

Whitburn - 'A large number of aliens reported themselves at the police station on Tuesday evening, in terms of the Order in Council issued by His Majesty. The majority were Russian Poles from Stoneyburn, which is in the Whitburn registration district.'

Linlithgowshire Gazette 14 Aug 14, p4

'There was quite a rush of aliens to the police station on Monday to register their names in accordance with an order posted up and down the town for them to do so. Few German exiles were amongst them, our aliens being mostly Italians, who have the bitterest enmity to the Germans, and would be pleased to see their country take up arms with Britain and France.'

Linlithgowshire Gazette 14 Aug 14, p2

'The Spy Peril. - The authorities, among other places took drastic action last week in Broxburn in connection with aliens, apparently having at last made up their minds that every German is a potential spy, naturalised or not. A German in charge of Broxburn Oil Company's electric plant, was arrested, along with a barber. The first mentioned was naturalised when the war broke out. He occupies a responsible position in the works, and was only married recently to a local lady. He has expressed himself to the effect that German will get beaten, and was wishful that he had had his parents here in Scotland, where they would be safe. The barber referred to has been in Broxburn since he was a boy, and some surprise is expressed at his being arrested. He has a wife and family in Broxburn and carried on business both there and in Uphall. Another barber was arrested among the first of the aliens, but as he also had been in the country since boyhood, and did not claim to be a German, he was liberated at the instance of some influential local people. He has not been interfered with on this occasion.'

Linlithgowshire Gazette 30 Oct 14, p3

'An Italian resident of Bathgate, named Frederico Peitro Zefferino Grazionne, who, it was explained, had learned very little English but had managed to acquire "a wee bit of Scotch" was charged... with contravening the Alien's Restriction (Consolidated) Order by failing to register between September 25th and the 11th of November.' Since he had been out of the country at the time of the order, and had registered as soon as he found out about the order, he was given a nominal fine. 'On the 5th of August the full machinery of this Order was in force, and Linlithgowshire was a prohibited area.'

Linlithgowshire Gazette 20 Nov 14, p4

At a meeting of the United Irish League (pro-Irish Home Rule) in Linlithgow, the speaker Neil Docherty, Glasgow, refers to antit-Irish feeling, stirred up Irish emigration to USA. Irish not subject to same sitting up of public opinion, and did not realise it was viewed as unpatriotic and shirking. Little or nothing in the press ' about the heroism of the Irish regiments who were valiantly fighting the battle of the British Empire in Flanders and Gallipoli. Presentation made to Father O'Brien, to commemorate the year 1915, when the Home Rule Bill was passed, in gratitude to his 'kindness and help to the Irish people who came to this part of the country'.

Linlithgowshire Gazette 19 Nov 15, p2

Polish woman, Ursulie Pinutie committed a breach of the Aliens' Restriction Order by entering Stoneyburn without having obtained the special permission from the Registration Officer of the district, and without having a passport. Came from Blantyre to be with her boyfriend, a Polish miner. Summoned to Linlithgow Sheriff Court, she came with her prospective husband. Pleaded guilty through the interpreter. Court ordered her to obtain a passport and get permission. Thereafter the Sheriff married the pair.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 11 Feb 16, p2

'It was reported on Wednesday that the Army Council have had under consideration for some time proposals for allowing friendly aliens domiciled in this country to join the British Army, and instructions to this effect are shortly to be issued. In this way an opportunity will be afforded them of showing their appreciation of their new home by doing something to help in the war. As a matter of fact over a year ago from West Lothian a number of men whose parents were friendly aliens joined the British Army and have been fighting shoulder to shoulder with oor ain folks.'
West Lothian Courier 9 Jun 16, p2

Ladies in Linlithgow who formerly sold "Berline wool" have changed the name of this article to "Edina wool".
Linlithgowshire Gazette 19 Jan 17, p2

The wife of an interned German who for thirty years resided at Broxburn, where he carried on business as a hairdresser, raised an action some time ago in Linlithgow Sheriff Court, in which she claimed damages in the sum of £100 from her former landlady, in respect to alleged illegal and wrongful ejection from the house pursued occupied at Clifton Buildings, Broxburn, on the 29th of May, 1916. The pursuer was Mrs Jeanie Ross or Keicher, and the defender Mrs Elizabeth Sharp, Longridge.' Keicher was 39, Scottish, married Augustus Keicher in Broxburn Chapel in 1898, and had seven children. Her husband, German by birth, lived in Broxburn for 30 years before war broke out, but had never sought British citizenship, so in October 1914, was interned on the Isle of Man as an alien, and detained there ever since. His wife stayed on in their flat at Clifton Buildings, and received help from the Uphall parish council poor funds. 'She was informed there was a German fund upon which she could also draw if she chose, but her husband told her she was not to claim German money, because he had resided so long in this country that he regarded himself as a British subject. She made no application for the German money.' When she received notice to quit, she tried to find another house, but failed; 'and it was stated at one place that a house would not be let to the wife of an enemy alien'. So she notified her landlady that she would not be moving, but the landlady had a new tenant ready to move in, and obliged her to move, though offered her the use of the cellar to store her furniture. Sheriff found in the landlady's favour - does not seem to have related to Mrs Sharp objecting to her as a German's wife, though her difficulty in finding new accommodation certainly related to that.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 23 Feb 17, p4.
(On appeal Sheriff Principal Maconochie upheld the Sheriff's decision in favour of the landlady. Linlithgowshire Gazette 23 Mar 17, p2.)

'A charge against a Russian Pole, under the Aliens Restriction Order, was heard at the Linlithgow Sheriff Court... The accused, a young man bearing the name of Kazimir Gripkewics, whose residence is at 2 Stoneyburn, within the Linlithgow registration district, pleaded guilty, but stated he was not aware he had broken the law, as he went to Glasgow for a week-end visit.' Admonished.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 13 Jul 17, p2

'The recent Order calling upon the Lithuanians of military age to make a choice between returning to their own country and coming under the Military Service Act if they remain here after the period named, has caused some excitement amongst the eligible men in Bathgate and district. There are about 20 men in Bathgate to which the Order applied, and there is a large number in Stoneyburn, and the difficulty with them seems to be the leaving of their wives and families behind if they decide to become repatriated. It would appear that the Lanarkshire Poles have decided to remain, but the Linlithgowshire men are still undecided, and this is causing great unrest. Numbers of them are willing enough to go back, but they would like to take their families and even their furniture with them. This, of course, is impossible at the present time. Most of these men have done well in this country, and it is only reasonable to think that when Britain and Russia are allied in a effort to defeat a common enemy, they should lend a hand.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 10 Aug 17, p3

'All the Russian Poles in Bathgate and district, with one exception, have decided to go back to Russia and take up arms for their own country. The exception referred to has elected to take his chance of being called up under the Military Service Act.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 24 Aug 17, p3

More American soldiers soon to arrive. 'Thousands of people in this country who have relatives in America will probably experience in the next few months the pleasant surprise of sudden visits from bronzed and confident lads, nasal speaking and perhaps a trifle patronising, who have sailed away from "God's own country" to take a hand in that little affair across in France.' (Linlithgowshire Gazette Office)
Linlithgowshire Gazette 21 Sep 17, p2

'There were sad leave-takings and moments of farewell at Bathgate Station on Tuesday evening, when the young Polish miners who are returning to Russia left by the 9.10 train. Twenty-four men in all left Bathgate, but a very much large number entrained at West Calder the same evening. Few, if any, of the young Polish miners are taking the other alternative, to remain here and be called up under the Military Service Act. They are almost all willing to go back to their own Fatherland. This is as it should be. Their country needs them.'
Linlithgowshire Gazette 19 Oct 17, p3

A blind German living in Stirling, but chargeable to the parish of Bo'ness was found to be living 'in straitened circumstances. Mr Dodds said the man had neither a shirt to his back nor a boot to his foot....A son in the British Navy stoutly declined to allot a penny of his pay to his father.
Mr McNaught - Grafen says he is not a German but a Rhinelander.
The Chairman - We had a lot of Rhinelanders working in the district for a itme, and they were all Germans.

Mr Snedden - Grafen sighed for the day that the Germans would beat us.
Mc McKenzie - While under me I found Grafen a very capable worker.
The Chairman - They are all capable; far too capable.
It was agreed to grant an allowance of 7s weekly to the man and his family.' (Not at all generous - wives of soldiers in the forces got 25s.)

'Male enemy aliens between 16 and 65 years old, exempted from internment or repatriation, have been enrolled as National Service volunteers. If they refuse to do such work, they will be liable to internment or repatriation.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 14 Dec 17, p4

'Few towns have, right since the start of the war, paid the rents of all local men on service. This has been possible [in Bathgate] owing to the liberality of the contributions from public works and private sources. The local committee who manage the fund have decided to pay the rents of Russian Poles who have joined the colours. This has imposed a tax on the fund, and it is in need of augmentation.'
Bathgate Select Choir is to give a concert for this purpose.
Linlithgowshire Gazette 8 Mar 18, p3

'A charge was made against the wife of a Russian Pole, Allena Wosilius or Lapenous, living at the Co-operative Buildings in Blackburn, of stealing 77lbs of coal from No. 1 Pit, Whitrigg Collieries, and she pleaded guilty. The Procurator-Fiscal explained that this woman's husband, formerly a miner had left the country in October, and she had three children. She was receiving an allowance of £1 a week from the Parish Council. Her circumstances were trying, and if this had been a case of taking coal from a spent bing, he might have hesitated to bring her to Court, but unfortunately this was a case in which the accused climbed on to a waggon and took the coal. The Sheriff imposed a fine of 5s.'
Linlithgowshire Gazette 29 Mar 18, p3.

'The Russians who are being called up will not be sent to the fighting line, but will be posted to labour units or auxiliary services.... Italians sent for service will get all the advantages as to separation allowances and civil liability grants enjoyed by British subjects.'
Linlithgowshire Gazette 12 Apr 18, p3

Bathgate District Tribunal: 'Martinus Hubertus Sueren, a naturalised Dutchman (40, married, A1), employed by the Moss Litter Company, Easter Inch, Bathgate. Exemption continued on the ground that the man was doing work of national importance.'
Linlithgowshire Gazette 26 Apr 18, p3

The Scottish Advisory Committee on Aliens is to 'proceed to examine the cases of enemy aliens in Scotland who have hitherto been exempted from internment or repatriation, reporting in each case whether they recommend that the exemption should be withdrawn with a view to the internment or repatriation of the persons concerned, or whether they recommend that the exemption should be continued, and, if so, on what grounds.'
Linlithgowshire Gazette 16 Aug 18, p1.

'Killed in the last days of war. - Among those who fell in the closing days of the war has to be numbered Pte. Peter Stefano, Scottish Rifles, who was killed in France on the 31st of October. He was thirty-one years of age, and had lived in this country about twenty years before war broke out. He had the option, had he chosen, of joining the Italian forces, but he preferred to enter the British Army, and on doing so he gave up the business he had conducted for some time at the West Port, Linlithgow. His widow and four children live in Glasgow.'
Linlithgowshire Gazette 13 Dec 18, p2

Aliens returns are in the NRS - returns for various years and months - HH31/37