

Research undertaken by Mr. G. Chambers – summary of entries in the Stamford Mercury pertaining to WW1. Entry codes pertain to the cumulative data record sheet for the WW1 project eg O3/O9-SMA-GSC-SOC = date of event/source/researcher/category

Stamford Mercury May – Dec 1914

01/05-SMA-GSC-SOCIAL

On page 10 its back cover places vacant farm workers and domestic servants are much in demand. Assisted passages to Australia and Canada also feature.

08/05-SMA-GSC-OWEN.W

In the paper 8/5/1914 p.4 there is a heading "Eight Year Old to be Birched". William Owen was found guilty of stealing a watch and chain. It was valued at £1.00.

03/07-SMA-GSC- NATNL

On p3 3/7/1914 p3 there is the first evidence I found of the events leading to war. Under the heading "The Austrian Tragedy" it expresses "the indignation and deep concern felt in the House (of Commons) on the assassination of the Archduke and his consort." There is reference to the assassin "as a high school student" and "...the outrage was evidently the fruit of a carefully laid plot." On 10/7/ 1914 there is a brief mention of the burial of Franz Ferdinand and his wife.

10/07-SMA-GSC-SOC

According to the contents of the paper life continued as normal and it was reported that George V and the Queen had travelled to Scotland.

17/07-SMA-GSC-SOC

Under the column, Notes By the Way on p3 there is a review of an article written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the Strand magazine "...describing in the most vivid manner how this country is reduced to starvation and surrender by the strategy of a few foreign submarines."

On p4 Stamford's Public Bath had record attendances in June. (4667) and "no fewer than nine different organisations have arranged trips to various health resorts."

24/07-SMA-GSC-SOC

The paper is still dominated by agricultural news.

31/07/-SMA-GSC-NATNL

In the Notes by the Way column there are positive comments about Anglo American relations. In contrast it is stated, "...while we are continually hearing of war clouds abroad and crises at home."

On p3 under the general heading of Foreign and Colonial, "War Declared By Austria" highlights the beginning of the conflict with Serbia.

07/08-SMA-GSC-NATNL

On p3 there is a large heading "Great European War" It mentions the government taking over the railways and the rush of British people returning home from the continent. Mr. and Mrs. G. Daniels, Mr. A.W. Parker and Mrs. Ward (Easton Lodge)... "told our representative that everywhere in Germany the greatest courtesy and respect is entertained for the English."

07/08-SMA-GSC-QUARTER

Excitement in Stamford. "The 4th Battalion Lincs. Regiment returned home in the early hours of Tuesday morning from Bridlington where the Territorial Camp had been so suddenly disbanded". It goes on to describe how the "martial spirit runs strong in the breast of the young men of Stamford." Posters were put up on Tuesday night for 22 recruits; 28 quickly volunteered.

Colonel de Courcy Daniell, Scout Commissioner for the Stamford Association had received a request from Baden Powell to appeal to Scouts as volunteers. "Between 20 to 30 gave their names.

07/08/-SMA-GSC-NATNL

On p3 ... "All news from the seat of hostilities is eagerly seized upon and large numbers have gathered day and night in the neighbourhood of the Mercury offices where a special service of wires affords the latest news..."

07/08-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p5 it was reported that Capt. L.H.P. Hart had told the Mayor, Mr. W.E.Martin of the shortage of equipment like shirts, socks etc. and the mayor had decided to donate from funds £150.00 to provide these from local businesses.

The Governors of Stamford, Rutland General Infirmary had written to the Secretary of War to place 40 beds at the disposal of the War Office.

14/08/-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p2 under the heading of Local War News readers were told prices of foodstuffs would remain above the norm. The town council had donated money to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund and on Friday a number of special constables were sworn in for the guarding of bridges. Many horse owners have had their animals requisitioned.

14/08-SMA-GSC-JAGO.J.

On p2..."Mr. J.Jago, overseer of Messrs Dolby Bros....has a brother on service with the fleet."

14/08-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p5 "Stamford Florists Gift for the National and Local Relief Fund." Messrs W. and J. Brown has promised to sell 500 roses in Stamford on Saturday evening between 6-8.pm. This raised £6:19s:11d.(Mercury 28/08 p4)

14/08-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

There is a large recruitment poster dominating p6.

14/08-SMA-GSC-QUARTER

On p8 it describes scenes of great enthusiasm marking the departure of the local Territorial infantry. After a service for them in All Saints Church there were driven away by volunteers in 30 cars and motor cycles.

21/08-SMA-GSC-Lord KESTEVEN

On p2: Lord and Lady Kesteven who were in Norway when the war broke have succeeded in getting home to Casewick Hall.

21/08-SMA-GSC-NATNL

On p3 under the heading, Latest Telegraphic Intelligence information is given about events in the various theatres of war.

It refers to Germans revolting cruelty to a French Hussar and describes how he was taken prisoner; then dragged into an Alsatian village and in the presence of the villagers they cut his throat.

21/08-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p4 ...“Millicent, Duchess of Sutherland...daughter of the late Earl of Rosslyn who formerly resided at the Lady Anne’s House” was one of a number of English women to arrive in Brussels and work as a Red Cross volunteer, She also asked for more women to volunteer as nurses,

On p6 it was reported that it had been decided to form a second Women’s Voluntary Aid Detachment.

21/08-SMA-GSC-HEALTH

On p6 ...“Lady Battie-Wrightson has also come forward with...practical aid and has equipped No.6, Primrose Villas, Wothorpe Road as a hospital for wounded soldiers or sailors.” Twelve beds are to be provided with an operating theatre at the top of the house.

21/08/SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p6, “A great concourse assembled at Stamford Drill Hall on Wednesday when a meeting was held to arouse interest in Earl Kitcheners appeal for recruits.” It stated something like 200 men including Territorials had already joined up. In the Mercury of 28/08 it reported a further 45 men volunteered as a result of this appeal.

21/08/SMA-GSC-PRISON

The heading on p6 was “Stamford Gentleman a Prisoner in Germany.” The Rev. David Whincup, only son of Mr and Mrs. Whincup of Westholme, St.Martin’s who had been the English chaplain in Hanover was now a POW. He had tried to escape but had been arrested in Bentheim, a small town close to the Dutch border. Women and children with the party had been allowed to go and were expected back home on Thursday.

28/08-SMA-GSC-FUNDS

On p4. In Market Deeping a house to house collection for wounded soldiers and sailors had raised £45. The first football game at Wothorpe Road collected £1:8s for the Relief Fund and concerts at the Assembly Rooms raised £22. Mr. R.H.Brown, a butcher in High St. raised £3:10s by sponsoring a guess the weight of a sheep at the Stamford Cattle Market.

On Thursday morning the Stamford Relief Fund totalled £934. (National Relief Fund was £1,630,000)

On p5 an appeal was made by the Red Cross for “material help to our brave defenders.” It was asking for items like pipes, tobacco, table games, cards, books and magazines.

04/09-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p3 “Intimation has been received that Earl Kitchener has accepted the offer of the North Midlands Territorial Brigade to raise a full division for foreign service.” It will comprise of young men from Lincs., Notts., Derbys. and Leics.. “...every effort will be made to allow chums to serve together.”

On p4 it noted Stamford's "magnificent response" . Already it had sent 105 recruits with 18 more to go soon. This didn't include 57 signings for the Territorials.

On p8 it was reinforced with a large recruitment poster which highlighted the age limits(19-35); the height and chest limits(5feet 3inches and 34inch chest) as well as the pay and terms of service.

04/09-SMA-GSC-TROWELL.R.W.

On p4 it had the heading "Stamford Man Injured at the Front. Sapper R.W.Trowell of the Royal Engineers, whose home is Zebra Cottages, Casterton Road" ... had injured his ankle. He commented that ... "we had a real time of it. One battle lasted 14 hours and the slaughter-it was like mowing down corn."

04/09-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p4 Messrs Hayes and Son (coachbuilders) are building wagons and carts for the War Office and Messrs Cutting Bros are "turning out dynamos for the Fleet."

11/09-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p2 under War Items readers are told that....."The Rugby Football Union have decided to abandon the international and county programmes and they exhort all Rugby footballers to enlist." On p4 Stamford Towns Club Fixtures are cancelled.

11/09-SMA-GSC-CASUALTY

On p3 it mentions "Serious Lists of Casualties." Up to Sept 3rd British casualties were 10,345.

11/09-SMA-GSC-Watson, F.A.

On p4 under the heading, "Stamfordian in Heliogoland Battle" it refers to the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Ayre Watson of 11, Tinwell Road being one of the participants... "Loss of life was small but the wounds were terrible."

11/09-SMA-GSC-CASUALTY

ON p4...A Stamford man, A. Boughton...is recovering from a shrapnel wound in the left thigh.

11/09-SMA-GSC-HARDINGHAM.E

On p4 Mr E,R, and his son, Mr. L. Hardingham of Ironmonger Street were detained by the military on the way back from a day out in Hunstanton. Cameras were detained temporarily until the photos were developed to prove the owners bona-fides.

18/09-SMA-GSC-FUNDS

On p2 under "Glasses for NCO's" Field Marshall Roberts issued a letter of thanks to over 2,000 people who had given to his appeal for, "the loan of their race, field and stalking glasses."

18/09-SMA-GSC-MILITARY

On p4 it was noted about 800 members of the 9th Hants. Cycle Corps passed through Bourne and Stamford en route from Boston to Kettering.

18/09-SMA-GSC-FUNDS

On p4 under the heading, "Appeal for 2000 Pennies" an appeal was made by Miss Pepper of Red Lion Square ...for the relief of distress suffered by the Belgian population.

18/09-SMA-GSC-Curtis.H.

On p4 under the headings “Barnack Reservist at Mons” and “From Home to the Fighting Line in a Fortnight” there is the story of Private H. Curtis (Reservist 1st Batt. Northampton Regt.) He describes marching through France with women shouting out, “Vive Les Anglais”...He goes on to say how they came across parties of Belgian refugees, “with fingers severed, pieces cut out of their ears and other wounds.” (At this time there were lots of stories of German brutality to the Belgians, not all of them were true.) On arrival at the front he had to dig trenches; to advance with bayonets and within 200 yards of the enemy he was wounded by shrapnel. He states he is hoping to get back to the front.

18/09-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p5 under the heading “A Chums Battalion for Lincolnshire” there is a letter From Lieutenant-Colonel George E. Heneage wanting ex public school boys, members of athletics clubs, rifle clubs, tradesmen, farmers, gamekeepers, chauffeurs and others to volunteer for the battalion being raised at Grimsby.

On the same page there is along list of casualties from the 1st Lincolnshires.

09/10-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p2 there is a quarter page size recruitment poster telling all ex-NCOs they are “urgently needed.”

09/10-SMA-GSC-NATNL

It is noticeable on p3 where there are a number of stories about the general war that all are written in “patriotic” language....Daring Calvary Raids; Russia’s Great Victory; Enormous German Losses and German Barbarous Methods. The last heading refers to the sacking of the Belgium town of Aerschot ... “the scene of the vilest debauches and drinking bouts.”

09/10-SMA-GSC-CECIL.W.A.

On the roll of honour on p3 are... “the names of our heroic dead...Captain the Hon. W.A. Cecil, Grenadier Guards” is reported killed. He “was the eldest son of Lord William Cecil C.V.O. - uncle of the Marquess of Exeter.

09/10-SMA-GSC-POPULATION

On p4, “The town clerk, (M.C.Atter) said the population of the town was now estimated at over 10,000.”

09/10-SMA-GSC-POPPLE.J.

On p4 under the heading “Stamford Man Missing” it states that, “Priv. J.Popple, a reservist in the 1st Batt. Lincs. Regiment, who in civilian life is an employee in the Telegraph department of Peterborough post-office, and whose home is 6, Gooches Court, Castle Street is reported missing.”

In the Mercury of 20/11 this story is updated. His wife after not hearing from him for nearly 9 weeks received news he is now a prisoner of war and is interned at Senne Lager, Germany.

09/10-SMA-GSC-FUNDS

On p4 it notes a ...“gratifying response” for an appeal for blankets for the soldiers. Over 310 blankets were donated and it lists the donors and the number of blankets they donated.

09/10-SMA-GSC-CASUALTY

On p5 under the heading, "Another Train Load of Wounded From the War." 108 wounded...went to the military hospital at Wragby.

16/10-SMA-GSC-WALTHAM.B.

On p4 under the heading "Townsmen Killed on Wedding Day Anniversary" it states Private B. Waltham of the 1st Lincolns ... "was killed in the Battle of the Aisne on Sept.28th...His widowed mother lives at 5, Burghley Lane."

16/10-SMA-GSC-HOLDERNESS.W.

On p4 "Stamford Man Missing" ... "Mrs. Holderness of 12, Maltings-yard, Water Street...received an intimation from the War office that her husband priv. W. Holderness is missing." He was a reservist and "well known in local football." On p4 of the Mercury dated 25/12 it notes Priv. Holderness is back home, "...suffering from a bullet just below the heart."

In the Mercury dated 06/11 under the headline "Cheering News" Mrs W. Holderness informed the paper she had received a postcard telling her that her husband was safe.

16/10-SMA-GSC-FOSTER.A.

On p4 under the heading, "Four Soldier Sons" it notes Mr. and Mrs. A. Foster of Albert Road has four sons serving in the home defence. They are J.S. Foster (Trumpeter), W.T. Foster (Driver), F.Foster (Gunner) and H.J.Foster (Gunner).

16/10-SMA-GSC-CORNELL

On p4 it is reported Mrs. Cornell of Lumby Terrace has four sons serving in the armed forces. Thomas is a gunner with the Expeditionary force; Leslie is at Weymouth with 48 draft Northants regt.; driver B.Cornell is in the Northants battery of the Royal Field Artillery and Louis is in the ranks of Lord Kitcheners army.

23/10-SMA-GSC-REFUGE

On p4 "Belgian Refugees for Stamford" it was reported, "...on the proposition of the mayor it was decided to proceed with arrangements for the immediate reception of 20 refugees, and more later if possible."

23/10-SMA-GSC-COULSON.J.

On p4 under the heading, "Stamfordian on the Ill Fated Hawke" it was reported that "...John, second son of Mr. and Mrs. F.Coulson of St. Pauls Street was killed when HMS Hawke was sunk. He was 26 years old."

23/10-SMA-GSC-DAWTREY.H.

On p4 "Another Stamford Casualty" Mr G,Dawtreay of 34,St.Leonards Street lost his eldest son, Sergeant Harry Dawtreay of the RAMC. He was 34years old.

30/10-SMA-GSC-REFUGEE

On p5 "Belgian Refugees at Stamford." Eversley House, St.Martin's has been fitted up to house a number of Belgian refugees and about 30 are now comfortably quartered there. In the Mercury dated 13/11 on p4 there is that two families had left and gone to Manchester, "...to avoid a recurrence of differences."

06/11-SMA-GSC-NATNL

On p2 it reported on "Canada's gift sacks." They had sent 10,000 sacks of flour to the UK and the money from the sale of it will go to the Belgium Relief Fund.

06/11-SMA-GSC-QUARTER

In the column "Notes on the Way" on p2 the writer comments on the billeting of troops becoming more and more common and in some cases an "...unpatriotic element has stepped in." One example is given in Lincolnshire where a woman refused to put two officers up. The officer made a note of the name and address of the person and sent her five privates to be billeted at her house.

06/11-SMA-GSC-SARGENT.M.

On p4 it was reported that "Mr. Malcolm Sargent gave an organ recital in Peterborough Cathedral before a very large congregation...the Belgium, Russian, French and English National Anthems were included in the programme."

06/11-SMA-GSC-NATNL

On p4 there is a report of a war lecture given by Rev. F.J.W. Turner which was accompanied by lantern slides, "...depicting war scenes and the devastation following in the wake of the ruthless German hordes."

06/11-SMA-GSC-WALKER.W.

On p4 there was news of the death of Private William Walker of 4, Elm Street who was 24 years of age.

06/11-SMA-GSC-MACARTNEY.J

On p4 under the heading of "Stamford Men in the Casualties" Private James Macartney of the 1st Northants Regt. Whose relatives reside in Gas Street was shot through the left hand and is now in hospital in Aberdeen.

On p4 of the Mercury of 13/11 the story is continued under the heading, "Stamfordian Wounded by Dum-Dum Bullet." Writing to his brother Tom Macartney he says he received a nasty wound and the doctor told him it was from a dum-dum bullet. "The patient has been under x-rays showing that the finger next to the little one has the bone nearly blown out and the back of the hand was simply smashed up" he thinks it will take at least two months to recover.

He was at Landesmark in Belgium on Sept 23rd when we were "...attacked by a German Army Corps, about 40,000." "...I can tell you we had a lively time of it."

In the Mercury dated the 27/11 another of his brothers, Charles was promoted to Lance Corporal.

06/11-SMA-GSC-MILITARY

On p4 "Terriers Last Leave." Stamford's Territorial Corps "...were under orders to leave for France on October 30th...over 90 visited their homes for their final leave of 48 hours." When they left on Thursday night, "...they were accorded a rousing send off from a tremendous crowd at the railway station."

There was also an article asking for contributions towards making plum puddings for the local soldiers at the front.

06/11-SMA-GSC-GADSBY.A.

On p4 in an article titled, "Murder to the English" the content is taken from a letter home by Private A.Gadsby to his wife who lives on Barnack Road. It is dated 25th October. He

thanks her for the parcel and the cigarettes and states, "...we have lost a lot of men (about 900) in this war. It has not been war; it has been murder to the English."

06/11-SMA-GSC-REFUGE

On p4 "More Refugees for Stamford." The Marquess of Exeter has, "...kindly offered a house rent free...there will be about 60 refugees in residence in the town."

13/11-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

ON p4 Recruiting has had a fillip this week. Over 30 recruits have left to join the colours. (There is a list of some of the recruits underneath the article.)

13/11-SMA-GSC-MCLAREN.K

On p4 there is, "...an illustration of the thoughtfulness of a Stamford young lady,(Miss Kathleen McLaren, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.McLaren, 56,High Street)...has graciously been acknowledged by the Queen...her lady in waiting sent a letter thanking her for the belts she had sent.." to the soldiers at he front.

13/11-SMA-GSC-MILITARY

On p4 "Comforts for the Terriers." The Queen Mary's Needlework Guild have made 60 pairs of gloves and mufflers for local soldiers at the front. (The names of the women were duly listed in the article.) Socks were also sent by Miss Richardson of Barn Hill to HM Cruisers.

13/11-SMA-GSC-BAKER.E.A.

On p4 "French Medal for Stamford Hero." Company Sergeant Major E.A.Baker of the 7th Field Company was awarded the 'Medaille Militaire.' He is a native of Stamford and formerly, "played in the Stamford Town Band." His father held "...the position of storekeeper at Phillips Brewery."

13/11-SMA-GSC-RAWDEN.E.

On p4 "Another Stamfordian Wounded. Private E. Rawden of the 1st Northants Regt.whose home is at 16, Gas Street, had received a bullet wound in his left shoulder and now lies in Dublin hospital. He is well known in local footballing circles, being a player for St. John's.

13/11-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p5 "Wounded Soldiers Expected at Stamford." Stamford Infirmary has been told by the War office to prepare for 20 cases.

20/11-SMA-GSC-NATNL

On p2 there is a letter sent to the Mercury decrying the invasion of Belgium; the mining of the shipping lanes and it describes German 'Kultur' as "...a poison to destroy the best that is inherent in man."

20/11-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p4 "Scouts for Coast Duty." A patrol of the Wothorpe Boy Scouts has been ordered to the East Coast.

20/11-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p4 "More and Still More Men. It states recruitment in Stamford compares favourably to other towns but still more men are needed. 429 men have volunteered;170 Territorials

and 259 for Kitchener's Army. It also lists men recruited this week by Colour Sergeant Blanshard.

20/11-SMA-GSC-CASUAL

On p4 "Wounded Soldiers Received at Stamford." 20 soldiers, 12 from Belgium were met at the railway station by the Mayor, other dignitaries and the Red Cross. 9 more arrived on Monday. They, "...were conveyed to the private hospital equipped by Lady Isabella Battie-Wright adjoining her residence in Primrose Villas, Wothorpe."

20/11-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p4 there is a column devoted to Stamford School's speech day. It lists prize winners and some Old boys and masters serving in the armed forces.

27/11-SMA-GSC-QUARTER

On p4 "Stamford a Military Town." It has been proposed to station and billet, "...a large number of Territorial troops at Stamford." The Marquess of Exeter has offered them, "...a portion of Burghley Park for drillings etc.."

27/11-SMA-GSC-TIDD.M and POTTER.G

On p4 "Stamfordians Commissioned." Mr. Maurice Tidd, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs.R.Tidd of High Street, Stamford has been promoted to 2nd Lieutenant as has Mr. George Potter, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J.E.C.Potter of St. Mary's Street.

27/11-SMA-GSC-MORLEY.J.

On p4 "Stamfordian wounded at Ypres." Lance Corporal John Morley of 12,Queen's Walk, West-end was wounded in an engagement with the Prussian Guard at Ypres. He was a member of the Old Volunteer Battalion and had served in the Boer War. He is in a private hospital generously provided by Lady Gladstone at Neston, Wiltshire.

27/11-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p4 "The Call to Colours." This week Coloured Sergeant Blanshard has signed up 8 recruits.

04/12-SMA-GSC-REFUGE

On p4 14 wounded Belgium soldiers were offered places at Burghley House.

04/12-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p4 there is a large recruitment poster titled "A Soldier of the King."

04/12-SMA-GSC-CASUALTY

On p8 there is a long list of casualties of the Lincs. Regt.

11/12-SMA-GSC-HAGGAR.W.

On p3 Gunner W.Haggar of the 32nd Brigade RFA writing from France to his parents, Mr.and Mrs. H.Haggar of 62,North Street comments favourably about Indian troops especially the Gurkhas and the Sikhs. He also argues strongly in favour of conscription. "There are plenty of young chaps loafing about that ought to be made to serve. It is the duty of everyone that is able to take part in this great struggle for right and freedom."

11/12-SMA-GSC-OLDHAM.W.

On p3 "Stamford Man in the Trenches." In a letter to his mother who lives at 8, Bath Row, Private W. Oldham assures her he is, "...quite well and safe. We have had our baptism of fire, as we have had two days in the trenches...the only danger was when the Germans turned their machine guns on us...The first night it was damp and cold, but I managed to sleep alright. The next day we had some snow so that night was miserable and cold. We cooked tea and Oxo for ourselves, and fed alright. At present we are in a very comfortable billet..."

In a later letter dated November 29th Private Oldham says, "I am writing this in a dug-out or hole made at the back of the trenches." From Tuesday to Thursday, "I slept in a hole like a rabbit and had to curl myself up to get in. the hole has been condemned, so had to one out and roof it properly so that it could not fall in...The German snipers have been having a go at us all day, but now our guns have sent a little reward over them, and they will be quiet for a time...If you saw me at the present time you would tell me to have a bath and general clean up...We have had some rain which has made the trenches in an awful state..."

Private Oldham spent 3 years at the Stamford Endowed School and is a member of the Queen's Westminster Territorial Regiment.

In the Mercury of 18/12 on p4 there is a further extract from his letters under the heading, "Soldiers Seven Mile Walk for a Bath...We have gone back to the trenches after 4 days rest...I had a small plum pudding from Mrs. Richardson of Barn Hill...Have you got the soldiers in the town yet? You will be quite lively when they come. The 'pictures' will do a big business, as that will be the only attraction...I had a postcard from Jim Flynn, (a corporal in the Army Service Corps., and nephew of Mrs. Rowett, of 9, Bath Row) saying he is quite well...I shall not be sorry when things are settled up, as it is miserable in this wet and mud. It will be quite a change to have polished boots again."

11/12-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p4 "Soldiers on Licensed Premises. The licencees of the town have received instructions that during the period for which the troops are quartered in the locality no soldier is to be served after 9pm."

11/12-SMA-GSC-QUARTER

On p4 "Stamford a Military Centre...There are now 2,400 odd troops with 50 officers in the locality...they found the space offered by the Marquess of Exeter for drilling in the Lower Burghley Park an ideal spot." They are also training on the Grammar School cricket field, the Recreation Ground and other places. Their movements are daily followed by many interested spectators.

"On Saturday afternoon 360 of the Suffolk Territorial Reserve, under Colonel Wright, took up quarters at Walcot Hall."

The Ambulance Unit, "One unit of the Division...is the Field Ambulance...The whole of East Anglia is covered in a military sense by three Field ambulances and one mounted ambulance.

The Social Welfare of the Troops. At a meeting in the Town Hall presided over by the Town Clerk, Mr. Chas. Atter, Canon Pelley, Chaplain to the 6th Regiment thanked clergy for "facilities of worship" and asked if rooms could be found to hold concerts. Lt-Colonel Oldfield (Ambulance Unit) asked for sporting facilities. "Many men would appreciate

facilities for quiet study and mental recreation in libraries and similar institutions.” He also commented how in other places ladies had invited some men into their homes. Offers came from Rev. E.L.C.Clapton for the use of All Saints Church Room and the East Street Mission Room. Mr.Tidd offered the Albert Hall and Rev.F.C.Wright the St. Martin’s Church Room. The Rev. J.D. Day offered the old Grammar School premises.

“An Invitation to Musical Soldiers. The Stamford Amateur Orchestral Society have decided to enrol any member of the troops...as honorary members and will be pleased to have the names of Territorials who can play a musical instrument. Applications for membership should be made to Mrs. Tinkler, 32, Broad Street or Mr. H.T.Parrish, 63, High Street.

11/12-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p6 there is a large recruitment poster listing the 11 names of NCOs and Officers who have won the Victoria Cross. An arrow points to the names with the caption on it, “There is room for your name on this Roll of Honour.”

18/12-SMA-GSC-ADVERT

On p1 there is an advert to invite people to a “Grand Military Smoking Concert” by the 6th Reserve Battalion of the Essex Regt.. On p4 there is a detailed account of its success. “there was a crowded and appreciative audience.” A nominal charge was made and the proceeds are going towards the cost of postage on the plum puddings sent out to local “Tommys.”

18/12-SMA-GSC-ORGANIS

On p3 Earl Brownlow, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire has issued general instructions to the civil population in the event of invasion. It could be summarised as don’t panic and stay at home.

18/12-SMA-GSC-WATSON.B.C.

(see also Mercury 6/11-SMA-GSC-MILITARY)

On p4 “A Sailors Pleasant Surprise. In a letter to his parents who reside at 11, Tinwell Road, Mr. B.C.Watson who is on HMS Hydra says:- It is an honour to have a photo exhibited in Mr, Hare’s window ;it is very good of him to do it...Had a pleasant surprise the other day in the shape of a plum pudding. It came from Stamford, but I do not know who sent it...” Mr Watson spent 2 years on the ill fated HMS Good Hope.

18/12-SMA-GSC-BULLIMORE.J.

On p4 it mentions recruitment is slow and the only addition to the Roll of Honour is J. Bullimore.

18/12-SMA-GSC-EDINBOROUGH.R.

On p4 under the heading “Rigours of the Campaign” Reginald Edinborough, Northants Yeomanry describes his trench experiences. “we have just got home from being in the trenches. Its over your boot tops in mud and water. We went in on Monday just after dark...bullets whistling all around...there were six of us next to a Maxim gun. Its awfully cold in them, and we had one night when it rained. You get no sleep, simply stand up and look through a loop-hole, and wait till you see some Germans and then ‘get out and under.’ They got out of their trench one night, and we soon showed them the way back...I got one (bullet) through the bottom of my overcoat. We simply looked like heaps

of mud...Still we are happy now; had fresh socks given us, and had some hot water and had our feet in it. We all had awful feet.

18/12-SMA-GSC-CUMMINS.J.

On p4 "Dodging the Jack Johnson's." (German 15cm shells, heavy and black like the heavy weight boxer.) Corporal J. Cummins 9069, 1st Lincolns, letter dated the 11/12 sent to his relatives who reside at the Prince of Wales Inn.

"...I received the parcel with the shirt, socks and 'mits', and I also had a small plum pudding from my Lincolnshire friends...We are getting bags of tobacco and fags so you need not send me anything without I ask for it. The best thing you could send ..is a little cocoa and sugar. I have dodged the 'Jack Johnsons' up to now, but I have fallen in one or two of them (trenches) about up to the waist in sludge and clay at night. We are having very wet weather out here at present. I hope you were not upset when you heard I was wounded, but it was a great mistake, as I have not been touched yet with bullets or sickness..."

18/12-SMA-GSC-COX.J.

On p4 there are two headings, "Conspicuous Bravery in the Field" and "Stamfordians' Gallantry." The article starts, "Your commanding officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery on the field. I have read their report with much pleasure and have forwarded it to higher authority for recognition. A.Haldane. Major-General Commanding the 3rd Division."

Private J.Cox (1st Lincolns) has been mentioned in dispatches. He is a Stamfordian and nephew of Mr. and Mrs. J.Griffith of 28, Conduit Road. When war began, he rejoined the Colours. He conveyed, "...wounded comrades to a place of safety under a hail of bullets." He has been promoted to corporal.

18/12-SMA-GSC-DODMAN.J.

On p5 in a column headed "Latest Telegraph Intelligence" the main news is of the German East Coast raids on Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool. On the same page is a heading, "Stamfordian's Brother Wounded. Mr.J.Dodman (brother of Mr. R.W. Dodman of Stamford)...was a spectator of the bombardment." He was working on a ship in Hartlepool and was "...hit on the head by a splinter of shell. Our house was hit, but not damaged like some others."

25/12-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p2 the 'Avenge Scarborough' recruiting poster has, it is reported, proved very popular and successful.

25/12-SMA-GSC-HARRIS.Miss

No fewer than 100 people were reported killed and over 300 wounded in the East Coast raid on Hartlepool. On p4 "Late Stamford School Mistress Killed."...Miss Harris, formerly language mistress of Brazenose School was killed in the "murderous attack on Hartlepool by German war vessels."

25/12-SMA-GSC-RECRUIT

On p4 "Recruiting at Stamford." There were only two names added...Frederick Charles Barwell, (RFA) and T.Johnson of Great Casterton. (Lincs.Regt.)

25/12-SMA-GSC-HACK.H.

On p4 "Stamford Man's Death from Wounds....Private H.Hack whose parents reside at East Street...was 27 years of age and in the Northants Regt."

25/12-SMA-GSC-CHILD

On p4 "Schoolgirls make Gloves for Territorials." Elder scholars of St. Georges School have been knitting gloves, mufflers, bodybelts etc. for the soldiers. Wool was provided by the Headmistress, Miss Embury and her assistants.

25/12-SMA-GSC-QUARTER

On p4 "The Social Welfare of the Military." There was a concert at the Albert Hall; A musical evening in All Saints Church Hall and a smoking Concert in the Assembly Rooms. A committee has been formed including the Rev. J.D. Day, Headmaster of Stamford School, to arrange football matches amongst the Territorials. On Thursday ASC met the Stamford Thursday team and won 3-2; on Saturday the 6th Essex beat Stamford Rovers 6-4.

25/12-SMA-GSC-CASUALTY

On p5 there is a heading, "Lincolns Again Lose Heavily." It gives a list of 39 NCO's and men killed. There is a list of 60 wounded. All are named.