

DEATH OF MRS G. STURDY, OF KNARESBOROUGH

The death occurred on Sunday, from influenza, of Mrs Sturdy, Eden Holme, Park Grove, the wife of Mr. G. Sturdy, Knaresborough postmaster. Mrs Sturdy had only arrived home the day previous after nursing her son, who was ill at Northallerton. She was in her 49th year, and was a daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Wm Wintersgill, of Masham. The interment takes place at Knaresborough Cemetery today.

Harrogate Herald

26 February 1919

PROMOTION

LIEUT. J.A. CLARKE, W.Y., of Knaresborough, who joined the ranks over four years ago, has been gazetted captain.

Harrogate Herald

19 March 1919

SIR ERIC GEDDES

10 1.

On Monday, in the House of Commons, Sir Eric Geddes moved the second reading of the Ministry of Ways and Communications Bill, which provides for State control of transport and the electrification of main line railways.

2.

THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY.

20 The demand for women labour is increasing, and immediate steps are being taken to recruit and train a further supply. This recruiting will be facilitated by the fact that it has been decided to raise the minimum age for women of the Land Army by 2s. 6d. A week. They will now receive 22s. 6d. For the first three months' agricultural work, which includes the period of training, and afterwards 25s. A week at the minimum wage, or as much more as can be earned under the Wages Board award. This advance will take effect on April 28th.

Harrogate Herald

2 April 1919

KNARESBOROUGH WAR MEMORIAL.

Suggestions at Town's Meeting.

A large and representative gathering of residents assembled at the Town Hall, Knaresborough, on Wednesday evening at a meeting convened by the Urban Council to take into consideration the proposal for a war memorial to the heroic local men who have made the supreme sacrifice in the country's cause. Councillor J. Barker, J. P., presided and was supported by Rev. Canon Hancock, 10 Rev. E. F. Crankshaw, Rev. R. F. Appelbe, Rev. Abbot Cummins, Councillors H. Eddy, J. W. Burton, H. Hewson, W. Wright, and Mr T. Mainman (clerk to the Urban Council and secretary pro.tem).

The Chairman said it was very gratifying to see such a good audience as it showed a lively interest in the question, they had met to discuss, namely, that of a permanent memorial to those who had given their lives for their King and country. He might say there was no cut and dried scheme to place before the meeting, as it was a town's affair, and all suggestions would be welcomed. As far as possible he would ask the speakers to be as brief as possible, so that everyone desiring should have the opportunity of stating their views.

Rev. Canon Hancock said he had very great pleasure in suggesting that some memorial worthy of the town and the gallant sons of Knaresborough who had laid down their lives should be erected. In 20 thinking of the dead and of honouring the sacrifice made on our behalf, he thought they should think also of the crippled and disabled men who had returned from the war. (Applause) His own idea was that of a double memorial, which would combine something for those who had made a shield of their bodies, as well as a memorial for the men who had returned in health and strength. Another suggestion he would throw out was that promises of donations might be taken and the money paid over a period of time, so that everyone could give according to their means (Hear, hear).

Rev. Prior Cummins said one of the most striking features of the war had been the sinking of all little differences and the unity which had prevailed in its prosecution. All classes had come into closer ouch, and it should be their endeavour to further that unity. He would like to see some memorial which would help to bring the townfolk together for social intercourse. Amongst the towns he had 30 resided in, he had never been in a place where there were fewer opportunities of meeting one's neighbours. Something was sadly needed which would bring the people more together; where they could assemble irrespective of class or caste, or anything that tended to divide them. Our men had all fought to make the world a better place, they had given their lives together, been laid side by side together in one grave, and we could not do better than continue and perfect the union of all classes and people. (Hear, hear).

Mr A. A. Gibson explained that the reasons which had prompted the design were several. First, the Castle Yard offered the finest site the country could present for such a memorial. Then again, the war shrine was one that people had shown an extraordinary keenness about, and he was aware nothing would satisfy the people of Knaresborough unless it was some tangible record that he who runs might 40 read. He ventured to say that one of two of the suggestions would not answer the purpose in view, and that as a record the object would be forgotten in ten years' time. The converting of the Dispensary

into a small infirmary might also commend itself, as the beds would be very useful to the town, and the present building could be converted at no great cost.

Councillor Eddy proposed that a permanent memorial be erected to the fallen men in Knaresborough and immediate district.

Rev. R. F. Appelbe seconded the proposition, which was carried.

Mr C. W. H. Greaves, B.Sc., said he did not care two pence about a monument. He was there to give 2s. 6d if a monument was decided upon, or on the other hand £25 for something of utility. He suggested that the several schemes be put on paper and submitted to residents and a vote taken. He moved that and the appointment of a committee to carry it out.

10 Mr R. Holmes said he had great pleasure in seconding.

The motion was carried.

On the proposition of Mr Arnold, seconded by Mr J. Morley, it was decided to confine the memorial to the old ecclesiastical parish of Knaresborough which includes Scriven, Farnham, Scotton, Ferrensby, Plompton, Forest.

Harrogate Herald

9 April 1919

KNARESBOROUGH REVISION COURT

20 Mr J. Turner-Taylor, deputy registration officer, sat at the Court House, Knaresborough, yesterday, for the purpose of revising the voters' lists for the townships of Allerton Mauliverer-with-Hopperton, Arkendale, Brearton, Cowthorpe and Clareton, Farnham, Ferrensby, Flaxby, Goldsborough, Knaresborough, Knaresborough Outer, Plompton, Scotton, and Scriven.

Mr O Ashley represented the Conservative interest.

The names of several men who have been demobilised were struck off the absent voters' lists, and those of men who have since reached the age were added.

Harrogate Herald

7 May 1919

SIR E. GEDDES TRIBUTE.

“During the year no fewer than 2,475 merchant ships have been sunk under their crews by enemy action, and an additional 670 fishing vessels or a total of 3,147 crews left to drift. The merchant service has lost over 15,000 men – a very big tell – and we owe a great debt to the merchant service.”

Harrogate Herald

21 May 1919

10

1.

HEROIC RESCUER

Photo

PTE. ALFRED SMITH

(10th West Yorks), of Old Scriven, Knaresborough, who has been four times wounded and once gassed, bravely rescued a girl from drowning in the Nidd.

2.

A KNARESBOROUGH SOLDIER’S HEROISM

20 On Sunday afternoon a very brave act was performed by Pte. Alfred Smith (10th West Yorks), of Old Scriven, Knaresborough, who has just arrived home on his twenty eight days’ demobilisation furlough.

A good number of people were in the vicinity of High Bridge when the alarm was given that a young woman was in the river. Smith rushed off into Bilton Fields, swam out into the middle, and placing the young woman, who was in an exhausted condition, over his shoulder, safely regained the river bank. With some assistance she was taken to a cottage near at hand and her clothing dried. She refused to disclose her identity, beyond saying she came from Leeds.

30 A few minutes prior to the occurrence she was observed having an excited conversation with a young man who went off in the direction of Harrogate, whilst she immediately walked into Bilton Fields, took off her hat and coat and threw herself into the river near Cherry Tree Deep.

Private Smith, who effected the rescue, has been four years in the Army, took part in the battles of Cambria and Beaumont Hamel amongst other engagements, and was in the final advance as well as the big retreat. He had been four times wounded and once gassed. Prior to joining the colours, Smith rescued two women and a man from the Nidd in precisely the same place, the trio having been immersed whilst beating.

Harrogate Herald

25 JUNE 1919

KNARESBOROUGH WAR MEMORIAL

Photograph

REPRODUCTION OF PENCIL SKETCH

10 This sketch is a suggestion for the main entrance to the Knaresborough Town Hall in connection with what is called the "Town Hall Scheme as a War Memorial." The main feature of the design is the "arch" which provides for the separate memorial stone for each one of the fallen, by having their initials carved thereon, thus placing the tribute to their memory within the public view.

With such emblematic figures and ornamentation as may be decided upon later, on the adoption of the Town Hall scheme, Knaresborough would thereby have a monument descriptive of the devotion and respect it wishes to pay to those who have "Served and Suffered" in the cause of "Right and Freedom."

The acquisition of the Town Hall for the townspeople also would secure an institution which may be further developed for the public services.

Harrogate Herald

2 JULY 1919

RELEASE OF SOLDIERS.

NEW ARMY ORDER.

An Army Order issued on Saturday makes new provision, rendered operative by the signature of the preliminary peace terms, for the release of warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men eligible for demobilisation.

10 Except in the case of personnel serving in India, and the detachments of the Far North and of Siberia, all who are eligible for demobilisation under Army Order 55, and all who have volunteered for service with the armies of occupation, but have been temporarily detained for the machinery of demobilisation or in overseas garrisons, will be released with all possible despatch.

These classes include men –

-Who joined the Colours for continuous service before January 1st, 1916.;

-Who have completed their term of Colour service;

-Who are entitled to wear three or more wound stripes;

-Who before February 1st 1919, were certified for release by the Ministry of Labour;

-Whose release on compassionate grounds or whose claims to return to their pre-war home or business overseas have been approved by the War Office.

20 Subject to the necessary transport being available, the despatch from their present stations, or in the case of troops serving overseas, from a port of embarkation in their present theatres, en route to the United Kingdom, of all eligible men who enlisted prior to January 1st, 1916, will be completed within one month of the signature of Peace.

The despatch of all eligible men who enlisted in 1915, or who have enlisted since December 31st, 1916, and are over 37 years of age, will be completed within one month of the signature of Peace.

The despatch of the following groups will be completed within three months of the signature of Peace: Men with three or more wound stripes; men certified by the Ministry of Labour before February 1st, 1919, and men approved by the War Office for release on compassionate grounds or for return to their pre-war home or business overseas.

Harrogate Herald

23 July 1919

1.

If you Knaresborough boys could have visited your town during the Peace celebrations you would have been proud of Knaresborough's public spirit. The decorations knocked those of Harrogate into a cocked hat. The reason was that the town was uniformly embellished on a comprehensively effective scheme. The Market Place had many poles, from which festoons ran, and the High Street was similarly dealt with. Knaresborough's celebrations were on Friday. The children took a very active part in it and had sports on Crag Top. The Knaresborough Silver Band was present in uniform and supplied the music.

2.

Extract from letter:

Pte. Sewell gave me a call on Monday whilst on hospital leave. He is the son of Mr Sewell, of Old Scriven, near Knaresborough, and belongs the South Staffords. He went to France about a year ago, but was invalided home with influenza, and after being in several hospitals is now at Colchester, where he anticipates getting his discharge. His brother is in India.

20

Harrogate Herald

24 September 1919

THE NEW TENANT OF SCRIVEN PARK

Sir Algernon Firth, Bart, has taken a lease of Scriven Park, Knaresborough. He succeeds Sir Eric Geddes, who, since resigning from the directorship of the North Eastern Railway Company, has spent very little time at Scriven Park. The last occasion was during the winter when skating was allowed on the lake at Appleby Carr. Sir Eric's Cabinet appointment makes it imperative that he should reside in or near London.

The new resident, Sir Algernon Firth, is one of the most successful business men in Yorkshire. The factories at Brighouse and Heckmondwike testify to his abilities in this direction. The premises are a marvel in modern construction, and they embrace social and recreation rooms.

Sir Algernon, who was created a knight in 1909, is the eldest son of the late Sir Thomas Freeman Firth of Heckmondwike. Sir Algernon was born at Heckmondwike on the 15th September, 1856, and he was educated privately. He entered the business of Messrs. T. F. Firth and Son, Ltd., carpet manufacturers and spinners, of Brighouse and Heckmondwike. He is a magistrate for the West Riding of Yorkshire, has travelled extensively in the United States, Canada, Egypt, and on the Continent, and is the owner of property at Heckmondwike, Liversedge and Lightcliffe.

Harrogate Herald

12 November 1919

ARMISTICE DAY AT KNARESBOROUGH

The first anniversary of Armistice Day was observed at Knaresborough Church, conducted by the Vicar (Rev. Canon Hancock), and the roll of heroes in the Market Square was surrounded with laurel leaves.

Harrogate Herald

19 November 1919

10

1.

THE WEST YORKS WELCOMED HOME

Civic Reception

..... of the 6th Battalion (Prince of Wales Own) West Yorkshire Regiment (York. Territorials), Oddie, D.S.O., T.D. (Officer commanding the battalion) Captain Ablett, Captain Shaftoe, Lieutenant Dunnington, and Lieutenant Southern, (carrying the regimental and King's colours), and 36 N.C.O.s and men, arrived in York.

The cadre left Cologne on Thursday night, and crossed the Channel on Tuesday afternoon. their journey at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning, and arrived in York at 2pm

20

2.

PROPOSED KNARESBOROUGH WAR MEMORIAL.

Photograph

Harrogate Herald

26 November 1919

KNARESBOROUGH PEACE

REJOICING

Final Meeting of Committees

The winding up of affairs of the local Peace Rejoicings Committee took place on Wednesday evening at a meeting held in the Urban Council Chamber. Councillor H. Eddy, J.P., presided, and the attendance included Councillors R. Fountain, J. W. Burton, and R. Holmes, Messrs JH. W. Barker, F. Abbey, T. D. Hebblethwaite, Al Hebblethwaite, S. Allwright, F. H. Arnold, F. Danford, J. F. Holmes, 10 G. E. Arnold, and W. F. Bell, and Mr T. Mainman and Mr H. Mainman, general secretaries.

Mr T. Mainman submitted the balance sheet as follows> Receipts: To subscriptions, £116. 15s; R.D.C., £14. 15s; jam making profit, £62; entry fees, £7. 18s. 1d; ditto decoration, 15s 6d; programmes, £1. 17s; Mr G. E. Arnold, 18s. 8d; Mr S. Carter 7s; U.D.C. £128. 7s. 10d. Total, £333. 14s. 1d.

Expenditure: By sports prizes, £31. 3s; sport field, £17. 6s; concern, £56. 10s. 4d; fees and hall expenses, £3. 14s. 9d; illuminated cards, £35. 14s. 2d; medals (children), £13. 15s. 6d; children's tea, £54. 9s. 6d; old people's tea, £29. 8s. 6d; decoration prizes, £15. 11s. 6d; Mr Dawson's fee, £2. 2s; public decorations, £34. 17s. 7d; Silver Bank, £25; sundry printing, £13. 7s. 3d; Secretary's expenses, 20 12s. Total, £333. 14s. 1d.

Councillor J. w. Burton moved the adoption of the accounts and Mr S. Allwright seconded – Carried.

The Chairman said it only remained for him to make one or two observations. At the outset they asked the Council to levy a fourpenny rate to cover the expenses, and the total cost practically amounted to a fivepenny rate. He thought they might congratulate themselves on the fact that after meeting all liabilities, the call on the Council would only entail a 1³/₄d rate. (applause). At the same time, if it had meant the full amount, he thought the occasion warranted it, and that it would have been universally accepted in the same good spirit. Each and everyone of the committee had worked enthusiastically, and the result had been a credit to the town and all who had participated. It was generally admitted Knaresborough had had as fine a little demonstration as any other town in the 30 country. Thanks were equally due to the many friends outside the committees who had given assistance and support. (Hear, hear). Personally he felt deeply grateful to all those people who had given subscriptions, and if anything of a like nature arose in the future he was confident they would again come forward and uphold the dignity of the town. (Applause)

Councillor Fountain said he had pleasure in endorsing the Chairman's remarks. The festivities at Knaresborough had been the talk of the countryside.

Councillor Holmes said their worthy Chairman had alluded to the cost being equal to a fivepenny rate, but he was modest enough to hide the fact that he and Mr Mainman were entitled to due credit for the handsome list of subscriptions, and which had reduced the cost to the town to such an extent. 9Hear, hear). As chairman of the General Committee, Councillor Eddy had also set a fine example of energy

and enthusiasm, which made the occasion worthy of the little town, and put much larger places in the shade. (Applause).

The Chairman next moved that the best thanks of the committee be tendered to Mr Mainman and his son for their services. They had had a great deal to do, but they had done it absolutely voluntary, and as regarded their Clerk he had always found him ready and willing to further anything for the good of the town.

Councillor Burton seconded – carried.

Mr Mainman, in reply, said he and Mr Harold were much obliged for the appreciative vote.

10 Councillor Fountain proposed that a special vote of thanks be passed to the Chairman and secretaries of the several committees.

Mr G. E. Arnold, in seconding, said they would all long remember the Peace festivities and the part they took in them. It was a source of gratification the occasion was such a huge success, and that everyone was made so happy.

24 December 1919

KNARESBOROUGH ROLL OF HONOUR

PHOTOGRAPH

20

Facsimile of Illuminated Card to be presented to all Knaresborough men who have served in the war.