

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from April 1915

Harrietsham Volunteer Training Corps. (V.T.C.)

Following a special meeting of the Special Constables held in Harrietsham School, with Mr. T. Clark J.P. occupying the chair, it was decided to form a Harrietsham branch of the Volunteer Training Corps and a large number of men gave in their names as desirous of joining. Colonel J. Campbell of Woodlands was appointed Commandant with Messers Gipps, J.H. Matthews, E.J. Miller, W. Betts and F. Barnes as committee members.

On Tuesday 13th April the V.T.C. (Also known as the Kent Fencibles) were hospitably entertained to dinner at the Dog and Bear Hotel, Lenham by Mr. James Hatch, one of the troop's members. Assembling outside Harrietsham School, wearing their brassards, the members marched over to Lenham.

Mr. Hatch had invited several guests to meet them at Lenham including Major Mitchell, Lieut. Capell R.E., Second Lieut. Barnes and R.E. Reserves Etherington, Leach and Taylor plus four wounded convalescent soldiers. After justice had been done to the repast, Mr. Hatch gave the Royal Toast. Major Mitchell concluded the evening by proposing a toast to "The Harrietsham V.T.C." Among the members of the V.T.C. present were Messers L.J. Clark, J.H. Matthews, R.W. Ivens, J. Baker, J. Hedges, R. Cutbush, F. Tidd, J. Cheeseman and W. Crump.

Harrietsham School in the Top six with recent Examination Results

Harrietsham School has again done well in the recent Church History Examination and is mentioned among the best six country schools, with five first classes, five second, and one third class. Margaret West has come out third in the Diocese, just missing a special prize, but mentioned for most commendable work. She and Muriel Collyer have been awarded an additional 2s. 6d.

Work-Party Continues

During the winter the work party has met every week at Woodlands. Over 1150 garments have been sent from Harrietsham to the Maidstone Depot which has been distributed to various regiments, ships and also to families left in distress. In addition, 115 shirts and socks were given to men from Harrietsham.

Mrs Buckingham will continue to be at Woodlands on Tuesday afternoons, from 2 to 3 to give out the work as more shirts, socks and pillow cases are urgently needed.

Roll of Honour Grows

The list of brave volunteers from Harrietsham steadily grows. Mr. Blay of No.1 Alms-houses has another son, Charles J. Blay, who has joined the 4th London Royal Field Artillery. Reginald Watts the 5th Batt. Royal East Kent Regt.