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GOD SAVE THE KING

15.08.1914

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HARROGATE AND KNARESBOROUGH

TERRITORIALS ON DUTY

5th WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

MOBILISED

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The Harrogate, Knaresborough, and Ripon Companies of the 5th West Yorkshire Territorials on Monday left their temporary quarters at the Haxby Road Council School, York, where they had been barracked for a few days, and proceeded to their destination, going under canvas in a field off Leeds Road. The work of recruiting has been proceeding briskly at York headquarters and the Territorial companies have been fully made up with promising young fellows. Up to last night the men were unaware of any further movement being made, and the route marches and field drills so far have occupied the time.

15.09.1914

LORD KITCHENER'S ARMY.

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PUBLIC MEETING AT KNARESBOROUGH crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Town Hall at Knaresborough, on Thursday night, in support of the appeal for Lord Kitchener's Army. Mr C. E. Charlesworth (High Sheriff of Yorkshire), who was accompanied by Mrs Charlesworth, presided, and was supported by Admiral Sir Francis and Lady Bridgeman, Sir Joseph Radcliffe, Bart, and Lady Radcliffe, the Rev. Canon Hancock, the Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan, Mr E. C. Meysey-

Thompson, M.P., Mr C. H. R. Slingsby, Dr Shann, Mr L Shann, Major Meysey-Thompson, Mr and Mrs Fred Kelley (Harrogate), Mr S. M. Bryde, Rev. Prior Cummins, Mr Wallace Gill, Dr H. Eddy, Mr T. Stead, Dr B. Robinson, Major Lindbert (presiding officer for the district), and others.

10 The Chairman said he did not remember when he could recall an occasion in his long life when he presided over a meeting of extraordinary anxiety and importance. We were, he said, faced with a national calamity and crisis which might bring about most extraordinary changes in Europe unless it was stopped. There was only one way, and they were going to ask those present to assist by giving them their sons and able-bodied men. Now they were beginning to realise what was in the air they would do it willingly and freely, and enable them to go through with the war. They had heard a good deal about the lurkers, and the nation had now come forward as it should have done. The demands of the nation might entail considerable sacrifices, but he thought the nature of the British youth was no worse than it was 50 years ago, when their fathers and grandfathers fought for them. [Applause]. The country did not realise the danger, but they were beginning to see the responsibilities of the war. Lord Kitchener had got his first army and nearly his second; they wanted them in Knaresborough to wake up and take their share, and if they came back victorious waving the flag of liberty, what would it mean to them? [Applause]. The nation was waking up; they saw what brutes the Germans were; they were not going to have them in their own country – (No!) – then the men must come forward and win and be able to dictate the terms to them, and not allow it to be settled by one despot who had set Europe in a blaze lit it was today. [Applause]. Knaresborough National Reservists had gone to the tune of 40, and he was delighted to see them inspected by Capt. Greenwood at Conyngham. [Applause]. He wanted to see a real good list before they left this meeting, because it was a question of England and Empire. They would keep the British flag waving over the Empire, and if they did that, in the end they would be a much greater and more glorious people [Applause].

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Canon Hancock also addressed the meeting and referred to gallant little Belgium, which had covered herself with immortal fame and deserved the support of all right-minded men of England. [Applause]. England must remember her duty, and God would bless her. We might have successes and reverses, but if England gathered herself together she would be able to do that which would surprise the world. AS an Empire she could draw on unlimited resources, including those parts of the Empire built up by their fathers. Many of the lovers of cricket and football, who watched the playing fields of England would, he felt sure, come in thousands when they realised that their King and country required them to enlist under England's banner. [Applause]. He was sorry for the name of Germany, because he did not think the

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bulk of the German people sanctioned the atrocities. He appealed to the men and young men of that district to take their share in the defence of the Empire.

The Rev. Father Vaughan, in a stirring address, said that there was something which went before charity – it was justice, and there was no platform in the British Empire he would not like to be on in order to call upon his fellow countrymen to rally to the flag, keep it flying at the topmost mast, and dare any man to lower it. [Applause]. It was the Kaiser's war and no mistake about it. He and his strong men, his overmen, and supermen, had made up their minds for war, notwithstanding that Britain did all she could for peace. We had got the country, the men, and the money. Were they downhearted? ("No!" and applause). How could any Englishman, he added, be downhearted with Lord Kitchener at the head, and with men like Mr Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Admiral Sir J. Jellicoe and General Sir John French and his staff? England did not seek the war. The Kaiser was convinced by the reports he received that we should have peace at any price, being, as he thought, a nation of shopkeepers; but if he had studied English life he should have known that on an occasion like this even domestic trouble was dropped and every man was ready to report himself. {Applause}. England had never been more insulted than by the Kaiser when he expected England to stab her friends in the back and sell her honour for the sake of any baubles he could throw her. [Loud applause]. England was fighting for the weak against the strong, and Germany had to contend with John Bull's men. [Applause]. The only regret of many of them was that they were past the age. It would have been a crime upon history and upon posterity if we had not told Belgium that we would stand by her, the little David against Goliath [Applause]. Germany was fighting her way by brute force, frightening the women and children, and the old and weak men, and leaving nothing but eyes with which to weep. England was out now, like the Kaiser, to take a part to reset the map of Europe and to reconstruct the nation thereof. [Applause]. Our watchword was for protection and civilisation and to protect the weak against the strong, and if the bulls were out German would have to meet John Bull's men. {Applause}. They were called by their King and country and for the great principles of truth, honour, and freedom. Never had men rallied so well to the flag, and never had England been more unanimous or determined. How could any man die more splendidly than by laying down his life for his friends and brothers? {Applause}. There must not be a man capable of carrying arms but who must give in his name. He called upon the men of Knaresborough and Yorkshire to respond to Lord Kitchener's appeal for men in the name of truth, justice, freedom, and of God, England, and the Empire . [Loud Applause].

Admiral Sir Francis Bridgeman said that he was proud to be a Yorkshireman and to see so many young men present. It was a good augury of what was going to happen. Knaresborough, as one man, he hoped, would come forward to go with the

colours. [Applause]. They had schemes for the Territorials and the Reservists, and for Lord Helmsley's force over 100 men had been recruited, Yorkshiremen who could ride and shoot. The cavalry was one of the best fighting arms, and their neighbour, Major Collins, had covered himself with glory. In that engagement the Greys got out of it with the loss of two officers. Wives and families of those left at home would be looked after. In his own little household the men had nearly all gone, and if they had to black their own boots they would look after them. As to the Navy –[applause]- it had not yet properly distinguished itself. There had been no great battle; the enemy had not yet come out to meet them. They had had one little exhibition, but it was
10 nothing to what it would be when the German fleet came out. [Applause]. The country would not starve so long as the Navy was on the sea policing the waters under one of the greatest admirals of today. [Applause]. He had served under him (Sir Francis) for a long time, and if he got half a chance with the German fleet he would not let the opportunity slip. [Applause]. It was no use to appeal to them for the Navy; it was full of the best men, but he appealed to them to join the Army and to help the men who would help them when the day of trial appeared. [Applause].

The Reverend Prior Cummins applauded the gallant deeds of our soldiers and said that it would not suffice to rouse to duty the young manhood of Britain then ideally
20 these words of ours will stir them to action. But surely we are beginning to realise both the savagery of modern war as waged by scientific barbarians and the imminence of the peril that is approaching our own shores. Belgium lies already at the Conquerors' feet. In spite of its valiant sons and of our assistance. France is being hard pressed back to Paris. Will it be the turn of England next? The fate of gallant Belgium is before us. Belgium is an allied and friendly State, a State created and guaranteed a hundred years ago by the Powers of Europe – essentially a pacific and industrial State, with neither will nor power for aggression. To the treaty that protects its independence the hand of Prussia was set as well as the hand of
30 England; but the treaty that protects its independence has been torn up and flung in our faces by the war lords at Berlin, who for 40 years have been preparing for this day. Shall we sit tamely under such a blow? The frontiers of Belgium have been violated, its fortresses have been bombarded, its fields and villages laid waste, its capital occupied, its historic and artistic monuments lie in ruins, its civil population has been slaughtered. And the brutal foe revels in the thought that in thus punishing our allies he is striking at England. And so he is. So far we have been unable to protect our friends. Every act of wanton warfare, every savage deed smites the face of England's honour. Is an Englishman worthy of the name who is not ready now to seize sword or rifle and rush to avenge our injured honour and our slaughtered
40 friends? Have you read of the trampled cornfields of poor Belgium, and its burning homesteads, of peaceful peasants butchered in their cottages, or used as a living shield to protect the cowardly foe? Remember that their only fault is that they are England's friends, and that over their fertile plains, through their industrial towns and

historic cities lies the easiest road – not the shortest, but the easiest road – first of all to Paris and then to London. Think of the senseless, savage, destruction of Louvain, worthy of Attila’s huns or the Tartars of Tarnelave. Louvain was a centre of light and learning long before Berlin or Leipzig were thought of. Its churches and Hotel de Ville were among the most notable in Flanders; its cloisters sheltered numbers of prayerful, studious men and women. Its University, that dates from the 15th century, was a home of religion and science, drawing its students in hundreds, not from Belgium alone, but from every nation of the Catholic world. Now town and colleges lie smouldering in ashes, the heads of city and university shot in the streets, like
10 dogs, its citizens butchered in batches, its priests slain in the very exercise of their sacred ministry, and all on the miserable pretext that some hot-headed townsman dared to defend his outraged home or avenge his slaughtered friends. This is scientific warfare in all its ruthless efficiency. This is what is being prepared for the hamlets and cities of England. Only the fleets of Britain and the gallant but scanty band of heroes who have gone forth to help our friend in France. Who will join their valiant ranks? Who will help to drive back these new barbarians? Who is ready to fight for England, and, if need be, die? There’s danger, perhaps death, ahead, but you are not afraid of danger, and there are worse things than death in a just cause. Ignoble case, a coward’s shirking of duty, there are far worse. Loss of Empire, loss
20 of freedom, loss of honour, there are infinitely worse. These will surely be England’s lot if her sons fail her now. Death in a worthy fight takes on much of the glory and some of the merit of martyrdom it can atone for the folly and the faults of an ill-spent life.

“The sunshine dreaming upon Salmon’s bright

Is not so sweet and white

As the most heretofore sin-spotted soul

That darts to its delight

Straight from the absolution of a faithful fight.”

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Mr Kelley then proposed that the best thanks of the meeting be given to Father Vaughan for the magnificent address he had given them that night.

Mr E. C. Meysey-Thompson, M.P., seconded, and also proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Charlesworth for presiding.

Prior to the resolution being put, Canon Hancock said he had an interesting announcement to make. Mr S. M. Bryde (of Kirkman Bank) had offered a bonus of £3 to every man in the town who enlisted and was accepted in Kitchener's Army.

The votes of thanks were carried unanimously, and in reply Mr Charlesworth said that although he was too old to go to the war he did not intend to be idle. He was going to assist financially, and would see that the wives and children of those who were fighting were not neglected.

- 10 The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Owing to the number of people unable to obtain admission to the hall, Father B. Vaughan addressed an overflow meeting from the Market Cross.

Up to Thursday night the number of recruits obtained was 40.

15.09.1914

- 20 The 5th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (our local Territorial unit) has now been selected for foreign service.

The 5th West Yorkshire Battalion has been brought up to full strength. The Harrogate Defence League has enrolled 136 for that. They have not had orders where to go as yet, but they are expected shortly. The men are drawing their 3s. 1d per day. A new regiment of reserves in the 5th West Yorkshire has been started, for which the Harrogate Defence League has already taken 36 men. Other names are wanted, as Mr Fred Kelley and his band of supporters are hoping to form another "Pals" company for this reserve regiment.

- 30 Being tired of waiting to become attached to the local units, three Starbeck men, Messrs. R. Cawood, F. Maundrill, and C. White, have enlisted in the Northumberland Fusiliers.

25.11.1914

BRAVO, KNARESBOROUGH!

[“Special to the Harrogate Herald”]

10 Right nobly has the historic old town responded to the nation’s call. Whether in sending recruits, caring for the wounded heroes, housing the refugees, or helping the national funds, Knaresborough has rendered willing service, and is worthy of all honour. Quiet and peaceful as the old town appears to the visitor, it has been stirred to the very depths by the cruelties inflicted near that “far flung battle line,” and in whatever direction help has been needed, it has been freely offered. Much is being done that is worthy of record. Keeping up the fine old traditions of the place, which through past ages so frequently resounded to the tramp of loyal soldiers, Knaresborough’s young manhood has readily gone forth to fight in a righteous cause. The pathos and humour of a little incident which occurred at the station when recruits and reservists were entraining recently, will be remembered by those who witnessed it. The band, which had accompanied the recruits to the station, continued
20 to play martial airs till all the men were aboard; then, one by one, the bandsmen also entrained, until only three remained. Finally, the conductor, still continuing to conduct the solitary three, backed towards the train, which he, too, entered, ready to do his share at the “front”. It has been considered an injustice to the town that so many who have volunteered and have enlisted at the Harrogate Barracks or recruiting stations, have had their names entered as among the recruits from Harrogate instead of from Knaresborough. But a list is to be published giving the names and addresses of all Knaresborough men who have already enlisted, and so “honour to whom honour is due.”

30 An additional number volunteered last week as a result of the very enthusiastic recruiting meeting held in Knaresborough on Wednesday, the 18th, when 700 soldiers gave a very military appearance to the Market Square. The band of the Royal Scots Greys, with pipers, also came over specially from York.

Mention of military matters at Knaresborough would be indeed incomplete without allusion to the heroic Major Collins, who, it is satisfactory to know, is recovering after his terrible experiences at the front. I understand that he is the only major left in his regiment, the brave Royal Scots Greys.

It is expected that this week's meeting will result in a large increase in the number of recruits, as the date will find many men freed from service in more peaceful directions. The annual statute hirings, being on that day, will most probably bring a larger crowd than usual of Yorkshiremen from the outlying districts.

10 Mrs Hamilton is commandant of the St John Ambulance Detachment in Knaresborough. Mrs McKay has also worked indefatigably for the wounded soldiers, at the head of her band of nurses. There are about 40 fully qualified Knaresborough lady nurses, recognised by the War Office, who have rendered invaluable aid at the Infirmary, and by this time most of the wounded soldiers are convalescent and have been able to leave the hospital to stay as guest in the town.

20 Accommodation for the Belgian Refugees has been most generously provided, and the first little company sent from headquarters arrived on Thursday night. A comfortable and spacious house, St John's Lodge, near Bond End, has been given for them by Miss Shaw, who has offered it rent free for a year. Splendid personal service has been given by several well-known Knaresborough ladies, including Mrs Robinson (of the Crescent), Mrs Wilson (Huttercombe), Mrs Wallace Gill, Mrs Fountain, Miss Tennant, and Miss Clark. A great many people in the town are giving sums up to 2s. 6d. a week to help with the upkeep of the home. Furniture has been so readily given and lent that there is already sufficient to furnish two houses instead of one. Here is an opportunity for another kind sympathisers to add to this record of golden deeds. The extra furniture is waiting. Who will offer another have for a second pitiful little band of grief-stricken refugees from brave little Belgium, so worthy of all the loving service and tender care we English men and women can offer?. It is a great privilege, of which many a kind-hearted friend would be proud to take advantage.

30 One of the most beautiful and touching proofs of patriotism and sympathy has been afforded by the children of the National Schools. Here the scholars, from the tiniest mite, have been so eager to help the relief funds that they have voluntarily given all their pocket money, held little bazaars in their back gardens, and with the proceeds materials have been bought by the teachers and made by the children into all kinds of useful and fancy articles. These praiseworthy efforts culminated last week in a bazaar held in the schools, and the handsome sum of £40 was the result, £20 being sent to the Belgian Relief Fund and £20 to Princess Mary's Fund. This is indeed a fine expression of patriotism and sympathy from the little school children, and Knaresborough has reason to feel proud of them, and of their teachers, who helped them so nobly towards success.

The sum of £250 has been collected for the Belgian Relief Fund, and £448 for the Distress Fund. Fuller details of this work and of other efforts will be noted, also recruiting statistics. All readers will agree that Knaresborough is adding to her famous historical records of valour and patriotism

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KNARESBOROUGH HIRINGS

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A

RECRUITING MEETING

Will be held at

PARR'S CORNER, HIGH STREET,

To-day (Wednesday), Nov. 25, at 11-45.

20 The Drums and Bugles of the 5th (Reserve) Battalion West Yorks Regiment will be in attendance. The
Officers of the 5th (Reserve) Batt. West Yorks. Regt. Stationed at Harrogate will also be present.

The Meeting will be addressed by

CAPTAIN KELLEY,

LIEUTENANT HEYNRICK

(of the Belgian Army), and others.

RECRUITING OFFICE IN CASTLE YARD !!

