

LOCAL CASUALTIES.

EXTRACTED FROM THE OFFICIAL LISTS. All are persons who were observed. Killed. 1. ... 2. ... 3. ... 4. ...

Visited By The Baby Killers

In 1916, whilst the fighting raged on the Somme, life continued back home in County Durham. Children went to school, football matches were played, miners worked underground, but life on the Home Front was not the same as before the war, as is seen in the newspapers of the time.

These local papers, like the Stanley News or Durham Chronicle, provide a window into the world of 1916, a world of Zeppelin raids, conscription and DORA (Defence of the Realm Act).

These cuttings are from local newspapers now held at Durham County Record Office. The original newspapers are today too fragile to be handled but all have been microfilmed and are available to readers in the Record Office.

MY WORD, THERE'S 'SOMME' SALE GOING ON AT CHARLTON'S. GREAT SLAUGHTER OF PRICES IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

This is what we are doing in the DRESS DEPARTMENT. 7 Pieces Mercerized POPLIN, in Black, Navy, Brown, Grey, Blue and Green. Usual Price 2/3. SALE PRICE - 1/6 Yard. 1 Piece only Toney Red Venetian CLOTH, once wide, suitable for making up in the new Scaque style. Usual Price 2/11. SALE PRICE - 1/11 Yard. 3 Pieces 50in. "GABRIEL" in Navy, Burgundy, and Grey. Usual Price 3/11. SALE PRICE - 2/9. 1 Piece Tange CREPE DE CHINE, Usually sold at 5/11. SALE PRICE - 3/11. 1 Piece Sponge CLOTH, in Blue, 40in. wide. Usually sold at 2/6. SALE PRICE - 1/11 Yard. All SUMMER BLOUSES must be Cleared to make room for New Goods. The Pansy Flowered Vail BLOUSES. Usually sold at 5/11. SALE PRICE - 3/11. Shantung Shirt BLOUSES, Rosebush Collars, Pearl Buttons. Usual Price 4/6. SALE PRICE - 2/6. Special Clearance of the Famous LUVISCA BLOUSES. Usual Price 7/11. SALE PRICE - 4/11. Odd Lots in VOILES, MUSLINS, SILKS, etc. All at VERY Low PRICES.

HOSIERY. Large Stocks in Ladies' and Children's STOCKINGS on hand. Special Lot of Ladies' All-Wool Plain Cashmere HOSIE, the Famous "St. Margaret" make, in Black, Navy, Tan, Toney, Moles, and Nigger Brown. These have been selling freely at 2/6. SALE PRICE - 1/11 Pair. Our Super-Soft STOCKING for Women and Children, are specially noted for Fit and Hard Wear. Usual Price 1/6. SALE PRICE - 1/11 Pair. Special Lot of Children's UMBRELLAS. Usually sold at 1/3. SALE PRICE - 1/6. Other 2/6. Now 1/11. Remarkable Offer of Ladies' New Style U.K. BRILLIANT Hook and Straight Handles. Usual Price 6/0. SALE PRICE - 3/11. A better quality. Usual Price 6/11. SALE PRICE - 4/11.

COSTUMES and MILLINERY are all marked at MOVING PRICES. Seize this opportunity to Buy your requirements in DRAPERIES GOODS now. SEE THE WINDOWS, and please note all Goods are of the well-known CHARLTON Quality, which means Satisfaction every time.

PALACE WINGATE. Thursday, November 2nd, 1916. THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME OF THE SOMME The greatest battle picture ever filmed.

ONE HOUSE Thursday and Friday, at 7-30. THREE HOUSES Saturday, 2-30, 7 & 9 o'clock. Prices as usual. NO HALF TICKETS ISSUED on SATURDAY NIGHT. The CHILDREN'S MATINEE will be held on Friday - 5 o'clock. NEXT WEEK: An American's Home A GREAT PICTURE. F. W. Mason, Printer, High Street, Hartlepool.

The Battle of the Somme was filmed in July 1916 and was being shown in cinemas across County Durham by the end of September. For the first time, audiences at home gained an impression of what it was really like on the Western Front. Secretary for War (later Prime Minister) Lloyd George said of this film - "If the exhibition of this picture all over the world does not end war, God help civilisation!" Palace Cinema Poster, Wingate, 2nd November 1916, [Ref No: DCRO DIX 513/6]

R. CHARLTON'S, CLATPETH, DURHAM.

The GUNS in France are booming; so are the Sales of "LUKNO" SAUCE. Better than ever. Same Price as before the War.

a soldier and a gentleman. HEAVY TOLL ON THE PAIS.

These were numerous casualties among local men during the recent "big push" on the western front.

LANCE-CORPORAL J. G. THOMPSON. Lance-Corporal J. G. Thompson, of the Durham Light Infantry (Pais), is reported to be suffering from wounds in the face and chest and is now lying in Southhampton Hospital. Prior to joining the Pais Battalion when they were formed shortly after the outbreak of the war, Lance-Corporal Thompson was a sergeant-master at the Blue Coat School, Clapham, Durham.

LANCE-CORP. J. G. THOMPSON'S EXPERIENCES. Writing from the University War Hospital, Southampton, to his parents in Gilegate, Lancashire, J. G. Thompson says he arrived in England after the most awful weeks of agony. It is possible for anyone to go through. He is now lying in the above hospital in a ward of eight beds and crowds of nurses. In a brief diary of his experiences in the great battle, he says: "July 1st, 9 am.—Waiting in trenches to go off for the top. Myramp in face and chest, 9.30—Got to — Wood. First aid dressing. 10.30—Had to walk to — Camp. Another dressing and inoculation against lockjaw. Had to walk to — Good treatment here, and nice food and careful dressing. From here sent in wagon on very rough roads to —. From here sent to be in open field until 8 p.m. About 8 o'clock put in train to —. Sent from here to a tent, and laid 400 of wounded off in motor to —, July 2nd—Bully beef and biscuits here. No beds lay on floor. Stay here for three days agony. Removed to treatment no better. July 6th—Removed to Doctor for those in pain. I offer myself at night, and am very soon operated-on. This doctor knew there was a lump of shrapnel in my chest. But all's well that ends well, and here I am again. Spent July 6th at hospital in —, in water July 7th, and here in this (Southampton) hospital on July 8th."

Heavy Toll of Pais, Durham Advertiser, 14th January 1916

TALLEST SOLDIER IN DURHAMS KILLED. Mrs. Jordan, of No. 1, Dobson Street, Blackhill, has been officially informed that her grand-son, Private H. Wilson, D.L.C., has been killed in action. He was attached to the Lewis gun section. The deceased, who was only 20 years old and single, was one of the tallest men in the British Army, and was of powerful physique. He had grown to 6ft. 11in. height, and his officers had tried to persuade him to join the Guards, but he preferred to remain amongst his own comrades. His father was connected with the Bedfords, a well-known Tynedale family, and his father who formerly resided at Ark, near Hexham is now in Australia. Private Wilson was formerly a player for Blackhill Rugby Club, and before enlisting was employed at the Consett Iron Co.'s Westwood Colliery.

Tallest Soldier in Durhams Killed, Durham Advertiser, 6th October 1916

OF GERMAN DESCENT Exemption Applicant Objects to Shooting Relations. PECULIAR CASE BEFORE APPEAL TRIBUNAL. Further sittings of the Durham County Appeal Tribunal were held at Durham on Friday, and the 90 cases entered brought the number of appeals still with leave to the first sitting up to over 2,000. Sir Frank Brown presided in the one Court and Judge Greenwell in the other.

Relations on the Other Side. A Sunderland applicant asked for an adjournment as his firm was applying for a licence. The other side, I hardly think it is fair I should be called upon to shoot my relations. There are many circumstances under which I should be entitled to shoot my relations. The appeal having been dismissed, applicant writes me: I have then I have no fight. In furthering: You may be sent to Salzwart, when there are no Germany, or to No-topmatis.

In January 1916 conscription (compulsory service in the Army) was introduced for all single men aged 18 to 41, extended to married men in May. Exemptions, especially for reserved occupations, were allowed and Appeals Tribunals met to consider cases. The results of these appeals made interesting reading in the newspapers then and now. Above left: Exemption Cards, Stanley News, 20th July 1916 Above right: Of German Descent, Stanley News, 5th October 1916

Local Casualties, Stanley News, 17th August 1916

There had been casualty lists before in the newspapers, especially after the battles of Ypres and Loos, but nothing could prepare people for the weekly news of casualties - relatives, neighbours, workmates - from the Somme battle.

RAID BY FLEET OF ZEPELINS. HOSTILE AIRSHIPS ON EAST AND SCOTTISH COAST. FIVE PERSONS KILLED & SEVENTEEN INJURED. RAIDERS DRIVEN OFF BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS.

People on the Home Front also came under attack in July, Seaham was shelled by a German submarine and Mrs Mary Slaughter was killed. Zeppelins (airships) also raided the East Coast causing casualties but the exact locations of these raids were military secrets and were not printed in the newspapers. Top left: Raid by Fleet of Zeppelins, Stanley News, 10th August 1916. Top right: Woman Killed, Stanley News, 13th July 1916 Bottom left: Zepp Raids, Stanley News, 7th December 1916

Woman Killed and House Damaged. PRESS BUREAU. Wednesday, 12th August. The following communication was issued by the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, Home Forces: At 10.30 last night a German submarine appeared off the small wide-fleeted port of Seaham Harbour. She approached so within a few hundred yards of the pier, and then opened fire. Some thirty rounds of shrapnel were fired from a 3-inch gun. Twenty rounds fell in the direction of Dalrymple Dale, and a considerable fall in that and about Seaham Colliery. A woman who was walking through the colliery yard was seriously injured, and another was killed.

EXEMPTION CARDS. POWER OF THE POLICE TO DEMAND PRODUCTION. The police are now given power to request those of exemption class to produce them on request. An Order of the War Office has been issued.

ZEPP RAID! YOU are insured against any Fall Accident, including AIR RAIDS and DARKENED STREETS. FREE. If you take the Northern Echo every morning.

No Light. Frank Wragham, aged 21, and Robert Wragham, aged 18, were summoned under the Defence of the Realm Act, for having ridden a bicycle with no lights on 16 July, and were each fined 2s. 6d.

P.-S. Jackson deposed that at 10.40 p.m. on Sunday he was near Louisa Colliery, and saw the first named defendant with no front or rear lamp on his cycle. The first defendant said that he had only just got on, and his brother said that he had expected to get back earlier, but had two punctures on the road. Sergt. Jackson said that they said something similar to that at the time; but also said they thought they could evade the police.

No Light, Stanley News, 10th August 1916. DORA (Defence of the Realm Act) was introduced as soon as the war began in August 1914 and covered a whole range of possible wartime offences. Once the Zeppelin raids began, it was made an offence to show a light at night, but riding a bicycle without lights was also an offence.

WANTED A Respectable YOUNG GIRL, as Kitchen Maid - Apply fully by letter to M.A. Clarendon House, Sunderland. WANTED by the Lloyds' Medical Society QUALIFIED ASSISTANT DOCTOR to manage branch surgery applications, steady salary required, qualifications, age, etc. - SEND REPLY, 13, Hillside Terrace, Liverpool, Gloucester. WANTED YOUNG LADY as Assistant - Apply Maxton & Co. Ltd., Chemists, Durham. YOUNG GIRL WANTED in Grocery Department - Apply to G. GREENWELL & SONS, 33, St. Giles Street, Durham. CHICK & GENERAL. Nurse - Widdington, Road, Old Elvet, Durham. YOUTH WANTED as Apprentice; also a GIRL for Branda, etc. - W. SMITH, 24, Silver Street.

By 1916, women were replacing men in factories and industries across the North East. These new jobs, especially in the munitions (shells and bullets) factories, were better paid than traditional women's jobs in service or shops and this shift in the labour market is reflected in the newspaper small advertisements. Wanted, Durham Chronicle, 29th September 1916

The language of war - "The Big Push" - was used in the newspapers to advertise everything from blouses to sauces. Top: Somme Sale, Durham Advertiser, 21st July 1916 Middle: Lukno Sauce, Stanley News, 3rd August 1916 Bottom: The Big Push, Stanley News, 12th October 1916

WEST STANLEY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD. The Big Push "SOMME" RARE BARGAINS AGAINST HIGH PRICES IS WON. Having purchased largely, and at the right time, we are in a position to offer such Goods at Rock-Bottom Prices. Remember our Motto - Quality, Top Prices, Bottom. It will please us well to serve you well. It will pay you better to allow us. It is in your interests to join at once - TO-DAY. FLOUR 7s 7d to 2s 11d per stone. BUTTER (selected Danish) per lb to 11d. Divided on all purchases, and full collective Life Assurance benefits in addition.