

Local Man's Move from Berlin.

GRAPHIC NARRATIVE BY MR R. H. ATKINSON, B.A., OF WEST SNAPS.

Are German Spies in England Sending Messages by Carrier Pigeons?

Mr R. H. Atkinson, B.A., son of Mr George Atkinson, of West Snaps, who so gloriously distinguished himself in his career at the North Eastern County School, has been studying chemistry at a High School in Germany, and thus describes his journey from Berlin on the outbreak of the far-reaching war, and the expressive movements which have taken place in the last twelve months.

After a ten months' stay in Germany I found myself in Berlin at the end of July, 1914. The news of the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia produced tremendous excitement in this city during the night 28th-29th July.

On Tuesday, July 28th, the Social Democrats held meetings to protest against the war. On attempting to form processions they were dispersed by the police, though on the three previous nights thousands of war enthusiasts singing patriotic songs were allowed to march through the streets, say more, some even stoned the Russian Embassy.

On Thursday morning I had occasion to visit a suburban town, and found to my surprise that several bridges were already being guarded by military police, and that the railway stations were in the evening I walked round to the principal centres of activity, e.g., office of the General Staff, Foreign Office, War Office, and the Chancellor's Palace.

Next morning, in pursuance of plans made a week before, I travelled to Hamburg. Trains were all up to time, and no discriminations of any kind were to be observed. On the train was a party of Germans, who were proceeding to Edinburgh University to take a vacation course.

My first care in Hamburg was to exchange my German paper money for English. The people are already chary of accepting the former at its face value, and shortly afterwards a special law was passed penalizing those who refused to take it in payment. In Cook's office an American lady advised me, with many significant nods of her head, to "get gold."

I next made enquiries about the steamer "Federation," which had been held a prisoner to West Hartlepool. The agents said that she had not yet arrived, and asked me to telephone next morning. However, as I afterwards learnt, she was at that moment discharging her cargo with all possible speed in order to be able to return to port without delay.

On stepping ashore my attention was drawn by the sight of men on their way home after the day's work. They had walked through the huge Elbe tunnel, and were being brought to the surface in four lifts, each of which was capable of taking from 120 to 130 persons. Immediately opposite the exit there had just been posted the notices ordering all railway reservists to get straight home and await orders. The men read it and then went away, either silently or talking earnestly.

There was none of the frothy war enthusiasm of the Berlin crowd, and the men they recognized knew that their class would have to bear the brunt of the suffering involved. Shortly afterwards the Hamburg district was placed under military law. Special newspaper sheets were being distributed amongst the reservists in the principal centres, and all were asking "What will England do?" "Where is the British fleet?"

The orders for mobilization were already out on Saturday morning officials came on board, searched the vessel, and scrutinized the list of passengers and crew. We were then declared cleared, and were at liberty to depart. The latter had been obtained it was discovered that there were no pilots available. Apparently the river mouth had been extensively mined and the pilots were now being shown the position of the mine fields on a map.

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North Eastern Railway.

BARNARD CASTLE STATION TIME TABLE, From 1st JULY, 1914, until further notice.

NOTE.—This Time Table is compiled from Official Sources, and we do not hold ourselves responsible in any way.

Table with 2 columns: ARRIVAL OF TRAINS and DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Lists train numbers, destinations, and times for various routes including Newcastle, Darlington, and Bishop Auckland.

SUNDAYS

Table with 2 columns: ARRIVAL OF TRAINS and DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Lists train numbers, destinations, and times for Sunday services.

Proposed Closing of the Barracks: Latest Details. Since the departure of the 4th Durham Light Infantry from Barnard Castle, the barracks have been left in charge of Quartermaster Sergeant Cherry, who has had the work of clothing, equipping, and arming old hands and recruits, and forwarding them on to join the battalions at the war station. The work has been done so conscientiously day and night, with a view of bringing the battalions up to full strength as soon as possible.

THE TERRITORIALS LEAVE FOR BISHOP AUCKLAND. The Territorials to a man answered the call at the drill hall on Wednesday morning, about half-past three o'clock. In the afternoon, they proceeded to the railway station, light-heartedly singing as they marched. P Company 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry just returned from camp at Gosport, with their training in accordance with the regulations, and they were all in the best of spirits. All the preliminary preparations, prior to their departure, were carried out in the drill hall, and when the men left, there was a numerous company in the environment of the barracks to witness the "Farewell" march to the railway station. Captain J. P. Thompson commanded, and Lieut. T. B. Hooper was present. The company left with the ordinary train for Bishop Auckland, and there were a large number of well-wishers to see them depart. As we have said there was a large number of "Territorial" officers and men being on the platform. On Friday train men joined P Company at Barnard Castle, complete its strength. Forty men presented themselves for enlistment.

Durham County Association. To the Editor of the "Tendale Mercury." Sir, I am directed by the Territorial Force Association of the county of Durham to inform the public, through the medium of your columns, that it appreciates most highly the many valuable offers of assistance and willingness to serve in various capacities which have been received from all parts of the county of Durham during the last few days. The strenuous work in the offices of the association at the present moment precludes separate replies to individuals, but applicants may rest assured that their offers will be taken into consideration with respect to the employment of members of the National Reserve and others is received from the War Office they will be communicated with. I am, Sir, your obedient servant. W. H. R. BOWEN, Secretary. 6th August, 1914.

A Deserter Arrested at Barnard Castle. Says He Wants to Go Into Action. On Friday morning, at the Barnard Castle Police Court, before Messrs J. G. Hall and Henry Walker, a man named James Green, who was captured as a deserter on the 24th October, 1899, was brought up in custody. Green, who was a lance-sergeant in the Second Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, said he deserted on the 2nd of September, 1904, at Devonport. The man had surrendered himself to the police, and was at the time in the hands of the military police. Green to await an escort from the region. His reason for giving himself up was that he wanted to go into action. He left his town on Saturday morning, for Bodmin.

There is a Thrilling Chapter in the History of the Durham Militia which was vividly recalled in the enthusiasm witnessed at the Home on Tuesday night, as the troops braced themselves for the march to the front. On the 24th of August, 1811, our regiment marched from Barnard Castle to Glasgow, after a absence of eleven years. The following account of the last day's march to headquarters must prove interesting, as evincing the prowess which was taken in the defence of the British flag at the battle of "The Broom" when we fought our way to Glasgow. "When we got to Broom, quite a number of relatives and friends had assembled to greet us. As the day dawned the march to headquarters must prove interesting, as evincing the prowess which was taken in the defence of the British flag at the battle of "The Broom" when we fought our way to Glasgow.

Mothers longing to embrace their Sons, who had left them as soldiers, and whom they hardly recognized in the stalwart soldiers now so close to them. "We, a burly old fellow, keeping pace with the regiment, and their eyes fixed lovingly on their husbands, when, mynah, they met and not seen for ten long years. Young men and women gazing upon their fathers, and clinging to the hands which had almost faded from their recollection, as their eyes were fixed on the old soldiers, as they marched on. And it was in the market-place, prior to being dismissed, old women—widows, perhaps—who, when the regiment marched away from Barnard Castle, in 1803, had taken a tender farewell of their sons, and had not seen them since. And it was in the market-place, prior to being dismissed, old women—widows, perhaps—who, when the regiment marched away from Barnard Castle, in 1803, had taken a tender farewell of their sons, and had not seen them since.

"The Desolator, Desolate!" Truly history repeats itself. The old soldiers had barely got settled in their homes when they were again called out for service, and re-mobilized on the 14th of July, 1815. Consequent upon Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo, the battle of Waterloo was fought, and our regiment was again summoned for garrison duty.

The striking parallel between 1814 and 1815 is commented upon at home and abroad. After the lapse of a century a new alliance has been formed, for whereas Napoleon had been overthrown, the present alliance has been re-constituted against Germany and the scourge of Europe. By her adherents, Great Britain consecrates the European union against the new tyrant and tyran, and the question asked at the onset was—Who knows whether Waterloo will be the theatre of a similar drama?

The records prove that at different periods there arises a man or a nation which aims at universal empire secured by brute force. There was Alexander, and there was Napoleon Bonaparte, and now there is William of Hohenzollern. The last is hardly less ambitious than the others, though the history of 1914 is not likely to demonstrate that he showed a military sagacity equal to that of his prototype, though both the German Kaiser and the Hohenzollern Emperor, perhaps, may have belonged to the theatre of their culminating catastrophe.

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