

## **Bringing it Home – Still Images**

### **Train**

“On Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the Hawick detachment of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> K.O.S.B. was ordered to proceed to Galashiels where the full battalion would be formed up. Over two hundred men marched in a long column, four men abreast along a crowd filled Bridge Street to the waiting train at the railway station.” (*All These Fine Fellows, Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918*, p.16 by Derek Robertson)

### **Post Office**

“Crowds of people gathered at the Post Office in Bridge Street to see for themselves the notice of those men listed as casualties. In silence they moved away, as their hearts reeled for what their eyes told them.” (*All These Fine Fellows, Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918*, p.50 by Derek Robertson)

### **Doorstep**

“Through the streets of Hawick and elsewhere, telegram boys carried grim tidings of a generation of Border men who had been killed in a foreign land, which before the war, nobody had heard of. The telegrams informed the next-of-kin of the fate of their loved ones, either killed, wounded or missing. As the telegrams were delivered along their route, net curtains twitched as curious eyes contemplated the next address where the boy would stop. People gathered on their doorsteps and watched in silence as bereavement was brought to Hawick on a scale never imagined one year earlier.” (*All These Fine Fellows, Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918*, p.50 by Derek Robertson)

### **Flag Days**

One of the most popular and well-supported methods of raising money during the war, to provide comforts and other support for the soldiers was the “Flag”, “Flower” or “Badge” Day.

A Badge Day was organised and held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1915 by the Provost and people of Hawick to provide comforts for the Hawick men of the 1/4<sup>th</sup> K.O.S.B. A large team of badge sellers worked most energetically to raise £269 by selling badges around the streets of Hawick.

(Adapted from *Hawick and the Great War*, 1920)

## **The Charge**

“The Territorials who had longed during the long months of training and monotony at Cambusbarron to see action were now experiencing the realities of modern warfare. The battalion was just about to be involved in its first offensive action of the war.”

“On the 12th of July, the 1/4th Battalion K.O.S.B., were ordered to attack and capture three lines of Turkish trenches to their immediate front below Achi Baba. Unknown to the men of the K.O.S.B., the third line of Turkish trenches either did not exist or merely consisted of a slight depression in the ground. This fact was to have grave consequences for the battalion.”

“Prior to the attack, all the available British artillery bombarded the Turkish lines. At exactly 7.35 a.m., the artillery raised their sights, and the men with bayonets fixed sprang from their trenches and rushed towards the Turkish lines. As soon as they appeared, the Turkish machine-guns opened fire.”

*(All These Fine Fellows, Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918, p.47 by Derek Robertson)*

## **The 23rd Psalm**

The 1/4th Battalion K.O.S.B. held on to the two captured Turkish trenches until they were relieved two days later. At roll call the following day, it was said that out of the 700 men who had charged the field on the 12th July, only 70 remained to answer to their names. Over 300 men were killed, missing or captured and a further 300 were wounded. That night, the survivors sang the 23rd Psalm.

‘The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green: he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale,  
Yet will I fear no ill;  
For thou art with me, and thy rod  
And staff comfort me still.’

With tears in their eyes and memories still fresh of the horrors that had befallen their comrades, the survivors now had time to reflect on their ordeal and think of their missing friends.

*(All These Fine Fellows, Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918, p.49 by Derek Robertson)*

### **Under the Age for Service Overseas**

“Amongst the Hawick company were several boys under the age for service overseas. One morning the battalion was paraded in front of the officers and all those under age were to take one pace forward. Many hesitated, while others reluctantly stepped forward. The boys were eager to get involved at the sharp end of the war because, as everyone knew, the war would be over before Christmas. They could not afford to miss out on this great adventure. Morale was at a high, the men were young and eager to do their stuff. However, it would not be until the following spring that the battalion would be sent overseas.”

(Adapted from *The Men Who Marched Away*, by Derek Robertson, pages 2-3)