on behalf of Major J Hope Brown, who was engaged on military duties, applied for a temporary transfer of the licence of the Hound Inn, Bowerhouse, Irton, from Robert Gough to Edward Thompson, farmer, of Ravenglass. The application was granted.

27 April 1916



## LANCE-CORP. P. BIBBY (OF WHITEHAVEN), 8<sup>B</sup> BATTALION SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS. DIED OF WOUNDS.

6 April 1916

## ANOTHER FRIZINGTON SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION.

On Sunday morning last, Mrs Bell, Barker's Row, Frizington, received official intimation that her husband, Private Daniel Bell of the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt. Border Regiment, had been killed in action somewhere in France, on the 6<sup>th</sup> inst.

The deceased was the second son of Mrs Bell and the late Mr John Bell, Parkside Cottages, and was formerly engaged as an iron ore miner at Moss Bay Mines. He enlisted in the 10<sup>th</sup> Border Regiment at the commencement of the war, and was sent out to the Dardanelles and was afterwards transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Batt. and sent to France. He was only 29 years of age, and leaves a widow and two children.

27 April 1916

Captain R. C. R. Blair, D.S.O., 5th Border Regiment (Richmond Hill, Hensingham), was amongst the officers who were decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

13 April 1916