

From the Newspaper Archives

West Cumberland at War

September 1916

PARTON SOLDIER WINS THE MILITARY MEDAL.

The first Parton soldier to gain a military medal is 2nd Corporal Wm. Scott, who is in the General Hospital, Birmingham, where he is being treated for a shrapnel wound in the left foot. In letters to his mother—Mrs. Kinrade, of Parton, and his sister, Mrs. Hill, of Whitehaven, Corporal Scott says he has been awarded the military medal for rescuing wounded men under very heavy shell fire, and devotion to duty. "Two of them were half buried, and one poor fellow was blown to pieces. There is no doubt that this unfortunate fellow saved the others who were underneath him. Another one was killed, one left blind, and one with a foot off, and yet another with two wounds in his head, and I was like a butcher with the blood from them. The Captain of my section seemed as though he could not praise me half enough. He was highly interested and well pleased with what I had done, and told me I was a very cool fellow. I was very unlucky when I got wounded, I got a shot right through my left foot, but it is doing well."

At the outbreak of the war Corpl. Scott was called up as reservist, having previously done ten years in the Army, seven of which were spent in India. He belonged to the King's Own Royal Liverpool Lancasters, and went with the first Expeditionary Force to Belgium and France, was in the retreat from Mons, and since then has been through the thick of the fighting and escaped harm until the first day of the big push. Later he was transferred to the Royal Engineers as sapper, and after a short course of training passed an examination and received a certificate of proficiency in the use of mine rescue apparatus.

Corpl. Scott will have the congratulations of many friends on the honour awarded him, so bravely won, with the hope that he may quickly recover from his wound.

21 September 1916

The Battle of the Somme July - November 1916



**2ND LIEUT. H. M.
BECKWITH-TOWSE
(WHITEHAVEN),
W O U N D E D .**

7 September 1916

WORKINGTON ANZAC KILLED.

On Wednesday last Mr. James Bailiff, proprietor of the Workington Opera House, received official news that his third son, Private James Bailiff (25), single man, one of the Australian Anzacs, was killed on August 31st. It was a great blow to Mr. and Mrs. Bailiff and their grown-up sons and daughters, who are all well known and highly esteemed in Workington, Whitehaven, Maryport, and the surrounding districts.

21 September 1916

FRANCE'S DAY AT MILLOM.

A BIG SUCCESS.

The Millom War Funds Committee, on Saturday last, promoted a great effort to raise funds for the French Red Cross Society. The Millom Urban Council were invited to undertake collections, &c., on the French Flag Day, but relegated this work to the committee, which was organised for the purpose. Owing to other pending patriotic efforts, the collection was postponed for the French Flag to a later date. The town was adorned with flags on Saturday, the most conspicuous being the Union Jack, whilst the tri-colour, Drapeau de Belge, floated from many a window, or a house tenanted by Belgian refugees, but not many French flags were to be seen. The town had been divided into districts, and a large number of collectors went from door to door, whilst more collectors, dressed in fancy costumes, solicited coins from every passer-by, many contributing over and over again.

14 September 1916

PRV. JOHN ROONEY (CLEATOR MOOR), BORDER REG., KILLED IN ACTION.

PRIVATE JOHN ROONEY enlisted in the Border Regiment in August, 1914, was drafted out to the Dardanelles. He was reported missing September, 1915, and he is now officially reported as killed in action. He was well known in football circles in the Cleator district.

21 September 1916

SERGT.-MAJOR T. AITKEN, D.C.M. (WHITEHAVEN), KILLED IN ACTION.

Sergeant-Major Thomas Aitken, D.C.M., Border Regiment, whose home is 28, Peter Street, Whitehaven, was killed by a shell on the 16th inst. His friend, Sergeant-Major Haysom, in a letter to Mrs. Aitken, says:—"He died instantly, and did not suffer any pain. All ranks in the Battalion sympathise with you in your very great loss." Sergt.-Major Aitken had been connected with the Volunteer and Territorial Forces for about twenty years, and at the outbreak of war held the rank of Lance-Sergeant. He was gassed on Whit-Monday, 1915, and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his devotion to duty, and work on the field, and with reference to this honour, he received a telegram of congratulation from Sir Douglas Haig. For 23 years he was employed at William Pit, Whitehaven, the latter part of the time as a rope-splicer. He was a member of the Whitehaven Presbyterian Men's Bible Class, and his widow and children have many warm sympathisers with them in their bereavement.

28 September 1916



2ND LIEUT. J. M. HALL (WHITEHAVEN), KILLED IN ACTION.

ANOTHER well-known Whitehaven family has been bereaved by the war of a promising son. Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hall, Inkerman Terrace, Whitehaven, on Friday evening, received intimation from the War Office that the younger of their two sons, Second-Lieutenant John Martindale Hall, the Border Regiment, had been killed in action, on the 29th August. There were no details respecting his death; but a letter was afterwards received by them from a friend of the deceased officer, stating that he was killed instantly by a shell, while returning to his Company from a bombing expedition.

7 September 1916



**Pvt. W. PATTINSON
(CLEATOR MOOR),
SOUTH AFRICAN SCOTTISH,
DIED FROM WOUNDS.**

MANY people resident on Cleator Moor will learn with regret of the death in action of Private Wm. Pattinson, who, as officially notified, has died of wounds received in France on July 18th. Deceased was the only son of William Pattinson, a well-known Cumberland wrestler, who formerly resided at the Crescent, Cleator Moor, and emigrated to the Transvaal twenty years ago, where he held the championship for amateur wrestling in the heavy weights for South Africa.

21 September 1916

**A WATH BROW MAN
REPORTED KILLED,
NOW A PRISONER OF WAR.**

On Friday morning Mr. John Davidson, Wath Brow, received the gratifying news that his son, Private Joseph Davidson, is now a prisoner of war in Germany, instead of, as officially reported, to have been killed in action. It was only on August 16th that official news was received from the War Office that Private Joseph Davidson had been killed in action on 31st July, and from this sad intelligence no hope was held out that the information was other than correct. The letter, which was received from Private Davidson, intimated that he was wounded in both legs in action, and had been taken prisoner by the Germans, and conveyed to Saxony, Germany, where he was in hospital and was being treated well. He expressed a wish for his parents to forward cigarettes, sugar, and butter. The news was received by the residents with delight, by whom he was held in high esteem, and very popular.

7 September 1916

**Y.M.C.A.
RED TRIANGLE
FLAG DAY.**

FOR GOD, KING, AND COUNTRY.

YOU CAN BEST CHEER ON OUR BRAVE TROOPS in their present offensive by enabling the Y.M.C.A. to Erect their cheerful Huts and Marquees in our far extended Battle Line.

Y.M.C.A. HUT FLAG DAYS

Will be held in Whitehaven and District as follows:

WHITEHAVEN, Saturday, Sept. 9th—Organiser, Mrs. H. E. Field.

PARTON, MORESBY, DISTINGTON, Saturday, Sept. 9th—Organisers, Miss Watkyn Thomas, Mr. J. T. Spencer.

MOOR ROW, Saturday, Sept. 9th—Organiser, Mr. G. Campbell, Moor Row.

RAVENGLASS, ESKDALE, BOOTLE, &c., Saturday, Sept. 9th—Organisers, Miss Marjorie Hartley, Miss Nicholson, Ravenglass.

BECKERMET, BRAYSTONES, SELLAFIELD, &c., Saturday, Sept. 9th—Organiser, Mrs. Robley, Beckermat.

SEASCALE, DRIGG, GOSFORTH, &c., Saturday, Sept. 16th—Organiser, Mrs. H. W. Walker, Seascale.

7 September 1916



**2ND LIEUT. R. P. BAXTER
(EGREMONT),
KILLED IN ACTION.**

28 September 1916



**Pvt. BOB COWAN
(RAVENGLASS), BORDER REG.,
MISSING.**

THE above is a photograph of a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Cowan, Ravenglass. Shortly after the outbreak of war three young brothers nobly responded to the call of their King and country, and enlisted. After a period of training they were drafted out to active service about a year ago. About the latter end of June last, letters from Private Bob Cowan ceased, and now his parents have had an official intimation that their son is missing since early in July. News from any fellow soldier would be gratefully received by the parents and family, and have their heartfelt thanks.

7 September 1916

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM CANADA FOR MILLOM DISABLED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.—Recently a number of Millom soldiers were recorded as having subscribed to the funds for the Millom Disabled Soldiers and Sailors. Now from far-away Saskatchewan comes a letter to Mr. Myles Holmes, of Holborn Hill with a two dollar bill. Mr. J. A. Holmes, the donor, was formerly groom for the late Dr. Stoney, but emigrated to Canada about three years ago, where he is engaged in farming. The fund is fast approaching £200.

14 September 1916

WHITEHAVEN MAN KILLED IN ACTION

Private John Graham of the Northumberland Fusiliers has been killed in action. He was 22 years of age and was, prior to enlistment, a tailor in the employ of Messrs Lucas and Cussons, Lowther-street, Whitehaven.

The parent have received the following letter, dated 29th August:- "I am very sorry to have to tell you that the news you have received regarding your son is only too true. We were in reserve at the time it happened, but the enemy shelled us heavily. Your son, I regret to say, was one of those who fell victims.

7 September 1916

2ND LIEUT. JOHN SMITH (WHITEHAVEN), ROYAL ENGINEERS.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT JOHN L. SMITH, son of Mr. C. J. Smith, of the firm of Messrs. Smith Bros., Ltd. (Whitehaven), joined the Border Regiment in September, 1914, and has been in France with them until a week or two ago when he received a commission in the Royal Engineers. In civil life Lieut. Smith was in the surveyor's department of Lowca Colliery.

28 September 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.

WOUNDED ENNERDALIAN.

Last week, Private John Pearson, second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Pearson, Post Office, Ennerdale, paid a visit to his parents. He was severely wounded in the ankle and wrist in the big advance of July, and since then has received treatment in a military hospital at Birmingham. He has almost recovered. Another son of Mr. Pearson's, who is training in England, was also home at the same time.

HENSINGHAM SOLDIER WOUNDED.

Word came to Hensingham on Monday that Private Thomas Taylor, of the Durham Light Infantry, had been wounded in the great push on the 16th inst. He has been brought over to England, and is now in Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot. Private Taylor is the second son of Henry Taylor, Sandwith, and enlisted in the Durham Light Infantry, in Sept., 1914, at Seaham Harbour, and has seen a good deal of fighting. His wife is a daughter of the late Mrs. Preston, Main Street, Hensingham.

KILLED IN ACTION.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Relph, of Soutergate, Kirkby, received information on Saturday, that their son, Pte. William Relph, had been killed in action on September 4th. He enlisted in November last year and went to France on July 17th, and was only in the trenches a few weeks. He was a fine robust young man, and was a typical British soldier.

Mr. and Mrs. Relph had a son killed at Green Road some three years ago.

Information has been received that Lance-Corpl. J. Shepherd, of Kirkby-in-Furness, has been wounded in the hand, but is progressing favourably.

PARTON SOLDIER GIVEN UP AS KILLED.

Mrs. McMeikin, of Parton, has received official intimation from the Army Reserve Office that it is now concluded that her brother, Pvt. William Benson, who has been regarded as missing from August 21st, 1915, is dead. Pvt. Benson, who was 41 years of age, was an old Militiaman, and enlisted in October, 1914. On April 15th, 1915, he was sent to the Dardanelles, from which place one letter and some field cards were received. His sister has heard from returned soldiers, who saw her brother wounded in the stomach, but the hope that he would have been recovered later was not realised. Two brothers of the lamented soldier, Privates Thomas and Robert Benson, are at the front.

28 September 1916



PVT. S. V. BENTLEY
(WHITEHAVEN), K.O.R.L.,
DIED OF DYSENTERY.

14 September 1916



PRIVATE G. MARTIN
(EGREMONT), THE BORDERS,
KILLED IN ACTION.

21 September 1916



PRIVATE J. PARK
(WHITEHAVEN),
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS,
KILLED IN ACTION.

The parents of the late Private Park, Church-street, Whitehaven, of whose death announcement was made last week, have received the following letter —

Headquarters, 8th Seaforth Highlanders,
B.E.F., 24th August, 1916.

Dear Mrs. Park,—This is indeed very sad news. Your dear devoted son fell in action on the 19th inst., and I am indeed very deeply grieved to repeat to you such terrible news. It all happened this way. Our battalion were holding a very important part of the line—the Germans were only about 500 yards distant, and were holding on to their last trench. After two unsuccessful attempts had been made by two other regiments to take this trench, our boys were set to take it, which they did, the Huns offering little or no resistance. We cleared them from the trench into shell holes, but their artillery opened a most terrific fire. I was standing some 1,000 yards away, and thought that no living thing could live in such fire. Your dear son was killed by fragments of a shell, and died almost instantly. We buried him after sunset, together with several other comrades, to sleep till the Great Awakening. I feel I cannot sympathise enough with you in this sad hour. Please do not think this is official notification. I am merely writing to you as a son, fully knowing how a mother must long for news of the last sweet moments of such a devoted son as yours. He was a good lad, and did his duty well. You have lost one who was dearly loved by all who were fortunate enough to have known him. Good-bye dear Mrs. Park. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy.—I am, yours sincerely,

EDWARD E. POTTER, Sgt.

7 September 1916

THE GREAT CHEERO FESTIVAL. — On Friday, in the Salvation Army Hall, in Duke-street, 230 soldiers' and sailors' wives and mothers took tea with the local branch of the Salvation Army. At 5-30 the tables looked very inviting, but at six p.m. there was a great change, for the guests did justice to the spread, and in such a fashion that all those who waited upon them were delighted at the hearty way the tables were cleared. Later in the evening the Central Hall was the scene of the Cheero Festival, and cheerful it was in every sense.

28 September 1916

Pvt. FRANCIS ROBERTS
(WHITEHAVEN),
K.O. LIVERPOOL REGIMENT,
KILLED IN ACTION.

PRIVATE FRANCIS ROBERTS (7th King's Own, Liverpool Regiment) has been killed in action. Word has been received that this took place on August 9th, 1916. Private Roberts was 25 years of age. Before enlistment he worked at Wellington Pit.

14 September 1916



Pvt. JOS. BOUCH
(WHITEHAVEN),
SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS,
KILLED IN ACTION.

14 September 1916